



Learning is forever WARKWORTH

Bi-monthly Bulletin — November 2023

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Me mahi tahi tatou mo te oranga o te
**We should work together for the
wellbeing of everyone**

It has been an interesting few months! The election results have seen one Chris replacing the other with my old Training College buddy Winston back in the mix. Fossy has been replaced by Razor after the Springboks deservedly won the Rugby World Cup. Mother Nature has smashed into Snells Beach and Scandretts Regional Park chewing off metres of beach frontage. The Israeli - Palestine war has claimed 9,000 lives to date, and the Russia - Ukraine conflict continues to rumble on.

Sometimes I think we live in a Fools' Paradise! My Illam Hardy's are flowering, barbecues are in vogue, and my swimming shorts are ready for action.

Our Committee have been working hard to have a top quality speaker for our December meeting followed by a Christmas spread and entertainment. I see our Interest Groups winding down for the year. Thanks to the Convenors for their mahi over the year.

Wishing all our members a wonderful summer.

Nga mihi nui

Ken Cutforth

President

GENERAL MEETING

Monday 11th December 2023

AGM and General Meeting at

BeSoul, Gumdigger Place, 10.00 a.m.

The guest speaker for this U3A General Meeting is Brian Wright, Chairman of the local Citizens' Advice Bureau. This end of year gathering will have a seasonal theme with refreshments. It is for all Warkwork U3A members. There is no charge or koha for U3A general meetings.

AGM

The 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Warkworth U3A will be held at 10.00 a.m. on Monday 11th December 2023 at BeSoul, 3/12 Gumdigger Place, Warkworth.

Nominations for positions on the committee must be received by the Secretary on or before 4th December 2023. secretary.warkworth@u3a.co.nz
Positions will be filled by vote of the members present at the AGM on 11th December 2023.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The membership year runs from November 1st. The annual subscription is \$20 for a single member or \$35 joint membership for a couple.

NEW MEMBERS

Warkworth U3A welcomes: -

James and Sheryll Keane, Karlene Lucas
Derek Olsen, Richard Speirs, Schalk Von Wyk,
Adrienne and David Wright

Name badges will be at the General Meeting.

FUTURE SPEAKERS

U3A members have a wealth of friends and contacts. Some might be willing to share their experience and knowledge with our community. The committee would welcome suggestions of guest speakers for our bi-monthly general meetings. If you have an idea, please let our secretary Jim Flewitt (flewitts@xtra.co.nz) know.

REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

Book Reading Group

2023 has been an interesting and informative year for our group. Members are of course avid readers, but the variety of books reviewed has been very wide, both in fiction and non-fiction, with many New Zealand books being discussed. We meet in members' homes. Our new Convenor for 2024 will be Nancy Tayles 021 100 0262.

Pam Ellender retiring Convenor



Learning is forever WARKWORTH

Bi-monthly Bulletin — November 2023

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

Current Affairs Group

The Gaza situation received quite some coverage with several presentations detailing a range of views on this extremely unpleasant happening. Next to be covered was the results of the Australian "Voice" referendum, and some negative comments relating to Australia targeting experienced NZ professionals in Medicine, Education, Police and other experienced specialist staff - Not cricket. We finished with three interesting research subjects underway in New Zealand. There are very high hopes that a Malaria Vaccine study will be successful. Early indications are very positive. An Otago Medical School research project is aiming to unlock hope in the treatment of Alzheimer's by using mice to chart the progression of the disease and seek ways of reducing the plaque levels in the mice brains to reduce or eliminate the progression of the disease. The third subject was also from Otago University in which the study of the DNA sequencing of possums can help in both the eradication and also the preservation of possums. Possums are very polarising with them being loved and protected in Australia and hunted as a pest in New Zealand. DNA sequencing can lead in directions that should enable science to modify the chemical communication between possums to either enhance the reduction in populations or to advance population re-establishment.

Our meetings are on the third Thursday of each month, generally at the Oaks Board room at 2.00pm everyone is very welcome.

Alan Von Tunzelman

Exploring Poetry Group

The September meeting discussed the Beat poets at Derek Olsen's place.

The October meeting was held at The Oaks with Peter Chapman's choice of the works of James K. Baxter. A good attendance discussed the plays, articles but mainly the poetry influenced in part by his Otago upbringing and later at the Jerusalem site.

We will arrange future dates on the return from overseas of our convenor.

Sue Howard

Geology Group

The relatively newly formed Geology Group has been growing steadily over the year, with a current membership of some 40 active participants. Our series of monthly presentations have, to date, focussed primarily on the geological history of New Zealand, with specific reference to the geology of Northland and the Mahurangi region. However, we have also covered topics ranging from the characteristics of volcanoes to what geology tells us about climate change.

The group has undertaken two field trips to examine coastal outcrops, respectively at Matheson Bay and Goat Island (when weather and tides permitted), with further excursions planned for early next year to Waiwera and elsewhere within our region. We are fortunate to be able to accompany renowned New Zealand research geologist, marine ecologist and author, Bruce Hayward, on a guided field excursion to explore the sedimentary rock sequence and structures south of Omaha beach towards the end of November.

Our programme of lectures for 2024 will include further presentations on volcanoes, with reference to New Zealand's different types of volcanoes, their eruptive styles and resultant rock formations. A series of lectures on sedimentary rocks, their respective environments of deposition and the distinguishing sedimentary structures that formed under different conditions of water, wind or ice movement will also be presented, with a particular emphasis on the rocks outcropping in our region.

Dr Ian Smith, retired professor of geology at Auckland University, has provided valuable professional content for our group and will continue to assist me with lectures and field trips in the foreseeable future.

Willo Stear



Jazz Listening Group

The Jazz Listening Group was one of the original groups formed when U3A first began in Warkworth. With this area being a base for retired musicians we have been fortunate to have heard and listened to many stories and beautiful music, as well as learning a lot about jazz and life. Like many groups, since Covid we have lost members from our group. The little jazz band who played for many U3A functions has changed several times over, but I am delighted to say it is still going strong. For our final meeting of the year, our new line-up in the band will play for the first time at Val Couling's home in Algies Bay. We would like this to be an open home to anyone who may be interested to join, or just come and listen and meet our group members. Group members are also encouraged to bring partners or friends. To suit band members, the date has been changed to Tuesday, 21st November at 2pm. For more information and to help with catering please text or ring Val on 021 051 3988.

Val Couling

Local History Group

The membership of the Local History Group has increased to 20, although not all are active. As convenor, I researched & collated the history of topics covered since the inception of the group in 2009. Only 3 of the original group remain, me being one of those.

As the majority are new members, we are revisiting previously explored topics so an understanding and appreciation is gained of the community we now live in.

We are very appreciative of having the use of The Oaks boardroom and for the use of the big screen. Many of our members have been introduced to PowerPoint to present their research, a double learning curve.

The last meeting this year for the Local History group will be a lunch meeting to be held at 11.30am, Sheep World in support of Springboard.

At this meeting there will be an opportunity for members to elect the convenor for the following year and to plan the programme for 2024.



This photo shows a few Local History members who are enjoying an insight into the evolving Dairy Industry in the district, presented by Pat Habrie, which was her first ever PowerPoint presentation.

Jenni McGlashan

Science and Climate Group

The final Science and Climate Group meeting will be held at the Tahiri Bar on Friday December 1st at 2.00 p.m. as an end of year party.

Alistair Noakes who is winemaker for the new Matakana Winery "October 30" will be the guest speaker and also the cider maker for the Bohemian Cider brand at Puhoi will be there.

Ralph Cooney

The Science and Climate Group members are very grateful to Ralph and Anne Cooney for the very interesting programme of talks and discussions that they have arranged over the last few years. Anyone who is interested in taking these topics in a new direction should approach any committee member.

Contributions to the January U3A newsletter with stories of end of year events and plans for 2024 will be welcome by 8th January 2024.

Steve Goldthorpe – newsletter editor

