



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

## WARKWORTH

*Learning is forever*

### Quarterly Newsletter—MARCH 2016

#### **From your President:**

*I understand that we had a really good start to our General Meetings for the year on Monday. Feedback tells me that the speaker was both informative and easy to listen to. I thank Mary Miller for guiding and running this meeting. I was in Wellington for a family reunion.*

*I also understand that Mary is endeavouring to have some follow-up—a film of a NZ opera production. Well done, and I hope this comes off [see Page 2—Ed].*

*Some time ago I said I would be interested in starting up a group that looked at battles in the 1st and 2nd World Wars. The idea is to follow the battle as it happened and then, with hindsight, put another variable in. If anyone is interested, please let me know (425.4639).*

*If any member thinks they have an idea of an activity that could become the basis of a U3A group, please talk to Mary-Alice (425 0536).*

*We will be having our Mid-Year Lunch at the Stables on 13 June. We have looked at other venues but they do not meet our requirements. In any case, The Stables were very good last year except for the heating which they will fix this time. PUT THIS IN YOUR DIARY NOW.*

*Best wishes  
Geoffrey Bowes MNZM*

#### **ADCOSS**

**Auckland District Council of Social Services  
Invites you to a FREE forum**

*Towards an Age-friendly Auckland: The missing links*

**Thursday 17th March—9.30am—3.30pm  
Western Springs Hall, 956 Great North Rd, Western  
Springs, Auckland**

**9.30-10am** Registration, refreshments

**10-12.00 noon** Experts will set the scene of an Ageing and Age-friendly Auckland. Explore health inequalities in older age. Discuss the legal framework to challenge ageism, limit elder abuse and contribute to creating an age-friendly city.

**12-12.45pm** Free Lunch and networking

**12.45-1.30pm** Facilitated group work

**1.30-2.30pm** Researchers will share older Warkworth residents' insights about enabling environments; and demonstrate how streetscapes and transport options can enhance our city's liveability.

**2.30-3.30pm** Panel discussions.

**You are invited to participate and name what needs improving in your local area, then identify some priority actions to help our city become more age-friendly.**

**For catering purposes, please email your interest by 13th March to [info@adccoss.org.nz](mailto:info@adccoss.org.nz)**

### **HELP**

**We have a lectern without a base. We need a base to make this article more useful. . . .**

**Are you a handy man (or woman)? Could you help us?**

**If you can make and fit a base to this handy asset, we would be very appreciative.**

**Please contact Vivienne on 09 902 9207**

## Reminders for your diary . . . . .

### **Scheduled General Meetings for 2016**

**To be held at Totara Park Hall at 10am unless advised otherwise.**

**11th April:** Bill Townson  
Northern Action Group  
**Mini speaker** Victoria Joule—newly appointed Manager at the Warkworth Museum.  
Victoria will talk about her background, the Museum's place in our community and it's plans for the future.

**(Duty Group Shakespeare)**

**13th June:** Mid Year Lunch  
The Stables, Matakana  
Speakers TO BE ADVISED.

**(Duty Group Poetry)**

**8th August:** Mary Miller  
"Complementary and Alternative Medicine"  
Mini Speaker TO BE ADVISED

**(Duty Group All about Plants)**

**10th October:** T. B. A.  
**(Duty Group Ancient History)**

**December 12:** AGM  
**(Duty Group Art Appreciation)**

## Ask, and you shall be given . . . .

We have been advised that NZ Opera's

### ***Tosca***

Is to be shown at Matakana Cinemas in May.

Details will be published nearer the time.

## 2016

### U3A WARKWORTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President	Geoffrey Bowes	425 4639
Speaker Seeker		
Vice President	Mary Miller	425 6301
Membership		
Treasurer	Ernie Gidman	425 9869
Membership		
Secretary	Vivienne Mickleson	902 9207
Group Convenor	Mary-Alice Ryburn	425 0536
Almoner	Chris Hoogerwerf	425 5022
Publicity	Glyn Williams	902 9333
Hospitality	Clare Hamel	425 6729
	Keith Hopner	425 9955

**Welcome to new committee members  
Clare Hamel and Keith Hopner.**

Ex officio		
Newsletter Editor	Heather Metcalfe	425 9848
IT/Subeditor	Alan Spicer	425 2685

### **ALMONER**

*Almoner is an old fashioned word but with connotations that are still relevant today. Today our Almoner is a glorified social worker concerned for member's welfare and comfort when recovering/suffering from ill-health or a bad experience.*

*The Almoner might send a Get Well card, make a house call, or simply a telephone call.*

*Chris Hoogerwerf has taken on this role and she wants to know when a member has had a bad time. Please call her if you know of someone in this situation—phone 425.5022.*

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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

**A. G. M. The Annual General Meeting was held on 14th December** and was attended by about 60 members who were greeted by President Geoffrey Bowes and entertained by guest speaker John Clarke. Christmas treats were provided and served by the Play Reading Group and guests were soothed by some old favourites played by our own Jazz Group, led by Val Couling.

**John Clarke**—A Kiwi Experience: three memorable meetings with kiwis.

John followed his father into military service at age 18 by joining the Horse Guards at Windsor, UK. Having never ridden a horse before this time, it must have been a frightening experience to first of all mount the huge 16H animal. To then have to ride through the various gaits—without stirrups, required a lot of determination and courage. The imperiousness of the tutor only added to the terror.

His first meeting with a Kiwi was around this time when he viewed for the first time the immense kiwi carved in the chalk on Beacon Hill above the military town of Bulford on the Salisbury Plain. It was created (circa 1918) by NZ soldiers awaiting repatriation following the end of World War I.

John was eventually assigned to the Life Guard Regiment in London, where he carried out duties involving the ceremonial guarding of Queen Elizabeth II and took part in Trooping the Colour several times. The Life Guard Regiment also provides the Guard Mounts at Whitehall which many of us will have experienced when visiting London. The 160-170 horses were stabled at Knightsbridge and during John's service, were looked after by the guardsmen who rode them—undergoing microscopic inspection of their welfare by more senior Guards.

It was during this time also that he met his second Kiwi – Kiwi Boot Polish. The knee high boots worn by the Guards were polished to a mirror-like finish and kept immaculate at all times.

John's demeanour changed whilst reporting the disastrous happenings in July 1982 when an IRA bomb exploded amongst the parading horses, killing four men and one horse but six other horses had to be destroyed because their injuries were so severe. A time of great distress for everyone who witnessed the incident, and for those involved with the Household Cavalry.

John was honourably discharged in 1956 after three years of service at the age of 21 years.

Continued . . .

In November 1957, he immigrated to New Zealand, landing in Wellington alone and slightly bewildered by the weather.

Then the third kiwi experience! He met and married a Kiwi girl and eventually closed the circle by taking her back to Bulford to share his first kiwi experience.

John's humorous presentation, combined with great interaction with his audience proved a winning combination and earned the justified extended applause of the members.

**Heather Metcalfe**

### **General Meeting 15th February 2016.**

The new format of morning tea being served first seemed a popular improvement to the meeting, beautifully catered by our new committee member responsible for Hospitality—Clare Hamel.

### **Mini-Speaker BRAIN FIT FOR LIFE—Bronwyn Lane.**

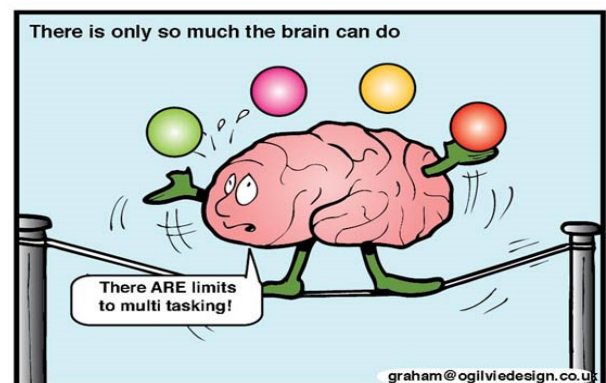
*"Focus on the six key memory skills that you need for lifelong independence. Keep your brain and memory connections active, alert and growing, at any age".*

*Those at the meeting felt encouraged and stimulated by Bronwyn's presentation and the thought of being able to take another step and join the series of classes that are coming to Warkworth.*

*Bronwyn will conduct the classes at the Senior Citizens Club Rooms, Alnwick Street, (next to the town Hall) at the beginning of March and they will be repeated during the year.*

*Ring Bronwyn on 425-0014 to enquire or to book your place.*

***Thanks to Mary-Alice Ryburn for this report.***



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## General Meeting 15th December

Warkworth U3A was privileged to have Stuart Maunder, General Director of NZ Opera as guest speaker. Stuart grew up on a farm in Australia, and while he had an early love for Gilbert and Sullivan he was later totally smitten when he saw Ingmar Bergman's film *The Magic Flute* which he described as "close-to-God" music. While studying law, Stuart was offered a position as a trainee Assistant Stage Manager for Australian Opera, a job he relished because "you can see what everybody does". Before arriving in NZ two years ago, Stuart spent some years as a Resident Director at Covent Garden and later had ten years in a management role for Australian Opera. He said he was delighted to get back to "grass roots" with his invitation to lead the NZ Opera Company.

Stuart spoke of opera as a synthesis of all art forms—music, singing, drama, poetry, dance and stagecraft with its wonderful ability to touch the soul and heart of the audience. While productions of a particular opera may differ widely in time, place and costume, Stuart stressed the importance he gives to maintaining the kernel and honesty of the work the composer wrote.

Although opera is sometimes criticized as an elite art form, Stuart stressed its accessibility, with the use of sub-titles, pre-performance talks, and a variety of ticket prices to suit most budgets. He also recommended the audience do its homework too, by swotting up on the plot!

A film of Stuart's production of *Tosca* has just been released in cinemas (presently showing at the Rialto in Newmarket and he commented that although the screening of operas is a great way of introducing new audiences to opera, the cinema can't really replace the thrill of a live performance. It was interesting to learn of NZ Opera's involvement in reaching out to new audiences—engaging with workshops in schools, school groups attending dress rehearsals at a special rate of \$10 and speaking to community groups such as ours. This year's productions include *La Traviata*, *The Magic Flute*, and *Sweeney Todd* (a musical thriller)

Many thanks to Liz Mitchell for this contribution. (Editor)

## Letter Received from Andrew Gordon— Audience Engagement Co-ordinator NZ Opera.

"16th February.

Dear Mary,  
Thank you once again for having us along to your U3A General meeting yesterday. It was great to be able to engage with all your wonderful members and I can say for Stuart and myself that we both thoroughly enjoyed our time with you all.

It was also great to hear the valuable feedback from those very interested in attending one or more of our opera shows this year. As mentioned, if those that are wishing to purchase a ticket do so by going through our Box Office Manager, Julie Bird, and mention they are from U3A Warkworth that would be greatly appreciated. This is a new initiative that allows us to not only track their attendance but also gather the data required to be able to continue to engage with community groups, such as yourselves, around Auckland.

Likewise if members would like to stay in touch and find out more about what is going on here at New Zealand Opera, please encourage them to contact me to sign up to our E-notes—a monthly electronic newsletter highlighting all the wonderful work the NZO is doing within the opera Community."

Contact: Andrew@nzopera.co.nz  
Julie Bird—0800 NZOPERA (696 737)

## **Proposed New Group The "God" Question**

Focusing on Professor Raymond Bradley's newly published book *God's Gravediggers*, this group will provide an opportunity for believers and non-believers alike to discuss the "God" question with the author himself plus other members of the group.

Proposed Time: Second Thursday morning of each month at 10.am, starting 10th March. Location to be discussed.

**Inaugural Meeting:** At the home of Mary-Alice Ryburn and Ken Winter, 27 Alnwick Street at 2pm on Tuesday 1st March. If you would like to attend, please email Ray at [raybradley@me.com](mailto:raybradley@me.com) or phone **021 162 8805**.

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## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

I collected this little gem from the U3A North-West newsletter. It's great that we can learn from each other! **Free on-line courses:**

- **edx.org** is offering "First Nights" from the Harvard University. Learn about iconic musical pieces, the how and why of their composition, premiere performances and legacy. This course is open and has covered **The Messiah** and **Beethoven's 9th** so far with more to come.
- **futurelearn.com** is offering **Shakespeare and his World** from the University of Warwick. Explore his works and world in this anniversary year. Starting soon
- **coursera.org** has **Modern Art and Ideas**, an open course from the Museum of Modern Art (the MoMA in Los Angeles). This is an open course on exploring themes and ideas through works in the gallery's collection.

### The Auckland Museum Special Interest Tours for Seniors 2016—6 New tours

- **(New) Finding our Voice: developing a New Zealand style.** The craftsmen and women of NZ came here from many different parts of the globe. Come and see how they were influenced to adapt and evolve their crafts.
- **One Land, Two People: NZ conflicts of the 1800's.** Maori were faced with growing numbers of settlers arriving and wanting land. Explore our past in order to better understand our future.
- **(New) Mud and Machines: the technology of World War One** ) New inventions and technology would changed the very face of war in 1916. This tour examines the lasting and sometimes surprising impact of these advances in technology.
- **(New) Living off the Land: surviving in a new country.** Whether you were a Polynesian voyager arriving here 800 years ago or a British settler 200 years ago, life in a new land was challenging and difficult. Explore the solutions developed by early settlers in NZ.
- **(New) From the Mountains to the Sea: NZ's natural history** Come on a journey challenging your awareness of the environmental changes over time and the fragility of our natural environment.
- **Layers of Understanding: Auckland's volcanoes.** Learn about the volcanic field and discover what geologists and archaeologists today have to tell us about our local volcanoes.

- **Navigators of the Pacific: a story of discovery.** Find out how the Polynesian navigators knew other lands were "out there" and how their epic voyages of discovery were made.
- **(During 2016 only) Home Front: life at home during the First World War.** A guided tour through our temporary exhibition reveals the public face of patriotism, but also the lesser known stories of those who faced ridicule and intolerance because of their beliefs or background.
- **(New) The Great and the Glorious: a name-dropper's tour.** Let our guides share little-known stories about the famous and the not-so-famous people associated with objects in our Museum. Discover the intriguing facts that don't make it on to the official labels.

***These 45-minute tours start at 2pm on any weekday between 2 May and 23 Sept.  
Minimum group numbers 4—maximum 20.***

***If you are interested in making up a group, email Geoffrey Bowes at [gbowes@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:gbowes@vodafone.co.nz) stating names, choice of tour, and some dates that suit.***

*What a great chance to do  
something really special  
during the long winter  
months. . . .*



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Many thanks to Mary-Alice Ryburn for collating and supplying the Study Group information. Also a huge thank you to the Convenors for making themselves available so that we can enjoy our learning.

Study Group	March	April	May
<b>Ancient History –</b> <b>9:30 am 1st Friday</b> Pam Bosch 425-6384	Crisis of the 14 <sup>th</sup> Century 23 Willjames Ave Algies Bay	The Ottoman Empire 69B Wilson Road Warkworth	South American Civilisations  T.B.A.
<b>Art Appreciation –</b> <b>10:00 am 1st Wednesday</b> Judy Fisher 425-4510 Gill le Serve 9450-372	Peggy Guggenheim Art Addict Movie Matakana Cinemas	Jacqueline Aust Print making, Totara Park. Melwood Drive Warkworth.	  T.B.A.
<b>Book Talk –</b> <b>10:00 am 1st Tuesday</b> Dagma Kammler 425-9181	Iris Mee Summerset	Gael Pierce 20 Deerness Cr Algies Bay	Shirley Shirley 46 Ashmore Cres Warkworth
<b>Current Affairs –</b> <b>2:00 pm 3rd Thursday</b> Gail Morrison 422-3717	Sue Stevenson 390 Pukapuka Road Mahurangi West	Sybil & John Patrick 5/99 Hauiti Drive Warkworth	Peggy Gilman 99 Sharp Road Warkworth
<b>Jazz Listening –</b> <b>2:00 pm 3rd Monday</b> Val Couling, Ph:425-5766	Jazz Vocalists 388 Old Kaipara Road, Warkworth	Bob Ward 5 Matakana Road Warkworth.	Mike Nesbit 25 Gordon Craig Pl Algies Bay
<b>Local History –</b> <b>10:00 am 4th Tuesday</b> Lorna Laxon Ph 422-3562	Archives Day Museum, Wilson Road, Warkworth.	Fruit Industry of WW Dist. 55 Ashton Road, Whangateau.	Education in WW District 2 Ashmore Crescent Warkworth.
<b>Music Appreciation –</b> <b>1:30 pm 1st Thursday</b> Malcolm Clague, Ph:425-9945	Scenery 40 Will James Place Algies Bay	Classical Music 14 Coquette Street Warkworth	Ernie Gidman 14 Coquette Street Warkworth
<b>Medicine Developments –</b> <b>2 pm 4th Thursday</b> Mary Miller, Ph:425-6301	First Aid & Resuscitation. St John Conference Room, Warkworth	Experience with a Drug Company. 39 Kauri Cr Snells Beach	Dementia 1 Little Compton Mews Snells Beach
<b>Play Reading –</b> <b>9:30 am 2nd Tuesday</b> Pam Ellender 422-2493	Dynamite (Roger Hall) 5 Matakana Road Warkworth	The Circle (W Somerset Maugham) 27 Alnwick St Warkworth	The Circle (W Somerset Maugham) T. B. A.
<b>Poetry Reading –</b> <b>1:30 pm 2nd Tuesday</b> Daphne Cocker 425-0570	Anonymous Poets 609 Woodcocks Road	Adrienne Rich, 388 Old Kaipara Road	Cilla McQueen 19 Panui Terrace Snells Beach
<b>Shakespeare –</b> <b>2:00 pm 3rd Tuesday</b> Cynthia Purdom, Ph:425-4612	Richard II Part 1 19 Panui Tce Snells Beach	Richard II Part 2 3 Kawau View Snells Beach	  T. B. A.
<b>Opera –</b> <b>10.00am 3rd Thursday</b> Chris Fieldsend Ph:425-4685 Liz Mitchell Ph: 425-9448	Opera Outing Oedipus: The Chorus Car pooling to Auckland	The Pearl Fishers 5 Victoria Street Warkworth	Ernie Gidman Presents 14 Coquette St Warkworth
<b>All About Plants –</b> <b>10.00am 4th Thursday</b> Clare Hamel Ph:425-6729	NZ native plants for medicine. 16 Coquette St Warkworth	Bonsai 46 Ashmore Crescent Warkworth	Dyes made from Plants  T. B. A.
<b>New Group Details</b> <b>10AM 2<sup>ND</sup> Thursday</b> <b>The God Question</b> <b>Ray Bradley 021 162 8805</b>	Using “God’s Grave- diggers”. <b>Inaugural</b> <b>meeting only on</b> <b>Tuesday 1 March at</b> <b>2.00pm at 27 Alnwick St</b>	God’s Gravediggers. Chapter 2  T. B. A.	God’s Gravediggers Chapter 3..  T. B. A.