



April 2017

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

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## From the Chair



Hello everybody,

Here we are in April. Autumnal hues in the air remind us of John Keats' quote of "mists and mellow fruitfulness". I hope that we don't have too many mists but lots of fruit on your apples and feijoas.

Last year the committee held a meeting for new members. They expressed ideas for new groups, some of which have been followed up on. They also told us how they heard of the U3A and what ways of advertising worked for them. Because of this successful outcome we are holding another new members' meeting in April and are inviting all new members who have joined since last year's AGM. We are also inviting facilitators of the groups so they can tell the new members about their groups if they wish. You will soon be receiving your invitations. I hope you can attend.

Thank you to everybody who attended and contributed to the General Meeting in February. It was lovely to see so many of you there.

Looking forward to seeing you all again at the General Meeting in April. Murray Lucas will be presenting an altogether different subject, but I'm sure it will be interesting.

Cheers,  
*Sue Robertson*

## New Members

U3A Bay of Islands is delighted to welcome new members Margaret-Mary and Bob Upperton, Caryl and Bryan Green, Gilian and Vaughan Preece, Annee Bennison and Marianne Kelly. Be sure to look out for them in groups and at the next General Meeting and say "Hello".



## Report on February General Meeting

### U3A Talk by Catherine Gossage “A Walk with the Impressionists – Easels along the Seine”

Catherine started by giving us some background as to why this area had come to prominence and especially why it attracted such a talented group of painters, writers and composers.

The construction of a rail line from the centre of Paris to a station at Le Vesinet close to the old royal palace of St Germain en Laye was followed by the construction of country properties by the elite of Paris who entertained painters such as Monet, Renoir, Pissarro, and Mary Cassatt; writers such as Zola, Maupassant, Dumas and Henry James; and composers such as Bizet, Debussy, and Faure.



The train trip significantly reduced the time of travel allowing both the gentry and the working class (on their one day off) to get out of the city easily and quickly.

The beautiful scenes along the river in that area (and the lower rent) inspired the impressionist painters. Many moved into the area where they painted superb works, such as Renoir’s “Rowers’ Lunch”.

The walk along the river can be done in eight hours but Catherine recommended taking two full days to take in the huge range of experiences along the river.

Catherine also talked about Alfred Sisley, a British painter who was born and lived in France but retained his British citizenship. He specialised in painting landscapes including various features such as the pumping station to Versailles. She also mentioned how Zola’s books give an in-depth look at the society of the time including the underbelly, much as Dickens did in England.

As someone who has had a limited exposure to art except for a visit to the Louvre and the main galleries in Amsterdam I found myself totally involved in her delivery and this walk has been added to our bucket list for when we are next travelling in that part of Europe.

*Cam McNicol*

#### U3A Bay of Islands General Meeting



Kawerau pulp and paper manufacturing complex

### **Converting from Natural Gas to Geothermal Generated Steam**

**Presented by Murray Lucas**

**10:30 am Monday 24 April**

**St John’s Ambulance Hall  
367 Kerikeri Road, Kerikeri**

**Please bring a plate for shared lunch  
Kitchen duty: Understanding the Mysteries of Human  
Behaviour Group**

**This General Meeting is open to the public**

## April General Meeting

### **Kawerau Pulp and Paper Manufacturing Complex: Converting from Natural Gas to Geothermal Generated Steam**

Murray Lucas’ 45 years in the pulp and paper industry included working as the site manager of the tissue paper mill at Kawerau, Bay of Plenty. In the early 2000s a contract was negotiated with the local geothermal steam field's owner, Ngati Tuwharetoa, which led to the site's two natural gas fired boilers being shut down in 2010 and the site thereafter solely supplied with steam from sustainable geothermal sources.

Murray's presentation, which should appeal to those interested in engineering processes and environmental concerns, will provide a background to the pulp and paper manufacturing complex at Kawerau and talk about the benefits that this project delivered to the site operations and market proposition for Asaleo Care's products, to the Kawerau local economy and to the environment.

## Treasurer's Report

The new financial year is fast approaching and as this is my first time round in receiving subscriptions (subs) on a large scale, just a few words from me in anticipation.

I have recently moved our banking to be totally online.

This means the preferred way to receive your subs would be using online banking, details below.

Online payment to **Account: 02 0352 0020910 000 Payee account: U3A BOI** (please include your surname, first name and the word "sub" as a reference).

The other method would be by cheque payable to "U3A BOI" either by post to the address below including your name in block capitals on the reverse of the cheque or by hand at the April General Meeting.

The Treasurer, U3A Bay of Islands, P.O. Box 833, Kerikeri 0245

If you choose to pay by cash probably the April General Meeting would be best time and place to make the payment. Please place the cash in an envelope with your full name on the outside. Just as a reminder, our April General Meeting will be held on **Monday 24 April**.

I'll conclude this little reminder with a quote from my predecessor, "The best \$20 worth in the country."

*Stuart Leitch, Treasurer*

<b>2016 - 2017 Committee</b>			
Chair	Sue Robertson	09 407 3452	<a href="mailto:ian.robertson1953@yahoo.com">ian.robertson1953@yahoo.com</a>
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## Group News

### Games to Stretch the Mind

Remember all the fun you had playing board games when you were growing up or when your children were small? Well here's your chance to enjoy that experience all over again and keep your brain active. We need a few more applicants before we can start this new group, facilitated by Tom Everitt. Activities may include board games, card games or puzzles. Some members may enjoy working together to solve puzzles such as cryptic crosswords or learning new games. The group will meet at Cherry Park House, Landing Road, Kerikeri, probably in the afternoon of the second Friday of the month. Why not have a chat to your friends and get a group together? Let me know if you are interested and also please tell me the board games or puzzles you could bring along to share.

If you are interested in this new group, please contact me - [ras1@clear.net.nz](mailto:ras1@clear.net.nz) or 09 402 8949

### Technology and Physical Science – New Developments

This group is now full and will have its first meeting on Wednesday 12 April at 2.00 pm. Cam McNicols will be the facilitator.

As Sue has mentioned in her introduction to this newsletter, we are holding a meeting for new members and facilitators later this month. If you are a new member, please think about new groups you might like to see us set up as we will welcome suggestions from you at that meeting. I know some of you have been members of U3A in other areas and we would love to hear about your experiences there.

**Please be aware that there are quite a few groups that are not meeting this month, or that have changed their normal meeting date or venue.**

*Margaret Rasmussen*

## Featured Groups

### Just Writing – Facilitator Margaret Rasmussen

Each month, we are allotted a task, such as: write a haiku, a piece of dialogue, a descriptive passage or a short story. We try to concentrate on different aspects of writing technique each time, such as developing character, setting a scene or a mood, or building suspense. As we each read our piece, for comments from each other, time is limited, so we try to keep our literary efforts to a maximum of two pages. There is no formal criticism, and our comments are usually encouraging.

We also bring a quotation or a paragraph of exceptional writing from a published author, to share for inspiration.

Some of the enjoyable tasks we completed last year were: a story for children; a story or reminiscences of a Christmas we enjoyed; a story based on a photo we were given at random. We tried our hands at non-fiction writing and found that writing haiku provided us with one of our biggest challenges although they are only a few lines long,

Having been a member of the group for less than a year, I am finding it challenging and interesting. The wide variety of interests and styles that emerge make it a most enjoyable way to spend an afternoon.

*Bridget Clode*

