

November 2018

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

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## From the Chair

At last. Warmer weather. Something to lift the spirits; though we have sadly lost a valuable member this October.

We had another interesting talk on aspects of the law at the last General Meeting. How refreshing to be asked to think about aspects of the law, past, present and future, and how these impact on our daily lives and our perceptions of items we see in the news. The intention was not to get us to agree with everything said, but to challenge us to consider and debate the issues raised. It certainly led to some lively discussions afterwards.

Two dates for your diary this November. Firstly on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> November we're trying out the idea of having an informal get together for a coffee (or whatever) with like-minded people at the Café Cinema from 10.00am. Not funded, I'm afraid, but a chance to meet up with a few people for a chat. There will be members of the committee there, so it's also an opportunity to voice your ideas and opinions to help us improve your experience of U3A BOI.

Secondly, of course, there's the U3A BOI Ceilidh on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November from 2 – 5pm at the Cornerstone (see notice below). People have been asking me if they need previous experience of Scottish Dancing. The answer is NO! In fact we have already sold at least one ticket to a member who is coming along just to watch the fun. This is a U3A only benefit, not open to the public. \$5 a ticket with a tea thrown in (\$10 for non-member partners) is already a bargain, so what are you waiting for?

The new Camera Group has started, with a simple test to perform before the next meeting, and we're looking forward to welcoming a couple of people who couldn't make it to the first meeting. I'd like to see some photos on our website in the future...

... Talking of which, I think we might also see some results from the Sketching and Drawing Group on the website in the future as well; I can see some watercolour talent emerging already, and the group has now extended for a further 10 weeks, which is good news.

Although there will not be another General Meeting until February, there are still events to look forward to, and you will be getting another Newsletter in December, so until then ...

*Drew Barlow*

## U3A Can Do Ceilidh

**2-5pm Saturday 24 November 2018**

**Cornerstone Church, 146 Kerikeri Road, Kerikeri**

This is a fun way to celebrate the end of another great U3A year. No partner or previous experience needed. Just bring flat shoes and a sense of humour for an afternoon of easy dances, some old favourites (including The Gay Gordons and The Dashing White Sergeant), songs, poems and a delicious homemade afternoon tea. Numbers are limited so please get your tickets (\$5 for members and \$10 for non member partners) from Moira Warnock. [warnockmoira@gmail.com](mailto:warnockmoira@gmail.com)



If you can play a couple of celtic airs on the violin or have a "party piece" you would like to share with us, please let Moira know. **Come and enjoy the craic.**

## Group Convenor

There seem to be lots of good ideas for new groups around, and this is the time of year to get those creative ideas going so we can plan to have some new groups for 2019. It is, however, one thing to have the ideas, which we really need, but we do also need some facilitators to run them. We have some great facilitators, some with several groups, who have a great deal of experience. They can help get you started if this is something you feel you could do.

The idea of facilitating can seem daunting, but in fact the facilitator does not need to be the expert holder of all knowledge! They need to do a small amount of organisation, so the group has somewhere to meet and a resource of knowledge on the chosen subject. If you are new to U3A you may not know that we have some great resources, in the form of DVDs which have been purchased by U3A. . You are welcome to come and have a rummage and see if something sparks your interest. Subjects are varied and cover nature, history, literature, art and science to name just a few. They can form the basis for a new group, if you feel able to facilitate but were wondering where to draw your information from. There is also, as we are all aware these days, some good on line resources.

I thought it worth also including the information on U3A Online.

The following comes direct from the U3A Online Website.

### About U3A Online

**U3A Online is the world-first virtual U3A operating exclusively online.**

U3A Online provides short courses for older people who enjoy learning but prefer the freedom to study where and when they choose.

Our courses are open to all older people, or younger disabled people, anywhere in the world. They are especially suited to older members of the community who are isolated either geographically, or through physical or social circumstances.

U3A Online provides other services too. We support U3As from anywhere in exchanging ideas, resources and information through our website, and we encourage older people to harness the internet's seemingly unlimited educational potential. Our courses are available to U3As and other related organisations for face-to-face teaching via a site licence agreement. Retirement villages and Aged Care facilities are also able to access the courses under site licence after taking out an organisation membership.

We develop online courses using the skills of our volunteer subject writers and editors. Our courses are accessible throughout the year and can be studied either independently at a time to suit you or with the guidance of a volunteer course leader when the leader is available.”

Not only can this be accessed individually, but also there are resources that group facilitators can access.

**New Groups** Two new group ideas that have been discussed at committee are:

#### Cuisine

The subject of ‘cuisine’ is more than a cooking class or sharing menu ideas. It is more about a style of cooking, where the dishes and ingredients and techniques are influenced by culture, geography, climate, religion and so on. I think that as well as possibly cooking, the group could look a little deeper into why did that culture eat this or that, and how the situation in that country contributed to the way it is cooked.

Cooking techniques, such as preserving, smoking, curing and pickling and the use of spices could be included. The history of food availability and the spice trade could add an historical flavour!

We do not have a specific facilitator for this, although I am aware that there is interest in this subject.

If you are interested in joining this group and possibly facilitation, please contact me, the Group Convenor.

#### French for beginners

There has been quite a bit of interest in this group and I am looking into ways to set it up. We do need a facilitator for this. If you would like to be part of a Beginner’s French class, please let me know so I can see if we have enough people to go ahead. At present we have 4 people who have expressed interest.

**It is good to see new members getting into groups and some thinking of facilitating too. Please feel free to contact me for more information about anything above.**

*Susie Barlow*

## Art House Films Two

We make many interesting discoveries in the Art House Films groups. One such is the work of Turkish director Semih Kaplanoglu, whose film *Bal* (Honey) won the Golden Bear prize at the Berlin Film Festival in 2010. The film follows a small boy growing up in rural Turkey, going out into the forest with his father who collects wild honey for a living. The boy's name is Yusef (Joseph) and his father is Jakub (Jacob), and a subtle theological theme underlies their relationship. The cinematography is superb, mostly with a stationary camera watching events playing out in front of it. The film has very little dialog, so the viewer must interpret what they see, just as we do in everyday life. *Bal* is the third part of a trilogy that began with *Sut* (Milk), the story



of a young man growing tired of life in his small village and setting off to Istanbul to fulfill his ambition as a poet. While making that film Semih Koplanoğlu wondered what would happen to such a man, so he made *Yamurtha* (Egg), in which a man, who has become jaded by life in Istanbul, returns to his village to attend to family affairs on the death of his mother; and he wondered what had shaped the younger man, so he made *Bal* as the third film of the trilogy. Success in Berlin drew international attention to Semih Kaplanoglu and his earlier films, so they were published together on DVDs in a European edition, with English subtitles. The AH Films Two group watched, and discussed, *Bal* in August, and we were so enthusiastic that we have chosen to see the first two parts of the trilogy at our October and November meetings. These are pleasures in store for the AH Films One group in 2019, providing they can find space amongst all the other wonderful films waiting to be discovered.

*Keith McNaughton*

## Law: Yesterday Today and Tomorrow by Tom Everitt our General Meeting Speaker 16th October

If, like me you felt a cloud of ennui descending on reading this month's speaker's topic of "Law: yesterday, today and tomorrow" you will have been pleased that the speaker, Tom Everitt, neatly sidestepped the more arduous elements of commercial law to concentrate on criminal law and his experiences in the profession during his long career as a practicing lawyer and a District Court Judge.

Tom invited us to consider the very meaning of the term "Law" itself and went on to address the validity of the current Jury system before delving into the murky depths of his time in the divorce court relating many amusing and no doubt heavily expurgated anecdotes.

Tom also put forward his views on a variety of somewhat contentious subjects, prefaced with the clear warning that these were personal views.

He commenced by comparing the recent challenging of Judge Kavanaugh's election to the bench of the American Supreme Court as akin the "particutions" depicted in Margaret Atwood's tale of a dystopian Gilead where women tore offending men to pieces.

Tom went on to express his opinion on restorative justice which he held to be problematic at best and he was opposed to any form of affirmative action to redress the imbalance of graduates from NZ Universities preferring instead to rely on the adage of "cream always rising to the top"

Tom concluded with a warning that any future law in New Zealand would be heavily influenced by increasingly loud Maori and feminist voices.

A lively question and answer session followed with Tom providing thoughtful and intelligent answers in line with his world view.

An enjoyable and thought provoking morning.

*Clive Blake*

## Shakespeare Group.

Although this group is based around Shakespeare's plays, we have also been looking at Shakespeare's life and times. A series by Michael Wood, *In the Footsteps of Shakespeare*, gave us what is known and what is supposed about this rather enigmatic man who survived a Catholic background when there was a bitter divide between Protestant and Catholic. His plays were popular and his company gained Royal approval with James I becoming the King's Men. He made enough money to buy a large property in his home town, Stratford on Avon. He rose socially and became a gentleman when his father was granted a coat of arms in 1596.



We're examining the history of the period, by looking at documentaries about the conflicts during Elizabeth's reign, the plots to place the Catholic Mary Queen of Scots on the throne, the Spanish Armada, the great explorers of the time. Shakespeare introduced many new words into literature with a lot coming from the new world.

One month we spend an hour looking at the history then an hour looking at a series of lectures by Professor Peter Saccio about the plays. The following month we look at the play he has discussed the previous month. So far, we have watched Twelfth Night, The Taming of the Shrew and Kiss me Kate for a twentieth century take on Shakespeare's play and The Merchant of Venice.

The picture is of Shakespeare's tomb in Holy Trinity Church where his wife and children are also buried.

*Pam Jenkins*

## Jack Beggs

It is sad to report that Jack Beggs died on Wednesday 24th October at home. Jack was a loyal member of U3A and the facilitator of Music Appreciation. He and his wife Stephanie were very generous in the use of their home letting other groups come and use their DVD Player and TV. Our sympathies go out to Stephanie and all of Jack's family. Jack's Funeral was held at St. James Church in Kerikeri on Monday 29th October.

*Grainger Brown, Editor*

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