



February 2019

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From the Chair

A belated Happy New Year everyone! I hope you're coping with the heat.

Although there was no Newsletter last month, we haven't been idle. Please see the Group Convenor's Report below to read about new groups forming, and others proposed. I'm so grateful to all those who are helping contribute to our own special U3A in the Bay of Islands. 'Cuisine'; now there's an idea to whet your appetite! Gourmand rather than gourmet, I trust. 'Adventures in English' touches on a vast subject that has always fascinated me, and allows us to delve into our own box of U3A resources. So we're growing. New members. New groups. A full schedule of speakers has already been arranged for this year, starting with our General Meeting in February.

Dive into our Newsletter and take note of the subjects that might interest you. It's our main means of regular communication with you all. Please get in touch if you have any comments, ideas or suggestions for improvement. Contributions are also welcome.

Here's to a great 2019!



Drew Barlow

General Meeting

Monday 18th February 10.30 am

St John's Ambulance Hall, 367 Kerikeri Road

Members: Please bring finger food for our shared lunch

Kitchen Group: Anthropology



Tuia 250: Commemorations and History of the Arrival of HM Bark *Endeavour* in the Bay of Islands 1769

A Talk by

Kate Martin

Past Manager of Pompallier Printery, Russell and editor of: *The French Place in the Bay of Islands*

Group Convenor

It is a new year and we have some new members, and new groups to join, so hopefully we can have a great year of U3A learning and fun. We have some exciting offers from new members willing to run groups with an array of subjects, so be sure to see what is on offer in this and the March newsletter.

I hope everyone will have a read and see what interests them.

New Groups

French Conversation for beginners/intermediate.



This is still in early planning stage. We have about 5 interested people, but no facilitator or host. We are still trying to decide on the level and how to lead and teach it. I hope by next month something will come together. If anyone has any ideas on this or is also keen to participate, please let me know. I think maybe we should find a date in March to get those interested together to see what we can start. If anyone is willing to take on facilitating I am happy to work with them to get it going.

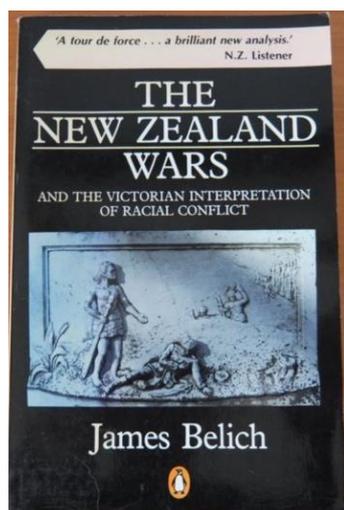
Cuisine

This new group is now ready to go. The first meeting will be on Thursday 28th February. See the schedule for details. There are still a couple of spaces, but I think they will fill quickly. 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!



If you are interested, please contact me.

Pam's History group



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

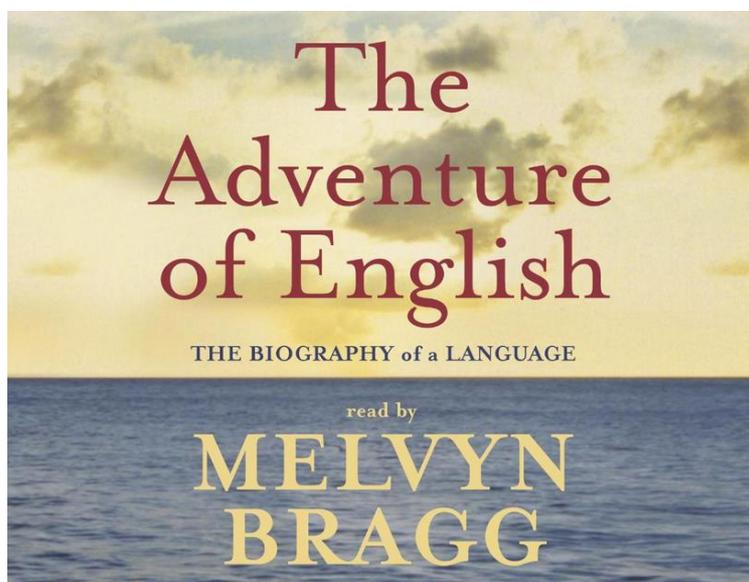
Pam Jenkins is happy to run this group. It was run before, and was very popular. As we have many new members, Pam is offering to run this again. Pam prepared some excellent material which explained what was happening in the 19th century e.g. immigration, legislation, economy etc. Please contact me if 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.

The Adventure of English – The Biography of a Language

Several people have mentioned a desire to explore our fascinating language. In our U3A resources we have an 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.

If you are interested in joining or facilitating such a group, please get in touch. The material is available to look at.



Possibility of other new groups

We have some great resources that can be accessed, both DVD and on-line. (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.

Several of our very recent new members have expressed an interest in facilitating and presenting some fascinating subjects, so hopefully we will have more information on those next month.

New member's afternoon tea or coffee morning

We have had quite a few new members join since we last had one of these last year. It was a most successful event held at a member's home. It may soon be time to repeat this. It is an excellent way to meet with other members and facilitators and hear about the groups. So watch this space for a date and time to be announced in next month's Newsletter.

Susie Barlow

Book Discussion Two

After many years as facilitator of the Tuesday book group David Lawton has resigned with Jean Creighton taking over the role and Brenda Welch filling in when Jean is away. Our group meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm at the house of Gillian French. The book group is of two halves. The first half of the session we discuss books we have read on a chosen topic, the topic having been chosen the month before. After a break for afternoon tea



and coffee we discuss a book we have enjoyed reading and would like to share with the group. If you haven't read a book during the month, as sometimes happens, that is ok as it is enjoyable just to have company and to get new ideas for further reading. Our group is full at the moment but if you would like to be put on a waiting list please ring Jean at 09 407 7011.

Jean Creighton

U3A Board Games Group

My name is Marcia Fullam and I am the new Board Games group facilitator. The Board Games group meets on the third Friday of the month at 2pm at Cherry Park House. The next meeting is the 15th of February.

We are currently learning to play Backgammon and this is what we will do at the first meeting. Several experienced Backgammon players will help with this. As a total beginner myself last year, I found it reasonably easy to learn so if you are interested, don't be afraid to come along and have a go.

We have space for some new members and we would love to see you.

At this meeting, we will also discuss what other board games people would like to play this year, as well as the suggestion to expand the scope to include card games.

Also, if any U3A member has board games they no longer use, our group would appreciate it if you would contribute to us.

Marcia Fullam



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