



February 2016

www.u3abayofislands.wordpress.com

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President's Report



Happy New Year!

Here's hoping 2016 will bring you all the outcomes that you desire. As is my norm, I have made only one New Year's resolution, and that is to make no New Year's resolutions – I think this requires less memory!

I would like to ask all members to consider joining our committee. I appreciate this is an early request as the AGM is not until June, but I suspect it will be upon us before we realise. The burden is shared amongst us, and, as with all organisations, fresh faces tend to breathe new life into committees, thus making it continually interesting for our membership.

I do hope as many of you as are able will join us for our next General Meeting. The talk from Kim Workman should be fascinating. I look forward to seeing you there.

So onward and upward, new groups, new friends, new learning and having a jolly enjoyable time.

Stuart Leitch

Kim Workman QSO

is our speaker for the February General Meeting. Joint Recipient of the International Prize for Restorative Justice, Former National Director of Prison Fellowship NZ, Kim combines a lifetime of grassroots engagement with the helicopter view of a reforming thinker



New Directions in Criminal Justice – Or Are They?

10.00am Monday 15 February 2016
St John Ambulance Hall, Kerikeri

This meeting is open to the general public

Kitchen Duty: Current Affairs
(Monday) Please bring a plate
for our shared lunch.

New Members

U3A Bay of Islands is delighted to welcome the following new members: Jessica Scott, Neil Scott, Anna Waring, David Mounter, Bruce Stephen, Margaret Stephen, Susanna Lyle and Henry Wakelam. Do look out for them at Group and General Meetings and say “Hello”.

Group News

Now that the busy festive season is behind us, it is time to think about which new groups you wish to enjoy in the coming months. I hope you will find something of interest below.

Picture This – Having Fun with Your Camera

Have you noticed the wonderful colours in a rusty panel, the patterns made by shadows, the texture of peeling paint? Are you fascinated by the shimmer of light on water, the way lichen colonises a fence post or the intricacy of the centre of a flower? Whatever your interest, this group will help you to appreciate the beauty all around us and help you to understand that you don't need to travel to the other side of the world to take really interesting photos.

If you are a beginner at photography you will be very welcome as members will share their knowledge and there will be lots of support as you go out each month to capture some images from the local area. A phone or a simple camera is all that is required.

Greek Odyssey

Do not expect this to be a study as dry as the dust in the Parthenon. Rather it will be a fascinating journey through the history and culture of Ancient Greece. You will wander from the Minoans of Crete, to Homer's Troy and classical Greece, covering such topics as Greek myths and legends, the development of Greek cities with their magnificent buildings, Greek warfare, art, theatre and literature and the very beginnings of democracy. Along the way you will dip into the first book ever written on European history, take a look at how archaeology has contributed to our knowledge of ancient Greece, enjoy short passages from Homer's Iliad and come to recognize the Greek origins of many of our modern English words.

Excellent DVDs and video clips will be used but you can also expect to try your hand at decorating Greek urns, creating clay tablets or playing word games using the Greek alphabet. Iris Steensma's enthusiasm for the subject means that this study of ancient Greece will be as much fun as you can have without actually going there for a visit. The group will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1.30 pm.

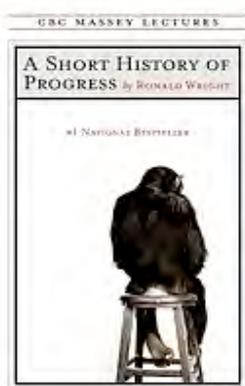
Natural History



There are still a few spots left in **Natural History** which will begin in February with meetings to be held on the first Wednesday of the month at 10.00 am. The group will be based on the excellent *BBC Natural History Collection*, a series of DVDs covering Life, the Ganges, Wild China, the Galapagos and Life in Cold Blood. The group will be led by Pam Jenkins who has presented several very popular topics in the past.

Blue Footed Boobies – Galapagos 2015 MJ Warnock

Exploration – formerly Atlantis



The Atlantis group has changed its name to **Exploration**. The members of this group have enjoyed reading and discussing several books over recent years which can be loosely categorised under the heading **Exploration**. This may include physical exploration or exploration of the ways in which societies have worked. Books have included Gavin Menzies' books on early navigation such as, most recently, *The Lost Empire of Atlantis*. Now the book chosen is Ronald Wright's *A Short History of Progress*. They take turns reading aloud from these books, stopping to discuss points of interest. From time to time they view relevant excerpts from various DVDs. Members take turns leading the meetings. There is room for new members in this group so please contact Maria (details on the Group Schedule) if you would like to join.

TED Talks (Technology, Entertainment, Design)

TED describes itself as “building a clearinghouse of free knowledge from the world's most inspired thinkers”. It is a non-profit, nonpartisan, global organisation which welcomes people from every discipline and culture who seek a deeper understanding of the world. The aim is to make great ideas accessible and to spark conversation. TED enables speakers to present short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less), accessible through its website, TED.com.

If you love to be stimulated by new ways of thinking about a wide variety of topics including science, technology, education, creativity, cultural beliefs, global issues and much more, and believe in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and, ultimately, the world, or if you like to challenge your own views, this may be the group for you. Members will select talks, view via the Internet and then discuss the issues raised.

Please contact me as soon as possible if you are interested in any of the above groups so we can get started. If you have already expressed interest I would be grateful if you could confirm this by email as it has been quite some time since we first advertised some of these groups.

Margaret Rasmussen - ras1@clear.net.nz or 09 402 8949

Featured Groups

There were no meetings from late December until late January, so instead of reports here are a few photos of end of term celebrations enjoyed by some of our groups.



The picture shows our little cookery group enjoying our Italian themed Christmas Lunch – cooked by ourselves, of course! We started with tricolour salad, followed by osso buco with risotto, and finished with tiramisu. I hope you have all enjoyed your Christmas friendship meals too.



Above: Poetry for Pleasure lunch at Marsden Winery.

Right: Local History Opua enjoying a feast at The Pear Tree.



Left: I Spy - the winners celebrate Scavenger Hunt victory at Marty's Cafe



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