

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Me mahi tahi tatou mo te oranga o te katoa*

**We should work together for the wellbeing of everyone**

My past month or so, has been preoccupied with my health, and particularly a hip replacement operation. Back in March an X-ray indicated that I would require a hip replacement. I was advised by the Public Health System that I would be contacted within four months - I'm still waiting! As the old hip deteriorated, I decided to go private. Initially I was advised that it would be September before the Orthopaedic Surgeon could operate; it was subsequently brought forward to July much to my relief. The operation was successful. Southern Cross provided great care, and I was able to come home the following day. I am now walking freely, but not on uneven ground and I'm careful about carrying heavy weights. My aerobic fitness has suffered. One consolation regarding the 'hip pocket': I have been advised that someone in Dunedin paid \$10,000 more than me for the same operation. The point is that our Health System is not fit for purpose with an aging population; many retirees could not afford such an operation.

This month's General meeting summed up our motto - **Live, Learn and Laugh**. Schalk set the scene with an informative humorous discussion on our current Education system. Sir Bryan 'Beegee' Williams then talked about the rise and challenges of courtship and Pacific rugby. From humble beginnings to stardom, Bryan has remained well-grounded as a dedicated father and grandfather, and life member of Ponsonby Rugby Club.

At our committee meeting we invited representatives of all the Interest Groups to discuss

how their groups are managing. Please pass on any constructive suggestions you might have to your representative. Meanwhile, enjoy sharing new ideas and the social interaction with fellow members.

Nga mihi nui

Ken Cutforth, President

## GENERAL MEETINGS

Our October general meeting will be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 10:00 a.m. at BeSoul on Gumfield Drive. The meeting will start with a short Special General Meeting to consider the proposal to increase our annual fees. Then Alison North will talk about an archaeological dig in the UK. The main guest speaker will be David Wright talking about The Spirit of Adventure.

## 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](mailto:flewitts@xtra.co.nz). Jim is hoping to stand down as secretary. Anyone interested in taking on the task should contact Ken Cutforth.

## NEW MEMBERS

Terry Ansell, Peter Chapman, Bonnie Cohen, Christopher de Lautour, Sue Ehrlich, Gill and John Fairhurst, Judy Fisher, Ann Locke, Sidney Markowitz, Tania Partridge.

## 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

The wide variety of topics continues. In August we hosted Auckland textile artist, Ailie Snow, to chat with us about her hand stitched work, handmade books and journals. It was all a joy to behold.

In September we visited the flamboyant studio and home of local artist extraordinaire, Joy Bell.

An old church built in 1886 has been transformed into a house that is a treasure trove of creative wonder!



In her garden, Joy has moved on from ceramics to Garden Art created from all sorts of recycled items. Her garden has featured twice in the NZ Gardener.

In October, well known U3A member, Nigel Swaffield, will be giving a PowerPoint presentation at the Bridge Club on Art Nouveau and Art Deco from his visit to the Barado Museu Arte Deco in Lisbon. As an architect, this genre appeals to Nigel as it also includes furniture, rooms and buildings.

In November our members are invited to give a short presentation based around an art experience from their travels.

And to round off the year in December we shall be visiting the Kaipara Coast Plant Centre and Sculpture Park, with morning tea included.

*Berris Spicer*

## Book Talk Group

Meetings of the group have been held as usual on the first Tuesdays of July and August, at the homes of individual members of the group. The meetings are very enjoyable, with enthusiastic discussion stimulated by the books reviewed by members. The range of books continues to be highly varied with non-fiction and fiction being contributed. Recent examples include ever-popular biography, memoir/autobiography (ranging from Australian medic Ben Bravery's "The Patient Doctor" to Ruth Shaw's "The Bookseller at the End of the World"). Fiction has recently included a fascinating delve into the way in which every reader gains something different from any book "No Two Persons" by Erica Bauermeister. We hear of many recent publications but also appreciate revisiting older literature from last century (recently from Barbara Kingsolver in the 1990's, Hammond Innes from 1947). The group is a wonderful source of reading inspiration. We are currently at maximum size because of limitations of both time and space but please contact Nancy if you would like to be included on the waiting list for membership.

*Nancy Tayles*([nancy.tayles@otago.ac.nz](mailto:nancy.tayles@otago.ac.nz))

## Current Affairs Group

Recent months have been varied and interesting for the members of the Current Affairs group. In July we were fortunate to have Murray Chapman from the Warkworth Business Association address us on several issues that are of real concern to local business owners. They have had a catalogue of problems including the Covid lockdown situation, rather dramatic staff shortages, the long-awaited new motorway. which bypassed Warkworth completely, and the new Warehouse development adjacent to Mega Mitre10, which has drawn

business out of the Main Street. What is about to happen on this site will further challenge existing Main Street businesses.

But the main reason for addressing us was to update us on the situation with WaterCare who are proposing to trench right down the Main Street to link new developments just north of the town to the recently upgraded Sewage Pumping Station tucked in a faraway corner of Lucy Moore Park. Many local business owners have publicly stated that if this proceeds, as WaterCare intends, it will be the death knell for them. A recent meeting overflowed the Town Hall with locals very vociferously opposed to both the WaterCare proposal, but more particularly to the cavalier attitude shown to the local business community and the groups representing them. A small group of locals with engineering experience had so far been unsuccessful in having WaterCare seriously listen to them. Following the Town Hall Meeting and recent Newspaper and TV reports, locals now hope that all is not lost and that one or more local options may get to the WaterCare table.

Murray stressed that anyone who could push this local barrow should be encouraged to do just that.

The most recent information is that there has now been a meeting with WaterCare that gives some hope for a more mutually beneficial outcome. We wait and hope.

For our August meeting a small group gathered in a corner of the Southgate Room to listen to our Chairman Ken Cutforth speak about his early work career in the far north. Ken initially was a schoolteacher and enjoyed this and the extracurricular activities involved. These activities showed Ken just how important it was to give young people a whole lot more than reading, writing and arithmetic if they were to succeed. Many sporting, and or recreational activities were used to keep some young people on track. With this understanding, Ken undertook more specialized training and returned as a social worker

continuing in his role of giving young people every opportunity to excel at something. This sporting or other success presented opportunities other than Naughty Boy incarceration. Even within the various Boys' Homes that Ken was involved with, it was the success of a rugby team or similar that catapulted some miscreants back from the dark side to useful and successful life achievements. It was unsurprising to reflect on the situation today and see that our current problems have not changed significantly in 50 years, and again it will take some inspired leadership and effort to divert many of our troublesome youth from a trajectory of terror to becoming useful and appreciated citizens.

Next month we plan to revert to members bringing along some newsworthy item and discussing this with the fellow members. Hopefully there will be significant positive or encouraging articles to give everyone an opportunity to make a positive contribution to this small, select, group.

Join us and give this group a shot of your encouragement. We expect to be back in the Oaks boardroom third Thursday each month,

*Alan von Tunzelman*  
([linleyandalanvont@xtra.co.nz](mailto:linleyandalanvont@xtra.co.nz))

## **Developments in Medicine Group**

The Medicine Group has had a couple of interesting meetings: in July, Geoffrey Bowes spoke about Medicine in the army, pointing out the general lack of surgeons available, part-time doctors, the unsuitability of many leaders, and a regrettable but frequent waste of resources. In August, Marion Howie told us of the British blood scandal – can you imagine the Powers-that-be knowingly refusing to test blood for transfusions, on grounds of cost? That's even more unacceptable than ignorance – how could the people responsible sleep at night? The victims were already ill and in need of the transfusion but were made far worse; many thousands died (e.g. of hepatitis C and Aids), which they should never have got. Before we get



complacent, let's remember that there have been medical scandals that have killed people in NZ.

Our next meetings are about medical cannabis and treatment for inherited diseases. Visitors are welcome. Please contact the Convenor for details.

*Linda Moore* ([linda.colin1@outlook.com](mailto:linda.colin1@outlook.com))

## Exploring Poetry Group

For our August meeting the Exploring Poetry Group travelled down to Waiwera to celebrate National Poetry Day at the Sugarloaf Restaurant. We had a most enjoyable evening and some of us joined with the local poetry folk to share our own or others' poems. The evening ended with a rousing singalong.

Our September meeting will be held at Derek Olsen's place and we have been asked to bring poems on the subject of ocean/sea/surf.

In October, Prue Dray will help us to discover more about Guyanese poet Grace Nichols. Her work is influenced by the history and culture of her homeland, particularly the oral story-telling tradition with its fantastic folk tales, the landscape and its rural tasks and the history of enslavement (particularly relating to women).

*Susan Howard* ([Suzehoward@outlook.co.nz](mailto:Suzehoward@outlook.co.nz))

## Geology Group



Lorraine Nelson shared with us her observations of the geology and scenery made during her recent tour through the diverse desert landscape of Morocco.

Her talk was a travelogue describing not only the rocks but also some of the cultural history and

economic activities of places she visited. Amongst these was Ait Ben Haddou - once a camel caravan stop between the Sahara and Marrakech, but more recently a movie set for films such as 'Lawrence of Arabia', 'Jewel of the Nile' and 'Gladiator'.

Lorraine described how plate tectonics and erosion have sculptured the geological and topographic structure of Morocco from since the African and Eurasian plates collided some 80 million years ago.

A product of the fault systems that arose during tectonic upheaval was the formation of separate depositional basins in which shallow water sediments accumulated as the ancient seas advanced and retreated over the region, including large deposits of phosphates. Morocco is the world's third largest producer of phosphate, from which New Zealand imports its fertiliser. It is also Africa's largest producer of silver.

Lorraine projected photos of phosphate mining operations and their geological features and illustrated how the country draws its water from underground by tapping via gravity wells into aquifers mainly containing 'fossilised' fresh water that accumulated when the desert area of today was covered by grassland and lakes. Desert oases, Roman ruins, limestone cave homes and even an upmarket ski resort in the Middle Atlas Mountains, known as Ifrane, were shown. The latter is the 2<sup>nd</sup> cleanest city in the world and is also known as 'Switzerland of Morocco'.



The scenery while travelling through Morocco was well illustrated with photos of massive sand dunes, desert pavements, horizontally layered and/or folded and faulted sedimentary rock ramparts, valleys and gorges. Some of these strata display 'layer-cake' colouring ranging from ochre to red-brown due to varying amounts of iron oxide contained in the rocks.

Lorraine also described how there is a tourist trade in fossil curios, with illustrations of trilobite, ammonite, nautiloid and jellyfish fossils recovered mainly from Mesozoic (250 – 65 million years old) rocks.

*Willo Stear ([willostear@gmail.com](mailto:willostear@gmail.com))*

## **Local History Group**

Our group has had a consistent attendance of 16 from a data base of 25 members at each meeting. The Magnolia room at BeSoul Funerals is where there are facilities to make a cuppa and enjoy room to mingle and socialize, which is appreciated by the group. This will be the venue for the remainder of the year.

In recent meetings, members have learned of two of Warkworth's distinguished residents, Dr Max Hamilton as presented by his daughter Lyn Wade, and Dr Lucy Moore. Maureen Young a long-time friend of the botanist gave a detailed account of her life. She portrayed the struggles a female botanist had, to enter a predominantly male dominated scientific world.

Camp Bentzon on Kawau Island was the topic for August. We learnt how Camp Bentzon was so named and how it came to be. Neils Bentzon, a retired mullet fisherman of Danish extraction, bought land in North Cove, where he mostly continued to live on his mullet boat until his later years. He built a very basic 2 roomed cottage but very often still lived on his boat. On expressing a thought to his neighbours that he would gift his land to the city of Auckland, he was encouraged instead to gift it to the Education Board in 1937, so

that the 18 children living on the Island at that time could attend a school. Over time the land passed from the Education Board to Crown Lands eventually to be in the management of DoC. Through the foresight of a physical education teacher, thousands of hours of volunteer work, a struggle for finance, great management by the Board of Governors and camp management, the youth of today and community and family groups, can enjoy a 120-bed facility with modern amenities. Many children have learned to swim, sail, kayak, hike through the forest identifying flora & fauna, and learn archery. There is a confidence course and an adventure playground for younger children. The many other activities include an observatory with the benefit of no light pollution, which gives the camp a point of difference.

*Jenni McGlashan ([jim.jenni@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jim.jenni@xtra.co.nz))*

## **Music Appreciation**

At Warkworth Music Concert in Warkworth Town Hall on Saturday 14th September at 4pm, St Matthews Chamber Orchestra is to perform their "Mozart Larks" concert. This features two works for violin and orchestra - Mozart's Concerto No 4 and Vaughan Williams Lark Ascending. The soloist is Dr Lara Hall.

In September u3a Music Appreciation will be

*Celebrating Spring with Music*  
on Thursday 19th September 2pm at Jenny Collins place, 1 Brick Bay Drive, Snells Beach.

Put a spring in your step and join the u3a Music group as they enjoy listening to some of their favourite Spring music from Aotearoa and around the world. Afternoon tea will be provided. Please contact Jenny Collins ([jencoll107@gmail.com](mailto:jencoll107@gmail.com)) or Mike Austin ([mike.austin949@gmail.com](mailto:mike.austin949@gmail.com)) to let them know you are coming. If the weather is kind, you can spend some time enjoying the wonders of spring in John and Jenny Collins' lovely garden

*Mike Austin ([mike.austin949@gmail.com](mailto:mike.austin949@gmail.com))*

### Ornithology Group

Two carloads of birdwatchers visited Mangatawhiri Wetlands at Tawharanui and were successful in seeing the elusive kiwi. Indeed, it was my first time seeing a kiwi in the wild! We were expertly led by Roger Williams. This month we are visiting Leigh and will be educated about the challenges facing the korora (little blue penguin) in the Hauraki Gulf.

*Ken Cutforth ([miriandken@gmail.com](mailto:miriandken@gmail.com))*

### Science and Technology Group

The July meeting of the Science and Technology Group saw a thought-provoking presentation by Olivia Jury on the “Worst Places to Live in NZ”. As part of her undergraduate study, she had examined natural hazards as the start of a bigger project that is needed to fully understand our vulnerability and enable better preparedness. It stimulated many questions from those present. We were delighted in August with an excellent presentation by Roseann O’Hare and Scott Lord of Microsoft on “The Era of AI”. This enhanced our understanding of what AI is and how it is being used and raised many questions from the group.

In our programme for September, Roger Williams will address the natural hazards of Tsunami and Liquefaction and the mitigation and plans we need to have in place for such events. This is a follow on from and related to Olivia Jury’s “Worst Places to Live in NZ”.

Later in the year there is the opportunity to learn from one of our members about the operations and finer points of owning and managing a foundry (the casting of metals) and to explore aspects of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration, which is significant in addressing climate change.

We are keen to encourage members of the group to participate and will be seeking topics of interest to the members that can be researched within the group and presented. This is one of the basic

principles of U3A. 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 on [douglow60@gmail.com](mailto:douglow60@gmail.com) with thoughts on how you may like to contribute.

*Doug Low ([douglow60@gmail.com](mailto:douglow60@gmail.com))*

### Writers Group

The 'Writing our Stories' group has been working on making daily writing a habit, writing about events and experiences in our lives, extending vocabulary to make our writing more interesting and sharing our writing with others in the group. The group is planning to publish a selection of memoir stories by the end of the year.

*Alison Coates ([aecoates27@gmail.com](mailto:aecoates27@gmail.com))*

### WARKWORTH u3a INTEREST GROUPS

Book Talk	1st Tuesday am
Art Appreciation	1st Thursday
Modern and 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>