



U3A WARKWORTH

Learning is forever

Newsletter April 2008

From the President:

As the warm sunny weather continues to favour us – and we even are fortunate enough in this area to have welcome and sufficient rain – I trust that you have enjoyed its benefits to the full.

It certainly has provided a benign background to the numerous short term activities happening near me currently. Art in the Woolshed at Tawharanui Regional Park has drawn people and praise to the event, while the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Meiklejohn family's arrival at Whangateau may now be a memory, but an extremely significant one for the whole Warkworth district.

I look forward to meeting many of you again at our general meeting in April for a programme not to be missed.

Regards

Lorna Laxon.

Dr John Andrew:

It is with deep sorry that we note the sad loss of one our long standing and much-loved members, John Andrew.

John was in General Practice in Warkworth for almost 40 years in partnership with another of our members, David Cross.

Many local families will fondly remember him as their doctor, confidant, colleague and friend. His presence will be long-felt by members of Warkworth U3A, especially by members of the Play Reading and Poetry Reading groups.

Our thoughts are with Moira and family in their sad loss.

APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Monday April 14th, 9:45 a.m. at the New Masonic Hall, Baxter Street

Meeting commences at 10:00 a.m.

DUTY GROUP– NZ Art Appreciation Group

CONVENOR: - Deb Green, Ph: 422-7785

(The hall will be open from 9:15 a.m. to allow the duty group to prepare the room and attend to morning tea. Please also cleanup and re-instate the room after the meeting)

Meeting programme:-

9:15	Duty Group set up
9:45	Assemble
10:00	General Business
	Mini Speaker – Leslie Aitken “Working Inside”
10:40	Morning tea
11:00	Guest Speaker – Leslie & Mervyn Aitken “..To be a Pilgrim”

SPEAKERS:

There will be a “double billing” for the April meeting with a husband and wife team for both the mini and the main talk.

Lesley Aitken will be the mini speaker and her topic is ‘Working Inside’.

Lesley is an education officer at Paremoremo Prison.

For the main talk “..To be a Pilgrim”, Lesley will be joined by her husband Mervyn. They will talk about their fascinating journey along the ancient ‘Way of St James’ in northern Spain where for more than 1000 years pilgrims have walked along the Pilgrims’ path, Camino de Santiago to Santiago de Compostela.

Their talk will be supported with a Power Point slide presentation.

GROUP NEWS

Proposed new Group:

Camera/Video Interest Group from John Hayward:

As a new member, I inquired at the A.G.M. whether there were any members interested in forming a camera/video group.

Most people dabble in family photos or videos of some sort in a casual manner, but perhaps do not fully appreciate what an interesting, challenging and creative hobby it can be.

I am not an expert, but I used to belong to the Auckland Video Camera Club when I lived in Blockhouse Bay. Although I learned quite a lot, I was daunted by the expenditure required for the equipment which seemed necessary at the more advanced levels of image editing etc. As a result I did not advance to this level.

As I envisage it, a U3A group would explore some of the basics of both still and video techniques, with the object of improving everyone's photography. With video it often requires imagination and ingenuity to create a story, or perhaps a comedy to make a small film. Editing is as important and interesting as the actual filming.

The group could arrange filming visits to places of interest and invite knowledgeable speakers and perhaps have demonstrations of equipment and advice on purchases, without getting too technical.

I have used both analogue and digital recording with added commentary and background music using inexpensive equipment such as a DVD recorder.

If you are interested in joining the group please phone me (John Howard) at 422-3031

Medieval History Group from Chris Hoogewerf:

We call ourselves Medieval History though we have now left the Middle Ages behind us. We are presently studying the 17th century and cover the world.

The subjects range from Kings and events to artists, inventions, Popes, British naval history, medicines, plagues, etc.

We enjoy our meetings and most of the time a friendly discussion follows the presentation, giving more insight and an expansion of the subject presented.

N.Z. Art Appreciation Group from Ina Shaw:

Nineteen members crowded into Ina Shaw's lounge for the February meeting of the Art Appreciation Group. Ina has had an interest in Celtic Art for many years and has collected small pieces and books on this subject when she has visited the areas where the Celtic culture has survived. Several members also brought small pieces of Jewellery and spoke on them. Some had gathered information while on visits to Ireland. One of the books of interest was by George Bain who had introduced the drawing of Celtic designs into Scottish schools during the 1950s.

The Celts believed that the land and its animals were a sacred living entity and so took their art from the natural world and drew it in a very fluid abstract style. It was born out of respect.

Their Art was abstract and symbolic. The pieces Ina had collected were mostly the abstract interlacing and the knot patterns, which to the Celts symbolized spiritual progress of humanity on a journey through life. Many members were interested in the history and adaptation of the Christian cross and standing stones, which they had encountered while overseas.

The March meeting of the group was a visit to Zealandia Sculpture Park. In May, the group will visit a Webb Galleries Art Auction preview.

Debra Green is again the coordinator of this group.

Music Appreciation Group from Beverley Tipling:

The music group is all about the enjoyment of, and the introduction to a vast variety of music.

Over the years we have listened to music, discussed and learnt about composers, orchestras, instruments, singers and the many other components that make up the wonderful world of music.

At each of our monthly meetings we all learn more and more about the many facets of music.

This month we will listen to one piece of organ music played by six different organists and in three different countries. It should be interesting!

If you are interested in broadening your knowledge of music, or are able to contribute to others knowledge, please feel free to join us.

Book Group from Judith Larsen:

On the first Tuesday of the month we meet in one of our homes for a relaxed but lively talk about the books we have read over the past month. We each give a short outline of the story, noting background of the author, the category e.g. fiction, autobiography, or travel and give a personal evaluation of the book from 1 to 10.

It is stimulating to hear reports on books one may not have picked out for oneself and we exchange books, or add them to our reading list. With such a wide selection, there are always some books to interest or amuse each of us.

It is not only the book itself but the topics introduced during the discussions which lead to such good conversation.

With the cinemas now here in Matakana, we are sometimes able to follow up a book with the film version. Last year we saw 'The History Boys' (Alan Bennett); 'Atonement' (Ian McEwan) and 'The Kite Flyer' (Khaled Housseini).

We presently have twelve members.

Current Affairs Group from Val Strachan:

Elaine Ellison-Smith, convenor for the past three years, has handed the baton over to me this year and we're already into lively debate over such diverse issues as the future of the Aborigines following the Australian government's recent apology to 'The Stolen Generation', the pay disparity between New Zealand and overseas medical professionals, chemicals in everyday foodstuffs, the higher-than-previously-thought greenhouse gas emissions from ships, etc

As you can appreciate, the possibilities for future discussions are endless, but this being election year we have to be extra aware not to bring party politics into the arena.

We now have around 15 members in the group and look forward to a stimulating year.

See the last page for Groups April – May Meeting Calendar.

DAIRY NOTE:

Next General meeting: Monday, June 9th

Special plea from the Writing Stories of Your Life Group:

Have you ever thought about recording experiences from your life, or your family history for the benefit of your children/grandchildren/great grandchildren?

The Writing Stories Group urgently needs new and enthusiastic members to build up the group numbers.

Why not join this group and start your dream of becoming a family historian.

Please contact Joan Romano (Ph: 425-5517) for further details.

Doomsday now on-line!

Of definite interest to all our medieval group members, and possibly some others, the Doomsday Book is now available on-line at:

www.esds.ac.uk/findingdata

Apparently, because of this 'stocktake', the Norman conquerors valued the whole of England and its contents at approximately £75,000. (£3 trillion in today's value)

Not a bad day's work for William and his archer pal was it!

Questionnaire:

On the last page of the newsletter you will find a brief survey which you are invited to fill out.

This survey will help your new committee find out members' opinions on various matters, and to introduce any changes if needed.

Please return the form at the next General Meeting, hand it to your Group leader, or post it to U3A Editor, P.O. 520, Warkworth, 0941.

2008 Committee:

The list of the new committee members and their contact details appears on the next page. There are a few changes from last year.

You will notice that Linda Moore has taken on a new position of Publicity Officer and that Chris Field has taken on the position of sub-editor. If you have any items or events that need publicity, contact Linda, or contact Chris or Alan with items of interest for the Newsletter.

Anne Todd is now Groups Director.

Please feel free to contact any of the committee at any time.

Donations by Warkworth U3A to outside organisations:

The matter of a proposed U3A donation to “The Centre” (the proposed new civic building/theatre in Warkworth) was raised at the A.G.M.

Following the discussion at that A.G.M, submissions from members and consideration at the last committee meeting, it was resolved at that meeting “That no funds be donated to outside organisations”

It was felt appropriate that funds collected from U3A members, mostly by way of subscriptions be used only for the purpose of maintaining the group. Other requests for disbursements should be left to individual members.

Australia and New Zealand Literary Competition 2008

U3A Central Coast (NSW), Australia is again organising a writing contest for New Zealand and Australian U3A members.

There are two sections:

- 1. Short Story (fiction), 500 words minimum, 2000 words maximum
- 2. Article (non-fiction) same word length band

Each section attracts prize money of: \$200 (First), \$100 (Second), \$50 (third)

Closing date: Friday 8 August 2008. Entry fee \$5-00 (Au) per entry

For further details and an entry form, enter the following link in your web browser: <http://www.u3accnsw.org.au/Newsletters.html> then click on the link to the Literary Competition 2008, or email: editor@u3a.co.nz

COMMITTEE 2008

President:	Lorna Laxon	422 7840	lorna.laxon@xtra.co.nz
Secretary:	Elaine Ellison-Smith	425 9138	nevlaine@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer:	Jocelyn Sharp	425 7724	jmsharp@clear.net.nz
Groups director:	Anne Todd	425 9746	
Membership:	Ina Shaw	425 8667	ina.homewoodcottage@xtra.co.nz
Editors:	Alan Spicer	422 2685	editor@u3a.co.nz
	Chris Field	422 2247	cgf1@kol.co.nz
Social:	Peggy Gillman	422 9434	john_peggy@gillmanvineyard.co.nz
Speakers:	Full committee		
Publicity:	Linda Moore	425 9437	colin.linda@wave.co.nz
Almoner:	Monica Boorer	425 8210	

Questionnaire

The committee wishes to ensure that the needs of members are considered when, for example, arranging for new study groups to be established. It would be helpful to us if you could provide feedback via this questionnaire.

- 1. If there any other subjects you would like to see covered by study groups, what are they?
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- 2. Would you be prepared to act as the convener of any group?
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- 3. Is it always necessary to have a speaker at general meetings? If not what do you suggest as alternatives.
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- 4. Would you be willing and able to present a lecture/series of lectures on areas of potential interest to members, and if so what?
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- 5. Do you have any other ideas/suggestions for us to consider?
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Please return this questionnaire to:
The Editor, U3A, P.O. Box 520, Warkworth, 0941
Or hand to your study group convener, or at the next General Meeting.

Thank you.

U3A WARKWORTH STUDY GROUP MEETINGS 2008

STUDY GROUP	Convenor	Phone	Time	April		May	
				Date		Date	
Ancient History	Jim McKinlay	422-9063	9:30 a.m.	4th	Programme planning day 14 Kitty Fraser Lane, Omaha	2nd	Programme and venue TBA
Book Talk	Judith Larsen	425-0571	10:00 a.m.	1st	85 Point Wells Rd, Point Wells	6th	8 Harbour View Rd, Point Wells
Current Affairs	Val Strachan	425-9497	2:00 p.m.	17th	2/5 Walton Avenue, Warkworth	15th	35 Alnwick St, Warkworth
Food For Thought	Anthea McKergow	422-6219	1:30 p.m.	23rd	Programme and venue TBA	28th	Programme and venue TBA
Jazz Listening	Val Couling	425-5766	2:00 p.m.	21st	What is Jazz? 5 Matakana Rd, Warkworth	19th	The Language of Jazz 25 Gordon Craig Place, Algies Bay
Medieval History	Chris Hoogerwerf	425-5022	9:30 a.m.	18th	The Black Death 992 Matakana Rd, Matakana	16th	King James Bible 38 Kawau View Rd, Snells Beach
Music Appreciation	Beverley Tipling	425-9936	1:30 p.m.	3rd	"U.V.W" 32a Rivendell Place, Warkworth	1st	Elgar 1 Rivendell Place, Warkworth
NZ Art Appreciation	Deb Green	422-7785	10:00 a.m.	2nd	Topic and venue TBA 1001 Sandspit Rd, Sandspit	21st	Webb Galleries - Auckland venue TBA Preview of Art Auction
Philosophy	Prof. Ray Bradley	422-9222	10:00 a.m.	9th	Is there good evidence for survival?... continued Heron's Flight Vineyard, Sharp Rd, Matakana	14th	Discussion continues Heron's Flight Vineyard, Sharp Rd, Matakana
Play Reading	Anne Todd	425-9746	9:30 a.m.	8th	Ibsen's 'Hedda Gabler' 19 Puriri Place, Brick Bay	13th	Ibsen's 'Hedda Gabler' continued 19 Puriri Place, Brick Bay
Poetry Reading	Colleen Kangwai	425-4333	1:30 p.m.	6th	Venue and topic TBA 34 Hill St, Warkworth	21st	Venue and topic TBA 16 Coquette St, Warkworth
Watercolour Painting (Other media OK)	Yvonne Elliott	422-6653	10:00 a.m.	7th	Totara Park Hall, Melwood Drive, Warkworth Future classes are being assessed, contact Yvonne		Future classes are being assessed, contact Yvonne
Writing Stories	Joan Romano	425-5517	1:30 p.m.	14th	35 Alnwick St, Warkworth	12th	35 Alnwick St, Warkworth
of Your Life				28th	35 Alnwick St, Warkworth	26th	35 Alnwick St, Warkworth

If you are interested in joining a new camera/video group please phone John Hayward - Ph: 422-3031