



U3A WARKWORTH ~ *Learning is forever*

P O Box 520 Warkworth 0910

www.u3a.co.nz



NEWSLETTER

Spring : August ~ September 2012

Chats from the Chair

Tena Koutou Katoa

Greetings all

I am going to use my allotted space in this newsletter to do a little research. I hope you don't mind if I ask a couple of questions, and I am truly curious to know your answers. My topic is sort of dealing with families and the future. When I was having my children in the mid- to late-1950's, my greatest worry was the threat of Nuclear War, and the thought that there would be no world for them to grow up in. So I marched, and I wrote letters and felt helpless to stop what felt like the end of the world.

Question 1

Was that also your experience, or was I just paranoiac? (It has only hit me recently that it is quite some time since I worried about the Nuclear situation. I hope that is because our efforts in the past were effective in preventing the escalation of Nuclear Arms.)

I now have six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren and I wonder, do the parents (my children and their children) ever have any such concerns about the future for their children? I have never asked them, but I will soon.

Question 2

Have you ever broached this subject within your families? And –

Question 3

If not, would you, and what do you expect would be their response?

I still have concerns for the future, but I heard something recently which makes me feel more optimistic, especially because it seems so true for my great-grandchildren in particular. Someone assured me recently that this generation now arriving on Planet Earth is especially equipped with the intelligence and skills to cope with the quandaries we have bequeathed to them.

I would really value some feed-back on these issues, and thank you for the opportunity to rabbit on in this Chat from the Chair!

Kia Ora,
Valma Gidman

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**WELCOME** to our new member Kay Sara. We would like you to enjoy your time with us.

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MESSAGE FROM THE ALMONER – Please advise Mary-Alice Ryburn in the case of sickness or bereavement so she can make contact.

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## RECENT SPEAKERS

### GENERAL MEETING:

Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2012  
10am Totara Park

Duty Group: Poetry Reading

Mini speaker: Bob Ward

Main Speaker: At our August meeting Roland Whyte from the Neurological Foundation of NZ is going to talk to us about the work of the Foundation, some of the research going on at the moment, some facts about neurodegenerative diseases and then finishing with Brain Health and what we can all do to help ourselves. This promises to be a very interesting talk and not to be missed

Duty Groups are asked to set up seating and tea preparation before the meeting and to clean up and reinstate the room afterwards.

Next general meeting will be on 8th October and the Developments in Medicine group will be on duty.

Eric Price shared his experiences being involved in television and film work overseas particularly from the 50's onwards.. During his time in the film industry people were taught to be involved in the lighting, sound and to understand how to act before they produced any shows. The floor manager was of utmost importance to the whole production as they were the person that kept everyone organized and to time. It was very important that he could be seen by the actors or people interviewing so that they could adapt their show to the signals produced by him.

Time is money in the television and film industry particularly when there was not the technology available to edit the film before being put before the audience. During a television show the programme had to be planned so that when it was completed that there was enough time right down to seconds, for the commercials to go to air in the space available. Audiences did not like to miss the ending of a story and the television company did not want a space without any programme or commercial on air.

Obviously Eric took his job seriously taking the trouble to learn Madarin when he had to direct Chinese extras in a film. However when the location of the film, 'Inn of the Sixth Happiness' was changed from Taiwan to Britain, Eric did not realize that his language skills would be wasted as the British Chinese had no knowledge of the language. He learnt from being involved in the film "Dunkirk" that communication is not what you say but how you say it if you want the people to react to the words in an appropriate manner.

On one occasion, when producing items for 'People and Places' he was able to give the opportunity for a group of four young men in a band called John and the Moondogs to be interviewed. They were happy to be part of the programme provided that they could visit the set of Coronation Street and get the autographs of the cast. It was only one year later when

another interview took place on the same programme with the same band, now named "The Beatles" but on this occasion it was the cast from Coronation Street who lined up at the studio to get their autographs!

Eric appreciated the opportunities he gained through being part of the industry and having the support of the many people he got to know. He enjoyed participating in the golfing and cricket fund raising activities which took him to many different countries and at the same time he was able to gain many memories through his work which he has been able to share with others.

Mona Townson

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Frances Sullivan also spoke on her experiences as an immigrant first to Australia at the age of twenty in 1971 and then becoming a New Zealander in 1973. Her impressions of being an immigrant were delightful. The amount of sunshine, how wide the roads were, the variety of food such as steak, seafood, kumera and pumpkin. The concern for the poverty in New Zealand when the children did not wear shoes to find out that was 'normal'. A New Zealand party consisting of men on one side of the room and the women on the other, a cooker being a NZ stove and a kettle being a jug. However the story that showed the difference between men and women was when she was told by her Australian boss that the reason for men in the office being served tea and biscuits at their desks by the 'tea lady' and the women having to get their own tea and not getting a biscuit, was because men were of more value and use in the community. I am quite sure that Frances was able to tell him how wrong he was. I feel that New Zealand must be grateful that Frances decided to live in our country and be part a positive part of our society.

Mona Townson

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## IT'S A VERY HANDSOME WOODEN HORSE

What do you do in April, when you're in Istanbul and you want to get away for a few days?

"I've never been to Troy," I said.

"We can go to Troy," said my friend. "You do know it's just a heap of stones, don't you?"

It's an easy drive at very high speed. Alongside the Marmara Sea on excellent roads to Gelibolu (Gallipoli) on the Dardanelles Straits. And then about an hour on the ferry to Lapseki on the Asian coast, and about another hour to the entrance to Troy. It was early and absolutely deserted. "There you are," says my friend. "There are the stones". The remarks were very tongue-in-cheek. After checking out the enormous model of the wooden horse (which I estimated could house about 40-50 hunky-chunky warriors) we proceeded to follow the well-marked route around the very extensive ruins. By this time the first of a multitude of tourist buses began to arrive. Lots of Japanese and Germans. The Germans' interest perhaps fuelled by knowledge of the German explorer Heinrich Schlieman. This son of a German Pastor became a scholar, an archaeologist, an American citizen, a businessman, a Russian citizen and a very, very rich man. Currently the Turkish government is trying to negotiate the return of immense quantities of gold jewellery and artefacts from Troy that are housed in the Pushkin museum in Moscow.

What a revelation! My companion proved most knowledgeable of the history and put in perspective for me, the 4000 years of civilization. From 485B.C nine separate cities and 40 settlements were built on this same strategic site and all were destroyed. Homer wrote about the Trojan wars in his Iliad. Centuries later, in 333B.C., Alexander the Great visited the Temple of Athena and swapped his war arms for those claimed to have been worn by heroes who had died in the Trojan wars. Many more years later (48 B.C.) Julius Caesar was disappointed when visited his ancestral home here.

I certainly left with the impression that everyone had visited Troy but me!

We stopped outside Troy for a late lunch at a restaurant overlooking the Dardanelles Straits. Over the fish and my second glass of raki I marvelled at the view. There, rising out of the hills across the Straits was the monument that Ataturk built at Gallipoli to the memory of fallen soldiers. There, within my sight, was the site of more recent battles – ones that are still very fresh in our minds on 25 April each year.

Good luck to those Miss World Beauty contestants who vow 'to fight for world peace'.

Beulah Heaven

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BRAIN CHANGE IN ACTION

Most people love Ravel's Bolero - I have always hated it! So when I learned that the June meeting for Music Appreciation was on this subject, I was tempted not to go. But fortunately, common courtesy, loyalty plus other factors persuaded me otherwise, and of course I hoped that I would be converted to Bolero by the end of the afternoon!

Well, I certainly enjoyed Colleen's presentation and the DVD that gave us all such fascinating detail into Ravel's construction, audacity and genius of the piece. But once I heard again that relentless refrain in its entirety, the old familiar feelings of frustration and dislike returned.

'I wonder what the orchestral players think when they play this piece?' I commented over afternoon tea later. For me, this was the 'missing factor' in the DVD; I was an orchestral player for several years in Auckland and I listen to music from that perspective - and I have never played Bolero.

No sooner had I uttered these words, when fellow member, Ernie Gidman offered to lend me a tape which would explain exactly that - 'Bolero - A Musician's Nightmare'. And this proved to be the perfect answer to my wonderings.

I learned how the players who have to introduce that mesmerising tune on their respective instruments felt about it, and how they handled it technically.. I felt more sympathy for the snare drummer, who plays the same 2 bars 169 times during the comparatively short piece, and how he copes with this. And I was intrigued to hear the conductor say: It is the sheer impertinence of a genius that makes you respect this piece - I just cannot dislike it because of that fact!

So while I suspect I shall never like Bolero, I now have a huge admiration for Ravel's genius and outrageousness in composing it - thanks to Colleen, Ernie and U3A!

Lorna Laxon

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## GROUP REPORTS

### Local History



Last year we commenced studying the history of Warkworth and have continued this year.

On a beautiful day in February Dave Parker guided us around Warkworth's historic buildings and what a number there are ! The three churches; the band rotunda; the Plunket rooms; the Cook house; Bridge House; the renovated dairy factory; the bake house; the hotel; "Roberts Corner"; and up Neville St. to the old Dunningham house, the BNZ and lastly the Town Hall. It was most informative.

Since then we have had a talk from Jim McKinlay on the history of Wilson Cement and the reasons for it relocating to Portland, Whangarei. Cheryl Clague spoke about the establishment of the Warkworth Cottage Hospital and David Cross amused us with his memories of being one of two GPs in the district. We read extracts from the 1856-58 diary of Joseph Rowe Gard who was an early settler/farmer on the banks of the Mahurangi River at the end of Duck Creek Road. He and his neighbours spent most of their time searching for their pigs and cattle because of the primitive fencing and so led quite a social life. Linda Moore researched the making of the original Great North Road which State Highway 1 doesn't follow at all but they do cross in the Dome Valley.

We will probably continue with Warkworth history until the end of the year.

Anthea McKergow

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Jazz Listening

We began the year with a live music session with Rodney Jazz Revival, most of whom are members of our group, and sadly playing together for the last time, as two members were retiring. They played many old favourites and we left with feet tapping.



Over two sessions, Bob Ward, a great raconteur, took us on a fascinating musical journey through his life. We listened to recordings of favourite music and musicians, including bands he had played with all over the world. We hope, later in the year, to have Part 3 covering his time in New Zealand.

Three sessions have been devoted to Rhythms in Jazz. They included one on "The influence of Brazilian music on Jazz" where we listened to well-known tunes such as "Girl from Ipanema" and "Wave" by best-known Brazilian composer, Antonio Carlos Jobim, and watched an interview with two musicians talking about what it was like in Brazil in the 1960's, and heard some of their most popular music.

We listened to some tracks from Neil Simon's, "Gracelands", for which he spent time in Africa, listening to and playing with African musicians, before writing the music for this CD. It very ably demonstrated the influence of African rhythms, and the "cross-over" between different genres of music.

We then went on to talk about "Jazz feel"- the way individual players rhythmically phrase a piece of music to make it their own, using the three main elements of jazz rhythm – syncopation, swing and counterpoint. This helped to direct us focus and listen more discerningly, to what rhythms and textures individual instruments contribute within a group.

With an interesting Documentary coming up, including never before- seen film footage, titled "The Devil's Music – 1920's Jazz", we have more to look forward to.

Val Couling

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| <b>STUDY GROUP</b>              | <b>Convenor</b>     | <b>Phone</b> | <b>Time</b> | <b>Date</b>             | <b>August</b>                                                   | <b>Date</b>             | <b>September</b>                    |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Ancient History</b>          | Jim McKinlay        | 422-9063     | 9:30 a.m.   | 3rd                     | Bits and Pieces                                                 | 7th                     | 100 Objects, reading and discussion |
|                                 |                     |              |             |                         | 9 Apollo PI Snells Beach                                        |                         | 9 Bennet St Warkworth               |
| <b>Book Talk</b>                | Jenny Noakes        | 425 8647     | 10:00 a.m.  | 7 <sup>th</sup>         | 99 Sharp Rd Matakana                                            | 4th                     | 209 Sharp Rd Matakana               |
| <b>Current Affairs</b>          | Val Strachan        | 425-9497     | 2:00 p.m.   | 16th                    | 35 Alnwick St warkworth                                         | 20th                    | 23 Earls Way Warkworth              |
|                                 |                     |              |             |                         |                                                                 |                         |                                     |
| <b>Food For Thought</b>         | Diane Parton        | 422-0166     | 1:30 p.m.   | 22 <sup>nd</sup>        | Dried Fruit                                                     | 26th                    | TBA                                 |
|                                 |                     |              |             |                         | 54 Ashton Rd Whangateau                                         |                         | TBA                                 |
| <b>Jazz Listening</b>           | Val Couling         | 425-5766     | 2:00 p.m.   | 20 <sup>th</sup>        | DVD "The Devil's Music –Jazz"                                   | 17th                    | Improvisation                       |
|                                 |                     |              |             |                         | 25 Gordon Craig Place Algies Bay                                |                         | 25 Gordon Craig Place Algies bay    |
| <b>Local History</b>            | Anthea McKergow     | 422-6219     | 10:00 a.m.  | 28 <sup>th</sup>        | Water Treatment Plant                                           | 25th                    | Railway Line North                  |
|                                 |                     |              |             |                         | Warkworth Museum                                                |                         | Warkworth Museum                    |
| <b>History</b>                  | Chris Hoogerwerf    | 425-5022     | 9:30 a.m.   | 15 <sup>th</sup>        | TBA                                                             | 20 <sup>th</sup>        | TBA                                 |
|                                 |                     |              |             |                         |                                                                 |                         |                                     |
| <b>Music Appreciation</b>       | Mary Miller         | 425-6301     | 1:30 p.m.   | 2nd                     | Night Music                                                     | 6th                     | A Selection of Works by Brahms      |
|                                 |                     |              |             |                         | 16 David Williams Place Warkworth                               |                         | 4 Mariners Grove Warkworth          |
| <b>Art Appreciation</b>         | Iris Mee            | 425-7934     | 10:00 a.m.  | 1st                     | Coach Trip to Ponsonby Galleries                                | 5th                     | My Favourite Artist                 |
|                                 |                     |              |             |                         | Dep. Warkworth 9.30am                                           |                         | 1001 Sandspit Rd Sandspit           |
| <b>Play Reading</b>             | Margaret Krey       | 422-6407     | 9:30 a.m.   | 14th                    | 45 degrees from Broadway                                        | 11th                    | Death in High Heels                 |
|                                 |                     |              |             |                         | 25 Gordon Craig Place Algies Bay                                |                         | 3 Mason Heights Warkworth           |
| <b>Poetry Reading</b>           | Lorna Laxon         | 422-562      | 1:30 p.m.   | 15 <sup>th</sup>        | TBA                                                             | 19th                    | TBA                                 |
|                                 |                     |              |             |                         | 5 Apollo Place Snells beach                                     |                         | TBA                                 |
| <b>Developments in Medicine</b> | Sue Stevenson       | 422-0585     | 2pm         | 28 <sup>th</sup>        | Errors in Medicine                                              | 27th                    | Medical Evacuation Systems          |
|                                 |                     |              |             |                         | 40 Will James Ave Algies Bay                                    |                         | 257 Mahurangi East Rd Snells Beach  |
| <b>Shakespeare</b>              | Valma Gidman        | 425-869      | 2pm         | 21st                    | Julius Caesar                                                   | 18th                    | Alls Well that Ends Well            |
|                                 |                     |              |             |                         | 15 Alnwick St Warkworth                                         |                         | 14 Cocquet St Warkworth             |
| <b>Creative Writing</b>         | Tricia Ketteringham | 422-3119     | 10am<br>2pm | 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>16th | An Accidental Meeting<br>The Train, the Conductor and the Ghost | 6 <sup>th</sup><br>20th | Cut and Tell<br>Left at the Altar   |