



June 2020

www.ugaboi.org.nz

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From the Chair

Well, here we are in Covid-19 Alert Level 2, with numbers allowed at meeting increasing to 100 from noon Friday 29th May. This will be a relief for many and a concern for a few, but, as on the 1st June it will be 60 days since the last recorded case of community transfer in New Zealand, I can see why the government now has the confidence to ease restrictions and allow us to start getting back to a better form of 'normal'. This has allowed a few of our Groups to feel confident enough to start holding their monthly meetings in June, while the remainder may be electing to wait until July.

There is now only one, yes 1, recorded active cases of Covid-19 in the whole of New Zealand; a truly remarkable achievement. (As at 9am 29th May).

This new level of restrictions also allows us to start planning for our AGM which we now propose to hold on Monday 17th August at the Kerikeri Sports Complex, where it will be easy to set up for social distancing requirements if these are still in place. I think it is important for us to move forward, and with this in mind we are asking people to make a special effort to attend to ensure we have a quorum. We totally understand that, even by August, some may feel unsure about large gatherings, so it will be purely a business meeting, with no speaker or celebratory food, just tea and biscuits for those who wish to partake. We NEED you to help us get the process completed to elect your new Committee.

We are also planning to hold some form of social get-together in July to which all members will be welcome if they feel comfortable doing so. More details will be sent out in due course, including Nomination Forms for the election of new officers to form the new committee. We have had 3 expressions of interest so far, but with 8 places to fill we need to have more. If you are interested and know of others who might join you, now is the time to start planning.

A few people have asked about the new 'NZ COVID Tracer' app now available to download. This is quite different from the ones being used in Australia and Singapore. It only stores information onto your phone, and only that which you chose to record from places you visit that display the appropriate QR-Code. The data can then only be access by you, from your phone, and is only of use for contact tracing if there is a local outbreak of the virus that you might have been in contact with.

One other thing before I go.

Former President and long-time Committee member of U3ABoI, Grainger Brown has recently stepped down as editor of this Newsletter, the reins of which I will hold until our AGM in August. We must thank Grainger, not only for all the years he has put into U3A, but also for the design of our logo, a lasting legacy!

Keep safe, everyone. Hugs will soon be allowed!

Drew Barlow

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Please note that the new format Monthly Group Schedule is attached.
This Newsletter and the Monthly Schedule will shortly be available on our website.



Group Convenor

I am sure many of you, like us, are enjoying some relief at seeing how well New Zealand has dealt with this Covid-19 viral pandemic. We are now able to catch up with friends and family in small groups, while keeping our distance a little more with strangers. I have certainly enjoyed getting out and enjoying a coffee in the sunshine. I sent an email to all the facilitators and they have, I know, been in touch with their groups regarding recommencement of programmes. It was stressed that when to recommence is a choice for the facilitator and group members to make between them. We now know that from 12 noon Friday 29th May we can meet in groups of up to 100, with the likelihood of much larger numbers being given permission to gather by the end of June, which is sensible considering the virus is officially contained and there is no community transfer. It is, however, a personal matter and we must respect some people's desire to be more cautious. From what I can gather, many groups have decided to wait until July to re-commence their meetings.

We do have some proposed new groups and we are happy to continue to put up new ideas, so keep them coming. The numbers are building up in each of these groups, so they should be viable once we are able to meet.

Schedule format

I hope everyone is finding the new schedule format easier and clearer to use. Just a reminder to facilitators and / or hosts that if there are any changes to the facilitator or the day you meet, could you please let me know (as Grainger Brown has stood down as Newsletter Editor) until the new Committee are elected sometime in the next few months.

The two groups below are filling up and should be able to commence soon.

Proposed New Groups:

Two more New Group are being offered by Tony Robertson

1. *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

2. *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'.

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.

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 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*