



April 2018

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

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## From the Chair

Membership has now reached 190, and with the increase comes a need for new groups. We are trying to keep up. Nine new groups have begun since this time last year. However, nine groups have finished in that time so we are making little headway. Can you help?

Do you have a hobby, special interest or particular knowledge that you might like to share with other members? Groups can start at any time of the year. We can help find a host for your meetings and purchase resources that may be needed. What we need is your enthusiasm. If you would like to facilitate a group, please contact our Group Convenor, Judy Ramsey.

On a different note, we must elect at least three new committee members at our AGM in June. The vitality of our organisation depends on us having capable, dedicated committee members who enjoy working together. Please consider whether you would like to join us or know someone suitable who is willing to be nominated. I will be very happy to receive offers or suggestions and to meet with anyone who would like to know what is involved.



*Lesley McNaughton*

## General Meeting

Open to the Public

Monday 16th April 10.30 am

St John's Ambulance Hall, 367 Kerikeri Road

Members: Please bring finger food for our shared lunch

Kitchen Group: Art House Films One

Medicine and Mud in the PNG Jungle –

A talk by Gerard Honiss



In 2010, Gerard and his wife Kathryn, joined the Medical Aid Ship *Pacific Link* as volunteers for 2 years. Here they were responsible for taking the ship to start operations in PNG, delivering medical services to remote parts of the country where there was limited access and infrastructure.

## Group Convener's Report

### Garden Group

A new U3A Group is proposed where members would come together to discuss garden topics and learn from one another's experience. Meetings could involve garden news, new plants and shrubs, problem shooting, plant identification, pruning, propagation, plant nutrition, therapeutics, soil types, composting etc. and end with a walk around the garden and a cup of tea.

While Susie Barlow is happy to facilitate the group, the group could take turns to host meetings and share different gardening styles and techniques.

The inaugural meeting is tentatively arranged for Tuesday, April 17 at 2 pm at 22 Mission Rd, Kerikeri.

If you would like to join this group please contact Judy Ramsey at [group.convener.u3a.boi@gmail.com](mailto:group.convener.u3a.boi@gmail.com) or telephone 09 407 4471.

### Sketching/Water Colour Group

There is a possibility of starting a group for sketching and water colouring. I will admit my artistic talent is limited to drawing a straight line with a ruler and knowing which end of the paintbrush goes into the water, however there are far more artistic people in U3A and the committee has been asked to see if a group is feasible. This will all depend on **finding a tutor** from among the U3A membership to facilitate the group, probably to be held at Cherry Park House. If you are able to facilitate and lead a sketching and water colour group please contact Judy Ramsey at [group.convener.u3a.boi@gmail.com](mailto:group.convener.u3a.boi@gmail.com) or telephone 09 407 4471.

*Judy Ramsey*

### New Members

A welcome to Pat Parris, Manfred Plumecke and Heather Wilson.  
We hope you'll enjoy being part of U3A



## An opportunity for U3A artists and photographers

<b>U 3 A</b> <b>Art</b> @ <b>TurnerCentre</b>	<b>U3A Art @ Turner Centre</b> July and August 2018 If you create art that can be wall hung you are invited to join our exhibition For further information contact Moira Warnock <a href="mailto:warnockmoira@gmail.com">warnockmoira@gmail.com</a> 09 407 6389
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### An Apology

The Committee would like to apologise wholeheartedly to all concerned for including a potentially misleading statement under the U3A Art Exhibition Invitation in the March Newsletter.

U3A BoI, while not involved in the organisation of this event, is more than happy to be affiliated with the exhibition, recognising that many of the members will be involved and that it will be a magnificent showcase for their talents.

## Art House Films One and Two

I like lists. Just enter “Best Foreign films” into your browser and see what you get. The top hit is a list of 50 acknowledged film classics compiled by Time Out magazine. The Art House Film groups have seen about a dozen of these at our meetings over the past four years, and another dozen sit on my shelf awaiting our attention.

But this is not the kind of list I enjoy most. I prefer quirkier lists from people whose taste and knowledge goes beyond the standard lists of classics and festival winners. Jurgu Abraham’s blog “Movies That Make You Think” is worth a look, and his list of 100 favourite films is right up my alley; I have never heard of half of them. His list is strong on Russian movies, Turkish movies, even American movies: they are all there to be explored.



A couple of recent ‘discoveries’ from this list now reside in our Wine Box—a convenient container for the DVDs I take to meetings for members to make their selections.

Our meetings follow a set pattern. A presenter volunteers for each meeting and selects a film in advance. They open the meeting by telling us what we need to know about the artistic, cultural and even political context of the film if we are to understand the film and appreciate all it has to offer. We then watch the film, have ‘a cup of tea’ and discuss what we have seen. Members range from life-long film buffs, who always find something new, to neophytes who have never really taken much notice of films, except as an accompaniment to popcorn, but are now developing a real interest in “the seventh art”.

*Keith McNaughton*

## Just Writing

A U3A member pushes her trolley at the supermarket. She seems to be interested in the conversation between a small child in a nearby trolley and his mother. She quickly reaches in her handbag for a notebook and pen and starts to write something. Is it an item for her shopping list? In a different part of town, another member gazes at a picture in a magazine. What would a forty-year-old man think of this picture? What about an eighty-year-old woman in a wheel chair? Finally, what would a teenage boy think? How can another person tell her life story to her grandchildren, while keeping them interested in events that happened so long ago in a different world from theirs? How could you express a certain feeling in just a few words of haiku? How can you paint a picture of words using colours, sounds, smells, tastes and textures?

**CREATIVITY**  
is  
intelligence  
having fun

*Albert Einstein*

All of these exercises require one to dig deep, as the U3A online course we are following this year in Just Writing calls it, “Unleashing Your Creative Spirit”. We have already examined several forms of writing, and now we are doing exercises to make us explore the creative process further. We are very lucky in that this is the third year that most of us have been together in this group, and we have managed to nurture a non-judgemental environment where we can feel free to express ourselves and give positive feedback to each other. We each have our own reasons for wanting to write and each of us has a unique voice. Sometimes the quietest member has the most surprisingly wild imagination. So take care. The next Agatha Christie may just be pushing her trolley next to yours at the market listening for clues to her next story.

*Catherine Gossage*

## Art Appreciation Group.



Our group has just started a new set of videos titled "Art of the Western World." There are nine videos, from classical through Baroque and Impressionism to Jackson Pollock and Andy Warhol. At our last meeting we looked at the first video, "The classical Ideal." This commenced with statuary of the ideal Greek image of the time, the human form, female and male, somewhat static but extremely detailed. It was interesting to learn that these statues would originally have been painted in bright primary colours. This led on to the more naturalistic style where figures were poised as though ready to move, for example the well known statue of Zeus who has one arm outstretched forward with his right arm ready to cast his thunderbolt. We visited the Parthenon the best known of the Classical Greek Temples noting the influence it had all through the ages and that it is replicated in so many buildings in so many cities, including

Auckland where the Auckland Memorial War Museum is an obvious example. We moved on from Greek to examples of Roman design and architecture. Roman sculpture was often similar to portraiture. Famous emperors were commemorated in marble or bronze. It was the Romans too who's use of the "arch" enabled the creation of the amazing domes as in St Paul's in London and St. Peter's in Rome and that enabled the building of the most famous of the Roman Temples, the Pantheon.



We are now looking forward to viewing the next video which is on Romanesque and Gothic art.

*Judy Barrett*

## Biology Group

After setting the scene with some basic considerations about the origins of everything and basic chemical concepts, we started with BIOLOGY last month, talking about the identifying characteristics of monocotyledons. This month we discussed the dicotyledons.

The major plant families, asteraceae, brassicaceae, lamiaceae, fabaceae, malvaceae etc were looked at, first by discussing their unifying features and then by dissecting them and comparing them.



Some brassicaceae

It is a lively group and everybody brought some plants to consider. Magnifying glasses and a microscope came to help us. Some group members had not really looked at plants in much detail before and were quite surprised by what they found. Everybody contributes and is happy to dive right into it.

Next month we will discuss plant reproduction, the many ways nature does it and methods used in the laboratory, which have enabled scientists to multiply rare plant species very quickly. *Ulrike Novak*

<b>2017-2018 Committee</b>			
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