



U3A WHANGAREI NEWSLETTER



October/November – 2018

U3A Whangarei is registered with the Charities Commission

**Meetings: Fourth Tuesday each month, February to November at
10 am, St John's Church, Kamo Road, Kensington.**

Secretary: Ann Daly 437 5075 annandneil84@gmail.com
Membership Secretary: Mary Berrill 437 2168 mary.berrill@gmail.com

October meeting – Tuesday 23rd

First Speaker: Mary Britton.

Co-founder and Director of Coaching Pacific and Co-ordinator for TEDx Tutukaka will talk to us about TED and TEDx talks, what makes them magical and how they effect change for individuals, groups and communities.

Mary's joy in business is in the "aha" moments of her clients and training participants and the strength and magic of relationships with the coaching teams. All of these joys are carried through into the TEDx space.

Mary lives at Matapouri with her husband, Andy.

Second Speaker - Rod Parkinson – Long term Leadership/

Rod was born in Auckland, but Northland raised, and educated at Kamo Primary, Kamo Intermediate and Kamo High. In the late 90s he obtained a Bachelor of Management Studies from Waikato University, with a double major in Economics and Marketing.

Rod had a 25 year career in Commercial and Institutional Banking, extending this to Agribusiness in recent years. In this capacity, he has worked with all types and sizes of business, from sole trader to large organisations / institutions. The last 12 years of his career has been in leadership roles within Commercial Banking.

Rod has a passion for and has accumulated knowledge relating to long term fundamentals, in particular creating long term achievement cultures within teams. Recently, this resulted in his TEDx talk on leading for the long term within a business context.

November Meeting – Tuesday 27th

The November meeting will, as usual, be our end of year Christmas Party. The programme will include a quiz, musical entertainment, a sumptuous morning tea, and Christmas cake and strawberries (without any needles!)

The cost will again be \$5, and we need to have names and payment for this no later than November 12th, in order to book the caterers. You may pay in one of the following ways:

1. Hand your payment to the treasurer, Neil Mitchell, at the October meeting. To make life easier for our new treasurer, please have your money in an envelope with your name on it.
2. Pay online to account number 12-3115-0050693-00 before November 12th. Please make sure you include your NAME when making the payment.
3. Post your payment (plus your name) to the treasurer, so that it arrives before November 12th.

His address is: Neil Mitchell, Box 1664, Whangarei 0140.

The Christmas Party is always a time to relax and to have a chat with other members before the long Christmas break. We hope to see you there. As usual, we will be presenting the church with materials for food hampers to distribute to the needy, so we would appreciate it if you could bring along one or two items for this purpose.

CAR PARKING

Newer members of U3A may not be aware that parking for the monthly meetings is available at the Latter Day Saints church, next door to the Golden Church. We are very grateful to the church for permitting us to use their carpark.

SEPTEMBER SPEAKERS

Two very different speakers this month, but a common theme of adventure travel.

The first speaker, David Moss, is a consultant for You Travel Whangarei. Whilst growing up in Whangarei, David's hero was Indiana Jones, so he was determined to become an explorer: he compromised by becoming a travel agent.

During his career, David has travelled to 42 countries on many journeys to faraway places in both distance and time; from the ancient Nile settlements to the lost cities and ancient temples of South America.

As we age and our own civilization appears to be crumbling around us, I think we are drawn to examining the past and studying the rise and fall of others. Perhaps it allows us to draw comfort that we are all part of this rich tapestry.

The second speaker, Dilys McKenzie, told us how in 1994, she and her husband sold everything they owned and bought a 36 foot Herreshoff ocean going yacht and set off. Despite being experienced coastal sailors, they had to obtain a category 1 certificate for the boat and themselves, and learn 'proper' navigation.

The Pacific Ocean is a misnomer, and not pacifying in any way, but after 12 days of terror and excitement, they arrived in Tonga. They spent four years enjoying the relaxed cultures of the South Pacific before sailing north to South East Asia - beautiful scenery, but the culture of officials was harsh and corrupt.

Have you ever wondered about our ambivalent relationship with animals? We love them, we farm them and we eat them. How do animals see us? The following encounter will stay with me. The McKenzies were anchored up a river near a rehabilitation centre for orang-utangs where animals live in the wild, but rangers monitor them and restrict visitors. A female orang-utang with two young walked past Dilys sitting on the jetty. The female placed her young some distance away and admonished them to remain. She then approached Dilys and made eye contact, stretched out her hand and held the human hand. They were identical. Some moments later she came closer, put her hand inside Dilys' shirt and felt her breast whilst still making eye contact, then moved down the jetty to Dilys' husband, approached him cautiously and grabbed his crotch (gently one hopes), quickly stepped back and retired with her young. I hope you are able to visualize, and ponder, this poignant encounter.

The McKenzies decided to carry on sailing around the world, crossing the Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea, Middle East, Suez Canal, Panama and places in between. The couple sailed 85 000 nautical miles in fourteen and a half years. They don't sail long distances any more. "Time does not stop, but the body does. There is a time to start, and a time to stop."

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

I'm not sure why, but attendance was down compared with our monthly general meetings. Perhaps we are all of an age to remember the AGMs of yore which were usually long drawn out and often acrimonious affairs. But attending the AGM is a good way to keep up with what is happening and it is always a delightful, entertaining affair.

After Gillian's welcome, the brief business of the AGM was quickly dealt with. The incoming committee members were lined up for inspection and presentations made to

departing members. Due to increased costs, it was unanimously agreed to increase the annual membership subscription to \$25.

Laurie Young generously offered to review the annual accounts for this year and was duly elected. Laurie has given many years to our U3A; a long standing committee member, secretary, and master of the audio system.

An extended morning tea enabled members to study the group displays, and to consider the possibility of squeezing in just one more. The display of talent in the group presentations suggests that our U3A group is thriving. We had poetry, excerpts from plays, oral reviews, character readings from Dickens' novels, a photo display with commentary and a female versus male food quiz (won by the males, which perhaps only proves that males have an unhealthy obsession with food.)

The meeting ended with presentations to all interest group leaders and essential helpers. Our thanks go to Gillian, the outgoing president and a welcome to Rosemary Sanderson, the new president.

To any members who haven't paid their income tax yet, this quote from a philosophy group member may help - "If I don't exist, why do I have to pay tax?"

Pooch Spooked. Basset Hounded.

News Item:

Dog's drama goes viral. Camera captures Lily in a flap as she careers down street chased by banner

It looks like a clip from a "funniest video" show. Main Street Kawakawa is in the frame on a blustery, wet day. The traffic volume through town is low and slow. Suddenly from the bottom left corner of the scene a basset hound goes tearing off the footpath and on to the road. It's dragging behind it a flapping shop banner, the kind that sits on footpaths outside cafes and stores like sails (sic).

The dog being chased by this terrifying thing attached to its lead is hell-bent on getting away from it. But she can't. It keeps up with her. Her name is Lily, and she runs zigzagging down the main road. Cars and trucks stop. People watch in amazement as a dog of a breed which looks like it might move only at a snail's pace heads to the end of town at a cracking pace, the banner still hard on her heels.

A split second after the dog burst into the camera's view, her owner, Lucie also comes rushing into the scene, following the same zigzag route and screaming at the top of her voice to traffic and pedestrians, "Get out of the way!"

Lily was "absolutely fine" with no sign of trauma once Lucie freed her from the tormenting flag.

The whole incident was captured on the town's security camera, placed on social media and has been watched by over half a million people over a period of one day.

Northern Advocate, 20/09/18

This is the tale of Lily and Lucie –

a one in a million posting that's juicy:

in the blink of an eye a highly prized asset

zigzagged down a highway. This terrified basset...

was spooked by the sound of the wind in a flag

to which she was tethered, then foolishly dragged

hither and thither confusing the traffic
inviting a funeral with rites epitaphic.

On a blustery day when the traffic was down
that mutt shook things up in that 'lavatory town'
and none under cover would opt to run faster
than Lucie and Lily – past 'the Hundertwasser'.

Though it lasted one minute the footage clear shows
that total disaster loomed near to dispose
of a pooch that was spooked and had took to its toes
in a deluge of droplets befitting a hose.

The people on sidewalks just froze on the spot
at the pace of a beagle ferociously hot
so that even her mistress, now widely awake
was careering along in the spray of her wake.

All's well that ends well: the impediment gone
"the Hound of the Kawaville" settled and shone.
The scene of the rampage, recorded 's gone viral.
It seems that the world is caught in that dog's spiral.

At Christmas, when Gabriel's hauled on a rail*
witnesses will gather, who stories regale
of how in a hamlet renowned for its bog
for an hour that town's grandeur was hogged by a dog!

*The steam engine *Gabriel* is hauled by rope down the centre rails of the main
street annually by competing teams. The fastest over the distance hogs the
limelight.

News Muse 20/09/18