



U3A Tawa Incorporated

# ON COURSE Newsletter

April 2019 – No. 88

Website: [www.u3atawa.org.nz](http://www.u3atawa.org.nz)  
Email: [info@u3atawa.org.nz](mailto:info@u3atawa.org.nz)

Twitter: U3A Tawa @u3atawa  
Facebook: U3A Tawa

## Know your committee: Jasmine Thompson



Born in England, husband Kevin and Jasmine plus their two young children, Emma (4) and Ashley (2), emigrated to Whakatane in 1976. In retirement, Jasmine became an active “granny”, joined Tawa U3A, Wellington U3A, Lions and Probus and is now Treasurer of Tawa U3A, Treasurer of Probus and about to become President of Tawa Lions. Jasmine enjoys aquarobics, is in the U3A choir, the writing group, current affairs, new library books, learning the Ukulele (badly!) and building things with Meccano! All things she wish she’d started 40 years ago.

## Helen Roper returns after her wee accident

Helen surprised the Current Affairs class recently by rocking up in a wheel chair and giving the group the benefit of her views on a number of salty topics. We were surprised to see her come along and she was equally surprised to be photographed as she rolled in. Damn those phones!



## Opera at the Emmaus

Lindis Taylor’s Opera group is a revelation. The operas are shown on an ordinary white wall in the Emmaus Centre to an appreciative audience that fluctuates around the mid-twenties in size. Lindis has been showing these powerful musical works for the last twelve years. DVD sources have dried up somewhat since the first one.

The Centre offers a very good environment for screening films; it possible to achieve a high level of light exclusion despite the large scope of the space.

The one pictured is *The Mastersingers of Nuremberg* by Richard Wagner. It stars New Zealand bass Donald McIntyre and tenor Christopher Doig in lead roles. Well worth both a look and a long stay. Jaffas are allowed.



## Wonderful world of scrap-booking

The scrap-booking group has been going for 14 years. It meets in the Community Centre and rates highly for social values. At a quick glance the group of twelve (including two guys) look almost like a Board of Directors in the grand Tawa Council room. Co-leaders Margaret Williams and Anne Raven are proud of the culture they consciously look after here.

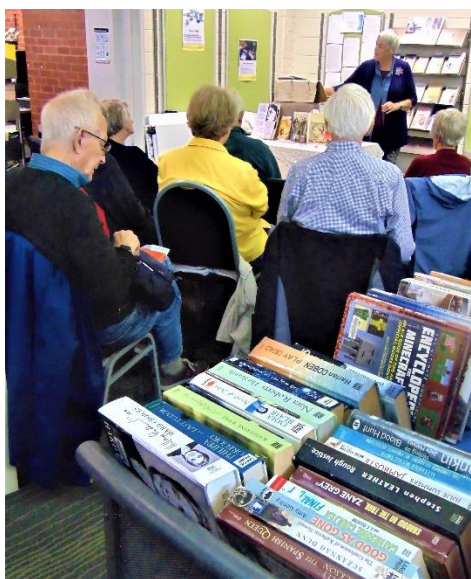
While the main focus is on scrapbooks the group also makes personal cards of many kinds. Anne notes that cards may now cost hugely and mass production makes them rather unspecific. The group’s cards are always special.

The scrap-bookers value their sociability as does Mandy (at the Centre) who delights in reading out the Dompost quiz questions as the group members sip their morning coffee and shout out the answers.



### Poets of the Depression

Mary-Lynn Boyes assisted by Pat Horan mounted her special presentation *Poetic Voices from the Great Depression* that showcased the poems of Ursula Bethell and R A K Mason. Around 20 members showed up to the 27 March one-off session.



They read the poetry to a solemn but appreciative audience. These iconic cultural works are the residue of a generation that had known and borne the scars of a punitive war and a cruel and unjust peace. People who had grievously suffered once in war were made to suffer again in “peacetime”.

NZ poetry provided a recognisable emotional home for thousands of troubled Kiwis in those awful years, telling an essential truth about the Great Depression that historians may well miss. This presentation was an important item in the U3A Tawa 2019 calendar.

Editor: Dave Smith, 232 5084, [dogsnake33@gmail.com](mailto:dogsnake33@gmail.com)  
Distribution: John Burke, 232 4477, [johnburke@xtra.co.nz](mailto:johnburke@xtra.co.nz)

### New books keep pouring in

Librarian Shelley had lined up 16 books covering fiction, non-fiction and biography. Five of them were already on prior reserve so they really do have to be back by early April. The rest we get for six weeks.

Books tabled earlier are circulating through the group so discussion and reflection are always part of the process. Lloyd Jones’ dark fable *The Cage* reappeared again as did *All this by Chance* by Vince O’Sullivan.

A good report/reading by a group member usually means that the item goes across the table being snapped up someone else. That happened with *Less* by Andrew Greer. This plodding story of an itinerant failed 50-year old writer is a Pulitzer Prize winner.



The Murakami effort *Killing Commendatore* was written off as a 680 page yawn. “It basically recycles every Murakami style of yesteryear without engaging the reader in any real way”. *The Convenience Store Woman* by Syaka Murata was an offering that went down well being quoted at length. It is a retail outlet ‘love affair’ that uses nutty but endearing expressions with a strong whiff of reality.

### Barbara Adams takes the ukele to a new level



**Disclaimer:** This newsletter is created for the interest of U3A Tawa members only. The writer and the executive make every effort to ensure that the information it contains is correct but take no responsibility for any inadvertent errors that might appear.