



December 2013

U3A Bay of Islands, PO Box 833, Kerikeri 0245

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## From Lesley McNaughton, President

With the year drawing to a close, I would like to thank all our facilitators and regular hosts, without whom our groups could not function. They have provided us with so many opportunities to meet and make friends, to enjoy shared interests and learn together. Thanks also to the members who have taken turns leading meetings, hosting or writing reports for the newsletter.



Special thanks are due to Ngaire Bates and Iris Steensma, who have shared the responsibility for editing our newsletters since the end of July. This is their last newsletter since Ngaire will be moving and Iris wants to devote her time to the three groups she facilitates. We thank them both for their hard work and the excellent newsletters they have put together. The committee would also like to thank Ngaire for her years of service to U3A as a hostess, a facilitator, and in various positions on the committee. We hope her move goes smoothly.

Thanks also to all who have served on the Committee this year, before or since the AGM, working together to keep U3A Bay of Islands running smoothly, attracting new members and moving forwards.



We will be looking for new Editors and a new Secretary for 2014 and would like to hear from any members who might be interested in either position. In the meantime Margaret Rasmussen and I will edit the newsletter and Pam Jenkins will be our interim Secretary.

I mentioned last month that we are developing a website. It's now up and running, although we want to add more photos of members and group activities. Please help by sending me photos of yourself or your group's last meeting in 2013. You can view the website here:

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

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and hoping you enjoy the festive season and summer activities. *Lesley*

2013 - 2014 Committee			
* means an interim responsibility			
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## From your committee by Margaret Rasmussen, Course Convenor

### New Facilitator

Following the very sad death of Eileen Welch, Maria Manning has kindly agreed to become the facilitator for the Atlantis group. Meetings will continue to be held at the home of Joan Lawrence. Thank you very much to both Maria and Joan for helping to ensure that this group can continue.

### New Groups for the New Year

We are still taking applications for these new interest groups to start in the New Year. If you would like to apply to join one of these groups, please contact me as soon as possible as we would like to have them ready to go in February. Some groups have only one or two spaces left so make sure you don't miss out. Margaret Rasmussen: 09 402 8949 or ras1@clear.net.nz.

#### Sketching for Beginners - Facilitator Mike Dee

How many people have you heard saying, "I wish I could draw"? Well, here is your chance to learn in a non-threatening environment with a lot of support. You don't need any previous drawing experience. If you have done some drawing before, you can be catered for as well. A small koha will be requested to cover venue hire, tea and coffee.



#### Cooking For One - Facilitator Stuart Leitch

You won't be expected to perform like the contestants on *Masterchef* in this group. Rather there will be an emphasis on learning to cook simple, tasty dishes which you will soon be confident enough to prepare at home. It will be hands-on and it sounds like a lot of fun. There will be a small charge to cover the cost of food and for use of the kitchen.

#### Do It Yourself - Tutor John Button

Do you need help to learn how to do those little jobs around home that often provide a challenge? John will be guided by your requests for help with any small task you are finding difficult. Better still, he has a workshop so you can try out your new skills.



#### Victorians and Oscar Wilde - Facilitator Pam Jenkins

"Oh, I love London Society! It has immensely improved. It is entirely composed now of beautiful idiots and brilliant lunatics. Just what Society should be." So said Oscar Wilde. But what was the society that Wilde was satirising? You will find the answers in Jeremy Paxton's BBC documentary and Oscar Wilde's plays. This group will start on the first Wednesday in February at 10 a.m.

#### Home Brewing - Facilitator Des Dickinson

Summer is the perfect time for a long, cold beer. Why not try your hand at making your own? Des will show you all you need to know and you will have an opportunity to participate in the process of putting down a brew. This group will set its own meeting days to fit in with the requirements of the brewing process.



#### New members

Welcome to Susie Lindauer and welcome back to Noeline Bubendorfer. We hope you'll enjoy U3A.

**Who to contact** - see the committee contact details on page one

- Group Convenor - to apply for a place in a new group, or to offer to facilitate or host a group.
- Facilitator - to ask if there's space in a group that is already running. (See course schedule)
- Treasurer - to pay your sub or to change your address, phone number or email address.
- Secretary - to provide contact details of someone who might like to join U3A.
- Meeting Coordinator - to suggest interesting speakers.
- Newsletter Editors - to provide information for the Course Schedule (The facilitators do this)



### Camera/Computer Group by Heather Pickup



This group has been meeting since the Bay of Islands U3A was formed in 1999. It started off as two groups, but as technology has progressed, cameras have changed, so that now most cameras that we have in our group are digital. It became obvious that the two groups needed to merge, as you need to have a computer or printer to take advantage of the wonders of the digital camera. We have worked through a course on Photoshop, from which we learned how to do so much with our photos. This enables new members to be helped by existing members. Each month we have a subject for the photography section of the meeting. We then share these photos at the next meeting.

The computer part of the meeting often comprises giving helpful advice to members having problems with their computers. We talk about what is new in the computer world, and give help with members needing a new computer. We have both Windows and Apple computers represented. If you need help with your iPad we can help with that! We are a friendly helpful group, and would welcome you to join us.

### History of Ireland by Lesley McNaughton



"Where I'm from, we believe in all sorts of things that aren't true . . . we call it history". Though an American, Gregory Macquire might well have been speaking for the people of his ancestral homeland. Our look at Ireland's past tries to discern what really happened. We take it slowly, with plenty of time to digress onto the byways of history, and we consider the new discoveries, scholarship and interpretations provided by current historians and scientists.

We have followed the peoples of Ireland from the arrival of the first settlers after the ice age and tracked their descendants as they acquired new ideas and skills, becoming farmers, skilled metalworkers and traders before emerging, in the Iron Age, as a Celtic warrior society. We have seen how the Irish monasteries became centres of the Christian faith and scholarship in Europe, and how Ireland was the centre from which Christianity spread back to pagan Europe. This era ended with the arrival of the Viking raiders and settlers who changed Ireland, but were eventually assimilated.

Since August we have moved on to events that still have repercussions today. The English began their conquest of Ireland with a small Anglo-Norman invasion in 1169, and Oliver Cromwell's ended it in 1653. Unlike the Vikings, these new conquerors did not mingle but typecast the Irish as savages; this to justify their systematic land confiscation, religious discrimination and imposition of the English language and customs. These actions led to rebellions, repressions, and complicated wars in which the Irish fought on both sides. At least five armies were in the field in the 1640s.

This brings us to relatively modern times, to settlement by the planters and to the events that lead to the conflicts of the 20th Century, which will be our subject next year. Republicans and Loyalists both have historical grievances and both believe many things that are not true. Our aim is to examine these in the light of the best historical evidence.