



September 2018

u3abayofislands.com/

U3A Bay of Islands, PO Box 833, Kerikeri 0245

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From the Chair

Firstly I'd like to thank all those involved in helping make the recent General Meeting such a success. The committee members who helped welcome everybody, the Shakespeare Group for the kitchen duties, and all those who helped set up, brought plates of food, and helped clear away afterwards.

Secondly an apology. Due to an unfortunate mix-up, the printed name badges for several of the paid-up members were not available on the day. These will be sent out shortly, along with those for new members who joined after the meeting.

As we move out of hibernation into the spring, you may be looking to join, or even help start, a new group. If you have an idea for a group subject that you are interested in, please contact our Group Convenor and we will put our minds to helping set it up. That's what we're here for. And spread the word about U3A.

New groups are forming, and new members are joining. You are our best advertisers!

And if you weren't there, read Bob's excellent article to see what you missed!

Drew Barlow



Lindsay Alexander's talk at August's General Meeting: Shipping Lists in the Bay of Islands 1840-60

During the introduction, Lindsay was thanked for returning to address the meeting, given the cancellation of his presentation earlier at the AGM.

Lindsay mentioned that he had authored a number of books which contained mainly lists and more specifically "Shipping Lists", which he considered a much better foundation on which to build local history than theatre, based on hearsay and "oral history".

His research started in 2007 for a book called Chasing the White Whale, which led to the publication of Shipping Lists from 1800 to 1839, followed by his current work covering the 1840 to 1860 period. This work convinced him that during this period, shipping records were the most solid scaffold upon which to hang past events. Everything arrived by ship, whalers, missionaries, settlers, soldiers, traders whose interest in goods and produce made Maori communities' part of the international economy.

The shipping lists also illustrate Kororareka's rise to being New Zealand's major port and most important town, only to again become an isolated backwater.

Lindsay felt that he would focus his current address on a small number of interesting ships, mostly British Navy ships which visited the Bay, as their stories are well recorded.

I must at this stage mention, that some form of disruption in the electrical supply prevented the showing of the supporting visual effects, making it more difficult for Lindsay to paint word pictures.

The first two ship referred to, the Erebus and Terror were visitors to the Bay on their mission to find the South Magnetic Pole. They had left Britain in 1839 and returned in 1843. The ships were originally designed as Bomb Ships and were thus incredibly strong, well suited for the task. The ships arrived in the Bay in August of 1841, anchored off Okiato, where they set up a Magnetic Observatory. They

departed for the southern seas in late November 1841. The departure was coincident with a local disturbance and the Kororareka townspeople panicked as they saw their protectors sail away.

At the time, the Harbourmaster noted in his log that the townsfolks had overreacted. Subsequently a French warship arrived, and Captain Lavaud undertook to protect the local population. Meanwhile the Erebus and Terror were joined by the HMS Favorite and proceeded with their Antarctic exploration, an act which Roald Amundsen described thus: *“heroes, heroes in the highest sense of the word With ponderous tubs these men sailed right into the heart of the pack, which all previous explorers had regarded as certain death”*. Erebus and Terror were refitted and equipped for an expedition to find the NW passage, but both ships and crews vanished. The Erebus wreck was found in 2014 and the Terror in 2016, nearly 180 years after their visit to the Bay.

The next ship, the Casimir Perier, had undergone a number of name changes during her life. She was a merchant ship trading across the Atlantic. In 1836 Peru and Bolivia were confederated, as a result of a civil war between those for and against the confederation. The decisive battle was at Socabaya which was won by those supporting the Confederation. Chile took up arms against the new Confederation for its own reasons, which meant that the Confederation needed to expand its Navy. The recently arrived Casimir Perier was purchased by the Confederation and renamed Socabaya. The Chilean forces prevailed, the war ending in 1839 and the Socabaya was sold in 1840 to Valpariso merchants. She was then loaded with horses to be taken to New South Wales. On her way she was hit by a storm in the Tasman, breaking her main yard and springing a big leak, causing her to head for the nearest port, Kororareka, arriving in the Bay in July 1841. The Socabaya was condemned as unseaworthy and the horses were sold. She ended up at Matauwhi Bay and was sold by auction. Her purchaser couldn't find the labour needed to dismantle her and three years later she was sold again to an Auckland shipbuilder. Later in 1845 Governor Grey ordered that a new flagpole was to be obtained to replace the one that had been chopped down. Socabaya's mizzen mast became the new flagpole on 22nd of February 1845 and was felled again by Hone Heke three weeks later.

HMS Driver was the first powered ship to call at the Bay on her world circumnavigation journey. She was a sail assisted paddle steamer and was a sensation at the Bay. Later a second RN paddle steamer HMS Inflexible arrived in the Bay.

The HMS Osprey, launched in 1844, was one of those newer ships, both a fast sailing ship having evolved from the design of the successful slave ship hunters, and at the same time she was still a stable gun platform. The Osprey saw action in the Northern War and completed repairs in the Kerikeri Inlet. A forge was taken ashore as part of the repairs, hence the name Blacksmith Bay. Later whilst sailing to Hokianga, she mistook Herekino Harbour for the Hokianga, and whilst standing off to await the red flag signalling a safe passage across the bar, a red flag was seen. Being in the wrong harbour meant that the Osprey ran ashore and was stuck, but all its cargo was salvaged. The Chief who waved the red flag insisted that he was just being friendly, doing what they did at Hokianga.

The next ship, HMS Acheron, was engaged in charting the coast, possibly as a result of the Osprey grounding. Surveying the coast in those unresponsive ships in dangerous uncharted waters was a remarkable feat and has definitely saved many mariners from a watery disaster. The Acheron was sent to Sydney where she was mothballed. The Acheron was replaced by HMS Pandora which arrived in 1851 and left in 1856. The charts these ships produced were astonishing, as prior to this activity there was nothing apart from local knowledge.

HMS Iris, formerly part of the anti-slavery fleet, arrived in the Bay with Governor Gore Browne who visited a number of locations and settlements eventually watching the new flagpole being raised whilst remaining on the ship. The Iris returned to Britain, was leased to the Atlantic Telegraph Company, completely gutted and used as a cable transporter to the Great Eastern, the cable laying ship.

Lindsay ended his presentation lamenting the fact that he was unable to show us the wonderful slides he had assembled to illustrate his presentation.

Bob Bubendorfer

Group Convenor

Hi,

As a new Group Convenor, and a fairly new member myself, it has been great to get to know so many members of U3A and welcome some new members. I am beginning to get a feel for what a passionate group of learners we have in our midst, with a wealth of knowledge and experience. One new member is already thinking of facilitating a group, so watch this space. It has been very exciting to see the Sketching, Drawing and Painting Group commence on Wednesday mornings. This is a weekly course, and from all accounts Brenda Welch and Mel Mason have been enthusing the novice and expert artists alike. Although the group is fully subscribed, there may be spaces available at some point, so please contact Brenda or myself if you are interested in this group.

We have several other groups in the pipeline. I am aware that a few more groups, or another versions of some that are at capacity, are needed. We have sent a questionnaire out to new members to see what their interests are, and what groups they are interested in. Thanks to those who have returned them. The results will be used to help form new groups. Any member, however, is welcome to contact me to discuss any ideas.

The New Members Tea will be held on the 29th of this month, so there will be a report on how that went next month. We have already got about 20 old and new members attending, and I think it will be a great opportunity for new members to meet, greet and find out about U3A.

Once again, it is important not to be put off by "full" beside a group in the schedule as, if there are enough on a waiting list, we can look at starting a new group. So just contact me and let me know what you are interested in.

Susie Barlow. group.convenor.u3a.boi@gmail.com

Proposed New Camera Group



Do you have one of those cameras with the "P S A M" dial, but only use "Auto"? Maybe you have a simple "point and shoot" or just your cell phone camera, but would like to take better pictures?

We're looking to form a new Camera Group within U3A to share and learn and have some fun with cameras and photography. We're not trying to win prizes, but there will be projects to try your hand at.

At this stage we are looking for expressions of interest. If you are interested in any aspect of cameras or photography, please contact David Welch or Drew Barlow with details of your previous experience and what would most

interest you to learn or share. If we receive sufficient interest, the group would start the third week in October.

David Welch has previously run the Photographic Expeditions Group and is a largely self-taught amateur digital photographer who uses Lightroom for cataloguing, editing and printing photographs. He has sold a number of photographs, including 3D photos of local sights.

Drew Barlow is just a keen amateur with a clever camera and too many (uncatalogued) stored images!

davidwelchnz@gmail.com drewbarlow@email.com

(Please note the 2 addresses. One is gmail; the other is email.com)

David Welch and Drew Barlow

Book Discussion One

Book Discussion One is a lively group many of whose participants have been members for several years. We meet in the afternoon of every third Tuesday and alternate venues among members.

Every month we select a topic for the following month and each member reads a book or books on that topic. This makes for a very varied selection of books and the ensuing discussion is usually quite animated and at times punctuated by much hilarity. The books cover all genres: novels, crime fiction, memoirs, autobiographies, biographies, non-fiction, poetry, books about a given country and so on.



Examples of recent topics are: “A book we read during the holidays”, “A New Zealand book published after 2000”, “A book on The Listener’s 100 list”, “Art” and “A book about India”.

We discuss the theme books before the afternoon tea break, after which we present other books which we may have read in the meantime.

We also run a successful “lending library” among ourselves, carefully recording whose book has been lent to whom and when it is returned.

We currently have space for one new member. Please contact me at 09 402 7555

Maggie Murray-Lee

Current Affairs Thursday

This group meets at the home of Stuart and Ann Leitch. Stuart is also our ever patient moderator and provider of an unfailingly excellent afternoon tea.

The group’s topics are supplied by the participants who usually number around 10-12, retirees from all walks of life and all political persuasions. The subject matter discussed is as varied as it is possible to be, from topical local issues to those of a wider national and international flavour, leavened



at all times with unfailing good humour. This month alone we have solved Kerikeri’s roading problems and town layout, resolved the Brexit issue, fixed the problems in Palestine, redressed the American electoral system as it applies in Georgia State and in passing resolved the issue of the Deputy Police Commissioner, then solved the Arthur Allan Thomas murder case with time left over to discuss the Ottoman Empire and condemn the Turks for the Armenian massacre. In short it is impossible to leave our Thursday group feeling less than well fed and even better informed (who knew about Professor Cronin and “exotic rust” ?).

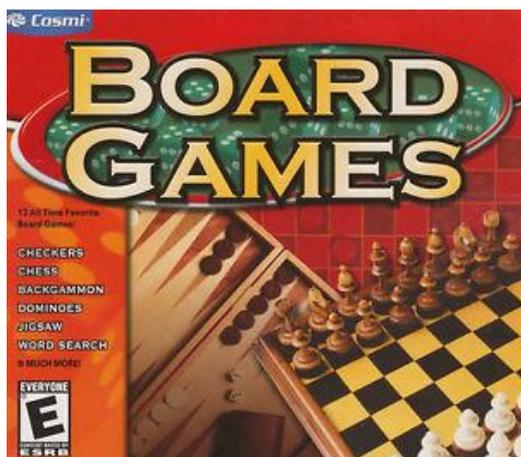
Clive Blake

For *exotic rust* go to:

reneweconomy.com.au/scottish-battery-breakthrough-could-charge-electric-cars-in-seconds-75196/

ICE = Internal Combustion Engine

Board Games



Board Games are an excellent way tax the mind, so here's your chance to learn something new and keep the brain active in a fun group atmosphere. Activities may include card games, and board games including traditional games like chess, backgammon and draughts, as well as new games. Some members may enjoy working together to solve puzzles such as cryptic crosswords or to learn new games from other members.

This Group is now getting well established, and the group are all learning new skills such as tactics and strategy in several games such as Backgammon and Rumikub, to name a couple. Some members are so keen they are meeting in between the monthly sessions!

The intellectual challenge is significant but not daunting, and most certainly enjoyed by our members who are getting to appreciate what is involved.

There are still spaces in this fairly new group, so if anyone wants to know more about our group they are welcome to come along and give it a try, or contact Susie Barlow, Group Convenor.

They meet on the 3rd Friday, at 2.00 pm at Cherry Park House, Landing Road, Kerikeri *Tom Everitt*

New Members

This month we warmly welcome new members Moira Sutherland, Meta Forsythe, Noeleen Baker and Margaret Cooper.

Subscriptions 2018-2019

Membership subscriptions for the 2018 to 2019 year were due in May. The subs are \$20 per person. Good news! The subs year has been extended to June 2019. Thank you to those who have already paid.

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**. Write your name or names clearly on the reverse of the cheque and 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

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