



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Learning is forever

WARKWORTH

Quarterly Newsletter — December 2017

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Greetings to you all and I hope you are enjoying the spring weather! We have enjoyed a very good year with our multiple activities and I appreciate the work that many of you put into U3A — especially the Group Conveners who are not only organizing the content of the meetings but also the venues. Thank you.

Our next Meeting will be the AGM on 11 December and I encourage you all to come. I will be standing down, after three years as President. I have much pleasure in nominating Mary Miller to be President. Mary is currently the Vice President and had to carry much of my load this year. I wish her well and know that she has a strong team to work with in 2018 and will be a great asset to our U3A.

I have been very fortunate to have had a very good Committee over my tenure and I do appreciate what they have done. Thank you all.

One of the critical positions is that of Newsletter Editor and we have had sterling service from Glenda Came but unfortunately she has had to give up. Thank you Glenda. We are, however, very fortunate in getting a replacement volunteer. Ian Lewis is retiring from 25 years as a consultant in newspaper and magazine production systems. He has recently joined U3A but his wife, Hilary, has been a member for some time. Welcome Ian, and thank you for becoming our Newsletter Editor.

We have also lost Clare Hamel as a Member and a very dedicated Hospitality Committee Member. Her Morning Teas are a legend ... Oh for those sandwiches. Good luck for the future and thank you for what you have done for our U3A

I would in my last message to you like to bring up a matter I raised some time ago. It is something that was brought home to me recently when a chap I knew chose to end his life. As we advance in our years we see people who have lost partners or are just very lonely and are not enjoying life. I wonder what we as U3A could do for them — if anything at all — it is not in our Constitution. We are strongly focused on “education and stimulation of retired members of the community”. We also state, however, that we are into “social interaction” which is also important and valuable to members. Warkworth U3A brings together people from all walks of life. Perhaps this is something to look in the future.

It has been my privilege to have been your President for the past three years and I look forward to continuing to participate in the Warkworth U3A. Thank you.

Lt Col (Rtd) Geoffrey Bowes

11th December Annual General Meeting:

Programme:

- AGM 10am (Details on Page 10)
- Two “Mini-Speakers”:

John Patrick:

“How Vanuatu Gained Independence”

From stateless to proud: Fighting for a proper passport.

Daphne Cocker and the Poetry Group present “Readings for Christmas”

An eclectic selection of prose and poetry with the Christmas theme.

- Catered morning tea and social time 11am

12th February General Meeting:

Speaker: Glyn Williams

“The Hill Street Blues” - 5 Years On.

Glyn has been closely involved for nearly 5 years with the protracted design and negotiation processes aimed at achieving a significant redesign and rebuild of the notorious Hill St intersection. He will attempt to demystify the convoluted processes involving various agencies — from design concepts, through to preliminary design, peer review, internal and public consultation stages and awarding the final Detailed Design contract, and the “Fix Hill Street Now Petition” to Parliament.



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STUDY GROUP INFORMATION: A huge thanks also to the Conveners — they provide us the opportunity for continuing and enjoyable learning.



Study Group	December 2017	January 2018	February 2018
All About Plants 10am 4th Thursday Gail Morrison 422 3717 Tonara Cuthill 902 9294	No Meeting	No Meeting	TBA
Ancient History 9.30am 1st Friday Pam Bosch 425 6384	Discussion and topics for next year, with a Xmas lunch. 120 Perry Rd, Warkworth	TBA	TBA
Art Appreciation 2nd Wednesday - check for times. Dagmar Kammler 425 9181	December 6 Totara Park 10am Marianda: Developing ideas for a project through to the finished art.	TBA	TBA
Book Talk 10am 1st Tuesday Dagmar Kammler 425 9181	TBA	TBA	TBA
Current Affairs 2pm 3rd Thursday John Patrick 425 0001	Lunch Venue Michael Penn 12 Wilson Rd 425 7272	No Meeting	John and Sybil Patrick 5/99 Hauti Drive 425 0001
Developments in Medicine 2pm 4th Thursday Mary Miller 425 6301	No meeting	No Meeting	Tattoos 40 Will James Avenue Algies Bay
Jazz Listening 2pm 3rd Monday Val Couling 425 5766	Group Social Gathering. 25 Gordon Craig Place, Algies Bay - 2pm	David's selection. 32 Blue Gum Drive, WW - 2pm	Live Music. 25 Gordon Craig Place Algies Bay - 2pm
Local History 10am 4th Tuesday Lorna Laxon 422 3562	No meeting December Note: No meeting Nov 28, but meet at David Grant's book launch — Matakana School Hall Nov 25, 2pm	No Meeting	Venue: Leigh. Exact site to be decided Subject: History of Leigh Cemetery (Fish and chip lunch to follow!)

Study Group	December 2017	January 2018	February 2018
Music Appreciation 1.30pm 1st Thursday Malcolm Clague 425 9945	Christmas Theme 23 David William Place	No Meeting	Theme: Contact con- venor 23 David William Place
Play Reading 9.30am 2nd Tuesday Pam Ellender 422 2493	End of Year lunch. DVD: Alan Bennett interview. 25 Gordon Craig Place Algies Bay	No Meeting	Planning meeting. Venue TBA
Poetry Reading 1.30pm 3rd Wednesday Daphne Cocker 425 0570	No Meeting	No Meeting	TBA

Auckland U3A Network Meeting — U3A in Action 2017



Auckland Network President Don Chambers addressing the 2017 Action Day held in St Chad's, Meadowbank.

Six Warkworth U3A members attended this one-day event at St Chad's, Meadowbank on 29th September. The registrations were limited to 200, and some late applicants were unable to attend. Twenty-five U3A's were represented. Our U3A is the tenth largest of these, which range in membership from 21 to 300.

The main speaker was Dr Paul Moon, Professor of History at A.U.T., and author of 25 books, mostly on New Zealand History. His subject was "Nostalgia and Utopianism in New Zealand". He spoke about how nostalgia can distort memory of our own past and also influence voters — e.g. in America "Let's make America great again" and in Britain, the Brexit vote. Utopianism looks into the future and can be



The Warkworth delegates. From back-left: Ken Winter, Ernie Gidman, Alison Coates, Mary-Alice Ryburn, Mary Miller, Valma Gidman.



Dr Paul Moon: "Nostalgia and Utopianism in New Zealand".

threatening as in Hitler's vision. Use of the internet is utopian for our generation but routine for children. He spoke with humour and many historical references.

There were nine mini-speakers on widely varying subjects including The Cadbury Tragedy, A Better Mouse

(a fascinating and funny video of the development of the computer mouse), The Jowett Motor Car, Number Magic, Refugees: New Zealand's Response and Inspiring Exporters.

The lunch break was a time to meet old friends and new and to share ideas for interest groups and meeting speakers. This was a day well spent with much food for thought.

Mary Miller

October Meeting:

At the October meeting, we had a most interesting, passionate and youthful speaker, Loren O'Sullivan.



Loren O'Sullivan

She told us how as a slightly rebellious adolescent she decided to go overseas and eventually landed up in Honduras, one of the poorest countries of South America. There she worked as a volunteer for the Roman Catholic organisation "Nuestros Pequenos Hermanos

(NPH). They run nine orphanages throughout Latin America, helping over 3,000 abandoned, abused or orphaned children.

Housed, fed, and with some pocket money but initially practically no Spanish, Loren devoted herself to the children of all ages. She taught English to the older ones but honed her Spanish skills with the younger children.

She showed us a photo of one boy found abandoned on a rubbish dump. Another, having lost both parents, became head of the family of six at just ten years old. Those siblings were split up and fostered out to six different homes. NPH gathered them all into one home and kept them together. Another orphan grew up in a brothel. It was a very stark contrast to the lives of our own grandchildren.

The organisation was started in 1954 by a priest

Warkworth U3A Dates — 2017

December	11 th	AGM
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Warkworth U3A Dates — 2018

January	8 th	Committee
February	12 th	General
March	12 th	Committee
April	9 th	General
May	14 th	Committee
June	TBA	Mid-winter luncheon
July	9 th	Committee
August	13 th	General
September	10 th	Committee
October	8 th	General
November	12 th	Committee
December	10 th	AGM

New Members

A warm welcome to our new members who have joined since August.

Louise Van Campfort

Ian Lewis

Carolyn Quayle

Vergenie (Virginia) Rademakers

John Williamson

(Membership now stands at 164)

who encountered an abandoned child and felt he must do something to help. The children live on 'ranchos' as the orphanages are called. These are working farms where the children can grow up amongst animals and crops. They help with the farm-work and the chores. After schooling, a considerable number are supported to go on to further trade training and education, including university. Some then return to NPH to make their own contribution as doctors, nurses, lawyers, teachers and now one is actually the CEO of NPH. This illustrates their appreciation of what the organisation had been able to do for them.

It was a deeply moving talk.

Pam Bosch

Ancient History Group

The October General Meeting was also addressed by Victor Jowsey on behalf of the Ancient History group.

He thought the name "Ancient" was something of a misnomer for the group's focus. Topics, while intensely interesting and provoking lively discussions, were not always ancient. One instance of a more modern topic was a presentation and excellent video on the



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“Stevenson Lighthouses” by Bob and Sue Stevenson whose engineering ancestors had built many of them in the 19th and 20th centuries.

During 2016, they studied the Ottoman Empire, Easter Island and the Olmec, Maya, Inca and Aztec civilisations. This was rounded off by an outstanding Powerpoint presentation in February on the environment and contrasts of Pre-Inca cultures in South America. This was given by Ed Hudson who has been guiding tours in South America for many years.

He lives in Lima with his Peruvian wife and just happened to have the McGlashans in one of his groups last year. They invited him to come and talk to us.

The meeting was held at Totara Park with an open invitation for any U3A member or friend to join us. More than 50 attended, compared to our usual meetings with between 12 and 16 members.

Other topics covered were the life and times of Genghis Khan, the Indus Valley civilisation in what today is Pakistan, and a very delectable meeting at the McGlashans on the history of chocolate.

The cocoa bean, from which we get chocolate, originated in South America. We were treated to hot chocolate with chilli (delicious) as well as other Peruvian chocolate delicacies. A most enjoyable morning!

Sheila and Victor looked into the complex cycles of the cosmos. They illustrated how long and persistent climate cycles on earth are influenced by the radiation activity cycles of the sun. (These include the 11 year cycle of sunspot activity.)

Economic cycles were covered to show how economists have identified patterns of economic cycles and have been able to relate them to those experienced by many ancient civilisations.

In between specific subjects, we have a “Bits and Pieces” slot which offers the opportunity for any member to bring along and talk about any interesting item.

These are often humorous, can be amazing and varied from “a brief history of Imperial Chinese underwear” (Mildred) to the discovery of the Mahuika Crater. This crater is thought to have been created by a meteor or other extraterrestrial body landing in the sea south of New Zealand around 1443AD. It created a tsunami which had devastating effects. The event was subsequently named after the Maori god of fire and it entered into Maori mythology.

We wrap up the year in December with a lunch and discussion of ideas for next year. New members are always welcome.

Victor Jowsey and Pam Bosch

Late Meeting Amendments: November

November 23	Developments in Medicine Moved to 24th, 12.30pm
November 23	All About Plants Glenda Came, 81 Thompson Road Warkworth: Free Choice - discuss a plant that interests you or something unusual flowering in the garden.
November 28	Local History. Moved to Book Launch 25th

Proposed New Course:

Biocentrism — a new paradigm or just gobbledygook?

Gerard Zwier

In 2009 Dr Robert Lanza, a scientist in the fields of regenerative medicine and biology, and Bob Berman, an astronomer, published their book ‘Biocentrism: How Life and Consciousness are the Keys to Understanding the True Nature of the Universe’. The book put forward the rather controversial notion that, instead of assuming that we live in a physical world which exists independent of life, it is life itself that created the physical world.

They argued that the physical world we perceive around us is only apparent because space and time are not absolute independent realities but rather tools of the human and animal mind and that the objects and processes we see and hear derive their existence from our perception of them.

The U3A course I intend to facilitate is based on my own book “Knowing Being”, with the subtitle: “Reality is a Function of Being”, which endorses the main line of argument of Lanza & Berman’s book but deviates from it in a number of important ways.

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss aspects of this new perspective after reading the book. Is it really a new paradigm or just plain nonsense?

Come and debate.

Contact: Gerard Zwier

ph: 09 422 9718

email: gzwier@xtra.co.nz



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Warkworth Kowhai Festival



Lorna Laxon, Mary Miller and Keith Hopner onsite with Mary-Alice Ryburn in the background

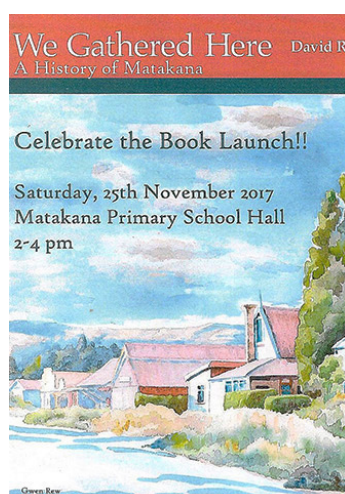
On Saturday 28th October twelve willing volunteers manned the U3A stall and introduced a number of the Festival-goers to the concept of U3A. Thanks to you all and also to Ernie Gidman who received and couriered the banner and to Keith

Hopner who engineered the stabilisation of the banner and spent the whole morning helping the stall holders. Our membership may benefit in the future from the new contacts made.

Mary Miller

Book Launch:

We Gathered Here — by David Grant



The promotional poster for the launch of David Grant's new book about the history of Matakana.

The launching of this book takes place on 25th

November in the Matakana School Hall from 2 pm. Everybody is welcome to come. See the website wegatheredhere.co.nz.

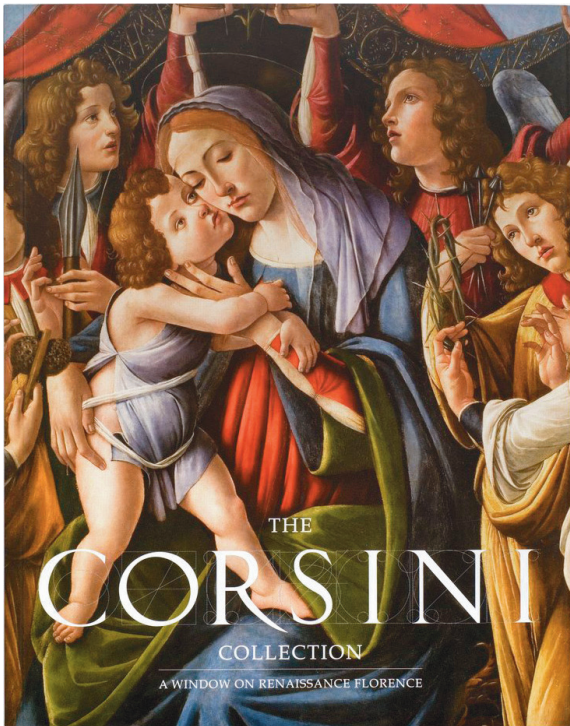
Excerpt from David Grant's book: **We Gathered Here**

"Mrs de Montalk was headmistress of the Matakana School in 1919 when the influenza epidemic broke out in that year. Warkworth was designated as an infected port, so movement was restricted. Mrs de Montalk volunteered to care for the influenza patients which were housed in the lime-works. She had no contact with her husband or children for quite some time, so the doctor took her to the Glen Eden River bridge at a designated time, and Mr de Montalk brought the children by dray to the other side of the bridge. They shouted to each other across the divide."

This story was told to me by Nina Bell, née Migounoff.

David Grant

**Art Appreciation Group:
The Corsini Exhibition Trip**



The Auckland Art Gallery has done it again: until January 21st it shows a collection of Renaissance and Baroque paintings which have never travelled before. The Corsini Family of Florence has collected paintings for the last half millennium. They survived the ravages of the Second World War and the Florence flood of 1966.

The exhibition includes works of artists such as Botticelli, Andrea del Sarto, Caravaggio and Pontormo, and many of these were contemporary when the family bought the works. They show portraits of some family members, religious themes, and fantasy landscapes, all augmented by some clothing and furniture.

It is worthwhile to follow the fate and fortune of the family over the centuries. Some of it is displayed on a timeline panel — not to be missed. I recommend seeking this out at the beginning. Generally speaking, life at the time was full of intrigue, duplicity, power struggle and bribery — not much different from today.

Our U3A Group was lucky to have two ladies giving us in-depth information about the artworks, and how they did fit at the time. This enhanced the experience tremendously. It is an exhibition that I strongly recommend. If at all possible one should try to get a guide or audio-guide.

Peter Kammler

U3A WARKWORTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President	Geoffrey Bowes425 4639
Vice President & Membership Secretary	Mary Miller425 6301
Secretary	Vivienne Mickleson 902 9207
Membership	Alison Coates.....425 6408
Treasurer	Ernie Gidman.....425 9869
Group Convenor	Pam Ellender.....422 2493
Almoner	Chris Hoogerwerf ...425 5022
Publicity	Glyn Williams902 9333
Hospitality	Clare Hamel.....425 6729 Mary-Alice Ryburn..425 0536
General Committee	Keith Hopner425 9955
Ex officio	
Editor (Retiring)	Glenda Came283 3453
Editor	Ian Lewis425 7042
IT/Subeditor	Alan Spicer422 2685

Don't forget the archives: Photos for archiving go to Ina Shaw.

DUTY GROUP ROSTER 2017

December 11 Developments in Medicine

DUTY GROUP ROSTER 2018

February 12 Current Affairs
 April 9 Jazz Listening
 June 11 — (Mid-Winter luncheon)
 August 13 Local History
 October 8 Music Appreciation
 December 10 Play Reading

Warkworth U3A
PO Box 520
Warkworth
New Zealand



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U3A Warkworth: Committee 2017



Vice-President:
Mary Miller



President:
Geoffrey Bowes



Secretary:
Vivienne Mickleson



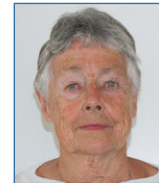
Membership:
Alison Coates



Treasurer:
Ernie Gidman



Group Convener:
Pam Ellender



Almoner:
Chris Hoogerwerf



Publicity:
Glyn Williams



Hospitality:
Clare Hamel



Hospitality:
Mary-Alice Ryburn



Everything else(!):
Keith Hopner



Ex officio - Editor(retiring):
Glenda Came



Ex officio - Editor:
Ian Lewis



Ex officio - IT/Sub-editor:
Alan Spicer

Glenda Came: Retiring Editor

Glenda is retiring from her position of Editor. The newsletters she has produced belie the effort that has gone into them with data coming from many sources in a multitude of formats.

Glenda admits that she didn't quite know just how much she had volunteered to take on with the newsletter. The result speaks for itself — it stands alongside any from the other U3A groups.

Picking up the newsletter reins has been made vastly easier for me than it might have been with Glenda's guidance and great coffee!

Ian Lewis



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Auditor's Report for 2017

U3A Warkworth Financial Statement for the year ending 31 October 2017

		Year 2017	
		\$	\$
Income			
Subscriptions		3,100.00	
Interest Nett – Chq. Acc.		2.30	
- Rapid Save		48.17	3150.47
Total Income			3150.47
Less Expenditure			
Computer Records		172.44	
General Meetings		594.08	
Hall Hire		200.00	
Miscellaneous		602.65	
Newsletter		160.90	
PO Box Fee		160.00	
Presentations		400.00	
Stationery & Postage		148.00	2438.07
Mid-Year Function			
Costs - The Stables	1,830.00		
- Donation to Matakantata	100.00	1,930.00	
Less Net Sales		1405.00	
Net Cost			525.00
Total Expenditure			2963.07
Excess/Deficit of Income			
Members Equity			
Increase or Decrease of Equity			187.40
Add Balance at 31 October 2016			4034.12
			4221.52
Represented by			
BNZ Current Account	1108.59		
Less Unpresented chq #744	50.00	1058.59	
Rapid Save Account		3162.93	
Total Assets as at 31 October 2017			4221.52

Auditors Report

I have checked the accounts of U3A Warkworth for the year ending 31 October 2017 with such accepted procedures as I have considered necessary.

All explanations I have requested have been given to my complete satisfaction.

The small nature of the organisation prevents full internal control procedures being undertaken.

Subject to this qualification it is my opinion that the above U3A Warkworth Financial Statement gives a true and fair view of transactions for the year and the result of activities as at 31 October 2017.

B. P. Russell Hon. Auditor
12 November 2017

President's Note:

I am trying hereunder to give a layman's narrative of the 2017 financials. It is important to realise that in a Not For Profit organisations, which we are, big profits or losses are not acceptable and once again Ernie has shown great diligence in producing a small surplus of \$187.40 and Total Assets or our Net Worth is now \$4221.52. This is in our Bank Accounts. Revenue has dropped a little from last year, however our expenditure has also decreased and that comes from a reduction in the costs associated with our Mid-Year Lunch. Two items may need explaining. The costs associated with Newsletter have gone down due to a reduction in those sent by mail and consequently the number of hard copies printed and posted.

Costs related to presentations have gone up as the Committee decided, in concert with other U3A's, to pay presenters rather than give them a bottle of wine. I am sure that Ernie will be able to answer any questions and I thank him for his work.

Geoffrey Bowes
President



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Warkworth U3A Annual General Meeting

December 11, 2017

The AGM will begin at 10am on December 11, 2017, at Totara Park.

Business

1. Election of officers

Retirements

Geoffrey Bowes is standing down from the position of President.

Clare Hamel is stepping down from the committee.

Nominations received as at 20/11/2017

- Mary Miller has been nominated by Geoffrey Bowes for the position of President.
- Jean Mason has been nominated by Mary Miller for a position on the committee.

2. Amendment to the Constitution

Purpose: To revise the current Constitution to reflect current practice for accounting and the AGM.

Changes:

- Para 5.1, first line. Delete February and insert December.
- Para 6.1, first line. Delete December and insert October
- Para 6.1, second line. Delete February and insert December

Proposed: G. T. Bowes

Seconded: M. Miller

3. General Business

Items of General Business must be received by the Secretary on or before December 4, 2017.

4. Speakers

Once the business session is finished and closed, there will be the two “mini-speaker” presentations (see page 1 notice)

These will be followed by a morning tea at 11am with catering by the Warkworth-Wellsford Hospice volunteers.

Nominations for positions on the committee and the position of President must be received by the Secretary on or before Friday 8th December 2017.

The positions will be filled by vote of the members present at the Annual General Meeting on December 11, 2017



NOMINATION FORM: U3A Warkworth 2018 Committee

Nominee Name:

Signature:

For the Position of: ☐ President

☐ Committee Member

Nominated by: Name..... Signature.....

Seconded by: Name..... Signature.....

Please mail the completed form to: The Secretary, U3A Warkworth, P O Box 520, Warkworth 0941
Completed forms must be received on or before December 8th 2017

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Committee.



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Promotion:

Jazz Group : Matakana Jazz Concert



Software Project Testing Request

We have been approached, via U3A NZ, to see if we would have any volunteers who would be willing to help test some new software.

The organisation involved is called “Talent Central” (www.talentcentral.org.nz). John Kirkland, a retired Massey faculty member, is helping the organisation. They are based in the Manawatu.

Their goal is to develop an online self-reporting programme that is aimed at identifying senior high-school students and young adults who have a “bent” towards “exploration”.

The view of the developers is that these young people are likely to become leaders in their chosen career paths.

The programme has been built from a selection of proven modules. Talent Central now needs lots of volunteers to test the programme.

The procedure is for individuals to register online to get access to the software. The actual test stage is also done online but completely anonymous.

The task involves sorting little card-like images, which contain text, on your computer display. It is not hard, but it does require attention to detail.

Ultimately they intend to liaise directly with secondary schools and make the self-test programme available to their senior students directly.

If you would like some more information please contact me (ph 425 7042 or email ian@arcon.co.nz) or John Kirkland directly (johnkirkland@gmail.com)

Ian Lewis

Promotion:

The Victorian Christmas Concerts — Highwic House Christmas Function



The company of actors and musicians have performed various Christmas entertainments in several different Historic homes throughout Auckland over the past few years .

This year we are at Highwic in Epsom where the house will be decorated and the cast will wear Victorian attire.

The ticket price of \$49.00 includes a welcome glass of wine or fruit juice, followed by the performance which ends with carol singing and then a Victorian supper in the billiard room.

For the audience who come a little early, there will be the opportunity to view and buy any last minute gifts from Highwic's little Christmas shop.



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