



## *Learning is forever* WARKWORTH

Bi-monthly Bulletin — March 2023

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

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings all,

I'm writing this after 2 days without power thanks to Cyclone Gabrielle. Snells Beach foreshore has taken a pounding with pathways and wooden seawalls smashed.

We have had to cancel a number of meetings including the February General Meeting. Interest groups have also been impacted.

Recently the Convenors were scammed with a request that they purchase some iTunes vouchers for me. Luckily most saw through the scam!

I trust that members and whanau have weathered the storm.

Nga mihi

*Ken Cutforth, President*

### GENERAL MEETINGS

#### Monday December 12th

Our end of year event and AGM was held in the **Southgate Room** above the Warkworth Hotel.

The committee was re-elected, with the addition of Willo Stear. Our guest speaker was Sandra Grant from Sculptureum, who gave us a most interesting talk. Music was provided by Jan and Kevin Duo, playing keyboard and guitar..

#### Monday February 13th

Our first general meeting of 2023 was to have been held in the Bridge Club room at 2 Alnwick Street but had to be cancelled due to Cyclone Gabrielle.

This meeting, with talks from Dan Gray about the Springboard programme and Richard Spiers on future statistics, will be reconvened when practicable. Watch out for an email announcement on the Grapevine.

### VENUE CHANGE

As many of you will know our regular venue for General Meetings, Totara Park Village Hall, has had its usage arrangements redesigned in such a

way that it will be too small to accommodate our larger gatherings.

Your committee has been active over the past few weeks in assessing alternate venues which will meet our needs.

The positive news is that we have found a suitable location at the Warkworth Bridge Club, 2 Alnwick Street, which is central (adjacent to the Town Hall) and looks very suitable for our purposes.

Given that parking in town can be a little tricky the committee is negotiating parking space nearby which we will confirm when hopefully in place. Meanwhile, it may also assist us by limiting our parking needs through car-pooling where possible.

### NEW MEMBERS

Warkworth U3A welcomes:

Beverley Billington. Paul Barker, Glenda Came, Christine Carr, Marion Howie, Lorraine Nelson and Elspeth Wilkins

### FIRST AID SEMINAR

Warkworth U3A has arranged a first aid seminar for U3A members. An instructor from A1 First Aid Ltd will present the seminar from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday 8th March in the Southgate room (above the Warkworth hotel).

The seminar will include a demonstration of CPR and the use of a defibrillator. Afterwards there will be time for attendees to ask the instructor questions.

There is no limit to numbers, because the people attending will not be doing any practical activities.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

U3A subscriptions for the year ending 31st October 2023 are now due. The membership rate is

**\$20 per person or \$35 for a couple.**

Payments should be made to the U3A account 02-0480-0133880-00 by bank transfer. Include your name and *U3A-2023-subs* as your reference.

Enquiries can be addressed to Dianne Knight at

[treasurer.warkworth@u3a.co.nz](mailto:treasurer.warkworth@u3a.co.nz)



## REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

### Geology Group

The newly formed Geology group is meeting on the 4th Friday of each month in the Summerset Falls auditorium. The initial meeting considered stratigraphy, plate tectonics and the rock cycle.

### Local History



In November 2022, Local History and other U3A members were joined by a group from Probus Whangarei to enjoy a 2 hour sailing on the Jane Gifford. Dave Parker told of the history of the Jane and gave a running commentary of the history of the river and the early settlers as we passed points of interest.



On February 28, we will follow The Warkworth Heritage Trail with Maureen Young. Meet at the Information Centre, Queen St, Warkworth at 2pm.

March 28 Early Roads of the District with Linda Moore. Meet 1.30pm The Oaks Boardroom. The March meeting was scheduled to meet at the entrance to the Old Coach Road but an advance party found the Old Coach Road now impassable!

We look forward uninterrupted meetings 2023 and wish you all the same.

*Jenni McGlashan*

### Music Appreciation



The Music Appreciation Group enjoyed an afternoon with Mary Miller and a presentation on the subject of percussion. We had a collection of things to tap, shake, and bang.

Mary introduced us to some definitions and instruments. A few were surprising like piano and harpsichord. She then showed us to a video at the Waldbuhne (Woodland) Theatre at Olympia Park Berlin and a performance by Martin Grubinger. He is a very lively multi percussionist with his group called The Percussive Planet Ensemble. They played a Special Edition for Multipercussion and Orchestra with the Berlin Philharmonic conducted by Wayne Marshall. A medley of compositions by John Williams including various of his movie themes – Jaws; Star Wars; Superman; etc.

Surrounded by a variety of drums, assorted xylophones, shakers, etc. Martin Grubinger's group was sometimes soft with solo sounds leading or following the rest of the orchestra. Mixing with the strings, french horns, trumpets, clarinet, saxophone etc. the concert covered a huge and impressive range of John Williams' music.

As always with U3A it was an extremely enjoyable time, seeing and hearing something that I for one had not heard of or seen before. Then able to comment and discuss together over tea, coffee, and snacks. Thank you Mary

*Mike Austin*



**Developments in Medicine**

This group has arranged a trip to the Northland Medical Museum in Whangarei, on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 1p.m.

The number is limited to 20 people, including those in the medical group. Other U3A members are welcome on a first come first served basis please contact Linda Moore (09 425 4959) or Mary Miller (021 256 5422) if you would like to go.

**Science and Climate**

The February meeting heard a talk by Steve Goldthorpe on the evolving technology of big batteries for EVs and grid storage. That was followed by a talk Peter Kammler on the inherent problems with the structure of the New Zealand Electricity Industry.

The next meeting will be on Friday 17th March, in the Bridge Club Room, 2 Alnwick Street with Richard Duncan from the Nieu Honey Company.

*Willo Stear for Ralph Cooney*

**OTHER GROUPS**

After a slow start to the year, due to adverse weather, regular group meetings are starting to get underway. Reports of past meetings and notices of future meetings will be welcome and can be sent to

[Steve.Goldthorpe@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Steve.Goldthorpe@xtra.co.nz)

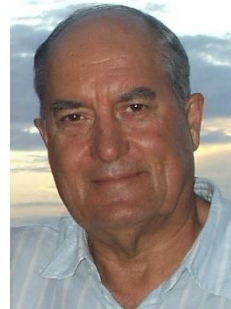
**BEWARE SCAMMERS**

Our President’s recent experience reminds us all to be vigilant when on-line. Sometimes emails and websites are not what they seem to be but are laying traps for the unwary. A common opening gambit of the scammer is to entice people to click on a link or an email address in an email. If in doubt – don’t.

A useful technique, which may be available on your computer, is to hover your mouse pointer over the link without clicking. This may show the actual internet address at the bottom of your screen.

**If it looks odd, then don’t click on it.**

**NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER – WILLO STEAR**



Willo is a retired director of companies in South Africa and Australia. He has higher degrees in geology and mining engineering and ancient cultures. Willo is still active as a research scientist and member of a team of ichnologists documenting hitherto unknown fossilised human and animal tracks and traces in South Africa. Outside of his professional life, he is a naturalist, amateur ancient historian and writer, artist and avid hiker.

Promotion to the young at heart

**Warkworth Silver Oaks  
Scottish Country Dancing Club**



The Silver Oaks Club meets on a Friday in the Old masonic Hall on Baxter Street for 2 hours to learn the traditions of Scottish Country Dancing, which is a fun way of getting and staying fit without knowing it, in a social setting.

The Silver Oaks club is affiliated to the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Our tutor is RSCDS qualified with 40-years’ experience.

For further details contact Steve or Elaine Goldthorpe (0274 849764 or 0274 320032)

