



June 2019

u3abayofislands.com/

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From the Chair

In 2009 there was a celebration to mark the 10th anniversary of the formation of U3A Bay of Islands. Ten years on, we now have the opportunity to celebrate our 20th anniversary and I'm hoping we will have a good turnout of members on the 17th June for the AGM. Three of our members will be reminiscing on the early and middle years. We have trolled the archives and there will be displays of early photographs and memorabilia as well as a display of the resources we hold for groups to access. This will be followed by a lunch which will be partly provided by U3A, along with a specially commissioned cake.

We hope to keep the business of the AGM to a minimum this year, with many of the committee standing for re-election. We are, however, looking for nominations for a new Secretary and Treasurer.

Drew Barlow



AGM 2019

10.00 am Monday 17th June

Kerikeri Sports Complex Function Room

Entrance on Waipapa Road

towards Landing Road from Heritage Bypass Roundabout.

Twentieth Birthday Celebration

The AGM will be followed by a celebration of 20 Years of U3ABoI. Members will share their memories of the early years and of the Tenth Birthday celebration.

We will have displays, including archive material.

An augmented shared lunch will be followed by a specially commissioned cake emblazoned with our logo (in edible icing).

We hope you will all be there to help us celebrate.

Group Convenor

As I complete a year as Group Convenor I am happy to see there are many more groups and many more members. This was, of course our aim. We can only offer the fantastic range of groups because we have fantastic, dedicated facilitators, hosts and a hard working committee. The AGM will be a celebration of this, and a good opportunity to see and hear about what is on offer. Please see below the details of some exciting new groups, or re runs of excellent groups. We still have plenty of space. We do, however, need more facilitators and hosts. If you think you might be interested get in touch with myself, Susie, and I can explain the basics and also put you in touch with other experienced facilitators and help you get started.

The History and Achievements of the Islamic Golden Age

The study of Western Civilization traditionally follows a well-known but incomplete arc: the grand achievements of Greece and Rome, several hundred years of the “Dark Ages,”



Averroes

and then the bright emergence of the European Renaissance. But most students of history have only a passing familiarity with a significant period known as the Islamic Golden Age in the Greater Middle East, from about 750 to 1258. Advancements in medicine, algebra and astronomy plus influential figures like Avicenna and Averroes arise in the late Middle Ages and early Renaissance, one of the most important periods of world history



Avicenna

This group will follow an illustrated lecture series by Eamonn Gearon, a Professorial Lecturer at Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies, in Washington DC.

Classical Mythology



From Athena to Zeus, the characters and stories of classical mythology have been both unforgettable and profoundly influential. They have inspired and shaped everything from great art and literature, to our notions of sexuality and gender roles, to the themes of popular films and TV shows.

This group will watch and discuss a series of half-hour illustrated lectures by Prof Elizabeth Vandiver of Whitmore College, Walla Walla, Washington State and possibly other resources.

The Nature of Earth

This group will introduce you to physical geology, the study of Earth's minerals, rocks, soils, and the processes that operate on them through time. We will use a series of half-hour lectures by Professor John J Renton, an award winning educator at West Virginia University. He is easy to follow and funny with a gift for picking simple analogies that make complicated concepts clear and memorable



Exploring the Mysteries of Human Behaviour

Explore the latest theories and research from behavioural sciences to learn why we humans act the way we do. Amongst many more topics examine how seemingly odd behaviours make perfect sense when viewed through the lens of another culture, and gain insights into central questions about human behaviour like why we fall in love and why we blush.

This group will use a series of half-hour illustrated lectures by Professor Mark Leary of Duke University in North Carolina.

Rise of the Continents

The earth's continents are instantly recognisable. They seem permanent and unchanging but are actually the wreckage of a much larger, long-lost supercontinent Pangaea.

The group will view a four-part BBC series presented by geologist Iain Stewart. He hypothesizes how 250 million years in the future, all of the continents will collide together once more, forming a new Pangaea with Eurasia right at its heart. Africa, Australia, The Americas and Eurasia.



Just a reminder that the following new groups will be delayed. (Due to Chris's teaching commitments in Auckland)

The Roman Empire - Civilization or Submission, French for beginners and Japanese for beginners.

(See last month's newsletter for details)

Are you interested in any of the groups above? Please let me know as soon as possible:

Email: group.convenor.u3a.boi@gmail.com *Susie Barlow*, Group Convenor,
Phone 09 407 9748 or 021 731 748

Music Appreciation.



Prof Greenberg

Music Appreciation is one of the longest running groups in U3A and has had various convenors over the 20 years it has been in existence. I have just taken over at the beginning of the year. At present we are following a video presentation by Professor Greenberg entitled "Music as a mirror of History" Last month we studied Chopin's "Revolutionary Etude" which was inspired by a real world event, the destruction of a Polish uprising and the capture of Warsaw by the Russians on 8 September 1831. Chopin had settled in Paris in late September 1831 and was never to return to Poland but it was his music that inspired the Polish people.

Over past months we have studied composers such as Mozart, Beethoven Berlioz so have had a good grounding in both their music and the history of conflicts in Europe.

After the video presentation by the Professor, members are asked to bring CD's of their own choice that relate to the subject of the day's study. We have also found that there is any amount of good music material on You Tube that is also worth watching.

Garth Matterson

Local History

As children, I'm sure Robin and Webber Booth never thought that one day their childhood memories of the Kerikeri Basin would be history! Catching up with Robin was happenstance. On an earlier trip to the old power station on the Kerikeri River, Robin happened to pass by so we asked him to join us. Howard was well prepared and informative regarding the history of the power station while Robin added an "I remember" dimension.

Our May meeting—a walk lead by Robin and Webber—was given over to mainly their, but also other people's, memories of the Kerikeri Basin area. The Playcentre building was the first Kerikeri Primary School. The school motto *Be Worthy* and the dental nurse rewarded good children with beads of mercury. Hhhmm.

Wattle hockey sticks; making 'snowballs' by running your hand along the frosted railings of the old wooden bridge; chewing wattle gum; yumyums—apparently the snapped young yet-to-flower stems of the orange-flowering watsonia are yummy to chew; sitting on top of a scow eating the best rice pudding ever; warm swimming holes; 1s 3p an hour for working in the Stone Store (Moira thought Webber was overpaid). The tales kept coming.

Walkers in this area will be familiar with the weather-beaten tree with its autumn fruit close to the path leading to the footbridge. It's a tung tree, a remnant of early attempts to establish a tung oil industry in Kerikeri. All parts of the tree are poisonous and some people are severely allergic to the leaves so treat it with respect. What we no longer see are the houses that not so very long ago were once in the park. There's no sign of them now but they live on in the stories of people like Robin, Webber and others in the Local History group.

From Maria we learnt that this year is the 50th Anniversary of the Stone Store Preservation Society set up to save the Kororipo Pa from subdivision. We can all be grateful for the determination and effort so many people put into ensuring the Kororipo Heritage Park (Kerikeri Basin, the Stone Store, Kemp House, Kororipo Pā, and Rewa's Village) has been preserved for our enjoyment.

In June the Local History group will be visiting the Jack Morgan Museum at Hukerenui. Any U3A members who do not belong to the Local History group but who would be interested in joining with this visit, please contact me—details on the Group Schedule.

Christine Cronshaw



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