



January 2020

ugabayofislands.com/

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From the Chair

Welcome to 2020, the year of the rat and 2020 vision !

You'll see we haven't been idle during the break, with notices of new Groups and up and coming improvements to the way we utilise the website.

We were saddened to be told of the recent deaths of Eddie Brooks (before Christmas) and Stuart Leitch (in the New Year).

From time to time members ask why we circulate notices of some member's deaths and not others. The Privacy Act only allows us to notify the wider membership when we've been formally advised by the family, as happened with Eddie and Stuart.

Our condolences to both families. U3A BoI will be making a donation on their behalf to Hospice.

On a lighter note, I've compiled another prize quiz. Answers to this one and the December one cannot be revealed before the February General Meeting when prizes will be awarded to the first correct, or best, answers received by me at drewbarlownz@gmail.com Have a great 2020. *Drew Barlow*



General Meeting

Monday 17th February at 10.00 am
Kerikeri Sports Complex off Waipapa Road between the Heritage Bypass and Landing Road.

Notices from the Chair

Short presentation on the U3A BoI Website

Kitchen Group: Art Appreciation

Main Speaker:

Clair Gordon, Photographer

My Landscape

Group Convenor

Welcome to another year of U3A

2020 looks like an interesting year, with another new member offering to run some very interesting groups. As always, we are so dependent on our excellent facilitators to run groups for us, and for new and existing members alike. I think we are offering a wide range of subjects. We are always open to more new ideas.

We plan to have another morning tea, by popular demand. Watch this space. This is a good opportunity to hear about new groups and meet other members in an informal setting. Many good ideas have sprung from these gatherings.

New Group Ideas

Groups starting February 2020

Food Group (in addition to the Cuisine Group which continues). Still some spaces.

Climate Change and Effects on Life since the beginnings of the Earth. This is now full, but get in touch with Uli Novak if you are interested in going on the waiting list.

New history groups Proposed

We have a new member, Tony Robertson, who has a background in lecturing in history and is prepared to run one or two groups. The descriptions below are a taster. Initially, please get in touch with myself, Group Convenor, if you are interested, to gauge interest.

'The Good Americans' 1775-1783

When the colonists and the Crown finally came to blows in eighteenth-century North America, the war that followed quickly became a Civil War between those Americans who sought to break away from the mother country and, as they saw it, the oppressive monarchy, and those colonists that remained loyal to the Crown and their British heritage. We will be looking at both sides of the conflict, political and military issues but with attention paid to those loyalists who have tended to be overlooked by the 'victors' writing of history.

'Shadow of the Bomb' 1945-1975

With the cessation of hostilities in 1945 the world could look forward to moving into the 'sunlit uplands', as Churchill so poetically put it. However, Churchill was also aware that the allied effort to defeat National Socialism was the glue that held an uneasy alliance together. When the War was over, the new 'superpowers', the USSR and the USA, turned to face off against each other in what would soon be called The Cold War. Starting in 1945 with the breakdown of relations between the former allied powers, we can look at some of the key events of this tumultuous time. The Berlin Blockade, the Marshall Plan, the Korean War, the Berlin Wall, Vietnam, the Bay of Pigs, arms races, détente, and the regular freeze and thaw of the Cold War period. We will also take a look at the role of New Zealand in these events, especially in Vietnam and the issue of SEATO and the protection of the Pacific region.

'The Devils Decade' 1930's

In October 1929 the world economy tumbled into an abyss the like of which had previously been unknown. This was but the start of ten tumultuous years which saw an abdication, the rise of extremism in Europe, the Great Depression, Civil War in Spain, the destruction of Abyssinia, and many other events that would help to shape the world we live in. The 1930's well deserve the label 'The Devils Decade'.

'The Victorian World'

Queen Victoria ascended to the throne of a nation busy harnessing the power of steam and bursting with ideas and a desire to export these ideas overseas. The British Empire was set to become one on which the sun never truly set, and the men and women of the island nation would help shape vast holding across the globe. The impact of this Imperial expansion, both bad and good, will be addressed. From railways and child labour to dominions overseas like New Zealand, we can take a look through the rise and eventual demise of the largest Empire known to man.

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*

Singing For Fun

Singing For Fun is changing its format to something more like *Bring a Song for Singing Along*.

For this group to continue we need a pool of people finding suitable audio files and checking words for everyone to sing along to. I am happy to continue putting the words, audio, video ... into a useable format.

As well as help with music we need more than one or two people prepared to manage the technology. Not all group members need to be involved, we just need more support from within the group to make our sing-alongs workable. We know people have other commitments so no one will be expected to help out every time.

Our usual Singing For Fun 10am Tuesday, 3 March will include a workshop to demonstrate what is involved and give opportunity for those who wish, hands on experience. Of course old and new members who only want to sing will still be very welcome.

On a further note; is there anyone within the wider U3A membership (or known to a member) prepared to supply live musical accompaniment (piano or any other instrument) for up to ten songs of the 25-or-so we sing each month?

A list of some of the 350 plus songs we've sung since mid-2015 can be found at <https://singing4fun-3aboi.org/>
Offers, suggestions, thoughts... all welcome. With thanks - Christine annachristinec@gmail.com or 407 6871

Christine Cronshaw

Our Speaker in February – Clair Gordon

The speaker at the February general meeting is Claire Gordon. She is a professional photographer based in Kerikeri. The range of the photographic work which she does is extraordinary. It ranges from portraiture to landscape to photos of performers at a diverse range of artistic events. Her life has been very varied, starting as a young secretary in London, rising to Director status in a London stockbroker company as a fund manager and client advisor.

In 2005 Claire visited New Zealand. It was love at first sight. She decided that New Zealand was the place for her. She returned to London but with every intention of returning to New Zealand as her future place to live. She obtained the requisite visa and with her two sons returned to New Zealand. She initially worked as a client financial adviser with a firm in Whangarei but as her real intention had never been to continue in this role she left the firm after nine months.

After a number of other interesting occupations she settled on photography as her future career. The fact that she had no formal training in photography beyond a Diploma did not deter her from launching her new business. She will tell us of the myriad of tasks she has undertaken in the course of her photography business, so I won't attempt to detail these.

However, if you would like to prepare yourself for her talk, have a look at her website www.flashgordon.co.nz. The range of her activity will become clear.

Claire is an eloquent speaker, although I must admit that I base this on a brief meeting with her in which it was hard to get a word in edgewise. Claire will have on display some of her photos and this in itself will be a good reason not to miss the February General Meeting.

David Welch

U3A BOI Quiz No 4 – with prizes ! – See the chair's report

Try to answer these WITHOUT looking up - or googling. Mark the ones you looked up.

Prizes for the best efforts without help, and the most correct answers. Have fun !

U3A BOI Quiz No. 4

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| 1. What is the minimum number of darts required to complete a leg from 501? | 6. On what would you see a gnomon? |
| 2. Victoria Railway Station may be found in three cities in the world – which? | 7. What is the next number in the series 5, 7, 25, 187? |
| 3. Which actor won an Oscar in a film in which he never spoke a word? | 8. In which village does Miss Marple live? |
| 4. What was the name of the world's first test tube baby? | 9. Which element has the lowest boiling point? |
| 5. What horse race did Esha Ness win but never won? | 10. What line follows 'shall I compare thee to a summer's day'? |

Answers to drewbarlownz@gmail.com

Calendar

2020

Please note the new start time and format for the General Meetings, being trialled at the February meeting. There will be coffee and tea with biscuits (all provided) but no shared lunch so please do not bring food.

Monday 17 February

General Meeting, Kerikeri Sports Complex **10.00 a.m.**

Notices from the Chair

Short presentation on the U3A BOI website

Coffee/tea

Main Speaker: Claire Gordon, Photographer

Monday 20 April

General Meeting, Kerikeri Sports Complex, 10.00 a.m.

Short Presentation: TBA

Speaker: TBA

Monday 15 June:

AGM and General Meeting, Kerikeri

Notice - From the Committee - U3A Bay of Islands Website

In 2013 Lesley McNaughton and Margaret Rasmussen developed the U3A Bay of Islands website. We are grateful to Lesley for the many hundreds of hours she has since spent maintaining it.

To date the primary role of the website has been to inform non-members about U3A in general and U3A BoI in particular. Times change. We now have over 200 members, most of whom use smartphones and/or touch-screens as their preferred means of communication—devices unheard of in those early days. Our general meetings are no longer open for attendance by non-members.

The committee has decided our website needs to reflect these changes by making communicating with members its main focus. Some changes have already been made and more are coming. Two major changes are: leasing a *.org.nz* domain name and having the site hosted by a local provider rather than an off-shore online entity. Until this hosting is formalised, the link to our current website <https://u3abayofislands.com/> remains in place.

Each month we will continue to email a summary of the Newsletter to all members. However, in the future rather than newsletters being sent as email attachments, the email will give a link to the Newsletter on the website.

Shortly members will be sent the password for the “Update your Details” page, at the moment the only page in a Members Only section.

2019-2020 Committee

2019-2020 Committee			
Chair and Website	Drew Barlow	09 407 9748	chair.u3a.boi@gmail.com
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