

From the Chair

It's not often that we get up early enough to see the sun rise, but last week Saturday was a special day, so Susie and I set our alarm and walked to the end of our driveway to honour the people who fought and gave their lives for us. It was pleasing to see neighbours from both sides of us and from across the road as we listened to the live radio broadcast of the National Anthem and the Last Post. Very moving. Keeping to our 2 metre bubbles we then stayed to watch the sun rise.



Two neighbours silhouetted by the rising sun.

Covid-19. There is currently every indication that the U3ABoI AGM scheduled for Monday 15th June will not be able to go ahead as planned. Although we have moved to Alert Level 3 this week, this is still, for the majority of us, little different from Level 4. Only under Level 2 will the restrictions be lifted to allow 'gatherings of up to 100 people'. I think it will be important for people to feel the confidence to safely get out more and attend groups and meetings before we can hold an AGM.

Your committee is monitoring the situation with regard to Government restrictions and also to our own Constitution as conditions change. While the scheduled date for the AGM is still some 6 weeks away, and we may well be at Level 2 by then, I think it is worth mentioning that, should there be a delay in the holding of an AGM, the current committee is prepared to stay on as an Interim Committee, during which extended time they would not be making any significant decisions on the running of U3ABoI.

I also need to inform everyone that, particularly as several of the current committee are retiring this year, we are looking for expressions of interest from those thinking of joining the committee. We will be issuing nomination forms as soon as we have a date for the AGM.

Meanwhile I'm looking forward to Level 2, when public venues can open and we can start to meet again in groups. We'll have to maintain physical distancing and contact tracing requirements, but we can now start to look at ways of achieving that safely within each group, and encouraging our fellow members to feel the confidence to get out and about as much as conditions allow. We are so lucky in New Zealand to be one of the first countries to be able to achieve this.

On a lighter note I've changed the style of my 'Bulletin No.3' that will be posted onto our website on the 'Stay Involved' page in due course. This will be a conglomeration of puzzles and trivia I've put together to fill in – or waste – your time if you're bored!! Apologies in advance, particularly to those without Internet access, you don't have to go there!

Keep safe, everyone.

Drew Barlow

Group Convenor

It is really interesting and encouraging to see how innovative and supportive our groups have been to each other during this "alternative learning" time. As a group Convenor I encourage you to continue the great work you are doing as hosts and facilitators bereft of their physical group meetings each month. Some are in contact with their groups weekly, others are sending out links to relevant material, or posting things on to the new re vamped website. Others are keeping the contact going by making phone calls and suggesting interesting things on TV and radio, for those with less technology at their fingertips. As I said last month, it is a chance to think up new ideas for groups, or ideas to peruse within existing groups.

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.

Garden Group

Just a reminder that I will be standing down as facilitator of the Garden Group, so if anyone would like to take it on, I am happy to support them ... let me know if you are interested. The group are keen to continue. I will put it into suspension now until the spring anyway.

Changes to the schedule format

I hope everyone is finding the new schedule format easier and clearer to use. A member came up with an excellent idea to also put the proposed groups onto the schedule. Although they will not be starting until the present viral situation is over, please continue to let me know if you are interested.

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'.

Beginners Ukulele Group

This will be commencing in May 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.

Request for unwanted Ukuleles

If anyone has a Ukulele that they are no longer using...

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*

The Garden Group takes a trip to the Butler Museum and Gardens



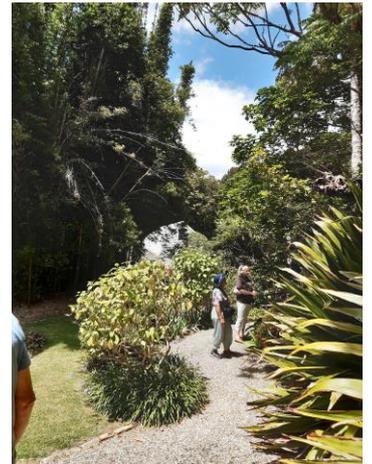
This is somewhere I have wanted to go to for a very long time. It does have to be arranged beforehand, and groups over 10 get a significant discount. If you do just want to go with a small group, however, they are most obliging. A member of the garden group made all the



arrangements for a hot summer day in January. Once you have navigated the long drive and parked up under the large shady trees, you feel transported to another world. It really is enchanting.

Butler Point consists of a 27 hectare piece of land, with the original house, gardens and museum. The Museum is fascinating and the guided commentary gives you a very good background history.

Captain William Butler was a retired whaling ship captain who became a successful merchant in northern New Zealand. In 1838 Butler purchased land and in 1847 built what was to be called Butler House and the trading station. The Fergusson family have owned the property for four decades and have restored the once dilapidated house and developed the Museum into a very interesting heritage site.



The whole history of the whaling industry is explained in great detail with the help of many original artefacts including an original whaling boat and many other items of interest. The original family house is set up as it was



and is in fact still used by the present owners when they are overflowing with family (although they have built a new house, hidden away somewhere on the property). The gardens around the house were magnificent, despite being a little dry at the time we were there. They had a natural design that complimented the historical house and ran along the beach, conjuring up the feeling of the era.

There is also a very interesting pa site with beautiful view back towards Manganui. We were also able to order tea which was set up under a beautiful pergola to enjoy the garden after the tour. This is definitely worth a visit once we are able to do so.

Susie Barlow

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.

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