



PO Box 14453, Tauranga 3143  
[www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](http://www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)

# Newsletter

Jan – Feb 2018



## First Meeting for 2018 Annual General Meeting

- Date:** Friday 16 February  
**Time:** 10.00 am – 12.00 noon  
**Venue:** Wesley Methodist Church Hall  
100, 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
**Cover Charge:** \$4.00  
**Guest Speaker:** **Paul Davidson**  
**Chief Financial Officer**  
**Tauranga City Council**



If you want to know how your rates are spent and how Tauranga will fund its expanding infrastructure, this is the man to ask.

General Meetings are held on the third Friday of every month  
except December and January.

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# Welcome

Welcome from the Newsletter Team to the first newsletter for 2018. We hope that you have had happy Christmas and New year and that you are now enjoying the warm summer days – apart from the storm!

The team would like to thank Kit Divehall for the wonderful job he has done as Editor of the newsletter over the past two years. While Kit has stepped down from this position, we are fortunate that he has agreed to stay on the team as a proof-reader and as a casual roving reporter.

New to the team this year, is Paul Chapman. Paul has a background in newspaper and magazine journalism, so look out for some interesting feature articles from Paul this year.

*Happy New Year  
from the 2018 Newsletter Team:*



**Jan Holden** Editor and Desktop Publisher



**Heather Landon** Desktop Publisher



**Paul Chapman** Reporter and Proof-reader



**Kit Divehall** Proof-reader and casual Reporter

# Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of U3A Tauranga Inc is to be held on Friday 16 February at the Wesley Methodist Church, 100 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Tauranga, at 10.00 am.

The AGM will be followed by morning tea and a speaker.

All members are cordially invited to attend.

Maryellyn Carr

**Secretary**

## President's Letter



Dear 900 members

**W**elcome to 2018. I hope you all had a pleasant Xmas and new

year with family and friends and did not indulge too much. Maybe you made some new year resolutions, many of which may not be kept. At our age so what? Perhaps you saw in the new year, how the celebrations at the Mount have now changed and are now far more family orientated.

At least the weather was kind by and large over that period, and there were certainly many families and people in general enjoying the beach and other activities the Bay offers in abundance.

As an aside, we were at Bayfair along with thousands of others and saw the kiosk selling calendars. I used to enjoy the "Far Side" calendar with its clever humour. This is no longer available

having been replaced by "Senior Moments" and another calendar highlighting the idiotic things those auto word generators put into our emails that can cause such acute embarrassment.

Whatever style of calendar or diary you choose, no doubt you are thinking about our activities for 2018. Hopefully amongst those thoughts are to join more U3A groups and/or perhaps offering to assist our team of volunteers that help U3A to function so well.

To every member who has contributed last year I offer thanks to all. I offer appreciative thanks to all conveners, tutors, coordinators and organisers of every task and activity and a special thank you to those Executive Committee members standing down in 2018.

Last year saw a great deal of change going on behind the scenes (contd p 4

with perhaps the most significant) being an update to our Constitution and conversion to a commercial multi-user members' database. Nevertheless, our most important services, namely the groups and our general meetings continued to flourish.

There have been several changes to the Executive and Committee Support

personnel. I am sure they will serve us well during 2018.

I look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible at the AGM in February.

Regards  
John Powell  
**President**

## 2018 Executive Committee (Elect\*)

			
John Powell <b>President</b>	Marianne Lammers <b>Vice President</b>	Viv Mills <b>Imm. Past Pres</b>	Lati Moodie <b>Secretary</b>
			
Elizabeth Reeves <b>Treasurer</b>	Sheila Freer <b>Membership Administrator</b>	Bruce Furze <b>Meeting/Speakers Organiser</b>	<i>Could this be You!</i> <b>Publicity Officer</b>
<b>Group Coordinators:</b>			
			
Raewyn Gallagher <b>Groups A to C</b>	Sharon Thompson <b>Groups D to H</b>	Anne Withy <b>Groups I to P</b>	Christine Denne <b>Groups R to Z</b>

\* The members of the Executive for 2018 were elected at the November Special General Election Meeting and they will be welcomed at the AGM in February.

# 2018 Non-Committee Roles

			
Angela Dold <b>Almoner</b>	Jim Pryor <b>Data Manager &amp; Web Master</b>	Peter Simmons <b>Equipment Manager</b>	Jan Holden <b>Newsletter Editor</b>
		<p><b>We have vacancies for:</b></p> <p>Archivist</p> <p>Hall Organiser</p> <p>Meet &amp; Greet Organiser</p>  <p><b>Could this be you!</b></p>	
Cliff Freer <b>Photographer</b>	<b>Rob Heath</b> <b>Mini Speaker organiser</b>	<p><b>Contact John Powell 575 4540</b> <b>If you are interested.</b></p>	

## Quiz Corner

Test your general knowledge with these questions. (Answers on page 9)

- 1 Which of these British cities is furthest west: a) Edinburgh, b) Manchester, or c) Bristol?
- 2 How many chambers does the human heart have?
- 3 What device is used to measure radiation?
- 4 Who was President of Norway under German occupation from 1942-45, his name becoming synonymous with a traitor?
- 5 What are the names of Princess Anne's two children?
- 6 Around December 21-22, the sun is overhead at the: a) Tropic of Cancer, b) Equator, or c) Tropic of Capricorn?
- 7 In American currency, 10 cents make what?
- 8 Which South African golfer is known as "The Big Easy"?
- 9 Where in New Zealand is Oban?
- 10 In 2008, Tauranga overtook which New Zealand city to become the sixth largest in terms of population?

# November Meeting in Pictures



### BURGESS SHALE CAMBRIAN FOSSILS

Anomalocaris (headless shrimp) → 2 different animals as first named by Walcott (1914) → Peytoia (jellyfish)

Whittington drawings (1983) of another creature that Walcott called Laggania showed parts of both

Anomalocaris (Phylum Arthropoda) Huge (up to 0.5m) predator of the Cambrian seas **515 mya**

Were parts of one animal

### SEA SHELLS FROM THE OCEAN BEACH



John showed us many shells he had picked up from the beach including these small Rami's horns shells that are the internal buoyancy aids for a small deep-water squid

Thousands of the shells may wash up after the rest of the animal has decayed



# *Santa's Super Duper De Luxe Sleigh*

By ©Angela Dold (Convener Creative Writing Groups)  
(Read by Angela at the November meeting)



"Santa! You'll have to go on a diet," Chief Elf Tanzin said, as Santa Claus tried to heave himself out of the chimney. "Magic can only go so far, you know."

"It's not my size that's the problem, "Santa grumped. "It's this chimney! It's too narrow!"

Tanzin's eyebrows rose. "Really? The chimney wouldn't be a problem if you had changed the size settings on the Magic Chimney Spell to allow for the extra....bulk" his voice faded, afraid to use the word 'weight'.

"Extra bulk? Extra bulk?" Santa spluttered, but on reflection, quickly shut up. He knew Tanzin was right. The buttons on his Santa suit hardly did up and the elastic on his pants was really straining, but this was Christmas Eve; the night when everything should run smoothly but it had gone awry right from the start.



Santa had got stuck in the first chimney he had tried to go down. He squirmed and wriggled but he couldn't move. "Give us a push, Tanzin," Santa called in a muffled voice from inside the chimney. So, Tanzin jumped on him until he slid down head first into the fireplace. Not an easy task for a little elf.



Getting him out again, well, that was a bigger problem. The elf tried to push him up the chimney, but Santa's bottom was far too big. Tanzin's head simply disappeared amongst folds of red woolly cloth and he nearly suffocated. But finally, they got organised and worked as a team right through the night -Tanzin jumping on Santa's bottom to go down each narrow chimney and Santa having to climb out himself.

Tanzin thought it fortunate that no sleeping child had woken up and seen Santa or heard him huffing and puffing or rolling around the roof like a big red ball after falling out of the chimney. But, at last, it was nearly over.

"You'll be pleased to know, Santa," Tanzin announced, "I've checked the 'Naughty and Nice' List and this is the last time this year you'll have to get in or out a chimney." Santa nodded absentmindedly. He was still struggling to get out of the chimney.

The little elf leaned against the side of the sleigh, folded his arms and tapped his foot, impatiently. His red shoes curled up at the end and they had a tiny bell attached which tinkled.

Tanzin watched Santa's antics until he couldn't bear it any longer. "Oh, for goodness sake". He grabbed Santa's shoulders and using all his strength, pulled and pulled until finally, like a cork out of a champagne bottle, Santa popped out. He lay on the roof, exhausted.

After a couple of minutes, Santa hoisted himself up and, trying to regain a modicum of pride, waddled over to the sleigh. Unfortunately, he tripped and landed in the sleigh, head first, his face squashed against the cushions, and his legs waving in the air like a two-headed monster from the deep. The elf grabbed Santa's legs and with one almighty heave, got him sitting upright, behind the sleigh's controls, ready to go.

"Okay, Tanzin, stop dawdling; don't stand there like a fish with its mouth open," Santa said straightening his woolly hat. "We'll have to get a move on; it will be dawn soon and we don't want the children to see us."

Tanzin's pointy ears went from red to scarlet. It was a wonder steam didn't come out of them, but he counted to ten and swallowed hard. To add to Tanzin's troubles this year, Santa had bought a new sleigh and he couldn't seem to get the hang of driving it.

The Super Duper De Luxe sleigh was the new breed of machine – keyless, with push button start, GPS, hands free phone and retractable glass roof it was the top of the range. But most important of all, it was reindeer-less - no more reindeer whingeing or complaining or going on strike; the reindeer had been given redundancy and a cosy stall with plenty of hay.

But this new sleigh wasn't all it was cracked up to be. As soon as they had left the North Pole, the sleigh's phone went dead, the GPS went berserk and sent them to all sorts of queer places; and the windscreen wipers couldn't cope with the snow. Tanzin had to keep getting out to clean the glass so they could see where they were going.

But now their troubles were all behind them. They'd finished the job! They were going home. Inside the sleigh, it was toasty warm and Santa was already thinking of Egg Nog and forbidden mince pies. He pushed the starter button... Whirr. Whirr. Whirr. Whirr. He pushed it again. Whirr. Whirr. Nothing happened.

Tanzin looked at Santa. "Something wrong?"

Santa knew. "I've lost the key," he said in a meek voice. "It was in my pocket and it must have dropped out when I went down a chimney."

Keyless didn't really mean keyless. You still had to have the key close to the ignition. The two sat there for a moment, stunned, not speaking. Disaster!

Already the sun was just peeping over the trees and cars and people were slowly moving along the road. Luckily, many of the houses were decorated for Christmas so seeing a sleigh perched on a roof wasn't an unusual sight.

They both jumped when "Jingle Bells" squawked out of the sleigh's speakers. Their emergency beacon had kicked in. "I've lost the key to the sleigh" Santa explained to Home Base.

It was agreed nothing could be done until dark. They couldn't risk being seen flying over the town so the sleigh stayed where it was, perched on top of Tommy Watson's house, its two passengers, hardly moving, trying to look like a plastic Santa with plastic Elf. It wasn't difficult; they slept. It was nearly midnight, when they heard the jingle of bells heralding their rescuers - the old reliable reindeer. Tanzin hitched them onto the sleigh and they were off!



"Now, DASHER! now, DANCER! now, PRANCER and VIXEN! On, COMET! on CUPID! on, DONNER and BLITZEN and Rudolph!

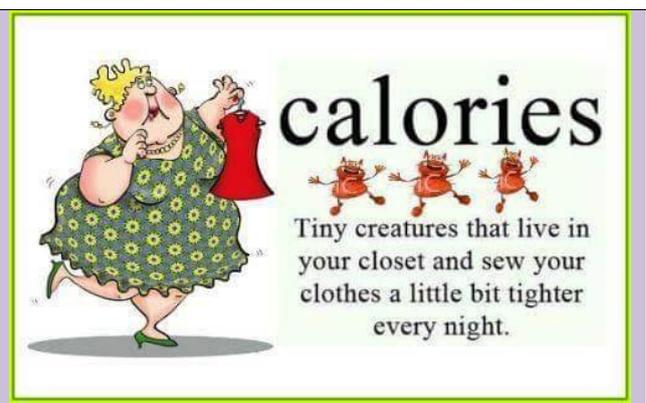
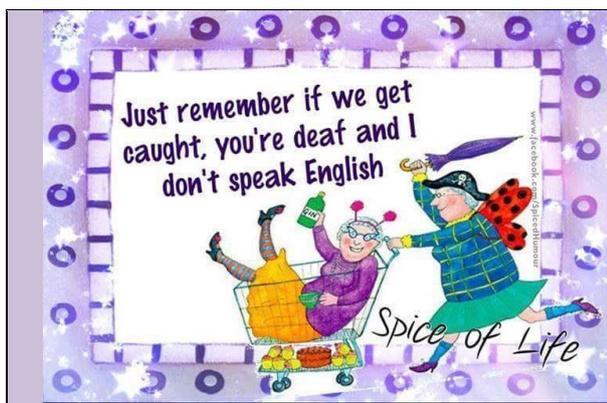
At home, Tanzin toasted his toes by the fire and drank a large glass of fortifying Elfin Brandy and Santa ate a mince pie (or two or three if Mrs Claus wasn't looking).

When the shops opened again after Christmas, The Super-Duper De Luxe Sleigh was returned to the Dealer. Modernisation is okay, but some things should never be changed.

Take care when you venture out onto the busy roads. **Please remember you are driving a car, not a Super Duper De Luxe Flying Machine!**

## Facts and Figures to Date

Financial members as at Dec 2017	890
Life members	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>898</b>
<b>Number of Groups:</b>	<b>100</b>



### Quiz Answers:

1. Edinburgh;
2. Four;
3. A Geiger counter;
4. Vidkun Quisling;
5. Peter and Zara Phillips;
6. Tropic of Capricorn;
7. A dime;
8. Ernie Els;
9. Stewart Island/Rakiura;
10. Dunedin.

# Group Coordinators' Report

## Happy New Year from the Coordinators Team!

**R**egretfully Marianne Lammers and Kathleen Fraser are to stand down at the AGM in February. However, two new Coordinators were elected at the November Special General Election meeting. They are Raewyn Gallagher (A-C groups) and Sharon Thompson (D-H groups). Anne Withy and Christine Denne will stay on as Group Coordinators for 2018.

**Note for Conveners:** 2018 meeting venues contracts are to be signed by the President of U3A Tauranga. Those groups who wish to hire the Wesley Church Hall or St Stephens Church Hall need only to advise the church of the dates they wish to hire the hall. The contracts will then be signed by the President.

### Groups requiring additional members:

- Ballet Appreciation
- Current Events C
- Opera Appreciation 2
- Rummikub 1
- Science 2

### New Groups to be formed in 2018

- Ipad 2 – This group now has a convener and sufficient numbers to form a new group
- Rialto Film 3

### Number of Groups

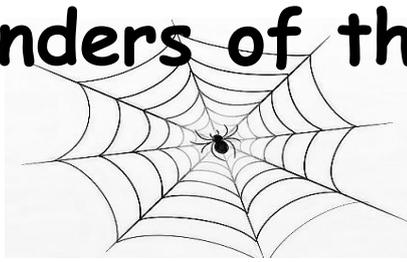
As some new groups are being formed and some groups have gone into recess (or about to go into recess) we do not currently have an accurate number of groups, but we estimate the number to be around 100.

At the last Executive Committee meeting Anne thanked Marianne and Kathleen for performing their coordinator roles over the past two years, and the committee added their appreciation with applause.

That is us folks. We hope 2018 will prove to be as interesting as the previous year!

Group Coordinators: Anne, Christine, Kathleen, and Marianne

# Wonders of the Web



In this series, we look at websites that may be of interest to members.

ANTIPODES MAP ABOUT DID YOU KNOW? ANTIPODES CITIES

tauranga Find

Your Location **Cameron Road - Fronting No. 265, Bay Of Plenty 3110, New Zealand**  
— Coordinates: -37.687797, 176.165130 (37° 41' 16.1" S, 176° 9' 54.5" E)

Antipodes Location **Los Villares, 23160, Jaén, Spain**  
— Coordinates: 37.687797, -3.834870 (37° 41' 16.1" N, 3° 50' 5.5" W)

## To the ends of the Earth

By Paul Chapman

**E**ver wondered where you would end up if you could tunnel directly through the Earth from where you are right now?

A fascinating website, [www.antipodesmap.com](http://www.antipodesmap.com), will show you the exact opposite spot to any place on the planet. And you may be in for some surprises.

While the British often refer to Australia and New Zealand as “the Antipodes”, that’s not quite correct. The Australian mainland is the world’s largest land mass that has all its antipodes in the ocean.

Tauranga’s antipodes is actually close to the city of Jaen in southern Spain.

Just enter a place name on one of two maps and the website will show you its opposite point. The website also allows you to zoom in or out of the maps, so you can pinpoint locations down to within a few metres.

Do you have a favourite website you’d like to share with members? Email the address to [newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)

# Group News

## Camera Basics and Photography Course

This is a short, interactive course for beginners, comprising three sessions - one a week for three weeks - covering the **why** and **how** of photography. Learn something about composition, focus on focusing and get exposed to exposure!



Photography is a combination of thought, imagination, visual design, technical skills, and practical organizing ability, so come along and discover some of the technical skills at least. The first step to creating fabulous images is to learn to use the tools to the best of your ability. The rest is up to you!

You will be encouraged to learn a bit more about your camera – whatever it may be, from a cellphone to a complex DSLR. Discover that the gear is less important than the brain behind it!

Limited to no more than six people, the course will be run when enough people enrol and you can do this by phoning Neville Harlick, 574 9069.

## Garden Ramblers 2

Garden Ramblers' last meeting for the year was an awesome occasion, with two beautiful gardens visited. Kay's courtyard and Jul Barne's roses with tropical combination. Over coffee we welcomed in our new convener Juliet Lee and discussed meeting again to put together our lively group's ideas for next year's rambles. We also put some fun into Santa's sack by our presents chosen. We are looking forward to next year's adventures and hope to see new members join us. Convener: Juliet Lee, phone 552 0609.



# *Contrasts*

*by Elizabeth Shennen*

*I have seen her furious ragings,  
Hurling herself relentlessly against the cowering shore.  
I have seen her content, relaxed,  
Enjoying contact with little vessels sporting on her back.*

*I have witnessed her challenging young men in wetsuits  
Balancing with their boards on her powerful shoulders.  
I have seen her regular, renewing visits to the little creatures  
Lurking and frolicking in the isolated pools around her edges.*

*From a distance, I've heard her crashing fury  
And on quiet days, close at hand,  
I've heard the soft velcro sighs of her silent retreat from placid sand.  
Her gentle, murmurings have often calmed my anxious mind.*



*I've watched her tentacles creep up child-made channels,  
To fill the moats of castles on friendly beaches.  
And I've seen the broken body of a fisherman she'd swept from his  
vessel,  
And flung onto heartless rocks.*

*I have admired her artistry with colour and with shape;  
Her re-creation of the textures of my marble wall,  
With frayed foam lace stretched across her dark green surface.  
I have seen the seaweed dancing in her thrall.*

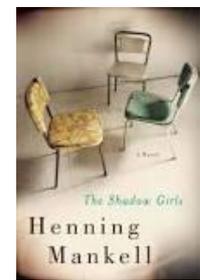
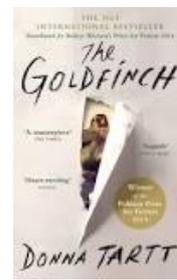
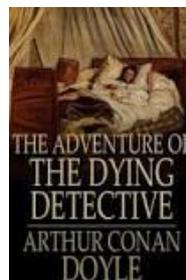
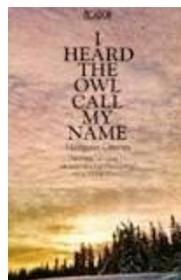
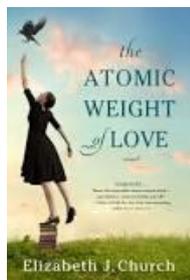
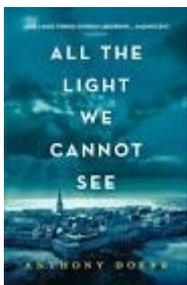
*I've gained pleasure from her endless motion,  
And her ever-changing rhythms,  
That mighty moving mass of molten marble;  
La mer. The sea.*

## Café Book Lovers 1

The following is a list of favourite books that members have read in 2017. If you want some good holiday reading, try and get some of these from the library.

- All the Light we Cannot See, by Anthony Doerr
- Atomic Weight of Love, by Elizabeth Church
- I heard the Owl Call my Name, by Margaret Craven
- See you in September, by Charity Norman
- The Dying Detective, by Leif Persson
- The Goldfinch, by Donna Tartt
- The Shadow Girls, by Henning Mankell

Convener: Eve Grimley, phone 548 0999.



## Art History 2



On 22nd November six members of our Art History 2 group made a visit to The Wallace Art Gallery in Morrinsville which had an exhibition of the NZ winners for the last 25 years of The Wallace Art Awards for Contemporary Art. There was also a display of award

winning pottery. A great lunch at The Crazy Cow Café was appropriate after having seen all the painted cows in the street. We visited the new museum, walked the heritage trail, which included the rose garden and stopped to look at all the interesting shops in the town. A great day out which we finished by driving home through scenic Te Aroha. Convener: Margaret Liddell, phone 570 0385.



## Ukulele Group

The Ukulele Group has just concluded another successful year and now has a membership of almost to 40 players. We are probably the largest of the U3A groups and meeting weekly means that we get together more than 40 times a year.

We have come a long way since our original group of 7 met in early 2015 and credit must be given to Reg Clothier who has led us for much of this time. Another mainstay of the group has been Robert Lucas who for the past 3 years has set up the hall each Monday and kept us well charged with refreshments mid-afternoon.

June Pharo will be joining me as Co-Convener from 2018 so I am sure with her musical ability the group will be in very good hands.



This photo was taken at our final session of the year. The group had just enjoyed a free lunch at the Nautilus but only half of us felt able to follow it up with our usual session, the others opting for Christmas shopping or was it a nap? Convener: Eileen Ammann, phone 576 3183.

## Photography 1

During 2017, members of Photography 1 voted for their favourite photo each month, without knowing who took the photo. The votes were collated, and at the Christmas lunch at the Oropi Hot Pools, the winners were presented with a calendar attached to their winning photos.

The winners for November were 'Tumbleweed' taken by Eileen Ammann. Second equal were Brian Lissette's 'Hi Girls' and Glenne Findon's 'Lacewing eggs'.

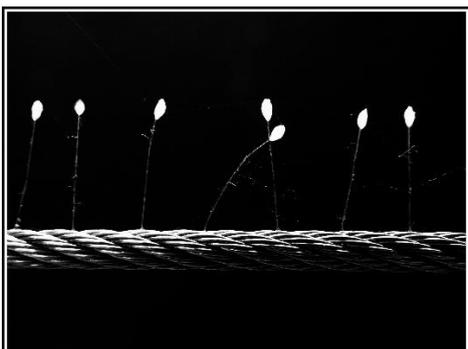
The overall winner for the year with the most votes was Glenne Findon, with Richard Hobden's 'Wax in the Flax' second and Brian Lissette third. (Contd. p16)



*Tumbleweed*



*Hi Girls*



*Lacewing eggs*



*Wax in the Flax*

All members received some votes during the year so everyone at the Christmas lunch received a gift for their efforts. The standard of photos from all members of the group has increased significantly over the year as shown by the close voting. Convener: Glenne Findon, phone 571 2925.

## Hidden Gems of NZ

In this series, we let you in on some of our country's little-known treasures.



### What light through yonder window breaks?

By Paul Chapman



If you are ever visiting Taranaki, pause for a few minutes in the town of Stratford and check out New Zealand's only glockenspiel. Time it right and you can even enjoy watching this extraordinary feat of engineering in action.

What's a glockenspiel? The German translates literally as "playing clock" and, while there are quite a few centuries-old examples in continental Europe, you'd be hard pressed to find anything like them in the Southern Hemisphere.

More than sixty of Stratford's streets are named after characters created by Shakespeare, so it is entirely fitting that the town's glockenspiel features scenes from his much-loved play Romeo and Juliet.

If you stand beside the town's main street and watch the Elizabethan-style tower any day at 10am, 1pm, 3pm or 7pm, you will see life-size figurines appear at a series of opening windows to act out a scene from the celebrated love story, accompanied by music and spoken dialogue. The delightful show runs for about five minutes after the hour chimes and is free of charge.



The building and its complex mechanics were designed and built by Stratford locals and the figurines were constructed by Nigel Ogle, whose nearby Tawhiti Museum is another good reason to visit that part of the country.

For more information see:

<http://www.stratford.govt.nz/visit/activities-attractions/top-attractions/glockenspiel> or

<http://www.tikitouring.co.nz/taranaki-romeo-juliet.htm>

Do you know a little-known New Zealand gem you can share with other members? We would love to hear about it. Email details to [newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)

# Member Profiles

## Lati Moodie



Lati was elected in November as Secretary for U3A for 2018. This is a role that Lati has previously undertaken, so U3A is very lucky to have her services.

She recently started the Shakespeare Group, which she convenes. She is also a member of History A and B, Ballet Appreciation and Science Today 1 groups. The first three take her right out of her comfort zone, which is testament to the opportunity which U3A provides for stimulating one's interest in new subjects! Her other pursuits include walking, reading, movies and theatre.

Cape Town, South Africa is where Lati grew up, but she has now spent 41 years in New Zealand, and she feels very much like a Kiwi. Dunedin was her home for the first 8 years in NZ, but a warmer climate soon beckoned.

As a qualified Microbiologist and Physiologist, she spent some years in research and she then moved into the field of Diabetic Retinal Photo screening (using a specialised camera to look for changes in the retina at the back of the eyes of diabetic people). This latter work was in both in NZ and the UK.

Lati has 2 daughters, both of whom currently live overseas, so travel is always on her mind!

## January Storm – Harbour Drive area, Tauranga



*Photos by Heather Landon*

# Tauranga 60+ Continuing Education Group

Venue: Otumoetai Baptist Church, 241 Otumoetai Road

## Programme of Speakers for 2018

All lectures commence at **10.00 am**. A charge of **\$4** is made to cover expenses. **If you have not previously done so, please fill in a registration form at the door** with your phone number and e-mail address so that we can keep in touch with you. Please visit our website [www.taurangacontinuingeducation.weebly.com](http://www.taurangacontinuingeducation.weebly.com) for up-to-date information on our speakers. **Convener: David Gordon 544-4179**

Date:	Speaker:	Topic:
February 20 <sup>th</sup>	Simon Hurricks	WW 11 transport gliders
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Marc Anderson	BOP Garden and Arts Festival
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Kathrene Steeds	Island Ecosystems
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Assoc Prof Earl Bardsley Environmental Risks University of Waikato	Making the Balance: Water, Electricity and the Environment in New Zealand
June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Judge Rosemary Riddell	You be the judge (2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment)
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	Dr Raymond Richards Department of History University of Waikato	American politics
August 21 <sup>st</sup>	Troy Evans Harbour Pilot	Pilot's work in Tauranga Harbour
September 18 <sup>th</sup>	Eye specialist (TBA) Tauranga Eye Clinic	Fixing eye conditions
October 16 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Barry Retired fire fighter	Ann Barry's life as NZs first woman fire fighter
November 20 <sup>th</sup>	Don Fraser Finance/Investment Consultant	Looking after your money and investments

**U3A Members are very welcome**

# It's a Funny Old World



## Island at the heart of the 'Whisky War'

By Paul Chapman

**T**ensions may be ratcheting up between China and its neighbours over rocky outcrops in the South China Sea, but the world's politest dispute over an island has been going on since the 1930s.

The so-called "Whisky War" is a wrangle between Canada and Denmark over who owns a barren, uninhabited, 1km-square blob of land between Greenland – which Denmark governs – and Ellesmere Island in the Canadian Arctic.

Hans Island lies midway in the Kennedy Channel, part of the 35km-wide Nares Strait, which under international law places it within the territorial waters of both countries. Their border, a theoretical line down the middle of the strait, bisects the island.

The tug-of-war heated up in 1984, when Denmark's Minister of Greenland Affairs visited the outcrop and planted a Danish flag there. He left a note saying, "Welcome to the Danish island" and a bottle of schnapps. After that, it didn't take the Canadians long to pay a similar visit of their own.

These days, every few months the Canadian military land on the island, where soldiers will find a Danish flag and several bottles of schnapps. The soldiers remove the Danish ensign, hoist the Canadian flag and plant a sign saying, "Welcome to Canada".

They then take the schnapps, set down a crate of Canadian Club whisky, and leave. Until the next time.



# 2018 Executive Committee (Elect)

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## Next Newsletter

**March 2018**

**Deadline for contributions is Monday 19 Feb 2018**

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