

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ma te wheturangi o Matariki, e taika mai, e manaaki mai ia koe, i a kouto ranei, me te tau e taka mai ana

May the gentle light of Matariki inspire you all this year.

Our whanau celebrated Matariki with a breakfast with mussel fritters being the favourite kai. We managed to see Matariki (pleiades) through our binoculars. Miriam and I joined the celebrations at Matakana where we were entertained by schools presenting waiata and haka. A good friend commented that it was good to celebrate without the controversy surrounding the Treaty of Waitangi.

Our next Speaker will be Sir Bryan (BG) Williams on the rise and challenges of Pacific Rugby. As a self-confessed 'sportsaholic', I have feasted on recent sporting activity. The T20 Cricket World Cup ended with the best two teams (India and South Africa) battling out an exciting final. The Auckland Blues convincingly won the Super Rugby title. Wimbledon has just begun.

Trusting you are all enjoying the Interest Groups and keeping warm this winter.

Nga mihi nui

Ken Cutforth, President

GENERAL MEETINGS

The June general meeting was our mid-winter luncheon held at the Omaha Golf Club. The guest speaker was Frank Wolfkamp, who spoke on his experiences with helping ReliefAid in The Ukraine. His contrasting images of rich culture and utter devastation were disturbing. Musical entertainment was by Myrtle and the Muddies.

Bryan (BG) Williams will address the August meeting at Besoul on Monday 12th August at 10.00 a.m. His talk is titled '*The rise and challenges of Pacific Rugby*'. Schalk van Wyk will be a mini-speaker on the state of NZ schooling.

MINI SPEAKERS

Members interested in giving a short (10 minute) talk at a general meeting should send details to our secretary Jim at flewitts@xtra.co.nz.

NEW MEMBERS

Nick Dibley, Carolyn Harmer, Wendy Morton, Alison Stout, Paul Stout, Gerald Turnbull and Joan Willis.

ALMONER'S REQUEST

As Almoner, I would be very grateful if members of our Warkworth u3a could let me know of any fellow members who may be unwell, have lost a loved one or be in need of assistance in some way.

We are a large group and our general welfare is important. I would value any information that I may not always be aware of, regarding any of our members.

Prue Dray (pruedray@gmail.com)

WARKWORTH u3a SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due to a general increase in the costs associated with the administration and provision of the various aspects of the u3a programme, your committee will be proposing an increase in the annual membership subscription at our AGM in December. The current subscription has not been changed for a number of years, and your committee has made this proposal based upon financial projections for the coming years. The proposed new rates would be \$30 for a single person and \$50 for a couple (currently \$20 and \$35 respectively). Your views are sought in advance of the AGM to enable an informed discussion on the day. Any comments can be sent to our secretary Jim at flewitts@xtra.co.nz.

REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

U3a members wishing to visit other interest groups should contact the group convenor.

See <https://www.u3a.co.nz/calendar>

Art Appreciation Group

Last week our Art Appreciation group was very privileged to have Kay Titchener and Colleen

Kangawai, two exponents of Chinese Classical painting, talk to us about their work. Kay had the opportunity to learn how to execute the delicate Chinese portraiture and landscape when she lived in China for 15 years. Colleen's path was through initially learning Chinese calligraphy while based in London. Two experienced artists with two totally different styles. For August we have textile artist of 30 years standing, Ailie Snow, coming from Auckland. Ailie's work is held in private collections around the world, and she has received several national awards. In September a visit to the studio and garden of local artist, Joy Bell, is planned.

Berris Spicer (berris.spicer@gmail.com)

Book Talk Group

Meetings of the group have been held as usual on the first Tuesdays of May and June, at the homes of individual members of the group. The numbers of attendees continue to be small but also enthusiastic, with lively discussions stimulated by the books reviewed by members. The range of books reviewed continues to be eclectic. For example, in a recent meeting, non-fiction subjects covered included Nazi looting of art in WW11, the Chinese cruelty to the people of Tibet, the biography of a recent coach of the All Blacks, (Steve Hansen) and a book written by Barry Crump's sons about their lives with their father. Fiction included Captain Corelli's Mandolin and a 'dark psychological thriller'. Non-fiction and fiction books take turns at contributing to the meetings and everyone goes away with books they either borrow from each other or determine to borrow through our splendid Auckland Council Library.

Nancy Tayles (nancy.tayles@otago.ac.nz)

Current Affairs Group

The Current Affairs Group has now enjoyed two consecutive months of excellent speakers. In May a small group very much enjoyed hearing from Janet Thompson CEO of "The Retreat" a modern facility focused on helping folks suffering from alcoholic abuse. To date this facility is making a

very significant improvement in most participants' lives.

A much larger group assembled in June to learn about modern policing in Warkworth. We were entertained and educated by Senior Constable Katie Hawkins, an almost 25-year veteran in the police and one who has been stationed at Warkworth for the past 12 years. Policing has aimed at improving standards of behaviour in our community. In recent times drugs and gang related issues have caused huge problems in society. Katie is looking forward to several aspects of policing that are aimed directly at these problems and has confidence that new measures, and greater resources being introduced, should enable police, judiciary and other supporting organisations to bring things back to a much more acceptable level. Katie was a very personable presenter and I'm sure we all left with a much greater understanding of policing issues. We are also very lucky to have such a capable and effective lady in our local police team.

On July 18th at The Oaks Southgate room, we are being addressed by Murray Chapman of the Mahurangi Business Association. We are all aware of the cumulative issues troubling many local businesses from Covid and the lockdowns, through shortage of staff, then some negative effects of the new motorway and currently the impending disruptions to business because of the Watercare sewage pipe proposal. To add to these, I can just look at the current future developments proceeding alongside the Warehouse and really worry about the future of traditional businesses in Warkworth. I'm sure that Murray will be a fountain of knowledge and will probably value any ideas our members may be able to suggest.

Remember 18th July, bring your friends along to enjoy this very essential discussion on the delightful little village that we call home.

Facial recognition was the next subject discussed and there were various views of where we seem to be heading. What was not surprising was the general discussion recognizing how prophetic was

George Orwell so many years ago with his book “1984” and of just how close to reality this has proved to be with Big Brother seemingly closely involved in everything we now get involved in.

This highlighted a general discussion on how we handle opposing views on a range of subjects. It is inevitable that with us coming from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences there will be occasions when we have differing views on subject material. We recognize that everyone is entitled to their own view and certainly encourage this to be dealt with in an open and honest manner.

Education, especially truancy, was our next subject. The possibility of parents being charged for their child’s truancy was raised. This obviously opened the discussion and there were several views on what may or may not work in dealing with this very real and extremely important aspect of education. “Springboard” the local group now running Sheepworld was highlighted as an excellent example of managing young people with a range of difficulties and of heading them in a positive direction.

Alan von Tunzelman
(linleyandalanvont@xtra.co.nz)

Developments in Medicine Group

The Medicine Group has had some interesting meetings recently. First, Helen Whitely told us about Hidden Dangers in the Home. Horrors! Luckily, we can avoid many dangers, but some are difficult to avoid – like the 10 million dust-mites that you can’t see in your bed (they’re too small) but they are busily feeding off the 1.5 grams of skin-cells you shed every day!

Dogs/cats (to trip over), glass doors (that shatter), greasy rangehoods (that catch fire), granite worktops (poisonous fumes), lint from the dryer (good as kindling), chimneys that should have been swept the year before lastand many other hazards Helen mentioned, gave us all a good wake-up call.

Our following meeting was very different: everyone brought an article to read to us or a book to enlighten us; medical advances such as a new

treatment for epilepsy using electric currents; the value of walking... wait for it... for back pain! or good advice on problems with living and dying. Especially relevant to our health and well-being is the value of laughter. It is so good for us that we should deliberately seek out things that amuse us, regularly and often. Maybe those hippies knew something when they told us "Don't worry, be happy!" It's worth a try.

Linda Moore (linda.colin1@outlook.com)

Exploring Poetry Group

The Exploring poetry group met in June in a member’s house to discuss the poetry of William Carlos Williams, an American poet and physician of Latin American descent, closely associated with modernism and imagism. He was a leading proponent of free verse. He was deeply influenced by his artistic mother. This is evident in his Poem “The Red Wheelbarrow”. He is also known for his five-volume poem, Paterson. Looking forward to our 17th July meeting, each member is asked to bring along a few of their favourite animal poems.

Susan Howard(Suzehoward@outlook.co.nz)

Geology Group

The guest speaker at the Geology Group’s well attended meeting in June was Dr Ian Smith, former professor of geology at Auckland University and current chairman of the Ponsonby U3A Club. Ian is a specialist vulcanologist who has previously presented lectures to the Group.

Following on from his talk last year on the world’s different types of volcanoes and their eruptive products, the subject of Ian’s latest presentation focussed on the volcanoes of New Zealand, with particular reference to the North Island’s extinct, dormant and active volcanic zones. Ian described how New Zealand straddles two converging tectonic plates and, as a result, the mechanisms of plate tectonics have determined where and why volcanic activity has taken place in and around the North Island over the past 23 million years.

Ian illustrated how volcanic zones, or belts, have ‘migrated’ from north to south across the North Island, resulting in the formation of different ages of volcanic centres, each with characteristic types

of volcanoes and associated lava flows. These range from large, basalt lava-dominated shield volcanoes (e.g. Waipoua Volcano) and andesite lava-dominated stratovolcanoes, where eroded remnants of these can still be observed today (e.g. Whangarei Heads, Waitakere and Coromandel), to the younger basalt volcanic fields in the Bay of Islands and around Auckland.

The Taupo Volcanic Zone of active volcanoes and geothermal fields, which stretches in a 50 km wide belt from Mts. Ruapehu and Tongariro in the southwest through Lake Taupo and Rotorua to Whakaari/White Island in the northeast, has produced the largest and most explosive eruptions during the past 2 million years, including that of Mt Tarawera in 1886. Lake Taupo, which fills a huge collapsed crater (caldera), is one of a group of calderas produced by so-called super-volcanoes that all expelled enormous clouds of ash and pumice as high as 50km into the air.

The more than 50 small volcanic centres which dominate the landscape in and around Auckland comprise the youngest group of basalt volcanoes in New Zealand. Although the last and largest eruption within the Auckland Volcanic Field was that of Rangitoto some 600 years ago, the field is considered to be still active. It is expected that a new eruption could occur anytime. Should this happen, it is likely that little warning by way of earth tremors and geothermal activity will be given by the emerging volcano as magma will rise rapidly to the surface and its expulsion will be fiery but short-lived.

Ian's fascinating presentation was followed by many questions from the audience, not least of which was where and when he thought the next significant volcanic event will take place. While it is merely a question of time when a new volcano will emerge somewhere within the Auckland area, this will probably be within the Hauraki Gulf. Ian believes that Mt Taranaki is also a candidate for the next major eruption. Discussion took place around civil preparedness planning for volcanic eruptions in addition to other catastrophic events such as earthquakes, flooding and tsunamis.

Willo Stear (willostear@gmail.com)

Jazz Listening Group

After a slow start to the year, it is pleasing to see our numbers growing again. Now that the original jazz enthusiasts are no longer with us, we are delving into YouTube to find interesting programmes and interviews with musicians on the many facets of jazz today, and the influence it has had on other genres of music. In May, Nick played us a selection of music featuring rock, jazz, blues funk and country. At one stage we were all up dancing!

Kathryn, in June, played us a selection of modern jazz, and although not familiar to some of us, it was played with such mastery that we all enjoyed the experience.

This month, the date of our meeting has changed to suit members of our local jazz band, Jazz Connection, who will be playing a live session at Val Couling's, Algies Bay, on Tuesday 16th July at 2pm. Members of other groups are welcome to join us.

Val Couling (vandpcouling25@gmail.com)

Local History Group

Lynne Wade gave us a very informative talk on her father Professor Max Hamilton in June.

In July Maureen Young will talk about Warkworth's distinguished botanist Lucy Moore in the BeSoul Magnolia room at 1.30pm.

Jenni McGlashan (jim.jenni@xtra.co.nz)

Music Appreciation

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 11th July to view Paganini's Daemon: A most enduring legend.

This will be a video presentation. Born on 27 October 1782 in Genoa, Italy, Paganini was an incredibly gifted musician, and is widely considered one of the greatest violinists of all time. He started playing the mandolin aged five, before taking up the violin aged seven and giving his first public performance aged 11 in Genoa. At the age of just 15, the talented teenager started playing solo tours. The 19th century produced a number of extraordinary violinists – but none like Paganini.

His talent was so beyond that of his peers that people started to believe he had made a pact with the devil. It was rumoured that Paganini's mother had sold his soul to the devil so he could become the greatest virtuoso in history. Please contact me if you would like to attend.

Mike Austin (mike.austin949@gmail.com)

Ornithology Group

In June our group had an informative discussion about migratory birds. Each member researched two species and reported back to the group. The distances some birds travel, and their flight routes were of particular interest. In July we will be following a similar format for nesting birds. We will be kiwi "hunting" in August at Tawharanui. In October we plan to visit Sanctuary Mountain.

Ken Cutforth (miriandken@gmail.com)

Science and Technology Group

The May meeting of the Science and Technology Group saw an interesting paper on energy generation titled "Waste to Energy and Other Myths", presented by our member Steve Goldthorpe, which stimulated some discussion. In June, our convener Doug Low presented some interesting aspects of the construction in the 70s and 80s of the Clyde Power Station, one of the Muldoon Government's "Think Big" projects.

Our programme for July includes a presentation by Olivia Jury titled "Worst Places to Live in NZ". This is part of undergraduate research by Olivia, which examines natural hazards we have to confront in NZ. Olivia will be supported by Roger Williams who will talk about natural hazards such as liquefaction and tsunami. In August, Roseann O'Hare, Global Sustainability Ambassador with Microsoft NZ will update us on the "The Era of AI" and the myriad of applications where its use is proving highly beneficial. Later in the year there will be the opportunity to learn from one of our group about the operations and finer points of owning and managing a foundry (the casting of metals) and to explore aspects of CO₂ sequestration which is significant in addressing climate change.

We are keen to encourage members of the group to participate and are seeking topics for September and October. There is plenty of time to prepare! Things that are of interest to you may also be interesting to others and with a bit of research would provide an informative presentation. Papers could be long or short and cover any science or technology area such as climate, astronomy, manufacturing, farming, horticulture, construction, hazard management, etc the list goes on. Assistance can be provided to those who are not that well versed in preparing papers or PowerPoint slides. Please contact me directly with thoughts on how you may like to contribute.

Doug Low (douglow60@gmail.com)

WARKWORTH u3a INTEREST GROUPS

Book Talk	1st Tuesday am
Art Appreciation	1st Thursday
Ancient History	1st Friday
Ornithology/Bird watching	2nd Wednesday
Music Appreciation	2nd Thursday pm
Jazz Listening	3rd Monday pm
Exploring Poetry	3rd Wednesday pm
Current Affairs	3rd Thursday pm
Science and Technology	3rd Friday pm
Writing Group	4th Monday p.m.
Local History	4th Tuesday pm
Developments in Medicine	4th Thursday pm
Geology	4th Friday pm

See <https://www.u3a.co.nz/calendar>

Contributions (including funnies and pictures) to the September 2024 u3a newsletter with stories of past events and future plans will be welcome by 31st August 2024 to Steve.Goldthorpe@xtra.co.nz, newsletter editor.