



April 2020

www.u3aboi.org.nz

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From the Chair

(NZ Covid-19 Lockdown Day One. 26th March 2020)

Bubbles. Bubbles. Bubbles.

It's all about bubbles now. Not, unfortunately, champagne. Not yet.

Our main job is to stay in our bubbles. For some of us that means being alone, physically, but that does not stop us communicating by phone, on line or waving over a fence. Our psychological wellbeing is as important as our physical. We can offer support in many ways at this extraordinary time.

We are a friendly bunch in U3ABoI, but now is perhaps the time, as we are asked to stop hugs and handshakes and keep two metres apart, to find new ways to greet each other and keep in touch. Susie and I took our mugs of tea and a couple of lawn chairs through the hedge to our next door neighbour and sat at the appointed distance and chatted for an hour!

As you will know, we have had to cancel (I should say 'postpone') all group meetings. This also includes the next General Meeting which was to have been on the 20th April. The committee have agreed to still pay for the venues as we do not want to compromise the economy, and we do want to support our community venues.

We are asking all Group Facilitators and Hosts to look out for the members within each group, in particular those who live alone. Don't become isolated by this virus, let's use it to get closer together.

We should also be looking forward to our thriving U3ABoI branch continuing to move forward with a great selection of groups, so let's plan ahead and be ready to start again when this passes.

The Newsletter this month is a sparse affair for obvious reasons, but let's see if we can make it more interesting next month.

In addition to the monthly Newsletter I have this idea to send out a weekly 'bulletin', but to do this I need some input from you. If you think this is a good idea I would be most grateful to receive your comments, diary notes, anecdotes, poems or humour to circulate to all members. There are two examples below, and my first two pennyworth appears later.

The wellbeing of all our members is our highest priority. As you would expect we will continue to actively monitor the situation and keep you updated with any developments and changes. Christine is working on our new website so we will be able to post information there as well. Bear with us while we get this sorted.

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For the latest definitive information, and to avoid rumour and speculation elsewhere, visit the government website at www.covid19.govt.nz.

Keep in touch, keep healthy and keep safe..

Drew Barlow

I'd like to share with you a couple of responses I received to my earlier email to you all.

Hi Drew,

Groups are keeping in touch.

In the two Art History groups we are taking turns at putting together a couple of linked YouTube videos or websites, adding a bit of writing about why they chose those and then one is sent out to all members each



week. Just mailed out the second one, others are lined up. The Just Writing group is sharing their writing.
What would we do without the internet?

Cheers,

Iris Steensma

Aren't we fortunate to be living in New Zealand during this difficult period?

I am in The Kerikeri Retirement Village where we are being so well looked after with our Medical Unit and wonderful staff. Our shopping and Pharmacy needs etc. are being done for us.

I send you best wishes for the next few months

June Crowden

Before the lockdown we weren't the only ones with the idea to stock up on a few building materials and garden plants to keep us occupied in the next few weeks. Builder's merchants and garden centres were busy. Forget toilet paper, for us it was sand, pebbles and pavers to get that area under the pergola sorted! What projects have you got in mind?

I can't believe how much has changed even in the last week. A week ago today we were setting off in our camper to spend a week visiting my cousin in Whitianga and spending time in the Coromandel. We had planned to spend a couple of nights at a campsite just South of Whangarei to spend some time with our son. Then as things developed we thought maybe we'd just spend the week there. This changed on Sunday as the campsite had been advised to throw everybody out and close. Ah, well, we did have a two day holiday! Many of you might have had similar experiences...

... We'd love to hear them.

Drew

Group Convenor

Coffee Morning at Pack House

It seems almost unbelievable that it was just under two weeks ago that we held our U3A coffee morning. Events have moved on very fast, but it was nevertheless, once again, a great pleasure to see members catching up, discussing groups and other subject ideas, and generally getting to know new people. The resources were available for members to look at and several interesting ideas were forthcoming for possible new groups. Despite the present situation we had twenty members attend. The cheese scones were amazing as usual!

As group Convenor I would like to encourage all of us to keep in touch with people in our groups, especially those on their own. Maybe we can still share information. I know some groups are doing that already. It is also a time to think up new ideas and maybe pass those on to me, so that we will be ready and raring to go when we get to the other side of this.

Changes to the schedule format

Before recent events we had decided to make changes to the way the schedule is presented. The facilitators have had an update on the changes that are being made to the schedule. You will see from the schedule below that topics, specific dates and venues will be omitted from the schedule. This information will be given to the group members by their facilitator, or an appointed person in the group. Apart from being simpler, it also aids us in maintaining confidentiality for our members regarding their home addresses as, although the schedule is only sent to members, copies are often printed and circulated.

An example of how this will look is attached, but obviously this is not active at present and is included as information to look forward to in the future.

Garden group

I have thoroughly enjoyed facilitating the Garden Group for the last two years. We have covered a great deal of information with lively discussions, garden visits and expert input. The group has a waiting list, so lots of keen members. I was going to be standing down as facilitator, but am happy to do some remote facilitation until we see the other end of this situation. If anyone would like to take it on later in the year, I am happy to support them ...let me know if you are interested. The group are keen to continue. I will put it into recession now until the spring anyway.

Proposed New Groups

Although the following new groups will not be starting until the present viral situation is over, please continue to let me know if you are interested.

Two more New Group are being offered by Tony Robertson

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

'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'.

Beginners Ukulele Group

This will be commencing when the situation allows on a weekly basis at a members home. The day and start date is yet to be set. There is already a core group requesting this, so it can remain a small group or take on more. The group is happy to welcome others to join.

Astronomy

A member has expressed interest in this topic. If anyone else is also interested please let the Group Convenor know and we will see if such a group can be started in the future.

Travel Group or "Geographical Tourism"

We have another new member keen to jump in and facilitate a group. Grant Thomas has an extensive background in tourism and the travel industry and is a Fellow of The Royal Geographical Club. The group will explore all aspects of travel from an educational and learning point of view as well as social tourism. This is a group that would be planning to start in the spring.

Are you interested in any of the groups above?

Please let me know:

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

Group Convenor *Susie Barlow*

2019-2020 Committee			
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Please note that the attached monthly schedule is for information only.

This is to illustrate the format we will be using in future, once action re-commences.