



August 2017

www.u3abayofislands.wordpress.com

U3A Bay of Islands, PO Box 833, Kerikeri 0245

u3a.bay.of.islands@gmail.com

From the Chair

I love U3A! Our meetings and the friendships made through U3A have enriched my life. I hope they have helped you to enjoy your retirement too.

U3A branches function differently in different places. Our branch is primarily a social organisation for people who enjoy learning and sharing cultural experiences together. Most of our activity takes place in small groups, which meet each month, usually in members' homes. It's a great way to meet and make friends with people who have similar interests but a variety of backgrounds, and knowledge.

U3A members can join groups at any time of the year. If you would like to join any groups, please contact the facilitators first. Their names and contact details are included in the group schedule you receive each month, along with information about their next meetings. If a group is full you can ask the facilitator to put your name on the waiting list. Sometimes the committee can start another group when a group's waiting list grows enough.

Throughout the year we need new groups to replace those coming to an end. Our past Group Convenor, Margaret Rasmussen, did a fantastic job starting a continual stream of new and interesting groups, building the number up to 28 running at any given time. We, your new committee, hope to maintain that trend and so keep pace with our membership, which keeps on growing. We will start a new group whenever we have enough members interested in the topic, a facilitator to organize it, and a venue and resources to service it. So have a look at the ideas on the next page then let us know what groups you would like



Lesley McNaughton



Holy Trinity Church, Pakaraka

General Meeting

Monday 21st August 2017 10.30 am

St. John's Ambulance Hall, 367 Kerikeri Road

Elizabeth Ludbrook – Local Historian on

Influence of Missionaries in early

Bay of Islands History

Please bring a plate for our shared lunch

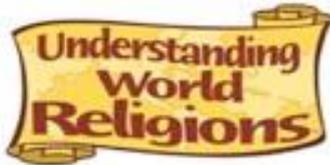
Kitchen duty: Book Discussion One Group

This General Meeting is open to the public

Group News

The *Science* and the *Mysteries of Human Behaviour* group have now finished.

So the committee would appreciate suggestions for new groups. We already own many DVD series and books, so with these and other resources available free on the Internet, we are ready to go. Fortunately your annual sub, which has remained constant since our inception in 1999, allows us to add to our group resources as needed.



These groups have been suggested already:

- Religions of the World
- Anthropology and the Study of Humanity
- Shakespeare – we have a set of 37 BBC adaptations of his plays

Here are some other ideas to get you thinking:

- New groups could be duplicates of existing groups or reruns of past groups so look on our website for information about those groups. Many of these groups have used DVDs and you can ask the Group Convenor for a list of the DVDs that U3A owns.
- We could start a second discussion group based on TED Talks.
- The Coursera and edX websites offer free online courses from leading universities. Using one of their archived courses a group could work together through all or part of the course.
- Our *Music Appreciation* and *Understanding Greek and Roman Technology* courses are based on videos of lectures by professors from top universities. These are sold on The Great Courses website and are usually very expensive, but their sale prices are reasonable.

Please send suggestions to : group.convenor.u3a.boi@gmail.com New Groups

Boat Maintenance

David Mounter, who is an experienced boat builder, has kindly offered to tutor a group on preventative boat maintenance. David says that it is much easier to learn to identify potential problems before they become expensive repair jobs. No matter what type of boat you have, he will work with you to identify those problems on your own boat and show you how to repair them. You will first learn some useful theory and then have some hands-on experience where you will have an opportunity to learn from working on each other's problems.

Maths for Fun

Clair MacDonald has run fun maths events for families and school groups and has found that participants really enjoyed the activities. Small groups will work together to solve interesting puzzles with a mathematical basis. The emphasis is on fun. Nobody need be worried about getting things wrong as you work as a team. Clair will tailor the content to the interests of the group. If you need help with practical problems such as how to work out compound interest or how to calculate how much wallpaper you need, bring your questions along.

The Mathematician and the Frog

A frog falls into a hole that was 14.5 feet deep. He can jump 3 feet, but he slides back a foot each time he jumps.



How many jumps does it take him to get out of the hole?

Play free puzzles at www.london.com

Current Affairs Monday Group

I don't know when the our current affairs discussion group first met, but it was going strong when I joined it ten years ago. We have had several facilitators in that time, and the membership has changed as some leave, to be replaced by others. We are a bit like the old axe that has had three new heads and many new handles as it was passed down through the generations. It must be a good axe since our members tend to stay with us for long periods, and we rarely have a place available. Current members are a diverse group, with many different life experiences, and this leads to lively discussions on a wide range of topics.

Our meetings are organized rather informally. Members bring along items they want to discuss, and we all take a few whacks (with our axes, which we grind before the meeting!). Of course our views differ from time to time, but this is expressed through good-natured banter rather than any harsh words. We discuss local, national and international issues. If there is a local election in the offing, we discuss candidates and policies. If something interesting has come up on the TV news or in the newspaper, we discuss that. If someone finds something quirky or unusual, that is worth a little discussion and a laugh. Our one rule is that we don't allow our meetings to be dominated by a certain American with orange hair.

Keith McNaughton

Current Affairs 4th Thursday of the Month, 1.30pm



Now he's shaking Putin's hand

Since my last contribution to the Newsletter, many interesting, strange and downright unusual things have occurred – but enough about Donald Trump!

We do try desperately hard to avoid talking about him, but to little or no avail - climate agreements, Russia and US internal shenanigans keep him the eye of the world.

Locally we have discussed the growth of Kerikeri and the impact this will have on the already creaking infrastructure. Also the continuing saga of the SH10/Waipapa Road roundabout – apparently this has been in the pipeline for 25 years.

Nationally we have seen the departure of John Key and more recently the posturing of politicians of all hues – must be an election coming up!

Internationally we have witnessed the acts of Terrorism which spread a web globally, which I guess is the terrorists' intention.

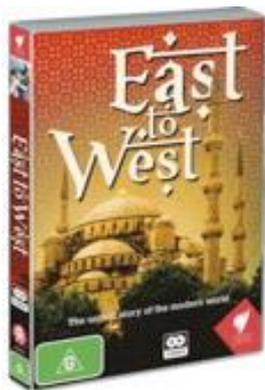
This clearly is a snap shot of the myriad of subjects that catch the eyes and ears of our group members. The larger number of subjects we discuss tend to give a negative feel so we try hard to find at least one good news story.

Our discussions are lively and allow for many differing points of view.

As the new French President might say, “Vive la différence”!

Stuart Leitch

East to West Group



This group is watching a fascinating documentary about the rise of civilisation in what we now call the Middle East and how the area has influenced Western civilisation. The Middle East was the cornerstone between Asia and the West. We have seen the rise of the first cities in Mesopotamia, the origins of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, the Muslim Renaissance and the influence of that in Western Europe through the Moslem occupation of Spain lifting Western Europe from the so-called Dark Ages.

Each viewing has been followed by active discussion with group members sharing their experiences of the areas and their knowledge of the topics. We're all looking forward to the next topics, The Rise of the Ottomans, The Ottomans and the West, and When the Moors Ruled in Europe.

Paying your subscription

If you have not yet paid your subscription for 2017-2018, may we remind you that the preferred way to receive your subs would be using online banking, details as follows?

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" with your name in block capitals on the reverse of the cheque. **Post it to the address below:**

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

Judith Burling, Treasurer

Joining Bay of Islands U3A

If you would like to join U3A BoI, you can download an application form from our website: <https://u3abayofislands.wordpress.com/join-us/>
Alternatively you can phone our Treasurer - 09 407 8197

2017-2018 Committee			
Chair	Lesley McNaughton	09 407 6936	lesley@mcnaughty.com
Vice Chair	Stuart Leitch	09 407 3458	sleitch21@gmail.com
Secretary	Christine Cronshaw	09 407 6871	annachristine@gmail.com
Treasurer	Judith Burling	09 407 8197	j.bburling@actrix.co.nz
Group Convenor	Howard Smith	09 407 9593	ngapuke@slingshot.co.nz
Meeting Coordinator	Martin Ough Dealy	09 407 5925	mdealy@clear.net.nz
Publicity Officer	Judy Ramsey	09 407 4471	judyramsey43@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Grainger Brown	09 407 7247	weens.kew@gmail.com
Almoner	Jane Holmes	09 407 7500	tony_holmes@xtra.co.nz

A ladies straw hat was left at the house of Jack & Stephanie Beggs , 25 Paretu Drive, some time during a U3A meeting. We don't know which one.

If it is yours please phone 407 3422 before it goes to the Op Shop.