



February 2018

www.u3abayofislands.wordpress.com

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From the Chair

Happy New Year. I hope 2018 has started well for you and that you are looking forward to another year of interesting activities with U3A.

Are you ready to join one or more new groups this year? You can join any existing groups or new groups, provided they aren't already full. This newsletter has information about the new groups. There is extra information about all our groups in the Group Schedule and on our website. There's also a webpage with our past groups to give you ideas for groups we could start up again.

Our General Meeting on 19th February promises to be interesting, light-hearted and interactive, so an entertaining start to this year. I hope to see many of you there. Please feel free to bring any friends who might be interested in U3A.

Lesley McNaughton



General Meeting

Open to the Public

Monday 19th February 10.30 am

St John's Ambulance Hall, 367 Kerikeri Road

Members: Please bring finger food for our shared lunch

Kitchen Group: Art Appreciation

Let's Talk – Opening up the Communications Umbrella

A talk by **Josephine Wood**

Josephine is a Communications Coach and has been in the field of oral communication for around forty years.

She recently moved to Kerikeri and has been involved in fundraising for Hospice.

She is passionate about words, poetry in particular, and Wellness for Women.



Group Convener's Report

U3A Bay of Islands is starting 2018 with six new groups, and hopefully one (or more) of them will be of interest to you. The list runs the gamut from A to W (sorry, no X, Y or Z) and comprises of **Anthropology**, **Board Games**, **Detective Novels** (a reading group), **Shakespeare** (his life and place in history as well as his plays), **Stars in Their Eyes** and **World Religion and Cultures**. The Anthropology and World Religion groups are full, but please contact me to register your interest in this or any course which is full as, if there is sufficient interest, we will start another group on the same topic.

The **Adventure of English** finishes in March, to be replaced with the **Story of China** starting in April, more information on this new group will be in a later newsletter – but please let me know if you would be interested in this group. The **Greek and Roman Technology** group has one more meeting before completion, but I am sure something will emerge to take its place. A U3A group is dependent on the membership, so please remember you can take an active role in the Bay of Islands group and make suggestions for any course or discussion group you would like to see available for us all.

Poetry for Pleasure will be going into recess for a few months. David Mounter has done a wonderful job as facilitator, and on behalf of U3A I would like to offer him our sincere thanks. However priorities change and David would like to pass the group onto another facilitator. Please contact me if you would like to take on the role as facilitator for Poetry for Pleasure.

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

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.convener.u3a.boi@gmail.com or phone 09 407 4471

Judy Ramsey

New members

U3A Bay of Islands is pleased to welcome **Susie** and **Drew Barlow**, **Suzanne** and **Chris Marsh**, and **Heather Wheeler**. We hope they all enjoy our activities.

Board Games Group –facilitator Tom Everitt – 3rd Friday, at 2.00 pm at Cherry Park House, Landing Road 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.

French Conversation Group – facilitator Stephanie Beggs- 1st Tuesday at 2.00 pm at Stephanie's home, 25 Paretu Drive, Scudder's Beach.

The French Conversation Group met for our last get together of 2017 at the home of Terry & Ali Goodall on Tuesday 5th December.

As you can see, we all dressed in true French style – stripey T shirts, berets, and even a French flag elegantly draped. There was much fun and laughter, not so much French sadly, but it was the end of term.

Merci Terry et Ali et Bonne Année à tous.

Stephanie Beggs



Shakespeare Group – facilitator Pam Jenkins – 3rd Thursday at 2.00 pm at Margaret Lindsay’s home, 36 Arthur Taylor Place starting in March

We will be looking at the times, the man, as well as the plays and the background to them, as much as possible. It is hard after 400 years plus to be sure about anything even if the plays we know today were the ones performed in Shakespeare’s time but the man and his plays continue to fascinate scholars and



Detail from Visscher’s View of London, 1616

the public. Think about the pop-up Globe in Auckland right now. Shakespeare’s works still speak to us as no other sixteenth century writer does and that says something about his genius. We use many of his words and phrases today and have no idea that they came from him e.g. ‘It’s all Greek to me’, ‘cold comfort’, ‘played fast and loose’ and many, many more. This group is about celebrating and discussing Shakespeare, his times and his works.

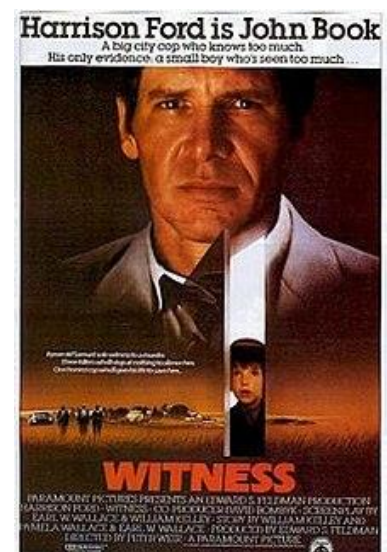
Pam Jenkins

Stars in Their Eyes Group – facilitator Jenny Blackler – 4th Thursday at 1.30 pm at Jenny Blackler’s home, 45 Riverstream Drive starting in March

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.

The first film will be Harrison Ford in *The Witness*.



Detective Book Group – facilitator Stuart Leitch – 3rd Thursday at 10.00 am at Stuart Leitch’s home, 63 Access Road.

Why detective books – well why not!

All books are attempts at stories to carry the reader along with it. Some succeed where others frustrate or just downright fail. Some become classics and others are just lightweight easy reads just right for a holiday!

Within the wider definition of the genre, there are all sorts of “who dunnit” with clues interspersed within the story to involve the reader in their own detection. There are procedural tales where the writer explores the difficulties experienced by the detectives whether it be an apparent lack of evidence, legal hurdles, an important time constraint or other smatterings of intrigue and twists in the telling. The reader may also have the opportunity to experience some cultural diversity depending on the country in which the story is set.

My own preference is tales with good story lines and strong characters. Another point of interest to me has been the evolution of the female detective, from the ‘hobby detective’ to a seriously-taken career detective in what has traditionally been a male-dominated field.

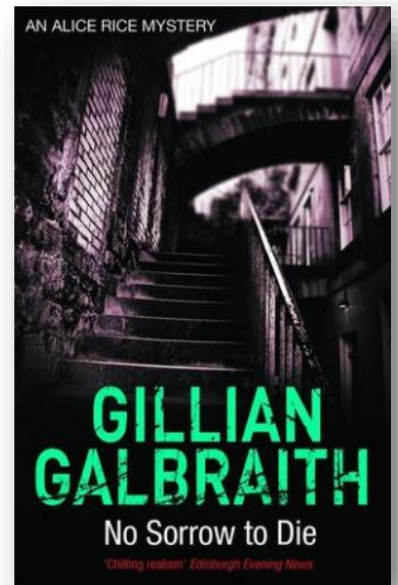
As with all books, some require more grit and determination on the part of the reader to keep with the tale. Clearly this is determined by the reader – not the writer.

I suspect some participants in the new Detective Book Group, like myself, will be searching for unknown gems, but along the way will be more able to analyse what appeals and why it may not.

To make some sense of these meanderings I will use the example of books being turned into films or TV mini series. I really enjoy Ian Rankin’s John Rebus books. However John Hannah as Rebus was too lightweight and Ken Stott was just right. I think on a personal note that Ian Rankin’s appeal also has to do with the fact he is from Fife and is the only writer I know of who supports Raith Rovers (there’s a clue for you) *Stuart Leitch*

Gillian Galbraith was a Scottish Advocate and now a detective story writer. Her heroine is Alice Rice who uses the same police station as Rebus.

Editor



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