



December 2017

www.u3abayofislands.wordpress.com

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From the Chair

Another great year for U3A in the Bay of Islands! I would like to thank all our facilitators and hosts, without whom our groups could not function. They have provided us with so many opportunities to share our interests with old and new friends. Thanks also to all those members who have taken turns leading meetings or writing reports for the newsletter.

The festive season changes our regular pattern of group meetings. Some groups have special activities in December, so check these out in the group schedule that accompanies this newsletter. Groups that usually meet later in the month, will take a break in December and most groups do not meet in January. The few that do use email to organize their January activities. We resume normal activities in February.

I am delighted that Judy Ramsey has taken over the role of Group Convenor. She is now responsible for setting up new groups and liaising with facilitators. Contact Judy if you want to suggest a new group, offer to be a facilitator or join a new group that has been advertised in the newsletter but hasn't yet started. There is still some space in four of the new groups starting in February.

I hope you all have a great time sharing your Xmas with family and friends. But Xmas is also a time to think of others who are less fortunate. Some of our members work to help others all year round; others might like to do something at Xmas, maybe by extending celebrations to include people who don't have family nearby, or by donating to Foodbank or some other charity.

I hope you all enjoy a safe and happy festive season and have a great time with all your summer activities.

Lesley McNaughton

Book Group 1

Our book group is a legacy of Marilyn Lescher who founded it around the turn of the century. It became rather large and unwieldy so we have curbed it currently to 12 members. Every month we choose a theme for books to read for the following month. Themes include novels, memoirs, autobiographies, biographies, non-fiction, poetry, books by country and so on. For instance this year we read modern Irish authors and, more recently, Jane Austen. We discuss these in the first half of the meeting. Because we don't study a given book, the system means we discuss a wide variety of authors or titles related to the theme. After tea we present any other books we may have read. As the members have individual preferences, the books include a wide range of topics and genres. We also have a lending system which works well.

Margaret Murray-Lee



New groups starting in February

The **Anthropology** and **World Religions** groups are now full but you can still ask the Group Convenor to put you on their waiting lists.

New groups with space for more members - apply now

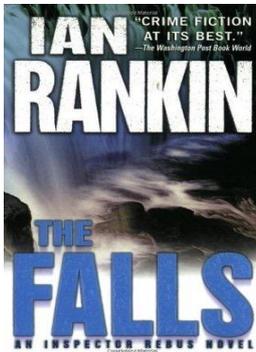
Stars in Their Eyes – facilitator Jenny Blackler – Calendar slot to be decided

This new group will complement our existing film groups by providing an amazing variety of mainstream English-language movies. Each meeting will showcase a different actor or director, people such as Judy Dench, Maggie Smith, Robert de Niro and Clint Eastwood. After watching a movie, the group will discuss the movie, the acting style and other movies of the star or director.

The group will be able to choose movies from many genres: dramas, historical fiction, westerns, thrillers, Shakespeare's plays and classics like *Dr Zhivago* and *Bonnie and Clyde*. Jenny's enthusiasm for all these movies and the knowledge she has gained over many years will ensure that members enjoy this group.



Detective Novels – facilitator Stuart Leitch – Calendar slot to be decided

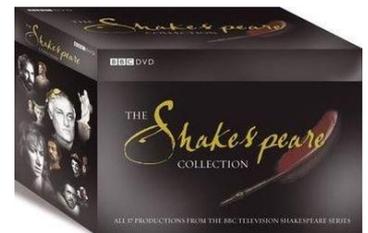


This will be a book group for people who enjoy detective stories. After 30 years working with the Metropolitan Police in London, Stuart is enthusiastic about this genre and he will be able to add an extra dimension to the group's discussions.

At the first meeting, Stuart will ask the group how they would like to move forward. They may take a variety of approaches, sometimes choosing an 'author of the month', all reading a novel by that author then discussing the author's style and what they like or dislike about the books they read. Sometimes they may choose classic detective novels, medieval novels or novels from a particular country. Or they may choose to all read a specific book if multiple copies are available.

Shakespeare's Plays -- facilitator Pam Jenkins - 2nd Thursday afternoon

This group will watch some of the finest dramas in the English language, featuring many of the greatest talents of 20th century British theatre and television. The plays will be supplemented by lively lectures by Peter Saccio, Emeritus Professor of Shakespearean Studies at Dartmouth College. He has also performed in and directed many of Shakespeare's plays. For each play, the group will watch a lecture one month then the play the next month. The lectures add an extra dimension to the plays and will encourage discussion.



Board Games –facilitator Tom Everitt – 3rd Friday afternoon at Cherry Park House, Kerikeri



Remember all the fun you had playing board games when you were growing up or when your children were small? Well here's your chance to enjoy that experience all over again and keep your brain active. Activities may include card games and board games including traditional games like chess, backgammon, and draughts as well as new games. Some members may enjoy working together to solve puzzles such as cryptic crosswords or to learn new games from other members.

Apply now if you are interested in any of the groups starting in February

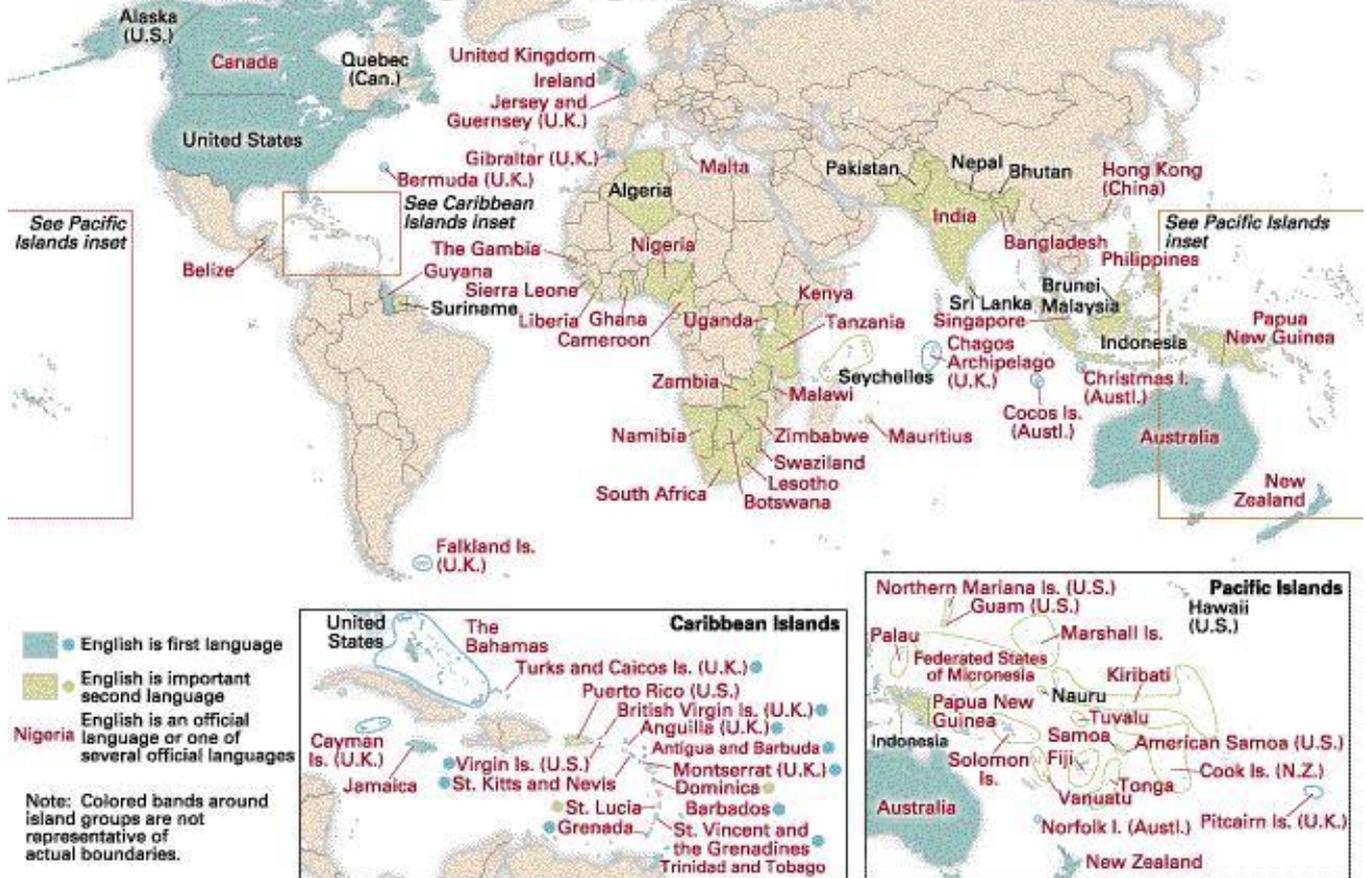
If you would like to join any of the new groups above please contact Judy Ramsey:

email: group.convenor.u3a.boi@gmail.com or phone 09 407 4471

New member: We are pleased to welcome Brian Carter and hope that he will enjoy U3A.

The Adventure of English.

The English Language Across The World



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A study of the English language is also a history of a people from Germanic Anglo-Saxon origins to the worldwide language of today. Through this documentary series we are seeing the influences of Greek, Latin, Norse, French and the many languages of the British Empire and the changes that have occurred over the centuries. Through this study of the language we are remembering the political intrigues and the conquests by Vikings and Normans, the journeys of the Pilgrim Fathers and others to North America, the voyages of Raleigh and Drake who brought back new foods and products whose original names became part of the English vocabulary. We think of the spread of the British Empire and the many new words absorbed into the language as a result. Along with the rise of the U.S.A. as a dominant force in the twentieth century, English has become a global language with its many variations both in vocabulary and pronunciation in many countries. The question to ask now is “Who owns English?”. It is truly an adventure.

Pam Jenkins

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