



February 2017

www.u3abayofislands.wordpress.com

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From the Chair

Hello everybody,

I do hope you had a great festive season and the holidays were not too arduous with children and grandchildren.

I wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year. The New Year is a time of new beginnings, as is reflected in the topics of some of our groups. You may want to have a look at the new groups on offer in this newsletter. Already some members have been in touch reviewing their group attendance and giving ideas for new groups. We will continue to offer new groups throughout the year so please be patient, as we will be spreading out the new groups later on in the year as well!

Please contact Margaret Rasmussen with queries on groups, whether you are interested in a new group or if you need any resources for your group as a facilitator.

Just to let you know that our almoner, Maebeth Hart, sends out cards to members who are sick or for bereavement, so please contact her if you know of anybody who is in those circumstances.

The presentation at the General Meeting on Monday 27 February should be of interest to those who are keen on art as well as those who plan to travel to France. It is open to members of the public, so please tell your friends as well as those in your groups. I certainly am looking forward to it. See you there if not before.

Cheers,

Sue Robertson

New Members

U3A Bay of Islands is delighted to welcome new member Clair MacDonald. Be sure to look out for her in groups and at the next General Meeting and say "Hello".

Dates for your 2017 Calendar

Please mark these dates in your calendar for the Bay of Islands General Meetings in 2017. You will notice that **some dates do not correspond with the usual third Monday**, as these were subject to the availability of the St. John Ambulance Hall.

Monday, **February 27**, 10:30 am

Monday, **April 24**, 10:30 am

Monday, **June 26 AGM**, 10:00 am

Monday, **August 21**, 10:30 am

Monday, **October 16**, 10:30 am

February General Meeting

U3A Bay of Islands General Meeting



Catherine Gossage

A Walk with the Impressionists - Easels along the Seine River

10:30 am Monday February 27

*St John Ambulance Hall
367 Kerikeri Road, Kerikeri*

*Please bring a plate for a shared lunch
Kitchen duty : History of Food Group*

This General Meeting is open to the public

A Walk with the Impressionists

Easels along the Seine River

The curve of the Seine River to the west of Paris, from Carrières-sur-Seine to Saint-Germain-en-Laye is a wonderful place for a walk. Catherine Gossage knows this area well. She and her husband lived along this stretch for much of their life together. It also happens to be the area which inspired many Impressionist paintings, some you may know well and others you may not be familiar with. These paintings tell us much about life in nineteenth century France, one of Catherine's favourite topics. She gave this talk at Te Papa in Wellington in March 2009, as part of the exhibit "Monet and the Impressionists", and hopes her friends at U3A will enjoy it.

Catherine Gossage was fascinated by France from early childhood, having been taught the language and culture by her French mother. She majored in French at the University of Colorado, but decided at twenty-five to pursue her dream of living in France.

A few years later

she met her husband James, who also has a French background. They have lived around the world, but consider France and New Zealand their two homes. Catherine has worn many hats, working among other things as a translator, French teacher and English teacher. She currently divides her time between taking care of her family, teaching ESOL at Riverview, playing the ukulele, travelling and editing the U3A Newsletter.



2016 - 2017 Committee

Chair	Sue Robertson	09 407 3452	ian.robertson1953@yahoo.com
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Newsletter Editor	Catherine Gossage	09 407 6266	gssg.cd@hotmail.co.uk
Committee Member	Jane Holmes	09 407 7500	tony_holmes@xtra.co.nz

Group News

Our **Opera** groups both went into recess in December. We would like to thank Elva Clark for sharing her great knowledge and love of opera and her extensive DVD collection with both groups over many years. Elva needs a break for a wee while to spend time on her other interests and to enjoy attending her other U3A groups. Our thanks go also to Mary Johnson who has been facilitator of the Thursday group for a long time and to Lesley and Keith McNaughton who have hosted the Wednesday group.

Natural History has wrapped up. Thank you very much Pam Jenkins for facilitating this interesting programme and also Margaret Lindsay for hosting.

Jack Beggs, facilitator of the **Music Appreciation** group, suggests that, if anyone is wishing to build their knowledge of music, now would be an ideal time to join the group. Members have been watching a DVD series by Professor Robert Greenberg which looks at early music through the Baroque to the Classical. They are now ready to move on to the music of the Romantic Era, 1800 – 1900. This includes many people's favourite music. After watching an episode from this series each month, they listen to music brought along by members from their personal collections. Please call Jack on 09 407 3422 if you are interested in joining them. You will be very welcome.

The new **Opua Current Affairs** group is now full and will meet for the first time on Monday 13 February at 2 pm at the home of Don and Pat Jansen.

New Groups

There are still one or two places left in **East to West**, led by Pam Jenkins and hosted by Margaret Lindsay which will start on Wednesday 1 March. This will be based on an exciting seven part series charting the birth of a flourishing civilisation in the Middle East and its dynamic influence on the West. It follows the spread of civilisation across the globe from the first cities of Mesopotamia. The Middle East was a political, economic and cultural centre and a bridge between the continents of Asia, Africa and Europe. The series is produced by Lion Television (UK) in association with Bahcesehir University, Turkey.

There are still one or two places available in **Understanding Greek and Roman Technology**, facilitated by Howard Dixon, which will start on Tuesday 14 February at 2.00 pm at the home of Lindsay and Mary Johnson. Details are in the schedule.

Technology and Physical Science – New Developments

Cam McNicol has offered to facilitate this group which will look at aspects and issues relating to technology and physical science. While no formal knowledge would be assumed, the aim is to research and discuss such topics as:

- Are solar panels (and other alternative energy sources) really a complete alternative for energy needs in NZ and beyond? The discussion would look at future developments of solar and whether it would be useful to charge electric cars.
- When are manned drones likely to replace helicopters? Members would look at the rapid developments so far and those proposed for the future.
- Technological developments, especially computer-based, and their uses in many areas such as health, wearable devices, education, and more.
- Other areas of interest suggested by members of the group.

If you are excited (or worried) about the potential of new technologies and you enjoy a lively discussion, this could be the group for you. Please phone or email me as soon as possible so we can get this new group started. The suggested meeting time is 2.00 pm on the second Wednesday of the month at Cam's home.

If you are interested in any of these new groups, please contact *Margaret Rasmussen* - rasi@clear.net.nz or 09 402 8949



Featured Groups

Thank you to Jill Brown for providing us with some photos of the Art History One and Two groups at their end of the year lunch at Ake Ake. Looks delicious and fun!



And it looks like the Picture This group finally had their outing to the Puketi forest. What an interesting place to take photos!



Catherine Gossage