

U3A Wellington City

NEWSLETTER No78

MAY 2010

U3A Wellington City Inc. PO Box 24529, Manners Street, Wellington 6142
www.u3awellingtoncity.org.nz

A Message from the President of U3A Wellington City

Kia ora.

As I write this, the sea fog is receding into a lovely sunny autumn day. We have certainly had an Indian summer-autumn with clear evidence in the gardens and lawns. My lawn is cracking in places and the grass has forgotten to grow. But there are still zinnias and petunias to brighten the garden and provide for the butterflies. I am hopeful, too, that a few lettuces will make it the table. As many of you are aware, I have spent much of the last two months in thigh length waders assessing the health of swamps and smelly ponds. During one coffee break I went to the Robert Harris Cafe at Coastlands and saw a bidding to smile that I thought I would share with you.: *Smile. It's easy to find a reason: Hole in a sock. A kiss on the cheek. Bad hair day. Two left feet. Courteous driver. A song on the radio. Resisting chocolate. 5.00pm. Spread a little happiness.*

U3A has had an excellent start of the year. The lecture programme has been well attended and the experts sharing their topics with us outstanding and stimulating. Study groups are also well underway and several have had open days. What a marvelous idea that has been.

Just a comment about the lectures though. They are meant to stimulate discussion and questions and so it is proper for members to offer well-informed comment from the floor. However, please keep it short and to the point. U3A is about learning from one another and this is one facet of that. We need to be both tolerant and supportive at the same time. All of which is to say that comment is as welcome as questions. AND further, talking of lectures, do you have a topic you would like to share with us? We have so much talent that it would be great to gather some of it into the programme. If you would like to contribute in 2011, please let Sarah Burrows know.

The AGM is in September. There will be two vacancies on the committee. It would be great if some of you could offer yourselves to assist in the running of our organisation. No commitment can be longer than 5 years according to the constitution but it can be shorter. So please think about this. The nomination forms will be on the website. If you have any agenda items for the AGM, please let Secretary, Val Ferguson know.

Also on the website are the subscription renewal reminders and the three methods of paying. The preferred method is by bank account, but some of us may prefer snail mail or the box at the lectures. All methods are fine, and require identification with name and phone number. In return, you will receive a green membership card. *Karen Palmer.*

Renewal of Subscriptions

For the year 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011

U3A Wellington City Inc.
PO Box 24529
Manners Street
Wellington 6142

Membership subscriptions are due for renewal by 30 June 2010.

You are reminded that:

The rate for Single membership is \$12 pa
The rate for Double membership is \$18 pa

To renew your membership, please pay the required amount
in any of the following ways:

- i) by cheque to the address above (with ID*)
- ii) by paying (with ID*) via the internet banking service directly to our Westpac account in the name of "U3A Wellington City Incorporated" 03 1540 0009019-01
- iii) by paying with cheque (preferably) or cash, when attending lectures

***ID: In all cases please give your full name and phone number.**

NB: If you already have a green card, you are not required to pay anything further until May/June 2011.

Warwick Hill
Membership Secretary

[Apologies for any errors, the lack of a final proofread, and the rough appearance of newsletter but the editor's Microsoft Publisher played up as newsletter was nearly finished! Laurie Atkinson]

Lecture Programme

July – November 2010

Friday July 23

Cooking the Planet : The Economics and Politics of Climate Change

Professor Jonathan Boston is Director of the Institute of Policy Studies, School of Government at VUW. Climate change represents one of the more serious challenges currently facing humanity. Professor Boston will consider the recent debate over the economics of climate change mitigation. The recent changes in New Zealand's policy settings will also be explored. In particular, why does New Zealand now prefer to be a climate change 'laggard' rather than an international leader?

Tuesday July 27

An Absence of Occidentals: Thoughts on Asian Cities in the 21st Century

Dr Malcolm McKinnon is a Wellington historian and international relations expert. He is currently a researcher at VUW. He has written extensively on New Zealand's relations with Asia, including *Immigrants and Citizens : New Zealanders and Asian Immigration in a Historical Context* (1996) In this talk Malcolm describes his research in a number of Asian cities in which Westerners are few and far between, and assesses the significance of such an absence.

Friday July 30

Out of Sight out of Mind?

Helen Kettles is a marine ecologist with the Wellington - Hawke's Bay Conservancy of the Department of Conservation. Her role is to provide regional information, support and advice. Helen's talk will cover what is special about the Wellington marine environment and why it matters. She will give some suggestions on what you can do to look after it. Part of her talk will present a new interactive CD-ROM marine information resource she has developed for the region.

Tuesday August 3

Religions in New Zealand: Dialogue, Diversity, Directions

Professor Paul Morris is in the Religious Studies Department at VUW. He has a particular interest in religions in New Zealand. In his talk Professor Morris will explore the religions of New Zealanders, including Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Judaism and Maori Ritenga, focusing on the implications of our increasing religious diversity.

Friday August 6

Albatrosses on my Doorstep

Chris Robertson is an ornithologist. He was involved in the Atlas Scheme for the Ornithologist Society and co-authored 'An Atlas of Bird Distribution in NZ 1999- 2004.' Chris will discuss and illustrate the world of albatrosses and mollymawks from taxonomy to lifestyle, and nesting area to autopsy table. The birds wide - ranging lifestyle can expose them to the effects of climatic events, fishing practices, predators at nesting sites and increasing tourism.

Tuesday August 10

Investigations of Electronic Crime

Maarten Kleintjes is the National Manager of the Electronic Crime Laboratory, New Zealand Police. His specializations include electronic evidence recovery and electronic surveillance. As a software developer he has produced a number of investigative and computer security tools currently in use by a large number of investigators around the world

Friday August 13

Golden Wool – Nanoscience Adds Value to NZ Wool

Professor Jim Johnston has a Personal Chair in Chemistry at VUW. His research interests are concerned with the development of innovative new materials and chemical process technologies utilising nanoscience and nanotechnology. He works closely with New Zealand and international industries in these developments. In an exciting development the nanoscience of gold is combined with NZ merino wool to produce a suite of innovative new products of different colours - high value textiles, premium carpets and international fashion apparel.

Tuesday August 17

By Fire, Rocks, and Ice: Hazards of Nineteenth Century Ship Travel to New Zealand

Ken Scadden is the former Director of the Wellington Maritime Museum /Museum of Wellington City and Sea. He is President of the Maritime Archaeological Association of New Zealand and is a freelance Heritage Consultant specialising in Museums and Archives. He has recently co-authored a book on the wreck of the General Grant on the Auckland Islands.



Friday August 20

Graduate Students' Research Projects

Two postgraduate students who are at present working on interesting research projects will discuss their findings and possible future developments. More details later.

Tuesday August 24

'A Tortuous and Ungodly Jumble'

How can we Make the Law Easier to Read and Understand?"

Professor John Burrows QC is a Law Commissioner and a former Professor of Law at the University of Canterbury. One of his particular interests is the drafting and enactment of Acts of Parliament. This lecture on the language and structure of the law asks what has been done, and what could be done, to make the law more accessible to us all.

Friday August 27

Reserves and Walkways Development via Policy

David Halliday is Walkways and Reserves Officer for Wellington City Council.

David will discuss the guiding policies for the development of Wellington Council reserves and walkways. He takes a look at the policy background, and consultation and implementation plans, including constraints on policy implementation such as opposition to particular works and budgetary restraints.

Tuesday August 31

The Disputes Tribunal: the Work it Does and Where it Fits into the Legal Process.

Judge Peter Spiller is the Principal Disputes Tribunal Referee, and oversees the operation of the Disputes Tribunals in New Zealand. Judge Spiller taught law for 31 years and was a Professor of Law at Waikato University.

Friday September 3

Who are the Russian Mennonites?

Dr James Urry, a graduate of the University of London and Oxford University, is a Reader in Anthropology at VUW. His books include *None But Saints: the Transformation of Mennonite Life in Russia, 1789 – 1889* and *Mennonites, Politics and Peoplehood, Europe – Russia – Canada*. Mennonites are a religious group whose origins lie in the Reformation of Western Europe. Today their descendants still exist in Europe but are mainly spread through the Americas: Canada, Mexico, Belize, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay

and Uruguay.

Tuesday September 7

The Greenwoods at home and abroad

Tony Mackle is the long-serving Collection Manager of Prints and Drawings at Te Papa. In 1843 Dr John Danforth Greenwood and family emigrated to New Zealand and settled in Motucka. The talk will centre around a painting of a family member they brought with them, John Singleton Copley's painting of Mrs Humphrey Devereux. The painting was donated to the National Art Collection in 1965 and is one of the most important paintings in the collection.

Friday September 10

New Zealand's Role in the Reconstruction of Afghanistan's Bamyán Province.

Lt Col. Bob Campbell is a member of the New Zealand Defence Force. Bamyán is one of the central provinces of Afghanistan, and is located in what is known as the central highlands region. The estimated population is 500,000 people, and perhaps 100,000 of these live in Bamyán city and surrounding area.

Tuesday September 14

Living in Ancient Greece: Part 1

Dr Matthew Trundle is a Senior Lecturer in the Classics Department at VUW. He has given a number of very popular lectures to U3A members. Matthew will explore what life was like in the ancient Greek community, especially in Classical Athens, for ordinary Greeks.

Friday September 17

U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed by

What has Happened to the Tree of Life?

Dr Bob Brockie is an Honorary Research Associate at VUW. He has been a cartoonist and a science columnist for Wellington's Dominion Post since 2001.

The Tree of Life in science describes the relationships of all life on earth in an evolutionary context. Today's Tree looks rather different from the first one drawn by Ernst Haeckel in the 1860s. Haeckel was the first great popularizer of Darwin's theory of evolution and the first to sug-

gest that the ancestry of humans was among the Great Apes.

Tuesday September 21

Living in Ancient Greece: Part 2

Dr Matthew Trundle is a Senior Lecturer Classics Department at VUW. Matthew will explore what life was like in the ancient Greek community, especially in Classical Athens, for ordinary Greeks.

Spring Holidays

[September 2 - October 11]

Friday October 15

“South Africa – A Personal Perspective”

Michael Hodgen is a South African born lawyer who came to New Zealand some years ago. He is a practising lawyer and a member of the Refugee Status Appeals Authority, New Zealand.

Michael Hodgen will talk of growing up, living and working in South Africa during a period of historic changes. He will discuss his youth in Rivonia made famous by the trial of top ANC members, including Nelson Mandela. Michael will also describe an inquiry he headed into the abduction and murder of four ANC activists during the early 1990's.

Tuesday October 19

“Hey! Stop that! What on earth d’you think you’re playing at?”

Antonia Forest, the Danger of Fantasy and Other Matters.

Associate Professor Harry Ricketts has given many lectures to U3A over the years. He lectures in the School of English, Film, Theatre and Media Studies at VUW. He is an author, biographer (Kipling), poet, broadcaster, and book and theatre reviewer.

Professor Ricketts will talk on Antonia Forest (1915-2003) and her role in children's literature. Born of part Russian-Jewish and Irish parents, she grew up in Hampstead, London. Most of her books are concerned with the Marlow family, an ancient landed family whose patriarch is a Navy Commander (later Captain), and whose 6 daughters (out of 8 children in all) all go to Kingscote School for Girls, a boarding school where all the Marlow books are set. After many years out of print, her books have recently been returned to the public eye with reprints by Faber.

Friday October 22

Food Allergy : is Skin-deep so Superficial After All?

Dr Elizabeth Forbes, is a post – doctoral Research Fellow at the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research. She is investigating food allergies.

Dr Forbes will bring us up to date on her latest findings on food allergies and the influence they have on other allergic diseases like asthma.

Labour Weekend October 25

Friday October 29

Catching Crooks and Fighting Felons

Trevor Morley was a Detective in the NZ Police Force from 1961 – 1977, and since leaving the Police has been a licensed private investigator and security consultant. His assignments have taken him to such diverse countries as Samoa and Cambodia, Ireland and the Netherlands. He was made an ANZAC Fellow (1983) by the Australian Federal Government and a Churchill Fellow (2001) by the NZ Government. Trevor will speak about his experiences as a Detective in the Police and as a private sector investigator, and present his own views and opinions on law and order covering 45 years of “ crook catching”.

Tuesday November 2

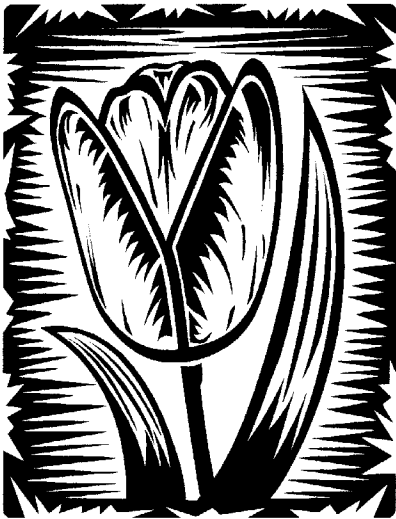
Youth ,Alcohol and Drugs.

Murray Trenberth is Director of WellTrust, a youth (aged 10-19 years) alcohol and drug support service for the greater Wellington area. WellTrust is mainly funded by the District Health Board. Murray was formerly Principal of Taita College. Murray will describe his work as head of a team of 13 counsellors working with troubled youth who are often addicted to marijuana and alcohol.



A Warm Welcome
to the following new U3A members

Jenny Berry; Jeni Bryant; Peter Bush & Jane Winnie; Peter & Navina Cooper; Neill Cooper; Colin Craigie; Shirley Day; Annette Gazley; Judith Gill; Violet Gooch; Gloria Hastings; Peter Hatfield & Suzanne Blumhardt; Geoff Honey; Lynne Jackson; Lynne Jackson; Elizabeth Johnstone; Margaret Ledgerton; Gwen Levick; Neville Lockett; Laurie Lord; Michael Lynch; Jennette McCaw; Edward McGuinniety & Diane Morcon; Liz Martin; Stuart & Allison Nicol; Renee O'Shaughnessy; Max & Robin Parnham; John & Alison Pearce; Grant & Heather Quin; June Saban; Olaf & Isobel Simpson; Sheila Stapleton; Ann Sturman; Jillian Wellings; Jim Yates; Janet Young.



STUDY GROUPS

The **Music Group** held a successful Open Day last month, presenting an enjoyable and varied programme to visitors and members.

New convenors have been appointed to the **Literature Club** and the **Poetry Group**. Both are now accepting new members. Convenor for the Literature Club, which meets on the last Friday of the month at 2pm in members' homes, is Jenny Lane phone 499 2259, or jennyl@clear.net.nz

Convenor for the Poetry Group, which meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm in members' homes, is Joan Jarden phone 384 5119 or joanej@xtra.co.nz

Contact person for the **Art History Group** is now Janice Huddleston phone 972 0404 or janhud@paradise.net.nz

As only four members showed interest in joining a Fitness Group, this will not go ahead. However, Cityfitness Centre in Thorndon Quay may introduce the Lite Pace programme for seniors which it runs in its Johnsonville gym, later this year.



U3A: July Outings

i) Malagan Institute: Tuesday 6 July, 10am – 11am. No charge but please give the Malagan Institute a donation on the day if appropriate. As the Malagan is difficult to find we will meet at 9-45 am at the bus stop just past the traffic lights on the left hand side of Kelburn Parade, directly in front of the Easterfield Building, and we will be escorted by a staff member to the Malagan. **8 places available only.**

(ii) Times Cinema, 191 Sutherland Rd, Lyall Bay: Thursday 8th July 10-30am. Morning Tea will be served at 10-30am, followed by short feature films, lunch and the main film. The film “A Man for All Seasons” starring Sir Paul Scofield has been requested with “For Whom the Bell Tolls” and “84 Charing Cross Rd” (starring Antony Hopkins) as substitutes. The main film will be announced early June. **Cost \$20 p.p.-** includes morning tea, lunch and the films. **Names and money to Rosemary Ralston by Friday 2 July please.**

(iii) Supreme Court Tour: Friday 9 July,

10-30 am.

Meet in foyer of the Supreme Court, 85 Lambton Quay Wellington. Please note that large bags are **not** allowed and there is no storage for them in the Supreme Court building. A small bag is permitted. You should obtain a copy of the other security requirements from Rosemary Ralston. **Limit 30 people. No charge.**

(iv) Tour of the new Bank of New Zealand Building and Museum: Tuesday 13 July, 10am.

Please assemble in the reception area of the Bank of New Zealand, Harbour Quays, 60 Waterloo Quay, Pipitea. The reception area is up the escalator to level 1. There is car parking at the north end of the building (but often full!). This visit will be a tour of some parts of the new building, an explanation of it's architectural and 'state of the art' ecco features, some of the Bank's well known art collection and a visit to the Bank's museum. The museum has stories and interactive displays of the gold rush days, early bank notes and coins, and provides a unique view of how NZ has evolved socially and financially. **Limit 30 people. No charge.**

If you have registered for a visit but circumstances change and you cannot attend, please advise Rosemary Ralston.

Please register with Rosemary Ralston for each of these visits.

You can do this by phoning

4796500 or

e-mail her at

srralston@actrix.co.nz

or

by enrolling at each lecture in June. Please make any cheques

payable to

U3A Wellington City Inc.

U3A Mid Winter Lunch
Tuesday 29th June, Grand Dining Room,
Wellesley Boutique Hotel, 2-8 Maginnity St,
Wellington. **Cost: \$30 p.p. to be paid by noon**
Time: 11-30am for 12 noon.
Friday 25th June. A glass of wine, fruit juice or mineral water will be served on arrival, thereafter a cash bar will operate.

The guest speaker is Simon Woolf.

2010 is the fiftieth anniversary of Woolf Photography in Wellington and to celebrate this anniversary the title of Simon's address is "50 Years and Progressing". Simon's presentation will be both informative and entertaining and he will also talk about some of the celebrated events and people photographed by Woolf Photography.

Register with Rosemary Ralston You can do this by phoning 4796500, or e-mail srralston@actrix.co.nz or by registering prior to each lecture in June. Names and money must be in by noon on 25th June.

<u>U3A WELLINGTON CITY INC</u>			
<u>Committee Members 2009</u>			
Karen Palmer (President)	176 Barnard Street, Wadestown	4991381	katyp@xtra.co.nz
Val Fergusson (Secretary)	18 Upland Road, Kelburn 6012	4757424	upland@paradise.net.nz
Warwick Hill (Membership Sec.)	64 Wade Street, Wadestown	4735560	diwahill@nettel.net.nz
Shona Spencer (Treasurer)	2/11 Upland Road, Kelburn 6012	9708170	mspencer@paradise.net.nz
Laurie Atkinson	9 Westhill Road, Point Howard, Lower Hutt	5685883	westhill@globe.net.nz
Neville Beach	P.O.Box 13-138, Johnsonville.	4789561	nbb@strand.com
Sarah Burrows	83c Hill Street, Thorndon	4996299	s.burrows@xtra.co.nz
Rosemary Ralston	15 Homebush Road, Khandallah. 6035	4796500	srralston@actrix.co.nz
Rodger Sparks	44 Spencer Street, Crofton Downs	9388155	Rodger.sparks@paradise.net.nz
Gaynor Stewart	196B The Terrace, Wellington, 6011	4940102	gaynorstewart@hotmail.com