



November 2014

www.u3abayofislands.wordpress.com

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From the President

It was really pleasant to see so many of you at the General Meeting. We enjoyed a lively presentation, with great audience participation, and enjoyable socialising afterwards during the shared lunch.

I do hope you enjoy reading this month's Newsletter. Please feel free to contact anyone on the committee with your ideas for our U3A development.

Stuart Leitch



General meeting report

We were very pleased to welcome Bill Edwards and Brooke Jamieson from Heritage New Zealand (formerly The Historic Places Trust) to our October General Meeting. New Zealand was one of the last places on earth to be settled so our archaeological heritage is compressed into a span of about 700 years and is "just under our feet". Of 66,000 identified archaeological sites 14,000 are in Northland.

Bill and Brooke summarised findings at three sites identified with early contact between Maori and Pakeha:- Oihi (Marsden Cross), Russell/Kororareka and Kerikeri Basin. They spoke of the role drawings and paintings play in identifying the chronology of changes to the landscape. Another site, a little reserve at Hongi's Point described by Bill as "archaeology in the back garden", generated a great deal of interest and subsequent discussion.



Finally they demonstrated the **Heritage Trails** app (free to download from iTunes and Google Apps Store) of six Northland 'tours' with images and stories of some of the earliest Maori-Pakeha interactions. Thanks go to Bill and Brooke for an interesting presentation, to the U3A members who supplied lunch and the Sketching Group who took care of kitchen duties.

Christine Cronshaw

Other Committee news

Many thanks to Judy Ramsey for her donation to U3A of the book and DVDs of the BBC series, *Seven Wonders of the Industrial World*. We appreciate your generosity.

Group News

The Victorians and Oscar Wilde group will meet for the last time in November. Many thanks to Pam Jenkins, our facilitator, for offering this insight into such an influential period of history. Members have also thoroughly enjoyed the plays of Oscar Wilde which still have much relevance in today's world.

We have room in the **Carry On Sketching** group for new members who have some previous experience of sketching. Please give Mike Dee a call to chat about the course. (09) 401 9607.

Applications are open for the new groups below. Contact me as soon as possible if you are interested so we can find days and times to suit everyone and be ready to start in February. ras1@clear.net.nz or 09 402 8949

Geology/Cosmology facilitated by Mary Johnson. The group will watch the BBC series, *The Rise of the Continents*, supplemented by *Wonders of the Solar System*.

C20th NZ History – a personal view

Relive some of the significant events that established New Zealand as an independent nation. Pam Jenkins will facilitate this group which will be held on the morning of the first Wednesday of each month.

Poetry for Pleasure

Sue Robertson has kindly offered to facilitate a second poetry group as the first has been so popular. Members will share their favourite poems.

Travel Group A popular Travel Club already exists in Kerikeri where members share an evening meal and listen to a speaker. Ours will be more of a discussion group where members share experiences of different cultures and view photos, videos, art, and other items of cultural interest.

Spanish Conversation – a reasonable knowledge of Spanish will be required.

Additional groups which we could set up if there is sufficient interest are **Jazz, Play Reading**, and an **E-book** group for those with E-readers.

Margaret Rasmussen

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Group Reports

Local History Group - Opuia

This month our group had the privilege of two guest speakers. Patricia Bawden, who has spent many years researching the subject, told us about the years before Waitangi, the background of Samuel Marsden, and his journeys before his arrival at Rangihoua.

Dianne Paterson spoke about the early days of Rangihoua and Marsden Cross and the current situation with regard to the forthcoming 200th anniversary of Marsden's first service at Rangihoua.

It has long been considered that Kerikeri and later Paihia were the first European settlements in New Zealand. In fact, as our speakers pointed out, if one studies the history, it would be fair to say that "The Cradle of The Nation" was Rangihoua.

Rangihoua had the first settlers and settlement, the first school, the first land sales and the first horses, cattle and chickens, as well as plants and seeds for the survival of the settlers. The settlement only flourished for a short time before some of the settlers moved to other areas, including Kerikeri.

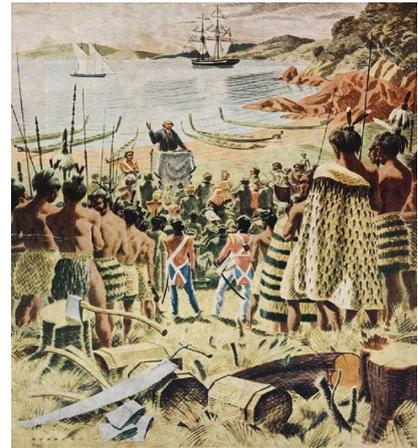
On December 21st. the Governor General will officially open the new buildings at Marsden Cross, and on Christmas day there will be a re-enactment service on the beach where Samuel Marsden preached the first sermon in New Zealand.

For those interested, there are two websites to visit:

www.rangihouaheritage.co.nz and www.gospel2014.org

In November the group will be going to Russell to visit Pompallier Mission and, if time permits, the Russell Museum. December, weather permitting, we will have a picnic at a venue of historic interest.

Don Jansen



History of Aviation

Since our last report, this group has explored pioneer aviators, manned and unmanned space craft for interplanetary exploration and then returned to earth for the theory of flight. These very informative sessions have been led by our new facilitator David Mowat.



Before our session on "Barnstorming" one of our members related the story of the Bugatti 100 (see image), the only plane the famous car designer made. Hitler realised the propaganda value of world speed records and by 1937 Germany held the record with a modified Messerschmidt 109. In 1934 Ettore Bugatti decided to produce a racing plane to capture the record for France. He collaborated with a Belgian aircraft designer to create a very advanced plane built from balsa and ply (at that time the lightest material). It was fitted with two engines within the fuselage driving separate shafts to counter rotating props, a retractable undercarriage and very advanced air coolers built into the tail fins. The plane was built in a factory in Paris, but the German advance in 1940 overtook the project before

completion. The plane was hidden in a barn for 30 years, eventually reappearing in the USA, where it is now on display at Oshkosh. A flying replica is being built.

Barnstorming and Flying Circuses became very popular after WW1 when surplus military aircraft came onto the market. Skilled pilots, some of them ex-servicemen, took up stunt flying using planes like the Curtiss Jenny. The sources of entertainment for the public were fairly limited in those days so stunt flying and daredevil Flying Circuses were very popular with crowds of 30,000 spectators.

Sue Robertson

Music Appreciation

The music appreciation group meets on the first Thursday of the month, at the home of Jack and Stephanie Beggs. We listen to and discuss music, normally classical, which we play.

In the past, we agreed on a theme and everyone brought a CD to play at the meeting. More recently we ask one member of the group to devise a concert. Sometimes we also play a DVD in the *Great Composers* series. The format of the meetings is flexible and all suggestions are welcome.

This month we listened to a CD of a musical composed by a distant relative of a group member in Scotland given to her on a recent visit. This was based on a play about the *Reivers*, who were raiders on the borders of Scotland and England. We found it very entertaining.



At the previous meeting Jack and Stephanie presented a concert of music from countries they visited on a recent holiday. We played music from the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, and Hungary, including music by Koželuch, Dvořák, J.S. Bach, Johann Strauss I & II, Lehár, Bartok, and Liszt. Some of these had been played at a concert they attended in Vienna.

New members welcome

Jack Beggs

Shakespeare

Shakespeare, the “Bard of Avon”, is recognised as one of the greatest contributors to English literature, having written 38 plays, 154 sonnets and two long narrative poems between 1589 and 1613. In late 2011 the BOI U3A bought the full set of plays produced by the BBC in DVD format and in early 2012 two groups began the journey of working through the entire collection, viewing a different play each month. Time has reduced us to one group which continues to look forward eagerly to the fourth Tuesday of each month and a new experience of flowing prose creating scenes of comedy, tragedy and passion, most skilfully presented by a succession of actors and actresses whose fluency and clear diction bring the most unlikely scenes to dramatic life. It is an interesting side issue to recognise, beneath the paint, powder and costumes, faces that we are often familiar with in more mundane TV programmes which do not reveal the very real talent they command.

The variety of Shakespeare’s writing ensures a continuing interest with no fear of repetition causing boredom. We marvel at his knowledge, at a time when education and literacy were not common assets. True, one must not accept his versions of history; such plays are written for dramatic effect not for historical education but they, together with the comedies and other dramas, offer examples of the glorious possibilities of the English language which, sadly, appear to be often ignored today.

So far we have watched 27 plays, with only one month cancelled since beginning, and now we can see, albeit months away, the end of our Odyssey. The journey, which has introduced us to unfamiliar plays as well as reacquainting us with old favourites, has become a fixture in our lives. What next? Who can match Shakespeare?

Margaret Lindsay

Members of the *Book Discussion* and *Poetry for Pleasure* groups have been invited to attend a reading by **James Crowden**, poet, author and BBC commentator, who will read his poems from the West of England and a selection of war poems. Other members are welcome to join them.

Social Centre, Kerikeri Village 10.30am-12.00pm, Monday, 8th December 2014

Please email Sue Robertson to reserve a seat. robertson8148@yahoo.co.uk