

Next General Meetings

March

Date: Fri 15 March
Time: 10.00 am – 12.00 noon
Venue: Wesley Methodist Church, 100 13th Avenue

Entry Fee: \$5.00

Guest Speaker: Bryce Hamer
Director of Bay Physiotherapy Centre. He will be speaking on exercising in relation to injuries.



April

There will be **no General Meeting in April** due to the date falling on Good Friday



General Meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of every month except for **December and January** (or **Easter** if the date coincides with **Good Friday**)

In this issue ...

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| General Meetings | 1 |
| Quiz Corner | 2 |
| President's Message | 3 |
| Facts & Figures | 3 |
| President's Report to AGM | 4-6 |
| February Meetings | 7-8 |
| Wonders of the Web | 8-9 |
| Group Coordinators' Report | 10-11 |
| Hidden Gems of NZ | 12-13 |
| Group Activities | 14-16 |
| Quiz Answers | 16 |
| Cultural Activities can help prevent depression in older age | 17 |
| It's a Funny Old World | 18-19 |
| 2019 Committee Contacts | 20 |
| Next Newsletter | 20 |

Newsletter Team:

Jan Holden - Editor and Layout Design

Paul Chapman - Quiz and Feature Articles

Kit Divehall - Interviews and Proofreading

Cliff Freer - Meeting Photographs



Quiz Corner

Test your general knowledge with these questions. Answers on page 16.

- 1 What is the name of the nearest star to earth?
- 2 What country contains the most northerly point of Africa:
a) Morocco; b) Algeria; c) Tunisia?
- 3 In Roman Numerals calculate the sum of: LXVIII + XXXII.
- 4 Which of these elements is named after a country:
a) Scandium; b) Ruthenium; c) Rhodium?
- 5 Which film famously features the line, "Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn"?
- 6 What two colours mainly fill the sky in *The Scream*, by Edvard Munch?
- 7 What is measured in the Scoville Scale:
a) the relative height of mountains; b) the heat of chillis; c) the force of tornadoes?
- 8 Who performed the first human-to-human heart transplant?
- 9 How many months have 28 days?
- 10 Bob's father has four sons. Tom Dick and Harry are three of them. What is the name of the fourth?





President's Message



Dear Members

I am taking this opportunity to thank the new Committee and Committee Support of 2019 for volunteering their time and expertise to U3A Tauranga for this year. I am looking forward to working with you all.

I would like to thank John Powell for his huge contribution as President for the last 2 years, especially taking us forward with new technology.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution that Vivienne Mills has made to our organisation. Vivienne has served on the committee in the roles of Group Coordinator, Vice President, President and Immediate Past President.

She has given a huge number of hours of her time for U3A Tauranga. I wish her all the very best for the future.

Plans for this year include further development of Infoodle and training for relevant committee members and extra General Meetings in the Mount/Papamoa areas. The first of these was a well-attended meeting held on Tuesday, 26 February at the Arataki Community Centre (refer to pp 7-8 for more information about this meeting). We have plans to hold further meetings in the Papamoa area.

Finally, I would like to thank you, all our members, for your continued support of U3A Tauranga.

Regards
Jean Garmonsway
President



Facts and Figures to Date



| | |
|-----------------------------------------|------------|
| Financial members as at 8 February 2019 | 664 |
| Life members | 10 |
| TOTAL | 674 |
| Subscriptions owing | 237 |
| Number of Groups: | 96 |



2018 President's Report to AGM



During 2018 we have continued to provide a diverse range of activity based and academic groups as well as providing an interesting program of guest and mini speakers and of course opportunities to make new friends.

Membership:

U3A Tauranga began 2018 with the typical drop in financial members due to resignations for a wide range of reasons mostly as a result of life journey changes. Without any recruitment effort we again ended the year with 901 members plus the life members. On a population basis this remains an amazing level of membership when compared to U3A in other NZ cities. Sheila Freer has provided great administration services in 2018.

Administration Systems:

We continue to use Xero and Infoodle as our core information systems. The Infoodle product has developed incredibly since we have been a customer. During the year a number of us attended their user conference, learned a lot and met other customers. They even have website development associates that offer special rates to organisations like ours. Further Infoodle training will be undertaken by key personal during the year.

Elizabeth Reeves continues in the role of Treasurer and champions the name badge program. I am continually surprised how some members have not uplifted the badges they have purchased.

Committees:

Our governance has been smoothly transitioned to the new constitution. I expected that fewer committee members would attend the monthly meeting, but they are all so keen to participate in running your U3A we regularly have 12 plus attendees all making a significant contribution.

Several members have chosen to retire and move onto new challenges, so we say thank you for your contributions and expertise. They include Vivienne Mills and Heather Landon. Some of the committee have opted to take on new roles and I wish you all the best for your continued commitment.

Margaret Marsh and others have produced an excellent Handbook for 2019. The digital version with updates will be made available periodically

The Newsletter has maintained high standards under the leadership of Jan Holden together with Heather Landon, Paul Chapman and Kit Divehall. We have now filled the role of Publicity Officer.

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 provided time and energy to the betterment of U3A who has served on the Executive, in support roles and as volunteers.

Sponsorship:

At the wish of the members we have not sought any external funding for projects or other activities this year.

External Relationships:

We have a close relationship with the Continuing Education Program and have continued to help their exposure via the website.

I have continued to represent you on the Bay of Plenty DHB Health Liaison Group and the Age Friendly City team of the Tauranga City Council.

Marianne Lammers has shown leadership in providing talks about U3A to other interested organisations.

General Meetings:

The General Meetings continue to be well received and attended. There are still parking constraints. We have continued our good relationship with the Wesley Church and the Maungatapu Kindergarten who provide an excellent morning tea.

Bruce Furze has again organised a variety of interesting speakers throughout the year. Rob Heath has also continued in his role of organising our mini speakers.

As you are all aware the Church relocated us from the hall into the church itself due to earthquake susceptibility of the hall. We have been advised that mid-March/April may be the time when the hall can be used by us again. There have been promises of better air-conditioning, acoustics and audio-visual systems.

During the year we were advised of increased costs for the morning tea, the Executive has subsidised members until recently. Members will be required to pay the full catering cost going forward.

We have now arranged for the church staff to set up and clean up after meetings.

Thanks to Peter Simmons and his team who ensure that we have PowerPoint, video and audio available at all our monthly meetings. Peter has also provided training for users in the proper use of our new projector. He has also maintained our asset register in Infoodle.

Thanks 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. May I offer my thanks to the generosity of the conveners who give freely of their time and energy. The mix of groups has changed over the year, that to me reflects the dynamic needs of our members are being met. There were a number of conveners and coordinators who have retired and a special thanks to you all. Thanks also to the coordinators whose leadership makes sure that new members are welcomed and that conveners are supported in many different ways. For various reasons they were tested during the year but managed anyway.

Website:

Jim Pryor has been the Webmaster for 2018 and made some needed improvements. The Executive has found the usage statistics of interest.

Recommendations/Aspirations for 2019

In the constitution the rules invite the President to speak freely in the report. We need to continuously improve our administration and be responsive to the changing needs of our membership. This year we had a surplus income over expenditure of \$500 equivalent to 25-member subs. If we want to retain the sub of \$20 we will have to be prudent to maintain our capital reserves.

I would like to see us hold more general meetings in the Mount /Papamoa area. This will hopefully share around the traffic and parking issues that have only worsened over the last year.

The new Tauranga University campus opens this year and we should partner with them wherever possible.

I repeat that we need to encourage our membership to volunteer for various roles to ease the burden on the few. While we have shown greater recognition of our volunteers, we need to do more.

Let's make the most of Infoodle, our primary business system, by appropriate training of a wider range of people.

Let's continue to be active in making our wider community aware of U3A and its offerings.

Finally let's enrich our communities by being a great organisation.

It has been a pleasure to serve you all over the last 2 years and I wish Jean every success for the next 2 years.

Thank you
John Powell
President 2017/2018



Autumn vineyard – Lake Wanaka



February Meetings



The AGM was held on 15 February. The Executive Committee for 2019 (which was elected last November) was welcomed and the photo on the left shows the outgoing President, John Powell, with

incoming President,

Jean Garmonsway. The photo on the right shows the handover of the Vice President's badge by Marianne Lammers to the new Vice President, Anne Withy.



After the formalities of the AGM and morning tea, the meeting was addressed by the guest speaker, Dr Sam Kain. Sam is a Consultant Ophthalmologist at Tauranga Eye Specialists and Tauranga Hospital. He is also a Director of Glaucoma NZ. He spoke about several common eye conditions, including glaucoma, their nature, treatment and effect upon individuals. He also stressed the need for regular eye checks which we all should attend to. These checks are for much more than mere vision and include checks for various eye conditions.



Sam also mentioned Glaucoma NZ who are active in creating nationwide awareness and education programmes for both the public and health professionals involved in glaucoma care. Half of those with glaucoma don't know they have it. Many thousands who have the condition and are not aware of it. Because it is almost impossible to detect peripheral vision loss, glaucoma can be developing without you realising and is the leading cause of preventable blindness in NZ. See www.glaucoma.org.nz.



An extra General Meeting was held on 26 February at the Arataki Centre in Mount Maunganui. There were approximately 90 people in attendance, the majority of whom were U3A members and about 5 or 6 prospective

members. The photo on the left shows attendees arriving for the start of the meeting.

In the first part of the meeting there were three mini presentations about some groups that are active or about to start on the Mount side of the bridge. The photo on the right is of Shirley Arabin, the Convener of History C, who spoke about this new history group, which is now established and looking for



some additional members. The group is initially focussing on the history of North America.



The guest speaker was Annis Parker, speaking on the topic of, *“Being personally prepared for natural disasters/events over which we have no control”*. Amazingly Annis has experienced in her life time eight natural disasters in different parts of the world – everything from floods, cyclones, wild fires, typhoons and earthquakes, including the Christchurch earthquakes. Annis was able to give some very useful advice on how to prepare yourself for the eventuality of being in the middle of a natural disaster. While Annis gave a list of items for an emergency kit, similar to what Civil Defence might issue, she also gave other very practical tips such as having all your important documents (legal documents, insurance policies, passports etc) in one folder that is easy to grab in a hurry. To also have a list in your emergency kit of all the items that should be in the kit as well as those other things you need to gather at the last minute, such as medicines, charger for your phone, warm clothes etc. Imagine if you only had 10 minutes to evacuate your house – what things would you take? Having a check list means that in a stressful situation you won’t forget any critical items. Another important tip is to always have your car full of fuel.

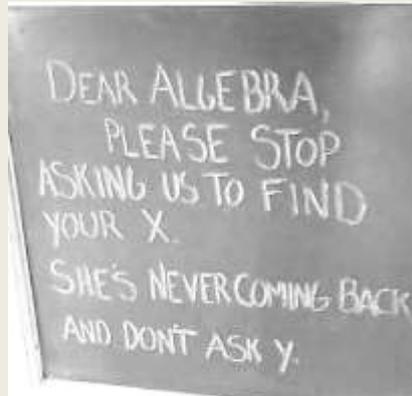


Meet and Greet Teams

AGM – Writers Inc



Arataki Meeting



Wonders of the Web



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

What in the world is the weather doing?

By Paul Chapman

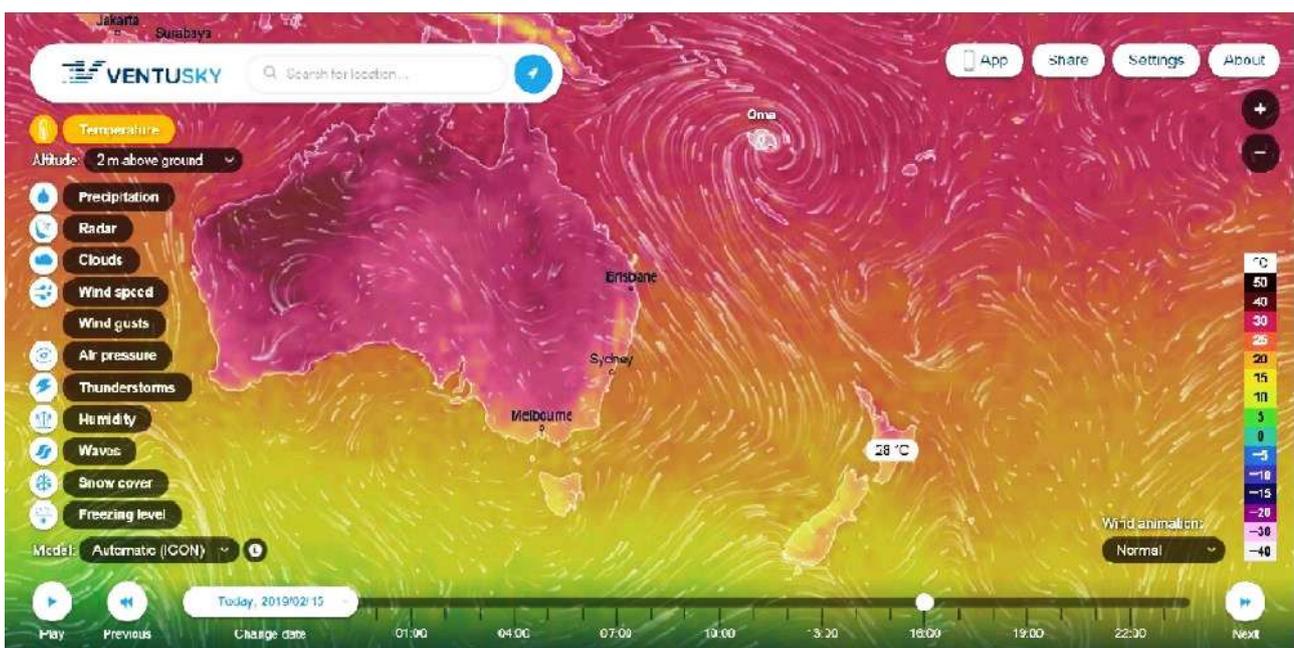
There are plenty of websites and apps dedicated to forecasting the weather and telling you what's going on outside your window, MetService being one of New Zealand's most popular.

But one website takes things much further, giving a satellite's eye view of every weather event as it occurs around the world. Users of www.ventusky.com can see a wealth of up-to-the minute and highly accurate information from weather devices that until recent years was available only to professional meteorologists.

The website is free to use. So is the handy Ventusky app available for mobiles, though that gives the option of paying for more detailed information that may be free on the website.

On the website, use the wheel on your mouse to zoom in on any particular geographical area or pan out to the point where you have the entire planet in view. Or you can type the name of a place you wish to look at in the Search window at top left.

The chart defaults to temperatures. The screenshot below shows the situation around New Zealand and Australia during February's spell of hot, dry days. Near



the top of the chart you can see Tropical Cyclone Oma bearing down on our island neighbours in the Pacific.

Colours depict temperature zones. Hover the mouse over any spot to see the local temperature, in this case 28C was showing up for Tauranga.

You can click on the tabs at left to toggle what the chart shows – in addition to temperature there is the choice of precipitation, images from rain radar, cloud cover, wind speed, air pressure, and much more including even wave height.

Move the slider at the bottom of the screen from the present time to look at the situation several hours ago (to the left) or the predicted movement of weather systems in the hours to come (to the right).

Go to the Settings tab on the right of the screen if you wish to change anything, such as seeing temperatures in degrees Fahrenheit rather than Centigrade, or rainfall in inches instead of millimetres.

Don't forget, if you want to know what weather the rellies anywhere around the world are experiencing, you can zoom out with a turn of the mouse wheel. Move around the globe's surface by holding down the left button on your mouse and dragging the map across the screen, then zoom in anywhere by using the wheel again. Or use the Search window. Happy weather watching!

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



Golden Carpet – Yatton Park, Autumn 2018 (photo by Jan Holden)



Group Coordinators' Report

Handbook Updates/Corrections:

- **History C: Mount/Papamoa**
Meetings: 4th Thursday of the month
Time: 1.30pm
- **Current Events A:** Change of Convener as Anne Gudex has resigned.
New conveners: Val & Phil Sheldon, phone 576 5798
- **The final New Members' Meeting** of the year **will be held on the 6th November, not the 9th** as published in the Handbook.

Proposed Groups/Courses:

- **Book Club** (Mount/Papamoa)
- **Garden Ramblers 3**
We have conveners available for both these groups when numbers allow formation. If you are interested, contact the relevant Group Coordinator.
- **Te Reo** Three people so far have indicated they are interested in joining a group learning Te Reo. If we can get another three, we can then search for a tutor and see if setting up a group is feasible. Please phone the Coordinator, Christine Denne, phone 543 9483, if you are interested in joining the waiting list.
- **Mac Users Group** – Sharon Foxon has offered to convene this group if enough numbers come forward. This group would probably start in June.
- **Ukulele for Beginners** - If there is enough interest, we have a U3A tutor who is prepared to provide a 6-week course for members who would like to learn the ukulele and/or brush up on skills gone rusty. The time and day of the week will be decided once we have a few people interested. Please contact the coordinator for this group, Christine Denne, phone 543 9483, if you are interested.



Other proposed groups for which we need interest are:

- **Money Matters, TED Talks, Zumba, and from the first Arataki meeting: Book Club, Garden Ramblers, Mini Hikes, Music Appreciation, Mosaics, Philosophy, Photography, Scrabble and Yoga.**

Contact the relevant Group Coordinator if you are interested in any of the above proposed groups or courses.

Margaret Marsh would like to offer the following courses:

- **Introduction to MAC OSX** – 3-hour.
- **Photo Editing** – 6-week course so that members could then enter the Photo Enhancing 2 group and be up to speed with other group members. This course would cover the basics of Image editing.

Groups seeking New Members:

- **Art Practical; Genealogy 1; History C; Photography 2.** Contact the Conveners or the relevant Group Coordinator if you are interested in joining one of these groups.

New Members' Meeting: 20 March, 2 pm, Wesley Church Lounge.

*Raewyn Gallagher Groups A-C, phone 562 375; Barbara Ward Groups D-H, phone 542 5287
Anne Briggs Groups I-P, phone 975 1888, Christine Denne Groups R-Z, phone 543 9483*

Hidden Gems of NZ

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

Kiwi ingenuity shines in historical replica

By Paul Chapman

We saw in one of last year's Newsletters how New Zealand boasts its very own Stonehenge, down Carterton way. But wait, as they say, there's more...

Our country can also lay claim to a unique version of the Bayeux Tapestry. The 64-metre long metal mosaic Kiwi replica of the celebrated historical artefact is the proud creation of former textile technician Michael Linton, assisted by his artist and designer daughter Rachael.



Michael lives with his wife Gillian in the little South Island town of Geraldine, which is also home to the mosaic. He began work on the replica, comprised of more than three million individually hand-painted



tiny shards of steel, as long ago as 1979 and finished the great labour of love with Rachael's help in 2012. It weighs

more than 350 kilograms. The metal fragments of which it is made are off-cuts from a patterning disc used on a large industrial knitting machine and they would otherwise had gone to waste.

Michael has become an expert on almost every aspect of the Bayeux Tapestry – the original is an embroidery not a tapestry, by the way – and he can describe in great detail exactly who is who and what is going on in every scene of the work that tells the story of William the Conqueror’s invasion of England in 1066.

With the help of his IT technician son Steven he has also produced an enjoyable interactive guide to the work, which is available either by ordering a USB stick or online on a page of his website <https://medievalmosaic.com/>

Unfortunately, if you are thinking of taking a trip to see the Bayeux Tapestry re-creation in the next few months you will have a long way to travel. Michael was invited to ship the work to the UK in 2016 to take part in the 950th anniversary celebrations of the Battle of Hastings and it is still over there.

His *Medieval Mosaic*, as it is titled, has been touring southern England and has proved so popular that an exhibition in Oxfordshire has been extended to the end of May 2019. The website itself is well worth a visit though. And if you do happen to be anywhere near Geraldine before the mosaic returns you could find some consolation in seeing what has been accepted by Guinness World Records as the world’s largest knitted jersey, on display at the Kiwi Country visitor centre in the town. That is the work of Michael’s talented wife, Gillian.

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.



Do you think you might be interested in tutoring or learning about the German language? If so contact U3A member, Henri Limacher, phone 578 3554. He has some useful books and other material.

“Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught.”

- Oscar Wilde



Group Activities

Café Book Lovers 1

This group meets once a month over lunch in a café at The Mount. Members review books they have read during the previous month and these can then be borrowed by members of the group. The following were some of the favourite books of the group for 2018. Convener: Eve Grimley, phone 548 0999.

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p><i>Travelling Cat Chronicles</i> by Hiro Arikawa. It is a charming book about the bond between people and their animals</p> | | <p><i>The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society</i> by Mary Ann Shaffer. A writer forms an unexpected bond with the residents of Guernsey when she decides to write a book about their experiences during World War II.</p> |
| | <p><i>The Dying Detective</i> by Leif Persson. A Swedish crime novel.</p> | | <p><i>Shantaram</i> by Gregory David Roberts. A convicted Australian bank robber and heroin addict who escaped from Pentridge Prison flees to India.</p> |
| | <p><i>The Woman in the Window</i> by A J Finn. An agoraphobic woman living alone in New York begins spying on her new neighbours only to witness a disturbing act of violence.</p> | | <p><i>The Gustav Sonata</i> by Rose Tremain tells the story of Gustav and Anton, two boys who establish the seeds of an everlasting friendship in post-World War II Switzerland.</p> |
| | <p><i>Iris and Ruby</i> by Rosie Thomas. A story of love, loss and the distance between three generations of one family.</p> | | <p><i>A Gentleman in Moscow</i> by Amor Towles tells the story of a Russian aristocrat living under house arrest in a luxury hotel for 30 years.</p> |

Photography 1

Below is a selection of photos recently submitted by members of the Photography 1 group for the set category of “Something Small”. The most popular photo was Glenne’s, “Attentive Mum”. If you would like to join a photography group, **Photography 2** has vacancies – Convener: Pam Henderson, phone 543 3133.



Brian - Hitching a Ride



Neville - Waxeye



Glennie – Attentive Mum



Sheila – Sorry Won't Fit

Garden Ramblers 1



The first meeting of the year was held at Judy Mahar’s 20-acre country property, *Maynard Homestead*, at Whakamarama. Since Judy’s husband passed away 5 years ago she has managed the garden on her own. No mean feat as she is nearing 80!

This garden may be familiar to some of you as it was entered in last year's Tauranga Art and Garden Festival and it is also featured in the February issue the *New Zealand Gardener* magazine. Much of the garden is in native bush, but in the more formal parts of the garden Judy has planted an eclectic mix of trees, shrubs, roses and perennials. The garden abounds with rhododendrons, magnolias, camelias, maples, hydrangeas etc. Huge expanses of lawn also lead to several large ponds, which are fed by a nearby stream.



After a tour of the garden in 30°+ heat, the members were very grateful for a cup of tea and biscuits served in the shade. Convener: Elizabeth Reeves, phone 562 2767.

Rialto Group 2



The Rialto Group 2 meet every month and we watch a wide range of movies and more importantly discuss the latest movie at a local cafe and give it our grading out of 10. Other aspects of the movie are discussed including its message, acting, direction and importantly the music setting the tone of the movie. Films we have recently seen include: The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society;

Tully; The Book Shop; Mama Mia! Here We Go Again; Colabello; The Art of Venice; Ladies in Black; First Man; The Old Man and a Gun and Mary Queen of Scots. As you can see a wide range and whilst in the normal course of events some of us would not have chosen the movie (each person has a turn at selecting a movie) they were delighted with what they saw.

Also, a quiz was organised by the convener, John Russell, to test our knowledge of movies in general.

We finished off the season with a social at the convener's home where we re-enacted our own Oscar-type event. Convener: John Russell, phone 543 9483.

Quiz answers:

1. The Sun; 2. c) Tunisia; 3. C (=100); 4. b) Ruthenium (from the Latin name for Russia); 5. Gone with the Wind; 6. Orange and red; 7. b) The heat of chillis; 8. Dr Christiaan Barnard (in 1967); 9. All of them; 10. Bob

Cultural Activities can help Prevent Depression in Older Age

Article shared by John Powell (first published in the British Journal of Psychiatry)



Regular visits to the cinema, theatre or to museums could dramatically reduce the chances of becoming depressed in older age, a new study has found.

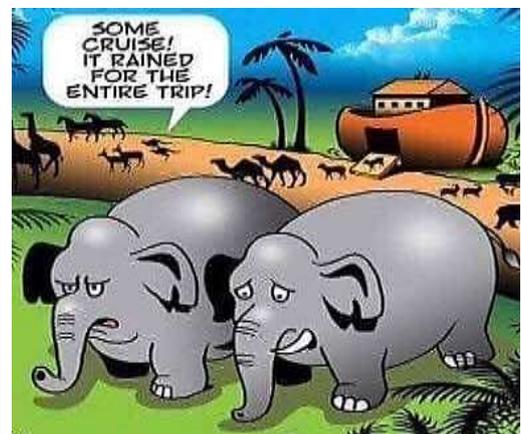
Researchers at University College London found a clear link between the frequency of "cultural engagement" and the chances of someone over 50 developing depression. It was the first such study to show that cultural

activities not only help people manage and recover from depression but can help to prevent it.

Their study, which looked at data on more than 2000 people over the age of 50, found people who attended films, plays or exhibitions every few months had a 32 per cent lower risk of developing depression. Those attending once a month or more had a 48 per cent lower risk.

For full research paper refer to:

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/the-british-journal-of-psychiatry/article/cultural-engagement-and-incident-depression-in-older-adults-evidence-from-the-english-longitudinal-study-of-ageing/F25368CA79340C430B046A1DDDDC05B6>



It's a Funny Old World

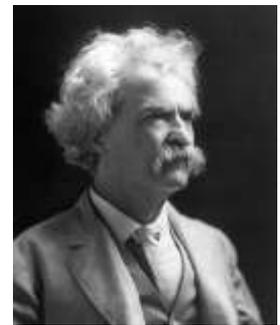


When a Kiwi threatened to kill Mark Twain

By Paul Chapman

You may have been watching the TV series, *Following Twain with Oscar Kightley* over recent weeks. While the episodes I saw served up an interesting historical travelogue around New Zealand, I was disappointed that they gave little insight into Mark Twain's own experiences and observations during the grand tour of our country he made in 1895.

The great humorist Samuel Langhorne Clemens was born in 1835, shortly after an appearance of Halley's Comet. He predicted that since he had come in with the comet, he would go out with it as well. Sure enough, he died when the comet returned in 1910.



The story is well known that Clemens took the pen name Mark Twain from his days as a trainee pilot on a Mississippi steamboat, after hearing the cry of the leadsman who measured the depth of the water with a plumb-line. "Mark Twain" was the regular call signifying two fathoms (or 12ft), the safe operating depth for a steamboat.

After making his name as a writer, amassing a fortune and then losing it again in unwise speculative investments, Twain took to the lecture circuit where he quickly became the "must see" showbiz attraction of the day.

First, he trekked across America, filling town halls with his 90-minute shows. There is a dictum in the world of advertising that goes something like "the large print giveth and the small print taketh away." With his classic dead-pan humour, Twain proved a master of the art.

A SPLENDID ORCHESTRA
Is in town, but has not been engaged.
ALSO,
A DEN OF FEROCIOUS WILD BEASTS
Will be on Exhibition in the next Block.
MAGNIFICENT FIREWORKS
Were in contemplation for this occasion, but the
idea has been abandoned.
A GRAND TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION
May be expected; in fact, the public are privileged
to expect whatever they please.
Dress Circle..... \$1 | Family Circle..... 50 cts.
Doors open at 7 o'clock. The Trouble to be-
gin at 8 o'clock. se28-td

Newspaper adverts and posters advertising his shows contained lines such as "A SPLENDID ORCHESTRA is in town but has not been engaged" and "MAGNIFICENT FIREWORKS were in contemplation for this occasion, but the idea has been abandoned." Another favourite line was "Doors open at 7 o'clock. The trouble begins at 8 o'clock."

Twain eventually came to New Zealand after a series of sell-out shows in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, where it was reported that hundreds had been turned away without being able to get tickets. The world tour also took him to Canada, Hawaii, Fiji, South Africa and England before he finally returned home to the US.

Eager crowds flocked to see his shows – his shock of white hair and distinctive white suit making him an unmistakable figure – on a New Zealand tour that started after he landed in Bluff in November 1895. Playing town halls and theatres, he travelled upcountry by train with his wife Clara and their daughter accompanying him.

At Oamaru, a theatre reviewer lamented that the crowd was small, suggesting: “Possibly people were afraid to go. It is a dangerous experiment for a popular idol to come near enough to disclose his clay feet to his devotees.”

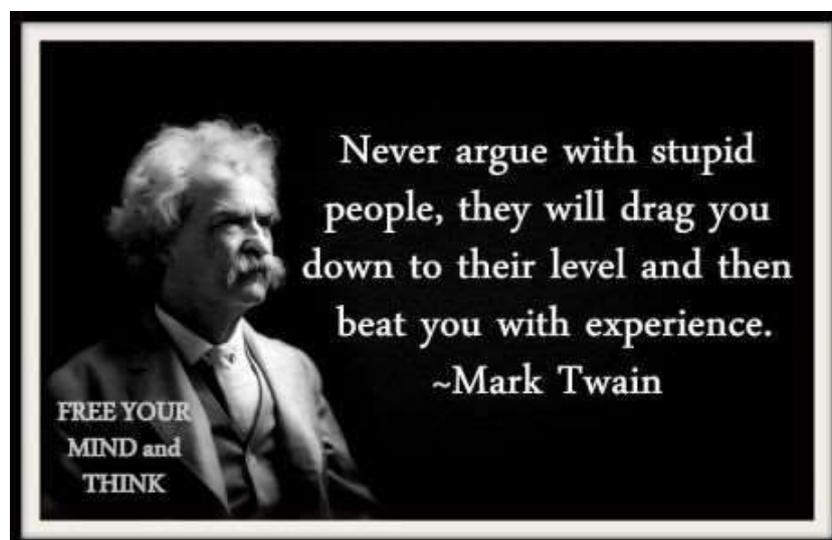
Audiences in Timaru, Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland had no such reservations. Twain was, after all, a household name thanks to top-selling books such as *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *The Innocents Abroad* and *Pudd'nhead Wilson* and, almost everywhere he went, his fans loved him.

Twain's tour struck a distinctly sour note when he got to Whanganui. An admirer of Maori culture, his satirical jokes about imperialism did not go down well with the townsfolk. Twain's tongue-in-cheek style proved too dead-pan for his provincial audience. “He never even laughed when he said something humorous,” moaned the *Hawera and Normanby Star's* theatre reviewer after one show, “so how were his audience to know that he was trying to be funny?”

It was altogether too much for some when he remarked that Whanganui's monument to kupapa Maori – Maori who had been loyal to the British armed forces during the land wars – should be blown up because it encouraged “natives” to be traitors to their own people.

An intruder broke into Twain's Whanganui hotel room and left a note warning that he would be assassinated if he carried on. He continued with the tour undeterred and thankfully the threat was never carried out.

By the time the world tour was over, Twain had cleared his debts and produced an entertaining account of his travels titled, *Following the Equator*. You can read some of what he had to say about New Zealand and what New Zealand thought of him at <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzbound/twain.htm>





2019 Executive Committee

President:

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***Note: The Secretary's phone number is incorrect in the 2019 handbook. Please amend your copy.**

Next Newsletter - May 2019

Deadline for contributions is 26 April 2019

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