

## From the Chair

With the AGM behind us, we now have a new Committee. Well, all but one will be recognised as they've agreed to stay on for another year. My heartfelt thanks to Judith Burling, Anna Smyth and Lesley McNaughton for all they have done for U3ABoI through the committee. No doubt we will continue to see them at the various groups as they facilitate, host and participate.

You will see that Moira Warnock has stepped up from being our Publicity Officer to take on the position of Treasurer, and we also welcome Christine Cronshaw back onto the Committee. The precise roles of each committee member will be agreed at our first Committee Meeting in July.

Personally I've taken on the management of the website, which was so well set up and managed by Lesley McNaughton, so if you have any comments, suggestions or input, please get in touch with me.

As for the year ahead, following on from the success of the Ceilidh last year, we will be looking at some sort of similar social event to bring us together and warm us up. And remember, it is YOUR U3A. Please read the Newsletter, and please visit the website for up to date news of events.

Have a great year.



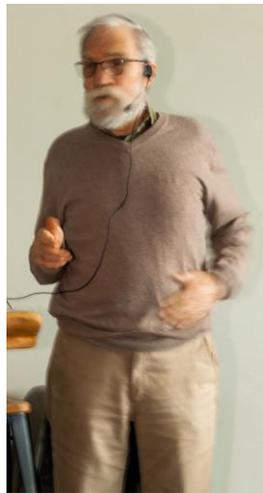
*Drew Barlow*



Jenni Wilson



Mary Johnson



Keith McNaughton

Our three story tellers



Kitchen workers and Anne having fun



Heather Pickup cutting the cake

Photos by:  
David Welch  
and  
Judy Klaus



## Group Convenor

It was wonderful to see so many members at the AGM. There was much interest in our resource material for groups to use. We have also recently bought some new resources. Please see below for the details of the new groups on offer. We still have some spaces, but some are near to being full, so get in quick...we hope to get some of these running in August. 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 to 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”, 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.

### 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](mailto:group.convenor.u3a.boi@gmail.com) Phone 09 407 9748 or 021 731 748

Group Convenor *Susie Barlow*

## Existing group needing more members.

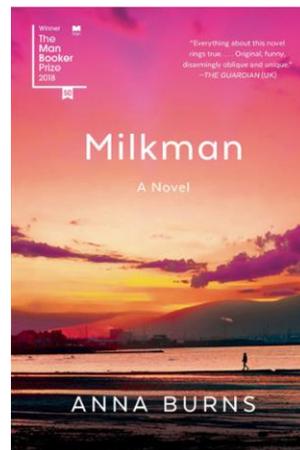
To book lovers:

Our **Book Discussion Group 1** is seeking new members. Every month we meet to discuss a book we have read on the previously agreed upon theme. For instance, our last theme was “a Booker Prize winning book”. Our next theme is “a Maori author”. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm. After a pause for afternoon tea, we go on to discuss other books we may have read. We have space for three new members.

If you are interested in joining please let me know.

[mmurraylee@gmail.com](mailto:mmurraylee@gmail.com) 09 402 7555

Facilitator, *Maggie Murray-Lee*



## Sketching, drawing and painting

This is a group for all abilities and experience. It doesn't matter if you think you have no artistic talent; you will be surprised at what you can do! All you need is enthusiasm and be willing to learn or share what you already know. It is not a formal class, but a meeting of likeminded people. I am happy to help people get started on painting which can be oils, acrylic or watercolour. I am sure we can all help each other. You will of course have to provide your own materials. It can be abstract or realism - it will be up to you.

We do have plenty of space at the moment and would like to encourage more members to join. The group meets at Cherry Park House each week, which is different from most U3A groups. There is a charge for Cherry Park House which will have to be paid up front, but this will be no more than \$15 each. Please get in touch with me so that I know what your art interests are, and I look forward to some interesting art being produced.

[brendawelchnz@gmail.com](mailto:brendawelchnz@gmail.com) 09 407 4328.

Facilitator, *Brenda Welch*

## Annual Report from the Chair to the 2019 AGM

This is, naturally, the 20th annual report to U3A Bay of Islands as we are about to celebrate our 20th Anniversary.

I'm pleased to say that it's been another successful year, with an 11% increase in membership and new groups forming. Current figures show that we have a total of 215 members, with new enquiries every month. Of the 30 active interest groups, exactly half have vacancies, and there are 9 new groups in the pipeline waiting for a facilitator. We currently have some 21 facilitators, many of whom are also hosts, with others also hosting groups in their homes.

Might I say that without the voluntary work of all our facilitators and hosts we would not have an organisation at all. U3A is modelled around group activities run by volunteers. It's for all of us; by all of us. I wish to thank all of the facilitators and hosts for all the time and effort they put in each and every month into the smooth running of U3A. Believe me, this can be a very rewarding experience, so please consider helping to contribute to our U3A, if you aren't already. Contact any member of the committee. We're here to help.

During the year we have been stimulated by several speakers at our General Meetings. Last August Lindsay Alexander returned to talk about the early shipping history of the Bay of Islands and soldiered on despite a power failure of the projector system. Tom Everitt's talk in October on the “Law, Yesterday Today and Tomorrow” was deliberately thought provoking and provocative, and led to some lively debate. In February Kate Martin spoke about the preparations for the 250th anniversary celebration of the first meeting between Māori and Pakeha, part of which will be here in the Bay of Islands later in the year, I think in November, and in April we had Frank Leadley's amusing reminiscences from his life and travels: “It wasn't funny at the time, but...”. My thanks to all of them, and also to Jenni Wilson, our Meeting Coordinator, who organised and arranged all of the speakers.

During the year we've held two coffee mornings for new members, and another for all the facilitators, to help bring people together for informal meetings.

Being Chair of U3a is the easy bit. The real hard work is done by the rest of the Committee. Moira has done a great job as Publicity officer, and let us not forget the Ceilidh that we had in November. What a treat that was, and all down to the organisation of Moira Warnock whose initial idea it was. We knew it was a success when people asked Moira afterwards: “When’s the next one?”!

We didn’t bring in caterers for today. All of the preparations for today were done by members of the committee led by Moira. So thank you Moira, and also Jenni, Susie, and Anna.

Our Newsletter is our main mouthpiece sent to all members, and I’d encourage you all to have a look each month for articles and up to date news. Grainger Brown is our Newsletter editor, and has done a wonderful job with the graphics this year. He also prints all of your Name Tags and has been sending out the invitations and reminders for this event, so thank you for that. Margaret Lindsay has been quietly supportive of all those in need of sympathy and support, sending out cards to the needy and greeting you at the door, while Mike Rowledge, as Vice Chair, has stepped in when I wasn’t available. My wife, Susie, joined the committee when I became Chair and took on the role of Group Convenor, so as well as the organisation and coordination of all the groups and facilitators, she also had to keep me in check in my role as well, something I could not have done without her help and support.

We are fortunate that all of these committee members have nominated themselves for re-election, and I’m particularly thankful to Moira who has put in her nomination as our new Treasurer.

Three of our Committee members are leaving this year. Judith Burling is retiring as our Treasurer, and it is entirely due to her tireless efforts that we have such a glowing report from our Financial Reviewer, and a full complement of paid up members today. She will be giving her report shortly.

Anna Smyth is retiring after doing a wonderful job as our secretary. She has also offered to help us out in the short term as we have received no nominations for secretary this year.

Last, but by no means least, Lesley McNaughton will be stepping down as Immediate Past Chair, having completed her role a Chair last year. I am enormously grateful to her for the help and support she has given me during my first rookie year as Chair. She will also be handing over the reins of the website which she set up and managed so well.

So, thank you to the committee, and to all those of you who have helped and supported us during the past year, and I hope that at the end of this meeting you will be happy to vote for us to remain on your committee. It’s been an interesting year, and we look forward to new ideas and meetings during the coming months.

Talking of which, this meeting will be followed by 3 speakers talking about U3ABOI over the last 20 years. There will then be a couple of songs led by our very own Singing for Fun Group and the cutting of our cake by one of our founding members, Heather Pickup. This will be followed by the shared lunch, so don’t go away.

Please read our monthly Newsletters and visit our Website for up to date information on all our activities.

Thank you all for coming.

*Drew Barlow, Chair*

<b>2018-2019 Committee</b>			
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	Vacant		
Treasurer	Moira Warnock	09 407 6389	<a href="mailto:warnockmoira@gmail.com">warnockmoira@gmail.com</a>
Committee	Susie Barlow	09 407 9748	Positions to be allocated at next committee meeting
Committee	Grainger Brown	09 407 7247	"
Committee	Christine Cronshaw	09 407 6871	"
Committee	Margaret Lindsay	09 405 9411	"
Committee	Jenni Wilson	09 401 6254	"