



April 2015

[www.u3abayofislands.wordpress.com](http://www.u3abayofislands.wordpress.com)

U3A Bay of Islands, PO Box 833, Kerikeri 0245

U3A.Bay.of.Islands@gmail.com

## From the President

I am sure that many members are delighted with the Black Caps' skill on the cricket pitch and are anticipating a thrilling final in Melbourne.

Along with the members of the committee, I am looking forward to the Facilitators' Meeting on the 11th of April. This is our opportunity to say "Thank You" for their continuing hard work and support, without which U3A Bay of Islands could not exist. The facilitators will also have a chance to let us know the things we could be doing to make their role easier.

The General Meeting should be a cracker. Elizabeth Forgie, the much lauded Principal of Kerikeri High School, will talk on changes in education, a subject of great interest to the numerous retired educators within our U3A and to all parents and grandparents. I look forward to seeing you there.



*Stuart Leitch*

**Elizabeth Forgie MA(Hons), Dip.Ed.Admin., Dip. Tchg**  
*Kerikeri High School -*  
*as a microcosm of global educational change*



## U3A General Meeting

10.30 Monday 20 April 2015

St John Ambulance Hall

Kerikeri Road, Kerikeri

Please bring finger food for our shared lunch. Kitchen duties:

Art House Films Group 1

## Group News

The *Creative Writing* group has gone into recess for a time as the group has become too small. This group has run very successfully for many years and we would be happy to start it up again later in the year if new members become interested.

We would love to hear from you if you would like to join a group *Singing for Fun*. We have a facilitator and host ready to go. Remember you don't have to be able to read music or have a superb singing voice and there will be no auditions. Everyone is welcome to just come along to enjoy the fun of singing with a group. Please contact me if you are interested.

Some of our groups travel out and about visiting places of interest in our area. If you wish to join in these outings, please read their descriptions carefully and make sure you are fit and well enough to cope. Most trips are easily manageable but occasionally they may involve walking over rough ground or up steep hills. The facilitators will ensure that members know when this is the case. If you are not sure what is involved, why not have a chat with the facilitator beforehand?

This is the time of year when we like to give special thanks to our wonderful facilitators without whom we would have no U3A. Facilitators are invited to join the members of the U3A committee for a get together over afternoon tea on Saturday 11 April at 1.30 pm in the St John meeting room. This is a good opportunity to ask questions or to put forward any suggestions you may have. Please bring a list of the members in your group (names only as we don't need contact details) and the name of your backup person. If you are unable to attend, you are welcome to send a representative. We look forward to seeing you there

09 402 8949 or email [ras1@clear.net.nz](mailto:ras1@clear.net.nz) *Margaret Rasmussen*

## Group Reports

### Political Ideologies

*Political Ideology* has been running for about a year. Ideologies are the sets of basic beliefs about the political, economic, social and cultural affairs held by the majority of people within a society.

We have covered political ideology from one end of the spectrum (a political spectrum is a system of classifying different political positions upon one or more geometric axes that symbolize independent political dimensions) to the other, from Liberalism to Communism with Nazism as one of the pointers on the way.

Many lively discussions have ensued with different members taking opposing points of view. We have become a stable group, curious about both the historic and the modern day political scene, with particular reference to New Zealand.

This month we discussed Communism and its effects worldwide. We looked at the views of Marx and Engels and the establishing of the Communist Manifesto. Then we explored Communism in Russia since the 1917 Revolution, in China under Mao Zedong and in Europe.

We concluded that although Communism has within itself a few good ideas, such as guaranteed jobs for everyone and a universal basic income, it has not worked due mainly to the selfish nature of man. No one person is in reality equal to the next and so in a Communist society the phrase that 'all men are born equal' (Benjamin Franklin) is wrong and is proven to be so.

We will be discussing 'Feminism' at our next meeting, looking at its history, its role in modern society, the main protagonists and the political ramifications. This should stimulate a good, heated debate.



***"Politics is war  
without bloodshed  
while war is  
politics with  
bloodshed."***

***Mao Zedong***

*Ian Robertson*

## Cooking

The cooking continues with “aplumb”!

We have tried all sorts of delicious items, but recently we were treated to a display of liquidised food, featuring two different liquidisers - a more traditional machine, and one recently advertised on TV. We wondered if this method is the modern “way to go” or whether it presaged future lack of teeth!



Our alternative demonstrator continued in pseudo-scientific mode – he put everything into the mix to see if the result from each machine was different in taste and texture. The results did not seem massively different; however, a quick blast in the microwave brought to the forefront the banana flavour.

We created soup with butternut squash and added sweetcorn – very nice.

We meet on a Monday, but decided to celebrate Shrove Tuesday if only for the pancakes with sugar and lemon juice. We continue to enjoy ourselves.

*Stuart Leitch*

## Book Discussion: Group One

*Book Discussion One* is a lively group many of whose participants have been members for several years. Last year we changed our facilitator who also acts as contact point for the U3A Committee. We alternate venues among members on a monthly basis.

Every month we select a theme for the next meeting and each member reads a book, or books, on that theme. This makes for a very varied selection of books and the ensuing discussion is usually quite animated and at times punctuated by much hilarity. For example, last month our theme was a “book we read during the holidays”, which resulted in a considerable number of books.

This month we decided on a theme closer to home and opted for “Hokianga”. The result was a broad range of written material including the following:



*A Narrative of a Nine Months' Residence in New Zealand in 1827*, an insightful account of life among the Maoris by Augustus Earle, draughtsman on board *The Beagle*, who caught a brig from Sydney to the Hokianga and divided his time between the Hokianga and Kororareka, published in 2007;

*Hokianga* by Jack Lee, published in 1987;

*Dr. Smith* by G Kemble Welsh about the well-known doctor in Rawene hospital;

*The Company of a Daughter*, a first novel by Paddy Richardson based in the Hokianga, published in 2000;

*Remember the Hokianga*, a compilation of accounts by the descendants of early settlers, put together by Olive Harris, first published in 2006;

*Voyage around a River*, a collection of poems and photographs by Peter Shadbolt, published posthumously in 2014 by his wife;

*Itineraries*, by Naomi Lange, notes from her travels with her husband David including the Hokianga, published in 1990;

*A Maori Community in Northland*, a study by P.W. Hohepa of his community in Waima for his M.A., published in 1964;

*Old New Zealand by a Pakeha Maori* by Frederick Edward Maning, first published in 1863, then in 1964;

*Aya's Story* by Jenny Scawn and Trish Gibbon published in 1995.

We discuss the theme books before the afternoon tea break, after which we present other books we may have read. We also run a successful "lending library" among ourselves, carefully recording whose book has been lent to whom and when it is returned.

*Maggie Murray-Lee*

## Poetry For Pleasure: Group 2

It is interesting leading both *Poetry For Pleasure* groups to see the similarities and the differences between them.

In the first session of Group 2 many of the members were able to recite their chosen poetry from memory without the cue of the written word. They were also able to join in when others were reciting their poems. This ability seemed more prevalent amongst the members who, in their youth, had been expected to memorise and perform poems at school. Reciting poetry was also encouraged in the family.

The choice of popular poets such as Walter De La Mare, AA Milne and Shakespeare demonstrated affection for more traditional poetry, whereas Group 1 tends to choose more modern poetry and in particular New Zealand poets.

Edward Lear is popular with Group 2. *The Jabberwocky* was recited and one of our new member's favourite poem is *The Owl and the Pussycat*. We were also treated to Julia Donaldson's sequel, *Further Adventures of the Owl and the Pussycat*. This beautiful follow-up to the Lear classic is wonderfully illustrated and would make an ideal present for grandchildren and great grandchildren. A discussion ensued on how children are now taught poetry and how it differs from the rote learning of poetry by previous generations.

*Sue Robertson*



## New Members

We would like to welcome Maurice Shearman. We hope you will enjoy belonging to U3A. You are welcome to join any groups in the Group Schedule that say they have space for more members.

2014 - 2015 Committee			
President	Stuart Leitch	09 407 3458	<a href="mailto:sleitch21@gmail.com">sleitch21@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Pam Jenkins	09 407 7020	<a href="mailto:pmjenkins@xtra.co.nz">pmjenkins@xtra.co.nz</a>
Treasurer	Christine Cronshaw	09 407 6871	<a href="mailto:annachristinec@gmail.com">annachristinec@gmail.com</a>
Group Convenor	Margaret Rasmussen	09 402 8949	<a href="mailto:ras1@clear.net.nz">ras1@clear.net.nz</a>
Meeting Coordinator	Liz Berry	09 407 3202	<a href="mailto:berrynice@xtra.co.nz">berrynice@xtra.co.nz</a>
Publicity Officer	Sue Robertson	09 407 3452	<a href="mailto:robertson8148@yahoo.co.uk">robertson8148@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Almoner	Maebeth Hart	09 407 5100	<a href="mailto:casatres@xtra.co.nz">casatres@xtra.co.nz</a>
Newsletter Editors	Lesley McNaughton	09 407 6936	<a href="mailto:lesley@mcnaughty.com">lesley@mcnaughty.com</a>
	Moira Warnock	09 407 6389	<a href="mailto:warnock2@btinternet.com">warnock2@btinternet.com</a>
Webmasters	Lesley McNaughton	09 407 6936	<a href="mailto:lesley@mcnaughty.com">lesley@mcnaughty.com</a>
	Margaret Rasmussen	09 402 8949	<a href="mailto:ras1@clear.net.nz">ras1@clear.net.nz</a>