

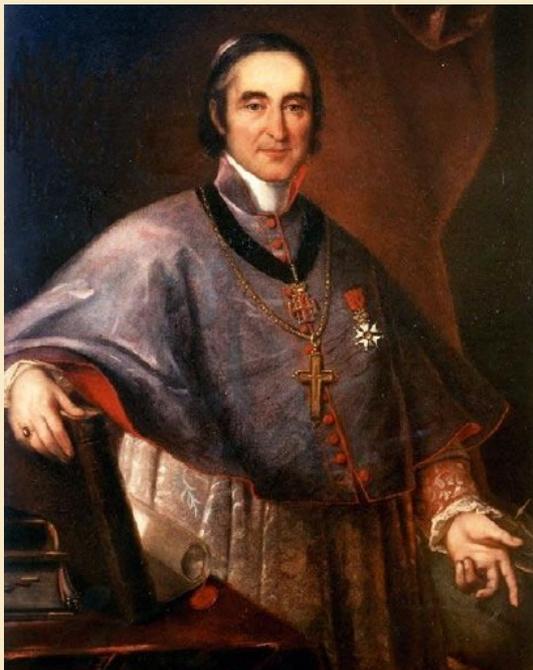
## From the President, Lesley McNaughton ...

Welcome to 2013. I hope this new year has started well for you. Your U3A committee is in action again, thinking up ways to give you new opportunities. We are planning new groups to fill the gaps in our calendar left by groups that ended in the latter part of 2012. Starting in March, Pam Jenkins will facilitate new groups looking at New Zealand in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Pam concentrated mostly on New Zealand history when she did her MA and her research was into the loss of Maori land at Orakei. Eileen Welch is offering a group using Kenneth Clark's groundbreaking *Civilisation* TV series. This series was greatly appreciated when the Art History groups used it.

You will see on the next page that we are calling for expressions of interest in three more new groups each of which could start anytime we have a facilitator, venue and enough members wanting to join. We have plans for some other groups to start later in the year and we will also welcome your suggestions.

This year we will have five general U3A meetings, with a special meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February instead of a social event. Our speaker will be Kate Martin, who was originally scheduled to speak at our last AGM. Kate was knighted by the French Government in recognition of her research about, and promotion of, the Pompallier Mission in New Zealand and the Pacific. I look forward to seeing you at this meeting.

## U3A February General Meeting



Portrait by Marzocchi De Belluci

**Kate Martin**

Curator of Pompallier House

will talk about the life of

**Bishop Pompallier**

**10:30 am Monday 18 Feb 2013**

**St John Ambulance Hall, Kerikeri Road**

Please enter from Kerikeri Road but leave by the exit at the back of the car park.

Please bring finger food for our shared lunch.

Kitchen: Power of Myths Wednesday group

## From your committee:

### New members

Welcome to Sue Rowledge and Terry Eastwood, who have joined U3A since our last newsletter. We hope you will find learning together with other members stimulating. You can join as many groups as you like and you are welcome to try out a variety of groups before you join.

### Committee changes

- We have appointed Ngaire Bates as our new Course Convenor. She will help set up new groups and liaise with facilitators.
- Marilyn has resigned her co-opted position on the committee but will continue editing the newsletter using material supplied by the committee members and facilitators.

### New groups starting in March

Please contact Ngaire Bates as soon as possible if you would like to join one of these groups.

Email [mikni@ihug.co.nz](mailto:mikni@ihug.co.nz) phone 09 407 8219

#### • NZ History in the 19th Century

In March, Pam Jenkins will begin new groups using James Belich's documentary, *The New Zealand Wars*. She will also include a wider view of 19<sup>th</sup> century New Zealand history. Maori, settler and government points of view will be considered. The groups will meet in mornings selected from the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday and 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month. If you would like to join one of these groups, please contact Ngaire, preferably by email, to register your interest and indicate any of these days that are not possible for you. You should do this straight away as we expect many applicants.

#### • Western Civilisation

This group will view the TV series *Civilisation - A Personal View by Kenneth Clark* that looks at Western art, architecture, and philosophy from the fall of Rome to today. The BBC produced this 13-episode series in 1969, screened it for the fourth time in 2011 and will begin a new screening in the UK in February. The group will meet at 10 am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at the home of Eileen Welch in the Vision Bay of Islands village, Kerikeri. Please contact Ngaire to join.

### Possible new groups - Opera group 2      Current Affairs group 2      Philosophy group

We will start these groups if there is sufficient interest. Please contact Ngaire if you would like to join any of them assuming that they are scheduled on suitable days. Also let her know if you would be willing to facilitate a group. Members of the current or past groups on these topics are willing to help the new groups. The philosophy group would use new resources and be suitable for beginners as well as people who attended Margaret's previous group.

### U3A Display in the Proctor Library window 4th - 17th March.

Pam Jenkins, who is organising this display, has asked Ngaire to write to all facilitators seeking suitable material and photos for the display. Pam would also like help setting up the display.

**Help offered for iPad owners** - See the Computer/Camera group's report on the next page.

2012 - 2013 Committee			
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Meeting Coordinator	Enid Honiss	09 407 8982	<a href="mailto:honiss@igrin.co.nz">honiss@igrin.co.nz</a>
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Publicity Officer	Pam Jenkins	09 407 7020	<a href="mailto:pmjenkins@extra.co.nz">pmjenkins@extra.co.nz</a>

## From the groups ...

### Computer/Camera: Heather Pickup reporting

We will meet at my place on the 3rd Thursday in February ie, 21st, at 10am. Members are to bring any holiday photos they may have taken. We look forward to welcoming anyone interested in computers or digital camera photographs.

I have been taking a tutorial course on iPads, so if there is anyone needing help on those, please come along.

### History of Aviation: Kay Boese reporting

Rotary-wing aircraft were discussed with our members enjoying sharing knowledge, stories and pictures.

A Spanish engineer, Juan Cieva, and British aircraft manufacturer, Avro, built the first autogyro to fly in 1923. The first helicopter to fly was built in Germany in 1936. This was rather crude and has gone through many changes to be the very versatile machine of today. They are best known for rescues, carrying goods to isolated or difficult-to-reach places, top dressing, spraying weeds, surveillance, troop movements, tourism, hunting, mustering ... and more.



*Take-Off, The Helicopters (NZ) Story* (2006) by Gavin McLean with Pat Lewis is one I would like in my collection. The Time-Life book *The Helicopter* by Warren Young is also of interest.

We will meet again at 10 am Tuesday 5 February 2013 with a topic of unusual or unorthodox (including home-built) aircraft.

### Iberian Studies: David Fisher reporting

In December the Iberian Studies group took a brief look at the political shifts on the peninsula post WWII before breaking for a prolonged seasonal social session.

We agreed to reconvene in the New Year on Friday 8 February 2013 and continue to battle on towards the end of our book ... and the end of the 20th century no less.

### Current Affairs: John Gibb reporting

Our meeting began with a review of the rising debt levels of various countries. 2011 figures showed public debt levels against GDP being 102.94% with the USA, 84.95% with Canada, 82.50% with the UK, 81.51% with Germany, 25.84 with China, 22.86% with Australia and 37.04% with New Zealand. With the USA this equated to a debt level of over US\$1 million per household. Government debt was putting significant pressure on governments to reduce spending and eliminate national debt.

Future pressures would be likely to occur world wide with growing populations requiring greater supplies of water and food.

The political conflict in Egypt was discussed with concern expressed that progress seemed to be taking much longer than anyone would wish. We were reminded that political change towards democracy was a slow process.

Various other interesting topics were covered, such as the rights of List MPs, lights seen in the sky prior to earthquakes, stroke victims being able to communicate by singing, the proposed kingfish farm in Whangaroa Harbour, online education and the theft of personal data from credit cards by identity thieves.

We will meet again in February at my home, welcoming anything substantial members might have gleaned during the 'silly season'.

### Music Appreciation: Hilary Mowat reporting

Most of us got to hear the piece, or pieces, of music we had requested. Our tastes covered most of the classical music repertoire, ranging from sonatas, concertos, symphonies, waltzes, preludes, opera arias and songs from the Auvergne.

We also had the extra pleasure of a delightful range of food for our festive afternoon tea; thanks to all concerned. For our next gathering in February it was decided that we would bring the latest CD we had purchased.

### French Conversation: Stephanie Beggs reporting

On a fine Sunday morning, a group of French speakers together with family and friends met at the Kawakawa railway station to take the train to Taumarere. The short train ride was over too soon. Upon reaching our destination we laid out colourful table cloths on the picnic tables, cranked up the barbecue and settled down to enjoy a picnic lunch. Everyone brought their own food plus a little something with a French flavour to share. We enjoyed a crusty baguette with cheese, pains au chocolat, meringues, and bonbons. What a feast!



Award winning Gabriel

After lunch, we took a short stroll across the long curved bridge and Howard Lunn, one of our members who is also one of the engine drivers, told us a little about the history of the area. There was also time to visit the Visitor Centre on the platform which is packed full of very interesting information and photographs. At 1.30, Gabriel, the steam engine arrived to take us back to Kawakawa.

It was a most enjoyable picnic and train ride. Our thanks to the team at the Bay of Islands Railway for their help and support for our outing. We didn't, by the way, speak much French.

*Mais ne vous faites pas - ça, c'est pour le mois prochain.* (Don't worry about that, we can do that next month.) *À bientôt!*

### Exploring The Power of Myth Wednesday Group: Iris Steensma reporting

We will meet again on February 20 at my home when the topic will be Sacrifice and Bliss.

### Exploring The Power of Myth Friday Group: Hilary Mowat reporting

Our combined Christmas Lunch at the Cinema Café was the first time that all four Art History and Myth groups had met. It was a very successful occasion. The food was enjoyable and so was the company. We moved seating positions part way through, which gave us all the opportunity to meet someone we did not know. The wine flowed and so did the talk.

We will meet again on February 15 at Ngairé Bates' home when the topic will be Sacrifice and Bliss.

### Art History One: Iris Steensma reporting

We will meet again on February 11 at my home when the topic will be The Art of Persuasion.

### Art History Two: Hilary Mowat reporting

We will meet again on February 14 at my home when the topic will be The Art of Persuasion.

### History of English Language Wednesday Group: Marilyn Lescher reporting

This has been a most absorbing series, covering many centuries since the English language first appeared in Friesland - coastal Netherlands - surviving all sorts of challenges to evolve as a truly global language. Today, the English language is used by about a third of the world's population as either a first or second language. We agreed we found the presenter, Melvyn Bragg, most acceptable despite some comment on his limited wardrobe. Not exactly a serious issue! This was our final meeting.

## Creative Writing: Joy Olds reporting

At our end of year meeting we shared a festive afternoon tea and wine. Not too much reading or writing was done at this meeting but it proved to be a very enjoyable and relaxing way to end a busy year.

Our meetings start again on 8<sup>th</sup> February at my home, 2 pm. The task set is to write three *cinquains*, one starting with a word, one starting with a noun, and the final one starting with two syllables. As well, write a piece on what you would do with three wishes.

Ed: I just had to look up 'cinquain'. Wikipedia says:

**Cinquain** is a class of poetic forms that employ a 5-line pattern. Earlier used to describe any five-line form, it now refers to one of several forms that are defined by specific rules and guidelines.

The American cinquain form is illustrated by Crapsey's *November Night*:

*Listen ...*

*With faint dry sound,*

*Like steps of passing ghosts,*

*The leaves, frost-crisp'd, break from the trees*

*And fall.*

## Shakespeare One: Marilyn Lescher reporting

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* evoked memories of revels in a leafy green forest - in a stage production of many years ago. If only! The woods in our film version seemed dark and dank with plenty of muddy pools. In these woods of Athens, runaway couples, the King and Queen of the fairies, the impish sprite Puck and a band of common artisans prove "the course of true love never did run smooth" as they played out a comedy of love and the confusion it so often brings.

I really enjoyed the band of artisans as they planned a play to celebrate the marriage of the Duke of Athens. It all seemed highly improbable but the eventual production was wonderful. And once again Shakespeare sorted out all the couples to end up with the right partners.

My other thought was about laundry. All these beautiful costumes, gorgeous things, were being ravished one after another as the pools of dark water were being fallen into. Nobody seemed to shiver and shake too much so it must have been summer. Oh well ... it wasn't my problem!

My memory failing to recall if we chose which play to see next, I have made an executive decision that in February we will view *Much Ado About Nothing*. The synopsis will be sent out in due course.

## Shakespeare Two: Margaret Lindsay reporting

Our first meeting this year will be on Tuesday February 26<sup>th</sup>, at 1.30pm.

To start the year off with a light hearted touch, we will be watching *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Lysander comments, "The course of love never did run smooth" when he and Hermia plan to escape from Athens and marry, much against her father's wishes.

The tone of this play is so light hearted that one never doubts that things will end happily, and we are free to enjoy the comedy without being caught up in the tension of an uncertain outcome.

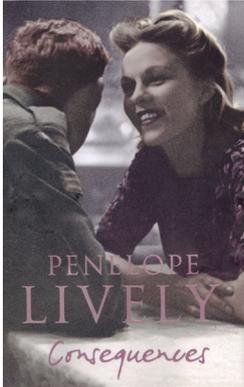
Looking forward to seeing you all.

## Opera: Mary Johnson reporting

From Elva: Our first opera for the year will be a wonderful 2011 Royal Opera House production of Puccini's *Tosca* featuring three of today's finest singers. Bryn Terfel is totally great as the loathsome Scarpia. The beautiful Angela Gheorghiu is a perfect Tosca and who could argue with Jonas Klauermann as Cavaradossi. (2hrs).

## Book Discussion One: Marilyn Lescher reporting

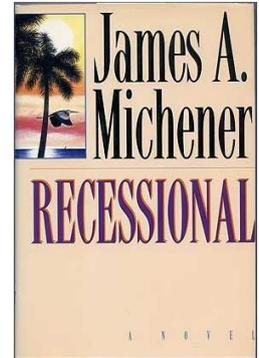
As usual we met earlier in the month and indulged in our customary festive lunch - some nice eats, a wee tittle or two, and good chatter - and before long we had a little party. A while later it was time for books.



With a short spell between meetings we had wisely left our December meeting with no topic - other than books of one's own choice that others might enjoy over the summer break. Members were busy taking down the details of titles that appealed, sharing the good reading that abounds. This, after all, is what we are all about: a love of good books.

Two, in particular, caught my eye. Penelope Lively's *Consequences* weaves the lives of three generations of women from one family. Any of the books put out by this prolific, popular and critically acclaimed author can be recommended.

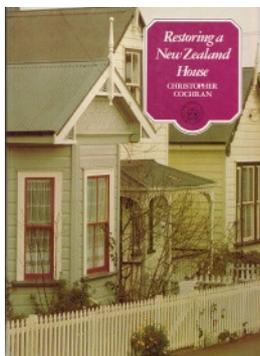
James A Michener's last novel, *Recessional*, features disgraced obstetrician Andy Zorn whose life changes when he is hired by John Taggart, the head of a retirement home chain, to run his financially unstable Florida operation called The Palms. The story keeps one intrigued with plenty of scheming and action.



We shall meet again on the third Tuesday in February when our topic will be 'A Hero' - a publicly recognised hero - or one of your own.

## Book Discussion Two: Kay Boese reporting

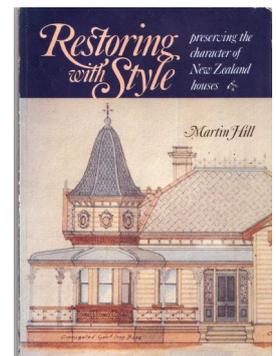
For our December meeting we decided on a shared lunch at my home. It was a delight to welcome Jan Gough back for this meeting and new members Margaret Lindsay and Margaret Cahill.



After the first course we played a couple of games before doing some book reviews. The subject was 'Heritage'. Topics were as diverse as the River Thames, Margaret Mahy's works, and the Wessex Southern Ridgeway track, through to villas and bungalows in NZ, to name a few.

Desserts were then served in wonderful variety, with coffee or tea. Following that, we heard the rest of the reviews. It was an enjoyable afternoon in good company.

We look forward to our next meeting on 'Holiday Reading' in February.



## History of Ireland - Monday & Wednesday groups: Lesley McNaughton reporting

Family circumstances forced me to cancel the meetings planned for January so the first History of Ireland meetings for 2013 will be in February. The topic will be Christian Ireland.

## Antarctica: Lindsay Matterson reporting

Unit 4 dealt with the first people to Explore Antarctica and I was surprised to learn that so many intrepid sailors had been south from the 1500s, some still believing that the huge southern continent might be discovered. Magellan 1519, even Sir Francis Drake 1578, in the Pelican (the renamed Golden Hind) but, the most scary of all, John Davis of England in 1592 of whose crew only 15 of 76 survived. (Scurvy etc) Cook went around the southern continent three times but due to bad conditions didn't really go far enough south.

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