



Learning is forever WARKWORTH

Bi-monthly Bulletin — November 2022

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings all,

Miriam and I have just completed a road trip from Mid-Canterbury to Snells Beach. With the fresh spring growth, we were reminded that Aotearoa is a wonderful place. Highlights included the deciduous trees of the South Island, the drive through the Kaikouras, the morning ferry ride out of Picton, the giant wind wands from Pihaiatua to Palmerston North, the Mangaweka Gorge, the Desert Road landscape and Lake Taupo, and the easy drive from Cambridge to the Bombay Hills. We are blessed to live in such an amazing country. Let's enjoy summer with family, barbecues and swims!

Nga mihi *Ken Cutforth*, President

GENERAL MEETINGS

Monday 10th October

Tim Chapman gave a brief introduction to himself and then entertained everyone with a short story he had written that featured the use of common surnames that derive from occupations, Baker, Potter etc. It was very well received.

Ken introduced our main speaker, Janette Thompson, who is the editor of the local newspaper, "Mahurangi Matters". Janette began her presentation by explaining that her links with Warkworth go back many generations, she herself being part of the 5th generation to have grown up in the area.

Janette's work background in the print media included spells in the South Island, Australia and other overseas locations, where she was also involved in broadcast media. Her presentation left a lasting impression of someone very committed to the role that local media plays in the building and maintaining a cohesive community. During the Q&A session several members commented on the high quality of the Mahurangi Matters publication, and there was concern expressed over the difficulties encountered by local newspapers in the face of the digital media onslaught.

Nigel Swaffield thanked Janette for her informative talk and presented her with a gift reflecting our appreciation.

Monday December 12th

Our end of year event and AGM will be held in the **Southgate Room**, which is the upstairs room in the Warkworth Hotel on Queen Street. Access is from the Oaks atrium at the back of the Warkworth Hotel. Only disabled parking the atrium please.

Please send nominations for the U3A committee to our secretary Jim Flewitt by the end of November. Also, please send an RSVP, to help with catering, to Jim (flewitts@xtra.co.nz).

The guest speaker will be Sandra Grant from Sculptureum. Music will be by Jan and Kevin.

NEW MEMBERS

Warkworth U3A welcomes:

Christine Frost, Elaine Hollis and Heather Robyn

If you have switched from a land-line to a mobile phone only, please advise our membership secretary Alison (aecoates27@gmail.com)

YOU ARE INVITED

To join the Local History Group

For a two-hour sailing on the Jane Gifford for an informative account of the history of the river.

Tuesday November 29, 2022

11.30am sailing

Board 11.15am Warkworth Wharf

\$30 per head seniors (cash on the day)

\$35 per head adults.

We suggest you bring lunch, flat soft soled shoes, wind/waterproof jacket.

This is a public sailing so all welcome.

Expressions of interest by Nov 22 to;

Jenni McGlashan. LH convenor

jim.jenni@xtra.co.nz



REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

Art Appreciation

Thursday 3rd November, the group hired a bus and had a great day out at the Auckland Museum, “Ancient Greeks, Athletes, Warriors, and Heroes”, Exhibition. It was a very interesting exhibition.

A world more than 2000 years old with the largest exhibition the British Museum has ever loaned to Aotearoa, New Zealand. Featuring more than 170 ancient Greek artefacts, including priceless statues, weapons, jewellery, and pottery - this was truly magnificent. There was time to wander the other parts of the Museum and have lunch.

Margaret Wright

Jazz Listening Group

The Jazz Listening Group has been continuing its monthly meetings throughout the year with a smaller number attending from 8 - 12 members. We have room for a few more if anyone is keen to learn and listen to the many styles of jazz. Our meetings are on the 3rd Monday of the month at 2pm. In November we are having a live session of Jazz by Jazz Connection, most of whom are members of U3A. We are opening the meeting to partners and friends of the group and any members of U3A who may be interested in joining us, at Val Couling’s home, 25 Gordon Craig Place, Algies Bay on November 14th at 2pm.

Val Couling

Local History

In my absence a small group of Local History members met at the Band Rotunda October 25, to learn of the history & use by the band. This also included a short history of the band. I understand an account of living in the vicinity as a child was also added to the meeting by Maureen Young who was the stand in convenor in my absence. Unfortunately, there were a number of apologies as this was immediately after Labour day.

Jenni McGlashan

Music Appreciation

On the 25th September we met in the Matakana Market Kitchen in advance of attending the Matakana Cinema to view the film of the Metropolitan Opera presentation of Lucia di Lammermoor. It starred Artur Rucinski and Nadine Sierra and included behind the scenes film and interviews. It was set in the USA in a depressed area with the story overlaid into a more modern setting than the familiar Scottish forests.

On the 22nd October we met for a pre-event gathering at the Tahiti Bar and then to the Auckland Town Hall for a concert by the Orion Piano Trio. They were celebrating Schubert’s and Brahms’s birthday anniversaries in 2022 with a programme of piano trios rich in reflection, lyricism, and virtuosity. Of particular interest is Flavio Villani who was born in Italy and a New Zealander living in Auckland. He directs and teaches at L’Accademia in the St Heliers Community Centre. You may recall him from the film Crossing Rachmaninoff. Marco Pop Ristov plays violin and Marco Arriani plays cello.

On the 30th October a few of us attended another of the Matakana Cinema film of the Metropolitan Opera presentation; this time of Hamlet. It was an unusual version composed by Australian Brett Dean and had its world premiere as recently as 2017. There have been varied reviews with some saying that new opera doesn’t often get to sound this good. We had an interesting discussion afterwards as although we all enjoyed the performance, we had different thoughts on its shift from a Shakespeare play to an operatic piece.

On Monday 2nd November a few of us attended Whangateau Hall to the folk club to a completely different concert. This was by Dave Flynn, an Irish musician, composer, and guitarist currently living in Mangawhai Heads. Played on a classical guitar with a beautiful delicate skill Dave took us on a journey of Irish music from the lilting styles of the



harp in the 19th century, to the Irish pipes and finally the fast and lively fiddle.

In recent months we have been discussing the format and content of the U3A Music Appreciation Group. We are hopefully over the constraints of Covid, and able to meet at a home in comfort. We would like to see the variety extend to include good quality music in more of its forms. Continuing into next year on a monthly second Thursday afternoon, with each occasion having at least one theme, it may be preferred to have more than one subject and presenter bringing more learning and sounds to our ears to experience and learn.

The next afternoon's event on Thursday 10th November is to be hosted by Jenny Collins on the theme of Surviving the Battle. Exploring the life and music of Kathleen Battle. The December 8th afternoon will be hosted by Mark Newcomb on a theme of the Music of Yuletide.

Anyone interested in joining us is very welcome, so please let us know.

Mike Austin

U3A Book Talk

On November 1st eleven members of the group met at Dagmar's spacious home in its beautiful location. We agreed that in December each would bring a small plate of Christmas fare for a special morning tea, before the usual book talk sharing.

Dagmar showed the group a very interesting book published in 2017 in Takapuna called "200 Women". Of those selected from around the world for their achievements five were New Zealanders, and each woman had to respond to the same five questions. Another amazing book was "Touching the Void", by Joe Simpson. Other non-fiction works were John Roughan's "John Key: A Portrait of a Prime Minister", "The Most Beautiful Walk in the World" by John Baxter, Raynor Winn's "The Salt Pathway", and a memoir by Elisabeth Lindesay about thirty years in the Middle East from 1950 to 1980, "I Couldn't Even Boil an Egg".

The other books talked about were all fiction. One published this year was "The Vanishing Tide", by Hilary Tailor, which had a wentle-trap as integral to the plot – and Dagmar produced a couple. A crime story, "The Maid" by Nita Prose, was a good light read. Richard North Patterson's "Silent Witness" was said to be gripping. And the book "The Bullet that Missed", by Richard Osman, in which the retirement home sleuths solve another cold case, is one that others in the group hope to read soon.

Jeanette Grimmer

Science and Climate

The last two meetings of the Science and Climate group involved talks on "Space and Space Junk removal" (Ralph Cooney) and "Sharks" (Prof John Montgomery). Both generated a lot of discussion by the members attending.

The next Science and Climate Meeting will be held on Friday November 18th October at Totara Park Meeting Room. The topic will be "NZ Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)".

The Speaker will be Emeritus Professor Basil Sharp, Professor of Economics, Faculty of Business, The University of Auckland. The NZ Government has launched a six-week period of public consultation on ETS. This is a topic of national current importance.

Science and Climate Christmas Event on Friday December 9th at the Tahi Bar, Warkworth. Short Talks by David Hosking (Herons Flight Wines, Matakana) and Heidi Crockett (Colab Beers, Kaipara Flats) December 9th 2022 1:00-3:30pm. - Food 1-2pm. - Talks 2-3:30pm.

No entrance fee. A cash bar will operate for food, coffee, tea, local beers, and wines. There will be a wine tasting as part of David Hosking's talk.

Ralph Cooney

