



U3A WARKWORTH

Learning is forever

www.u3a.co.nz

November/October 2014



President

Geoffrey Bowes is on holiday

Editor's Notes:

My contribution to this Newsletter is a piece about a man called Thomas Midgley. Some of you may have heard of him as he is credited with causing more environmental damage to our planet than any other person or event. Read on:

Thomas Midgley (born 18 May 1889; died 2 November 1944), was an American inventor. His two most famous inventions are both now banned because they are dangerous for the world environment: the use of lead in petrol (gasoline) and the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in refrigerators. Midgley was accidentally killed by something he was inventing.

Midgley began working at General Motors in 1916. In December 1921, while working under the direction of Charles Kettering at Dayton Research Laboratories, a subsidiary of General Motors, Midgley discovered that the addition of Tetraethyllead to gasoline prevented "knocking" in internal combustion engines. The company named the substance "Ethyl", avoiding all mention of lead in reports and advertising. Oil companies and automobile manufacturers, especially General Motors that owned the patent jointly filed by Kettering and Midgley, promoted the TEL additive as a superior alternative to ethanol or ethanol-blended fuels, on which they could make very little profit. In December 1922, the American Chemical Society awarded Midgley the 1923 Nichols Medal for the "Use of Anti-Knock Compounds in Motor Fuels". This was the first of several major awards he earned during his career.

In 1923, Midgley took a prolonged vacation to cure himself of lead poisoning. "After about a year's work in organic lead," he wrote in January 1923, "I find that my lungs have been affected and that it is necessary to drop all work and get a large supply of fresh air." He went to Miami, Florida for convalescence.

In the 1930s Midgley developed a non-poisonous substance called CFC (chlorinated fluorocarbon) for use in refrigerators, inhalers and aerosol spray cans. He was given many high awards for his work and in 1944 he became president and chairman of the American Chemical Society.

In 1940, at the age of 51, Midgley became ill with polio that left him disabled. It was to the point where it was hard to do every day tasks; like getting out of bed. He decided to invent a complicated system of strings and pulleys to lift him from his bed. However, this plan backfired, and he got caught up in the ropes and died of strangulation.

Nigel E Swaffield, Editor

U3A EVENTS

UK Universities Tour - August 1915

Supported by U3A Melbourne City following successful tours in previous years appreciated by many U3A members. The tour departs Australia on August 1st and finishes on August 23rd. It includes stays at the universities of Exeter, Oxford, Cumbria, St Andrews, Durham, Cambridge and LSE. The inclusive cost is AU\$11,837.00 pp with an Early Bird saving of AU\$300.00 for bookings before November 1st. Flier and more details contact our Secretary.

U3A SILVER JUBILEEE NEW ZEALAND & AUCKLAND

On 29 August this year four members of Warkworth U3A were fortunate to attend the Jubilee held to celebrate 25 years of U3A in Auckland (and New Zealand). From the first group started in Remuera in 1989, U3A has now grown to 25 groups in the Auckland area and unknown numbers throughout the country.

The Jubilee Committee invited, as the main speaker, Professor Winston Byblow of Auckland University, to discuss his specialty topic - Stroke – the causes and complications, and the research he has conducted into ways to alleviate the condition. This talk is now available on video at www.u3a.net.nz.

Several groups then offered presentations that showed the huge range of interests and accomplishments achieved by various members. These ranged from a poetry presentation, video photography, a remarkable talk about a Medieval Art Work, a member with an interest in *vexillophilia* (ie an interest in flags) and several other topics.

It was a most interesting experience and reminded us once again about the value of getting together to exercise and stimulate the brain. The social outcomes are of enormous importance also as I am sure you have discovered.

Guest Speaker: (October)

Eye specialist, **Dr Mark Donaldson** will be presenting on what **glaucoma** is, how it is detected and treatment options.

Mini Speaker:

Jim McKinley on Pure & Applied Science (The Davy Lamp)

MEMBERSHIP

COMMITTEE

Member Tim Ellison (Hospitality) has resigned from the Committee to be able to devote more of his time to Forest & Bird and Conservation interests.

Member Victor Hopwood (Speakers) will be leaving the Committee at the end of this year.

Replacement for both these members is being sought. If you would like to contribute to the running of your Club please contact the Secretary or President

MEMBERSHIP (cont)

AUDIO/VISUAL PRESENTATIONS

A volunteer is required to assist with the setting up of this equipment at our meeting when this is required. Please contact the Secretary or President if you are able to help.

KOWHAI FESTIVAL

Volunteers are required to help man the U3A stall on the day of the Festival. Please contact the Secretary or President if you are able to help.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Anne-Marie & Douglas Brown

Alison Coates

Tonara Cuthell

Christine & Peter Fieldsend

Sheryl Hill

Judith & Robert Larsen

Carolyn McCondach

Gail Morrison

Mike Nisbet

Sybil Patrick

Gael & David Peirce

Dianne Thompson

Peter Millar

Jim Moss

BI-MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting is on October 13th at 10.00am. As a reminder The General Meeting takes place on the second Monday of every other month.

DUTY GROUPS:

OCTOBER: CURRENT AFFAIRS

Duty groups are selected in order from the Meetings Group Schedule, ie the next Duty Group for DECEMBER will be Food for Thought.

Subject: MY TRAVEL PLANS FOR 2015

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my children, friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. I'm never sure about going there.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I get older.

One of my favourite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart!

SCARY FACTS – ROUGE PLANETS

Rouge planets are bodies that no longer orbit something else and simply move through the galaxy until something stops it or it stops something, or both. The leading theory on their origins suggests they were booted from their original orbits, presumably for being too extreme. While frightening entirely on their own, a few things about rouge planets are straight-up terrifying. First, the number of them is estimated to be equal to twice as many stars in our galaxy. That's... a lot. Second, the average size is comparable to that of Jupiter. Now imagine two-hundred billion Jupiter's untamed by a strict orbit, rushing around in all directions



OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS?

"Bioethics and Film"- Summer School

The University of Otago is running a Summer School paper in Auckland this year called "Bioethics and Film". The course is taught in a Block Course Format, from 9.00-5.00 on 16, 17, 18 January; 30, 31 Jan, 1 Feb.

If you think that this may be of interest to some of your members I can give you more details if you contact me on my email address.

Dr Lynne Bowyer" <lynne.bowyer@otago.ac.nz

OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS? (cont)

Auckland Natural History Club

My name is Sharleen Bishop and I am a committee member and webmaster of the Auckland Natural History Club. Our club has some things in common with U3A in that we have a mature membership and we also focus on learning (natural history and local history in our case). We do fortnightly trips either in the bush/ coastal or city walks. In addition we have a study morning quarterly with a guest speaker on a conservation/natural history topic, and also two weekends away per year.

Our club is a very old Auckland club (established in 1925) that grew out of Auckland University's botany department. One of the most popular features of the club is that we have a chartered bus for our walks and have three pick-up points covering the wider Auckland area.

We are wondering if there might be some U3A members who would enjoy the activities/learning opportunities in our club. We would be very grateful if you were able to send our contact details (website address) out to your branches highlighting what we do and inviting any enquiries.

www.aucklandnaturalhistoryclub.org

U3A Norfolk Island – Visit Us

A U3A Group was incorporated in Norfolk Island (pop circa 1500) in 2013. They now have 63 members. Together with a local travel company they have put together a special one week travel package. As well as including air fares, car hire, accommodation and access to local historic and other sites the package includes involvement with U3A activities and members. It seems to be very good value for money at from \$1499.00 per person. All the information will be found on a flier that is being held by our Secretary.

Special Interest Group News:

No submissions for this newsletter. Please consider this for the next newsletter, particularly for the benefit of new members.

Special Interest Groups – MEETINGS SCHEDULE PRINTING

Please ensure that you check PRINT PREVIEW for the format. If it doesn't show as 'Landscape' make sure that you change it from 'Portrait' to 'Landscape'. I have endeavoured to send it in 'Landscape' format but this may not show thus with some OS or software you may be using.

Special Interest Group News(cont):

Group News submissions for December/January:

Please e-mail to Editor at n-dswaff@clear.net.nz before October 20th 2014
Or earlier if possible.

Special Interest Groups News

Please e-mail to Editor or Group Convenor at n-dswaff@clear.net.nz or
clmh@xtra.co.nz before October 20th 2014
Or earlier if possible.

Special Interest Group Programmes for December/January:

Please e-mail to Group Convenor at clmh@xtra.co.nz before October 20th 2014
Or earlier if possible.



Dragonblood trees in Yemen



Windswept trees in New Zealand

COMMITTEE 2014

President:	Geoffrey Bowes	425 4639	gbowes@callsouth.net.nz
Vice President	TBA		
Past President & Publicity	Valma Gidman	425 9869	mailto:vgidman@clear.net.nz
Secretary:	Vivienne Mickelson	902 9207	viviennemoss@clear.net.nz
Treasurer:	Ernie Gidman	425 9869	
Membership:	Mary-Alice Ryburn	425 0536	ryburn@clear.net.nz
Almoner:	Mary-Alice Ryburn		
Editor:	Nigel E Swaffield	422 3326	n-dswaff@clear.net.nz
Hospitality	Tim Ellison	902 9080	mailto:tim.ellison@hotmail.co.nz
Social Secretary:	TBA		
Speakers:	Victor Hopwood	4250494	mailto:ngairehopwood@yahoo.co.nz
Group Convenor	Chris Hoogerwerf	425 5022	clmh@xtra.co.nz