



November 2016

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

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## From the Chair

Hello everybody,

I have been hearing that some members are still suffering from the flu. I do hope you get better soon in time for the glorious summer we are going to have!

I received an invitation for us all from the U3A Norfolk Island to join them in 2017 for dedicated U3A events which sound fascinating. These are; Foundation Day in March, Bounty Day in June, Norfolk Island Folk History in August, Agricultural and Horticultural Show Week in October and Thanksgiving Day and Food Festival in November. If you are interested please contact me. I will bring the details to our general meeting in February.

Some of the General Meetings next year have had to be changed from the 3rd Monday because of holidays and other bookings at the St. John Ambulance Hall. We will give you a list in the next newsletter so you can mark them in your 2017 diaries!

We have been made aware that there have been issues with people who have **xtra** email suffixes, and that Spark has been asking these clients to change email addresses. Please let us know if you do change email addresses, so that you will continue to receive your Newsletter.

Thank you to all members who attended the personal and interesting talk by Helen Ough Dealy for the general meeting in October. Thank you to all members of the Art Appreciation group who helped with kitchen duties.

Hope you all continue to have interesting groups in November.

Cheers,

*Sue Robertson*

## New Members

We have had a lot of new members join our ranks. U3A Bay of Islands is delighted to welcome Angie Cree, Ted and Barbara Meyer, Patricia Pope, Sue and Claude Zurich, and Tom Tulloch. Be sure to look out for them in groups and at the next General Meeting and say "Hello".

## Report on General Meeting

### Tiggy Oggy, Soccer and Blue Eyes



As a timely reminder that we are all immigrants or descendants of immigrants, it was most interesting to hear Helen Ough Dealy speak of her trip to Mexico to explore her family's Cornish silver mining roots in Pachuca and Real del Monte. Her great grandfather, along with scores of other miners, left behind dwindling job prospects and impending famine to answer the call of Mexico's silver mines. Both they and their hosts were faced with a culture shock, not only because of the difference in language, climate, customs and food, but also because of religious differences. As Helen demonstrated, the two cultures eventually co-existed, and their influences on one another are seen to this day. Blue eyed Mexicans, a Methodist church and school, a soccer field, Cornish architecture and even a museum of Cornish pasty (tiggy oggy); remind one of the miners and their families who came to Mexico. Helen is living proof that the Mexican influence lives on in her own family.

Helen's talk was well documented by old photographs of the silver mining days as well as photos she took on her travels. Again, thank you Helen for preparing this entertaining and informative talk.



*Montezuma's gifts*



*Mexico's Pasty Museum*

*Catherine Gossage*

## Group News

Our **Political Ideologies** group will have its last meeting in November. We would like to thank Ian Robertson very much for leading this group. I know Ian did a great deal of research into this topic which I am sure led to many stimulating discussions.

The **Computer and Camera** group, also led by Ian in recent times, had its last meeting in October. This was one of our longest-running groups which began when personal computers were relatively new. Its members learned together and increased their skills over the years with both computers and cameras. We would like to thank Ian and those who led this group in the past.

The **I Spy** group has also had its last meeting. The group visited many interesting places – the seashore, a farm, the forest, etc. and members learned a great deal about our natural environment as well as about some introduced pests. We are grateful to Rosie Hajnal, our most recent facilitator, and Moira Warnock who ran the group at the start.

### New Groups

I am pleased to announce that **Understanding Greek and Roman Technology** and **Antiques and Collectibles** will both go ahead. The technology group will be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 2 pm and will begin in February. There are one or two spaces still available in this group. We are delighted that Howard Dixon has offered his services as facilitator and that Mary and Lindsay Johnson will act as hosts.

The **Antiques and Collectibles** group will hold its first meeting at 10 a.m. on Friday 4 November (the first Friday of the month) and also has one or two spaces available. We are very grateful to Cora McKay who has offered to facilitate this group and to host the first meeting.

Our creative writing group, **Just Writing**, has reached capacity. As more members have expressed an interest in joining, we are exploring the possibility of forming a second group. I would love to hear from you if you would like to exercise your creative side.

If any of these new groups appeal to you, please contact me as soon as possible to secure a place.

### “Groups Are Always Full”

From time to time we hear this comment from people who are unable to join the groups which interest them. If a group is full, it is important that you ask the facilitator to put your name on a waiting list so he/she will then be able to invite you to join the group if space becomes available. If the waiting list grows to several people, the facilitator will let me know and we will try to offer another group.

We do our best to accommodate everyone in the groups of their choice and we encourage you to put your name down promptly if you are interested in the new groups advertised in the newsletter. Quite often people wait until a new group is finalised then express disappointment when they are unable to join.

*Margaret Rasmussen* - [ras1@clear.net.nz](mailto:ras1@clear.net.nz) or 09 402 8949

Please note that there will be **no meeting** for the **Cooking, History of Food, and Philosophy** groups in November.

## Featured Groups

I'd like to apologise for not having any reports on featured groups for this month. I would like to suggest, however, that each group send me one or two photos of a highlight from this past year, with a brief description. I will include these in December's Newsletter for a look back on the good times we've had this year. Please let me know if you are planning any end of year get-togethers so we can include these dates in the Group Schedule.

For anyone planning a visit to Auckland before February 19<sup>th</sup>, may I recommend a visit to the Auckland Art Gallery to see **The Māori Portraits: Gottfried Lindauer's New Zealand**. There are over 120 historical portraits of prominent Māori and Pākehā painted in the late 19<sup>th</sup>, early 20<sup>th</sup> century by Czech-born Lindauer. This exhibition has been lovingly curated, and also includes a look at Lindauer's art and methods, as well his use of the then new technique of photography. Entry is free. <http://www.aucklandartgallery.com/whats-on/exhibition/the-maori-portraits-gottfried-lindauers-new-zealand>

If you missed out on the **Show Time** group's October showing of **The King and I**, you can find the musical on the Classic Movie playlist of Air New Zealand's in-flight entertainment. Just try to be inconspicuous as you hum along.

*Catherine Gossage*