



Learning is forever

WARKWORTH

Bi-monthly Bulletin — May 2021

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kia Ora Katoa

“Whaowhia te kete matauranga - Fill the basket of knowledge: When you stop learning you stop growing; there are lots of ways to learn and life is but a huge classroom”.

I never cease to be amazed at the knowledge that exists within our members. Our visit to the Radioastronomy Satellite exemplified this by the questions that were asked. More recently, Miriam hosted the Thoughtful Gardening Group and the korero traversed matters of botanical names of plants, minerals suited to plants and soils, landscaping tips, etc.

Ralph and Anne Cooney and I revisited the Institute of Marine Research at Goat Island Reserve to pursue the consideration of a submission supporting the extension of Marine Reserves in Tikapa Moana o Hauraki. I will be attending the Auckland U3A Network meeting later this week to garner support from the wider membership for our submission.

This time last year we were just coming out of a level 4 Covid 19 lockdown. Its testimony to Mary’s communication skills that our membership has grown to over 200 members since that period.

Stay safe and keep on learning.

Ken Cutforth

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members

Mark Newcomb

Terry Horne

Margaret Bos

Ron Smalley

Anne Sutherland

Joy Womersley

who have joined since March 2021

GENERAL MEETING

Midwinter lunch

**Monday 14th June at 10.30am
at the Warkworth RSA.**

A generous buffet will be served for \$25.00. Please pay online by 3rd May and include your name and ‘lunch’ (bank details on the last page). Seating limited to 50 people, so book early. If you are unable to do online banking, your local bank will be able to help you. No entry without prior payment. There will be a cash bar.

Mini Speaker Ralph and Anne Cooney will show some of their magnificent photos and tell us about the Aurora Australis, the Southern Lights.

Guest speaker Alison Talmage on Music Therapy.



Alison will talk about music therapy in New Zealand, particularly her current work and research with the CeleBRation Choir and Sing Up Rodney – therapeutic community singing groups for adults living with a neurological condition, such as stroke, Parkinson’s, dementia or brain injury. Songs will be included to illustrate this work – with optional audience participation.

Alison is a registered music therapist, teacher, and PhD candidate at the

University of Auckland. She has worked with people with diverse needs across the lifespan, and currently focuses on singing groups for adults with acquired neurological conditions. Alison co-founded the therapeutic CeleBRation Choir at the University of Auckland's Centre for Brain Research in 2009, established Sing Up Rodney in Ōrewa and Warkworth in 2017, and is a founding trustee of the Kahikatea Music Therapy and Community Arts Trust.

In 2020 Alison was awarded a Kiwibank Local Hero medal (part of the New Zealander of the Year awards) for her work with the CeleBRation Choir. A short film about the Choir (Director, Sakshi Chadha) was selected for the 2020 Doc Edge Film Festival

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqn9yup4A_g&t=4s).

Alison's publications include several research articles, book chapters, and songs, and contributions to a book of creative writing about music therapy (Tales from the Music Therapy Room: edited by Claire Molyneux.) She is the Editor of the open access NZ Journal of Music Therapy (<https://www.musictherapy.org.nz/journal>) and coordinator of the Music Therapy New Zealand Research Special Interest Group. Alison has dual NZ/UK citizenship and has lived on the North Shore since 1998.

SPEAKERS ON 12TH APRIL

At the last meeting we had two very interesting and entertaining speakers.

Mini Speaker: Kelsey Grovehills - *'Escaping UK Covid for NZ'*.

Kelsey spoke on her personal experiences of returning to New Zealand from the UK during the early period of the COVID-19 pandemic. Kelsey awarded bouquets and some brickbats to those with whom she had to deal to arrange her journey home. In Kelsey's view the system put in place by the NZ Government was professionally managed and supportive to returnees. She took questions from several members.

Main Speaker - Jenny Collins - *"Tidal Crossings: Stories of schools, teachers and pupils in the Matakana & Warkworth area 1877 - 1962"*.

Jenny, accompanied by supporting slides, provided an intriguing glimpse into school life in this part of early colonial New Zealand. Using the life story of Margaret Louisa Buchanan, daughter of first settlers who later became a schoolteacher, Jenny 'walked us through' typical school life and the early development of our education system. Access to old school records provided fascinating insight to the life and times of a teacher and her students, both often battling the elements and seasonal absences to provide and obtain an education.

2021 GENERAL MEETING PLANNER

August 9th – Rob Small, former director of Auckland Regional Parks on the Development of a community garden at Orakei.

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

U3A AUCKLAND NETWORK

A meeting will be held at Westgate Baptist Church, West Harbour on Thursday 29th July from 9.30am to 2.30pm. Steve Braunias will be the guest speaker. Tea and lunch will be provided. Book online by 16th July. The details are on the U3A website.

INTEREST GROUPS



The **Music Appreciation** group recently organized a trip to the Auckland Town Hall where John Wells, former Auckland City organist hosted a 'behind the scenes' tour of the Pipe Organ.

As well as explaining about the myriad features of the console, and demonstrating his wonderful playing ability, John guided us up the three levels of stairs behind and among the 5291 pipes. Our group of 8 were amazed at the complexity of this world class instrument, which was rebuilt at vast expense some years ago by the Klais Organ Company in Germany. This interesting visit will be long remembered by all who were able to be there.

Alison Coates



The **Science and Climate Change** group had a very interesting visit to the Radioastronomy satellite station.

Unsure about other groups you would like to join? Don't know when the next meeting will be? All the details are on the Warkworth U3A website.



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Warkworth New Zealand

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