

## From the Chair

Here comes summer. Hopefully a time to start enjoying the weather and relaxing in the garden.

Not last Saturday afternoon, though. That's when nearly 50 hardy souls gathered for the U3ABOI "Can Do" Ceilidh, beautifully organised by Moira. The dances were carefully chosen to be easy to learn, with pauses between to catch our breath. Storytelling, poetry and song had us sitting spellbound by the talents of the performers. A special thank you to those who performed. The spirit of the Ceilidh was certainly present. One almost felt it was Scotland.

We had a welcome break for a high tea with heaps of sandwiches, cakes and scones with cream and jam. Well done to everybody for making it all such a success, and especially to Keith and Nicky Hawkins for organising the music and dancing, and to all those (too many to name here) who helped Moira with the kitchen and clear-up afterwards. I lost count of the number of people at the end who asked "when's the next one?", which I took to be a resounding endorsement of the event! And the answer? Perhaps this could become an annual event!

It only remains for me to wish you all a happy and peaceful summer season, and I look forward to seeing you all next year in February, if not before. The next Newsletter will be at the beginning of February.

*Drew Barlow*



## It's Showtime



We have watched a wide variety of musicals this year and, truth be told, some have been received more enthusiastically than others. Jack Cumming's production of *Can Can* demonstrates of how a great score by Cole Porter, sung by stars such as Frank Sinatra, Maurice Chevalier and Louis Jourdan with Shirley MacLaine dancing up a storm, can still be a tedious flop. *Cabaret* and *Miss Saigon* received mixed reviews but did stir up debate. *My Fair Lady* was a total delight and left all of us smiling after singing along.

This month we watched the film of *Chicago* which proved worthy of the six Academy Awards it gained in 2002. Collectively we had seen quite a number of live productions across the globe so comparison was fascinating. Our last meeting will be for *The Music Man*.

The program for 2019 includes *A Chorus Line*, *Jersey Boys*, *42<sup>nd</sup> Street* with Dick Powell and Ruby Keeler, and Rogers & Hammerstein's *State Fair*. So, to quote Irving Berlin. "Let's go on with the show..." *Moira Warnock*

# Group Convenor

## Coffee morning

This was Moira Warnock's idea and an excellent one it was! We gathered on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at Café Cinema. We wondered if it would just be a group of five, but they kept on rolling in, and in! We reckon about 30 or more attended. The staff at café Cinema shut the partition doors to keep the noise at bay, but to no avail. I think the U3A members in full flow were pretty deafening. The noise did even drive some of outside too. I think that we could say it was as success and many asked if when we were doing it again. There were certainly no long silences. It will be repeated next year, possibly in February but we will find somewhere with better acoustics and a little more room. It proves that sometimes members just enjoy an opportunity for a good old natter. It was also an opportunity to meet members who you had not have met before and hear of other groups and discuss the possibility of new ones.

## New Groups

### French Conversation for beginners/intermediate.

This is still in early planning stage. We have about 5 interested people, but no facilitator and we are still trying to decide on the level and how to lead and teach it. I hope by next year something will come together. If anyone has any ideas on this or is also keen to participate, please let me know.

## Cuisine

This group has about 6 or maybe 7 already quite keen. We have offers to run some classes and a possible facilitator and hosting can be shared. We are already working through some possible days that suit those who have expressed an interest, so please get in touch if you wish to take part. I am hoping to have a date for the February Newsletter, if we get a few more to join the list. Watch this space!

Below is a reminder of the ideas for the group.

“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!”

### History (or any other subject that interests you!)

Over the past few months several people have expressed interest in joining or running another history based group. As mentioned in the last Newsletter, we have some great resources, both DVD and the on line that can be accesses. (I have the access details for U3A on line if anyone is interested) The resources are held by me, I am more than happy for anyone to come and have a rummage or I can send the lists for you to look through. There would be plenty of help to get a group going if someone is willing to have a go.

### Potential History Group

Five years ago Pam Jenkins lead a group on 19th century NZ history based on the DVD series about the NZ wars by Jamie Belich. U3A has the DVDs. It was very successful and, as we have many new members, Pam is offering to consider doing this again. Pam prepared some excellent material which explained what was happening in the 19th century e.g. immigration, legislation, economy etc. Please contact me if you are interested. This would start next year, in February. Probably the first Monday in the month. This will be confirmed. We have the offer of a host too.

It would be nice to start 2019 with some more new groups...

### General Science and Technology Group

General Science and Technology Group has changed its name from Technology and Physical Science. Please see the Group Schedule for details.

## Board Games Group

Marcia Fullham is the new facilitator of Board Games and she is keen to hear from existing, or potential new members what games they would like to learn and if anyone has any games to contribute. (they have spaces) Please see the Group Schedule for details.

*Susie Barlow*

## We welcome the following new members.

Kevin Brown, Brenda Dykes and Barbara Gooding

## Biology Group

We meet every third Wednesday in the afternoon and started a year ago. Biology has developed a lot over the past 50 years and many of us have not dealt with it much since leaving school. So, a refresher course provides a lot of interest.

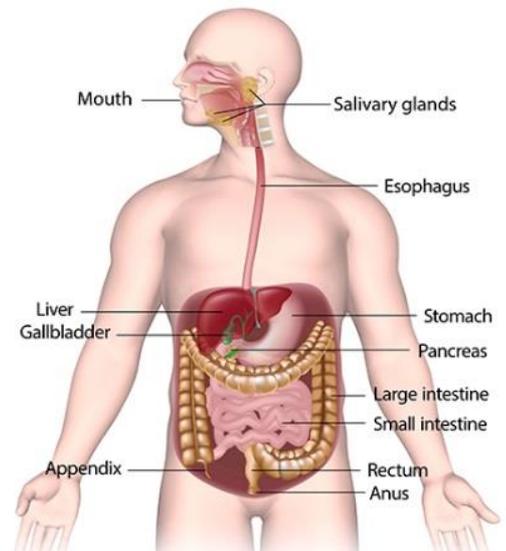
Biology covers a lot of topics and we pick one per meeting. So, we had a few meetings on the main building blocks of life, genetics, plant taxonomy and physiology and then moved on to animal reproduction and human digestion, which we discussed at our last meeting.

As we have been together for a while now, people are relaxed and ask a lot of questions or contribute with their own stories, which makes for a lively atmosphere.

For the rest of the year we plan to discuss arthropods as a group, then insects as a subgroup of the arthropods. This will include close-up investigation with magnifying glasses and a microscope. Participants are encouraged to bring study materials.

*Ulrike Novak*

The Digestive System



## General Meeting Monday 18th February 2019



Kate Martin who used to be the curator at the Pompallier Printery is going to talk to us about James Cook's voyage to New Zealand 250 years ago.

Full details in the next newsletter coming out at the end of January.



## U3A Can Do Ceilidh

Over forty U3A Bay of Islands members and friends had a great afternoon on Saturday 24th November at the Cornerstone Church near the Heritage Bypass in Kerikeri.

Moira Warnock who did a sterling job organising the event said ‘I was delighted that everyone there threw themselves into the experience with such enthusiasm. The dancing may have lacked finesse but it was certainly lively. People who had said in advance that they would come but would certainly not dance joined in and, rather to their surprise, had fun.’ Thanks should also go to Nicky and Keith Hawkins for organising the music and dances.



Picture by David Welch



Picture by David Welch



Picture by  
David Welch



Picture by  
Judy Klaus

### 2018-2019 Committee

Chair	Drew Barlow	09 407 9748	<a href="mailto:chair.u3a.boi@gmail.com">chair.u3a.boi@gmail.com</a>
Vice Chair	Mike Rowledge	09 407 7625	<a href="mailto:deputy.chair.u3a.boi@gmail.com">deputy.chair.u3a.boi@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Anna Smyth	09 407 8494	<a href="mailto:secretary.u3a.boi@gmail.com">secretary.u3a.boi@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Judith Burling	09 407 8197	<a href="mailto:treasurer.u3a.boi@gmail.com">treasurer.u3a.boi@gmail.com</a>
Group Convenor	Susie Barlow	09 407 9748	<a href="mailto:group.convenor.u3a.boi@gmail.com">group.convenor.u3a.boi@gmail.com</a>
Editor	Grainger Brown	09 407 7247	<a href="mailto:editor.u3a.boi@gmail.com">editor.u3a.boi@gmail.com</a>
Almoner	Margaret Lindsay	09 405 9411	<a href="mailto:almoner.u3a.boi@gmail.com">almoner.u3a.boi@gmail.com</a>
Publicity	Moira Warnock	09 407 6389	<a href="mailto:warnockmoira@gmail.com">warnockmoira@gmail.com</a>
Meeting Coordinator	Jenni Wilson	09 401 6254	<a href="mailto:meeting.coordinator.u3a.boi@gmail.com">meeting.coordinator.u3a.boi@gmail.com</a>
Immediate Past Chair	Lesley McNaughton	0210 2912 262	<a href="mailto:past.chair.u3a.boi@gmail.com">past.chair.u3a.boi@gmail.com</a>