

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Whāia te mātauranga hei oranga mō koutou**

*Seek after learning for the sake of your well-being*

What a wonderful summer we have just enjoyed! It has also been a bountiful summer with our vegetable garden producing wonderful crops, especially of tomatoes and zucchinis; our larder is full of preserves. Regular swims at Martins Bay cooled us off for the evening. We call ourselves 'dippers', while Jane Kelsey calls the Algies Bay swimmers 'bobbbers'.

All the Interest Groups are up and running and the website\* shows some stimulating programmes. Your committee has lined up some exciting Speakers for the General Meetings. Don't forget to invite friends and newcomers to join our Organisation.

Nga mihi  
Ken Cutforth  
President

### GENERAL MEETINGS

The second General Meeting of 2024 will be held at BeSoul, Gumfield Drive at 10:00 a.m. on Monday 8th April 2024. The speaker will be Prof. Jane Kelsey on the challenges of intellectuals to speak out in today's political climate.

The February general meeting was addressed by Tim Armitage, who described the multi-faceted approach of Restore Rodney to bring together the work of many volunteer groups in our area.

### 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](mailto:flewitts@xtra.co.nz).

### NEW MEMBERS

Ursula Christel, Jill Dingle, Christine Foster,  
Wendy Galvin, Diana Newcombe,  
David Stranaghan and Anne Thornton

\*<https://www.u3a.co.nz/warkworth/groups.html>

### REPORTS FROM T GROUPS

U3a members wishing to visit other interest groups should contact their convenors.

#### Art Appreciation Group

In February Nigel Swaffield gave us an interesting talk on Graffiti "Art or Anarchy". He showed us many examples of graffiti in Lisbon and Portugal and Banksy's work. Much of the "art" was in abandoned buildings with little other redeeming features. Banksy's work was challenging and full of wry humour. Most of us concluded that art is definitely in the eye of the beholder.

In March we visited the Waiheke Sculpture trail. It is a beautiful walk with amazing sculpture dotted throughout.

On April 4 we are meeting at the Bridge Club for a talk by Shirley Shirley on The Art of Bonsai. Shirley has lived in and around Warkworth since 1972 and has been a Bonsai Artist for the past 12 years; growing her own trees and also buying in some older trees. She enjoys repotting and styling trees herself and she will show us a little of the various styles currently popular that have emerged from this most ancient Chinese and Japanese art. She will bring examples to show us from her own collection. The organisers for this meeting are Prue 021 058 2138 and Sally 027 497 7745.

In May we will visit Auckland Art Gallery to see the Guo Pei Exhibition and/or the Robertson Modern Art exhibition. There is a bus organised to take us to and from the gallery.

Guo Pei exhibition. This is your last opportunity to see the breath-taking fashions from Chinese designer Guo Pei. A must-see opportunity that everyone has raved about. Free Entry for gallery members or \$20.50 for seniors.

The Robertson Gift Exhibition *Paths through Modernity* features 49 paintings, prints, drawings and sculptures, which includes gifts from New York philanthropists Julian and Josie Robertson and other recent acquisitions. This collection has

just opened and offers a broad survey of the best of late 19<sup>th</sup> to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century international art. Free entry - Organiser Julie Tuck 0275 708 151.

*Sally Wilson*

## **Book Talk Group**

We had our first meeting of 2024 on 6<sup>th</sup> February at the home of Pam Bosch in Algies Bay. Ten members attended and enjoyed catching up with each other after the summer break as well as meeting and welcoming a new member. Although Pam Ellender was not able to join us, we were delighted to hear that she will continue as a valued member of our group. And of course, as always, we enjoyed hearing members' reviews of an eclectic range of fiction and nonfiction books. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month. Our March meeting was at the home of Shirley Shirley in Warkworth. Further details available from the group convenor on 021 100 0262.

*Nancy Tayles*

## **Current Affairs Group**

We eased back into activity on 15<sup>th</sup> February with the first 2024 meeting at The Oaks. The small, but enthusiastic group enjoyed presentations and discussions on several diverse topics.

There was real disappointment at the pressure by newspapers and other media to move towards digital versions of papers and magazines, with increasing costs to subscribers to retain daily newspaper deliveries.

Facial recognition was the next subject discussed and there were various views of where we seem to be heading. We discussed how prophetic George Orwell had been in "1984" and of just how close to reality this has proved to be with "big brother" seemingly involved in everything we now do.

This highlighted a general discussion on how we handle opposing views on a range of subjects. It is inevitable that with us coming from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences there will be

occasions when we have differing views on subject material. We recognize that everyone is entitled to their own view and certainly encourage this to be dealt with in an open and honest manner.

Education, especially truancy, was our next subject and the possibility of parents being charged for their child's truancy was raised. This obviously opened the discussion and there were several views on what may or may not work in dealing with this very real and extremely important aspect of education. "Springboard" the local group now running Sheepworld was highlighted as an excellent example of managing young people with a range of difficulties and of heading them in a positive direction.

Our discussion on Sustainable Aviation Fuel highlighted a field of evolving technologies. Perhaps this topic might feed forward to the new Science and Technology group.

In the months ahead we look to introduce guest speakers from time to time, but also we encourage members to continue collecting and bringing articles that they think will be of interest. Remember how much we enjoy positive NZ research articles that give us encouragement and hope for the future.

*Alan von Tunzelman*

## **Developments in Medicine Group**

We got off to a good start in 2024. Not only did we hold a well-attended meeting in January, but we also held an interesting meeting in February, listening to one of our new members speaking about vaccination, a subject she knows well from her former employment. It's always good when speakers can draw on their personal experience.

This month's talk will touch on three different topics, including the new normal in body temperature. Homo Sapiens are still evolving, so this will really illustrate a Development in Medicine. Is it perhaps a reaction to Global Warming?

*Linda Moore*

## Exploring Poetry Group

The Exploring Poetry Group have had their first meeting of the year and spent an enjoyable time discussing the poetry of Lauris Edmond and Janet Frame. We welcomed five new members who are already adding to the conviviality and breadth of topics.

Next month, to celebrate World Poetry Day, we will be attending "*Poetry in the Pub*" at the Waiwera Sugarloaf Pub on Thursday evening 21<sup>st</sup> March (note the change of date and time). Our April meeting will be devoted to war poets in honour of Anzac Day.

*Susan Howard*

## Geology Group

In continuing with lectures on sedimentary rocks, their classification and how they were formed within their respective environments of deposition, the subject of February's monthly presentation by Dr Willo Stear was Deep Marine Sediments with specific reference to Auckland's Waitemata Basin.

Emphasis was placed on deposits produced by turbidity currents within the basin's ancient continental slope and abyssal plain some 20 million years ago. Illustrations were shown of how the different turbidity deposit types (turbidites) were formed, including a wide variety of sedimentary structures. Textbook examples of these can be viewed in local coastal cliffs and road cuttings, especially in the freshly exposed rock strata along the new Puhoi-Warkworth highway.

A field excursion to Waiwera was attended by some 26 enthusiastic members a week later, on Saturday morning 2 March.

The intrepid group, led by Willo, viewed a submarine canyon-derived mass flow deposit (debris flow deposit) and related soft sediment slump structures, as well as faults and folds in the rocks on the wave-cut platform and in the adjacent cliff face at Waiwera.



Time at the outcrops was curtailed by a rapidly incoming tide, which led to some added excitement as the group narrowly escaped having to wade through water on their return to the carpark!

On the way back to Warkworth, a pleasant coffee break and fellowship was enjoyed at the Puhoi Hotel by the bus travellers.

*Willo Stear*

## Local History Group

While Jenni and Jim are on holiday, I am happy to be the stand-in Convenor for this group. Our first meeting for 2024 saw a small group gather, including three new members. One of our members, Nancy Tayles, was our presenter. Her presentation, *The Prehistory of Tawharanui*, was complimentary to her presentation last year and was so informative and interesting.

In March Maureen Young and July Waters will be giving a talk on *Schooling in Warkworth in the 1940s and 50s*. The April meeting will be on The Early Fruit Industry. Further details from [glenyswild@gmail.com](mailto:glenyswild@gmail.com)

*Glenys Wild*

## Music Appreciation

In February we were hosted by Mary Miller when we had an excellent presentation by Murray Borthwick and his tenor horn. We learned a lot about the large collection of other brass wind instruments that he brought along and described including bugle; cornet; trumpet, flugel horn, tenor horn, cornet, and a variety of mutes.



We learned about their history, various applications and the effects of controls and construction. In different forms they are a part of orchestras, brass bands, performing at musical events. Murray is an award-winning musician. We couldn't have wished for a better guest on the subject.

Our next music appreciation meeting will be on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 2:00 p.m. hosted by Mike Austin at Matakana, on the subject of Mandolins and Mandolin Music.

Mike has an Octave Mandolin to view that is like an Irish Bouzouki. He will talk 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.

*Mike Austin*

## Ornithology Group

The Ornithology Group has almost doubled in membership this year.

In February we visited the Omaha Shorebird Sanctuary where godwits, dotterels, oystercatchers, and terns were observed.

On March 10<sup>th</sup> we visited Tawharanui Regional Park to identify bird songs as well as checking on the takahe with Roger Williams.

A full year's programme has been planned should any other members wish to link up.

*Ken Cutforth*

## Science and Technology Group

Following the closure of the very successful Science and Climate group, many members requested the establishment of a similarly focussed group to fill the gap.

An meeting was held in February to start a new group. which will explore some of the topics related to Science and Technology, in the context of environmental impacts and economics. We hope to have invited speakers as well as speakers from within the u3a membership. Discussion around the topic will be encouraged and involvement in running the group will be sought. Meetings will be on the 3rd Friday of each month at 2:00 p.m.

At the first meeting on Friday March 15th in the Southgate room (above the Warkworth hotel) Peter Kammler will lead discussion on the topic of

### **"Renewable Energy: Promise and Reality"**

Peter will go through the available non-fossil energy solutions, with a short overview of their respective advantages and disadvantages. He will shed light on the so-called hydrogen economy, and on the ill-fated Lake Onslow proposal. The crucial question is: How will all this fit together. For large, populated areas such as North America and Europe, the task is difficult but manageable. In

New Zealand we are on our own: 5 million people, moderately industrialised, and surrounded by water - all of which present additional hurdles. Peter will outline our options, and how we can make it work. One thing, however, is certain: Solutions must be driven by technology and economics, not by political statements.

*Steve Goldthorpe*

### Writing Group

Alison Coates led the inaugural meeting of five u3a members to discuss how we might arrange our activities considering what other u3a groups do. Some members shared short examples of their writing. It was decided to meet monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 2:00 p.m.

The group's challenge for the next meeting is to each write a 500-word personal story to share with the group.

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact the Convenor at [aecoates27@gmail.com](mailto:aecoates27@gmail.com)

*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

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

Good to see people have a basic understanding of how railroads work....

*(Let me know when you stop laughing!)*



**“Vaping”  
back in  
my day.**



Contributions (including funnies) to the May 2024 u3a newsletter with stories of events and future plans will be welcome by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

*Steve Goldthorpe – newsletter editor*