



Newsletter

PO Box 14453, Tauranga 3143
www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

March – April 2018

General Meetings

March

Date: Friday 16 March
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.

Mini Speaker: David Walpole
Convener of the Health Improvement Group

April

Date: Friday 20 April
Guest speaker: Katrina Light
Hearing Life, Te Puke
Masters of Audiology

Katrina will be speaking on hearing loss and the ability of hearing aids to connect wirelessly to telephones and televisions.



General meetings are held on the third Friday of every month.
10: a.m. to 12 noon
\$4.00 entry
Wesley Methodist Church Hall
100 13th Avenue Tauranga

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President's report to the 2018 AGM



2017 was a year marked by a membership generally happy with the activities on offer. We handled change and numerous challenges experienced by U3A

Tauranga. We have provided a wide range of activity groups, an interesting programme of guest and mini speakers and great opportunities to extend our social networks and make new friends.

Membership:

U3A Tauranga began 2017 with the typical 13% drop in financial members due to resignations for a wide range of reasons that mostly reflected our demographic. Without any marketing we ended the year with 892 members plus the life members. On a population basis this is an amazing level of membership.

Administration systems:

During the year I made the serendipitous discovery of Infoodle, which we have since adopted as our membership system. Key personnel will soon receive training to enable them to provide you all with improved services. The system costs about 72 cents per member per year, about the same as Xero, our financial system. Sheila Freer and Elizabeth Reeves have been the principal users of these systems and we have made efforts to provide them with backup if for any reason they are indisposed.

The name badge program continues to be led by Elizabeth Reeves. I am surprised that some members have not

uplifted the badges they have purchased.

Committees:

Thanks to Vivienne Mills and Chris Hector who contributed so much in assisting me with the rewrite of the constitution which was passed at the Election General Meeting.

Our governance will be affected by the new constitution.

Indeed, with a membership of 900 there is a requirement to treat governance seriously.

Several members have chosen to retire from their committee roles and move onto new challenges, so we say thank you for your contributions and expertise. They include Jean Garmonsway, Maryellyn Carr, Kathleen Fraser, Kit Divehall, and Bev Taylor from the Executive. Our Archivist Margaret Douglas has also had to retire.

It was with sadness that I acknowledged the passing of Alan Freer our photographer. Alan was a great example of a volunteer. Rest in peace Alan.

A few of the committee have opted to take on new roles and I thank you all for your continued commitment.

Jan Holden has produced an excellent Handbook for 2018. It has undergone some format changes that I hope the members enjoy. It is designed to enable digital updates to be made available periodically.

The newsletter has gone from strength to strength under the care of Kit

Divehall, Jan Holden and Heather Landon.

The four group coordinators have done a great job meeting with new members, providing support to the conveners and generally supporting every need of the 100 plus groups.

In summary my sincere thanks to everyone who has served on the executive, in subcommittee roles and as volunteers, and provided time and energy to the betterment of U3A.

Sponsorship:

We are grateful to have received a COGS grant of three thousand dollars to develop and improve our administration systems and other matters. Given our confidence that U3A will continue to thrive, we will not apply for such a grant this year.

External relationships:

We have a close relationship with the Continuing Education program and have tried to increase their exposure via the website.

I continue to represent you on the Tauranga Health Liaison group. We are now being recognised as an important community group by the Tauranga City Council.

General meetings:

The general meetings continue to be well received and attended. Attendance is limited by parking constraints. We have continued with our good relationship with the Wesley Church, and the Maungatapu Kindergarten, who provide an excellent morning tea. Bruce Furze has organised a variety of interesting speakers throughout the year and only

once did we have to resort to our emergency back-up speakers. Thank you, David Gordon, for stepping into the breach on that occasion.

Rob Heath has continued in his role of organising our mini speakers, who have covered a wide range of interesting topics.

It has transpired that Cynthia and Tom Fielding were irreplaceable as organisers of the church venue. Thank you to all who chipped in to perform this task on an ad hoc basis. We have now arranged for the church staff to do this task for us in the meantime.

Thanks to Peter Simmons and his team who ensure that we have PowerPoint, video and audio available at all our monthly meetings. There is a lot of pre-meeting work involved in this service.

Thanks to our photographers Cliff Freer, and the late Alan Freer, and to all involved in the setting up of the poster displays for the election general meeting.

Groups:

We provide about 100 groups for members. There are several popular group types for which there are multiple offerings. I offer my thanks to the generosity of the conveners who give freely of their time and energy. There are a number who have retired and a special thanks to you all. Thanks also to the 4 coordinators whose leadership makes sure that new members are welcomed and that conveners are supported in many different ways.

Website:

Thank you, Brian Wood, Webmaster, for the years of service given to the development and maintenance of the U3A Tauranga website. With Jim Pryor as the new webmaster will 2018 be a year of reflection and consolidation or a year of renewal, enhancement and new functionality?

Recommendations / Aspirations for 2018

In the constitution the rules invite the President to speak freely in the report.

We need to:

- Strengthen our governance to meet the needs of our growing membership.
- Investigate the possibility of providing a lecture series in the Mount/Papamoa area in acknowledgment of our growing membership on the oceanside and the increasing traffic and

parking issues we experience due to Tauranga's growth outstripping transport infrastructure.

- Encourage our membership to volunteer for various roles to ease the burden on the few. We need to implement greater recognition for contributions made to our U3A.
- Make the most of Infoodle by appropriate training and introduce the ability to contact individuals or groups and to share information and stories by way of ebulletins.
- Be active in making our community aware of U3A and its offerings.
- Strengthen our input into various community groups.

Thank you
John Powell
President

Facts and Figures to Date

Financial members as at 22 Feb 2018	688
Members with subscriptions owing	207
Life members	10
TOTAL	905
Number of Groups:	102

Have you collected your name badge yet?

There are many name badges that have been paid for, but have not yet been collected! As they cannot be posted, please collect yours at the next General Meeting.

February Meeting

The first general meeting of the year was held in February and began with the AGM. John Powell presided over the formalities such as receiving the President's and Treasurer's Reports and the introduction of the 2018 committee members and responsibility holders. John also thanked those members who were retiring from committee positions.

Then John introduced a very special event, that of conferring Life Members Awards on Vivienne Mills (left photo) and Jean Garmonsway (right photo).



The guest speaker was Ray Dumble, who is the Chief Executive of the Tauranga Airport. Ray gave a very interesting, humorous and informative talk on the history of the airport's development, its present capacity and future developments. Some interesting facts and statistics he gave included:

- The first aircraft to land in Tauranga (not at the current site) was a bi-wing Boeing One.
- 1939 – the current airport at the Mount opened. Union Airways were operating DH86 aircraft.
- 1950 – DC3 services commenced
- 1966 – a sealed runway was constructed as well as the terminal building and air traffic control tower built.
- 1967 – Fokker Friendship turbo-prop services commenced.
- Currently the airport has 50,000 flight movements per year.
- In 2017 there were 386,000 passengers.
- Turnover in 2016/17 year was \$5.2 million and the airport requires no rate-payer funding.
- From April this year, Air New Zealand is increasing its flights in and out of Tauranga to Wellington, Christchurch and Auckland by 19%.
- The terminal building is being extensively expanded this year.

February Meet & Greet Team



Rialto 2 Group

Member Profile

Raewyn Gallagher



Raewyn has taken on the role of coordinator for Groups A to C a year after joining U3A Tauranga.

She became a member on returning to her home city, which she left 54 years earlier, having lived for the past few years in Auckland.

A former pupil at Tauranga Girls' College and student at Otago University, Raewyn spent her working life in the hospitality industry overseas.

Her career, which led to her becoming a hotelier with a large international conglomerate, took her to Spain, Vietnam, France, the United Kingdom and Australia, as well as involving some work in the Pacific Islands. "I loved it," she says.

Raewyn has also returned to an early love, the Spanish language, and has joined U3A Tauranga's Spanish Conversation Group to brush up her knowledge.

Quiz Corner

Test your general knowledge with these questions. **Answers on page 15**

1. Which is the most northerly of the Channel Islands:
a) Sark, b) Guernsey, or c) Alderney?
2. Arachnophobia is the fear of what?
3. What is the collective name for a group of crows?
4. Who directed the 2017 film remake of Murder on the Orient Express?
5. Mozart was born in which country?
6. In which country did Mulligatawny soup originate?
7. Who reportedly said: "Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the universe"?
8. Which seafarer was knighted in April 1581 after his circumnavigation of the world?
9. Which of these New Zealand cities is further north: New Plymouth or Napier?
10. What is the distance between Sydney and Auckland:
a) 1,964km, b) 2,158km c) 2,427km?

Group Coordinators' Report

Happy New Year from the Coordinators Team!

Coordinators

Our heartfelt thanks to Kathleen Fraser and Marianne Lammers for their sterling work as co-ordinators for the past two years. We are looking forward to working with our conveners and groups this year. Please be patient as we welcome the two new coordinators, Raewyn Gallagher (A-C groups) and Sharon Thompson (D-H groups).



New Groups

The new iPad 2 group will meet on the second Monday of the month at 2pm at the Raft Café board room. The convener is Jo Ann Ingram phone. 578 3606.

There will be a meeting to set up the Rialto Film 3 group at Christine Denne's house on Friday, 2 March at 10.30 am. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Please phone Christine on 543 9483.

Possible New Group

If anyone is interested in joining a second Scrabble group, please contact Christine on phone 543 9483.

Spanish

Last year's convener of Spanish for Beginners and Spanish Intermediate is working with a potential tutor and if these two groups reconvene, details will be posted on the website.

Change of Conveners

The Convener for Philosophy 1 has changed and is now Charles Akers, phone 652 3688. The group will meet only once a month on the 3rd Thursday. We sincerely thank Judith Callow for the work, time and expertise she has given to that group.

The Convener for Classical Music has changed and we now have Pam and Ross Henderson sharing the role. Phone 543 3133. Again, we acknowledge the work and expertise of David Munro while he convened the group and thank him sincerely.

The new convener for Science 2 will be announced on the website shortly.

Change of Date for Conveners Meeting

The Handbook shows the date for the first conveners' meeting as 30 March which transpires to be Good Friday so this meeting will now be held on Wednesday, 30 May. Please change the date in your Handbooks.

Groups Actively Seeking New Members

Ballet Appreciation
Cycle group
Latin
Lone Rangers 2
Luncheon 1 & 2
Mah Jong
Nature Study
Opera 1 & 2
Philosophy 1

Photo Fun
Photography 2
Rummikub 1 (two members)
Science 2
Singing for Joy
Yoga 2
Writing and Word Group (two members)

Co-ordinators: Raewyn, Sharon, Anne and Christine

Hidden Gems of NZ

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



All sorts of everything in Geoff's museum

By Paul Chapman

Thanks to the quirky sculptured metal buildings along its main street, Tirau claims the title "Corrugated Iron Capital of New Zealand". But what's not so well known is that the little Waikato town also boasts a remarkable privately owned museum.



Tirau Museum, which lies about 3km out of town along SH5 to Rotorua (look for the black and yellow sign), is an often overlooked gem that offers a delightful hour or two of browsing among an eclectic and quirky collection of artefacts.



Geoff Ernst

The museum exists thanks to the lifetime's work of owner and self-confessed magpie Geoff Ernst, who is something of a national treasure himself and has a wry sense of humour.

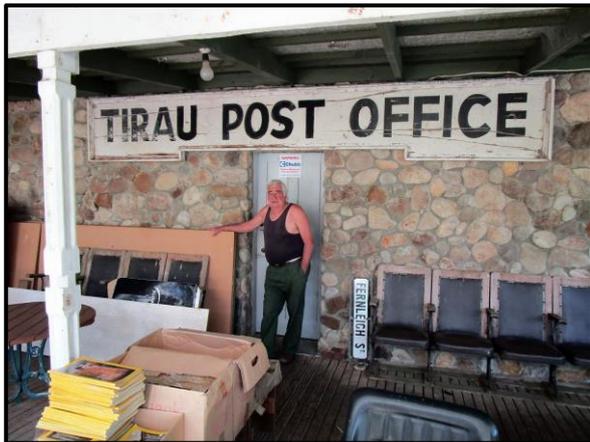
Many of the objects he has saved would have been lost forever if not for his determination to rescue them, some he has been given, others he has travelled the length of the country to acquire.

Among the museum's treasures are a vintage saloon built by the American car maker Oakland, a variety of agricultural implements, an old grocery store filled with goodies from yesteryear ... and that's just for starters.

There are rows of assorted bottles and honey pots, shelves of tobacco tins, coins, medals, more cars, classic motorcycles, a horse-drawn carriage ... you name it.

Probably the largest sewing machine you ever saw was used for stitching ships' sails. It was presented to the museum by Sir Bob Owens.

Not least are rare objects from the Roman city of Pompeii, which was engulfed by the eruption of Mt Vesuvius in 79AD, that have found their way into Geoff's collection.



A section devoted to war relics features a fully restored World War II mini-motorcycle. The Welbike or "Corgi" was designed to be dropped from a plane in a crate to enable parachutists to quickly ride out of the drop zone.

Entry costs just \$5. The museum does not have a website – "I wouldn't even know how to turn a computer on," says Geoff – but you can find more information at <https://tirauinfo.co.nz/attractions/tirau-museum/>

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

Group News

Attention Group Conveners

We would love to hear about the activities of your group. Articles, together with a photograph (if possible), would be very welcome. Creative groups – here is an opportunity to display your members' talents by allowing us to publish short stories, poems, memoir extracts, art, photography etc. Please send to:

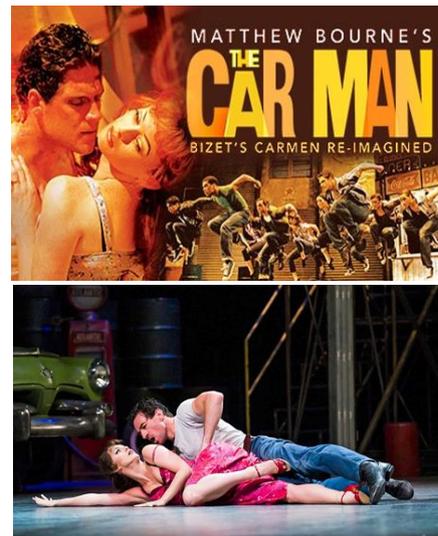
newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Ballet Appreciation

Ballet Appreciation is a new group which started in November last year. Although our list of members totals 13 at present, attendances have been quite low.

At present we are meeting at the home of Margaret Osbourn in Hairini. Margaret has a huge selection of ballet DVDs on an external hard drive, which means we are spoilt for choice.

We watched Matthew Bourne's production of Car Man, one of his most popular works. This ballet uses the music of Carmen to portray a story about a garage workshop, its mechanics, their girlfriends and a drifter who comes into town and is employed by the owner of the garage. The production is quite confronting, depicting raunchy interaction between the girls and the boys, as well as some very violent interchanges with the boys. A murder results with the wrong man being arrested. Not a pretty ballet, but extremely well choreographed, of which critics' comments include "full of dramatic and choreographic juice", "sizzling and fizzing with lust" and "a fast moving thriller that contains all the elements of a film noir".



Above: A scene from "Alice in Wonderland"

Our next ballet will be "Alice in Wonderland".

Please contact the Convener, Kathleen Fraser, phone 576 2175, if you are interested in joining us.

Groups Looking for New Members

Ballet Appreciation (refer to item above)

As well as showing DVDs the group intends to go to live performances where possible. Convener: Kathleen Fraser, phone 576 2175.



Cycle group

This is a fine weather group, so join in the rides and assist with ideas of places to cycle. Convener: Robert Lucas, phone 543 0978.



Latin

Enjoy as we may never have done at school, the language, history and innumerable influences, linguistic, cultural, historical and admonitory, of the Ancient Romans on all of us today. Latin does require some prior knowledge. Convener/Tutor: David Gordon, phone 544 4179.

Lone Rangers 2

Prospective members are more than welcome to attend a meeting to gauge whether this group will suit their needs. Members are all solo seniors and they are encouraged to bring ideas to the meetings regarding places they would like to visit, whether it be

a lunch, a picnic, a movie, a walk, a day trip, a few days away or an overseas trip. Convener: Jane Rode, phone 021 1935459.



Luncheon 1 & 2

These groups meet for lunch at various restaurants for members to enjoy social contact and friendship. Convener Luncheon 1: Ina Oliver, phone 544 5047. Convener Luncheon 2: Sue Reynolds, phone 543 3101.

Mah Jong

This is a small, friendly and relaxed group comprising players from beginners to experienced. Convener: Karen Trebes, phone 572 4126.



Nature Study

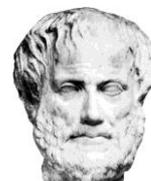
This group consists of members who appreciate the flora and fauna of New Zealand and enjoy experiencing bush and seascape during organised walks. Convener: Mary Sanson, phone 571 2509

Opera 1 & 2

These groups enjoy an opera in a member's home. One member chooses the opera (it does not necessarily have to be a complete opera, it can be favourite arias or overtures) and each member researches the opera and the artists prior to the viewing. Following the opera members discuss the performance of the opera and the artists. Convener Opera 1: Rob & Rosemary Heath, phone 574 6468 - based mainly at the Mount/Papamoa. Convener Opera 2: Kathleen Fraser, phone 576 2175 - based mainly in Tauranga.

Philosophy 1

This group has a lot of fun debating the historical and current philosophies that inform our thinking on morals, ethics, politics, justice and many other diverse topics. Convener: Charles Akers, phone 652 3688.



Aristotle

Photo Fun

A group sharing their knowledge on how to enhance and work with photographs taken on our various cameras. A computer, laptop or iPad is necessary. Convener: Jill Farr, phone 544 1408.

Photography 2



Betty – Mural at the Mount



Judi – Rural Graffiti

Above are examples of photographs from the Photography 1 group, where members were required to submit a set piece of either a mural or graffiti.

The purpose of photography groups is to enjoy photography whilst learning how to improve photographic skills and to become more proficient in the use of digital cameras. Meetings are arranged for indoors where members discuss the merits of our photographic efforts whilst viewing them using a PowerPoint presentation. On occasions indoor meetings are substituted with an outing to a chosen place of interest, for taking photographs. Convener: Pam Henderson, phone 543 3133.

Rummikub 1

This is a fast-paced game, using tiles, to challenge each player's skill. It is entertaining and fun to play with grandchildren or any group. Convener: Aileen Pringle, phone 576 5551.



Science 2

Areas of interest could include recent advances in medicine, physics, neuroscience, agriculture, zoology, ecology, etcetera - anything that doesn't intrude on the existing Astronomy or Geology groups. An existing knowledge of science subjects is not needed. Convener: Barry Jones, phone 777 0118.

Singing for Joy

Any U3A member can come anytime to sing songs new and old, learn something new and enjoy fellowship and fun.



Not a choir, just a group blending in song. Convener: Maggie Windsor-Brown, phone 578 4297.

Writing and Words

Members of this group enjoy writing short stories, poems and working with words. Convener: Anne Lawrence, phone 572 1540.



I wondered why
the baseball kept
getting bigger.
Then it hit me.

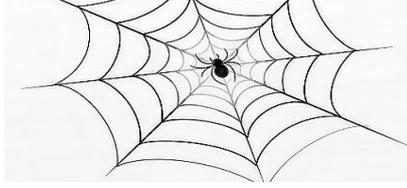
I Dream of a Better Tomorrow



Where chickens can cross roads, and not have
their motives Questioned

A backward
poet writes
inverse.

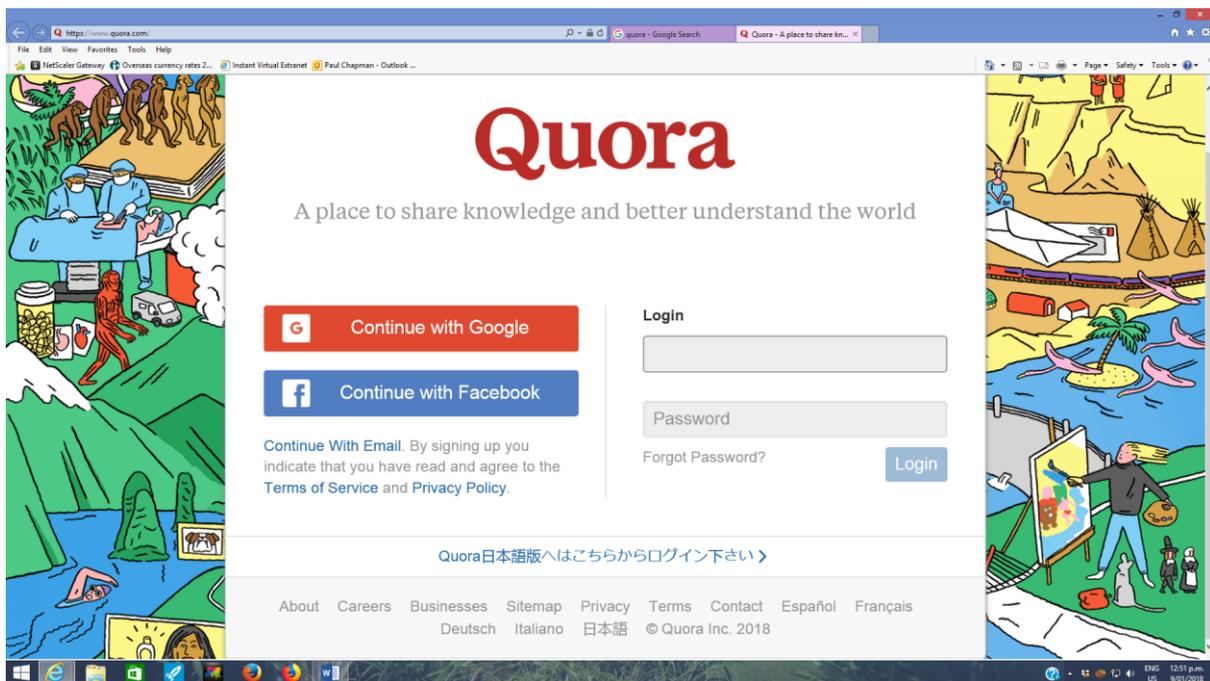
Wonders of the Web



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

All you ever wanted to know and more

By Paul Chapman



If you haven't signed up to Quora yet, it could be that you don't know what you are missing.

The website, www.quora.com, is a worldwide question and answer forum where anyone can ask any question and wait for answers to roll in, often (though not always) supplied by people who are impressively learned in that particular subject.

Feel free to ask or answer anything, or you can just sit back and browse through the questions and answers without saying a word.

You can also enjoy reading the email that will drop into your inbox almost daily containing examples of the latest questions asked and answered on subjects of interest to you.

Best of all, it's free. The most daunting thing about joining Quora is clicking on all the correct pictures on the sign-up page to prove you are human and not a robot. At least you only have to do that the first time.

Persevere past the picture quiz and you will be invited to click on subjects of particular interest to you. Don't worry if you miss a few, you can always add any subjects you wish to know more about later.

One Tauranga U3A member who typed her favourite subject "Charles Dickens" into the Quora search window tells me she spent days diving in and out of the website reading up on the fascinating exchanges she found.

California-based Quora was started by two former Facebook staffers and was opened as a public forum in 2010.

True, there are other question and answer websites but Quora is the most comprehensive and endlessly fascinating I have yet found.

Do you have a favourite website you'd like to share with members? Email the address to newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Age Concern Tauranga Presents: Staying Safe Driver Refresher Workshop for Senior Drivers

Refresh your knowledge and understanding on -

- Intersection rules and use of roundabouts
- Road markings and signs
- Searching and scanning
- Car care and maintenance
- Medication and driving
- Rural and urban driving



- ✓ Free to Senior Drivers aged 70 plus
- ✓ No test or exam
- ✓ The workshop starts at 9:30am and finishes at 1:30pm
- ✓ Tea and coffee will be provided. Please bring your lunch
- ✓ Workshops are free and theory based (meaning we're not going to be behind the steering wheel of a car)
- ✓ To register, contact Age Concern Tauranga on (07) 578 2631
- ✓ If these dates aren't suitable, please contact Age Concern and place your name on the waiting list and state your preferred location.

Upcoming workshops:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| ➤ Mount Maunganui RSA, 544 Maunganui Road | Tuesday 6th March |
| ➤ Greerton Senior Citizens Hall, 33 Maitland Street | Friday 9th March |
| ➤ Matua Bowling Club, 108 Levers Road | Tuesday 20th March |
| ➤ Papamoa Community Centre, 15 Gravatt Road | Thursday 22nd |

It's a Funny Old World



What's in a name? Quite a lot of letters

By Paul Chapman

New Zealand lays claim to the longest place name in the world – and it has been officially recognised as such by Guinness World Records.

TaumatawhakatangiHangakoauauotamateaturipukakapikimaunga-horonukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu is a hill near the town of Porangahau, south of Waipukurau in southern Hawke's Bay. Should you try to pronounce it out loud and you are not a fluent Te Reo Maori speaker, don't blame us if you end up with your tongue in a twist.

That 85-letter name translates as: "The summit where Tamatea, the man with the big knees, the climber of mountains, the land-swallower who travelled about, played his nose flute to his loved one."

According to the legend, Tamatea's story is actually quite a sad one. A noted chief and explorer, he was passing through the area when he got into a battle in which his brother was killed.

Poor old Tamatea was so grief-stricken that he would climb the hill every morning and play a lament for his lost brother on his koauau (flute) that echoed across the surrounding hills.

By comparison, the longest place name in Europe comes in at a mere 58 letters. It is, of course, the Welsh village of Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch, though the name usually gets shortened to Llanfair P.G. for everyone's convenience.

It translates to English as "Saint Mary's Church in a hollow of white hazel near the rapid whirlpool of the church of Saint Tysilio with a red cave."

Once again, New Zealand outshines its neighbour across the Tasman Sea. The longest place name our Aussie cousins can claim is Mamungkukumpurangkuntjunya, at a mere 26 letters.

In any case, the place is probably best avoided. The Aboriginal name translates, somewhat unappealingly, as "Where the devil urinates."

You might also want to avoid Bovenendvankeelafsnysleegte, at 27 letters the longest place name in South Africa. It means "Upper end of throat-cut valley."

Answers to Quiz on Page 6

1. Alderney; 2. Spiders; 3. A murder; 4. Kenneth Branagh; 5. Austria; 6. India;
7. Albert Einstein; 8. Sir Francis Drake; 9. New Plymouth; 10. 2,158km.

2018 Executive Committee

President:

John Powell - 575 4540

Vice President:

Marianne Lammers - 021 804 403

Immediate Past President:

Vivienne Mills - 574 3133

Secretary:

Lati Moodie – 574 9028

u3atauranga@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Elizabeth Reeves - 562 2767

treasurer@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Group Coordinators:**Groups A to C:**

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a2c.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Groups D to H:

Sharon Thompson – 542 3653

d2h.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

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Anne Withy - 579 0430

i2p.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Groups R to Z:

Christine Denne - 543 9483

r2z.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

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Sheila Freer - 576 5243

Speakers/General Meeting Organiser:

Bruce Furze – 579 1627

Publicity Officer:

To be advised

Non-Committee Roles:**Almoner:**

Angela Dold – 571 6767

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data@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

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Cliff Freer – 578 9960

Webmaster:

Jim Pryor – 219 7840

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Mini Speaker Organiser:

Rob Heath - 574 6468.

Next Newsletter

May 2018

Deadline for contributions is Monday 23 April 2018

Editor: *Jan Holden - Ph 543 3747* newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz