



May 2018

www.u3abayofislands.wordpress.com

U3A Bay of Islands, PO Box 833, Kerikeri 0245

u3a.bay.of.islands@gmail.com

From the Chair

Last month I wrote that we are always looking for ideas for new groups and for new facilitators. We have been delighted with the response: offers to facilitate groups from four members who have not been facilitators before. Our Group Convener, Judy Ramsey, will advertise these soon.

At the last committee meeting, we decided to have a suggestion box at our general meetings. I hope that you will take advantage of it to pass on ideas about how we can make U3A BOI even better. These might include ideas for new groups, interesting speakers or alternative activities.



Lesley McNaughton

Gerard Honiss's talk on "Medicine and Mud in the PNG Jungle"

After retiring from many years as a sea captain Gerard Honiss took the opportunity to return to the sea with his wife, Kathryn. In 2010 they joined the Medical Aid ship the Pacific Link for 18 months as volunteers. The ship was an old 37 metre long fishing vessel with room for 15 volunteers. It spent two weeks at a time in the field before returning to Port Moresby. Volunteers stayed for as little or long as they could. Medical Aid's mission was to bring primary health care and specialized care such as eye surgery to some of the six and a half million people who lived in the vast area between Keremu and Daru in the south west of Papua New Guinea. The area had only two hospitals, "glorified bush clinics with one GP", and a few health posts in the villages. There were no roads and no maps so all travel for as much as 80 kms up the vast rivers was by boat. Reaching the villages was challenging: the rivers were very wide and fast flowing and on an incoming tide flowed backwards. They were beset with dangers like sandbanks, logs, crocodiles and snakes which slid up the anchor chains. Travel by foot was hampered by all-pervasive mud.

Once the ship reached a village, other villages had to be contacted to come and attend the clinic. Sometimes canoes were sent, often bush telegraph was very effective. Fuel for outboard motors was a scarce and expensive commodity so some villagers paddled five or six hours to reach the ship.

It was important for volunteers who were there for the first time to learn the customs and protocols in order not to offend the people.

Water was a big problem although some villages flooded every fortnight. They lacked water tanks and gutters were usually so rusted they were of no use. Toilets were perched over the river but with the river flowing up and down, which way was the "clean" water flowing?

Traditionally, women had to move away from the village to give birth and stay in the bush. They cut the umbilical cord with a shell or machete which could lead to infections. Infant and maternal mortality rates are among the world's highest: one in seven women die in childbirth. The clinic distributed birthing kits containing a ground sheet, scalpel, soap and a baby's singlet. They also distributed mosquito nets and items such as used clothing.

Dental hygiene was non-existent and children's teeth were in a very poor condition. Medical Aid distributed 10,000 tooth brushes and taught children how to brush their teeth, eventually how to use a bush brush and, essentially, where not to spit.

Maggie Murray-Lee

Group Convener's Report

Facilitators' meeting

We will be holding our annual Facilitators' Meeting at Cornerstone, Kerikeri on Monday 21st May between 10 am and 12:30 am.

These meetings provide an opportunity for facilitators to share ideas, with each other and with the committee, and to learn about any new policies. We hope that all facilitators will be able to come. If you can't come, please ask your backup facilitator or another member of your group to represent your group. Of course one person can represent more than one group. Ideally all groups should have a back-up facilitator, who is able to step in if required, and to this end the invitation to the facilitators meeting is extended to the back up facilitator as well.

Please can you let me know if you can attend?

One new group started in April – The Garden Group. It looks as if it will be a useful 'hands on' group with members sharing their garden ideas and experiences. Thanks to the umbrellas we also had a stroll around Susie's garden.

Hopefully the art and sketching group will be underway soon. We are in the fortunate position of having two volunteers to teach this group, all that is needed now is to sort out who does what and when, so watch this space.

Judy Ramsey

Annual General Meeting on 18 June 2018

As usual, the AGM will start at 10 am and be followed by a normal General Meeting with an interesting speaker. Please put this in your calendar as we'll need a good turnout.

Constitution changes

The committee will be proposing some constitution changes - we have to add two clauses required by the Inland Revenue Department before they grant us exemption from Resident Withholding Tax ---- and we wish, at the same time, to make some small changes that will tidy up the constitution. We'll send the proposed changes to all members in May - please consider them before the meeting.

Election of Committee Members

The other important business of the AGM will be the election of the new committee. Since many members of the current committee will not be standing for re-election, we really need new committee members. We need a mixture - some fresh blood, perhaps younger members or relatively new members, and also members who have been involved in U3A long enough to know how and why it works.

All positions will be open and it would be healthy to have enough nominees to actually have an election. We need to elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and 5 other committee members who will be prepared to take on one of the other committee roles.

A nomination form will be sent out with the proposed constitution changes in May. Nominations must be signed by the nominee, the mover and the seconder, all of whom must be financial members. Completed nomination forms must be received by our Returning Officer, Stuart Leitch, before 10th June. They can be handed to him or posted to Returning Officer, U3A BOI, P.O. Box 833, Kerikeri 0245.

Subscriptions 2018-2019

Membership subscriptions for the 2018 to 2019 year are due in May. The subs are \$20 per year per person. Please pay your subs early in May (but not before then), so there's time to process them.

We prefer payments by online banking: Payee: **U3A BOI**, Account: **02 0352 0020910 000**. Please include your surname, first name (or names) and the word "subs" as a reference.

Alternatively, you can post a cheque payable to **U3A BOI** to the address below with your name or names written in block capitals on the reverse of the cheque and also your name and address on the back of the envelope. Post the cheque to: The Treasurer, U3A Bay of Islands, P.O. Box 833, Kerikeri 0245

New Members

Welcome to Heather Wilson and Liz Suggett. We hope you enjoy our activities and make lots of new friends in U3A.

Anthropology Group

Who are we and where do we come from? How did Homo sapiens outlive all the other branches of our family tree? Why are people and cultures so diverse despite our singularity as a species?

Over the course of 24 lectures the recently inaugurated Anthropology Group will look for answers under the guidance of Scott M Lacy, Ph.D, Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at Fairfield University, Connecticut.

Humans have a long and amazing line of primate ancestors. The more we interact with and study our primate cousins, the more we see the depth of our shared genetic heritage. A remarkable study from the Yerkes National Primate Research Centre at Emory University shows the human-like depths of our primate cousins. The researchers used a simple game with capuchin monkeys. Two monkeys, side by side in separate cages took turns trading marbles for food treats. They were trained to give a marble to the research assistant in order to receive a food treat, starting with grapes. As the game went on one of the monkeys started receiving the less liked cucumber slices while the other got more grapes. The one given cucumber slices responded angrily showing a human-like reaction; discontent at unfair treatment.



Mary Johnson

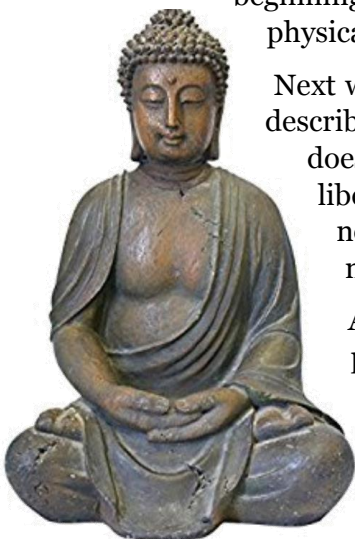
World Religions Group

WHEN GROUP MEMBERS ASK FOR HOMEWORK, YOU KNOW IT'S A WINNER!

While reading Sapiens in preparation for the Anthropology group, I learned that religious beliefs were one of the three major factors that merged people into communities. That information led me to join the World Religions group, so that I could better understand how these religions developed, how they have changed and how they have influenced our societies through the years.

Our group meetings are an enriching combination of Lesley sharing her research, tapes with professionals' opinions and the group members' personal experiences and information.

Our first topic was Hinduism. The Indus River Valley Civilization (in India) flourished about 4,500 years ago. In that cultural development, important features of the Hindu religion began, as well as the beginnings of a written language (a form of Sanskrit) and methods for good mental and physical health.



Next we took a look at Jainism and Buddhism which also started in India. Jainism describes itself as an ancient faith with roots in the prehistoric past. Since this faith does not recognise a creator God, it focuses on great teachers to show the way to liberation. The fact that this religion emphasises living in such a way as to cause no violence and no harm to all humans, animals, bugs and even plants, caught my attention.

Around 500 BCE, Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, determined that life is permeated with suffering. His teachings offer a way out of this suffering. The morality contained in this Eightfold Path serves as a general framework for everyday living AND for the pursuit of nirvana.

There are many religions in our world. Discovering how their outer behaviours and inner meanings co-ordinate and influence society is a fascinating adventure.

Pat deMeurers

Detective Stories Group

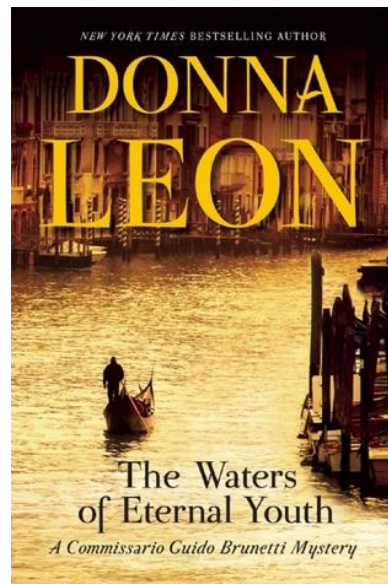
We were off to a flying start with eleven of us meeting for the first time. The discussion was lively with all participants talking about their detective story likes and dislikes and then we explored how we were going to move forward with our group.

We decided to start by using a theme based on a country, and for our next meeting we were going to read, explore and discuss Italian Detectives, using the suggested author - Donna Leon.

A month later we met again, each of us having entered the life of Commissario Guido Brunetti with his sidekick Vianello, who work out of the Questura in Venice. The characters each deal with murders giving the author opportunities to deal with race, gender, immigration, environment, influence, class and all manner of “isms” and phobias in Italy.

The author cleverly deals with all these matters whilst her main character dislikes his boss and colleagues from outside Venice. He dislikes the class divide, however he is only slightly put off from using his useful father-in-law connection – coming from the landed gentry and captains of industry.

Brunetti dislikes corruption in Government and business, but on the other hand appears to be only mildly embarrassed as his bosses’ secretary regularly hacks in to websites to further his investigations. Possibly this reflects the author’s observation of Italian culture and life.



We “meet” Guido’s wife and children, and enter an Italian home life, becoming hungry like our character for his wife’s excellent cooking, and his enjoyment of a range of wine and grappa.

We decided that the character is written so that he comes across as a caring human, who is perpetually confronted with what is wrong in his city, but unable to find completely lawful ways of achieving satisfactory outcomes.

The stories/investigations are well plotted and give a really good insight to the Italian character and its many contradictions.

Interestingly the author is American and spent 30 years in Venice, her books have been translated into many languages and at her request not into Italian!!

Our next meeting will explore a wider range of European detective stories. (Not UK because of Brexit! - only joking, I’m sure we will explore the many UK authors in future meetings) *Stuart Leitch*

2017-2018 Committee			
Chair	Lesley McNaughton	09 407 6936	chair.u3a.boi@gmail.com
Vice Chair	Stuart Leitch	09 407 3458	deputy.chair.u3a.boi@gmail.com
Secretary	Christine Cronshaw	09 407 6871	secretary.u3a.boi@gmail.com
Treasurer	Judith Burling	09 407 8197	treasurer.u3a.boi@gmail.com
Meeting Coordinator	Martin Ough Dealy	09 407 5925	meeting.coordinator.u3a.boi@gmail.com
Group Convenor	Judy Ramsey	09 407 4471	group.convenor.u3a.boi@gmail.com
Publicity	Jane Holmes	09 407 7500	publicity.officer.u3a.boi@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Grainger Brown	09 407 7247	editor.u3a.boi@gmail.com
Almoner	Jane Holmes	09 407 7500	almoner.u3a.boi@gmail.com