



May 2016

www.u3abayofislands.wordpress.com

U3A Bay of Islands, PO Box 833, Kerikeri 0245

U3A.Bay.of.Islands@gmail.com

President's Report



It was good to see so many of you at the April General Meeting. I found the talk interesting and hope the findings are picked up and acted upon.

As I said at the General Meeting, we would welcome nominations to join the committee. We will be losing Pam Jenkins who has been a stalwart over the last five years and will be sorely missed.

In an attempt to attract a replacement we have reduced the secretarial workload and are creating a new post, that of 'Membership Secretary'

If you are interested please contact a committee member who will be able give you more information.

Stuart Leitch

Report on the April General Meeting

John Pearce is a member of Analytica (www.analytica.org.nz), a small group of professional people based in Auckland who offer their services on a "pro bono" basis to research difficult problems and come up with solutions. His presentation on the cost of child poverty in NZ was based on over two years research.

The estimated annual cost of child poverty to the national economy is \$8 billion or \$2000 for every man woman and child in New Zealand. The costs are generated in four main areas: health (\$3.0 billion), crime (\$2.2 billion), productivity (\$2.2 billion) and social welfare (\$1.4 billion).

Poor parenting in the early years of a child's life was identified as a major reason 275,000 children are growing up disadvantaged. The problems of many children are exacerbated by inequality of access to jobs, parenting support, housing and health care.

John pointed out that more unequal societies are worse for ALL citizens. Inequality is growing in first world economies and that inequality inhibits growth. Research evidence shows that inequality harms society, and NZ is not well placed to avoid this harm. NZ has large, and growing inequality.

In answer to the question "What policy changes might change this?" John proposed improving parenting skills, creating more jobs, cultural change in the community, reducing inequality (*e.g.* through a capital tax), better leadership and recognition that the problem of child poverty exists and must be solved.

John's full presentation is available as a Power Point file through U3A. If you are interested please contact Martin Ough Dealy (mdealy@clear.net.nz).

Martin Ough Dealy

Membership Subscriptions 2016-17

The U3A Bay of Islands membership subscription remains at \$20 per person for the coming year. (The best bargain in town!) Thank you to those who have already 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

Alternatively bring it to the Annual General Meeting. Please put it in an envelope and write your name clearly on the outside.

Christine Cronshaw

Changes to the U3A Bay of Islands Constitution

Some time within the next few days all members will be sent proposed amendments to the U3A Bay of Islands Constitution. The Committee will be asking members to ratify these at the Annual General Meeting 20 June 2016. Included in these changes is a proposal to become an Incorporated Society.

Clause 9 of our Constitution states

ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be amended with the assent of not less than two thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of those members present and voting at an Annual General or Special General Meeting. Twenty one (21) days' notice shall be given to members stating the intention to put forward such a resolution provided, however, that any alterations, additions to or rescissions of the Constitution of U3A Bay of Islands do not change the Charter as set out in Clause 2.

Any feedback, questions, comments relating to the proposals would be welcomed up to 20 May to enable the resolution for these amendments to be posted by 27 May.

Christine Cronshaw



Local History Kerikeri visit Totara North Museum

Technical Hint

When sending an email– Always put something in the subject line.

Why? The security setting on some email systems assume that an email with nothing in the subject line is spam or junk mail and automatically consign it to a spam or junk mail bin, or maybe just never deliver it at all.

Christine Cronshaw

Group News

There are still a few places left in the **Natural History** group, led by Pam Jenkins. They are about to watch a section entitled *Wild China*. Please phone Pam (09 407 7020) if you would like to join them. See this month's schedule for meeting details

We have three great new groups for you to consider this month, just in time to fill those winter days with interest.

The History of Food

Ulrike Novak will facilitate this group. Anyone who has been in Ulrike's *Genetics* group will be well aware of the enormous amount of time and effort Ulrike puts into preparing materials for her group. We are very grateful for her enthusiasm and knowledge and are sure she will present an amazing wealth of material to her new *History of Food* group.



Perhaps we are inclined to take food for granted but over the centuries it has had an enormous influence on settlement, migration, politics and much more. This fascinating story will start with the end of the last Ice Age and deal with food in each location, where higher cultures developed that left some records of their food consumption and agriculture. It will move through the Middle Ages, the age of seafaring and discovery, touch on history and social history, food

fashions, changes in the cost of food items, multiple uses of various food items and lastly, some health considerations resulting from changes in eating and drinking patterns. Meetings will be held at the home of Jack and Stephanie Beggs on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2 pm, starting in July.

The Mysteries of Human Behaviour

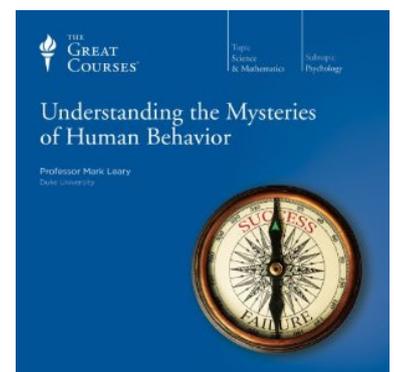
Mary Johnson, one of our most experienced facilitators, has kindly offered to lead this group based on a Great Courses DVD, *The Mysteries of Human Behaviour*. It looks at many fascinating aspects of human behaviour in a series of presentations by Professor Mark Leary of Duke University in North Carolina.

You will explore theories and research from the behavioural sciences to learn why humans act the way they do and discover how some behaviours, which may be difficult to understand today, make sense when considering the problems our ancestors faced. It promises to answer lots of questions you may have already considered and many more you have not. For example: Where do people's personalities come from? How can siblings be so different? Why are so many people so stressed out? Why is self-control so hard? How much do men and women really differ?

Mary's groups are always popular so be in quickly for this one. Meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 2 pm.

Creative Writing

Several people at our recent New Members' Meeting expressed interest in a creative writing group. This will be a small, supportive group so that members can share their writing and learn from each other. Different types of writing, both fiction and non-fiction, will be attempted depending on the interests and preferences of the members. These will be explored at the first meeting of the group. Each month an



assignment will be chosen and members will develop the idea in their own way and bring their writing to the monthly meeting to share.

Please contact me if you are interested in any of the above groups.

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

Featured Groups

Political Ideology

The group has grown over the year and the topics have been kept relevant to the politics of the day. An example is Nuclear Politics, examined in our most recent meeting. We discussed the political situation across the world and looked at New Zealand prior to the 1987 Nuclear Free Act, enacted by the Labour Party under the leadership of David Lange.

We looked at the effect of the Act in New Zealand and around the world. Two major effects have been:

(1) America taking New Zealand out the ANZUS pact with the US and Australia. This pact gave us protection if we needed it.

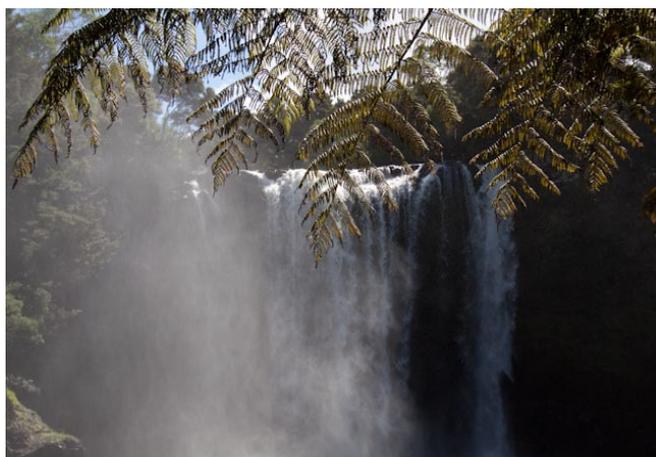
(2) Making us the only country in the world to have an Act that has directly come from public protest.

Surveys of multi ethnic young people in Auckland in March 2016 have shown that they feel safer living in a nuclear free country. There was a very interesting debate on the subject.

Ian Robertson

Photography

There were six members at the meeting, including one new member. We shared our photos showing change of light over the course of a day (except for one member who brought the wrong handbag!). There were very positive and helpful comments on the photos. The group then headed to Rainbow Falls for a shooting session. Everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. We are looking forward to a photo session at the Stone Store in May. More members would be welcome with any kind of camera from phone camera upwards.



Photos: Top right: Some of the Photography Group hard at work & bottom left Rainbow Falls by David Welch

Bottom right: Rainbow Falls and the Weir above by Murray Wright

David Welch

Singing For Fun

I offered to write this report as I am really enjoying the group and also wanted to share with the whole membership some interesting points that are arising in the group. As with all groups, shy retiring members gradually increase in confidence and come "out of their shells" and the more extrovert mellow, and I have observed this happening in this group.

Initially I was aware of my lack of knowledge of musical terms and limitations of my voice. However, it does not matter if I dry up, or cannot reach the note, or understand what the key of A is. Along with quite a few other members I drop down to a range I can manage and continue singing as best as I can.

For me there is a link with the Poetry for Pleasure groups as many of the songs are poems set to music. Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen and songs from HMS Pinafore have featured in both groups.

We began with song sheets of traditional folk songs and popular songs especially of the 1960's. Now the repertoire is expanding to include tunes from shows. Songs from *Les Miserables* are very popular. Members are encouraged to choose their 10 favourites and to explain their choices. This allows for personal stories and histories and gives more insight into the different members of the group.

Our piano virtuoso "Young Moira", Bridget's granddaughter, never ceases to amaze us with her talents!

Christine, our leader, now uses the recently purchased projector to project the lyrics on to a screen, which saves shuffling and searching through folders. It has cut down on the copying of sheets and has, therefore, cut down on expense. I am sure other facilitators will find the projector of benefit in their future groups.

I had no idea that organizing morning tea is such a complicated art form! Bridget, our hostess, has trained us to enquire every month if we need to contribute to the kitty for the tea/coffee/biscuit fund.

This is a big, flourishing group but if you want to sing and have fun you are welcome to come and join us!

Sue Robertson

I Spy

I Spy members will be delighted to hear that the mystery creatures have been identified. According to marine biologist, Mike Page, they are colonial ascidians. His hunch is that they are *Eudistoma elongatum*, introduced from Australia around 2005. This species is now widespread throughout Northland and is common in the BOI.

Please see <https://www.niwa.co.nz/coasts-and-oceans/marine-identification-guides-and-fact-sheets/seasquirt-id-guide>



2015 - 2016 Committee			
President	Stuart Leitch	09 407 3458	sleitch21@gmail.com
Secretary	Pam Jenkins	09 407 7020	pmjenkins@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer	Christine Cronshaw	09 407 6871	u3a.boi.treasurer@gmail.com
Group Convenor/Webmaster	Margaret Rasmussen	09 402 8949	ras1@clear.net.nz
Meeting Coordinator	Martin Ough Dealy	09 407 5925	mdealy@clear.net.nz
Vice President/Publicity Officer	Sue Robertson	09 407 3452	ian.robertson1953@yahoo.com
Almoner	Maebeth Hart	09 407 5100	casatres@xtra.co.nz
Newsletter Editor	Moira Warnock	09 407 6389	warnockmoira@gmail.com