



July 2016

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

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## Report from the new Chair

Hello everyone. I would like to thank Stuart for his unflappable style of chairing the committee for the past two years, Christine, Stuart and Martin for all their hard work preparing the material for the AGM, and the rest of the committee for all their diligence in their various roles. I would like to welcome Jane Holmes to the committee. My thanks go to Pam Jenkins for five years' outstanding service on the committee. She will be sorely missed.

For the members I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting here is a little about me. I moved from York to NZ in 2004 with my husband, Ian, relocating to Thames, where I loved travelling around the Coromandel for the community mental health service. In 2008 we did a tiki tour of the North Island and were so taken by Kerikeri we decided to move here. We enjoy living in our beautiful house and managing the garden and are often to be found out walking or enjoying coffee and the crossword at a local cafe.

I was very pleased to see so many members at the AGM. Thank you for making the effort to attend. I enjoyed the excellent illustrated talk on studio glass by our very own Stuart Park and the shared lunch.

I look forward to a lively and successful year for U3A Bay of Islands.



*Sue Robertson*

## Report on Studio Art in NZ



We are extremely fortunate in U3A Bay of Islands to have people with interests or pursuits who are willing to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with other members. Such a one is Stuart Park who, at the AGM, gave a fascinating talk on Studio Glass in NZ. Stuart demonstrated his almost encyclopaedic knowledge of everyone involved in glass since it was introduced to NZ. The Maori did not make pottery or glass, though they did use obsidian for cutting tools. Stuart's talk took us through work strongly influenced by the origins of the glassmakers – Scandinavia, England, Italy – to intrinsically New Zealand glass, either blown, cast, stained or painted. The illustrations, many of them of glass in Stuart's own collection, were superb as were the examples of his glass for us 'to touch with our eyes'.

Thank you Stuart. Thanks also to the Computer and Camera Group for the extremely efficient and quiet way they organised the shared lunch.

*Moira Warnock*

## Membership Subscriptions 2016-17

The U3A Bay of Islands membership subscription is \$20 per year. Thank you to those who have paid. For those who have not yet paid it would be greatly appreciated if you could do so as soon as possible.

Bank account details for direct credit are: Account: 02 0352 0020910 000 Account name: U3A BOI

Please include your NAME in the details as otherwise I have no way of knowing who the sub belongs to.

Our postal address is: The Treasurer, U3A Bay of Islands, PO Box 833, Kerikeri 0245

*Christine Cronshaw - Treasurer*

## Technical Hint

**Links to Email Addresses Hint** –Check that the **mailto:** email address or the *hyperlink* under an email link or *Smart Address*, is correct.

**Why?** Mistakes often happen when an address in a document has been edited, but there can be other reasons as well. This recently occurred in one of U3A-BOI's documents when the *hyperlink* under [u3a.bay.of.islands@gmail.com](mailto:u3a.bay.of.islands@gmail.com) was actually <mailto:bay.of.islands@gmail.com>

*Christine Cronshaw*

## New Members

U3A Bay of Islands is delighted to welcome the following new members: Dale Hutchinson, Catherine Ferguson, Louis Gill, Majda Gruden and Elizabeth McConnell. Please look out for them at groups and General Meetings and introduce them to other members.

*Moirá Warnock*

## Group News

We are very grateful to Maurice Shearman who has taken over as facilitator of the *Poetry for Pleasure* Friday group. We would also like to thank Sue Robertson for the wonderful job she did as facilitator in the past. There is space in this group.

## New Groups

### It's Show Time

Members of the *Singing For Fun* group have so enjoyed singing songs from some of the familiar old musicals that we are proposing a new group to get together to watch some of those old favourites on DVD. You do not have to be a member of the singing group to join. So, if you have wonderful memories of those old shows and would love to see them again, why not join *It's Show Time*? What a great way to cheer up those winter months. You will meet at 2.00pm on the third Wednesday of the month at the home of Moira Warnock who has kindly offered to facilitate the group. Space is limited so be quick.

### The History of Food

There are one or two spaces in this group where our facilitator, Ulrike Novak, will deal with the enormous influence food issues have had on settlement, migration, politics and much more. Think of the discovery and distribution of foods, costs, availability and desperate shortages, and even fashions in food which are so much part of our world today. Meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2 pm, starting Wednesday 13 July.

### Writing

The group will hold its first meeting this month to explore the writing interests of its members and to discuss the approach they will take on their writing journey. This group is now full but, if you are interested, please give me a call in case spaces become available.

*Margaret Rasmussen* - [rasi@clear.net.nz](mailto:rasi@clear.net.nz) or 09 402 8949

## Featured Groups

### Mysteries of Human Behaviour



Our personable guide as we embark on a quest to find what makes us tick, or tock as the case may be, is Mark Leary, Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at Duke University, North Carolina. The author of a dozen books on social motivation, emotion, and the ego, he is recognized as one of the world's top social and personality psychologists. At our inaugural session we learned that our irrational fears may have an evolutionary basis making more sense when we think about problems faced by our distant ancestors. Consider the seemingly irrational fear of heights many of us experience when looking out of tall buildings. For millions of years when people looked down from a very high place they were probably up a tree or on a cliff edge and we are the descendants of those who were uneasy and cautious enough to survive.

Amongst many fascinating topics we looked at culture, once thought to be an exclusively human domain, as demonstrated by macaque monkeys on a Japanese Island. Sweet potatoes left for them on a beach got sandy and the monkeys would brush them by hand until the day when a young female washed her tuber in the sea. Others copied and over the next few years 18% of the adults and 79% of the younger ones adopted the practice. Now almost all new-borns wash their sweet potatoes as a matter of course, a graphic demonstration of cultural change.



Over the next year we will be looking at many aspects of human behaviour and should come to a better understanding of ourselves and others and may even have to abandon the notion that others should be reasonable and do and see things our way.

*Mary Johnson*

### TED Talks

I have been a fan of TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design) both as podcasts and videos on the computer for many years. The broadcasts are short (15 to 20 minutes) which I feel is about right as there are so many new ideas to absorb, that a longer talk may lead to the 'glazed eyes' effect.

For the meeting I chose three talks by Professor Brian Cox, a Professor at Manchester University, and popular 'go to' physicist for explaining scientific concepts to non-scientific people. His first talk was on the CERN Super Collider, a 27km circular tunnel under Switzerland and France funded by the majority of European countries, plus Israel and Pakistan. Any large-scale multinational effort by scientists and engineers employing over 2,000 people and collaboration with more than 12,000 affiliates has to be worth knowing about. The talk was recorded in 2008 before the collider was commissioned. His second talk was made a year later and was entitled What Went Wrong at the LHC. So not only was CERN prepared to talk about an experiment that should work in theory but hadn't been tested, they were also prepared to talk about something that didn't work properly (this caused by a fault in one piece of wiring). In the third talk, Why We Need Explorers, made in 2010, Brian Cox explained the 'spin offs' from space exploration.

The last talk was by Sara Seager. In 2015 she spoke on *The Search for Planets beyond Our Solar System*. Her research led to the first discovery of an atmosphere on a planet outside our solar system. Now she is on the hunt for a twin Earth, or what she calls a "Goldilocks" planet (not too big, not too small, not too hot and not too cold). Her research using a Star Shade is fascinating and beautiful to see. Star Shade is a piece of equipment developed by scientists which can be launched into space, uncoupled from its launch vehicle and flown to a likely star, at which point it unfurls like a flower to block the ambient light from the star so other objects can be seen and studied.

*Judy Ramsey*

## Retiring President's Report to July 2016

(Address as given at U3A Bay of Islands AGM – Monday 20 June 2016)

It gives me great pleasure to present the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual report of the Bay of Islands U3A.

At present we have 29 groups meeting together per month and a membership of over 160 people. Some groups have finished, new groups have started, and, unusually, two groups have morphed: Western Civilisation becoming Art Appreciation, and Alantis becoming Exploration.

**The Committee** has continued to meet the demands of an ever increasing membership.

**Christine Cronshaw** has beavered away with our finances and looks forward to increasing our income – more of this from Christine herself.

**Margaret Rasmussen** continues to juggle the demands of the membership by way of creating new groups to meet the membership's interests.

**Sue Robertson** has made sure that we are known about by contact with local media, wonderful displays in the Proctor library window and also pounding the pavement distributing posters prior to our general meetings.

**Moira Warnock** has gone from strength to strength as our newsletter editor. She now incorporates more photographs which I think we all enjoy. On that note, you will probably be pleased to know that you won't be seeing me on the front page anymore!

**Maebeth Hart** has the unenviable task of our Almoner. She goes about this in a sympathetic and caring way. Maebeth has also helped out as Pam's deputy during the last year.

Our newest committee member, **Martin Ough Dealy**, has co-ordinated our General Meetings and arranged the contribution of the speakers. This year we have benefitted greatly as a result of these talks. In June, last year we had Ian McGill from the Northland Conservation Board. In August, we were regaled by Lyndsay Alexander talking to us about whaling. October, we were informed about the role of the Far North Search and Rescue by Kerry Sinclair. In February, Kim Workman shared with us his work relating to "New Directions in Criminal Justice", and in April, John Pearce talked to us about the "Cost of Child Poverty in NZ".

Each talk concluded with a wonderful shared lunch. I am always impressed how, with no real planning, a generally balanced mix of finger food emerges. Thank you to all who have performed kitchen duty and all who take the time to provide "a plate".

The last, but by no means least, member of your committee, **Pam Jenkins**, leaves us now as her 5 year tenure is up. Pam has continued to work incredibly hard for the committee and membership in what has truly been an *annus horribilis* for her. We will miss her on the committee but, fortunately, not from our membership where she continues as an enthusiastic facilitator.

In conclusion, we have had another fabulous year for the Bay of Islands U3A. The strength of this organisation lies in its members and we will continue "onwards and upwards". I am going to close with a commentary Moira brought to my attention from the Listener of 30<sup>th</sup> April this year, in the article *Living Icariously* by Bill Ralston. He said, "From time to time, I've spoken on media issues to groups from the University of the Third Age and they always surprise me, because the audience don't just listen but ask questions, debate with you and, on occasions, argue. They are living proof of Dylan Thomas' maxim: "Do not go gentle into that good night".

So thank you all for making my Presidency rewarding and enjoyable.

*Stuart Leitch*

## Committee News

### Jane Holmes

The Committee extends a warm welcome to our new member, Jane Holmes.

Jane was born in Wales as the family was evacuated from war torn London. She became a primary school teacher and left the UK aged 21 years.

In NZ she taught primers in a country school, while living on a sheep farm in Southland. Later she joined NAC and met her engineer husband, Tony, in Wellington. They spent time in New Guinea, Canada, Samoa and Bahrain. Nine months was spent cruising with three sons in the Pacific.

Kerikeri was chosen for early retirement (with boating) in 1997.



### Pam Jenkins



After five years of exemplary service Pam Jenkins is retiring from the committee. Her hard work, intelligent contribution and shrewd insight will be greatly missed as will her experience in all matters of committee process and procedure. Though Publicity was her first love she served as Secretary for some of her term and was always willing to lend a hand and sound advice on any committee venture from promotional events in the Retirement Village to entertaining visiting speakers.

Thank you Pam for your contribution and we hope you will now have time to enjoy the fun side of U3A without all the hard work. It is good news that you will continue as facilitator for your group and you have, no doubt, many ideas for further "First Wednesdays"

*Moira Warnock*

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