



U3A WARKWORTH

*Learning is forever*

## Newsletter – April 2009

### *From our President*

2009 has got off to an excellent start for Warkworth U3A, with new interest groups, increased membership of 152, more participation in some existing groups, and a potentially very interesting and full schedule of main speakers already booked for the year.

Lorna's new Local History Group has already started with a membership of almost a dozen, 'off the plans' as it were! So don't be shy, come and join, the more the merrier! Similarly with Jim McKinlay's Charles Darwin 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Group, although we understand that this group is now full.

Such response indicates we may need to add further new interest groups during the year, so if anyone wishes to do so and take on the role of a group convenor, please advise the committee.

I highly recommend you to book tickets for Helen Moulders' performance of 'A vote for Cynthia' at our next general meeting. Not only is it an event not to be missed, it also represents exceptional value for money at just \$10. Other societies are charging \$25 for this performance, but of course your U3A is subsidising the cost. At the time of writing, we have only a handful left, so act now.

Another historical anniversary coming up is April 21<sup>st</sup>; being the 500<sup>th</sup> since Henry V111 became king of England. If you are interested in debating one members view that Hal was "a tyrant, despot and serial womaniser who should have 'gone to the block' together with all other royals before and since", then you need to join the History Anno Domini group; just give me a call and I'll put my other hat on (or should it be helmet?)

Finally, a request for one suitable volunteer. We urgently need someone to take over the very important role of WW U3A Secretary. Surely someone in our 150+ membership would be good enough to volunteer? Please, please, get in touch with me, so we can allow Elaine a well earned break from the position.

Enjoy your U3A

Christopher Field, President

### *New Members:*

Alan and Heath Denness are interested in golf, walking and gardening. Alan was involved with Agricultural Development with the World Bank prior to retirement.

Joan Field has used her interest in gardening and worked very hard to promote and raise money for the Warkworth Museum from the plant department. She is also involved with SPCA.

Renate Migdale has a deep interest in animal rights welfare. She would like to join a study group interested in Science Cosmology or Quantum Mechanics.

Seymour Migdale has now retired from his profession as an Ophthalmologist. He is interested in World Politics and Physics.

Judy Wood has actively worked as a professional potter in the Warkworth area for many years. She is interested in the Art Appreciation group

Ina Shaw, membership convenor.

### *From the Editors Desk:*

If you have not paid your annual membership fee, an invoice is enclosed and early payment would be appreciated. Please either send a cheque to the Treasurer, or if you prefer, you can pay by Internet Banking. (Details are included). Please contact our new Treasurer, Eric Toms if you have any queries. (Ph: 425 6335 - Email: [erictoms@clear.net.nz](mailto:erictoms@clear.net.nz)).

If you would like future Newsletters sent to you by email instead of by post, please send a blank email to [yes@u3a.co.nz](mailto:yes@u3a.co.nz)

Please let me know if you change your email address, phone number, or postal address so that we can update our membership database.

Alan Spicer, Editor.

U3A Warkworth

*General Meeting*

## A Vote for Cynthia

Helen Moulder

Monday April 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.

at the New Masonic Hall, Baxter Street  
Helen's performance commences at 10:30 a.m.

Meeting programme:-

10:00 Assemble

10:30 "A Vote for Cynthia"

Please note, there will be no morning tea or interval.

### *Speaker:*

At this meeting, Helen Moulder will present her one-woman show called "A Vote For Cynthia".

Helen is an accomplished actress (remember "Miss Haversham"?) and in this show we can expect to see the same high standard of acting – plus some opera excerpts in the guise of campaign songs! That's because Helen's alter-ego, Cynthia is standing for parliament. Sounds lots of fun.

'She has created an unbeatable gem of a comic character' commented the Dominion Post.

Please note there will be no morning tea or interval. The show lasts 1 hour and 20 minutes.

Because of space we can only sell limited ticket numbers – there are still just ten tickets left (\$10) which can be ordered from Jocelyn Sharp (Ph: 425-7724). There will be no door sales.

### *Last Meeting:*

Charles Darwin – Presented by Jim McKinlay:

So Darwin was actually human! I'd always thought of him as a disembodied brain, which dealt with matters beyond my comprehension. In 30 minutes flat Jim McKinlay proved conclusively that Darwin's brain inhabited a human body! A process of discovery that was fascinating and held Jim's audience enthralled. As he said in his opening sentences "most of us know of this remarkable man, fewer of us know about him"

It was interesting to hear of his family, his education, his ability to form lasting friendships, and that he was always "an avid observer of nature and science and became an inveterate questioner and note-taker"

His five year journey on the 'Beagle' as a companion for the ship's captain, Fitzroy, was memorable for science, and for the discoveries he made concerning the beginnings of life on earth, but also for Darwin's almost continual seasickness which caused him never to go on a sea voyage again....yet another of Jim's touches.

We heard that he decided to write a book about his studies in understanding how new species might develop in nature without divine, or human intervention, but that he delayed publication because of the debate and concern that his conclusions would cause. England in the nineteenth century was entrenched in the religious beliefs of the Established Church, and he made this decision to remain silent, rather than upset his wife who was a dedicated believer in the Scriptures. One could only think what a caring and humane husband Darwin must have been. However by 1859, his ideas were made public in the book that we all have heard of, 'The Origin of Species by Natural Selection'

The final touch that sealed my new understanding of Darwin, then man, came with the lines "he died on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1882, and was buried in Westminster Abbey, not in the country churchyard which he would have much preferred". So this brilliant brain was also a humble one. There cannot be many outstanding men and women who would reject the honour of having a final resting place in one of England's most prestigious buildings!

By the end of half-an-hour I had developed a real affection for Charles Darwin the man. Thank you Jim.

Submitted by Anne Todd

## *Group News:*

### Philosophy Study Group.

Are we free to choose and to act of our own free will? Or is everything we do determined by factors—such as nature and nurture—over whose occurrence we have ultimately have no control? What role do sheer fate and the laws of logic and science play in shaping our destiny? Can we justly be held responsible for what we do? Or are law and morality convenient fictions?

These are among the cluster of questions we will be discussing during the following months. Come and join our little group at The Heron's Flight Restaurant on the second Wednesday of each month from 10 am to midday.

Ray Bradley, Convenor

### Book Talk Group.

Some people read books about adventure in far-off lands; others sit and dream of places they would like to visit... One of our members has recently been on a journey that few of us are ever likely to attempt, let alone imagine. She was a member of a 40-strong group of eco-tourists who went by boat into the Southern Ocean to visit Enderby Island, Auckland Islands and Campbell Island. The group actually went ashore and walked amongst penguins, sea lions and elephant seals, and observed the bird-life on these far-off islands. At our March monthly meeting we listened fascinated by tales of 5 metre swells in those southern oceans and "horizontal" rain showers, and coming face-to-face with the sheer size of elephant seals...

We have 19 members in our group this year, and after only 2 meetings we are already experiencing the pleasure of listening to other members' book reviews and making our own reading lists for the coming year. There is a wide range of interests among such a large number and it is fascinating to catch glimpses of subjects we never contemplated we would be interested in.

The group meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month in the homes of members, and we begin with a "cuppa" and a chat, a very welcome few moments in time to socialize with one another in this scattered community.

Mairi Layburn, Convenor.

### Ancient History Group.

The Group continues in good health, with 12 - 15 members meeting each month. In November, we completed a very interesting series of talks on aspects of the history of ancient Egypt. It is surprising that it took us so long to get there!

Perhaps it was helped by the excellent programmes on Ancient Egypt that have featured on Sky television during the year.

We finished 2008 with with a planning meeting for 2009, followed by an end-of-year lunch which was greatly enjoyed by all. We decided to first have a look at the history of some of the lesser known major world religions. We began this in February with the religion of Zoroastrianism - the religion of Ancient Persia, which now exists only as smaller communities scattered across India and the Eastern world.

In April, we are to interrupt the series with a CD of a radio talk of a few weeks ago in which the anthropologist Dr Helen Leech discusses the adaptations which the early Polynesians arriving in New Zealand had to make to the foods which they gathered, gardened or hunted in their new land. We will then return to our history of religions theme with talks, first, on Buddhism, and then, Islam. This will bring us to July when we will have one of our "bits and pieces" meetings, when members will each talk to the group for 5-10 minutes on some item of interest which they have come across in their reading over the previous few months. These meetings throw up all sorts of interesting contributions, which all makes for a very enjoyable meeting.

Jim McKinlay, Convenor

## LOITER WITH INTENT

Just in time for the New Year, we have discovered a useful new concept: the resolution-lite. Reports say that some obliging scientists have discovered that "pottering about" is good for burning off calories. Another group of obliging medical experts say that more people, particularly men in their forties, are risking serious injury by resolving to go in for the triathlon and other extreme sports.

So here are some timely suggestions for 2009: try the new sport of extreme mooching; set aside 20 minutes a day for some serious loitering and beneficial tuneless whistling. For breathing exercise, try heavy sighing, burn off those calories by blinking, re-tie your shoe laces unnecessarily at least once a day and remember you can walk great distances just looking for lost spectacles.

Do more stretching exercises - keep the whisky bottle (or custard tarts) on a high shelf. Make a sacrifice and switch to dark chocolates. Carry more loose change in your pockets to tone up the thigh muscles and remember it's probably gesticulating which protects Mediterranean people from heart disease. Keep this up for as long as you can in 2009 - until a bunch of less obliging medical experts come along.

From Pip Perrins

## Diary Notes:

Next General meeting: Monday June 8<sup>th</sup>

Group reports for June newsletter – Current Affairs and Music Appreciation Groups, due to Editor by 20<sup>th</sup> May. Thanks.

### COMMITTEE 2009

President:	Chris Field	422 2247	<a href="mailto:cgf@xtra.co.nz">cgf@xtra.co.nz</a>
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**U3A WARKWORTH STUDY GROUP MEETINGS 2009**

STUDY GROUP	Convenor	Phone	Time	Date	April	Date	May
<b>Ancient History</b>	Jim McKinlay	422-9063	9:30 a.m.	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Maori Cooking Methods 9 Katene Place, Snells Beach	1 <sup>st</sup>	A History of Buddhism 23 Will James Ave, Algies Bay
<b>Book Talk</b>	Mairi Layburn	423-0308	10:00 a.m.	7 <sup>th</sup>	16 Waimanu Place, Point Wells	5 <sup>th</sup>	83 Matakana Valley Rd
<b>Current Affairs</b>	Val Strachan	425-9497	2:00 p.m.	16 <sup>th</sup>	99 Sharp Rd	21 <sup>st</sup>	6 Amanda Lane, Snells Beach
<b>Food For Thought</b>	Anthea McKergow	422-6219	1:30 p.m.	22 <sup>nd</sup>	A History of Maori Food 14 Kitty Fraser Lnae, Omaha	27 <sup>th</sup>	T.B.A. 8 Pipi Lane, Omaha
<b>Jazz Listening</b>	Val Couling	425-5766	2:00 p.m.	20 <sup>th</sup>	D.V.D. Biography – Louis Armstrong 5 Matakana Rd, Warkworth	18 <sup>th</sup>	T.B.A.
<b>Local History</b>	Lorna Laxon	422-3562	10:00 a.m.	28 <sup>th</sup>	Local pre-European History- Leigh Tribal History Leigh Marae	26 <sup>th</sup>	Visit to Warkworth Museum To be confirmed
<b>History Anno Domini</b>	Chris Field	422-2247	9:30 a.m.	17 <sup>th</sup>	Henry VIII 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Debate Herons Flight Vineyard, Sharp Rd	15 <sup>th</sup>	Abel Tasman Herons Flight Vineyard, Sharp Rd
<b>Music Appreciation</b>	Beverley Tipling	425-9936	1:30 p.m.	2 <sup>nd</sup>	'R' 14 Coquette St, Warkworth	7 <sup>th</sup>	T.B.A.
<b>NZ Art Appreciation</b>	Iris Mee	425-7935	10:00 a.m.	1 <sup>st</sup>	Reading the Pictures-Medieval Life and Fashion 109 Perry Rd, RD3, South of Warkworth	6 <sup>th</sup>	Silk 1124 Sandspit Rd, Sandspit
<b>Philosophy</b>	Prof. Ray Bradley	422-9222	10:00 a.m.	8 <sup>th</sup>	Do We Have Free Will? Herons Flight Vineyard, Sharp Rd	13 <sup>th</sup>	Do We Have Free Will? Herons Flight Vineyard, Sharp Rd
<b>Play Reading</b>	Anne Todd	425-9746	9:30 a.m.	14 <sup>th</sup>	'Confusions' Alan Aytsbourne 20 Jacksons Crescent, Martins Bay	12 <sup>th</sup>	T.B.A. 19 Katene Place, Snells Beach
<b>Poetry Reading</b>	Colleen Kangwai	425-4333	1:30 p.m.	15 <sup>th</sup>	Kapka Kassabova 54 Ashton Rd, Whangateau	20 <sup>th</sup>	T.B.A. 12 Amanda Lane, Snells Beach
<b>Writing Stories</b>	Joan Romano	425-5517			Group discontinued		
<b>Charles Darwin</b>	Jim McKinlay	422-9063			Contact Jim for information		

**History Anno Domini Group;**

Note change of venue to Herons Flight Vineyard