



December 2015

[www.u3abayofislands.wordpress.com](http://www.u3abayofislands.wordpress.com)

U3A Bay of Islands, PO Box 833, Kerikeri 0245

[U3A.Bay.of.Islands@gmail.com](mailto:U3A.Bay.of.Islands@gmail.com)



## President's Report

The summer holidays are fast approaching and with it thoughts of Decembers of years gone by. This year I have been thinking about 'Auld Year's Night' or Hogmanay.

Being part of a military family, and often the only Scottish family in the married quarters, my father felt duty bound to host an 'Auld Year's Night' party, which was mighty magnanimous of him. The drink was bought and glasses were supplied by the Officers' Mess. My mother had to produce large quantities of appropriate food – no "ladies, a plate" in military circles of those days! My brother and I ran the bar, non-stop

until the wee sma' hours. So my father hosted a fantastic party and I learnt the lessons of strategic planning and delegation. My father had a wonderful time and the rest of the family were exhausted!

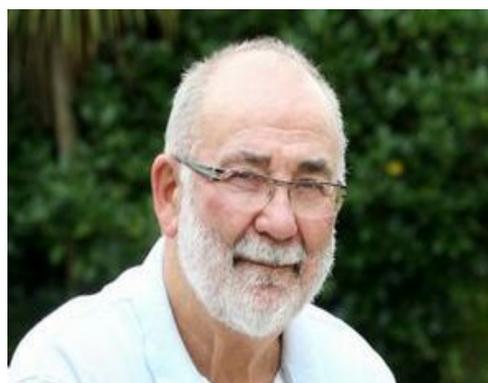
Anyway, enough of reminiscing... To the Group Hosts and Facilitators – very many thanks. Without your efforts we couldn't exist. To the Members of the Committee – I feel a bit like my Dad, enjoying the success of the party without the hard work that made it happen – my thanks for your continued support and dedication. To all the Membership – thank you for your continued participation.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer holiday, and with me, look forward to a glorious 2016.

*Stuart Leitch*

## Kim Workman QSO

is our speaker for the February General Meeting. Joint Recipient of the International Prize for Restorative Justice, Former National Director of Prison Fellowship NZ, Kim combines a lifetime of grassroots engagement with the helicopter view of a reforming thinker



## New Directions in Criminal Justice – Or Are They?

**10.00am Monday 15 February 2016**  
**St John Ambulance Hall, Kerikeri**

**This meeting is open to the general public**

Kitchen Duty: Current Affairs  
(Monday) Please bring a plate  
for our shared lunch.

## New Members

We are delighted to welcome Julia Paterson, Jessica and Neil Scott and Anna Waring. We hope that they will enjoy all that U3A Bay of Islands has to offer.

## Group News

All our groups have reached the end of the year in good heart and, in large part, this is due to the enthusiasm and hard work of our wonderful facilitators. I would like to endorse Stuart's comments in thanking them and our hosts for making U3A such an enjoyable and stimulating experience for us all.



I Spy Group Down on the Farm



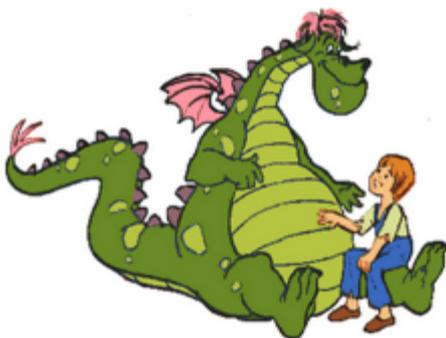
Many groups are doing something special at their December meetings to celebrate the end of a successful year. Please remember to take some photos and send them to Moira, our newsletter editor, so we can share them in our next newsletter (February) which will be prepared in January. I am sure you will all agree that Moira has done a wonderful job of keeping us up to date with all the activities of U3A this year.

Our groups do not meet in January but we look forward to bringing you some interesting new groups later in the New Year. Remember, we are always interested in your ideas or suggestions for new groups. Please give me a call if you would like to share some ideas.

*Margaret Rasmussen* - [ras1@clear.net.nz](mailto:ras1@clear.net.nz) or 09 402 8949

## Featured Groups

### Singing for Fun



Singing for Fun is exactly that – enormous fun. We gather in Bridget's spacious living room (she has just enough chairs now that our numbers have grown) and, accompanied by the highly talented and endlessly patient “young” Moira, we breeze through our ever-expanding repertoire. This now extends from *Nellie the Elephant* and *Puff the Magic Dragon*, through folk songs old and modern, spirituals, the odd country ballad, Scottish or Irish airs to *New York, It Had to be You* and *Lilli Marlene* and back *Over the Rainbow*.

We may come in early or late every now and then, or pop in the odd “alternative” note or phrase but that is all part of the fun. We are not, and never will be, a choir but we sound better every month as we relax and our confidence grows. We just enjoy sharing songs we love. Come along and join us. If we expand still further and burst out of Bridget's home we will move to the church hall.

*Christine Cronshaw*

## Opera Thursday

Tudor England and Scotland in the time of Mary Stuart fascinated continental Europeans and provided plenty of material for playwrights to get their teeth into. An estimated 20,000 books have been written about Mary Stuart's life and within two years of her execution the first of many plays began to appear.

*Maria Stuarda* by Friedrich Schiller was the play adapted by Gaetano Donizetti for his opera of the same name. In it Elizabeth I was portrayed as a jealous, wilful and temperamental heretic while Mary, in the eyes of European Catholics, was shown as a martyr and the legitimate ruler of England. Though they never met in real life a confrontation between the pair was crafted into the story.

It was his thirty-sixth opera *Ana Bolena* (Anne Boleyn), which brought Donizetti international acclaim.

As well as composing many comic operas he explored all opera genres even producing what have been described as film-script-travelogues including *A Castle in Kenilworth* and *Emily of Liverpool!*



Gaetano Donizetti

We viewed *Maria Stuarda* last month, following *Ana Bolena* some time earlier. Both were refreshing additions to our opera experience. In December we will wrap up the year with a collection of opera excerpts which are sure to please.

*Mary Johnson*

## Local History – Kerikeri

Since the last report in the newsletter, the group has made two visits.



The first in October was to Imerys Clayworks and a morning tea at Kauri Cliffs. After donning high vis vests and for some members gumboots instead of their open toed shoes, we were instructed in safety awareness and led to view the huge clay pits. The geology of the area was explained to us and we could see distant clay deposits on the surface. The clayworks started in the 1930s and have developed because the clay is so pure. Mike Rowledge, our enthusiastic guide, allowed us to explore the mounds of clay that had been mined and looked like large rather grubby piles of snow.

We were not allowed to go through the factory due to new health and safety regulations. Instead we went to the display room to hear about the chemical and structural composition of the clay and to see some of the finished products that are made from this very high-grade porcelain.

We then went to Kauri Cliffs and were given a tour of the lodge, which consists of five lounges. We were told how the owner discovered the position for the world-class golf course and subsequently realised the potential for a lodge and suites for 25 guests. Garth, our informative guide, told us about the 60,000 acres of land surrounding the lodge that make a successful beef and sheep farm. We were able to view two of the three beaches through the telescope from the covered deck where we enjoyed morning tea with tea or coffee, scone, jam, cream, chocolate brownie and a cookie.





In November we gathered in the Puketi Forest DOC hut for a talk by Ian Wilson from the Puketi Trust. Ian informed us that the uniqueness of the fauna and flora of this area is due to the geological history of New Zealand splitting from Gondwana.

He went into great detail about the current population of kokako in Puketi. It was fascinating to find out that the kokako have their own dialects and that their calls are used to familiarise and encourage birds to mate.



Ian also gave us the history of the kauri tree and its importance to the NZ economy. We went to the boardwalk to see the kauri and Ian showed us examples of the oldest epiphyte and a typical landscape of plants around the kauri. We ended this trip with tea and coffee and goodies at our house.

Photos top to bottom  
 Inspecting mined clay  
 Terrace at Kauri Cliffs  
 North Island Kokako  
 Ian points out plant in Puketi  
 Members enjoy Puketi



*Sue Robertson*

<b>2015 - 2016 Committee</b>			
President	Stuart Leitch	09 407 3458	<a href="mailto:sleitch21@gmail.com">sleitch21@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Pam Jenkins	09 407 7020	<a href="mailto:pmjenkins@xtra.co.nz">pmjenkins@xtra.co.nz</a>
Treasurer	Christine Cronshaw	09 407 6871	<a href="mailto:annachristinec@gmail.com">annachristinec@gmail.com</a>
Group Convenor/Webmaster	Margaret Rasmussen	09 402 8949	<a href="mailto:ras1@clear.net.nz">ras1@clear.net.nz</a>
Meeting Coordinator	Martin Ough Dealy	09 407 5925	<a href="mailto:mdealy@clear.net.nz">mdealy@clear.net.nz</a>
Publicity Officer	Sue Robertson	09 407 3452	<a href="mailto:ian.robertson1953@yahoo.com">ian.robertson1953@yahoo.com</a>
Almoner	Maebeth Hart	09 407 5100	<a href="mailto:casatres@xtra.co.nz">casatres@xtra.co.nz</a>
Newsletter Editor	Moira Warnock	09 407 6389	<a href="mailto:warnockmoira@gmail.com">warnockmoira@gmail.com</a>

