



Learning is forever WARKWORTH

Bi-monthly Bulletin — July 2023

<https://www.u3a.co.nz/warkworth>

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ma te huruhuru ka rere te manu

Adorn the bird with feathers and it will fly

The recent highlight was the great turn-out at the mid-winter luncheon. The Omaha Golf Club is a wonderful venue, the entertainment by `Myrtle and the Muddies' superb, our speakers from Sail GP inspiring, and the luncheon generous with ample variety. Behind the scenes, our committee did the mahi regarding the planning and organisation. Perusing our website regularly I see the Interest Groups continue to foster learning opportunities. The newly formed Geology group has been well led by Willo Steer and I am looking forward to the field trips. My whakatauki (proverb) above is in part a reference to our learning but also to the Ornithology group who recently visited the Auckland Zoo and was mightily impressed with the conservation efforts and the wide range of animals living in appropriate environments.

Nga mihi

Ken Cutforth, President

DIARY DATES

In addition to Interest Group meetings, others open to all members of Warkworth U3A are:-

Saturday 29th July – Celebrating U3A in action with U3A Auckland Network. This regional meeting will be held 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m, in 29th July at 18 Allright Place, Mount Wellington 2023. See <https://u3aauckland.net/>

Monday 14th August – General Meeting in the Warkworth Bridge Club, Alnwick Street at 10.00 a.m.

The guest speaker for this general meeting is to be confirmed. Watch out on your email for an announcement of our guest speaker for the August General U3A meeting.

NEW MEMBERS

Warkworth U3A welcomes: -

Roger and Barbara Fogo, Cliff and Marilyn Goodwin, Ian Grant, Jan Halliday, Ted and Barbara Matthews, Sue Moston, Win Robinson, Kathryn Wall, Paul White, Wallace and Glenys Wild.

U3A name tags are available for new members to collect at the General Meetings.

PRE-DINNER SPEAKERS

The speakers at the midwinter Christmas Dinner at the Omaha Golf Club, were arranged by the Current Affairs Group.

Richard Downes Honey and Tim McCafferty joined us to briefly explain the formation of Sail GP here in Warkworth. It builds a number of extremely hi-tech composite foiling catamarans and supplies these to international teams to race at regattas in major cities around the world.

Aspects of Sail GP racing are: -

- All vessels are absolutely identical and are owned and maintained by Sail GP.
- International crews, containing females represent various countries.
- Regattas are held, generally in or near major cities with very close spectator opportunities.
- International TV audiences have hundreds of million viewers. Each country represented sells its own advertising to fund its activities.
- Significant prize money is paid to the leading contenders annually.

Richard, spoke of the development and technology used in creating the space age vessels that are very light, strong and extremely fast. The composite technology has developed at an extraordinary rate and now, amongst other criteria, sustainability has become very important. Generally, carbon fibre is the main structural component but, in most instances, sandwiches a core of a more rigid material, sometimes an aluminium honeycomb or alternative material. Much of the strength of the vessels is due to Titanium components.



REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

Book Reading Group

Our June meeting was held on a bleak winter's day, so it was appropriate to discuss some interesting reading. Subjects ranged from the adventures of a boy brought up on the remote West Coast of New Zealand to an exciting international hunt for a kidnapped Saudi Princess. Other topics included Becoming Pakeha, the journey between two cultures and the adventures of a couple who spent two years traveling the length of Britain.

Just a small selection of the books enjoyed by our enthusiastic members.

Pam Ellender

Current Affairs Group

After the dinner, our Current Affairs group came back to earth with members getting together at The Oaks to listen to a very engaging presentation from Peter Kammler on Capitalism and how and why it is so removed from the ideas postulated by Adam Smith some 250 years ago.

Peter outlined several rules and then discussed aspects of which Adam Smith could not have been aware. Specifically, advertising and the role it has played in recent years. Currently public relations and spin doctors have a great influence on decision making.

We then had an item about LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), in which Laser pulses of light are being used on archaeological sites to identify shapes and characteristics of underground objects. This enables more accurate and prompt discovery of what lies underneath by providing archaeologists with precise and comprehensive details enabling discovery and study of sites previously hidden or difficult to access.

We have a break during July but look forward to more informative and entertaining discussions on the third Thursday in August. We are always looking for new members.

Alan von Tunzelman

Titanium is both very strong and very light and initially was machined from blanks. Recently some components have been 3D printed using liquid Titanium then machined to specifications thereby saving a lot of material wastage.

Tim McCafferty discussed developments with sustainable plant material being trialled in some components requiring less strength. Flax fibre, hemp and maybe even wool could be used at some stage in the future. Samples of many types of material were passed around and it was amazing to see just how light and strong some componentry is and how the composite structure can provide maximum strength with minimum weight for a range of applications. Many older composite components are now able to be shredded and the resultant material can be reused in appropriate situations.

There are hundreds of sensors on each Sail GP vessel, but how each vessel is sailed is up to the crew at the time. All of the logged sensor information is available to all the crews so that if one particular crew finds a means of going significantly faster than the others, their settings and secrets will be available to all the crews. This is designed to ensure close racing and to enable less experienced crews to adapt and be competitive quite quickly.

Alan von Tunzelman

FUTURE SPEAKERS

U3A members have a wealth of friends and contacts. Some might be willing to share their experience and knowledge with our community. The committee would welcome suggestions of guest speakers for our bi-monthly general meetings. If you have an idea, please let our secretary Jim Flewitt (flewitts@xtra.co.nz) know.

QUESTIONNAIRE

The Warkworth U3A committee is seeking input from members concerning topics and suggested speakers. Look out on your email for the opportunity to give your views and ideas or use:-

<https://forms.gle/PjXtudSVcV3wDDFg6>

Developments in Medicine Group

After the road north returned to normality, our group spent the afternoon of June 22nd at the Medical Museum in Heritage Park in Whangarei.

The museum was established by retired anaesthetist, Dr John Swinney, who talked to us about the history of anaesthesia. The program included a presentation by Mr Bill Sugrue, retired surgeon with a special interest in Medical History and with wartime surgical experience in Vietnam and Afghanistan. He also established a pathology laboratory in Napier Hospital. Mr Sugrue's accounts and photos of wartime surgery with too few surgeons and too many patients who had experienced horrific burns, injuries from landmines and bullet wounds was memorable. It illustrated the tragic results and futility of war. *Mary Miller*

An Iron Lung at the Medical Museum



Photo Alison Coates

Exploring Poetry Group

The Exploring Poetry group met recently to share their favourite humorous poems. It was a most enjoyable afternoon.

Susan Howard



Members sharing humorous poetry

Geology Group

Our newly formed Geology Group held their inaugural field excursion on 1 July.

Fortunately, the weather was kind and the tides were low, which enabled the gathering of enthusiastic amateur earth scientists to join excursion leaders, Drs Willo Stear and Ian Smith, in clambering over rocks at Matheson Bay to inspect them up close and personal.

The rock outcrops along the modern beach display the geological contact between the North Island's foundation, or basement greywackes, and the overlying 20-million-year-old beach conglomerates and other sedimentary rocks of the Waitemata Sandstone sequence. They are the basal portion of the rock strata consisting of sandstones, siltstones and mudstones which are so prominently exposed in the road cuttings and marine cliffs around Auckland. The uneven contact surface, known as an unconformity, represents a gap in time of some 200 million years, when no evidence of erosion and/or sedimentation is present.

The stratigraphic sequence of layered rocks overlying the unconformity is a complex alternation of shallow and deep marine sediments—some of which are a mixture of boulders and cobbles formed when turbulent debris flows cascaded down submarine canyons into the deep



water below, like underwater slips triggered by earthquakes.

The marine conglomerates contain numerous fragments of fossilised shells, corals and algae. Some of the greywacke cobbles and pebbles in the once buried, ancient shoreline deposit are surrounded by layers of fossilised algae and other marine organisms which grew around the stones as they rolled around in the surf all those millions of years ago.

Willo Stear



Dr Ian Smith (left) explaining a geological feature.

Music Appreciation Group

On 8th June a few of the group joined Alison for the subject of Collective Singing at her home, which was very much appreciated.

On 11th June, The Leys Institute family concert at the Auckland Town Hall gave us a great rendition of a mix of pieces conducted and introduced by David Britten. This started with an Italian style overture by Schubert, followed by a Bach piece Badinerie from Orchestral Suite No 2 with Emily Rendall on the flute. Then, an orchestral piece also with Emily; Mozart’s Maurerische Trauermusik. Finally, a Clog Dance by John Lanchbery, Lazy Dance by Amanda Aldridge, a Mock Morris by Percy Grainger, and a Chopped Chop Waltz by Allen Britten, which was a rendition of Chopsticks.

On Monday 12th June at the U3A midwinter lunch we enjoyed a lovely mix of familiar songs from

Myrtle and the Muddies. The group comprises of Phil Francis on guitar, with singing by Jenni Francis, Kate Greenaway, Sam Rutherford and Janet Dodsworth.

On 30th June at 7.30 pm at Matakana Hall and 2nd July at 2.30 pm at Warkworth Town Hall. Matakana Choir sang songs from movies.

Mike Austin

Science and Climate Group

The SC Meeting talk on Friday 21st July will be given by Professor Richard Levy (GNS, VUW) “Melting Ice and Rising Seas” a report on the Antarctic Drilling Programme..

Ralph Cooney

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 Climate	3rd Friday pm
Local History	4th Tuesday pm
Developments in Medicine	4th Thursday pm
Geology	4th Friday pm

<https://www.u3a.co.nz/warkworth/groups.html>

Scottish Country Dancing

The Silver Oaks SCD club invite U3A members, with grandchildren over 8, to a **Matariki Open Day** in the Old Masonic Hall on Baxter Street from 10 to 12 a.m. on Friday 14th July, for a morning of family fun and dance in Ceilidh style. Please bring \$5 pp, your own water bottle, and soft soled shoes.



Warkworth U3A, Warkworth NZ
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