



May 2019

u3abayofislands.com/

U3A Bay of Islands, PO Box 833, Kerikeri 0245

u3a.bay.of.islands@gmail.com

From the Chair

I can hardly believe it is nearly a year since the last AGM. It has been a great year for U3A BoI with over 40 new members and more than 10 new groups with many more in the pipeline. As most of you will know, U3A BoI celebrate 20 years this year. It has grown from small and enthusiastic beginnings to a membership of well over 200. We want this year's AGM to be an opportunity to celebrate all that has been achieved and all the hard work that has gone into making it such a successful organisation.



It will be held on Monday 17th June starting at 10.00am. Please note: There is a change of venue. NOT St John Ambulance Hall, but at the Kerikeri Sports Club Hall accessed from Waipapa Road just off the roundabout at the end of the Heritage Bypass. This is to allow extra space as, sadly, we are growing out of St John, who have served us so well for many years.

Instead of a single speaker at the AGM, we are inviting a number of members to talk briefly about their memories of U3A, and of Kerikeri, then and now. Founder members and others who were here 20 years ago, or even 10 years ago when we celebrated our 10th anniversary, are invited to share their memories. Please contact myself, or any committee member if you would like to be included. As with all good celebrations, there will be cake!

There is, of course, some business to attend to as well, but we will keep it as brief as possible. We have committee vacancies for Treasurer and Secretary. Although the rest of the committee are happy to stay, all offices are open to all and we would welcome nominations for any office. I'll be sending out forms by email next month for members to table Nominations to the committee and any other matters to bring up at the AGM.

At the AGM we will also need to hear a few annual reports and elect the new committee. There will also be a motion tabled to alter the constitution to allow for a small change to our annual year. Previously our membership fee ran to the end of April. We would like to extend this by 2 months to the end of June, (giving you all 2 months free membership this year!) in order to allow the incoming committee to set the subs for the following year. BUT this needs to be approved by the membership and this means a majority vote at the AGM, so PLEASE (if you agree) come along, meet the committee, hear the tales of your local U3A, and help us eat cake!

Drew Barlow

“Frank Speaking” at our April General Meeting Monday 15th April



Our guest speaker this month was one of the Bay of Islands' best known and admired long term residents, Frank Leadley, supported by his wife of over 53 years, Vanessa. Frank was the Principal of Bay of Islands College for nearly 23 years, Foundation President of the Secondary Principals Association of New Zealand and actively involved for many years in all aspects of community and youth activity in the Bay of Islands, which were recognised in 2000 with the award of the Queen's Service Medal for Services to Education and the Community. His amazing life of service and the love of travel that he and Vanessa share were told with his characteristic humour in his biography, “Frank Speaking” published in 2016.

Frank's address "It Wasn't Funny at the Time but....." drew on many of the travel memories that he and Vanessa share, ranging from asking for directions, lost luggage, transport difficulties and language problems all over the world. Then wild animal encounters, overdoing Scrumpy Cider, canal boats in the UK, startling the locals with singing on a gondola in Venice, and a haka in Paris! Told with his trademark humour, and occasionally prompted by Vanessa, Frank had us roaring with laughter at their experiences, to which most of us can relate from our own travels. If you missed the meeting this month, make sure you catch Frank when next he "Speaks Frankly" from his repertoire of highly amusing travel stories.

Many thanks to Frank and Vanessa for a most entertaining and fun-filled morning that left us all smiling.

Dennis O'Brien

Group Convenor

Another busy month arranging new groups. It is really encouraging to see lots of new ideas for groups from a varied range of genre coming forward; and new facilitator's too. We do, however, need more facilitators. 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. If some of the new groups appeal, facilitating a group with resources already held by u3A can be a fairly simple task, as explained below.

New group starting this month

Adventures in English starts this month. See schedule for details. There are still a few spaces left.

New group starting in June.

Adventures in Technology will be starting in June. This is officially full, but let me know if you are interested.

See last month's description and June schedule for details.

The following new groups will be delayed. (Due to Chris's teaching commitments in Auckland)

These groups were offered by Chris Williams, a new member. (We do also have a Christopher Williams, this Chris is a female Chris!). The start of these will be delayed a few months...but as soon as she is able to start I will inform all those who have shown an interest.

The Roman Empire - Civilization or Submission

French for beginners

Japanese for beginners

(See last month's newsletter for details)

If you would like to go on the list for these groups, please contact me and I will add you to the list.

New groups based on our existing resources

It has been suggested that we start some new groups based on DVDs that have been the core of very popular groups in the past. The following groups have been suggested and they could be started quickly so email or phone me if you are interested in any of them. It's best to apply promptly since some groups may fill quickly.

Since we already have the resources the following groups could be started quickly if enough members are interested in the topics, and we can recruit facilitators from those members.

Once there are enough applicants for a group I will need to find a facilitator, so please let me know if you might like to take on this role. I will liaise with the facilitator to find a calendar slot that suits as many applicants as possible.

The facilitator is responsible for organising group meetings and liaising with the Group Convenor and Newsletter Editor. Often the facilitator leads the meetings but this task can be rotated among the group. The facilitator may host the meetings or the group may be hosted by other members.

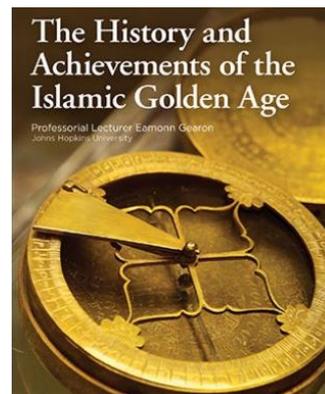
Classical Mythology

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, as well as the themes of popular films and TV shows.

This group would 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 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,” 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



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.

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 lecture 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.

Are you interested in any of the groups above?

Please let me know as soon as possible:

Email: group.convenor.u3a.boi@gmail.com

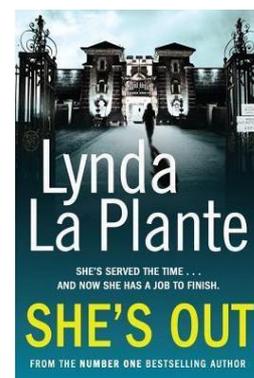
Susie Barlow, Group Convenor
Phone: 09 407 9748 or 021 731 748.

Facilitators meeting

This was held on April 4th at the Cornerstone. It was attended by about 18 people. We had several experienced and one new facilitator share information on their groups. It was interesting to see how they varied and this is what makes U3A interesting. There was much sharing of information over a tea and biscuits. It was an opportunity to thank the facilitator's for all their hard work.

Detective Stories

We are a group of enthusiastic readers of life's mysteries whether they come in the form of classic whodunit's, cosy amateur investigations and investigators, noir Nordic nasties, forensic tales and so many more diverse stories. Let's not forget the police procedurals where our facilitator Stuart can set us straight on matters real versus fiction given his past life in the London Metropolitan Police Force. Everyone has their own favourite writer and detective which are freely shared with the group. Each month we look at reading detective stories from different places and with different angles. We have covered Scandinavian writers, American and European detective story writers, among others. It was interesting to look at obscure settings for such stories and, funnily enough, a real challenge to uncover humorous examples of the genre. Nevertheless there is always much laughter and sharing of our reading choices and our books, as well as delight in new authors discovered and old favourites revisited. As if this isn't wide-ranging enough we come away each week happy in the knowledge that we have learned so much more from our reading - a recipe here, geographical and historical facts there, and an awful lot about human nature and, perhaps, ourselves.



Jan Hardley

Just Writing



Variety, they say, is the spice of life and that is the joy of this group. As well as short stories, we have written opinion pieces suitable for publications, poetry including haiku which is great fun, and memoirs. Our last project was a short story based on a game, any game, which resulted in stories from family fun to an atmospherically sinister game of hide and seek. One exercise planned for the future is a serial where each member of the group writes a chapter and passes it on to the next. The hardest chapter is the last one, where the person writing it has to bring it all together in a fitting finale.

Apart from writing, we play word games to spark our creativity. For example, in small groups we are given random words which we have to tie together in a paragraph or a short, short story. Other games have consisted of a paragraph with colour or perhaps an intriguing image as a focus, and one a bit like consequences that had very funny results. We played a very noisy game of "Articulate" at our last meeting, which soon taught us to be very focussed and very succinct with description.

Our group is full at the moment but, if you are keen, there is the possibility of going on a waiting list and you will be contacted should a space become available.

Gillian French

2018-2019 Committee			
Chair	Drew Barlow	09 407 9748	chair.u3a.boi@gmail.com
Vice Chair	Mike Rowledge	09 407 7625	deputy.chair.u3a.boi@gmail.com
Secretary	Anna Smyth	09 407 8494	secretary.u3a.boi@gmail.com
Treasurer	Judith Burling	09 407 8197	treasurer.u3a.boi@gmail.com
Group Convenor	Susie Barlow	09 407 9748	group.convenor.u3a.boi@gmail.com
Editor	Grainger Brown	09 407 7247	editor.u3a.boi@gmail.com
Almoner	Margaret Lindsay	09 405 9411	almoner.u3a.boi@gmail.com
Publicity	Moira Warnock	09 407 6389	warnockmoira@gmail.com
Meeting Coordinator	Jenni Wilson	09 401 6254	meeting.coordinator.u3a.boi@gmail.com
Immediate Past Chair	Lesley McNaughton	0210 2912 262	past.chair.u3a.boi@gmail.com