

## From the Chair

It has been a great start to 2019 for U3A BOI, with quite a few new members joining and already offering to run some new and exciting groups. Subjects vary from Science to Japanese and Classical Studies to French for Beginners. Surely something for everyone!

Please read on to learn about these exciting new groups on offer and make sure to contact the Group Convenor to express your interest as they are likely to fill up quite quickly.

We also have a great write up on our February speaker, Kate Martin, in case you missed or couldn't attend.

And don't forget, contributions to this Newsletter are always welcome!



*Drew Barlow*

## General Meeting – February 2019

### Kate Martin - Tuia 250 Encounters.

Kate is a New Zealander who was raised in both New Zealand and the North of England and has been committed to the Far North for more than 20 years. She has worked for Heritage New Zealand, Waitangi National Trust and Russell Museum.

Kate also works with the Te Au Marie 1769 Trust, the main driver of planning activity for this region's part in Tuia 250 Encounters.

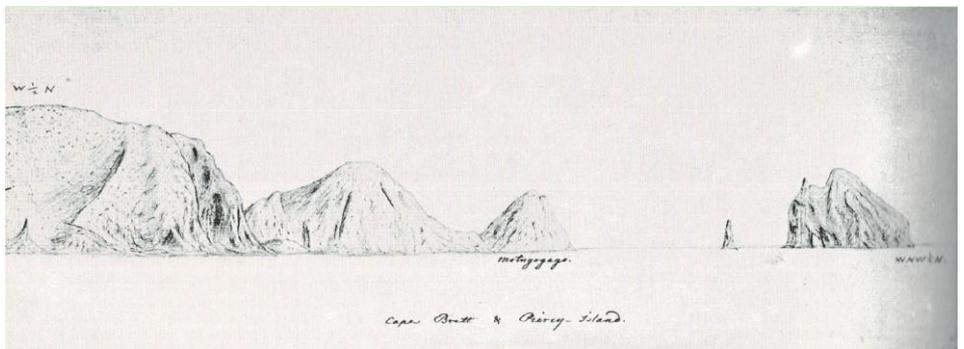
Kate gave an inspiring talk about the upcoming Tuia 250 Encounters. This year will mark 250 years since the first meetings between Maori and Europeans.

The commemoration and history of the arrival of Endeavour and James Cook in the Bay of Islands 1769.

This occasion will acknowledge the exceptional feats of the early Pacific voyagers who reached and settled in Aotearoa many years ago.

Kate's enlightening talk put us in touch with the preparations that are happening, with focus on four Endeavour landfalls and the National commemoration of the first arrivals.

The voyage of the commemorative fleet, the double wakas and sailing vessels journey will begin on the East Coast at Gisborne, heading north via Mercury Bay, Auckland and Whangarei, arriving in the Bay of Islands in November where we will have the opportunity of viewing or participating during the 5 or 6 days they are here.



Cape Brett and Piery Island by Herman Sporing from H M S Endeavour  
November 1789

A greeting by the waka people to the fleet is anticipated at the Cape, where they will be escorted into the Bay and Opuā.

It is an exciting event that is being constructed for New Zealanders to gain further insight into our own history and we will have a wonderful opportunity of seeing it first hand, here in November. Auckland will be hosting the fleet over Labour Weekend.

Our thanks to Kate for such an in depth perspective of what will be happening; to date most of us had so little information about the celebration.

If you missed the meeting this month make sure you follow up when and where you can be part of it.

Kate also talked briefly about the Russell Museum, encouraging us to visit and enjoy the quality of the exhibits.

*Lorraine Jamieson*

## Group Convenor

It has been a busy and exciting start to the year for U3A BOI. There has been a great deal of planning. Emails have been flying to and fro, with offers to facilitate and lead some very interesting new groups. Don't miss out, as I imagine they may fill up quite quickly. We have languages, science and history. In fact we have offers of more groups that we can fit in the month, so if Alexander the Great or Latin for Beginners are your interests, see next month for more groups!

We still have an offer for the following groups advertised last month and have nearly enough people to start these, so do get in touch...hopefully dates can then be set.

**FOR INTEREST IN ANY GROUPS, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH ME, SUSIE BARLOW, GROUP CONVENOR, SO WE CAN FILL THEM FAIRLY!!**

### Pam's History group

**19th century NZ history based on the DVD series about the NZ wars by Jamie Belich.**

Pam Jenkins is happy to run this group. It was run before, and was very popular. As we have many new members, Pam is offering to run 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 can start as soon as we have some members to join. It would probably be held on the first Monday in the month. This will be confirmed after discussion with the members who are interested in joining. We have the offer of a host too. (We already have 5 keen on this group, so just need a few more to get it going)

### Adventures in English

Pam has kindly offered to facilitate this group, using the excellent series by Melvyn Bragg and other experts who delve into 1500 years of the English language. It looks at how the language developed from its humble Germanic dialect beginnings.

Nobel Prize winning authorities such as Seamus Heaney, John Barton and Elizabethan scholar Katherine Duncan-Jones give an entertaining insight into its development. The series looks at the many influences on our language. This is a fascinating subject to delve into and can lead to a lively discussion. (We have six people already keen, just need a few more and a host to set a date).

**The following are new groups offered by Chris Williams, a new member. (We do also have a Christopher Williams, this Chris is a female Chris!) Chris is an enthusiastic and passionate teacher. I think these groups will be excellent.**

### The Roman Empire - Civilization or Submission

There has never been a comparable civilization, in terms of extent and staying power. Ancient Rome remains with us, even to this day. It has shaped the modern world in a unique and fascinating way.

In this course, we will be looking at how Rome rose from its humble beginnings as an obscure hill-top village beside the Tiber, to a world super-power. We will be focusing on some of the Empire's most famous and intriguing characters, from brilliant generals to dissolute emperors and naughty empresses, and on some of the famous military campaigns which gave Rome her vast territories. Included will be Caesar's Gallic War, the Fall of Jerusalem, and the Romans in Britain. Which one man in 9 AD ultimately caused the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> World Wars? Why did Hitler adore Tacitus' "Germania", dubbed "the most dangerous book in the world"? We will also look at some of the stunning works of architecture which won the hearts and minds of her citizens and her conquered peoples. Propaganda at its best. Dates and venue to be decided.

## French for beginners

This course is designed for beginners, and for learners whose schoolboy/girl French is now a distant memory. The aim is to develop communication skills, and to gently ease our way to understanding some of the grammar essential in speaking the language. Everyone welcome, and the atmosphere is encouraging rather than challenging.

Dates and venue to be decided

## Adventures in Technology

This fascinating new group is proposed by Nick van der Walt, (another new member, with his wife Margaret) who has offered to Facilitate and lead this for U3A members.

Nick's particular interests are research into, and the underwater exploration of, shipwrecks around the world. These experiences stimulated his interest in the applied sciences.

This program is designed to:

- Stimulate discussion about familiar and not so familiar technologies and their application in the world around us.
- Introduce new perspectives through the use of local and international guest speakers with experience in the particular area under discussion.
- Encourage participants to share their ideas about the future of our technological development and the implications of this for the future of our species.
- Be fun and enjoyable – above all.



The program is designed to appeal to everyone, and whether you are an artist or a scientist you will hopefully find it to be interesting, relevant and thought provoking. Nick has already put together a great draft programme, which is available to those wishing to join the group. Examples of areas that will be covered are:

- Recent developments in amateur and professional underwater technologies including Gold fever – finding your very own shipwreck; U-boat U533 and naval perspectives on the Persian Gulf – modern and historical technical challenges; a look at some equipment – how it works and what it does.
- Heat and energy - visit to the Ngawha generating plant.
- Architecture and technology – unique construction challenges of the iconic Burj al Arab in Dubai.
- Educating for the future - new technologies, the relevance of the classroom and the future of tertiary education for our children who will be working in 2065.
- Whatever happened to your bank account - Viruses, cyber security and the citizen of the 21st century?
- TBC – Trends in space exploration

**New Members** – U3A Bay of Islands welcomes these new members: Brenda Dykes, Kevin Uwe Antschak-Brown, Barbara Godding, Anne Lund, Winsome Fisher, Nick and Margaret van der Walt, Chris and George Williams, Karen Costello and Donna Clarke. We hope you all enjoy your time with us.

## New Member's Coffee Morning

All new members joining over the last few months and facilitators will have had the invite. If you haven't and would like to attend, or are fairly new or just want to come, you are welcome... just email me on :- [group.convenor.u3a.boi@gmail.com](mailto:group.convenor.u3a.boi@gmail.com) for details.

*Susie Barlow*

## Art Appreciation



This group has been going for a number of years still with most of the original members and one or two who have joined recently. We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 10 am and start our meeting with morning tea. We then watch a video of about 30 to 45 minutes and have a general discussion. This can be fairly lively and range far and wide from what we have just watched to art encounters of long ago.

We have recently finished a series entitled "Art of the Western World" and are about to start a new one, "A History of European Art". This is a series of lectures by Professor William Kloss

accompanied by illustrations. There is some repetition with well-known masterpieces but it is always interesting to have another expert's point of view and interpretation. We have ventured into Art of the Dark Age, Medieval Art, da Vinci and Michael Angelo, paintings by Constable and Reubens, to Impressionism and Jackson Pollock. The variations are endless and always exciting and challenging.

Some of our videos have covered Sculpture, Architecture and ceramics as well as paintings by early civilisations, but always with the emphasis on artistic merit.

All our members are interested in art in all its forms and I know some take the opportunity to follow up information given on the videos, but we are a relaxed group and leave it to individual choice.

We are all looking forward to our new series and the start of our new U3A year.

*Judy Barrett*

## World Religion

As the World Religion Group has followed some of the better known religions of the last 4,500 years, I have enjoyed learning how these ideas came into being and the influences they made on everyone's lives, not just the believers.

For a very small example, Taoism, Daoism, and Confucianism were all religions in China from the 5th century BC. Strange sounding names, to me, causing me to wonder what strange things did they believe? It turns out they were not strange beliefs at all. Taoism and Daoism are names used for the same faith which is based on nature, simplicity and selflessness. Confucianism is based on rituals and keeping social order. Confucius, K'ung-fu-tzu, born in 551 BC, sought to reform religion through ethics rather than reforming ethics through religion. These two quite different ways of thinking/believing brought about major changes in the Chinese culture over several years.



As the group's focus has moved closer to the 21st century, the names of religions are more familiar to me, but I still wondered what strange things do they believe? Most recently we have been studying Judaism and then, Jesus's life, leading to Christianity. These are two of several religions that seem to have developed from the same root. Studying the cultures and governmental powers in place at the times when each of these religions branched into extremely different ways of maintaining and expressing their beliefs, has helped me understand what they have been trying to protect and/or share with others.



I can't help wondering, in another 2000 years, when a future World Religion Group gets together to study our then "ancient" beliefs, how they will interpret or misinterpret our religious values. My hope is that understanding and respect will be one of their main goals.

*Pat de Meurers*

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