



May 2017

www.u3abayofislands.wordpress.com

U3A Bay of Islands, PO Box 833, Kerikeri 0245

u3a.bay.of.islands@gmail.com



From the Chair

Hello everybody,

This has been a busy month for the U3A BOI. We held a new members' meeting at which those facilitators present gave a brief description of their groups. The facilitators then shared ideas, whilst the new members shared their experiences of joining and gave suggestions for new groups. There was good feedback from the new members feeling the meeting had been very informative. I would like to thank all the new members and all the facilitators for contributing and giving up their Saturday morning.

The General Meeting was very entertaining with Murray Lucas giving an in-depth talk on the use of geothermal power instead of gas in the soft paper industry. Thank you, Martin, our General Meeting Coordinator, for getting such an amusing speaker. Thanks also to the Human Behaviour group who handled the kitchen duty.

At the General Meeting I announced to the membership that I have resigned. Sorry to say this is my last month in the U3A Bay of Islands as a member and as Chair. Ian and I have been encouraged by our son in Sydney to join him over there. We decided in February to start the process and put the house on the market in March, thinking that it would take some time to sell. However, we were signing a contract the next day and we leave our house in May. Therefore, I join Margaret Rasmussen - Group Convenor, Maebeth Hart -Secretary and Almoner, and Catherine Gossage - Newsletter Editor in leaving the committee. Thanks to them for completing their duties so efficiently. The committee is working hard to recruit potential members for the new committee for the AGM on June 26th. If you are interested in joining the committee or if you know of someone who may be interested, please contact a committee member for a nomination form.

I am sorry to leave, but have happy memories of debate, interesting comments, jokes and laughter at all the groups we have held in our home and in other meetings.

I would like to thank the committee for their contributions. I wish you all a stimulating and interesting year in the U3A.

Cheers,
Sue Robertson

New Members

U3A Bay of Islands is delighted to welcome new members Jenny Blackler and Fran Smith. Be sure to look out for them in groups and at the next General Meeting and say "Hello".

Report on the April General Meeting

U3A Talk by Murray Lucas Kawerau Pulp and Paper Manufacturing Complex: Converting from Natural Gas to Geothermal Generated Steam



Who would have guessed that an hour long talk about the conversion of a pulp paper manufacturing plant could be so informative and entertaining? The large group who showed up to the April GM to hear Murray's talk can tell you that's exactly what it was.

Murray took us through the special site picked in the fifties for New Zealand's only soft paper manufacturing plant and the efforts needed to make use of the already available geothermal resource. Although nearby Tasman Pulp and Paper used the steam generated by the geothermal field from the beginning, it took a combined effort by what was now the SCA owned company and local Ngati Tuwharetoa to work toward the common goal of using the steam directly in the paper drying process. They have been using steam instead of natural gas since 2010, at a relative low cost for implementation, and with benefits to their

production costs, product marketing, and of course, the local community and the environment.

Murray's explanations of the process and supporting media presentation were very clear so that even a lay person could understand, and they were delivered with plenty of humour. We came away feeling that we could be very proud of a 100% New Zealand product line that had lived up to "Clean Green" standards and given direct benefits to the local Iwi.

Catherine Gossage

Treasurer's Report

If you have not yet paid your subscription for 2017-2018, may I remind you that the preferred way to receive your subs would be using online banking, details below.

Online payment to **Account: 02 0352 0020910 000 Payee account: U3A BOI** (please include your surname, first name and the word "sub" as a reference).

The other method would be by cheque payable to "U3A BOI" by post to the address below including your name in block capitals on the reverse of the cheque.

The Treasurer, U3A Bay of Islands, P.O. Box 833, Kerikeri 0245

I'll conclude this little reminder with a quote from my predecessor, "The best \$20 worth in the country."

Stuart Leitch, Treasurer

Group News

Thank you to the new members and facilitators who came to our meeting on Saturday 22 April for some really good suggestions for new groups. We will do our best to respond to your suggestions during the year.

Help Our Facilitators

One thing we could all do to help our wonderful facilitators is to make sure we let them know **ahead of time** if we are unable to attend a meeting. Facilitators and hosts go to a lot of trouble to set out chairs and provide morning and afternoon teas and it is frustrating for them when people do not show up. If you would like to take a visitor, the same thing applies. It is courteous to ring first to make sure it is convenient.

We have a change of facilitator for our Monday **Poetry for Pleasure** group. We would like to thank Sue Robertson for her enthusiasm and hospitality as facilitator of this group. We are grateful to David Mounter who has offered to act as facilitator so the group can continue to enjoy poetry together. Details of the next meeting will be in the Group Schedule.

Numbers in our **Philosophy** group have grown smaller in recent times and Robert Wright, our facilitator, is keen to recruit some new members so that the group can continue. Robert writes:

We are very keen to increase the numbers in our Philosophy group as we find that, with more people, we get a wider range of views which leads to livelier discussion. Some people have difficulty in grasping the concept of Philosophy. I experienced this myself when, in the early days of U3A, I was plunged into leading a philosophy meeting. Realising how little I knew of the subject I decided to learn and there began the love I have for the philosophy of epistemology, simply, how do we know things? What can we know? Is it possible to 'know' anything?

Our examination into epistemology is as wide, as it is fascinating. We do not use any aids; we prefer to choose a subject, examine it in a general discussion and follow it wherever it leads. Here are just a few examples of the fascinating topics we have explored:

- *Our discussion of Plato's 'Republic' led to the discovery that it was here the first description of Atlantis is found so our discussion then followed this new direction.*
- *In studying the various philosophies that offer the proof of the existence of God we discovered that Christianity has roots in ancient Egyptian, early Mesopotamian and Zoroastrian beliefs.*
- *We examined the 'Big Bang' beginning of our Universe and found this was one theory and that there are a number of other well-argued theories developed by astrophysicists. We talked about the fact that all the matter in the Universe amounts to only about 8%; the remainder is unknown to us so we call it Dark Matter.*

If you feel you would like to join us in a lively discussion of such fascinating topics, please contact me - 09 402 7841 or better still: rwright@xtra.co.nz. This group meets on the third Friday of the month.

Robert Wright.

New Groups

The Adventure of English

We are very pleased that we are now able to offer a new group looking at the English language. This was so popular last time Pam Jenkins facilitated the group that she had to run three groups to cater for the numbers. Luckily for us she has offered to run the group again. Pam will supplement the DVDs with additional material she has prepared.

Here is the riveting story of the English language, from its humble beginnings to its current pre-eminence as the one global language, spoken by more than two billion people worldwide. In this BBC series, Melvyn Bragg will take you on a magnificent adventure, full of jealousy, intrigue, and war—against a hoard of invaders, all armed with their own conquering languages, which bit by bit, the speakers of English absorbed and made their own.

This colourful story takes in a host of remarkable people, places, and events: the Norman invasion of England in 1066; the arrival of “The Canterbury Tales” and a “coarse” playwright named William Shakespeare, who added 2,000 words to the language; the songs of slaves; the words of Davy Crockett; and the Lewis and Clark expedition, which led to hundreds of new words as the explorers discovered unknown flora and fauna. *The Adventure of English* is an enthralling story not only of power, religion, and trade, but also of a people and how they changed the world.

Games to Stretch the Mind

What a great way to spend a winter afternoon! Unfortunately this group will not go ahead unless we can attract a few additional members within the next two weeks as we need at least ten to make it viable. We have a facilitator, Tom Everitt, and a venue so we are ready to go. Activities may include board games, card games or puzzles. Some members may enjoy working together to learn new games or to solve puzzles such as cryptic crosswords. The group will meet at Cherry Park House, probably in the afternoon of the second Friday of the month. If you are interested, don't let this opportunity pass.

Please contact me to join either of these new groups - Margaret Rasmussen - ras1@clear.net.nz or 09 402 8949

Margaret Rasmussen

2016 - 2017 Committee			
Chair	Sue Robertson	09 407 3452	ian.robertson1953@yahoo.com
Secretary/Almoner	Maebeth Hart	09 407 5100	casatres@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer	Stuart Leitch	09 407 3458	sleitch21@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
Publicity Officer	Judy Ramsey	09 407 4471	judyramsey43@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Catherine Gossage	09 407 6266	gssg.cd@hotmail.co.uk
Committee Member	Jane Holmes	09 407 7500	tony_holmes@xtra.co.nz