



*Learning is forever*

**WARKWORTH**

**Bi-monthly Bulletin — July 2021**

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

***Matariki hunga nui*  
Matariki has many admirers**

The season of Matariki has just passed and with it many light festivals including Warkworth, Matakana and Snells Beach. It's nice to have something local to celebrate with lights. Thanks to Ralph Cooney for alerting us where the Pleiades group of stars were nestled in the east. The highlights of the past few weeks for me have been mainly sporting:

Staying up in the small, wee hours to watch the Black Caps beat India in the Test cricket championship and bring home the mace!

Watching the Blues win the trans-Tasman Super Rugby final

Rolls Royce Roger Federer advancing to the quarter finals of Wimbledon

The English Football team warming the patriotic hearts with their victories in the European Championship only to be beaten in a goal shoot out in the final.

Alison Talmage gave us an insight into Music Therapy at our last General Meeting. I can affirm singing is a tonic having been part of the Matakantata Choir in their recent performances. As one who is musically illiterate, I have to work extra hard to learn all the songs. The concerts are the reward for many hours of rehearsals.

Back to Matariki, I'm sure Rob Small, our Guest Speaker, will refer to the Maramatanga lunar calendar when he describes the community garden he has helped develop at Orakei using tikanga methods.

Enjoy your interest groups and keep warm.

Ken Cutforth

**GENERAL MEETING**  
**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August at 10.00am**  
**at Totara Park**



Rob Small is a Ngāpuhi Māori with a distinguished career in Parks, the environment and public gardens, both in New Zealand and overseas. Rob, a 72 year old, and his wife have 3 adult children and 8 grandchildren. He is semi-retired and lives in Orewa. He has an honours degree in Horticulture, a Master of Landscape architecture and qualifications in business management and te reo and Tikanga. Rob has been World President of the International Federation of Parks, Chairman and head judge of LivCom (the world's most livable community competition) and is a commissioner on the World Urban Parks Board. He has been an independent Board member of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei's working board, Whai Maia, and continues to work for them as a consultant. He was director of Regional Parks in Auckland, and in pursuit of his interest in Botanic gardens, has visited many around the world. He is currently developing New Zealand's first Māori ethnobotanic garden.

It is within this context that he will talk to us about the Māori world view and how it has impacted the design and operation of this project.

His hope is that he can answer those questions that many of us have regarding protocols and approaches to Iwi, Hapū, whanau in our changing world

Following their return to earth Ralph and Anne then described their visit to the Mount St John's Observatory in the McKenzie region with its 1 metre McLellan reflector telescope through which Ralph had taken some detailed photographs of the lunar surface.

Alison Talmage's presentation on *Music*

### NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members

Nancy Tayles

Betty Smalley

Christa Domroese

Jenny Bowen

Susan Beer

Nick and Rosie Davidson

who have joined since May 2021



*Therapy* was a most pleasurable combination of pictorial slides of her work with Music Therapy NZ, showing some of those who benefit from this type of therapy, and a practical demonstration of how the programme operates. This necessitated drawing on the singing talents of the gathered audience, some of whom later shared their experiences of how music and songs learned at an early age can still be recalled much later in life, even among those suffering memory loss and related diseases. Alison also shared a little background of her own studies toward a PhD in the area of music therapy.

### 2021 GENERAL MEETING PLANNER

October 11<sup>th</sup> Margaret Gane, Auckland Region U3A President, on the History of U3A.

The meeting will be held in both halls at Totara Park at 10am.

### MID WINTER LUNCH SPEAKERS

Anne and Ralph Cooney spoke on their recent trip to view the natural phenomena Aurora Australis (Southern Lights) sharing their remarkable photographs and video which were filmed through the window of an Air New Zealand Boeing 787. Anne explained that the 'Aurora' is the result of solar winds generated at the sun's surface interacting with the Earth's magnetic field.

We all change our email addresses, throw out the landline or move house at some stage. If you have changed your address, email or phone number, please advise Alison Coates, our membership secretary.

## GROUP ACTIVITIES

Are you interested in starting a new group? You don't have to be the leader. Please let Nigel Swaffield know.

Everyone is invited to visit a group once before joining it. Bring a friend too. Try before you buy?

### 3A Science and Climate

27th August: Food Science - Oils Good and Bad

Speaker: Dr Laurence Eyres (formerly Bluebird Foods, University research commercialization, food consultant)

Venue: Totara Park

4th October: At Birkenhead U3A: Climate Change, Ralph Cooney (by invitation)  
U3A Warkworth members are welcome to attend.

**Antiques and Collectables** and **Thoughtful Gardening** have sadly been put into recess for the time being.

Is it time for you to join a new group?

**Local history's** programme for the remainder of the year will look at the history of the Wilson Cement Works, The Militia, and Local Geology.

An open invitation is extended to U3A members to join a 2 hour trip down the Mahurangi River on the restored Jane Gifford with a commentary on the history of the river. Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 10am, \$30 / head, self-cater. This will be a public sailing as opposed to a chartered sailing but an expression of interest to convenor Jenni McGlashan would be appreciated. [jim.jenni@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jim.jenni@xtra.co.nz)

**Current Affairs** is a Group in which all the Members present speak on a topic and the rest of the group is asked to comment. This leads to a very interesting and lively discussion.

**Exploring Poetry** met recently at the Warkworth Hotel over a shared pizza. The poetry of Diane Brown and Jacqueline Sturm was discussed. It was a great success and we enjoyed being in a different setting.

**Art Appreciation** received confirmation that the art film "Leonardo" will be shown at 10am on Wed. 28<sup>th</sup> July at Matakana. All U3A members are welcome to attend.



Cherie Williams, flax weaver and local resident, Mana Whenua (Pakiri), spoke about her understanding of Matariki as a time for sharing. Much to our delight, she taught us how to weave flower decorations with flax. Everyone enjoyed what, for many of us, was a first attempt at flax weaving. We were privileged to watch Cherie casually weaving more elaborate decorations while we were working on ours.

**Developments in Medicine** are going to the Northland Medical Museum in Whangarei on Thursday October 28<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in going, please contact Linda [linda.colin1@outlook.com](mailto:linda.colin1@outlook.com).

**Ancient History** is currently focussing on two topics: India and Afghanistan. At the next meeting they will look at the Indian Army; its formation, role, and current activities. They have been very lucky to have Dr Jonathan Lee, who has lived and written about Afghanistan. His sessions are particularly useful given the withdrawal by the USA.

**Music Appreciation** had a talk on 'Making Music in spite of Physical Disabilities'. Sing Up Rodney is a music therapy group for older people, those with a disability, or anyone who would like to participate in a social singing group. Whether you are an experienced or new singer, singing together will help you find your voice, friendship and fun. Partner/carer participation is encouraged. For further information call 027 464 2465



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Warkworth New Zealand

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