



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

# Newsletter

May - June 2018

## General Meetings

### May

**Date:**

Fri 18 May 2018

**Speaker:**

Annis Parker

**“Snippets from a life lived elsewhere in the world”**



Annis qualified in NZ as a nurse specialising in operating theatres. Her vocation took her to a position in Sri Lanka where she met her husband, a senior tea planter. Her knowledge of the tea industry, from tea seed to the tea you have in your pots or tea bags, escalated from this point. Ultimately, they ended up in New Guinea, opening a 2000-acre block of land to tea production. This property is now a fully functional, organic property with the end product mostly in tea bags.

### June

**Date:**

Fri 15 June 2018

**Speaker:**

Mark Whitworth

Cargo Services Manager  
Port of Tauranga Ltd.

Mark's talk will contain a bit of history of the port, current cargo volumes, ownership structure (including a subsidiary company) and forward growth projections.



**10.00 am – 12.00 noon**

**\$4.00 entry**

**Wesley Methodist Church (not Church Hall)**

**100, 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Tauranga**

# Quiz Corner

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Test your general knowledge with these questions. Answers on page 17.

- 1 Which of these New Zealand cities is furthest west:  
a) New Plymouth, b) Nelson, or  
c) Christchurch?
- 2 What two words form the shortest verse in the Bible?
- 3 What is the chemical symbol for iron?
- 4 What is the total number of men who have walked on the Moon:  
a) 10; b) 12; or c) 14?
- 5 Which of these rivers crosses the Equator:  
a) Amazon; b) Niger; c) Congo?
- 6 Who reportedly said: "I have nothing to declare but my genius"?
- 7 How is Samuel Langhorne Clemens better known?
- 8 In which year did David Lange first become Prime Minister of New Zealand?
- 9 Who composed "Pictures at an Exhibition"?
- 10 Which record-setting aviatrix was born in Rotorua?

Angela Dold is the U3A Almoner. Please let her know if you are aware of a member, their spouse, partner or family member who are ill, or if there has been a bereavement. Phone: 571 6767, Email: [annold2811@gmail.com](mailto:annold2811@gmail.com)

# President's Letter



Dear Members

**W**e have about 800 financial members so far this year.

Another 100 or so will bring us up to the total we had for 2017. So, feel free to encourage friends and acquaintances to join and enjoy our groups and our monthly general meetings.

At the beginning of April, we received an urgent call from our friends at Wesley Church to tell us the news that they are being forced to close the church hall as it does not meet earthquake standards. Therefore, it is now no longer in use until further notice. The Church has been wonderfully accommodating and they have advised that we can instead use the church for our meetings as well as the small meeting room for morning tea. So, it will be pretty much business as usual. We suspect that the hall will be ready again by the end of the year, but hopefully earlier. I was not aware

that we had been using their facilities since 2001. We have also learned that we could generate another 8 or so carparks and we intend to encourage our early starters to use those parks and therefore free up some more street parking.

Thank you to Jenny Pryor for volunteering to organise the Meet and Greet teams each month and to Elizabeth Powell for providing backup for Sheila's membership administration duties. Many thanks also to Margaret Marsh, who is keeping the Handbook up to date. Don't be afraid to put your name forward to help in any capacity. You will receive proper training and be part of a dynamic and vibrant organisation

Finally, I heard at the last Health Liaison meeting that an exciting project to allow pharmacists to perform a greater role in community-based health delivery is being consulted on.

Regards  
John Powell  
**President**



# March and April Meetings



**P**aul Davidson, Chief Financial Officer at the Tauranga City Council was the guest speaker for March. Paul talked about the future of our city and the Long-Term Plan that the Council currently has out for submissions. He explained the issues that Council must consider when financing both basic infrastructure and other amenities that benefit residents and tourists. The key issues were:

- Housing affordability
- Reliable travel times
- Community and social issues
- Resilience (to natural disasters)
- Environmental issues
- Building a better city

Paul's talk attracted a lot of interest and he fielded many questions from the floor, which meant he ran out of time to talk about the new proposed rating system! However, he said this is designed to provide a better balance between residential and commercial ratepayers and he briefly highlighted the impact of the proposal on ratepayers:

- 38% of properties would have reduced rates
- 40% of properties would have the same or less than the current system
- 22% of properties would have a higher rate increase (mostly higher value residential and commercial properties).

***Elizabeth and Sheila sorting uncollected name badges at the March meeting!***



**T**he April General Meeting was the first meeting to be held in the Wesley Church, instead of the Church Hall. The mini speaker was John Maunder who talked about, "The Art and Science of Weather Forecasting".



The main speaker was Katrina Light, an audiologist from Hearing Life in Te Puke. Katrina gave a very interesting talk on all aspects of hearing loss, including balance disorders, common causes of hearing loss, the hearing test process, types of hearing aids (the variations and costs), adjustment to wearing hearing aids and the funding bodies applicable to specific situations. Her talk concluded with a summary of the big technical advances that have been made in hearing aids in very recent years, including wireless connectivity to TV and telephones and the availability of rechargeable batteries.



## Meet and Greet Teams

**March – Café Book Lovers 1**



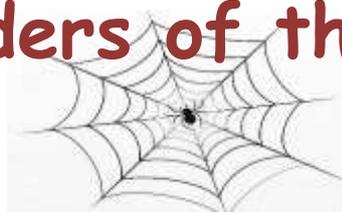
**April – Garden Ramblers 2**



## Facts and Figures to Date

Financial members as at April 2018	792
Life members	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>802</b>
<b>Members with overdue subscriptions</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>Number of Groups:</b>	<b>101</b>

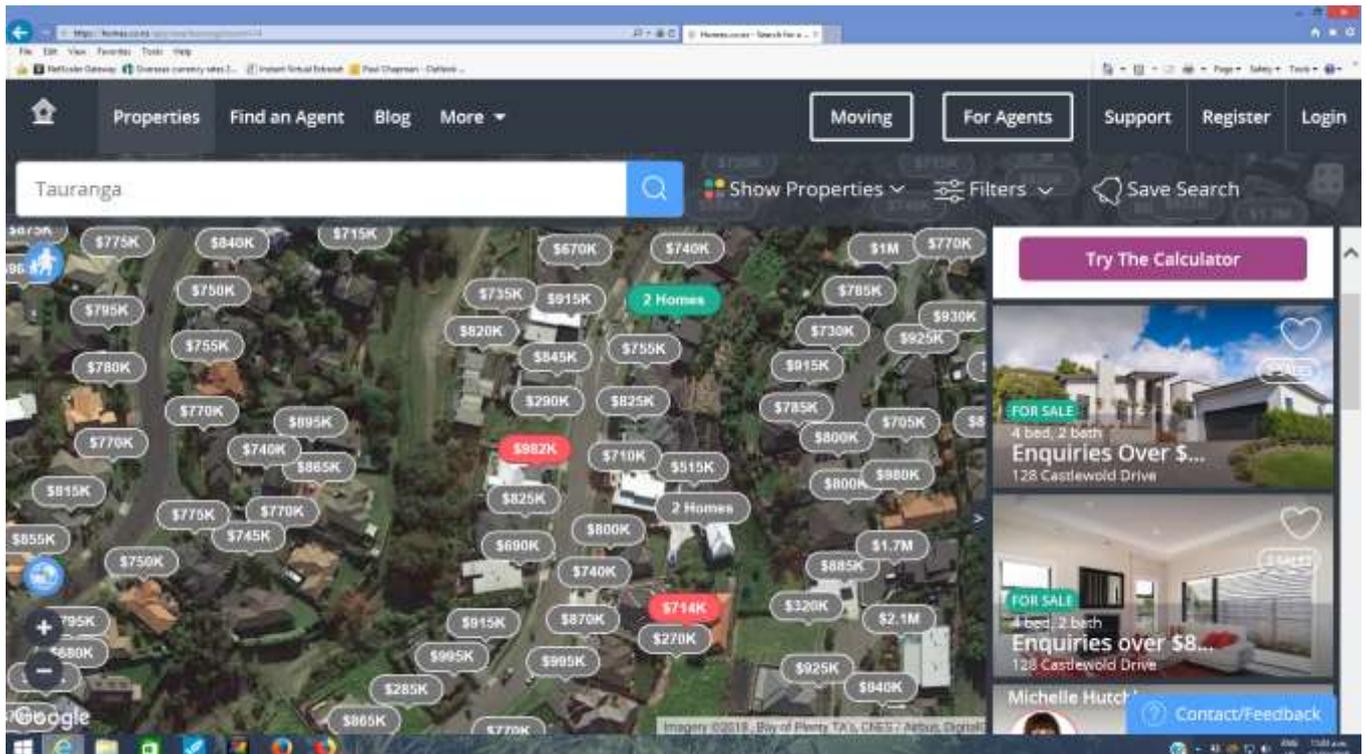
# Wonders of the Web



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

## Home, oh so sweet home

By Paul Chapman



**E**ver wondered what your house was worth but were afraid to ask? Thinking of buying and you'd like to get an estimate of a fair market price for the home you are interested in?

Perhaps you are curious to know what properties in the neighbourhood are worth or how much that house down the street just sold for. Or the going rate for a rental.

The website <https://homes.co.nz/app> used by real estate agents themselves is a valuable resource and it is available to the public free of charge.

Type a city, suburb or street address anywhere in New Zealand into the search field and you can zoom in on that area. Click the little globe icon on the left to alternate between map and satellite views.

Click the cursor over any property on the map and a new window opens, showing a street view. Scroll down that panel for a sales history, price range and rental estimates, and much more detail about the property that is on the public record, such

as rateable value, size in square metres, construction materials used and even whether there is a view.

The website is dynamic and the property values are updated in line with latest market fluctuations.

A retractable panel on the right of the screen scrolls through street views and property for sale ads.

You may think it's a bit scary just how much information is available at the click of a mouse these days but that, for better or worse, is the world we live in.

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)

## Thinking of Living in in a Retirement Village?

The Commission for Financial Capability is presenting **two FREE seminars** in the Bay of Plenty this May that are important for retirees and their families, especially those who are weighing up their next accommodation options. But **people need to register**, and that is easy to do. Materials and tea are provided for registered folks.

Our *'Thinking of living in a retirement village'* seminars are very well-received. They provide objective, neutral information about the personal, legal and financial implications of retirement villages and what happens if you get the decision to become a retirement village resident wrong!

**Tauranga: Monday, 14 May at 5.30pm:**

<https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2018/thinking-of-living-in-retirement-village/tauranga>

**These are NOT marketing events.**

Full details are posted on our website here:

<https://www.cffc.org.nz/retirement/retirement-villages/events-2/retirement-village-seminars/>

**People can also register by calling 0800 268 269.**

We encourage early registration as numbers fill fast.



## Change of Venue:

Foreign and Festival Films have changed their venue to the cinema in the Beach House, Pacific Coast Village, 210 Maranui St, Mt Maunganui. The start time has also changed to 12.30pm.

## New Convenors:

- **Astronomy** - David Gordon, phone 544 4179
- **Google Apps** - Julia Weiersmuller, phone 07 281 0887 or 021 0284 1169
- **Hikers 1** has no convener decided upon yet
- **History A** – John Hill, phone 07 578 7458. Much appreciation and many thanks to Warwick Kingston-Smith for all his time, work and attention given to this group over the years. Many thanks also to Kathy Gibbs for all her time and efforts put into her role as convener of this group.
- **Science 2** - John Denne, phone 543 9483

**Coordinators: Raewyn, Sharon, Anne and Christine.**

# Group Activities

## Writing and Words

### *A Drabble*

*by Monica Goulden*

*A Drabble is exactly one  
hundred words.  
Neither more, nor less  
It takes some manipulating  
and fiddling  
And really causes stress  
I count again, quite hopefully  
But still my brow is fraught  
Another mistake, oh stupid  
one,  
You're still just three words  
short*

*The other smarties will have it  
right  
With their cell phones or  
calculator  
I'm just not used to modern  
things  
I was never an innovator  
So, I'll turn for inspiration to  
the immortal bard  
His sonnets added up perfectly,  
Shakespearean by the yard  
What shall I write? My mind is  
void  
No wonder my pen is  
unemployed.*

Convener: Anne Lawrence, phone 572 1540.

## History of New Zealand – last 1000 years

A photo essay by Vivien Edwards of the group's day trip to the Whakatane area:

### *Tē Kura Whare* (Tuhoe's House of Wisdom & Knowledge)

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March was perfect weather for U3A's History in the Last 1,000 Years group to head for the Eastern Bay of Plenty. Geoff Willacy organised and drove the 12-seater bus. Pictured are Eileen Griffin on the left and Dorothy Stewart.



Our first stop was *Te Kura Whare*, the Tuhoe Centre in Taneatua, where we were welcomed and shown around by Maea Rurehe, who is seen in the rear of the photo talking to George and Dorothy Stewart. In the foreground Margaret Watson talks to Robin Hicks.

Maea gave us a short history. The Tuhoe tribe previously had a long-lasting negative relationship with the Crown over land confiscation and the destruction of crops used for trading. But the Crown's formal apology has enabled a turnaround whereby a positive relationship has developed. Tuhoe now looks to the future.



We admired the matai flooring in the Tribal Chamber. Maea told us about the design and building of Te Kura Whare. Tuhoi iwi worked closely with architects Jasmx and contractors Arrow International. Timber and almost all other materials were sourced locally. The building is completely self-sustainable. In 2017 it was the first New Zealand building awarded Living Building Challenge certification. At the time it was one of only 15 such buildings in the world.



Our group is reflected in the glass covering Colin McCahon's *Urewera Mural*. Originally commissioned by the Urewera National Park Board, the mural was stolen in 1997 from *Aniwaniwa* the Waikaremoana Visitor Centre. After negotiations the mural was recovered and restored by the Auckland Art Gallery. It returned to *Aniwaniwa* until the centre closed. The mural toured the country and is now cared for by Tuhoi.



*Our group gathered under an artwork by Kylie Rangiaho & Hiwirori Maynard.*



*In this artwork by Marea Timutimu, computer keys weave the stories of Tuhoi iwi.*

We gathered in the Iwi Taonga Archive room where Tuhoe tribal research records are stored. Mary Burkhardt is nearest the camera. Geoff Willacy, who drove the bus is in the centre.



These black and white hangings are made from the ink pads used in the Urewera Forest to identify pests by their footprints. Maps show the area of forest where the pads were used. Pests like stoats and rats in the Ureweras have markedly reduced.

Convener of our group George Stewart thanks Maea for guiding us on an extremely worthwhile tour.



## Whakatane Museum & Arts Centre



After leaving the Tuhoe Centre our group visited the Whakatane Museum and Arts Centre. Director Eric Holowacz and staff welcomed us, and visitor host Lois Baxter showed us around. Eric told us about the displays, which covered early Maori and European settlement in Whakatane and the surrounding region, which includes White Island (Whakaari), Whale Island (Moutohora), Kawerau and the Ureweras.

Whakatane Museum holds over 600,000 items, including significant Maori Taonga, historical archives and documents of the district. There are over 600,000 photographs, 500,000 of them from the *Whakatane Beacon*. The Research and Collections Centre in Boon Street is due to open around September when the old museum building has been refitted and extended.



Victoria Sinclair, Exhibitions Coordinator at Whakatane Museum and Arts, told us about the **Molly Morpeth 3D Award** display of around 50 3D exhibits. Seen in the photo are *'Division Chain'* by Mary Curtis and *'Painted Sticks'* by Watene Akuhata. The major award went to Deborah Rundle for *'Employee of the Month,'* a parking space displayed outside the Museum and Arts Centre.



Convener: George Stewart, phone 576 6170.

## Rialto Film Group 2

The Rialto Film Group 2 enjoyed a social afternoon at the home of the convenor, John Russell, and his wife, Jan on 14 April. We started with afternoon tea and a general catch-up and talk about films. Then as promised John had a presentation for us - he had prepared music themes from the movies and TV shows and we were tasked with coming up with the correct answers.

For the more difficult excerpts John had taken the trouble to come up with props and proceeded to don these supplemented by encouraging charade actions. What hilarity.

Not to be outdone by John, three members of the group - Jane Rhode, Jean Garmonsway and Jannie Gibbens - had prepared their own presentation. They had conspired to "shoot" their own movie *The First of Its Kind* directed by Juan Huzzy (aka Jane Rhode). These three "actresses" assisted with costume changes and accessories encouraged us to work out the following movies:





- *The Light Between Two Oceans* (two each holding a photocopy of an ocean with the third in the middle a hurricane light);
- *Darkest Hour* (a black circle with white clock hands and numbers);
- *American Pie* (an apple pie with the American flag);
- *Gone with the Wind* (a broken umbrella);
- *The Green Mile* (three green strips of paper with figures adding up to a mile);
- *The Sting* (a tube of Anthisan ointment);
- *Trainspotting* (a lady on a chair with hat and thermos and a little book and pencil);
- *Grapes of Wrath* (green grapes and charade of being angry);
- *Easter Parade* (all three dressed in hats and one carrying an Easter Egg);
- *Roman Holiday* (carrying a suitcase with pictures of Rome landmarks);
- *Lady Bird* (red cape with black spots); and
- *Silence of the Lambs* (two of them crawling on the floor draped in sheepskins and being told to shush).



What great fun was had by all – both the performers and the audience.

Convener: John Russell, phone 562 3467.

## Shakespeare Group – Shakespeare’s Birthday

When the Shakespeare Group’s regular meeting just happened to fall on the same day as the Bard’s birthday it seemed like too happy a coincidence not to celebrate.



So, at afternoon teatime there was a delicious surprise in store for members as a scrumptious looking cake appeared, bearing the inscription “Happy Birthday Will” on top.

The cake took the shape of Shakespeare’s famous Globe Theatre and had been specially made for the occasion by the daughter of one of the members.



After a rousing chorus of “Happy Birthday to You” the group gathered around to blow out the one token candle, marking 454 years since Shakespeare was born on April 23rd, 1564.



Lati Moodie, the group convener, phone 574 9028, did the honours and sliced the cake, which everyone agreed tasted every bit as good as it looked.

# Hidden Gems of NZ

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

## Enjoy the heights of old Josiah's folly

By Paul Chapman



**J**ust outside the town of Matamata stands one of New Zealand's more unusual buildings. In England, it might even be classed as a "folly".



Firth Tower, the handiwork of Josiah Clifton Firth (unofficially known as "the Duke of Matamata"), was constructed in 1882 and stands 16 metres high.

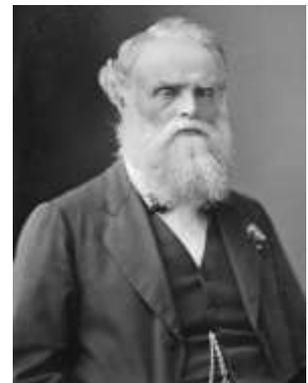
Old Josiah was a big fan of concrete – his sons went on to found what is now Firth Concrete – and that's the material he chose to build his tower with. He constructed another just like it at his other home in Mt Eden, Auckland, which by all accounts also still exists.

These days, Matamata's castellated tower is open to the public and you can climb the stairs to enjoy the views of surrounding countryside from the watchtower at the top. Small windows on an upper storey were designed to enable defensive rifle fire should the place ever come under siege and the walls are 45cm thick.

It is the centre-piece of a delightful rural museum, which also features an authentically furnished homestead set amid peaceful gardens at the heart of the 56,000-acre Matamata Estate. Among additional attractions are a historic church, an old post office, a jail, settler's cottage and barn.

A pair of railway goods wagons offer a display about the building of the Kaimai Tunnel and two scale-model train tracks set up by the Matamata Railway Modellers Club.

Josiah himself was quite a colourful figure. Born in Clifton, Yorkshire, he came out to New Zealand in the early 1850s and settled in Auckland. He began making bricks and bought an interest in a steam-powered flour mill.



By 1865 he had leased a swathe of fern and bracken covered plains around Matamata, which he broke in and planted with crops. Always a pioneer and entrepreneur, when he built his two towers concrete was still regarded as an experimental material.

To find the tower and museum follow the aptly named Tower Road for about 3km out of the town centre.

For further details about the museum see <http://www.firhtower.co.nz/> and to read more about Josiah Firth [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josiah\\_Firth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josiah_Firth)

# Member Profiles

## Olive Matthews – A U3A Tauranga Pioneer!



Olive is one of the few remaining who joined U3A when it was first incorporated in 1995. She initially joined activity groups (being the first History and Walking Groups) in 1994, the year prior to U3A Tauranga being inaugurated in 1995. She is also one of the few survivors of the approximately 50 members who first established U3A Tauranga in that year.

Now aged 87 and living in a retirement village, she still attends the English History Group meetings and gives occasional talks to the History A Group (British History). This History Group was originally led by Hilda Grey. That was in the days before computers and, through this, Olive has gained lots of phoning experience, initially taking on the role of phoning everyone in the group to remind them of their meetings and then other similar roles after that. Olive also had an active interest in the Walking Group, Antiques and many others. She still has an active interest in U3A Tauranga and its activities.

Born in Frindsbury, Kent, UK, Olive grew up there and was a young school child during WWII. She remembers these times well and was also a member of the St John Cadets during this period. Some years after that, she and her husband moved to New Zealand in 1957.

Olive and her husband had 3 children and 6 grandchildren. Her husband died over 30 years ago and then, in 1984, Olive returned to the UK, eventually returning to our shores in 1992.

Her extensive career covered many aspects of nursing, both in NZ and UK, an experience which she thoroughly enjoyed. This nursing experience included Occupational Health, Reorientation and Geriatrics (the study of the elderly) and other aspects of nursing. Olive also spent some years working in The Cheshire Homes UK, a residential home for disabled service personnel, which she found a very rewarding experience.

The retirement village in which Olive lives provides many activities such as Rummikub, film nights, happy hour on Fridays, and other activities in which she is involved. A big holiday all the time!

## Sharon Thompson – New Group Coordinator



**S**haron is one of two new Group Coordinators this year. She oversees Groups D – H and has been a Tauranga U3A member for over a year. She has been very active in U3A and a member of Antiques & Collectables and Geography Groups.

In recent times, she has come from Auckland but has had long contacts with Tauranga before then. With 2 adult children and mothering for over 10 years, she is also an animal lover and has a dog who she just adores!

Sharon's varied career and interests have included proof reader with the NZ Herald for 9 years, running a new and recyclable clothing store in St Heliers, 8 years of nannying and working with people in health and homecare. She also worked as a Community Centre Coordinator for both the Orakei Centre and then the Parnell Trust, where she was also engaged in networking and community conferences.

Her career has been a very enjoyable and creative experience, particularly working with people. Sharon enjoys her retirement, meeting and mixing and the lifestyle in Tauranga. With her U3A experience, she is enjoying getting to know her new role as a coordinator, "finding her feet" and being involved with the whole team concept and mutual support amongst the 4 group coordinators.



*I was your pilot!*

### **Quiz answers:**

1 c) Christchurch; 2 Jesus wept (John, ch11 v35); 3 Fe; 4. b) 12; 5 c) Congo (or Zaire) crosses it twice; 6 Oscar Wilde; 7 Mark Twain; 8 1984; 9 Modest Mussorgsky; 10 Jean Batten.

# It's a Funny Old World



Learn to read between the (head)lines

By Paul Chapman



During a lifetime's career in journalism I have become an avid collector of newspaper "bloopers". Some of the classic headlines from the Second World War, for example, have become legendary, such as: "British push bottles up Germans" and "Monty flies back to front". Then there was "Queen Mary having bottom scraped". The story referred to the ocean liner, of course. Britain's *Daily Express* came up with its own immortal gem in the 1950s, imperiously telling its readers: "Fog in Channel, Continent cut off".

But few can equal the banner headline on the front page of *The World*, a Vancouver-based newspaper that rushed into print on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1912, to breathlessly report: "Titanic sinking; no lives lost". Oops.

Some are unintentionally funny, if in a rather grim way. Consider: "Headless body found in topless bar" or "One-armed man applauds the kindness of strangers". Then how about: "Diana was still alive hours before she died". An incontrovertible fact but not quite as the headline writer intended.



Billboards, desperate to get readers to buy a paper, can also raise a smile, even if only because of their unapologetic parochialism. The *Croydon Advertiser* will surely be hard pressed to repeat such a world-shattering humdinger as "George Bernard Shaw's shed explodes".

# Tauranga 60+ Continuing Education Group

Venue: Otumoetai Baptist Church, 241 Otumoetai Road

## Programme of Speakers

Lectures commence at 10.00 am. Cover charge \$4.00.

Convener: David Gordon 544-4179.

Date:	Speaker:	Topic:
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 firefighter	Ann Barry's life as NZs first woman firefighter
November 20 <sup>th</sup>	Don Fraser Finance/Investment Consultant	Looking after your money and investments

**FREE senior driver refresher workshops (aged 70+). Contact Age Concern 578 2631 for more information and workshop dates.**

*"Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people".*

*- Eleanor Roosevelt*

# 2018 Executive Committee

**President:**

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**Vice President:**

Marianne Lammers - 021 804 403

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Cliff Freer – 578 9960

## Next Newsletter

**July 2018**

**Deadline for contributions is Monday 25 June 2018**

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