



July 2018

www.u3abayofislands.wordpress.com

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From the New Chair

Are you sitting comfortably? I'm your new Chair! Sometimes criticised for my quirky sense of humour, but I'm looking forward to helping guide U3A BOI through the next year, and hopefully having the opportunity to meet some of you along the way.

I'm sure that each region of U3A has its own flavour, and it's that versatility that helps make each region unique. I shall be looking for help and ideas from our membership and would love to hear from any of you that have ideas for new things in U3A that would interest you. We all have a monthly voice through the Newsletter and Committee Meetings, so please get in touch. As you may know, there are several new groups in the pipeline, so watch this space. And don't be put off by the "This Group is full" notification: Contact the Group Convenor and get your name down! Some groups have a waiting list, or we might be able to start a second group.

One of the issues raised at the AGM is already on the agenda for the first Committee Meeting next week. A better microphone system for the General Meetings and Speakers!

Those of you at the AGM will also know that, due to the meeting overrunning a bit, we decided to postpone the speaker's contribution. Fortunately, Lindsay Alexander was very sympathetic, and has agreed to return on a future occasion to give his talk on 'The Bay of Islands from Premier Port to Backwater' which will now feature in the August or October General Meeting.

I would also like to welcome all of the new Committee members, as well as those who have volunteered to continue on the Committee. Their names are listed below and we will be publishing an updated list, with their agreed roles on the Committee, after the first Committee Meeting.

Drew Barlow



2018-2019 Committee

Chair	Drew Barlow	09 407 9748	chair.u3a.boi@gmail.com
Vice Chair	Mike Rowledge	09 407 7625	deputy.chair.u3a.boi@gmail.com
Secretary	Anna Smyth	09 407 8494	secretary.u3a.boi@gmail.com
Treasurer	Judith Burling	09 407 8197	treasurer.u3a.boi@gmail.com
Committee Member	Susie Barlow	09 407 9748	
Committee Member	Grainger Brown	09 407 7247	
Committee Member	Margaret Lindsay	09 405 9411	
Committee Member	Moira Warnock	09 407 6389	
Committee Member	Jenni Wilson	09 401 6254	
Immediate Past Chair	Lesley McNaughton	0210 2912 262	past.chair.u3a.boi@gmail.com

New Committee



Mike Rowledge
Vice Chair



Anna Smyth
Secretary



Judith Burling
Treasurer



Susie Barlow
Committee



Jenni Wilson
Committee



Margaret Lindsay
Committee



Moira Warnock
Committee



Grainger Brown
Committee

Our new Chair and the other members of our new committee bring a wealth of skills and experience that will greatly benefit U3A. There is a healthy mix of newcomers with fresh ideas and people with knowledge about the history and organisation of U3A in the Bay of Islands.

We'd like to thank Stuart Leitch, Christine Cronshaw, Martin Ough Dealy, Jane Holmes and Judy Ramsey, for their work on the previous committee and hope they will now have time to enjoy other U3A activities.

AGM and General Meeting

Usually our AGMs are brief meetings with approval of the minutes, reports from the Chair and Treasurer and a declaration that all candidates nominated for the committee are duly elected. This year was different because there were changes to our constitution to consider and we had more candidates than positions so there had to be an election. The discussion about the constitution took a long time but it was important that members' opinions were heard. Counting the votes for the new committee also took a lot of time and we would like to thank the volunteer Returning Officers, Dale Bell and Annette Johnson, for undertaking this task. Thank you also to the members for their patience.

By the time the AGM was finished, there was no time to hear our speaker, Lindsay Alexander. We are delighted that he is willing to give his presentation at a future general meeting.

Annual General Meeting Reports

The Annual Report from the 2017-2018 Chair is on the last page of this newsletter. The Treasurer's Financial Statement was sent to all members before the AGM. We thank Inge Bremer for reviewing the accounts at short notice and agreeing to be our reviewer for the 2018-2019 financial year.

Constitution Changes

The proposed changes to the 2016 constitution were circulated to members on 25th May so members had plenty of time to consider them. There was considerable discussion about some of the proposed changes and, as a result:

- the proposed change to clause 7.5 was not made but “If a vacancy arises in the Committee, the Committee may co-opt a member to fill the vacancy and that committee member shall have full voting rights” was added after that clause.
- the proposed new clause 17.2 was left to lie on the table so that it could be discussed at a later date
- the proposed changes to clauses 7.1 and 7.3 were passed after “with voting rights” was amended to “without voting rights” giving “The immediate past Chair shall, ex-officio, be a member of the Committee, without voting rights, for one (1) year after holding office as Chair and shall not be eligible to be a committee member during the following year.”
- the reference in clause 15.4 to clause 18 was changed to clause 19.

All the other proposed changes were passed without amendment and the new 2018 constitution was adopted by an overwhelming majority. It can be downloaded from our website on this page:

<https://u3abayofislands.wordpress.com/about-u3a-bay-of-islands-3/>

Recognition of facilitators

Before closing the AGM, our facilitators were asked to come forward so that members could see the people who provide our wide range of interest groups. It is their enthusiasm, planning and preparation that make the groups so enjoyable. We gave them each a gift of delicious Makana chocolate.

New Members

This month Jenny Andrew, Diana Baker, Marcia Fullam, Anne Lunn and Stuart Ross have joined U3A. Please watch out for them and other new members and help make them all feel welcome. To help you identify them, we’ve started sticking stars on the nametags of new members.

Subscriptions 2018-2019

Membership subscriptions for the year from 1 May 2018 to 30 April 2019 were formally approved at the AGM on 18th June and are now due. The subs are \$20 per person. Please see the last newsletter for information about how to pay.

Art Exhibition

Although I’m fairly new to U3A, I was delighted to attend the opening of the exhibition of art by members of U3A, upstairs at the Turner Centre. If you get the chance, I would encourage you to go as there is some truly stunning art and photography on display. This exhibition is open from 9am – 4pm weekdays until the end of August, but phone the Turner Centre first to avoid clashes. 09 407 0260.

Let me quote the Turner Centre web page:-

”This collection of work by members of U3A Bay of Islands shows that, far from being dimmed, creativity can blossom in ‘the third age’ and, as with fine wine, aging can enhance and perfect.

Some contributors are seasoned veterans, others have been encouraged to enter their work for the first time. They all demonstrate the amazing range of talent and enthusiasm for life and learning common to members of U3A Bay of Islands.”

On behalf of U3A BOI I would like to thank all the contributors, and in particular Moira and all those who helped her set up this exhibition. Let’s hope it isn’t the last. What a great advertisement for U3A!

Drew Barlow

Annual Report from the Past Chair to 2018 AGM

It gives me pleasure to present the 19th annual report of U3A Bay of Islands. I'm pleased to report another successful year, with more groups active, interesting general meetings, and a significant increase in membership.



Our main activities take place in small groups that meet monthly, usually in members' homes. Since the last AGM we have started eleven new groups and eight groups have finished. We now have 30 groups covering 26 areas of interest and we will soon invite applications for a new sketching group. Throughout the year, our long-standing groups were still meeting happily each month, sharing interests and enjoying intellectual stimulation and interesting discussions. I would like to thank the facilitators of all the groups and also the members who host meetings or contribute in other ways to the success of their groups.

Thank you also to Judy Ramsey, who took over the Group Convenor role in November after Howard Smith resigned. I was especially grateful since I had been fulfilling that role while Howard was overseas. As well as setting up new groups, Judy organised a successful Facilitators' meeting in May with almost all groups represented and she has been helping our newsletter editor by recruiting group reports and proof reading the newsletter.

Our general meetings have provided a variety of interesting local speakers. In August, Elizabeth Ludbrook spoke about the influence of missionaries in early Bay of Islands history. In October, Stuart Park gave a moving talk about the different experiences of his three great uncles, who were all killed in World War One. Martin Ough Dealy also spoke about his relatives' experiences and there was a display of war memorabilia contributed by U3A members. In February this year, Jo Wood gave a lively talk and demonstration of communication skills. At our last meeting, Gerard Honiss talked about his experience as the captain of an old fishing vessel taking medical care up dangerous rivers to people in the Papua New Guinea jungle. Thanks to all the members who helped with these meetings.

Special thanks to our Meeting Coordinator, Martin Ough Dealy who recruited such interesting speakers His careful planning and attention to detail ensured that our meetings ran smoothly. Thanks also to Jane Holmes who has been a gracious hostess, welcoming members at our general meetings. She has also sent cards and visited members needing a bit of TLC.

While the general meetings and our newsletters are primarily services for our members, they also help to raise public awareness of U3A and attract new members. Thanks are due to Grainger Brown, who has done a fine job as our Newsletter Editor and also produced posters to advertise the meetings.

Our website provides information about our activities for U3A members and the general public. Anyone can download our newsletters, our latest calendar and an up-dated brochure that includes a membership application form.

Our publicity efforts and, more importantly, word-of-mouth have produced a steady trickle of new members; so that we gained 28 new members during the 2017-2018 financial year and 11 more since the beginning of May. These new members bring their varied ideas, knowledge and skills into U3A, adding to its vitality. Already Drew and Susie Barlow have accepted nomination to the 2018-2019 committee and Susie has started a Garden Group, Jan White has taken over facilitating the Antiques and Collectibles group, and other new members have offered to facilitate new groups soon.

I would like to thank our Treasurer, Judith Burling, for the great work she has done, contacting new members and sending them nametags and information about U3A, as well as processing subs and changes of contact details for all members. Judith has kept our membership and financial records up-to-date and in meticulous order with every transaction documented.

Thanks are due to Stuart Leitch, who is leaving the committee after five years of loyal service as Vice President, President, Past President and Treasurer after Christine Cronshaw resigned shortly after the 2016 AGM, then Vice Chair. Thanks also to Christine Cronshaw for her work this year as Secretary.

I've enjoyed meeting many members as Chair of U3A. Thank you for your support.

Lesley McNaughton