



September 2016

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

U3A Bay of Islands, PO Box 833, Kerikeri 0245

[u3a.bay.of.islands@gmail.com](mailto:u3a.bay.of.islands@gmail.com)



## From the Chair

Hello everybody,

I would like to welcome two new co-opted members to the committee, Catherine Gossage as our newsletter editor and Judy Ramsey our new publicity officer. They will introduce themselves later in this newsletter. I hope they enjoy the committee as Judy said to me "I'll let you know next year before the AGM!"

If you were unable to attend the general meeting you missed a very entertaining speaker, Bill Guthrie. Find the report on his talk later in this edition.

Thank you to all the members who helped set up for the general meeting and the I-Spy, and Opera group members who worked so well together in their kitchen duties and who also hoovered up the floor of the hall, determined "to leave it better than we had found it." Also thanks to Martin OughDealy our general meeting co-ordinator.

At the general meeting it was a great surprise to me to hear members of the French Conversation group speaking French so naturally to one another. I commented later they were just so "naturelle". Their retort back was "Well that's what we do, we speak French!"

The committee is looking into new ways to publicise U3A. As some of you may or may not know, we have a very informative website (you'll find the link in our heading). Margaret Rasmussen has provided Focus Paihia with information about the U3A BOI, so those of you who receive their newsletter will see a report and photos taken from our website included. If you have any other ideas, please let our committee members know.

Someone left a black light lady's jacket at the AGM, so please contact me if it is yours.

I hope you have an interesting month learning and socialising in the U3A BOI.

*Sue Robertson*

## Subscriptions 2016-17

The U3A Bay of Islands membership subscription is \$20 per year. If you think you may be one of the few stragglers who have not yet paid for the current year please could you do so as soon as possible.

Bank account details for direct credit are: Account: 02 0352 0020910 000 Account name: U3A BOI

Please include your NAME in the details as otherwise I have no way of knowing who the sub belongs to. Our postal address is: The Treasurer, U3A Bay of Islands, PO Box 833, Kerikeri 0245

*Stuart Leitch - Treasurer*

## Report on General Meeting

### Send Lawyers, Guns and Money

Bill Guthrie gave a presentation of Chinese funeral practices in Macao which was full of humour and picturesque descriptions of some bizarre and astonishing ways in which the Chinese revere and keep their links with their ancestors.

Bill spent 12 years as a Professor of Archaeology in Macao, and made a hobby of observing and researching Chinese ancestor worship. Bill explained the Chinese belief that ancestors pass into a sort of purgatory (more like hell) from which they still participate in their children's lives, but on a spiritual level. It is the children's duty to provide for the ancestor's needs in the afterlife. He presented his slides of surprisingly eclectic multi-religious alters, strange jobs such as the bone cleaner, and the omnipresent incinerators used to burn paper objects to represent material possessions one might need in the afterlife. He even stumbled across the hush-hush practice of sending paper guns and medical supplies to deceased mafia members. It was a good thing that he was blessed by a Dao priest to protect him from spectral retributions and received the necessary "legal paperwork" so his explorations wouldn't come back to haunt him.



Bill's presentation was well attended, with a few outside guests coming to hear him talk, and was most entertaining for such a lugubrious subject. He works at the Stone Store Wednesday to Sunday, so if you want more of his take on local history, drop by for a visit.

*Martin Ough Dealy - Catherine Gossage*

## Committee News

### Meet Catherine Gossage, our new newsletter editor.

Describe yourself in ten words (no particular order of importance):

Polyglot, traveller, writer, reader, teacher, French, gourmet, ukulele player, mother, wife

(If you have any questions, find me at U3A.)



*With a fellow reporter in France*



### Meet Judy Ramsey, our new publicity officer.

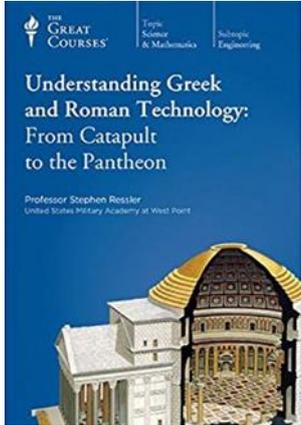
One of the best decisions I made was to immigrate to New Zealand from the West Country of England in 1978. I lived on the North Shore of Auckland for a few years, prior to moving north, first to Kaeo then to Kerikeri. The majority of my working life was in clerical positions – which always proved interesting and ranged from working in a busy office in Auckland to a remote office in the middle of a pine forest – and most things in between. However, when I retired I realised that if I didn't make an effort to get out and meet people, I wouldn't see anyone from one day's end to the next, and U3A proved to fill the need for interest and companionship. Apart from U3A I am also interested in genealogy and gardening.

## Group News

### New Groups

We are able to offer two new groups this month.

#### Understanding Greek and Roman Technology - from the Catapult to the Pantheon



Ancient Greece and Rome produced some of the most creative engineers who ever lived. In 24 fascinating and well-reviewed DVD sessions from the Great Courses series, you will learn how buildings, roads, machines, water and air-conditioning systems which were profoundly important in their own day have had a lasting impact on the development of civilization. Excellent presenter, Dr Stephen Ressler, a former professor at the US Military Academy and a civil engineer, has made his presentations very easy to understand by creating physical and computer models to clearly demonstrate ancient problem solving in action. Here is a sample of the topics covered: “From Quarry to Temple - Building in Stone”, “Engineering a Roman Aqueduct”, “Machines at Sea - Ancient Ships” and “Connecting the Empire - Roads and Bridges”.

For more information on topics covered in the course, please go to <http://www.thegreatcourses.com/courses/understanding-greek-and-roman-technology-from-catapult-to-the-pantheon.html>

At the end of this series, this group could possibly move on to study some of today’s engineering achievements.

### Antiques and Collectibles

Judging by the huge audience for *Antiques Roadshow* on television, many people enjoy finding out more about special items from days gone by. In this group we plan to have a theme each month, e.g. antique books, china, linen, artworks, glass, inherited items etc. Themes will arise out of the interests of the group. Members will bring along any collectable related to that theme and share what they know of its history. One or two members may volunteer to research the topic for the meeting and gather books or videos from the library. People may also like to talk about their own collections of objects which need not be antiques.



If either of these new groups appeals to you, please contact me as soon as possible so we can get started.

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

Please note that the **French Conversation** group will now meet on the **4th Tuesday** of the month at 2 pm. There will be **no meeting** for the **Cooking** group and the **I Spy** group in September.

## U3A Bay of Islands Website

Some of you may be unaware that U3A Bay of Islands has a very useful website which can be found at <https://u3abayofislands.wordpress.com>. The website is maintained by Lesley McNaughton and Margaret Rasmussen who are always happy to receive suggestions for improvements from members.



This is an ideal way for you to tell your friends and family about U3A. It is a great place to refer new residents who may be interested in joining and it a useful source of information for you to use yourself. Here are some of the things you can do:

- find out more details about our interest groups on the “Groups” pages
- re-read old newsletters
- look at a gallery of pictures of our members involved in group activities (if you have photos of your group in action, please send them in to us so we can include them)
- find out which speaker will be featured at our next general meeting
- download a brochure and application form
- view the calendar so you can see at a glance when each group meets (see below)

<b>Calendar for U3A Bay of Islands</b> <b>updated July 2016</b> These are our <u>normal</u> meeting times					
	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>1st wk</b>	<b>Picture This</b>	<b>Singing for Fun</b>	<b>Natural History</b>		
am	10 am	10 am	10 am		
		~~~~~		~~~~~	
pm	<b>Current Affairs Mon</b>		<b>Opera Wed</b>	<b>Music Appreciation</b>	<b>Art House Films One</b>
	2 pm		1:30 pm	1:30 pm	1:30 pm
<b>2nd wk</b>	<b>Poetry for Pleasure Mon</b>			<b>Art Appreciation</b>	<b>Exploration</b>
am	10 am			10 am	10 am
					<b>I.Spy</b>
					10 am
pm	<b>Art History One</b>	<b>Book Discussion Two</b>	<b>History of Food</b>	<b>Political Ideologies</b>	<b>Just Writing</b>
	1:30 pm	1:30 pm	2 pm	1:30 pm	2 pm
	<b>Local History Opus</b>				
	2 pm				
<b>3rd wk</b>	General meetings	<b>Local History Kenken</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>Computers &amp; Cameras</b>	<b>Philosophy</b>
am	Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct	10 am – time may vary	10 am	10 am	10 am
pm		<b>Book Discussion One</b>	<b>It's Showtime</b>	<b>Opera Thurs</b>	<b>Art History Two</b>
		1:30 pm	2 pm	1:30 pm	1:30 pm
<b>4th wk</b>	<b>Cooking</b>				<b>Poetry for Pleasure Friday</b>
am	10 am				10 am
pm	<b>TED Talks</b>	<b>Shakespeare</b>	<b>Human Behaviour</b>	<b>Current Affairs Thurs</b>	<b>Art House Films Two</b>
	2 pm (last Monday)	1:30 pm	2 pm	1:30 pm	1:30 pm
		<b>French Conversation</b>			
		2 pm			