



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Nga mihi nui. Manaaki te katoa

Everyone wants to be treated well and with kindness

Thank you to everyone who contributed to a successful AGM and presentation by Rod Oram. Special thanks to Kristin Price for organising the 25th anniversary cake.

Since my last contribution to the newsletter, we have moved from Delta to the more infectious Omicron, have witnessed a feral rabble desecrate our Parliament precinct, and now have Putin invading Ukraine. We probably all have known someone who tested positive for Omicron and have consigned the occupation of Parliament grounds to history.

Invading a sovereign state is another matter, particularly with the threat of Putin pressing the nuclear button! Lord David Owen, former medical Doctor and British Foreign Secretary noted that Putin was a regular user of steroids and is probably addicted, resulting in his aggressive tendencies, compromised immunity, and isolation. The humanitarian crisis he has initiated will be felt for decades.

With our borders open, Miriam and I visited family in the Waikato recently, and on the way south stopped off at the Rangiriri site of a battle of the Land wars. It is interesting that the 4-metre-deep trenches were modelled on the Ruapekapeka Pa.

On our return journey, we called in to the urupa at Taupiri maunga to pay our respects to an old Christchurch friend. As we clambered up the site in our sandals avoiding graves, we could hear passing traffic tooting horns acknowledging friends and whanau.

Best wishes to our special group convenors as you navigate the current pandemic strictures. Our committee is planning to initiate more Special Interest groups. Watch this space!!

Nga mihi

Ken Cutforth, President

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A successful AGM was held in the Warkworth Town Hall on Monday 14th February. 47 members attended.

The President (Ken Cutforth) welcomed everyone and presented his annual report in which he addressed the challenges that were faced in a rather disrupted past year and expressed appreciation for the support that he had received from the membership and from the committee. Ken's report also included plans for new topics for the upcoming year and the hope that we would experience a more predictable and less challenging year ahead.

There were no changes proposed to the constitution or the general management of the Warkworth U3A.

Your committee for 2022 comprises:

Ken Cutforth - President
Jim Flewitt – Secretary
Alison Coates – Membership Secretary
Dianne Knight - Treasurer
Kristin Price - Hospitality
Steve Goldthorpe – Newsletter
Nigel Swaffield – Convenor Coordinator
Alan Spicer – IT and web editor
Prue Dray - Almoner
Jean Mason – Committee Member

Although we were unable to provide the normal hospitality to attendees, all present took home a piece of the Warkworth U3A 25th anniversary cake.

The short AGM was followed by a talk from analyst and commentator Rod Oram with the title

Fighting for Our Future, How the Climate Crisis is playing out at home and abroad.

The talk covered three main headings: The Earth, COP26 and Aotearoa. Rod provided a detailed report on his attendance at the COP26 Glasgow Conference in images and in outcomes. He also reviewed the NZ Government strategies with particular attention to the primary problem of agri-

methane and the response from Fonterra and the Government. He indicated that the response in both cases was too timid and pointed out the NZ-South Australia joint venture company CH4 Global has a technology solution in the form of a methane-suppressant seaweed, which can be used as a feedstock additive, and which occurs off the South Island Coast.

A pdf copy of the talk was circulated to U3A members including the Science and Climate Group. Any members wishing to receive a copy should contact Jim Flewitt or Anne Cooney.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Reminder of subscriptions due for year ended 31 October 2022

Single \$20.00 Double \$35.00

Bank details:-: 02-0480-0133880-00

If you cannot make an internet payment please contact Dianne Knight, Treasurer

Email: treasurer.warkworth@u3a.co.nz

If you do not wish to renew your subscription, please reply confirming this and we will amend our membership list accordingly.

If you have recently changed your contact details (email, street address or phone number), please email changes to members.warkworth@u3a.co.nz so that our database can be updated.

Thank you,

Dianne Knight, Treasurer U3A Warkworth

021 378 664

NEW MEMBERS

Warkworth U3A welcomes:

Barbara Leslie,
Jenny Cain,
Tim Armitage

INTEREST GROUPS

As we look forward to being able to hold meetings again, now is the time to try something new. Join a different interest group or start a new one by raising your ideas with any committee member.

GENERAL MEETING

A general meeting will be held on April 11th

The Current Affairs group is the duty group

REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

Ancient and Modern History

We have held two meetings. In the first Willo Stear gave an excellent presentation on the South African War and NZ's part in this event. In the second, a film on Bonapart and Wellesley was shown concerning their exploits before Waterloo. This battle will be shown at the next meeting. Members have asked Willo and Geoffrey to look at substance and form and to report back. They have also recommended that the Groups' name be changed to "Ancient and Modern History".

Geoffrey Bowes

Art Appreciation

The Art Appreciation Group has new convenors : Berris Spicer, Margaret Wright and Sally Wilson.

Elle Glazer

Current Affairs

We have had one meeting. Members have asked that the format be changed, so that there is a promulgated item at the start of the meeting, followed by topics raised by the members. The first of these meetings will be on Thursday 17 March and the subject is the Ukraine War.

Geoffrey Bowes

Exploring Poetry

The Exploring Poetry Group had their first meeting of the year at the convenors home in a pleasant outdoor setting. We all brought poems with the theme of The Sea. A lively discussion ensued, and we ended our meeting realising how large and deep the topic was, (almost matching the sea itself) and vowed to revisit it at another time.

March 16th - We plan to meet in a members home with the aim of developing a poem from one line contributions from each attendee.

Our theme for April 20th is gardens and gardening.

Susan Howard

U3A Book Talk

The Book Talk Group has already had two meetings this year, on February 1 and on March 1.

When asked to choose between meeting on Zoom or in a home, most of the group preferred to meet in a home, and several members at once offered theirs as a suitable venue.

On February 1st, seven people came. As usual, we discussed a wide variety of books with great enjoyment. Non-fiction included two biographies and a gardening book. Fiction provided us with a thriller, a who-dun-it, an excellent espionage story, and two novels, one a best-seller, and the other light reading.

It was very encouraging to have two new members among the eight who attended last Tuesday, March 1st. Our group now totals thirteen, although at most meetings we rarely have more than eight attending. One book shared about was Shane Warne's autobiography, "No Spin" – only four days before his unexpected death this week. Another shared about was Thomas Harding's "Legacy", about the Jewish family whose business ventures included the Lyons teahouses. One of our group had frequented these in the UK during the 1950s. We were fascinated to hear about Colin Thubron's travel book, "Among the Russians", in light of Russia's current invasion of the Ukraine.

The next three meetings are planned at 10 a.m. on the first Tuesday of the month at the homes of Peggy Gillman, Shirley Shirley and Nancy Tayles.

Jeanette Grimmer

Science and Climate

With the Covid Omicron variant among us we are in contingency mode. We had a full schedule of themes and speakers in place until April but may have to shuffle these around whenever Covid 19 provides us with a window for a meeting. The upcoming schedule includes Food and Nutrition.

To give SC members something to think about during lockdown, I will soon circulate a long list of possible Themes and Topics as part of a consultation process for the 2022 S&C Programme.

Members are invited to add any themes of their own to the list and to indicate their top preferences.

On February 24th Peter Kammler and Steve Goldthorpe gave the S&C group a talk "NZ Energy Past and Future. Peter took us on a journey from pre-history to the present day, explaining how mankind has got into the mess that we find ourselves in today, with consequent adverse impacts on the global climate.

Steve then explained how Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology had evolved to contribute to solving the climate change problem but was limited by the scope for geological CO₂ storage. Steve then shared his ideas about using ultra-deep ocean trenches to solve the global CO₂ storage problem.

Ralph Cooney

COVID RULES REMINDER

We are now getting used to the CVC (Covid Vaccine certificate) Red rules and showing a My Vaccine Pass to use hospitality or participate in events. As explained in the November newsletter U3A meetings operate under the CVC rules for our mutual benefit. We should all be ready to show our vaccine passes on request at meetings, as well as scan a QR code and socially distance.

Anyone who doesn't have a My Vaccine Pass for any reason should talk to the meeting convenor about the possibility of remote access, which the techies amongst us will try to arrange.

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. *Editor*



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