



Learning is forever WARKWORTH

Bi-monthly Bulletin — July 2022

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Celebrating Matariki

Hoki whakamuri kia anga whakamua

Look to the past in order to forge the future

Miriam and I recently visited Whitianga where we were reminded that Kupe, thought to be the first Maori to discover Aotearoa, landed and settled. Approximately 800 years later Captain Cook landed in Whitianga where he studied the transit of Mercury. Whitianga has a wonderful museum situated in a former Dairy Factory.

I trust everyone enjoyed Matariki Day; I love it when the days grow longer and even more with the arrival of daylight saving.

Those who attended the mid-winter luncheon at the Omaha Golf Club would have enjoyed the occasion. The Mahurangi College Kiribati cultural performance was superb, and it was of special significance that our guest speaker, Barbara Dreaver, has Kiribati ancestry.

Barbara proved to be a wonderful storyteller and gave some great insights into current issues affecting the Pacific. Her commitment to social justice resonated.

Our newly formed Interest Groups are in their formative stages, and I trust that members enjoy attending them to extend their knowledge.

Stay warm

Ken Cutforth, President

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Some subscriptions are due for year ended 31 Oct.

Single \$20.00 Double \$35.00

Bank details:- 02-0480-0133880-00

If you cannot make an internet payment or you are not sure whether or not you have paid your sub, please contact the treasurer.

Dianne Knight, Treasurer U3A Warkworth

treasurer.warkworth@u3a.co.nz 021 378 664

GENERAL MEETING – AUGUST 8th

Totara Park Meeting room 10.00 a.m.

Elaine Goldthorpe will give a talk on

The diversity of education in different cultural settings

sharing stories of teaching in schools and prisons.

U3A NETWORK MEETING – JULY 30th

Celebrating U3A in Action 2022

Salvation Army Church, 18 Allright Place, Mount Wellington 9.30 (for 10.00 a.m.) to 2:30 p.m.

With Judge Andrew Becroft and Dame Patsy Reddy

See – www.U3auckland.net/event

TE AO MAORI GROUP STARTS

The first meeting was held at The Oaks with Clair Winiana presenting the opening session.

ORNITHOLOGY GROUP STARTS

The inaugural meeting of the new ornithology group took place in June with a visit to the bird sanctuary located at the northern tip of the Omaha beach.

This area has been largely fenced to keep it predator free, although a wily pest might still find a way in at the extreme ends of the fence line and, according to the local guide team, also swim across from Ti Point just across the channel! However, the effect of creating a reasonably safe haven has seen the massing of several bird species. Our interest was specifically shorebirds which were in 'healthy' evidence as we took a gentle stroll around the reserve.

Of note were the NZ dotterels about which we learned heaps. For me, most notably, was the 'laying down of the myth' that these birds lacked common sense due to the fact that they build their



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nests close to the high tide mark. We were informed that dotterel chicks basically feed themselves after hatching, and therefore having the shore-line food source so close meant less risk from predators.

Another interesting fact was that shorebirds do not land (or float) on the water (unlike seabirds e.g. gulls etc). This gave me pause for thought given the incredibly long migration which the Godwits, another shorebird, undertake, with the vast expanses of ocean not an option for landing.

A great start to a new group, and thanks to Ken Cutforth our coordinator and our guides from the Omaha Shorebird Trust.

Jim Flewitt

NEW MEMBERS

Warkworth U3A welcomes:

Stephen Smythe
Steve Reid

Wayne and Julie-Anne McCarthy
Beth and Tim Chapman
Joy Paxton

REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

Art Appreciation

June was an exciting month with a full day trip north to visit Whangarei's recently opened Hundertwasser Art Centre. With our large group of 34 split in two we were treated to a 90-minute guided tour of the iconic building and its galleries. The general feedback was the need to return for a more in-depth appreciation of this amazing international artist with Whangarei having done a superb job in bringing this hard-won project to fruition. It deserves to be a winner on anyone's 'must do' list.

For July we have award winning photographer Martin Sanders speaking to us and in August Prof Willo Stear introduces us to Rock Art and Ritual: the fading images of the symbolic expressions of

pre-historic hunter-gatherers. And of course, Auckland Museum's Ancient Greeks Exhibition is on the radar for later in the year.

Berris Spicer

Jazz Listenng

Jazz Listening was one of the original groups in Warkworth U3A, and we still have members who have belonged for twenty plus years. Like all groups, we have missed meetings during COVID and now have fewer members.

At this month's meeting, we unanimously agreed to continue our monthly meetings. For some time our group has been full, but we now have room for a few more. If you are interested in being with friendly people and learning more about the many forms of jazz, come and try our group. We are fortunate to have enthusiasts and musicians who can provide a wealth of knowledge and swingalong music, including live sessions that get your toes tapping.

We meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at 2pm. In July, we will continue watching a DVD from the Ken Burns' Series, Jazz and Swing for your Pleasure, Part 2, with historical film footage. This will be followed by Bob Ward playing CDs from his own collection of the same era.

If you would like to join us, please contact Bob Ward ph 422 2363, or Val Couling ph 425 5766 or 0210513988

Val Couling

Local History

A small group gathered to hear two local residents, Maureen Young & Judy Waters share their experiences of growing up in Warkworth 1940. What a very different community it was 80 odd years ago.

The Local History group, led by Ken Cutforth, travelled to Port Albert on June 28th to explore the early settlers of that area.



The beautiful Minniesdale Chaple



Ken discovering his ancestors in Wharahine Hall

Jenni McGlashan

Music Appreciation

The Music Appreciation group event met on 9th June. The subject was Video Documentaries of two conductors; Teodor Currentis and Alondra de la Parra.

In July it is proposed to all go to the Matakana Cinema on July 31st to view the film of the Metropolitan Opera presentation of Rigoletto.

On Thursday the 11th August, Alison Coates has offered to host us at her home on the subject of Karl Jenkins the man and his music.

Mike Austin

U3A Book Talk

There were 9 of our members at our June 7 meeting at the home of Nancy Tayles in Snells Beach.

A number of the books we spoke about seemed to have in common the theme of unsatisfactory parents. Also, many of the books we shared about were by New Zealand authors. For the third time we had a member review Charlotte Grimshaw’s “The Mirror Book”, and as always this resulted in animated discussion. “Live Bodies” by Maurice

Gee brings the World War II internment camp on Soames Island to life. And Jenny Patrick’s “Harbouring” was enjoyed so much by Pam Ellender that she was going to read it again before returning it to the library.

Other books read were “interesting”, a “good read”, “intriguing”, or “a book I couldn’t put down”, as well as a couple described as “not an easy read”. As usual, we enjoyed hearing about each book and look forward to our next meeting.

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Jeanette Grimmer

Science and Climate

The SC meeting theme for July is **The Pathway to Modern Navigation and Tales of the Sea** in Totara Park meeting room on 22nd July at 2.00.p.m.

Mike Austin will be supported by Peter Kammler Other sailors with particularly interesting, exciting or amusing experiences are encouraged to convey them briefly to the meeting and are encouraged to invite any friends from the sailing community.



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Mike will draw on his long career in navigation to discuss historical methods of navigation from various cultures including Polynesian navigation. He will then outline the methods and principles of contemporary navigation and will give us his thoughts on future navigation technologies (autonomous ships?).

Ralph Cooney



What a treat Barbara's speech was. She is a direct and passionate person who spoke well with clarity and a great deal of sincerity. She gave us a real insight into the major challenges that the Pacific people are facing right now and also what is looming all too soon for them in the future. It is not a pleasant picture for these happy and loving peoples.

Thank you for a great day. Maybe I should join?

Elaine Goldthorpe.



U3A LUNCHEON AT OMAHA GOLF CLUB

When invited to join my husband, I soon met up with folk I knew from other organisations, and we were surrounded by happy chatter. The speaker was to be Barbara Dreaver of TVNZ Pacific reporter fame.

I was delighted by the dancing demonstration by the Mahurangi college pupils, recognising some of them as students who had washed cars to raise funds following the most recent Tongan disaster. I was even more pleased to see Barbara taking the time to congratulate them and encourage them to discuss their concerns for Kiribati with her.

Lunch was excellent, beautiful food and plenty of it. I must admit to struggling to hear as the acoustics were not good, but Barbara's skills as a communicator overcame that difficulty.

MINI-SPEAKERS

U3A Members are invited to offer themselves as a mini-speaker for U3A general meetings. A mini-speaker usually talks for about 5 minutes to share some aspect of their life-experience. Offers can be discussed with any member of the committee, or a short (~50 word) bio emailed to the secretary.

Your committee will also welcome offers of assistance with administrative and technical duties for making Warkworth U3A run smoothly



Warkworth U3A, Warkworth NZ
Bank Account 02-0480-0133880-00