



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Nga mihi nui

Whaowhia te kete mātauranga
Fill the basket of knowledge.

What strange times with 4 weeks of Level 4 lockdown and still counting! The plusses are being able to complete an early spring clean, dusting off old recipes including Aunt Daisy's Cauliflower and Pineapple Pickle, watching the Leonardo series On Demand, taking long walks around Snells Beach, reading new books including Steve Braunias *How to watch a bird*, Barack Obama's autobiography (a 706 page tome), and Historian, Paul Moon's *The Waikato - A History of New Zealand's greatest river*, starting at the source, Mount Ruapehu (I've just reached the Huka Falls!)

The downsides are not being able to buy a coffee, visit family and friends, although we were able to play a game of Scrabble with our three teenage mokopuna using Whatsapp, and the sheer tedium of being confined to barracks.

New ways of connectivity such as Zoom or Googlemeet, may be useful for Interest Groups to continue your good work. Our membership has just topped 200, making us one of the largest U3A in the Auckland Network. We know the major recruitment tool we have is current members spreading the word.

Our new newsletter editor is Steve Goldthorpe who joins our committee in a minor reshuffle.

We look forward to resuming contact as normal.

Kia kaha

Ken Cutforth

Reports of meetings, announcements and other items of interest for the Warkworth U3A bimonthly newsletter are welcome. Please sent contributions to me at Steve.Goldthorpe@xtra.co.nz.

Editor

QUESTION TIME UNDER LOCKDOWN

This most recent COVID-19 lockdown has given your U3A Committee pause for thought over the planning of upcoming meetings and guest speakers. Whilst our October meeting looks increasingly in doubt it has been suggested that we can perhaps ask our planned speaker, Margaret Gane (Chair of Auckland U3A Network), some questions, and publish her responses in the next Newsletter. The history of U3A is a very interesting one and we hope that in the event of Margaret being unable to speak to us in October, we will reschedule her as a future speaker. In the meanwhile, please send any questions you may have on the history or workings of the U3A movement to the U3A address

u3awarkworth@gmail.com,

and these will be passed to Margaret to respond.

U3A PUBLIC LECTURE

As part of this year's U3A promotional plan, the committee had proposed that a free public lecture, organised by the Warkworth U3A, be held to provide the local community with a greater appreciation of what U3A is all about. Planning for the lecture had already started when the current COVID lock down was implemented putting the event, intended for November, in doubt. Whilst it is hoped that this may still eventuate, we felt it prudent to "watch this space" in terms of the lockdown levels and make a final decision at the end of this current month. Should we feel unable to proceed in November we will obviously look for a further opportunity to deliver the lecture. Our proposed speaker, TVNZ Journalist Barbara Dreaver, has indicated her understanding of the difficulties and has agreed to reschedule her talk on the "South Pacific" to a later date should this be required.

We will be looking to our membership to help promote the lecture when it occurs.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members

Hugh and Julie Briggs

Peter and Carey Ennis

Sarah Gordon

Patty and Doug Low

Judith Morgan

Susan Morley

Sue Wynyard

who have joined since July 2021

We all change our email addresses, throw out the landline or move house at some stage. If you have changed your address, email or phone number, please advise Alison Coates, our membership secretary.

REPORT ON GENERAL MEETING Monday 9th August 2021

Trish Allen addressed the meeting focusing on the increasing amounts of waste being produced in the world, and for which NZ is no exception. Trish answered questions raised by those present, which reinforced the general feeling of concern on waste and the resulting pollution of our planet.



Rob Small spoke on *Development of a community garden at Orakei (Auckland) using Māori Tikanga methods*

Rob explained that he had been a former director of Auckland Regional Parks. Rob, who is Ngāpuhi, related on his background in horticulture and explained that following his retirement he had found an opportunity to fulfil a long-held wish to create a botanical garden in the manner of some of the world's great botanical gardens, only embodying the cultural values of Māori. Having recently completed his master's in landscape architecture at Unitec, where his research project looked at how to design a garden that would display the ethnobotany of the Māori people of Aotearoa, Rob described progress to date on the physical project which has grown out of his studies. Interspersed with details on Māori history and mythology together with respect for 'Mother Earth', Rob described the issues in creating a garden that reflected the language,

customs, and the art of Māori. Questions following Rob's presentation reflected the depth of feeling and commitment to nature that he had imparted to those gathered.

COVID 19 DELTA VIRUS

An authoritative article on the Delta virus from the Pathway newsletter of The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia was referred to Warkworth U3A members. This article, encouraging vaccination, is at:

<https://pathway.rcpa.edu.au/20210800/one.html>

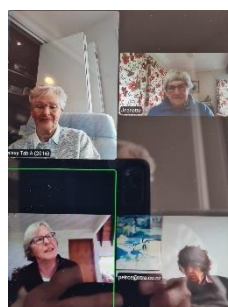
GROUP ACTIVITIES

Are you interested in starting a new group? You don't have to be the leader. Please let Nigel Swaffield know.

Everyone is invited to visit a group once before joining it. Bring a friend too. Try before you buy?

The Book Talk Group

held its first ever ZOOM meeting on Tuesday, September 7.



The convener, Jeanette, had been helped by Alan Spicer to know how to set up the meeting for the group. She received his very helpful input a week before this date.

A small number managed to access the meeting, although one who tried could not be heard, unfortunately, and despite many efforts during the 40-minute timeslot she could only be seen. Two others who said they would join in failed to do so, and thus it was only four who were able to share about the book/books they had been reading during lockdown. Two others joined the Zoom meeting - Gael's dog and Nancy's cat.

As usual, there was quite a variety in the books we shared. One beautiful, well-written book on a layered garden; one un-put-downable thriller 979 pages long; an exciting espionage story set in 1938, covering two days only; the early memoir written by C.K. Stead about his life from 1932 to 1956; and the book Gary Player wrote giving tips on golf, business and life.

It was good to connect with people we know, to share about our books, to laugh, and to learn how much many of us enjoy doing puzzles of all kinds in lockdown. Overall, the ZOOM experience was fun.

The Art Appreciation Group



on 4 August, travelled to Wallace Arts to view a 20-year retrospective of the work of Star Gossage. The day was particularly memorable because Star Gossage and Cherie Williams (flax weaver who presented at our July meeting), are both Mana Whenua. They were part of our group.

The Music Appreciation Group

met in August at Mike Austin's home for a very interesting talk about guitars, and guitar music. Mike talked about the guitars that he had owned. He explained that the best guitars use a rosewood body and a spruce top, and their sound or voice is determined by their shape, the bracing under the sound board, and the wood used. Some of the pieces we listened to were played by Andres Segovia on his Ramirez guitar, and Edson Lopez who played Bach's Toccata and Fugue, transcribed for guitar. A very enjoyable afternoon of music.



dreamstime.com

Our September meeting could not go ahead as planned, but Lorna Laxon put together an interesting presentation about National Anthems of the World. This was sent out to all members of the group, who were able to read the notes about each

country's anthem, and then listen to a YouTube clip of the anthem. We shared our thoughts about what we read and heard with others in the group by email.

It was a very interesting 'journey around the world' demonstrating the nationalism, patriotism and fervour that the anthems embody.



When this is over, the first person to walk out of a chip shop is going to get torn apart by a flock of starving seagulls



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