

From the Chair

Imagine an ocean so vast that every continental landmass on earth can fit within it. Imagine the lengthy voyages the people undertook to reach the tiny islands dotted within this, eventually finding New Zealand.

Our speaker at the General Meeting was Andrew Blanshard, Senior Heritage Adviser for Northland, at the Department of Conservation, who told us about the amazing archaeological dig being conducted on Moturua Island in the Bay; “The Legend of Mangahawea”. This was so fascinating and well received that I’ve asked Jenni Wilson to write a synopsis for those who missed it...

“Andrew gave a brief outline of the spread of people from Asia, within the Pacific triangle of Hawaii, Easter Island and New Zealand. In the past Moturua has been visited by Marion du Fresne, James Cook and Joseph Banks; it has been a whaling station, and was farmed in the European period. The first dig at Mangahawea Bay, carried out in 1981 after the siting of a midden, showed evidence of residency with the finding of fish hooks made in the area. The



current dig, started in 2017, is revealing many centuries of life on the island, including evidence of the diet and lifestyle of the people, with an enormous hangi pit dating back to around 1320, and large vegetable gardens. Moa and kiwi bones were also found. Public interest has grown in this project and a kaumatua, who was brought up on Moturua, is assisting with the oral history of the island, linking with DOC’s findings.

With funding now available from Te Aratika Charitable Trust, state of the art lidar surveys are being conducted on this most important historical site.

In 2019 new trenches were dug, revealing possible taro gardens, and in the coming summer more excavations will look for dwellings.” *Jenni Wilson*

Back then it would appear that early navigators relied on the paths of migrating air and sea creatures to guide them out and, important for the first scouts, back again. Now wind on a few hundred years and imagine you’re piloting a large propeller driven passenger plane at 25,000 ft above the Arctic Circle on route from London to New York. No birds or whales up here to guide you, the compass is pretty useless this far North, the winds are unknown, it’s probably night-time, and GPS hasn’t been invented yet. Are you lost? To find out, come to our next General Meeting where the speaker is a retired airline pilot whose “been there; done that”.

Meanwhile, continue to be amazed by visiting the waka replicas which will visit the Bay during the Tuia 250 celebrations.

Drew Barlow

Group Convenor

Our membership continues to grow and we continue to strive to provide a wide range of groups. We are always looking for ideas from the membership. By popular request, we will be having another general and new members coffee morning. See invite below. This will also be sent out separately to all members as we do need an RSVP for a rough idea of numbers.

This is a chance to catch up informally and share ideas about groups and get to know more people in our ever growing organisation. The resources will also be available to look at.

Scottish Country Dancing Group

It has now gained some new members, but more are welcome.

U3A have been given a wonderful opportunity to join an existing group which meets regularly in Kerikeri.

Where: Oakridge Retirement Village

When: Every Sunday, 3 to 5pm. (with a tea break)

Learn under the excellent and extremely patient tuition of Neville. He is a very experienced teacher, clear and tolerant and makes it FUN! (There is a great deal of laughter involved.)

The group is adapted for the less able and a little more mature. If you can walk then you can probably do it. People take turns, so you can get a rest. You do NOT need a partner.

New Group Ideas!! What do you think??

Some ideas that members have put forward are listed below. If these sound interesting to you, get in touch and we will see if we can get the group set up.

Travel

This can be anything you want it to be!

Famous/Infamous

The group all take it in turns to share a story of someone magnificent, or maybe notorious, or maybe a bit of both. A lively discussion may follow.

Wine appreciation

This can be about regions, new world versus old, methods, visits to wineries etc.

Another Food related group

Cuisine group is very popular; with a waiting list ... so maybe a different aspect of food study, such as methods, cheese making, food processes, health aspects of foods, environmental issues, the plant based revolution, organic versus not, etc.

The Story of Human Language

The material for this group has been purchased by Mary Johnson, who is happy to host and facilitate:

From Mary

I never met a person who is not interested in language, wrote the bestselling author and psychologist Steven Pinker. There are good reasons that language fascinates us so. It not only defines humans as a species, placing us head and shoulders above even the most proficient animal communicators, but it also beguiles us with its endless mysteries.

- How did different languages come to be?
- Why isn't there just a single language?
- How does a language change, and when it does, is that change indicative of decay or growth?
- How does a language become extinct?

Dr. John McWhorter, one of America's leading linguists and a frequent commentator on network television and National Public Radio, addresses these and other questions as he takes you on an in-depth, 36-lecture tour of the development of human language, showing how a single tongue spoken 300,000 years ago has evolved into the estimated 7,000 languages used around the world today.

<https://www.thegreatcourses.com/courses/story-of-human-language.html>

French for Beginners.

This will be starting in October, on the first Thursday of the month in the afternoon. There may be a space or two, but you will need to be quick!

The Roman Empire - Civilization or Submission Also starting in October. A couple of spaces still available. This will be on the first Thursday of the month in the morning.

Groups still waiting for sufficient members

Japanese for beginners

Christine Williams will be facilitating. We need a host. Contact Susie if you are interested.

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.

We have a host and facilitator for these last two groups.

Are you interested in any of the groups above?

Please let me know as soon as possible:

Email group.convenor.u3a.boi@gmail.com Phone 09 407 9748 or 021 731 748

Group Convenor *Susie Barlow*

Garden

The present garden group has now been running for just over a year and has been a pleasure and inspiration to facilitate. We take it in turns to host, which allows the group to share their gardening ideas, problems and triumph. Some members have a wealth of knowledge, others, like myself, not so much, but there is a great atmosphere of mutual passion and exchange of information and a keen desire to improve on existing knowledge bases.

Part of each session includes seasonal garden jobs and tips and things to look out for with some trouble shooting. One member always lets us know when there is a new bug on the scene.



The range of subjects has been quite varied, from plant and soil nutrition, to how to create the low maintenance garden, with weed and pest control

never far from our minds. We have looked at hydroponics and how to make the best ever compost and a whole lot else in between. I think we have covered a great deal. We have visited some wonderful gardens and were able to enjoy a talk by the gardener at Pompellier and hear how they manage their heritage trees and plants.

The group is busting at the seams, but if you are interested in joining, do get in touch, as we do have an active waiting list and there could be an opportunity for someone to start Gardening 2. As facilitator I am happy to guide and help set up another group.

Facilitator *Susie Barlow*



We are holding another **Pop Up Morning Tea** from 10-12 Thursday, 19th September at The Pack House café

All members welcome

Ollie, at the Pack House Café, is doing us a special offer: Regular hot drink and a choice of chocolate brownie, a slice or a cheese scone for \$7 !

If you would like this, please let us know so they don't run out!!

Feel free to come for the whole time or just to drop in for a few minutes.

RSVP: Susie Group Convenor email: group.convenor.u3a.boi@gmail.com 021731748 or 09 4079748

Susie Barlow Group Convenor

Calendar

2019

Thursday 19 September: Members drop in coffee morning, Packhouse Market Café, Kerikeri Road, Kerikeri, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Monday, 21 October: General Meeting, Kerikeri Sports Complex, Corner Heritage Bypass and Waipapa Road, Kerikeri, 10.30 a.m.
Speaker: Alan Murgatroyd, retired pilot: "Navigation before the days of GPS"

Saturday, 16 November: Ceilidh, Cornerstone Church, Kerikeri Road, Kerikeri

2020

Monday 17 February: General Meeting, Kerikeri Sports Complex, 10.30 a.m. Speaker: TBA

Monday 20 April: General Meeting, Kerikeri Sports Complex, 10.30 a.m. Speaker: TBA

Monday 15 June: AGM and General Meeting, 10.00 a.m. Kerikeri Sports Complex

2019-2020 Committee

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