



August 2014

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

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## From the President

I do hope that you, and your family and friends, have not been too adversely affected by the storm in the first week of the school holidays. I am still a novice to Northland winters, so was astounded by the amount of wind and rain. But with all the windbreaks and orchards I should have guessed there was a reason for them.

Our new committee met earlier this month, and this is an ideal opportunity to let you know the adjustments we have made to even out the workloads. Pam Jenkins continues as our Secretary; however Maebeth Hart has kindly agreed to take on the Almoner duties and Sue Robertson will deal with publicity with a view to maintaining our continuing recruitment drive.

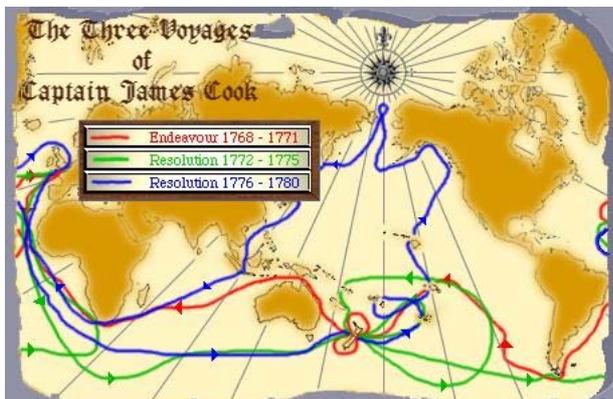
Christine Cronshaw has taken over the role of Treasurer. Liz Berry remains Meetings Co-ordinator and Margaret Rasmussen continues as Group Convenor. Lesley McNaughton will be sharing editorial duties for our newsletter with Moira Warnock, with Margaret providing backup and advice.

Finally I would encourage all members to join us to hear our next speaker, Anthony Norman. Tony is currently Chair of the Northland District Health Board and a Director of Health Alliance (NZ) Ltd; however it is not those subjects he will be addressing us about.

Over the last 30 years Tony has been sailing in many different parts of the world and, along the way, he developed an interest in the history of marine navigation and the great navigators. He has spent many years researching Captain Cook's life and journeys. This appears to me to be a very suitable topic for our meeting and will appeal to the many residents of the Bay of Islands who have a continuing love affair with the sea. If you know any people who may be interested please bring them along.

I would also like to invite all attending to share lunch with us and, as we have just started a cooking group, I will ask not just 'Ladies a plate' but also now add 'Gentlemen a plate'. *Stuart Leitch*

## The Three Voyages of Captain Cook



### Anthony Norman

will give us an illustrated talk about

### Captain Cook's three voyages

U3A General Meeting

10:30 am Monday 18 August 2014

St John Ambulance Hall, Kerikeri Road

Please bring finger food for our shared lunch.

Kitchen Duty: Greek Odyssey Groups

## Group News



The **Poetry for Pleasure** group will have its first meeting on Monday 11 August. Please contact Sue Robertson (09) 407 3452 if you would like to join this group. Details are in the Group Schedule.

The **Greek Odyssey** groups are starting a new DVD series so this would be an ideal time to join.

Many of our members have been travelling overseas to take advantage of warmer climates. Some of our facilitators and hosts are amongst these happy wanderers and I am sure that members of their groups are pleased to welcome them back. The Committee would like to thank those who took over these duties in their absence and kept the groups running so successfully. *Margaret Rasmussen*

## New members

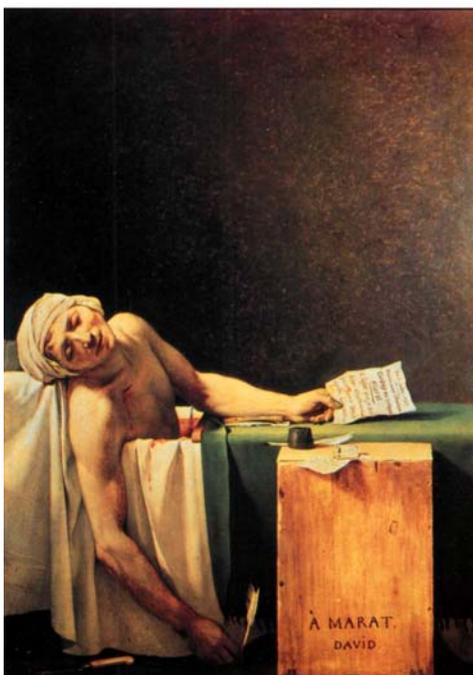
Welcome to Peter and Rozanne Barton. We hope you will enjoy belonging to U3A. You are welcome to join any groups which indicate in the Group Schedule that they have space for more members.

## Western Civilisation Group

The Western Civilisation Group started in March 2013 and we have been working our way through a series of DVDs written and narrated by Lord Clarke, based on his book, *Civilisation: A Personal View*. It was two years in the making with filming in over 100 locations across 13 countries.

It has been the most amazing and exhilarating ride. We have been swept from Greek and Roman civilisation into the days of the Barbarian onslaught, carried to Christian outposts on the distant Hebridean Islands, seen the arrival of the dreaded Vikings and visited the Middle Ages. We have learned about the influence of the Church throughout Europe and about the Renaissance. Along the way we have met philosophers, artists, sculptors and men of letters.

We have visited castles, cathedrals and museums, viewed masterpieces and listened to some wonderful classical music and plainsong. We were extremely fortunate to have inherited notes from Iris Steensma, which are sent out to members of the group ahead of our monthly meeting. These contain links pertaining to the next DVD.



From time to time we watch episodes of Simon Schama's *Power of Art* series. These supplement Lord Clarke's series, researching more deeply the life of an artist he has mentioned. For instance, after Clarke's DVD that contained the French Revolution and the Reign of Terror, we viewed the story of Jacques-Louis David, learned of his connection with the revolutionaries and studied his famous painting, *The Death of Marat*.

As you may imagine, our discussions are inclined to be lively. Kenneth Clarke's deep knowledge of both art and history leaves us with much to think and talk about. Although western civilisation is a monumental subject, it has been presented by Clarke and Schama in an entertaining and educational manner. The group has been thoroughly enjoying both series. *Judy Barrett*

*The Death of Marat*: Marat was stabbed in his bath by Charlotte Corday, who blamed him for the September Massacre of nearly 1,400 prisoners in five days.

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## Local History Kerikeri Group

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The Kerikeri Local History Group is an 'out and about' group. Everyone is encouraged to make suggestions for visits; in fact input is very welcome. Our monthly meetings, barring cyclones and tsunamis, are spent exploring and learning about the history of our area. Everyone is welcome to join our outings. Just let me know if you are coming so we don't start without you. The only time participation will be limited is on our 'at home' days when we are restricted by the space in someone's home.

Our area of interest goes beyond Kerikeri. Since our inception in February, we have been to Kohukohu and Rawene, Paihia, Kaikohe Museum, Waimate North and Pakaraka. On our last 'at home' day we reviewed the past and made plans for the future.



Bill Edwards shows our group the site of a fire-place in the Kororipo Pa



Church of The Holy Trinity at Pakaraka

Our July visit was to the Kerikeri Basin and Kororipo Pa site. Our guide, Bill Edwards of Heritage NZ, made this familiar place more interesting with his anecdotes and his detailed knowledge of the area. We all learned more about our 'backyard'.

The August meeting will take us to the Milton Vintage Museum, where the curator is an excellent raconteur, and will also provide us with tea or coffee (a win – win situation). Future trips, still in the planning stage, include Russell, a visit to a marae and the Dargaville Museum. We still hope to visit the grave of Bishop Pompallier. We encourage car-pooling with a koha for the driver. People pay for their own admission and we end the day at a café for a cuppa.

*Judy Ramsey*

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## Camera and Computer Group

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This group has been meeting monthly since the start of U3A in 1999. We meet in members' homes and enjoy morning tea and a chat. We usually start with the camera part of the study where members bring along their photos for the group to critique. We have a subject each month, which is advertised in the U3A newsletter. We try to help members who are having difficulty with various stages of printing their photos.

The computer part of the study is composed mostly of solving members' problems when we can, but we are not always successful! We talk about new operating systems and discuss members' experience with them. Both Apple and Microsoft computers are represented in the group.

Weather permitting, we take trips to various locations to do photo shoots, usually taking our lunch and making a day of it.



Photo taken by Elsa Lane

*Heather Pickup*

## Winter Film Day

There are now two Art House Film groups; the first started at the end of 2013 and the second in April this year. I like to think of these groups as being like book discussion groups, but with the advantage that we have all seen the film we are talking about. Amongst our members are some who have spent their lives in and out of art-house cinemas and some who come to world movies as something new. Our discussions are interesting and wide-ranging.



One of the limitations of our monthly meetings is that we only see one film each month, so we can't go very far in making comparisons between films without leaving some members out of the conversation. To address this, and just because we like watching and talking about films, we decided to combine the groups for a special film day when we could watch two related films, with hot soup and finger food between.

We chose two films about the changing relationship between the generations in Japanese families. Sunday 20 July was suitably windy and wet—just the day to sit inside and watch films.

First up was a great classic of world cinema: *Tokyo Story* (Japan, 1953) directed by Yasujiro Ozu. Life in Tokyo had become very busy, and the children living there had little time or patience for their elderly parents visiting from the home village.

The second film was *Still Walking* (Japan, 2008) directed by Hirokazu Koreeda. This time the children visited the elderly parents, who were quite clear about their disappointment in their lack of achievement.

How are we to interpret family relationships in another culture? Did the differences reflect the changing nature of Japanese society in the 55 years between the films? How did the careful and beautiful composition of the films themselves affect our appreciation? We could hardly stop talking . . . .



*Keith McNaughton*

2014 - 2015 Committee			
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