



August 2020

[www.ugaboi.org.nz](http://www.ugaboi.org.nz)

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## From the Chair

Well, here we are finally, my last Newsletter as Chair. I must say it has been a very rewarding and happy two years, with a great group of people on the committee who have become friends.

My last hurrah will be the AGM on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August, so I would be very grateful for your support in coming to see us off and welcome in the new committee. One of the most important aspect of U3A is to celebrate the society and the enjoyment its members get from their involvement.

Although there will not be a shared lunch at the AGM, there will be tea and biscuits afterwards.

I'm really looking forward to presenting my report to the AGM as I think this committee has done us proud. Lots of new groups blossoming and an expanding membership, quite apart from the aspects of coping with the Covid-19 outbreak. I still shudder at the figures from around the world and am so thankful to be in New Zealand.

Many of you will have seen that we are proposing a few important changes to the constitution. These are just to iron out a few anomalies and ensure that all committee members are, in fact, elected by the membership. At the AGM a simple yes or no vote is all that will be required.

Our constitution requires us to give 21 days' notice of any changes to the constitution. For this reason we have informed all members of U3ABoI of the proposed changes well in advance of the AGM and posted this information on our website for all to view and comment on. (I'll repeat the links below.) This means that members who cannot attend the AGM can have a say, which is a more democratic and fair way to hear all members' opinions. Your comments are welcome and would be gratefully received. By receiving comments and suggestions prior to the AGM, there is time to consider the proposals in a calm and rational manner.

Clicking on the link below will take you directly to the relevant page on our website. This gives access to last year's AGM Minutes; the Nomination Form you can complete if you want to join the new committee; our current constitution; and the proposed changes and feedback received. <https://u3aboi.org.nz/agm-2020/> At the bottom of this page is the form you can use to post your comments.

Thank you for all your support over the last two years, and I hope to see you at the AGM 10am Monday 17 August, Rugby Club Rooms corner of Waiapapa Road and the Bypass.

*Drew Barlow*



## Group Convenor

I will start by thanking everyone who came to the Afternoon Tea at the Packhouse Market café. It was great to see over 50 people made the effort and we were able to welcome some new members who joined during the lockdown. There was, as usual, much discussion about the new groups that are coming on board and new ideas were shared. The service provided by The Packhouse was exceptional as usual, especially as they opened early especially for us. I think everyone who was there would agree there was a real buzz and enthusiasm from the members looking forward to the AGM and a new team moving U3A on into the next year.

There are two new History Groups starting up in August which still have some space, and Geographical Tourism starting in September, also with space. (See details below)

This is my last Group Convenor Report as we hand over in August. I have really enjoyed seeing so many new and interesting groups start up over the last two years.

Can I please remind anyone interested in anything to do with groups to use the Group Convenor email below, rather than my personal one, so that the new convenor will pick up your messages and there will be a seamless transition!

## 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 day you meet or the facilitator, or the group members, could you please let the Group Convenor know – again so that there is a seamless transition in August.

Also, for those who were not sure how to access the Schedule on the website, it is just two clicks away. One to the link, one to schedule. Much easier than an attachment. Try it here !! Hold down the ctrl key and click... <https://u3aboi.org.nz/group-schedule/> This takes you straight to the U3ABoI Group Schedule page, then you can choose the Group Schedule or the Calendar. Couldn't be easier!

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

## New Groups:

### Two New Group are starting in August.

Space in both of these groups. See schedule for details. There are still spaces in both of these groups. Please contact **Tony Robertson direct on 09 407 6804**

#### 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'.

**One New Group starting in September, and one other starting soon.**

### **Travel Group or "Geographical Tourism"**

Grant Thomas is starting this group in September. Grant will be in touch if you have already put your name down. If you would like to join, and have not already put your name down, please contact **Grant Thomas direct on 027 264 7910** Get in quick! There may be space left.

### **Beginners Ukulele Group**

This is now up and running, meeting every Wednesday (see schedule for details) but there is still space if you wish to join. 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. **Ph 09 407 6871 or email [annachristinec@gmail.com](mailto:annachristinec@gmail.com)**

### **Request for unwanted Ukuleles**

**If anyone has a Ukulele that they are no longer using, please let Christine Cronshaw know.**



### **Possible new Groups...**

#### **Astronomy**

A growing number of people are interested in this group. We have a host, but not a facilitator. If anyone who has already put their name down, or anyone else, would like to facilitate this, please get in touch with the new Group Convenor who will pick up the emails.

#### **Outings Group**

This is an idea a member came up with. The idea is to arrange a group to go to a place of interest, of which there are many in this area. This is a time-to-time, any time, any day, any member group facilitated by anyone willing to organise an outing! Members interested in a "Weed Walk and Talk" with Doug Foster, Northland Regional Council's expert on weeds, at a day, time and place yet to be decided — please contact Christine Cronshaw, [annachristinec@gmail.com](mailto:annachristinec@gmail.com) or ph 09 407 6871. Christine will get back to those interested once details about time and place are finalised.

### **Are you interested in any of the groups above?**

Please let the facilitators of those groups, where stated, or send an email addressed to the Group Convenor: I will no longer be the Group Convenor after the 17<sup>th</sup> August.

Email [group.convenor.u3a.boi@gmail.com](mailto:group.convenor.u3a.boi@gmail.com) Phone 09 407 9748 or 021 731 748

Group Convenor: *Susie Barlow*

**Please see the next page for a light hearted look at some old records...**

## Old Records

At various times searching old records and reading legal documents were a significant part of my working life. I really like old records and probably should have been an archivist. It's many things—the different sizes and types of paper (remember the bubbly onion skin email paper), the handwriting (some barely legible) and of course content from a different time when different values applied.



In the U3A BoI filing box there is one old 1999 file. The rest should be in our local library, but for whatever reason this one isn't. It is not a very big file but big enough for me to spend several pleasurable hours reading. Along with handwritten financial reports (spending on photocopying and postage up to \$195 per month, hall hire varied from \$34 to \$48.75), handwritten letters, newsletters from and formal communication with other U3As, there is also a *U3A Bay of Islands Constitution January 2000* that appears to have been adopted at a January 2000 member's meeting. It's a much smaller document than our current constitution, in some aspects similar, in others quite different.

- Under **Object** *To assist in dispelling the notion of intellectual decline with age.* Now doesn't that put a smile on your face? This has been replaced by a vastly more formal and wordy section called **Objectives**.
- **The Committee**  
*Shall not consist of more than eight members including the executive officers (Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Course Convenor and Membership Secretary);*  
And  
*Non members can be invited by the Committee to serve because of their special expertise: they shall not have voting rights...*
- Upon leaving office the Chair was automatically succeeded by the Vice-Chairperson but then the issue becomes confusing when it goes on to say *All officers to be elected annually.* All constitutions have their conundrums!
- The end of the financial year was 31 May. When did it change to 30 April and why?
- The *...subscription as determined from time to time by the Committee.*
- The original Section 7 has been divided and expanded into Section 7, 8 and 9 and many of the clauses have become considerably more wordy and complex.

While reading there were clauses where I had a sense of back to the future regarding some of the Constitutional changes proposed by our current committee. In twenty years time will there be someone reading and finding interesting the records we've created this year?

Please take the time to read the Changes to the Constitution proposed by the current Committee regardless of whether or not you intend to attend the AGM as everybody's feedback is welcome. You can find the link to these changes on our website <https://u3aboi.org.nz/agm-2020/> Last day for receiving AGM agenda items and feedback is 12 August 2020.

*Christine Cronshaw*