

FROM THE PRESIDENT

He taonga rongonui te aroha ki te tangata
Good will to others is a precious treasure

Willo's presentation of the Boer War was an apt segue into our Anzac Commemoration 'Lest we forget'. Conflicts in the Middle East and in The Ukraine would suggest we haven't learned the lessons of history. Jane Kelsey's korero gave us some insight into our current political environment. Both thought provoking.

On a brighter note, our balmy autumn weather has been most welcome. Miriam and I visited the Sandspit Cafe last weekend and you would have thought it was summer with the number of people frolicking in the high tide. The autumn colours are vivid this year.

Kristin and I have visited the Omaha Golf Club to plan our Mid-winter luncheon.

Nga mihi nui
Ken Cutforth, President

GENERAL MEETINGS

The June general meeting will be our mid-winter luncheon held at the Omaha Golf Club on Monday 10th June, commencing at 10:00 a.m. The subsidised cost will be \$35 per person. Please book by making payment to 02-0480-0133880-00 with your name and the reference "Mid-year lunch" before Monday 3rd June (Kings Birthday).

The guest speaker will be Frank Wolfkamp, who will speak on his experiences with helping ReliefAid in The Ukraine. Musical entertainment will be by Myrtle and the Muddies. Cash bar.

Bryan (BG) Williams will address the August meeting on the hard challenges of Pacific Rugby.

MINI SPEAKERS

Members interested in giving a short (10 minute) talk at a general meeting should send details to our secretary Jim at flewitts@xtra.co.nz.

NEW MEMBERS

Ian Cambourn, Ursula Christel, Sue Hancock,
Jetta Laurenson, Peter North, Joan Willis.

REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

U3a members wishing to visit other interest groups should contact the group convenor.

See <https://www.u3a.co.nz/calendar>

Art Appreciation Group

We are enjoying having interesting locals to come and talk to our group.

April 4 At our April meeting we enjoyed a most entertaining and informative talk from one of our u3a members, longtime Warkworth resident, Shirley Shirley. She told us something of the history of the ancient Chinese art of Bonsai and explained how it became a Japanese tradition as well. Not only did Shirley bring a lovely and varied collection of her own Bonsai. but she also showed her skills by demonstrating how to trim roots and plants into the accepted Bonsai shapes. All present learnt a great deal from Shirley, with some encouraged enough to try out their own skills at growing Bonsai at home.

May 2 We had a very successful meeting this month. Sally Smith, a local artist, showed us her stunning quilts. Sally started making quilts while she and her husband were sailing their yacht up the coast of America. She talked about her journey making quilts and some of the stories of them. Sally also told us about the group of women in our district who are making dresses for girls, which are being sent to villages in Asia. This is a world-wide group called "Dress a girl around the world". They are sewing for another organization called "Days for Girls". It is heartwarming to know our locals are helping other communities.

June 6 Bridge Club rooms at 10am. Maureen Roke, a local artist, is coming to talk to us about her work.

From Maureen's website: Art forms: painting, watercolour, pen and wash, acrylic, oil, mixed

media! Maureen lives in Sandspit and is a believer in the “Sketch a day theory is the way to happiness!” Her sketches have become published books, which led to teaching sketching and other art practices. She is involved in urban and rural sketching. A lot of Maureen’s work has close connections with the local environment.

Margaret Wright

Book Talk Group

We have continued our meetings this year with a small but enthusiastic group. It seems that the post-covid return to normal in people's lives is in full swing as members are variously catching up with appointments, off on holiday, or receiving visitors. Two meetings have been held since the previous newsletter, at the homes of Alison Coates in March and Shirley Shirley in April. The range of books reviewed by members continues to be eclectic, regardless of the size of the group present. All genres of fiction and non-fiction are presented and discussed with members taking away lists of 'must reads' to add to their lists and usually at least one book that sparks exchange of views. There is always something for everyone among the range of books. The next meeting will be held as usual on the first Tuesday of the month, 7th May at 10 a.m. Details available from the convenor, Nancy Tayles [<nancy.tayles@otago.ac.nz>](mailto:nancy.tayles@otago.ac.nz)

Nancy Tayles

Current Affairs Group

At our February meeting I suggested that there was a strong possibility that I would be unavailable for an April meeting, and it was decided to link up electronically to arrange any meeting if it became possible. I was not back in Warkworth on the appointed day, so we certainly didn’t have a formal meeting. For May I will endeavour to arrange a suitable individual to make a presentation to us and as soon as something is cemented in place, I will let you know. If it seems that the speaker will appeal to a much wider cross section of U3A members, then I will discuss with the powers that be, and

maybe open it up to a bigger audience rather like the Sail GP event last year. In the meantime, please do save any particular stories, from your favourite sources, and bring them along to entertain and educate us. Wasn’t the discussion last month about the news media and pressure for subscriptions timely? Goodness me, within a few days of our discussion we were witness to major changes in our TV media with one group deciding to pull out all together and the remaining locally owned group indicating very serious cutbacks to their own operations. Where will this all end up? Will we still be able to access the level of local and international news that we have become accustomed to? We are certainly in for an interesting few months as the various groupings seek to secure some form of loyalty from readers, listeners and viewers to the likely new offerings we will be presented with.

Keep an eye on your inbox and I will detail any positive information as soon as possible. Meanwhile keep warm and continue to hunt for interesting subject material.

Alan von Tunzelman

Developments in Medicine Group

The Medicine Group welcomed several new faces at our meeting, in March, when our speaker was Mary Miller, who first gave us a short piece on body temperature, which modern medicine has determined more precisely. She then provoked a lively discussion on reasons for suicide, before explaining the very real harm that plastics can do to humans; the trouble is, no-one has yet invented anything nearly as convenient, yet safe to use. Just one more problem!

Our April meeting was a discussion of old and modern ways of dealing with such scourges as smallpox, leprosy and tuberculosis. It was surprising that some of the old treatments were still in use, such as isolation, or of some medical benefit, such as the use of vinegar. The ancestors had brains, but lacked our knowledge, or

antibiotics. Other treatments were either disgusting or useless, often both. Self-flagellation rarely worked, either.

Our next meeting, on May 23rd, will see Helen Whiteley speak on "Hidden Household dangers".

Linda Moore

Exploring Poetry Group

In April the Exploring Poetry Group met in a member's house to commemorate Anzac Day by reading and discussing the poetry of war poets, such as Siegfried Sassoon, Rupert Brooke and Sir Wilfred Owen, followed by afternoon tea. We were particularly moved by the sentiments contained in the poetry of Sir Wilfred Owen as he brought alive the horrors of armed conflict experienced first-hand.

*"Those other wretches, how they bled and spewed,
And one who would have drowned himself for good, —
I try not to remember these things now.*

And:

*We dredged him up, for killed, until he whined
"O sir, my eyes — I'm blind — I'm blind, I'm blind!"*

We read with some faint humour how Rupert Brooke described the elderly:

"and that unhopd serene, - That men call age;"

A thought provoking and well researched presentation.

Looking forward to May, we will be enjoying a presentation from Sue Courtney on Haiku (The English Language Version), Sue will present on Haiku then encourage us to wander about the garden looking for inspiration to write our own haiku before sharing with the group.

Susan Howard

Geology Group

In keeping with our objective of having our members present their own researched talks on geological features of interest, the April monthly presentation was given by Marilyn Goodwin who

provided an illustrated summary of observations she made of sedimentary rock features in the 300,000-year-old deposits of the North Kaipara sand dune barrier sequence at Baylys Beach. Marilyn showed photographs of the ancient dune stratigraphy, focussing especially on the lenses of black peat containing fossilised tree trunks that had accumulated in lagoonal areas within the dune cordons which existed at the time, and that are now sandwiched between layers of hardened sand dunes. As an introduction to Marilyn's presentation, and to place her observations within a broader, regional geological context, convenor Dr Willo Stear described how the sedimentary deposits of a series of sandy beaches, dunes and interdune areas of different ages along the North Island's west coast strand plains had systematically built-up thick piles of clastic sediment over more than 2 million years during the Pleistocene epoch. Willo also explained how numerous cycles of global warming and cooling during this period had resulted in fluctuating sea levels and shifting shorelines which, together with longshore currents flowing from south to north and carrying sandy material from as far south as Mount Taranaki, created the dune cordons. It is within these deposits that moa tracks have been found.

Willo Stear

Local History Group

There is such a lot of history in our area and we are learning so much of that from our own members. In March we learned of the *Schooling in Warkworth in the 1940s and 50s* with a lively and very interesting presentation by Maureen Young and Judy Waters.

In April, our speaker was Bevan Morrison and we learned about apples. We were also privileged to have his parents, Tom and Robyn Morrison with us and we enjoyed the lovely box of apples they brought for us!

The heritage varieties were Red Gladney and Green Pigenette. Also available from the orchards is the Lord Nelson, a heritage cooker which cooks to a fluffy pulp.



Warkworth indeed has a place in not just local history but also in the history of the pip fruit industry in New Zealand. We are fortunate that the Morrison family continues to carry that history forward with the exciting plans they are developing for their farm, with many activities for the public.



The topic for our next meeting on the 28th May will be *Plunket Services in Warkworth* and we look forward to that presentation by Noelene Walsh. Jenni and Jim McGlashan are now home from their holiday so if you have any questions, contact Jenni on 027 2713 714.

Glenys Wild

Music Appreciation

Our March meeting was hosted by Mike Austin at Matakana, on the subject of Mandolins and Mandolin Music.

Mike showed an Octave Mandolin, which is like an Irish Bouzouki. He talked about the origins of the mandolin, the various types, their construction, and tunings. Also, with examples by sound and video, the music played on a mandolin from Classical Spanish, Celtic, Bluegrass, and Orchestral traditions, was shared.

Mike Austin

Ornithology Group

One of the most enjoyable aspects of being a part of the ornithology group is that in the pursuit of birds and their habitat we inevitably find ourselves in some interesting locations. Last month (April) found us boarding the ferry out to Kawau Island to investigate the types of birdlife there.

We were lucky to have the assistance of a local resident, Stan, whose batch in Vivian Bay offered us a base from which to go exploring. Stan is very much a ‘Forest and Bird’ man which was useful as we saw a lot of forest but not a great deal of birds!

As it was, we were introduced to the flora side of the island rather than the fauna, which in itself was a useful learning in ornithology. That is to say that birds will be attracted to places where they can find a reliable source of food to sustain themselves and their offspring. While Kawau Island has begun to be reafforested through native tree plantings, the quantity still appears too limited to support large numbers. This of course is markedly different to Tiritiri Matangi (TTM), which we visited earlier in the year, and where birdlife was abundant after many years of replanting with native trees, offering a range of foods to various species of birds.

It was, nevertheless, pleasing to see the relatively new plantings on Kawau taking firm hold, offering a future resource to the island’s birdlife. Sharing the island with humans will probably preclude it from becoming another TTM, but finding a liveable balance for both species looks hopeful.

As with so many of our bird watching outings, we came across all manner of interesting historical features of the island, including evidence of an early Maori tool making industry, where the presence of non-local geology (stones) suggests it was an established activity.



Watercolour by Miriam Cutforth - inspired on trip

As a postscript to our trip, on the return ferry journey we discovered a stranded yacht high and relatively dry on the shores of the island awaiting high tide to be refloated. In the late afternoon light it was a rather haunting sight which inspired one of our group to commit the image to posterity via watercolours.

Jim Flewitt

Science and Technology Group

The second meeting of the group provided an insight into the Anatomy of a Landfill with a paper by Roger Williams illustrating various global approaches to waste disposal and diagrams of how some aspects of the proposed Wayby Valley Landfill would be constructed. This was followed by Doug Low recounting the transition of the Whitford Landfill from the historic city dump to a major modern fully designed sanitary landfill now managed under a joint venture of Auckland Council and Waste Management. It is now one of the two main landfill facilities in Auckland.

Future papers planned include "Waste to Energy and Other Myths", "Aspects of the Planning and Construction of the Clyde Power Station", "Worst Places to Live in NZ", and "The Era of AI". While other interesting opportunities will arise, we are keen to encourage members of the group to participate. Clearly our members have a vast variety of knowledge and experience in science or technology fields. We would love them to share this with the group. Papers could be long or short and cover any science or technology area such as

climate, astronomy, manufacturing, farming, horticulture, construction, hazard management, etc. The list goes on. Assistance can be provided to those who are not that well versed in preparing papers or PowerPoint slides. Please contact me directly on douglow60@gmail.com with thoughts on how you may like to contribute.

Doug Low

Writing Group

This new group has had three meetings, in the Board Room at the Oaks. We've shared about what writing we have already done, and what we would like to do in the future. Writing our own stories has been the focus, along with discussing how to overcome interruptions to writing time and staying motivated to keep writing.

We listen to what members have written and offer positive feedback.

Alison Coates

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
Exploring Poetry	3rd Wednesday pm
Current Affairs	3rd Thursday pm
Science and Technology	3rd Friday pm
Writing Group	4th Monday p.m.
Local History	4th Tuesday pm
Developments in Medicine	4th Thursday pm
Geology	4th Friday pm

See <https://www.u3a.co.nz/calendar>

Contributions (including funnies) to the July 2024 u3a newsletter with stories of events and future plans will be welcome by 30th June 2024.

Steve Goldthorpe – newsletter editor