



FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Ko te manu e kai ana i te miro nana te ngahere
Ko te manu e kai ana i te matauranga nana te ao*

The bird that consumes the miro owns the forest. The bird that consumes knowledge owns the world.

Seasons Greetings

This wonderful spell of summer is invigorating! Swims at Omaha and Martins Bay, fresh salads and fruit harvested from our garden, barbecues with whanau and friends, a day at the tennis! What a wonderful start to 2024. The year ahead holds lots of promise for U3A Warkworth with a line-up of interesting speakers. Our speaker for February will be Tim Armitage, President of the local Forest & Bird Society, and shaker and mover of Restore Rodney. Interest Groups are gearing up for a stimulating 2024 programme and will be showcasing their Group at the February General Meeting. Remember, **any member can start a new Interest Group**. Don't hesitate to invite friends or newcomers to our district to our meetings; the most successful recruiting tool is by word of mouth.

Have a great 2024.

Nga mihi nui

Ken Cutforth

GENERAL MEETING

The first General Meeting of 2024 will be held at BeSoul, Gumfield Drive at 10:00 a.m. on Monday 12th February 2024. The speaker will be Tim Armitage, local Forest and Bird president, talking about Restore Rodney. Also, the local U3A interest groups will be showcasing their activities.

AGM

The 27th Annual General Meeting of U3A Warkworth was held on 11th December 2023 at BeSoul, on Gum field Drive..

President's AGM Report: -

Apart from a postponement of the February meeting due to Cyclone Gabrielle, we have enjoyed a strong line-up of Speakers over the past year: -

- Statistician, Richard Spiers zeroed in on our local community with current and future population projections.
- Sail GP highlighted a world class business in our own backyard. Maybe we can attract Peter Beck from Space Lab in 2024.
- Sheralyn Cotton explained how Springboard is providing positive opportunities for 'at risk' youth.
- Robert Fisher KC postulated the case for Aotearoa becoming a Republic.

Mini speakers also entertained and informed us including Jim Flewitt on community resilience and Trish Allen on Food Waste.

I wish to acknowledge the special contribution by the Convenors of our Interest Groups. Their encouragement, forward planning and regular reminders to group members are appreciated. A comprehensive survey of members confirmed members' appreciation of Interest Groups no matter how large or small. This was reinforced at a recent meeting between our Committee and Interest Groups' representatives. Remember if you have a topic of interest and could gather some like-minded members, you could start a new Interest Group.

U3A Warkworth passed a milestone with our membership reaching the 200 mark, making us one of the largest U3As in the Auckland area. I would like to thank your committee for their efforts over the past year.

During the year a number of members died including Mike Nesbit, Victor Jowsey, Paul Barker, Anne Sutherland, Bob Ward, John Nelson, Daphne Cocker, and Jim McKinlay.

A minute of silence was observed for our friends.

Treasurer's Report: Dianne Knight presented the Annual Accounts and took members through the figures. The financial state of the organisation was



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REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

U3A members wishing to visit other interest groups may contact the conveners.

Art Appreciation Group

2023 has been an interesting and stimulating year. Our group had diverse topics from floristry to sculpture; pottery to painting. We have visited fabulous exhibitions and listened to artists talk about their lives and visited them in their studios. The Bridge Club rooms have been a good meeting spot and also affordable for members.

We have 50 members and many, usually about 20-30, meet each month. It is always a challenge for conveners to come up with topics that suit such a diverse group of people and also such a huge subject. Therefore, after discussion with members and thinking about how we could appeal to most, we have changed to a new system for 2024. We have opened up the year's calendar of events to members to choose a month and, with help from conveners and friends, organise the topic for the meeting. Whether it is a trip out or meeting with a speaker at the Bridge Club. This hopefully will provide a template for ongoing group longevity.

So far in 2024 we have planned topics for the first few months. February 1st will be a speaker at the Bridge Club on Graffiti - Art or Anarchy, March we will be going to the Sculpture exhibition on Waiheke and we will have a talk on Chinese Painting, with a visit to Guo Pei at the Art Gallery in the pipeline. We encourage any input from our members of the wider group to suggest and organise a meeting for any other month this year. Lots to look forward to.

Mà Te wà.

Sally Wilson

Book Talk Group

The Book Talk Group held its final meeting for 2023 on December 5th at the Snells Beach home of Alison Coates. Twelve members attended and in a

considered sound and there were no questions raised. (Accounts available as separate document).

Election of Officers: Following calls for nominations the following members were elected as officers and committee: -

President: Ken Cutforth.

Vice President: Lorraine Nelson.

Secretary: Jim Flewitt.

Treasurer: Dianne Knight.

Members: Prue Dray, Kristin Price, Willo Stear, Doug Low, Steve Goldthorpe, Nigel Swaffield, Alan Spicer, Alison North.

The appointment of officers was accepted with acclaim.

5. General Business: One issue of general business was raised by Geoffrey Bowes who expressed his concern regarding invited speakers at General Meetings promoting their businesses or personal services. Ken responded that the committee ensures that speakers are chosen who are primarily informative and that while their organisation often formed part of their presentation (e.g. charities), no outright promotion or soliciting for business occurs.

There was no other General Business.

The President closed the AGM at 10:30 a.m.

Following the AGM the meeting was addressed by our speaker Brian Wright who is the Chairman and long-serving member of the Wellsford Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). Brian shared the broad history of the CAB organisation from its inception in 1940s Britain, to the present day. Jim thanked Brian for an excellent presentation and presented him with a koha.

The meeting then enjoyed a light lunch.

NEW MEMBERS

John Daniel, Christine De Ath, Janet Douglas, Kay Flower, James Keane, Alison North, and Vern and Jeanette Rule



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variation from our usual 'open' book review sessions, we discussed favourite childhood (or adulthood) books. Most chose the former and we had a lively, nostalgic, session with lots of shared memories of early reading experiences. We also enjoyed Christmas themed refreshments and farewelled our convenor of the last two years, Pam Ellender, as she is leaving the Warkworth area. We wish her well in her new life. The next meeting will be held on Waitangi Day, Tuesday 6th February. Details are available from Nancy Tayles 021 100 0262.

Nancy Tayles

Current Affairs Group

Current affairs had a very quiet December with a final gathering in the week prior to Christmas. This was, in essence, a Christmas meeting to pat ourselves on the back for bringing numbers back up towards previous levels, and to chart the programme for the next 12 months. Our first meeting for 2024 will be the third Thursday of February and this gives everyone a full January to rest, relax and hopefully enjoy family, friends and the promised El Nino weather pattern. We very much hope to continue our resurgence over the past few months and certainly welcome any potential new members.

Alan Von Tunzelman

Developments in Medicine Group

The Medicine Group has kept busy this year, with talks on such varied topics as car-t cells, Maori medicine, the Gut-Brain connection, and a history of prosthetics, punctuated by a visit to the medical Museum in Whangarei, and two BYO sessions, where every member brings along a short piece to share with others. These sessions are always particularly popular.

Please contact Linda Moore for further information on 09 425 4959.

Linda Moore

Environment and Engineering(?) Group

As a follow on from the successful Science and Climate Group, a meeting will be held on Friday 16th February in The Oaks boardroom at 2:00 p.m. for anyone interested in discussing the possibility of forming and contributing to a new group with a focus on science, energy, environment and engineering. Contact me on 0274 849764.

Steve Goldthorpe

Exploring Poetry Group

The Exploring Poetry Group had their final 2023 meeting at Matakana Market Kitchen on December 6th. We met to remember Daphne Cocker, a long time and much-loved member of our group who passed away in October of last year. We read poems about the countryside and poets that she loved and who reminded us of her. We reminisced and missed her company.

We discussed options for our meetings in 2024 and have put together a great number of ideas ranging from attending a "Poetry Live" session in Whangarei, to a teaching session, U tube presentation, looking at "found" poetry and possibly a special Anzac Day programme.

Susan Howard

Geology Group

Since the inaugural meeting of the U3A Geology interest group in February last year, our membership has quadrupled and now includes about 50 geological enthusiasts.

During the year we listened to illustrated presentations on the geological evolution of New Zealand and the origin of the country's primary foundation rocks as a prelude to describing the geology of Northland, in particular that of the Mahurangi region in the vicinity of Warkworth. These lectures were supplemented by a talk on volcanism by Dr Ian Smith, who will follow up on this theme in 2024 by describing the various types



of volcanoes and volcanic zones within the North Island.

Numerous field trips were also undertaken to view coastal outcrops displaying pertinent features of the sedimentary rocks that filled the 20-19 million year old Waitemata Basin during the early stages of crustal subsidence of ancestral Northland in what is today the greater Auckland area. We will continue to examine these rocks and their fascinating internal structures in 2024, while also learning to interpret the origins of them. In addition, we will investigate some the enigmatic rocks comprising the Northland Allochthon - being the eroded remains of gigantic slices of an ancient seabed floor that were systematically thrust up and across ancestral Northland by plate tectonic movements prior to and during sedimentation in the Waitemata Basin.

We look forward to resuming our geological journey in 2024 and, hopefully, to continue attracting new members to our enthusiastic group.

Willo Stear

Local History Group

The Local History Group has increased to 20, although not all are active. As convenor, I researched & collated the history of topics covered since the inception of the group in 2009. Only 3 of the original group remain, including myself.



A few Local History members enjoyed an insight into the evolving Dairy Industry in the district, presented by Pat Hobrie. This was her first ever PowerPoint presentation on a new computer.

Local History is pleased to welcome two new members, Karlene Lucas & Janet Douglas. We trust they will enjoy learning of the history of the

community they now call home. We are revisiting various topics to gain an understanding and appreciation of the community we now live in.

We are very appreciative of having the use of The Oaks boardroom with its big computer screen. Many of our members have been introduced to PowerPoint to present their research, which presents a double learning curve.

At the last meeting of the year, we enjoyed fellowship and planned the programme for 2024. Our first three meetings of 2024 will all be held in The Oaks Boardroom at 1:30 p.m.

- February 27 Pre History of Tawharanui
- March 26 History of Country Women’s Institute
- April 23 The Early Fruit Industry

These three sessions will be convened by Glenys Wild who is standing in while Jenni is away. Enquiries and apologies for this period to Glenys glenyswild5@gmail.com or 0274 803788.

Jenni McGlashan

Music Appreciation

Our next Music Group meeting is in February at the home of Mary Miller; 40 Willjames Ave, Algies Bay, on Thursday 8th February at 2:00 p.m.

Brass Band Instruments and Music

For our February meeting, we are fortunate to have the highly regarded tenor horn player Murray Borthwick as our guest. Several times champion at the NZ Brass Bands Championships he will talk to us about brass band music and instruments. He will bring some with him.



Murray grew up in New Zealand and in the 1990’s went to the UK to play in British bands (which he says are the best). He spent many years in the UK



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WARKWORTH U3A INTEREST GROUPS

Book Talk	1st Tuesday am
Art Appreciation	1st Thursday
Ornithology/Bird watching	2nd Wednesday
Music Appreciation	2nd Thursday pm
Jazz Listening	3rd Monday pm
Interesting plants	3rd Wednesday am
Exploring Poetry	3rd Wednesday pm
Current Affairs	3rd Thursday pm
Science and Engineering	3rd Friday pm
Local History	4th Tuesday pm
Developments in Medicine	4th Thursday pm
Geology	4th Friday pm

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playing in top brass bands including the award winning Desford Colliery Band whose hometown is Coalville near Leicester. He toured extensively with the band in the UK and overseas including Vietnam, Japan and Europe. He is a local to Warkworth and lives in Snell's Beach.

Murray's father Bruce was also a local award-winning brass musician and played in brass bands from an early age. Becoming a lecturer in music at Hamilton Teachers College, he was very talented and represented New Zealand as cornet player. In 1988 Bruce and his family moved to Snell's Beach. He will be remembered from many local events and playing the last post on Anzac Day.

I am sure this will be an afternoon to enjoy learning about these special musical instruments; not to be missed. We hope that you can join us.

Please confirm with (mike.austin949@gmail.com) or Mary (marymill@orcon.net.nz) whether or not you are able to come.

Mike Austin

Ornithology Group

On Wednesday February 14th the Ornithology Group will visit the Omaha Shorebird Sanctuary where we will observe godwits, dotterels, oystercatchers and terns. We will have refreshments at the Omaha Golf Club and discuss our future programme.

Ken Cutforth

Writing Group

A new group is proposed for this year; to be called U3A Writing Group.

This group, which will be limited to 6 members will meet on a once-a-month basis, on a day, time and place to suit the group. We will write initially 'our stories' for our grandchildren. The group will then decide the topics and format of the sessions.

If you are interested in joining this new group, please contact the Convenor, Alison Coates

021 0720629 or aecoates27@gmail.com

Advertisement

Scottish Country Dancing

The Silver Oaks SCD club will recommence weekly classes for 2024 in the Shoemith hall from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Friday 2nd February, with a 4-week course for beginners.

U3A members are welcome to come and learn about this enjoyable genre of dance for fun and fitness of mind and body. For more information contact Elaine Goldthorpe 0274 320032.

Contributions to the March 2024 U3A newsletter with stories of events and future plans will be welcome by 28th February 2024.

Steve Goldthorpe – newsletter editor

Warkworth U3A, Warkworth NZ

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