



September 2017

www.u3abayofislands.wordpress.com

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From the Chair

It was good to see so many members and guests at our general meeting in August, especially since we had such an interesting speaker. Elizabeth Ludbrook, a local historian and descendant of the missionary Henry Williams, gave us a fascinating insight into the rise and fall of missionary influence in the early history of the Bay of Islands, and her answers to questions from the audience showed the depth of her knowledge. You can read Jack Begg's excellent summary of Elizabeth's talk later in this newsletter.



After the meeting there was a buzz of lively conversations over lunch, and many members told me how much they'd enjoyed Elizabeth's talk. I'd like to thank Martin Ough Dealy, our Meeting Coordinator, for recruiting her and ensuring that the meeting ran smoothly.

Our general meetings bring together members who would not normally meet together. This help us all feel part of the our U3A organization in the Bay of Islands. Martin welcomes suggestions for further interesting speakers, local or from further afield, who might educate and entertain us at future meetings. Pass your ideas on to him.

Lesley McNaughton

Art House Film Groups

What can you do in just three hours? Certainly not watch a film that is over three hours long and still have time for a cup of tea and a discussion. Yet some of the world's great films run for longer than three hours. Think of Stanley Kubrik's *Barry Lyndon* or Akira Kurosawa's *Seven Samurai* as examples. A solution might be to make a day of it, splitting the viewing in two with a fine pot-luck lunch served between the two sessions.



That is just what the combined Art House Films groups did for this year's Winter Film day. Our film was Andrei Tarkovsky's masterpiece *Andrei Rublev* which, at 205 minutes, fitted nicely into our extended format. The film was released in 1966 – too late for the cultural thaw that followed Stalin's death in 1953 – so the film faced censorship from the start and had to wait for Glasnost, in 1989, for release in its full version. Its subject is a 15th century Russian icon painter, and so much more.

These are groups that love their films, so discussion filled the lunch break and extended on after the film – until the approach of winter darkness drove them away from the fireside and back to the more mundane fare on TV. Our fourth successful Winter Film Day. We're planning another next year.

Keith McNaughton

Committee News

New Members

We are delighted to welcome Gail Buffy, Jan Hardley, Barbara & Ted Meyer, Alison Pankhurst and Terry Peterson. We hope you'll enjoy being part of U3A.

Group News

Last month I announced that the Science and the Mysteries of Human Behaviour groups had finished. Now the History of Food group has finished so we're planning new groups.

The following groups have been suggested by members and they could be started this year so please email the Group Convenor or phone me if you are interested in any of them.

Biology on the farm

Ulrike Novak has offered a new course on different aspects of biology: botany, zoology, genetics, physiology and ecology. The venue will be her place in Ohaeawai and the course will include a mix of lectures and walks on the farm. The program will depend on the weather and what there is to see outside. The group will start in November and have a December meeting before the vegetation on the farm gets dried out over summer. Ulrike has an extensive research background in molecular biology and genetics and she puts an enormous amount of time into preparing materials for her groups.

Anthropology and Humanity

How is it that the human race has developed a seemingly limitless physical and cultural diversity? From our tree-dwelling primate ancestors to today's globally connected citizens, anthropology looks at *Homo sapiens* to find out why we are the way we are. 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 24 half-hour lectures by Professor Scott M. Lacy, who teaches anthropology, environmental studies and black studies at Fairfield University, Connecticut. In each meeting, the group will view and discuss two of his lectures. We thank Mary Johnson for suggesting this lecture series and agreeing to facilitate the group.

group.convenor.u3a.boi@gmail.com *Lesley McNaughton* - Acting Group Convenor

World War 1 Commemoration – An Idea for U3A Members' Consideration

Stuart Park will be speaking at the October General Meeting on Monday 16th, giving his personal take on the First World War. I will also speak briefly about my family relatives who did not survive that war.

These presentations about World War I are very timely because, as we all know, this year is the penultimate year of the centenary of that awful conflict. New Zealand's contribution was, by far, greater per head of population than other countries involved. That national suffering was mirrored by that of the Australians and resulted in the ANZAC tradition. There are many members of U3A who, one way or another, will have family connections and memories of World War I.

This meeting will provide an opportunity for U3A members to commemorate World War I. My idea is to provide a display of memorabilia about family who served in that great conflict. These could be medals, diaries, photographs, letters etc. The display would be set up behind the speakers' rostrum at the start of the meeting and available for the audience to see after the talk. Owners of the items on display could be on hand to "show and talk" about them.

At present, the idea is just a proposal. Whether it goes ahead or not depends on the level of interest from members. To enable the committee to gauge this, please contact me and let me know if you are interested. I will want brief details of what you would like to display and will be happy to respond to questions and suggestions on how it could be done.

Please contact me as soon as possible but by 25 September 2017 at the latest.

Email: mdealy@clear.net.nz or meeting.coordinator.u3a.boi@gmail.com

Mobile: 0210 220 2211 or Tel: 094075925 *Martin Ough Dealy*

General Meeting August 2017

Elizabeth Ludbrook talked about the influence of missionaries in early Bay of Islands History.

Rev. Samuel Marsden was the chaplain to the Colony of New South Wales and befriended the Maori chief Te Pahi when he visited NSW in 1805.

Marsden was inspired to return to London and gather resources to establish a mission in New Zealand under the protection of Te Pahi, who unfortunately died in 1810. On the way, back he encountered Ruatara, a young relative of Te Pahi, who was in poor health, having been maltreated as a crew member on a whaler and was invited to stay with Marsden in Paramatta to recover his health. This resulted in the establishment of the first Christian mission, by the Church Missionary Society (CMS) at Rangihoua in 1814 under the protection of chief Ruatara who succeeded Te Pahi.

The mission eventually moved to nearby Te Puna and in 1819 to Kerikeri under the protection of Hongi Hika. Once he obtained muskets, Hongi raided large parts of the North Island returning with many slaves whose descendants still live in Northland.

In 1823, the Rev Henry Williams, as Archdeacon, established the mission in Paihia. He built a ship, the *Herald* which impressed the local Maori. One interesting story which Elizabeth told, was of the local tohunga, Tohi Tapu who opposed the missionaries. He placed a curse on Williams and said he would be dead by the morning. Tohi Tapu and his followers camped outside the Williams residence, chanting and performing hakas. When Williams emerged unscathed, the tohunga admitted that the missionaries' god was more powerful, and subsequently befriended them. The missionaries were instrumental with mediating between warring Maori tribes and their influence spread throughout the country. The Bible was translated into Maori by William Williams, the younger brother of Henry, and printed by William Colenso.

The settlement of Kororareka, now known as Russell, was called "the hell hole of the Pacific". In 1833, James Busby was sent as British Resident, to try and establish some sort of order in this place. Also, there was increasing worry about the possibility of the French colonial ambitions.

Busby persuaded the northern chiefs to sign a declaration of independence of the northern territories under the protection of Great Britain. This enabled their ships to fly a national flag. Previously they were in danger of being classed as pirates with no formal identification.

In February 1840, the Treaty of Waitangi was translated by Henry Williams and his son Edward. It was signed initially at Waitangi and subsequently at other locations. Hone Heke, who was at first keen to sign, later became dissatisfied and sacked Kororareka.

In 1842, the Church of England sent Bishop Selwyn to be the first Bishop of New Zealand. Selwyn clashed with Archdeacon Henry Williams, the leader of the CMS in New Zealand. Land purchases by Williams became controversial at the time of the Flagstaff War and, when Williams refused to give up the land, he was dismissed from the CMS. However, Selwyn reconsidered the position he had taken and in 1854 Williams was reinstated to the CMS after the bishop supported his return to membership. The CMS missionaries held the *low church* beliefs that were common among evangelical members of the Anglican Church. There was often a wide gap between the views of the CMS missionaries and the bishops. Selwyn held *high church* views although he did appoint CMS missionaries to positions in the Anglican Church of New Zealand including appointing William Williams as the first Bishop of Waiapu.

Elizabeth and other volunteers are attempting to rebuild the original site of the Paihia mission station. If you are interested or would like to help, contact her; ehludbrook@gmail.com

She recommends the book; "A page from the history of New Zealand" by Hugh Carlton. *Jack Beggs*

Subscriptions 2017-18

The U3A Bay of Islands membership subscription is \$20 per year. If you have not yet paid for the current year please do so as soon as possible. Details were given in the August newsletter.

Art History Monday Group

This group wound up the "Art of the Dark Ages" with a suggestion from the ever creative and inspirational Iris Steensma that we bring along something that we have learnt from the series. What a wonderful surprise when Di Wills arrived armed with Woad (blue face paint) and stick-on tattoos (Maori, she couldn't find Viking) so we could explore what it was to be a Viking. We drew the line at painting our whole bodies blue but it was great fun. Di had also researched Viking recipes so we sat down to "not our usual" tea and bikkies. Flat bread and buns made from these recipes were enjoyed along with some modern substitutes to accompany them.

Diana Sandifer



TED Talks - Technology, Entertainment and Design

"2500+ talks to stir your curiosity" is the headline for www.ted.com/talks, a non-profit web site dedicated to spreading ideas from 'thinkers' all over the world. Each month a group member selects talks from the hundreds of diverse topics available, to be shown and discussed at our meeting.

Last meeting included a talk in Spanish (with English sub-titles) on whether spelling should be simplified. The arguments presented are relevant to both languages. Inevitably the vexed question of the apostrophe arose in the subsequent discussion.

"Txtng is killing language. JK!!!", presented the premise that txtng is not written language but a form of speech.

Do the 32 similar signs left 10,000 to 40,000 years ago in ancient caves all over Europe and beyond represent an early form of graphic communication? Or are they simply doodlings of shapes that come naturally? What tools and techniques are being used to solve "the mother of all crossword puzzles" – the last undeciphered major language, the 4,000-year-old Indus script? What are the clues that indicate whether they wrote from left to right or right to left?

Whatever the subject, the exchange of views that follows each talk is always lively and stimulates further discussion. There are at least 2,250 presentations we have not viewed yet, so, if you like ideas, particularly challenging ones, come and join us.

Christine Cronshaw

2017-2018 Committee			
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Massive Open Online Courses or MOOCs

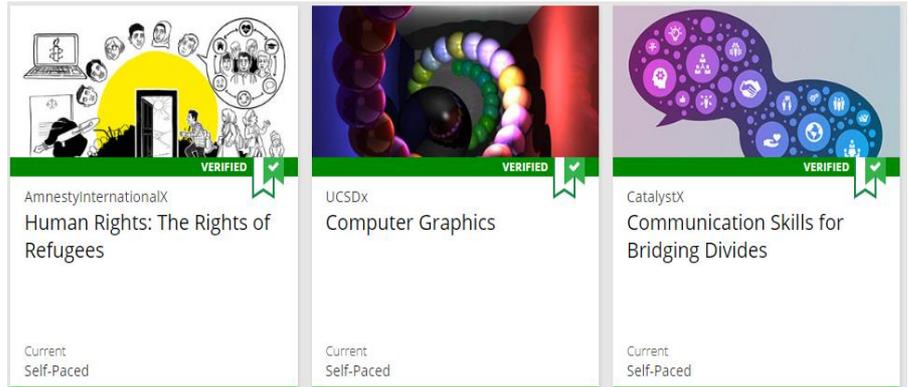
These are short courses made available by some of the world's top universities. They can be done two ways.

The normal way is to enrol at the appropriate time and follow through using the timetable that they give you. This forces you to follow a schedule (with email reminders) and provides forums where you can interact with others taking the course. The other way is to wait until a course is completed (Archived Courses) then access all of the course at your convenience and work through all or part of it. We could have U3A groups using these archived courses.

The main MOOC providers that I am aware of are:

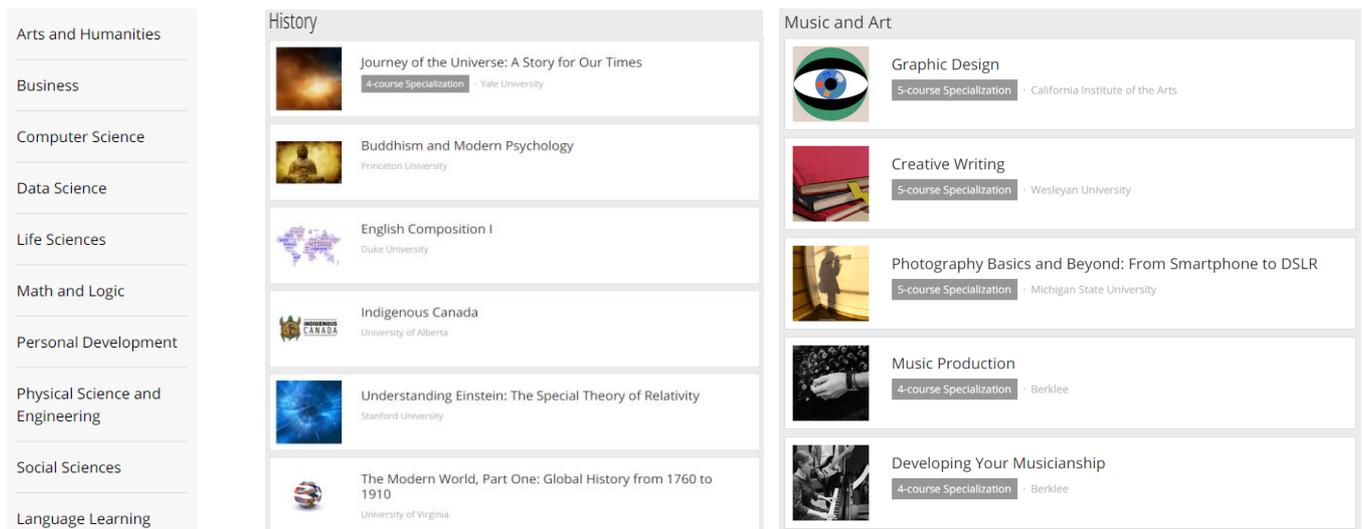
1 EdX <https://www.edx.org/>

Universities include MIT, Harvard, Berkley, University of Queensland, Delft University of Technology, Sorbonne, University of British Columbia and many others. The courses are more academic than some of the other MOOCs but are also often better prepared and delivered. Some current examples available are shown to the right



2 Coursera <https://www.coursera.org/>

Universities include Stanford, John Hopkins, Yesheva Uni., NUS (Singapore), Utrecht University, University of Science and Technology of China and many more. Coursera has more universities and more courses than EdX and has a wider range of interest courses such as:



3 FutureLearn <https://www.futurelearn.com/> As above

4 Udacity <https://www.udacity.com/> More focussed on computing.

Cam McNicol