



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

## MANAGING MEETINGS IN A COVID WORLD

**Nga mihi nui**

**Manaaki te katoa**

*Everyone wants to be treated well and with kindness*

The prolonged shadow of the Delta strain of Covid 19 has seen our world changed for better or for worse. Tamaki Makaurau has borne the brunt of the changes. Miriam and I have embraced the lifting of restrictions, sampling fish and chips at the Port Albert store, taking a 7 km hikoi with mokopuna around Shakespeare Regional Park, and warding off cabin fever during the dreadful weather during Labour weekend by watching the Aussie classic movie, *Ladies in Black*, on Netflix. I have enjoyed Elle Glazer's gems via email from the Art Appreciation group.

It was lovely to connect with our U3A Committee via a Zoom meeting where we discussed Covid protocols for our membership, with health and safety top of the agenda. The use of Zoom meetings is seen as a suitable tool for Interest groups to maintain a level of connectivity. The committee has decided to obtain a Zoom licence that would be available to all Interest groups. Alan Spicer and Steve Goldthorpe, who are 'tech savvy', will organise a meeting with representatives of Interest Groups to bring groups 'up to speed' with the Zoom capabilities.

It has been decided to postpone the AGM until the February meeting, when Rod Oram will be our guest speaker on the Climate Accord.

Enjoy the summer weather and a Happy Christmas.

Kia kaha

Ken Cutforth

Reports of meetings, announcements and other items of interest for the Warkworth U3A bimonthly newsletter are welcome. Please send contributions to me at [Steve.Goldthorpe@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Steve.Goldthorpe@xtra.co.nz).

*Editor*

Your committee has been considering how best to address the COVID-19 vaccination status of members as we think about our collective safety when attending U3A meetings. We have a broad membership base, including those who are elderly and immune compromised. As a committee and being responsible for the safety and wellbeing of members, we support the government's position which is that vaccination is essential to ensure community safety.

We therefore strongly encourage all members to have their jabs and be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before attending U3A events and meetings. If, for whatever reason, you are not vaccinated, then the Committee asks you to explore the option of joining meetings via video conferencing (e.g. ZOOM or Google Meet), options which committee members are currently exploring.

We continue to monitor the ongoing advice of the government around vaccination passports etc. and the ability for organisations like ours to require vaccination before participation in events. We will update you of any U3A policy changes as these may occur.

What we can say at this time is that feedback we have been receiving from the membership generally supports the view that those attending U3A activities should be fully vaccinated. This is in line with Ministry of Health guidelines. The last thing we want is for our organisation to be a centre of a super-spreader event or have anyone become sick with COVID19 after having participated, when vaccination could have prevented it.

Please support the committee, your fellow members, and the wider New Zealand community by getting vaccinated if you are able to. If you have comment, query, or feedback, please pass it on to the Committee: [u3awarkworth@gmail.com](mailto:u3awarkworth@gmail.com).

## MEMBERSHIPS AND GROUPS

Unsurprisingly, there have been no new members joining the Warkworth U3A since September.

If you have a friend who would like to join one of your interest groups then ask the convenor of the group if you can invite them as a guest to a meeting, be it virtual or face-to-face. Membership of U3A can then follow in due course.

The current Warkworth U3A Interest Groups and convenors are

Group	Convenor
Ancient History	Geoffrey Bowes
Art Appreciation	Elle Glazer
Book Talk	Jeanette Grimmer
Current Affairs	Geoffrey Bowes
Developments in Medicine	Linda Moore
Exploring poetry	Susan Howard
Gardening	Gail Morrison
Jazz Listening	Val Couling
Local History	Jenni McGlashan
Play Reading	Pam Ellender
Music Appreciation	Alison Coates
Science and Climate	Ralph Cooney

New interest groups can be set up by any group of members with a common interest. After initial gatherings, the new interest group can become recognised by the committee and added to the offerings of the Warkworth U3A.

## REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

Face to face meetings have, of course, not been possible for the last 3 months, but U3A members have been innovative in pursuing their interest group activities.

### Art Appreciation

Throughout the lockdown the members of the Art Appreciation Group have been in contact by email,

sharing online art and information about upcoming art events. Fortunately, there are some excellent online events for all of us to enjoy.

*Elle Glazer*

### U3A Book Talk

We did hope to possibly meet in a home at Level 2 and delayed our meeting one week for this reason. However, as Auckland currently remains at Level 3, we met for the second time on Zoom. This month we were given extra time, and so had a full hour together on Tuesday, 12 October, from 10 to 11 a.m.

We were four, until a fifth member discovered how easy it is to join via the sent link and arrived to join us after everyone else had shared about their books. She said it was easy to join the group, but one member had struggled for 15 or 20 minutes, at first visible but without sound, then with sound but invisible, until finally she could be both seen and heard.

As usual, the books we shared about were diverse. One member has a large set of classics and had been reading these. There were books, both fiction and non-fiction, the latter including a biography and an autobiography. The countries where the various books were set ranged from New Zealand to South Africa to eighteenth century Scotland, and to twentieth century China.

We had a splendid hour together, and look forward to our next session, hoping we may by then be able to meet in a home. But if not, then it will be once more on Zoom.

*Jeanette Grimmer*

### Exploring Poetry Group

Although we are unable to meet during lockdown, the Exploring Poetry group are keeping in contact by email. This month we asked all members to send a favourite nature poem. This generated some interesting discussions. We are looking forward to being able to meet again in person, hopefully before Christmas.

*Susan Howard*

## Local History

Sadly, Warkworth U3A Local History has had to cancel August, September & October meetings. The planned Mahurangi River trip on November 23 on the Jane Gifford is in the balance.

This trip is open to all U3A members should it be a permitted activity. It is planned to be a 2-hour trip with historical commentary as we go, \$30 per head, bring your own refreshments and wear flat shoes and rain/wind jacket. Planned sailing is to be 9.30am to catch the tide. I will have to use Grapevine to confirm or cancel the sailing dependant on how many people will be allowed on the boat under whatever Covid rule we might be under at that time. I wish I could be more positive!

Local History group has new members who we have not been able to meet or welcome, other than through emails, which seems to be the new and only way to communicate.

The good news is that all speakers at the cancelled meetings are only postponed, so Local history can start the new year with a line-up of interesting speakers for the programme of 2022.

The other good news is my garden has benefitted from my being property bound, and Jim's workshop has been fully employed.

We all look forward to experiencing "normal" again and wish you all good health and happiness.

*Jenni McGlashan*

## Music Appreciation Group

For our non-meeting this month, October, we were asked to find a quirky, unusual music item. These were sent out in an email to everyone. In lieu of a real meeting, we were then able to check out the various items in our own time.

I wonder if you have heard a **theremin** being played? Or listened to **Scarlatti's Cat Fugue** and learned what inspired it? Or seen/heard an **octobass**? You can Google all of these. And marvel at what the Music Appreciation group came up with.

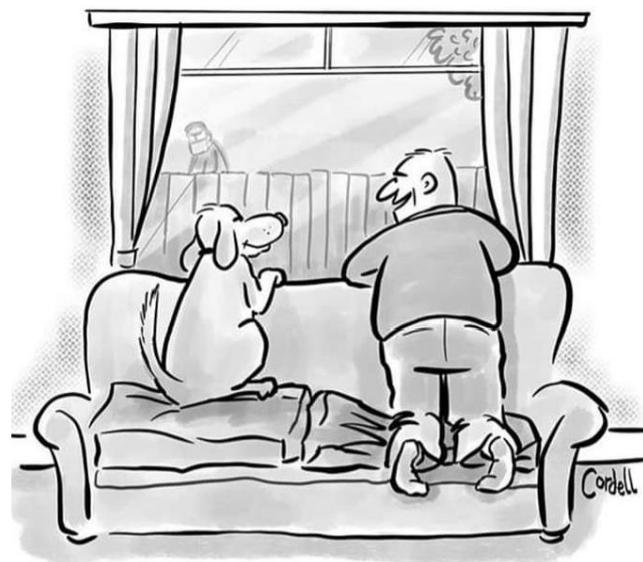
*Alison Coates*

## Science and Climate Group:

As Convenor during lockdown, I circulated to the SC group media links about the awards of Nobel Prizes to scientists who established our current knowledge about climate change, and gene editing. The latter was recognition for two female awardees.

I will begin the process of constructing an SC programme for 2022 based on breaking developments in science and the feedback from SC members on possible themes.

*Ralph Cooney*



*"Until now, I never understood why you got so excited when someone walked past the house."*



Warkworth U3A 8 Wilson Road

Warkworth New Zealand

Bank Account 02-0480-0133880-00