



**U3A WARKWORTH** ~ *Learning is forever*  
P O Box 520 Warkworth 0910

www.u3a.co.nz



## NEWSLETTER

*Easter : Jun~Jul 2012*

---

### Chats from the Chair

Greetings all,

I trust things are going well with you and your groups. I would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank you very much" to those groups who have already made me welcome at their sessions. As Groups Convenor I have now attended meetings with the Book Group, the History Group, the Local History Group and the Jazz Group, as well as those I already belonged to, Music Appreciation, Current Affairs and the Shakespeare Groups. I look forward to meeting soon with the Art Appreciation, Play Reading and Developments in Medicine groups, which leaves only two to arrange. (I'll get to you soon I promise.) I have found them all most interesting and stimulating, and I really appreciate the welcome I have received each time. I would recommend this job to you all - it is a wonderful way to satisfy your curiosity about what everyone else does in U3A.

I know some U3A Societies are closely involved with regular (i.e. "real") Universities, and have lectures delivered by University staff, which would be interesting; but I personally feel that the way we do it is far more productive (if that is the best term to use). The reading and research we do to prepare for a presentation is just as valuable as just sitting and listening. I hope you agree. As I heard quoted recently "What you do for others is as beneficial to you as to them." I trust you find it so.

I believe we have had more new members join recently - Welcome to you and I know you will find good company and much to interest you in the groups you choose to join.

Kia Ora,

Valma Gidman

~~~~~

### **New Members ~ With pleasure we welcome the following new members:**

Elise MacDonald, Tessa Marshall, Ted Lee, Max Donnellan, Rosemary Clark, Julia Gould, Penny Woods, Yvonne Elliott and Bill Ballantine

We hold general meetings every two months and a schedule of study groups is on the last page of this newsletter with group convenors, meeting venues and times listed there. The groups are open to all members of U3A Warkworth and it is usual to contact the Group Convenor before your first attendance. The study groups are designed to be informal, there are no exams and the social contact is an important aspect. It is helpful, but not mandatory, if the leading of group discussions and the hosting of meetings is a shared responsibility.

~~~~~

## GENERAL MEETING:

Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012  
10am Totara Park

Duty Group: Play Reading

Mini speaker: Frances Sullivan

Main Speaker: Eric Price – Now retired to live in Warkworth, Eric Price has had a wonderfully interesting career working in various fields with famous people. He is a retired teacher, director, producer and financial planner with a degree in kinesiology (human movement.)

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 13th August and the Poetry Reading group will be on duty.

## RECENT SPEAKERS

### Love at the End of the Road

Members at the April meeting were kept spellbound by Rae Roadley, the author of “Love at the End of the Road”. Rae has experienced many jobs in her life such as being a teacher, a cook in London and then a writer in her job as a PA. Returning to New Zealand Rae worked for TVNZ where she wrote the sub-titles for the hearing impaired and the news. After completing a one year graduate diploma journalism course, Rae found work as a reporter in Whangarei for the Northern Advocate.

It was in this city that she met her future husband who happened to own the historical two-storeyed villa named ‘Batley’ on the Kaipara Harbour. This property had been in the Roadley family for almost a century. Rae, the city woman, then had to learn all about beef and sheep farming and the growing of oyster spats, plus the general living skills needed for a person to be able to live successfully in the country.

Rae continued to work as the farm and business reporter for the Northern Advocate but at the same time decided to write her book which was to be a memoir and tell the history of the property. Her

goal was to engage the reader and when photos were added to the book it added another dimension to her writing. Obviously Penguin Publishers felt that she had the skills and the ability to share with readers, her experiences living this life style. Positive reviews have been written by the NZ Herald, the Australian Women’s Weekly and Radio NZ, not only reviewed her book but also interviewed her about the historical aspects of the Kaipara area.

Rae has made the effort to be involved with social media as she feels that it is important today if anyone is to be successful with the promotion of books. Her book “Love at the End of the Road” has instigated people reconnecting who had previously lived in the District. This is one positive result of all Rae’s hard work to share her story of the Kaipara.

Mona Townson

~~~~~

### Rodney Surgical Centre

We also listened to Dr Andrew McGill as he explained the purpose of the Rodney Surgical Centre which is in Warkworth and has two operating theatres and is able to day surgeries. It is the only hospital between North Shore and Whangarei and so many people who have to travel to Auckland for medical treatments are hoping that this facility will be able to take public patients some time soon.

Mona Townson

~~~~~

## GROUP REPORTS

### Creative Writing



In March this year the newly formed Creative Writing Group held their first meeting. Members meet bi-monthly at individual homes, read their stories and each member gives a constructive critique to the writer. Talks on beginnings, characterisation, clue planting etc are, and will be, given and discussed and on occasions homework will be set. Already we are recognising different styles of writing and the writer's 'voice' which is unique to each writer.

It is important that each member contributes to the meetings keeping them alive and interesting and by doing so everyone gains valuable knowledge about writing. There are six keen members at present but please note that numbers will be limited. Anyone interested in joining should contact Tricia by email [tamisar@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tamisar@xtra.co.nz) as to availability of a place.

Tricia Ketteringham

~~~~~

### Current Affairs



Once again we started the year with a buzz and now have around 20 members, although not everyone can attend every meeting due to a variety of reasons.

There is never a shortage of subjects to talk about, although 'good news' is often in short supply and so I've got into the habit now of asking anyone who has something upbeat to report to kick off the proceedings. A good example of this was learning that 'clown doctors' are being employed at Starship Hospital to bring some laughter and cheer to sick children. Bravo to the person who thought of that bright idea!

A division of opinion came up over the fate of Warkworth town hall, although a show of hands resulted in a majority of us who thought it should be demolished and the unique bricks used in a new building. We're left wondering if anything will ever be done.

Among other things we've learned that the olive oil we've probably been buying at the supermarket for years isn't pure at all, so how reliable is our food-labelling?

Then there's been a great deal of discussion over the sale of our land to overseas buyers, the need to fence-off farm animals from waterways (couldn't young unemployed people be put to good use here?), our MMP system, the need to amend the jury system better to deal with sex offences, flexible work practices, cotton crops in China replacing food crops, the planned Sky City convention centre, food-packaging technology, game-fishing - is it a 'good' sport?, Iran's intentions with respect to nuclear capabilities, should binge drinkers be made to pay for resulting medical treatment?

These are just a few of topics discussed. Group members are encouraged to take matters further if we feel strongly about a particular subject (game-fishing, for example) as it's no good 'moaning in a vacuum'. As taxpayers, ratepayers and good citizens we could write letters to the papers, our M.Ps, our Council representatives, the SPCA, and so on., as the weight of public opinion can often right an injustice or at least bring some good old common sense to the fore.

Val Strachan

~~~~~

<b>STUDY GROUP</b>	<b>Convenor</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>July</b>
<b>Ancient History</b>	Jim McKinlay	422-9063	9:30 a.m.	1st	History in a Hundred Objects	6th	History in a Hundred Objects
					10 Willjames Ave Algies bay		9 Bennett St Warkworth
<b>Book Talk</b>	Jenny Noakes	425 8647	10:00 a.m.	5 <sup>th</sup>	33 Cotterell St, Leigh	3rd	46 Ashmore Cres Warkworth
<b>Current Affairs</b>	Val Strachan	425-9497	2:00 p.m.	21st	Unit 5, 99 Hauiti Drive Warkworth	19th	14 Coquet St Warkworth
<b>Food For Thought</b>	Diane Parton	422-0166	1:30 p.m.	27th	Breadmaking –talk & demo by Helga	25th	Shart Lunch (tarts)
					8 Pipi Lane Omaha		35 Grand View Rd Mathesons Bay
<b>Jazz Listening</b>	Val Couling	425-5766	2:00 p.m.	18 <sup>th</sup>	DVD Rhythm	16th	TBA
					25 Gordon Craig Place Algies Bay		25 Gordon Craig Pl Algies Bay
<b>Local History</b>	Anthea McKergow	422-6219	10:00 a.m.	26 <sup>th</sup>	The Great North Road	24th	TBA
					Warkworth Museum		Warkworth Museum
<b>History</b>	Chris Hoogerwerf	425-5022	9:30 a.m.	15 <sup>th</sup>	French Navigators	20 <sup>th</sup>	May be disbanded
					10 Willjames Ave Algies Bay		
<b>Music Appreciation</b>	Mary Miller	425-6301	1:30 p.m.	7 <sup>th</sup>	Analysing Ravel's Belero	5th	TBA
					1 Hibiscus Ave, Snells Beach		16 David Williams Place Warkworth
<b>Art Appreciation</b>	Iris Mee	425-7934	10:00 a.m.	6 <sup>th</sup>	Figurines	4 <sup>th</sup>	Gallery Architecture
					54 Ashton Road, Whangateau		Tatham Road, Ti Point, Leigh
<b>Play Reading</b>	Margaret Krey	422-6407	9:30 a.m.	12 <sup>th</sup>	Much Ado About Nothing	10th	Much Ado About Nothing
					38 Kawau View Rd Snells Beach		38 Kawau View Rd Snells Beach
<b>Poetry Reading</b>	Lorna Laxon	422-562	1:30 p.m.	20 <sup>th</sup>	Grooks by Piet Hein (let's learn what grooks are!)	18th	The Poet speaks of Art
					19 Panui Tce Snells Beach		12B Amanda Lane Snells Beach
<b>Developments in Medicine</b>	Sue Stevenson	422-0585	2pm	28 <sup>th</sup>	Breaking developments in the news	26th	TBA
					45 Ashmore Cres Snells Beach		27 Alnwick St Warkworth
<b>Shakespeare</b>	Valma Gidman	425-869	2pm	19 <sup>th</sup>	Henry V	17th	Much Ado about Nothing
					133 Mahurangi East Rd Snells Beach		Ti Point
<b>Creative Writing</b>	Tricia Ketteringham	422-3119	10am 2pm	7 <sup>th</sup> 21st	Refer to Convenor	6 <sup>th</sup> 19th	10am 2pm