



February 2015

www.u3abayofislands.wordpress.com

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From the President

A Happy New Year to all U3A members. I hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful break and find yourselves re-invigorated for the coming year!

Two U3A related events occurred for me during the holiday.

Firstly a friend, who will be visiting Anne and me in February from the UK, sent a Christmas greeting attached to her email. The attachment was a spirited rendition of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* adapted for a more "mature" audience – talking about spectacles, walking sticks, etc, and sung by the South Buckinghamshire's U3A "Singing for Fun" Group. Watch this space!

The second occurrence relates to Ngaire Bates, who recently left Kerikeri and us for pastures new – Dunedin to be precise. On making enquiries she found the Dunedin U3A to be 700 strong, just "slightly" bigger than ourselves, with 200 people on the waiting list. Undaunted, and after approaching the Dunedin committee, she is creating a second Dunedin U3A with a greater emphasis on smaller groups meeting in each other's homes. This is more in the tradition of the Bay of Islands U3A, of course!

So we have new members, new groups and a New Year – what a confluence.

I hope you enjoy your current groups, and have the opportunity to try new groups in what will be an exciting 2015.

Stuart Leitch



U3A February General Meeting



Chris Booth

the most successful New Zealand sculptor exhibiting and building work abroad

will give us an illustrated talk about the

**development of his land art
over the last 40 years**

"Woven Stone–The Sculpture of Chris Booth" will be available for purchase at the meeting.

10:30 am Monday 16th February 2015

St John Ambulance Hall, 367 Kerikeri Road

All are welcome - invite your friends

Please bring finger food for our shared lunch.

Kitchen Duty: Art House Films Group 2

Group News

Space in groups

We have had lots of new members join U3A over the last few months and some of them have been a little disappointed that many of the groups they would like to join are full. Some of our groups run for a specified period and some have been running for many years but their membership has changed over time as some people moved on and others joined the group.

This is probably a good time to think about your membership of groups in the coming year, especially if you attend quite a few. Have your circumstances changed so that you cannot attend regularly or have you enjoyed a group for a long time but feel it is time to try something new? If so, please let your facilitators know. This may mean that space becomes available for other members to give that group a try.

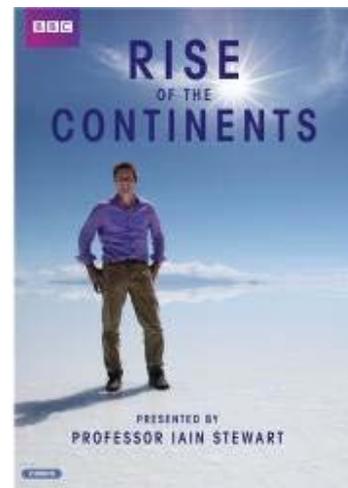
Remember – if groups you would like to join are full, still give the facilitators a ring. They will keep a waiting list and will know you are interested if a vacancy occurs. If there are a number of people on a waiting list, we may be able to form another group.

The groups below currently have space available:

- Atlantis
- Carry On Sketching
- French Conversation
- Greek Odyssey
- History of Aviation
- History of Ireland (both groups, they will end in June)
- Music Appreciation
- Opera (both Wednesday and Thursday groups)
- Philosophy
- Political Ideologies (this group will end mid-year)
- Shakespeare
- Western Civilisation

Our three new groups also have space for new members:

- 20th Century NZ History – A Personal View
- Geology/Cosmology
- Poetry for Pleasure second group.



The new Geology/Cosmology group will use this DVD series.

Venues and meeting times are in the attached Schedule. Please call the facilitator if you are interested in any of these groups. You are welcome to go along as a visitor to see if the group may suit you but please ring the facilitator first as some of our venues have limited seating space.

Other group news

Our Current Affairs groups are very popular. We have been asked to consider a new group with meetings based in the Paihia/Opua area. We have a facilitator for this group if enough members are interested. Please phone or email me if you would like to belong to this group or if it would be more convenient for you than the group to which you currently belong.

The Creative Writing group will not meet in February as Joy Olds, our facilitator, and some long-standing members are moving on. The group will meet again in March with a new facilitator to discuss the types of writing that interest them and what they hope to achieve in the group. If you are interested in coming along to the discussion to see if Creative Writing appeals, please give me a call on 402 8949 or email ras1@clear.net.nz. We would like to thank Joy very much for her term as facilitator and for being such a welcoming host.

David Mowat kindly took on the position of interim facilitator for the History of Aviation group over the last few months and his considerable knowledge of aviation has been of great benefit to the group. David now plans to move on to other things so the February meeting will be an opportunity for members to discuss their wishes for the future of the group. Please try to attend this meeting at Kay Boese's home so you can contribute your suggestions. We would like to thank David very much for his contribution.

Margaret Rasmussen

Group Reports

Local History Group Opua

The December meeting of the Local History Opua Group was a picnic lunch, held at the Kerikeri Basin, followed by a visit to Kemp House and the Stone Store.



The picnic lunch was very successful with 12 of our group attending. Primrose had the forethought to arrive with rolls of Christmas wrapping paper to use as table coverings, which added a festive mood to the occasion. Sadly, due to other commitments some of our group had to leave after the picnic.

To appreciate the interior of Kemp House it is necessary to leave your modern world, smart phone, iPad, laptop mentality on the verandah with your shoes and to cross the threshold willing to step back in time. Kemp House is a time capsule and, with a little bit of imagination, it is easy to envisage how life was around 190 years ago.

Both the Stone Store and Kemp House have a special place in our history. If you have not already done so do go and visit. A returning or regular guest will find that each visit to Kemp House brings yet another discovery, revealing some aspect previously overlooked.

Don Jansen

Local History Group Kerikeri – Outing to Hongi's Point

Ten members of the U3A took up the invitation from the Local History Kerikeri Group, to join them and Bill Edwards, archaeologist, at James Kemp Place to go to Hongi's Point on Tuesday 20th January.

We walked through a very European orchard of greengage, pear, apple, plum, lemon and persimmon trees. Along the path we were shown the small square kauri pits.

Then came the most physically challenging part of the trip - scrambling up a bank and into a kumara pit that could comfortably hold us all. Bill described how this was one of four kumara pits, that served a large community and earned the Maori name of Keri Keri meaning Dig! Dig!



The end of Hongi's Point used to have a cannon on it, Bill has been shown the canon balls discovered here. There was evidence of recent moorings by boats, maybe the couple that have lived on their boat here for 38 years, away at the moment on one of their sailing trips!

After another adventurous tangle with the bush, we visited the large over hanging rock that has provided shelter for various groups throughout the years.

Here we sat and were shown the cockle shells and told about the fish bones and wire Bill had excavated which were used to cook sausages. The view was beautiful and some of the group remarked how peaceful it was and how they could envisage living there. A delightful end to a trip discovering archaeology in our backyard.

Sue Robertson

The Committee List is at the bottom of the Group Schedule