



October 2014

www.u3abayofislands.wordpress.com

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From the President

Welcome to the October Newsletter. Last month I spoke about the arrival of spring. Unfortunately I spoke too soon.

Pam Jenkins, our Secretary, also manages our resources. She is seeking help from our members. Please read her message in the Committee News. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the October General Meeting where two interesting speakers from Heritage New Zealand will tell us about the fascinating archaeological work going on in the Bay of Islands area. Please bring along a friend or acquaintance and stay for lunch.

I do hope you like the new photo of me showing off the delicious treats our Cooking group rustle up. This month we will be making stir-fries and quick pasta sauces.

Stuart Leitch



The Bay of Islands – an archaeologist's dream



Bill Edwards, Northland Area Manager for Heritage New Zealand and Brooke Jamieson, Regional Archaeologist will give an interesting presentation on **Archaeology and Heritage in Northland**

U3A October general meeting
10:30 am, Monday 20th October 2014
St. John Ambulance Hall, Kerikeri

All are welcome – invite your friends

Please bring finger food for our shared lunch.
Kitchen Duty: Sketching groups

New Groups

Carry On Sketching began in September. This group is open to those who have attended Sketching for Beginners and others who have some previous experience of sketching. If you are interested in joining as a newcomer, please give Mike a call to have a chat about the course. (09) 401 9607.

Starting February 2015 – apply now by email to ras1@clear.net.nz

Geology/Cosmology It is a while since U3A offered a Science group so I am very pleased that Mary Johnson has offered to facilitate this new group. Members will watch the BBC series, *The Rise of the Continents*, which demonstrates how their formation has fundamentally shaped each of our continents' characters - transforming evolution, forging their economic riches and changing the course of human history. This will be supplemented by *Wonders of the Solar System*, an award-winning series of five episodes, each focusing on an aspect of the solar system.

C20th NZ History – a personal view

Pam Jenkins, our facilitator, has run many popular history groups in the past. Based on New Zealand documentaries collected over the years, this is an opportunity to relive some of the significant events that established New Zealand as an independent nation. The twentieth century saw us come of age and take our place in the wider world. This will be a nostalgic journey through the period.

Would you be interested in these groups?

The following have been suggested by members willing to facilitate them:

- Travel Club -members would share travel stories supplemented by photos, videos or displays
- Spanish Conversation – a reasonable knowledge of Spanish would be required
- Poetry for Pleasure – due to popularity of the original group (see their report on page 3)

Further groups for which facilitators would be needed are Jazz, Play Reading, and an E-book group. For the E-book group members would require an e-reader to enable them to download the books that the group chooses to read and discuss.

These groups will be formed if there is sufficient demand so please contact me if you are interested.

Margaret Rasmussen

U3A Resources

Maybe you have DVDs that you would like to donate to U3A or make available for new or existing groups. If you have, I would be grateful if you would contact me. Also if you have U3A DVDs and/or books you no longer need would you let me know and I'll collect them. I now hold the assets so please contact me if you want to know more. pmjenkins@xtra.co.nz or 094077020. *Pam Jenkins*

New member: Welcome to John Greenfield. We look forward to getting to know you.

2014 - 2015 Committee			
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Group Reports

Sketching for beginners/Carry on Sketching

For the June and July sessions the group continued bravely untutored, as I was swanning around France at the time, soaking up the heat wave and wonderful Gothic art. Members practiced their newly acquired skills.

The final beginners' class in August saw the implementation of the skills and insights learned as a series of exercises during the course. This was a formal still life study in black and white pencil on A3 coloured paper. The paper provided the mid tone, black pencil the shadows and white pencil the highlights, creating an attractive image.

Most members of the group are keen to continue their studies so we began a new course, Carry on Sketching. The September class began with a small still life study to reinforce the skill base.

Then as the members had asked to study landscape drawing, they were introduced to an important component – trees and plants. This took the form of direct studies of plant material, emphasising the need to visually identify growth patterns as well as how to apply knowledge already learned, such as the use of ellipses.

New members are welcome to join this group provided they are not absolute beginners and have at least some experience in the basics of drawing. If you're interested, please phone me: 09 401 9607

Mike Dee



Unfinished still life study produced in class

Poetry for Pleasure

Poetry for pleasure is a pleasure indeed. From nonsense poems, from the stark realities of war, from the love of nature, from the fear of the future, from the grief of death, we have shared ideas, ideals, the beauty of the sounds, rhythms and patterns of language.

Our discussions often lead on to wider issues, to the place of poetry in our lives and the influences that have shaped our love of poetry. We introduce the poem we have chosen to read, not in a critical way but talking about why and how the poem has affected us. Some of us have become so enthused we read poetry at breakfast!



We have no theme for the day, no poet of the day. We just bring to the group our own choice of poem for that day.

The group now has twelve members with a few people waiting to join so Sue Robertson has kindly offered to start a second group. Please contact Margaret Rasmussen, the Group Convenor, if you are interested.

The poem for today is a Haiku, a traditional Japanese form. Hey, it's Spring!

Pam Jenkins

French Conversation group

The French conversation group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 2 pm in the house of one of the group members. As the name suggests, we simply talk, in French, about anything and everything that happens to be of current interest.



We do not follow a course and there is no homework. Our members all have a reasonable degree of fluency. Sometimes we watch a DVD or a recorded TV programme on some aspect of French life, history or culture.

Six members attended our September meeting. Mike Dee, who had recently returned from two months in Provence and the Jura region of France, brought along his laptop and showed us some lovely slides of his holiday with a commentary in French. We all felt a longing for a trip to the beautiful French countryside.

Photograph: The medieval town of Vaison la Romaine in Provence, visited by Mike and Carol.

Stephanie Beggs

History of Ireland

Over recent months we have concentrated mainly on the history of southern Ireland as we learnt about events that led to the partition of the island and the formation of Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State. I view these events from the Nationalist perspective since I grew up in Australia hearing my grandmother talk about her uncle, Roger Casement, who I now know played a significant part in many organisations and events which led to the 1916 Easter Rising.

After researching the topic during the month, I present my own summary using a slide show, extra comments and a mix of graphics, contemporary photos, video clips and sometimes complete videos. We pause when members want to add their own comments and break mid meeting for refreshments and general chat.

In August my slide show included video clips from a BBC Documentary about the Ulster Solemn League and Covenant, and an RTÉ documentary on gun running by the Ulster Volunteers and the Irish Volunteers. Then we watched the first episode of the TG4 DVD series *1916 Seachtar Na Cásca* about the seven signatories of the 1916 Proclamation.

In September my slide presentation included photos plus video clips from the BBC/RTE *The Story of Ireland* series and *Michael Collins* from RTÉ's *Ireland's Greatest* series.

We also viewed 60% of *Saoirse?*, a film about the struggle for independence in the years 1919-1922 as recorded on silent newsfilms at the time.

The commentary added to this Gael Linn film was entirely in Gaelic but we had English subtitles. It was a pleasure to listen to the Gaelic language and the evocative music composed by Seán Ó Riada.

Note: RTÉ and TG4 are the Republic of Ireland's public broadcasting services. Gael Linn is a non-profit organisation that fosters the Irish language.



Patrick Pearse proclaimed an Irish Republic outside the GPO in Dublin on Easter Monday 1916

Lesley McNaughton