



*Learning is forever* **WARKWORTH**

**Bi-monthly Bulletin — September 2023**

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

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

He puna wai, He puna kai, he puna reo,  
He puna ora, ita - a - ita

A water spring, a bountiful spring,  
a language spring, a life spring -  
Hold Fast

The arrival of spring has lifted the spirits of everyone. It's so nice to be able to step on the grass without wearing gumboots! My volunteering at Scandretts Regional Park is made more pleasant as I do the lambing beat. The feedback from the presentation by Springboard has been extremely positive. Thanks to all members that filled in the Survey forms; the Committee will be considering the findings at our next meeting. Two new Committee members have been appointed: Lorraine Nelson and Doug Lowe, and we look forward to their contributions.

Membership Convenor, Alison Coates organised members to be rostered on U3A Warkworth's stands at the well-attended Snells Beach community event in the old Warehouse, and also at the senior Expo at Wellsford. There was lots of interest in our organisation and we may have some new recruits. Remember the best way to attract new members is by word of mouth.

Ma te wa

*Ken Cutforth*

President

### GENERAL MEETING

**Monday 9th October – General Meeting  
at Be Soul, Gumdigger Place, 10.00 a.m.**

Note the new General Meeting Venue

The guest speaker for this U3A general meeting is Robert Fisher KC who will be speaking on the topic of his recent NZ Herald article "*In reality, New Zealand is already a republic*" which outlines his take on New Zealand's constitutional status. There is no charge or koha for U3A general meetings.

### NEW MEMBERS

Warkworth U3A welcomes: -

Trish Allen, Stephen Luketina, Nicola McLeod, Ann Murphy, Marion and Robin Ransom, Debbie Rimerman, David Stone, Ruth and Alan Wagstaff.  
Name badges will be at the General Meeting.

Thanks to Ken and Miriam Cutforth, Lorraine Martin, Geoff Ward, Craig Rickit, Glenda Came, Barbara Leslie and Alison Coates for representing Warkworth U3A at the Snells Beach Community night on 18th August and the Seniors Expo in Wellsford on 19th August.

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

### REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

#### Art Appreciation group

Our August meeting heard about the Art of Floristry from Lynn Gumm, who has had a fascinating work life, initially for the well-known Berin Spiro, then as a director of Interflora, floristry teacher and international judge.

This month we were welcomed to Deborah Moss' Art Studio at Wainui. Most interesting to hear where her inspiration comes from and how she works in her large, light filled studio, and always on several pieces at any one time.

For our October 5th meeting we will hear from Judy Wood, a well-known local potter and member of our group, talking about her work. This will be 10 am. at Warkworth Bridge Club, Alnwick St.

*Berris Spicer*



## Book Talk Group

A journey to the edge of Europe; the story of two sisters in Oxford England during the First World War and a story about the painter Goya were just some of the subjects discussed at our August meeting. We also heard members' thoughts on two books on Maori-Pakeha relationships.

Another challenging meeting giving much food for thought and interesting reading.

*Pam Ellender*

## Developments in Medicine Group

The Medicine Group has kept busy this year, with talks on such varied topics as car t cells, Maori medicine, the Gut-Brain connection, and a history of prosthetics, malaria vaccines and strokes punctuated by a visit to the medical Museum in Whangarei, and two BYO sessions, where every member brings along a short piece to share with others. These sessions are always particularly popular.

Our next meeting is a BYO on September 28th at 2:00 pm at my home in Snells Beach. All welcome. Ph 425 4959.

*Linda Moore*

## Exploring Poetry Group

Members of The Exploring Poetry Group met at Matakana Market Kitchen on Wednesday 16th August, where they learned more about the lives and poetry of two of New Zealand's earliest women poets, Jessie Mackay and Blanche Baughan.

*Susan Howard*

## Geology Group visits Goat Island

Under the sunny morning sky of the last Saturday in August, twenty-two members of the Geology Group, led by convenor Dr Willo Stear, undertook a field excursion by bus to examine the coastal rock outcrops beneath the Marine Discovery Centre at Goat Island. The field trip is the second of a planned series of excursions to familiarise

participants with the geology of the Mahurangi Region (i.e. the area between Auckland and Whangarei).

The perfect weather and low tide enabled the group to leisurely amble across the wave-cut platform while inspecting the sedimentary rock strata below and above it. This site is geologically similar to that at Matheson Bay, visited earlier this year, where the basal deposits of the 800m thick Waitemata Group of sedimentary rocks are particularly well exposed. Known as the Kawau Subgroup, these interbedded layers of shallow marine sediments represent 20-million-year-old ancient beach and subtidal conglomerates and sandstones.



Members of the Geology Group inspecting the coastal rock outcrops below Goat Island's Marine Discovery Centre.



Willo indicates the geological contact between the bioturbated sandstone and the overlying conglomerate.

At Goat Island, a gritty conglomerate deposit containing fossilised shell fragments forms the prominent Cape Rodney Formation unit onto which the wave-cut platform was bevelled, and which continues along the adjacent cliff face below the Centre. Beneath the conglomerate is a coarse-grained, grey coloured sandstone unit with interbedded, thin lenses of fine grained, whitish



sandstone that are heavily bioturbated in places - meaning that there is abundant trace fossil evidence of sediment-ingesting marine organisms that burrowed into the tidal sands all those millions of years ago.

The participants then examined the deep marine turbidites of the Warkworth Subgroup exposed in the cliff faces westward along the shoreline towards Pakiri Beach. Immediately overlying the shallow marine conglomerates, these cyclically alternating layers of sandstone, siltstone and mudstone, comprising the Pakiri Formation, are the products of countless turbidity currents that flowed down submarine canyons over a period of more than a million years, transporting and then depositing sediments in the deep waters of the Waitemata Basin.

*Willo Stear*

### **Interesting Plants Group**

This new group is thoroughly enjoying our meetings in the Oaks Board room on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10am. We grab a coffee from The Secret Cafe under the Oaks and have a show-and-tell time while we drink.



One member brought along a hand of home-grown bananas as well as the huge flower. Another brought a deep red Magnolia flower. Sometimes we have an interesting article from a book or paper.

The subjects have varied from Flower Myths and Legends, to Plants Grown in the Arctic Zone. In August we will discuss NZ Native Plants used for Medicine.

*Shirley Shirley*

### **Local History Group**

Our numbers are growing, which is very pleasing.

Our meeting in June was attended by 12 members to hear a very interesting account of the Warkworth Police Constable Robertson, who was a highly respected constable and served a very large area singlehanded, with sound but sympathetic policing. Unfortunately, he didn't quite make his much-anticipated retirement to a cottage in Orewa, having had a heart attack which took his life.

July meeting, attended by 15, gathered to learn of Maori prisoners of war who were incarcerated on a hulk off Kawau Is. It was thought to be a very secure location being surrounded by water. However, through cunning and organisation there was a great and mass escape one night, assisted by onshore collaborators who set up a beacon for navigation in the dead of night. Although all oars were locked up at night for security, spades & shovels used for work by the prisoners during the day were not, and these became paddles. No alarm was raised until the delivery of breakfast by guards to the vessel in the morning to discover the prison vessel empty.

August meeting was held in St John Ambulance rooms where Dr Warwick Palmer was able to give a history of The Order of St John to this district. Although established in 1935, the first ambulance arrived in 1958 after much fundraising through social functions such as Ambulance Ball, Debutant Ball etc. Initially all assistance was by volunteers which is not the case today. The service is considerably changed due mainly to Health & Safety regulations.

Today the service has 8 drivers, is funded 80% by Government and 20% charges and charity. The ambulance station, where it is at present, was opened in 2005.

All members are enthusiastic to learn of the establishment of the community they now call home. It is with a greater appreciation, and



acknowledgement of all the volunteer hours by many who have created the town and surrounds in which we live.

The group usually meet in the Oaks Board room at 1:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

*Jenni McGlashan*

### Ornithology Group

For our August meeting, we each selected two species to research and shared our findings.

An interesting aspect of ‘drilling down’ into the behaviours of a specific bird type is the opportunity for wider discussion on what influences drive certain behaviours, and the impact of environmental change upon these.

A classic example we drew upon was the absence of mammalian predators in pre-human Aotearoa, which basically resulted in a large portion of our native bird population giving up on flying (very energy consuming) and reverting to life on the ground. The question that this evolutionary development raises is whether, given enough time, some species would ‘re-evolve’ their flight capability to meet the changed environment which introduced predators have brought about.

Our September meeting was a visit to the Omaha Bird Sanctuary to watch the behaviour of Dotterels and Godwits. In October, we will be visiting Tiritiri Matangi Island.

*Jim Flewitt*

### Science and Climate Group

SC Meeting on the 15 September 2-4 pm at BeSoul Magnolia Room, will be a talk, “Climate Crisis: Grounds for Hope!” Speaker Prof Ralph Cooney.

SC meeting on the first of December will be a Christmas event at the Tahi Bar with Alistair Noakes who is winemaker for the new Matakana Winery “October 30” as speaker.

*Ralph Cooney*

### WARKWORTH U3A INTEREST GROUPS

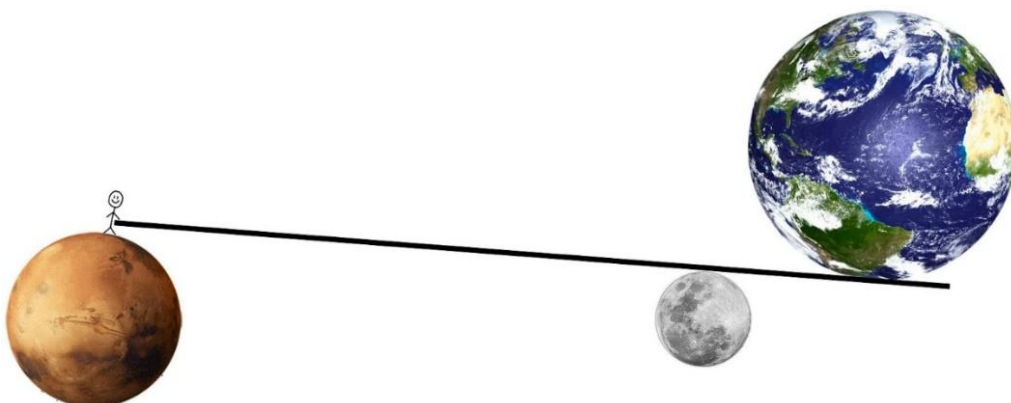
Book Talk	1st Tuesday am
Art Appreciation	1st Thursday
Ornithology/Bird watching	2nd Wednesday
Music Appreciation	2nd Thursday pm
Jazz Listening	3rd Monday pm
Interesting plants	3rd Wednesday am
Exploring Poetry	3rd Wednesday pm
Current Affairs	3rd Thursday pm
Science and Climate	3rd Friday pm
Local History	4th Tuesday pm
Developments in Medicine	4th Thursday pm
Geology	4th Friday pm

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Warkworth U3A, Warkworth NZ

Bank Account 02-0480-0133880-00



“Give me a place to stand on, and a lever long enough, and I will move the earth.”- Archimedes ~220 BC