



**U3A WARKWORTH** ~ *Learning is forever*  
P O Box 520 Warkworth 0910



## NEWSLETTER

*Greet the New Year Feb ~ Mar 2012*

### Chats from the Chair – Valma Gidman

**T**ena koutou katoa. Greetings all, and Best Wishes for 2012. I trust the families all behaved as they should behave over Christmas – if not – tough – try again next year!

At our last General Meeting the new committee was elected, and at the following committee meeting I was (in my absence!), elected to be Chairperson for this year. I would like to thank Beulah for her great work as Past President and thank her for staying on to help us in our deliberations.

Our new committee and all the Group Convenors will be introduced to you at our first General Meeting for 2012 on Monday 13 February, so you will know who to contact if you want to join a new group. We are also going to have a table with the Newsletters we receive from other U3A groups which you may be interested to read. If you notice members with a red dot on their name cards, this means that they are recent recruits. Please introduce yourselves and help them feel welcome.

If you know of any friends, relations or others who have stories to tell, please let our new Speaker-seeker, Frances Sullivan know. We are always thrilled to hear about the adventure and achievements of us older folk. We are looking forward to another year of good groups and good sessions. Enjoy!

Valma

#### U3A Warkworth Committee 2012

President	Valma Gidman	425 9869
Past President	Beulah Heaven	425 6545
Secretary	Chris Hoogerwerf	425 5022
Treasurer	Geoffrey Bowes	425 4639
Groups Convenor	Valma Gidman	425 9869
Membership Sec /Almoner	Mary-Alice Ryburn	425 0536
Hospitality/Social Secretary	Hilary Waymouth	422 6683
Speaker Seekers	Marilyn Convery	422 9244
	Frances Sullivan	422 2033
Newsletter Editor	Iris Mee	425 7934

## **GENERAL MEETING:**

Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> February  
10am Totara Park

Duty Group: Music Appreciation:

Mini speaker: TBA

Main Speaker: Quentin Jukes of  
Homebuilders Family Place

Topic: How to take control of  
our lives and improve on the  
decisions that we make

Duty Groups are asked to set up seating  
and tea preparation before the meeting  
and to clean up and reinstate the room  
afterwards.

Next general meeting will be on 2nd  
April and the Art Appreciation group will  
be on duty.

At the AGM in December the speaker was Jim McKinlay who gave us some interesting insights into early European history and copper mining on Kawau Island.

Everyone all concentrated and listened intently as Jim told us about disputes over land purchases, injustices involving the mining companies and the resulting court decisions

Jim explained how the history of early European ownership of Kawau Island was bound up with the involved processes of land transactions. Conflicting dates have been given for the purchase of the island from the Maori, and also the first discovery of copper and manganese. Some say 1837 while others insist it was 1840 – or even 1844. It is thought however that in June 1844 a Mr James Beattie was confirmed as the sole owner of Kawau Island and that by 1848 a village for miners and their families was built.

Mining began, but subsequently a separate lease was granted and this, Jim said, led to bitter litigation between the mine owners. Eventually the two mines amalgamated and £60,000 worth of copper was extracted in a four-year period.

In 1851 the mines were flooded and all work stopped.

Marilyn Convery

## **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

We were not able to present the Audited Annual Accounts at the AGM in December. They have now been completed and copies will be available to those interested at the General Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February.

## **DAY TRIP TO RUAPEKAPEKA**

To U3A members generally:

We still have some places left for our Ruapekapeka trip. It is intended to look at aspects of the local history along the way, and there will be a special interest in the links between the cement industry at Warkworth and the northern area of Hikurangi (from where the coal for the kilns largely came) and Portland to where Nathaniel Wilson relocated his enterprise about 1920.

Any member wishing to join the trip (from any of our U3A groups, please contact Jim McKinlay at Ph.422 9063.

The cost will be about \$56 per person, lunch included. The trip will leave Warkworth at 8.30 am and return by 5.30pm.

**Annual Subscriptions** are now due for the year 1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012

The subscription is \$20 single or \$35 double. Please pay promptly by one of the following methods:

**Cash** at the next General Meeting, handed to the Treasurer with details

**Cheque** posted to The Treasurer, U3A Warkworth, PO Box 520, Warkworth

**Online banking** to account **02 0480 0133880 00** (If you use this option please ensure that you complete the payment details)

Name .....

Address .....

.....

### BOOK REVIEW

*The Hare with Amber Eyes: A Hidden Inheritance by Edmund de Waal*

A friend recommended this book to me and I am glad that she did. *The Hare with Amber Eyes* is non-fiction, the true story of Edmund de Waal's search for the history of his family through a collection of 264 netsuke, small Japanese ivory and wood carvings traditionally used as toggles for kimonos.

De Waal is Professor of Ceramics at the University of Westminster and a renowned English potter. He is a descendant of the fabulously wealthy Ephrussi dynasty, Jewish grain merchants from Odessa and European banking royalty.

The book traces the netsuke back to a Parisian apartment in the late 1870's when they were part of a collection owned by de Waal's ancestor Charles Ephrussi. Charles sends the collection to his cousin in Vienna as a wedding present and we follow the fortunes of both the family and the netsuke from there. The netsuke survive the ransacking of the Palais Ephrussi (now the Vienna Casino) by the Nazis (I won't spoil the story and tell you how) and are taken to England and then Japan and finally to de Waal's home England.

This is fact that reads like fiction, and a fascinating story that combines history and art; it's a great read.

Sylvia Diprose

## TRAVELLERS' TALES

**W**e arrived at the River Cottage car park where there was a brazier with a lovely fire burning, and there at the bottom of the hill was River Cottage, with the huge vegetable garden at the front and the chook run right beside it. The old building had a long room with tables and a warm fire burning, and an incredibly small kitchen where the TV programs are filmed.

Across the courtyard was the long barn-like building that contained a commercial kitchen and the large room where we were to learn about bread baking.

There were nineteen of us – about as many men as women and ranging in age from 30's to 60's. Aiden, a passionate master baker, spoke about bread and its history, and introduced us to his sourdough starter, which he had been feeding and using for many years!

Then we went to the long tables and started to make our own bread.

There was a lot of laughter. The wine bar at the end of the room was also well patronised!

We made our own white loaves, ciabatta, and communal foccacia (all hands in together) which had so much olive oil in it that, as well as tasting delicious, stayed fresh and leaked olive oil for the rest of the week as we travelled around Cornwall.

We ate well too: morning tea was fresh pita breads with smoked haddock pate made by the River Cottage chefs. Around 1pm we all went outside and quickly made pizzas in the wood fired oven – rain was imminent. Just after 3pm we went across to the dining room in the old building while our breads were baking. There we were served a beautiful meal of roast pork with vegetables from the garden, followed by sourdough pancakes with apples and custard.

Afterwards we collected our breads, and our recipe books and left – for my part until the next time.

Barbara Lambert

### Afternoon Tea at the Cricket Club in Madras

**I** arrived in Madras after a fortnight of travel in Southern India, using public transport and simple accommodation, and was delighted when I was able to contact friends who lived there.

I had met Valerie and Mohammed in 1990. Fellow passengers on Flight BA149 from Heathrow, which had landed in Kuwait after Iraqi troops had entered the country, we and other British citizens were taken to Baghdad and held captive in the Mansur Melia Hotel until other arrangements were made for us.

Valerie invited me to join them for "Afternoon Tea" at the Cricket Club, which still retained a traditional Anglo-Indian ambience in the service and surroundings. On large boards were engraved the names of visiting teams, and some individuals. I had watched a lot of cricket in England, and many of these were familiar to me.

So we sat and sipped our tea – and talked about cricket.

Daphne Halkyard

STUDY GROUP	Convenor	Phone	Time	Date	February	Date	March
<b>Ancient History</b>	Jim McKinlay	422-9063	9:30 a.m.	3rd	Bits and Pieces	2nd	Field Trip to Ruapekapeka Pa & Mid North
					329 Sharp Rd Workworth		Details to come
<b>Book Talk</b>	Jenny Noakes	425 8647	10:00 a.m.	7th	16A Waimanu Place Pt Wells	6th	654 Takatu Rd Matakana
<b>Current Affairs</b>	Val Strachan	425-9497	2:00 p.m.	16th	9 Bennett St Warkworth	15th	32A Rivendell PI Warkworth
<b>Food For Thought</b>	Diane Parton	422-0166	1:30 p.m.	22nd	Omaha Blueberry Garden – to be confirmed	28th	Food Intolerances
							Refer to convenor
<b>Jazz Listening</b>	Val Couling	425-5766	2:00 p.m.	20th	Jazz Clarinet	19th	Bob's bands and music career experiences
					25 Gordon Craig Place Algies Bay		5 Matakana Road Warkworth
<b>Local History</b>	Anthea McKergow	422-6219	10:00 a.m.	28th	Refer to Convenor	27th	Refer to convenor
<b>History</b>	Chris Hoogerwerf	425-5022	9:30 a.m.	17th	English Village	16th	Charles Augustine Pugin
					20 Kahurangi Place Snells beach		45 ASHMORE DR WARKWORTH
<b>Music Appreciation</b>	Mary Miller	425-6301	1:30 p.m.	2nd	Music of St Petersburg	1st	Desert Island Discs
					40 Willjames Ave Algies Bay		8 Kowhai View Warkworth
<b>Art Appreciation</b>	Iris Mee	425-7934	10:00 a.m.	1st	Day visit to Manurewa Bot Gdns Sculpture Exhib	7th	Day visit to Whangarei, Glenbervie etc
					Bus leaves at 9.30 Returns 3pm		Bus details to be advised
<b>Play Reading</b>	Margaret Krey	422-6407	9:30 a.m.	14th	Romance for Valentine's Day	13th	A Harold Pinter Play
					3 Heritage lane Warkworth		3 Shipwright PI Warkworth
<b>Poetry Reading</b>	Lorna Laxon	422-3562	1:30 p.m.	15th	Refer to convenor	21st	Refer to convenor
<b>Developments in Medicine</b>	Sue Stevenson	422-0585	2pm	23	Development of Heart Surgery	22 <sup>nd</sup>	History of Plastic Surgery
					641 Pukapuka Rd Mahurangi West		641 Pukapuka Rd Mahurangi West
<b>Shakespeare</b>	Valma Gidman	425-9869	2pm	21 <sup>st</sup>	The Tempest	20th	McBeth
					5 Frost rd Mathesons Bay		To be arranged