Abstract:
This ongoing project builds an understanding of how music is currently experienced by a social group traveling together in a car—how songs are chosen for playing, how music both reflects and influences the group’s mood and social interaction, who supplies the music, the hardware/software that supports song selection and presentation. A fine-grained context emerges from a qualitative analysis of a rich set of ethnographic data (participant observations and interviews) focusing primarily on the experience of in-car music on moderate length and longer trips. We suggest features and functionality for music software to enhance the social experience when traveling in cars.

Biosketch:

Personal Description
I received degrees in Computer Science and Asian Studies from the University of Tennessee, and a PhD in Computer Science from Louisiana State University. I have been a lecturer with the University of Waikato since 1990.

Research Interests
My research interests include, machine learning, digital libraries, computer education and computer applications in textiles. Current activities can be grouped into two main headings:

- machine learning: I am a member of the Waikato ML research group, and am particularly interested in applications of ML to text databases
- computing education: Areas of focus here include research into factors encouraging/discouraging the participation of women in tertiary computing education programs; the effective use of conferencing systems in computing courses; and an examination of library and writing anxiety in computing majors.