



October 2017

www.u3abayofislands.wordpress.com

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From the Chair

One hundred years ago, in October 1917, New Zealanders and Australians were involved in the major offensive efforts at Arras, Messines and Passchendaele. The name of Passchendaele, a small village in Flanders, still conjures images of soldiers floundering in a shattered landscape of mud, shell craters and barbed wire under pitiless machine-gun and artillery fire. This was the site of the worst disaster, in terms of lives lost, in New Zealand's history.

As the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, said at a centennial commemoration ceremony for Irishmen who fought in World War One, "We cannot give back their lives to the dead, nor whole bodies to those who were wounded, or repair the grief, but we honour them all now, even if at a distance, and we do not ask, nor would it be appropriate to interrogate, their reasons for enlisting.

Stuart Park is, however, interested in why his own great uncles enlisted to fight in that war. Why did they, and many more of New Zealand's young men go to fight a war on the other side of the world, and what did they find when they got there? At our October meeting, Stuart will talk about their reasons and the experiences of New Zealand soldiers, using his own family members as examples.

Over the last few years many diaries, letters, memoirs and poems from individual soldiers have become available, sometimes online, and they have revealed the intimacy of the trenches under terrible bombardment, incredible expressions of human courage, manifestations of care and compassion far beyond the ordinary, delivered on a daily basis. This is true for soldiers on both sides of the war.

Lesley McNaughton





General Meeting
Open to the Public

Monday 16th October, 10.30 am,

St. John's Ambulance Hall,
367 Kerikeri Road

Members: Please bring finger food
for our shared lunch.

Kitchen Group:
Adventures in English

Why? An Exploration of World War One

Stuart Park, Director of the Auckland War Memorial Museum in the 1980s and 1990s, visited WWI sites in France and Belgium in 2004, 2014 and this year looking for answers. Stuart will give an illustrated talk exploring some Kiwis' experiences in World War One. Then Martin Ough Dealy will speak about members of his family who lost their lives in the war. There will be a display of members' memorabilia of relatives who served in the war



Committee News

Groups

Howard Smith recently returned home and we are looking forward to having him on the committee. He will now take over the role of Group Convener and be responsible for setting up new groups. He will advertise these groups in our newsletters, take applications and help the groups get started. When you want to join a *new* group you will need to contact him.

However, to join a group that has already started, you should contact the group's facilitator. You can do this even if the group is full, since the facilitator can put you on a waiting list.

The **Exploration** group has finished reading Gavin Menzies latest book and decided to go into recess until February next year. The break will give them time to decide on their next book and purchase individual copies of it. On behalf of the committee, I'd like to thank the group's facilitator, Maria Manning, and Joan Lawrence, who has been hosting the group for many years.

Biology – starting in November – only two places left

In this new group, Ulrike Novak will teach many aspects of biology: botany, zoology, genetics, physiology and ecology. Ulrike has an extensive research background in molecular biology and genetics and she puts an enormous amount of time into preparing interesting material for her groups. The Biology group will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, starting on 8th November. If you would like to join this group contact Ulrike directly: 09 9466 112 or unovak123@gmail.com

Anthropology and Humanity – now starting in February

How is it that the human race has developed a seemingly limitless physical and cultural diversity? Anthropologists use multidisciplinary methods to explain this and trace the development of religion, agriculture, money, language and other aspects of human experience. This group will be based on short talks by Professor Scott M. Lacy, a charismatic lecturer from Fairfield University in Connecticut. Meetings will be on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Since this group was advertised last month and the facilitator, Mary Johnson, already has a list of applicants, please contact her directly if you would like to join it. Phone her on 09 4025 516 or email lindsay.mary@xtra.co.nz

Other new groups starting in February

The committee plans to start the New Year with a batch of other new groups. We already have facilitators, hosts and resources for the following groups:

Board Games – members will play favourite games and learn new games

Stars in Their Eyes – a film group with emphasis on different film stars

Detective Novels – a book discussion group for people who enjoy this genre

World Religions – learning about different religions and the associated cultures

Shakespeare's Plays – watching and learning more about the plays and their context

History of China – based on Michael Wood's DVD series *The Story of China*.

There will be information about those groups in the next newsletter and our Group Convenor, Howard Smith, will start taking applications after that newsletter is sent to all members.

Please contact Howard if you would like to suggest other groups, which could be started in February or later in the year. Email group.convenor.u3a.boi@gmail.com or phone 09 4079 593.

Meetings

Our Meeting Coordinator, Martin Ough Dealy, appreciates feedback about the U3A General meetings and he would like members to suggest good speakers on interesting topics for next year's meetings.

Email meeting.coordinator.u3a.boi@gmail.com or phone 09 4075 925.

New Members

We are delighted to welcome Val Kirton and Debbie Land. We hope you'll enjoy being part of U3A.

Lesley McNaughton - Chair

Understanding Greek and Roman Technology

This is a DVD based course, presented with all the enthusiasm the topic deserves.

It starts with the building materials available over 2000 years ago and the ways they were handled, transported, and used to erect the Greek temples we still know today.

The course then moves fairly quickly to the Romans and their massive improvements in technology and architecture, especially after their invention of concrete, which allowed them to construct the most elaborate buildings, reaching far into the skies, with massive domes with the widest span ever using un-reinforced concrete. The best example is in the pantheon, which is still standing today, nearly 2000 years later.



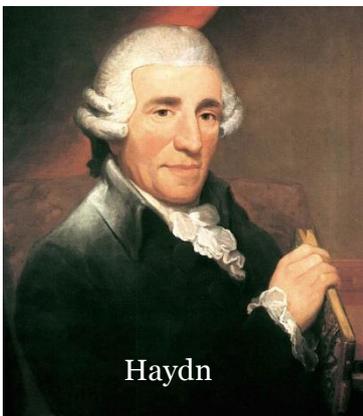
The course then moves on to discussing the construction of roads, bridges, waterways and aqueducts and the fabulous Roman baths with under-floor heating and rooms for baths with different temperatures. The skill in surveying, plan making and precise execution of those constructions is simply mind-boggling.

This is followed by the description of invention of machines for construction, grain milling, warfare and ship building.

Our class is enthralled by the topic and the presentation with good models to illustrate the points made.

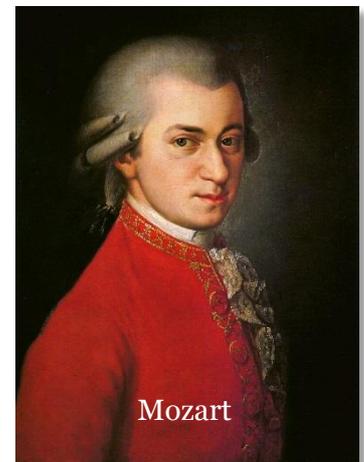
Ulrike Novak

Music Appreciation

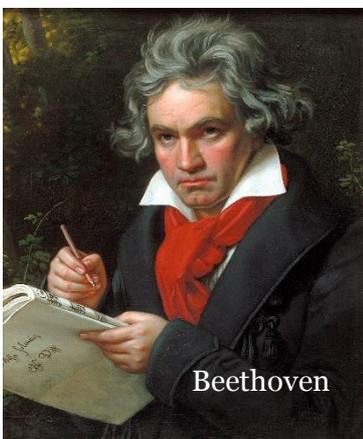


The term 'classical music' has two meanings. In common parlance, it refers to any music that is supposedly 'serious' (as opposed to pop or jazz), but strictly speaking it defines a certain period in the development of music; the Classical era, usually defined as roughly from 1750 to around 1820.

The U3A music appreciation group has been going for some years now, on the first Thursday of the month. Everyone is encouraged to bring if they wish, a CD related to the topic, so that we can all share their choice of music.



For the last year or so, we have been following a DVD course by Professor Robert Greenberg who is a very knowledgeable and entertaining speaker. We started with ancient and medieval music and progressed through the Baroque and Classical eras. We are now up to the late 19th Century Romantic era. This covers many of our favourite composers but Prof Greenberg provides much more interesting information which adds to our appreciation.



This course has approximately 6 months to run and then we hope to look at a new course by Prof Greenberg covering more modern music. Do not be discouraged! It is not all weird atonal music but should give us a new appreciation of this period.

Jack Beggs

Picture This

The Picture This group has now been in operation for over a year. The focus of the group has been on finding interesting locations to photograph while at the same time learning the techniques which enhance photographs and how to get the best results from the camera that each member uses. There is very little technical photographic discussion but rather a concentration on “keeping it simple”.

The locations visited have ranged from Waitangi Treaty grounds to a walk through the nature trail in the Puketi Forest. Perhaps the most surprising was a morning spent in Kawakawa. We thought beforehand was that there were the Hundertwasser toilets and trains and that was really all that was there. Once we started looking at what else could be photographed it was a real eye opener to see what interesting and unexpected things there were to photograph. That has been the beauty of going to places with the aim of taking photos; it is absolutely amazing how much more you can find interesting when you are looking for objects or views to photograph.

It is not necessary to have a high end camera to take part in the group’s activities. Members cameras range from useful DSLRs to phone cameras. Every one gets interesting results and we are all learning from each other. The group is not a large one but we have a lot of fun and would welcome new members.



David Welch

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