



June 2014

www.u3abayofislands.wordpress.com

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From the President

June is the month of our Annual General Meeting, and the time when you must elect a new President and committee. My two-year term is up. I have enjoyed it immensely, especially working with such a great committee. I have also enjoyed meeting so many of you, our members, facilitators and hosts. I will remain on the committee for one more year as Immediate Past President, which gives me the opportunity to pass on some of my knowledge and experience to the new committee. The new President and the new committee will bring in fresh ideas and enthusiasm, and so keep our organization vital and moving forward.

At the AGM I will report on our activities during the year, and the Treasurer will give her report. Those with email will receive an audited summary of the accounts before the AGM, so you can have a good look at them. Those whose newsletter comes through the post will get the un-audited version we have available now. Our books are presently with the auditor. I don't expect there will be any differences (Maebeth Hart has kept excellent records). Please bring your financial report to the AGM.

We will have our normal General Meeting after the AGM. The speaker will be John Booth. He is a new member of U3A Bay of Islands and was, until recently, a research marine scientist with particular interest in spiny lobsters (crayfish). He now lives at Te Rawhiti in the eastern Bay of Islands where he supports local biodiversity-restoration projects and writes about the changed nature of the ecology of the marine waters of the Bay.

He is part of Fish Forever, a team of local volunteers striving to protect the diversity of marine life in the Bay of Islands. They have proposed no-take marine reserves in enclosed waters of the Bay and are asking the community to read their consultation document then make submissions online for or against the proposal before the 13th June. Since this deadline is before our meeting, I suggest you visit their website before you hear John's talk: www.fishforever.org.nz. *Lesley McNaughton*

U3A Annual General Meeting 2014

10 am Monday 16th June

St John Ambulance Hall, Kerikeri

The AGM will be followed by a talk about the proposed

No-take Marine Reserves in the Bay of Islands

Dr John Booth, retired research scientist,
National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, Wellington,
will explain this proposal and discuss issues arising from it.

Bring any friends who are interested in U3A or John's topic.
Please bring finger food and stay on for our shared lunch.

Kitchen Duty: The Victorians and Oscar Wilde Group.



From the committee



Group notices

We have nearly enough applicants to form a group for *Left, Right or Centre*: a brief introduction to political ideologies. Please note that this programme will require a substantial amount of reading in preparation for meetings.

We are still taking expressions of interest in *Religions of the World*, *China in Transition: From Mao to Now*, *Antiques or Collectibles* and *Poetry for Pleasure*. We will only be able to start these groups if there are enough applicants.

Details of the above groups were in the May newsletter. Please contact me if you're interested in any of these groups. Email: ras1@clear.net.nz Phone: 09 402 8949

Now that Stuart and Anne Leitch are settled in their new home, Stuart will begin his small cooking group. He will contact the members of the group about this.

Thank you to all those facilitators who have sent me lists of their group members and the names of their backup facilitators. We need to know which groups members attend as, when we are trying to fit new courses into the calendar, accurate records help us to find the times which suit most applicants.

Margaret Rasmussen

Membership subs and nominations

Membership subscriptions are due for the year from 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2015. The sub is still \$20 per person. Please pay as soon as possible as we will be handing out new nametags at the AGM.

Nominations for committee positions must be with the Secretary by 9:00 am on Monday 9th June, one week before the AGM. The nominee, proposer and seconder must be financial members of U3A BoI.

New members

Welcome to Minnie Dealy, Robert Keeble, Myra Langstone and Muriel McLennan. We hope you all enjoy being part of U3A.

Communication Survey results

We thank all who responded to the survey and especially those who left comments and suggestions. Exactly half of our members completed the survey, giving us a good sample of members' reading practices and preferences. We were pleasantly surprised to discover that the majority usually read all of the newsletter. Most parts of the newsletter are nearly always or usually read by between 80% and 93% of respondents. Members are particularly interested in reports from their own groups.

It became clear that, while many people had enjoyed reading reports from all groups each month, they recognised that including so many reports made the newsletter too long and that producing reports so often was onerous for the facilitators. Most prefer fewer reports and thought that less frequent reports enable the writers to give a better flavour of their groups than a straight report about their last meeting. Most members preferred reports from more than two groups so that the newsletter would reflect the variety of interests and activities U3A provides. Many felt this helped members and potential members to decide which groups they might like to join. The committee concluded that the current format with about four reports, depending on space, suits most of our members.

2013 - 2014 Committee			
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Report on the April U3A General Meeting

Liz Bigwood Manager of the Kerikeri Mission Station first told us of the change of name of the *Historic Places Trust* to *Heritage NZ*. She then gave an interesting and lively talk on “Untold Stories of the Missionaries”, using extracts and references from their journals and letters. She illustrated these with practical objects that the missionaries traded with the Maori. Liz has a wealth of knowledge about the early days of the missionaries, their wives and the Maori who they traded with. She made the stories come alive with amusing anecdotes and accounts of domestic missionary life.

Liz gave social details of the missionaries like where they came from in England, their professions, origins, backgrounds and characters and how these affected their interactions with the Maori. Reverend Henry Williams, leader of the Paihia missionaries, had been a navy captain and so was more assertive with the Maori and earned the respect of some chiefs because he did not “turn the other cheek”.

Elizabeth Ludbrook, a descendant of the Williams family, had recently talked to the Local History One group about the stoicism and strength of the Paihia missionaries' wives. Liz confirmed this with her stories of the Kerikeri wives, especially of Charlotte Kemp who was once in labour for three days.

Liz also gave details of the Maori chiefs and their different relationships with the missionaries. Thomas Kendall set himself up in trading and became close to Hongi Hika and eventually converted to the Maori way of life. Inevitably the missionaries became involved in local issues such as the gun trade, the activities of the NZ Company and the Land Wars.

Sue Robertson.



Liz Bigwood at U3A meeting

Featured groups

The Victorians and Oscar Wilde

In this group, we have been examining Victorian society and the Industrial Revolution through the art of the period. With no television or popular cinema, much of the art has a story to tell.



Casual Ward, by Lucas Fildes, portrays homeless people lining up for tickets to stay overnight in the workhouse.

There are the images of happy well-fed children and happy families enjoying the new seaside resorts, but urbanisation and technological advances brought about poverty for many. Their despair and the final farewells of the emigrants are depicted touchingly in the art. Five million people emigrated in the second half of the nineteenth century.

There are the pictures of the wealthy entrepreneurs and their grand houses as well as the images of the factories, the trains and the impoverished agricultural labourers.

Members of the group have lists of the paintings so they can look at them again on the Internet or in books.

The values of Victorian high society are satirised by Oscar Wilde. We've been watching an episode of Jeremy Paxton's *The Victorians* followed the next month by a play by Wilde. Sometimes there's been a poem from the period. The group has discussed how Victorian attitudes and values have affected people in New Zealand.

Pam Jenkins



A Private View at the Royal Academy, by W P Frith. The tall man looking up at a painting is Oscar Wilde.

Current Affairs Thursday Group

The Thursday current affairs group is made up of people with differing points of view but with a willingness to listen to, and value others opinions. We operate a system that allows us to look at one agreed subject in some depth with time to exchange views, having had since the previous meeting, time to research the subject.

The second part of the meeting looks at matters that have caught the attention of group members in the preceding weeks. Of late our more in-depth subject has related to the proposed changes in local political representation, whether submissions contribute to the outcome and do changes such as those proposed have any impact on the ratepayers!

During the more topical part of our recent discussions we have looked at the crisis in the Ukraine and whether leaders such as Putin feel constrained in any way by the imposition of sanctions by the 'West'. Which theory has the greatest credence when attempting to work out what happened to the Malaysian Airlines flight? Why in this day and age of conspiracy theories did it take so long for North Korea to be considered a possible cause of the South Korean ferry tragedy.



Who knows what will come up at our next meeting! Join us to find out.

Stuart Leitch

Art House Films Group One

Starting with our initial film, *Untold Scandal* (Korea), this group has viewed a great variety of films.

Ian Robertson introduced *A Man and a Woman* (France), about a widow and a widower who meet at their children’s boarding school and begin a tentative relationship. Over camembert and baguette we talked about how the ideas of the French New Wave had influenced the film-making. This movement aimed to create films that were more authentic than those from the big Hollywood studios.

The Tim Drum (Germany) was introduced by Col Smith. This surreal black comedy is an allegory on the relationships between the various political and ethnic factions during the rise of the Nazi party. The central character is a boy who could move about freely in a way forbidden to adults. Afterwards we ate sauerkraut and sausage as we discussed how well it worked as an allegory, whether Oscar was a fine guide or just an unpleasant brat, and whether Nazi marches are what we really like to watch.

Next came *Easy Rider* (USA), introduced by Erik Lautenslager. Many of us saw this film soon after its first release, and could remember its impact. This film recorded the new mood and attitudes towards drugs, sex and communal living in the 60s. Discussion centred around how we reacted to the film, then and now. *Easy Rider* shocked Hollywood by making a large profit on a very small budget. It opened the way for independent film making in America.

Our last film was *Grave of the Fireflies* (Japan), introduced by Iris Steensma. Iris had recently visited the Ghibli animation studios in Japan, where this film was made. It tells the story of the struggle of a boy and his young sister to survive after being orphaned in the fire-bombing at the end of WWII. Their tragedy is made all the more heartbreaking by the beautifully-observed tender moments between them. Over sushi and spicy Japanese savouries we asked whether this was an anti-war film, a warning about the fragility of Japanese civilization under stress, or just the tale of a boy and his sister. Perhaps it was all three.

Keith McNaughton



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