



### Next General Meetings



#### July

**Date:** Fri 19 July

**Guest Speaker: Bronwyn Groot**  
Manager Fraud Education,  
Commission for Financial  
Capability.



Bronwyn will talk about the latest frauds and scams targeting New Zealanders of all ages, and how they are becoming increasingly sophisticated as they grow in number globally. She will share her tips on how to spot scams, and how to protect yourself.

#### August

**Date:** Fri 16 August

**Guest Speaker: David Gordon**  
U3A Member



David will talk about the activities of Dr William Manley, who was the only British officer who gathered for dinner at The Elms to survive the following day's battle of Gate Pa. He was also the only recipient of both the Victoria Cross (VC) and the Iron Cross.

**General Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month (except for December and January), at the Wesley Methodist Church Hall, 100 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Tauranga, 10.00 am – 12.00 noon. Entry Fee \$5.00.**



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### Newsletter Team:

*Jan Holden - Editor and Layout Design*

*Paul Chapman - Quiz and Feature Articles*

*Kit Divehall - Interviews and Proofreading*

*Jon Stone - Layout Assistant*

*Cliff Freer - Meeting Photographs*

## Quiz Corner

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

- 1 Of which her Prime Ministers did Queen Victoria complain: "He speaks to me as if I were a public meeting"?
- 2 What do the French call the English Channel?
- 3 Which country owns Madeira?
- 4 Who was the first Roman emperor? a) Julius Caesar; b) Augustus; c) Tiberius
- 5 Which gas makes up 95 per cent of the atmosphere on Mars?
- 6 Which city is the state capital of Texas? a) Houston; b) Dallas; c) Austin
- 7 Where would you find the Moho Discontinuity? a) In the rings of Saturn; b) Between Earth's crust and mantle; c) Between the atmospheric troposphere and stratosphere
- 8 What is someone who suffers from ophidiophobia afraid of?
- 9 Who wrote the poem that begins "Stop all the clocks"?
- 10 What is a "ruby" in Cockney rhyming slang?





# President's Message



Dear Members

Winter has definitely arrived in Tauranga! I hope you are all keeping warm and dry and fit and active and avoiding the colds and flu bugs.

The May General Meeting was even more exciting than usual because our main speaker didn't arrive due to an emergency.

Unfortunately, we didn't find out until morning tea time which caused slight panic! However, as we know, U3A members are very resourceful. Instead of learning about salt we had an informative and entertaining tour of our website, thanks to our Webmaster Jim Pryor.

The website is our "go to" place for information about what is happening in U3A Tauranga but to make it even more dynamic, relevant and up to date Jim needs information from us, the members. How many hours do we spend researching our chosen subject for presentations to our particular groups?

- If we put all this effort into one presentation, why don't we share it with the rest of our members?
- We have a lot of talented people in our U3A and it would be great if you would share your talent with the rest of us by submitting your work to the website or newsletter, whether it's photographs, paintings or an article about your group.

Rob Heath, convener of the Opera group, was one of the mini speakers. He gave an encore after morning tea and we were treated to an Opera aria by Jonas Kaufman, via the internet. Many thanks to Jim and Rob for standing in for our main speaker.

The General Meeting at the Papamoa Sports and Recreation Centre on 29 May was very successful and again confirms the interest in U3A in the Mount/Arataki/Papamoa areas. This was the first time that we had used this venue and we were all very pleased with the way it worked. It was easy to get to and has plenty of parking. Eighty-seven people attended and twenty-two of these were non-members.

**The dates and venues for our next meetings 'over the bridge' are:**

**Arataki Community Centre:** Tuesday, 30 July

**Papamoa Sports and Recreation Centre:** Tuesday, 30 October

2020 is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of U3A Tauranga and arrangements for the celebration for next year are underway. The sub-committee is working hard looking at the format of the event; the venue; entertainment and of course catering. If you have any ideas or suggestions that you think would work for this event, please contact me or any of the sub-committee members.

Regards

Jean Garmonsway, President

**1995**

**U3A Tauranga  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**2020**

**2020 will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of U3A Tauranga. A sub-committee (Anne Withy, Jan Holden, Elizabeth Reeves, Raewyn Gallagher and Kit Divehall) has been formed to start organising celebrations to mark this even.**

**Watch this space for forthcoming details.**



## **Dates for next Mount/Papamoa Meetings**



### **Arataki Community Centre**

**Tuesday 30 July**

Zambuk Way, Mount Maunganui

**Guest Speaker:** Pat Goldstiver, U3A member and a highly experienced ocean sailor who has sailed the Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race and been to places such as Bali, Pacific, Pitcairn Island and Greece.

### **Papamoa Sports and Recreation Centre October**

**Wednesday 30**

Alice Way, Papamoa

**Guest Speaker:** – to be advised. (Refer to website [www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](http://www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz) for more details closer to the time)

**Above meetings commence with 9.45 am check in for 10.00 am start.**

**Finish 12.00 noon**

**Morning Tea  
Plenty of Parking**



# May and June Meetings

**T**he May General Meeting was held on 17 May. Kathleen Fraser and Rob Heath gave a mini presentation about their group, Opera Appreciation. The group meets on the second Tuesday of the month in members' homes and the meeting venues alternate between The Mount and Tauranga. The host of the meeting decides on the opera that the group are going listen to and there is a good source of DVDs to provide inspiration and to keep the programme varied. Rob showed a clip from YouTube of Jonas Kaufman singing an aria, *un di all Azzurro spazio*, which is from an opera called *Andrea Chenier*. Jonas Kaufman is a German operatic tenor, whom most of the audience had never heard of, but were left in no doubt that he is someone we are going to hear a lot more about, with his stunning good looks and superb Pavarotti-like voice – for more information see p15.



Due to unforeseen circumstances the main speaker, Matt Ford from Dominion Salt, was not able to attend the meeting. So, the opportunity was taken to hear some impromptu talks about some other groups and Jim Pryor (photo left) also gave a demonstration of the updated Tauranga U3A Website. Jim explained the purpose of the site, what it contained and how to navigate to the various pages and sections. A “member” (photo right) who was very interested in the business of the meeting was Oliver the Church cat, who is a regular attender!



**A**n extra General Meeting was held in the Papamoa Recreation Centre on 29 May. Jean Garmonsway welcomed the 87 attendees, who included 22 prospective new members. There were two mini talks given prior to morning tea:



**Rosemary Heath** talked about the Festival and Foreign Films group, which meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month in the cinema at the Pacific Coast Village in Papamoa. Rosemary said that the group had a good supply of DVDs but that it was getting more difficult to obtain these with video shops closing and DVDs being old technology.

**Barbara Divehall** (photo right) is a member of one of the two Genealogy groups (Genealogy 1 meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month and Genealogy 2 meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday– both in Tauranga). Barbara talked about the activities of the group and the support given



to one another to try and overcome the inevitable road blocks when trying to find ancestors. Barbara provided an interesting anecdote of the steps taken to try and identify and verify which member of the Tocker family is her grandmother.



**The main speaker was Heidi Darcy**, Intellectual Property Manager of Comvita. Her love for learning has seen her fulfil many different roles throughout her 9 years at the company. Heidi has a background as a Registered Nurse and is currently undertaking a Masters in Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship at the University of Auckland.

Heidi gave a very inspirational talk about the key influences which have shaped her life-long love of learning and that have shaped her career progression. Her personal motto is, “onward ever, backward never”. She also talked about the shared values which led founders, Claude Stratford and Alan Bougen, to establish Comvita in 1974. Claude was interested in bees right from the time he was a child and he started bee-keeping aged 11. When he retired to the Bay of Plenty aged 63, he started to realise that he could do something with bee products (pollen, propolis and honey) that would benefit the health of the community. He also had a passion for other natural products and developed recipes using herbs to create soothing creams and cosmetics. Claude was still experimenting with recipes at the age of 90.



**A t the June General Meeting** the mini talk was given by Jan Dean who spoke about her trip last December to the Antarctic Peninsula. Jan said the ship was comfortable, but not luxurious and that the trip was a 10-day educational excursion, rather than a “cruise”. Every day there were lectures from the research scientists who were on board and excursions by Zodiacs to various islands. Jan had amazing photographs of the scenery and wildlife, mainly penguins and whales. She said there was no one particular highlight as every day was a highlight and she described the trip as the best thing she has done in her life. However, I am sure that her bravery to do a polar swim will be something etched in her memory!

**The guest speaker was David Love** who spoke on, “An Insight into the Bay of Plenty Regional Council”, where David is an elected Councillor.

David is an excellent speaker and he made what could have been a mundane topic extremely interesting. He is the Deputy Chairman of Civil Defence and Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee.



He gave an overview of the work of the Council and outlined the many dilemmas the Council faces when making decisions on what work is to be undertaken because of the dichotomy of often competing values of interest groups. He explained how the BOP is the most dynamic region in New Zealand and some interesting facts he gave included that the region has the largest percentage of older people and the largest percentage of retirement villages. The population of 300,000 includes 26% Maori which consists of 28 iwis. One of the Regional Council's many functions is to administer the Treaty Settlements which the Crown negotiates.

The work of the Regional Council is vast and covers a geographical region which includes Tauranga, Rotorua, Western Bay, Eastern Bay and offshore islands – in all 21,837 square kilometres and includes lakes, rivers and geothermal areas. Some of the responsibilities of the Council include pest management, air quality, flood control, fresh water, civil defence, climate change etc.

The Regional Council's total worth is \$2 billion, which makes it the wealthiest Regional Council in New Zealand. The projected income for 2019/20 is \$132.5 million, of which only 1/3<sup>rd</sup> comes from rates. As it owns 54% of the Ports of Tauranga, the income that is generated from the port, helps to keep the rates low. The expenditure for 2019/20 is forecast to be \$135 million.

## Meet and Greet Teams

### May – Acoustics



### June – Art History 1



### May – Papamoa volunteers





# Group Coordinators' Report

Unfortunately, Barbara Ward has resigned as Coordinator for Groups D-H and we are looking for a replacement - see advertisement p9. Many thanks to Barbara for her hard work since the beginning of the year. In the interim Marianne Lammers has agreed to undertake this role, but only on a temporary basis.

## **New Groups:**

**Garden Ramblers 3** has opened to service the Papamoa area with Pamela Stewart as Convener, phone 570 1025. This group is meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month starting at 11.30 am for lunch with a garden visit/activity to follow.

**Café Book Lovers 2** is now operating in Papamoa and can take more members. For more information contact Marianne Lammers, phone 021 804 403.

**Philosophy** - an initial meeting for a new group in the Mount/Papamoa area has been held. For more information please contact Anne Briggs, phone 975 1888.

**Ukulele** - we have had an offer from a U3A member to convene a new group for the Papamoa area if there are sufficient numbers. Please contact Christine Denne, phone 543 9483 if you are interested in going on a waiting list.

## **Suggested new groups:**

- **Yoga 3** – more information p16
- **Te Reo** – more information p16
- **Mini hikes 3** in the Mount/Papamoa area.

If you are interested, please contact Anne Briggs, phone 975 1888.

## **Group in Recess:**

- **Photography 2** - the Convener, Pam Henderson, is willing to reform this group if she gets enough members. Please contact Pam, phone 543 3133 if you are interested.

## **Groups seeking new members:**

- Art Practical
- 500 Cards
- Geography
- History A & C
- Horticulture and Gardening
- Opera Appreciation
- Music Appreciation
- Rialto 4

- Yoga 1
- Words and Writing
- iPad 2 (after July)

### **New Members Meeting:**

A small but enthusiastic number of members attended the New Members Meeting on 19 June and are being slotted into new groups.

*Raewyn Gallagher Groups A-C, Marianne Lammers Groups D-H,  
Anne Briggs Groups I-P, Christine Denne Groups R-Z*

## **WE NEED YOU**



### **Group Coordinator Vacancy**

- Do you have good computer skills?
- Are you interested in meeting new people and interacting with people?
- Do you have good organisational skills and an ability to relate to others in a constructive and encouraging manner?
- Are you interested in joining the Executive Committee to assist with the running of U3A?
- Would you like to make a positive contribution to U3A?

If so, please contact our President, Jean Garmonsway, or one of the Group Coordinators: Christine Denne, Raewyn Gallagher or Anne Briggs for more details.

**Contact details are on the last page of this newsletter.** This role is for the rest of this year and ideally next year. You will be given plenty of training and support.

**My car broke down outside Pizza Hut. So, I ordered a pizza to be delivered to my house and got a lift from the driver.**

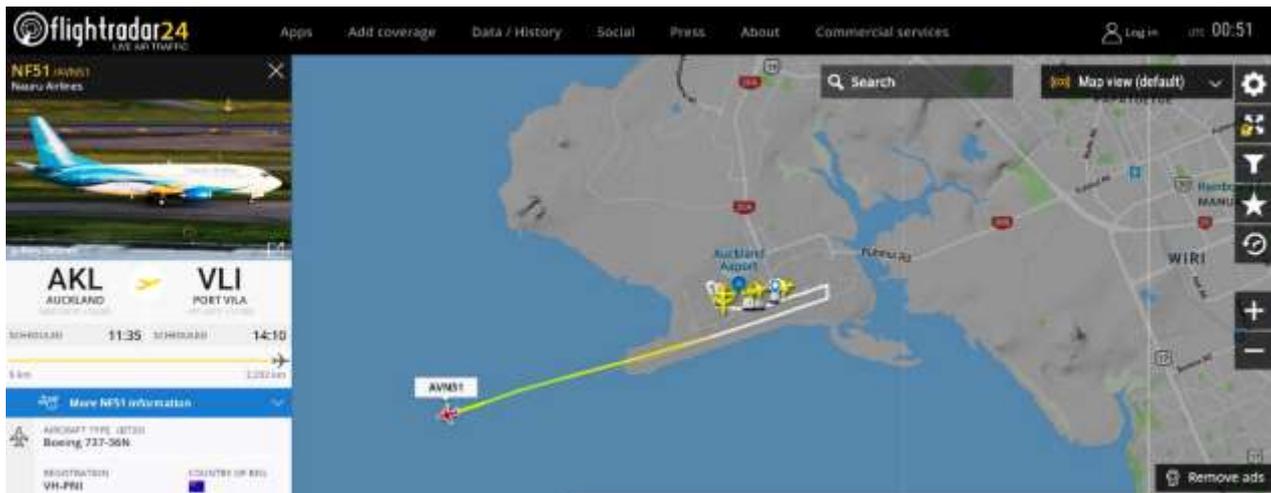
# Wonders of the Web



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

## Sky's the limit for aircraft watchers

By Paul Chapman



Whether you are waiting for friends to arrive from overseas, keeping an eye on loved ones as they depart, or simply enjoy watching the world going about its business, FlightRadar24 offers a fascinating way to keep tabs on what is going on over our heads.

Available at the website <https://www.flightradar24.com> or as a free app from the iOS App Store or Android's Google Play for your mobile, FlightRadar24 is a global flight tracking service that provides real-time information about thousands of aircraft all around the world.

The basic service is free, although there are charges for optional extras (the sort of stuff dedicated plane lovers might want to know) or to get rid of the ads.

FlightRadar24 has 20,000 receivers stationed around the globe, including in New Zealand, which constantly pick up a stream of information from the transponders aboard aircraft.

You can watch planes anywhere in the world as they move around the map on the home page. Drag the map while pressing the left button on your mouse when using the website, or with a swipe of your fingers on the mobile app. On a keyboard, you can zoom in or out on the map by holding down the Control key and scrolling the mouse button or by using your fingers on the app. Alternatively, you can key in an airport name or flight number in the Search field and the program will immediately find the spot on the globe or the aircraft you are looking for.

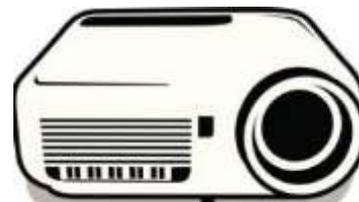
Click the mouse (or touch on the app) on any plane shown on the map and a side panel will appear identifying the aircraft, along with information about its destination, flight times, height, speed and so on. Or you can click on or touch any airport icon to bring up information that includes the Arrivals and Departures listings.

FlightRadar24 started as a hobby project by two Swedish aviation geeks back in 2006 and has now become the primary resource for aviation enthusiasts and aircraft watchers around the world.

So next time a plane flies over your place, feel free to check out where it has come from and where it's going.

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)

## Would you like to be part of the U3A Equipment Team?



A small Equipment Team manages the projection and sound requirements for general and group meetings. **This team now needs more helpers who live on the Mount/Papamoa side of the bridge.**

Although some technical knowledge is necessary, the team is encouraged to learn from one another – in keeping with the U3A way. Emphasis is placed on collaboration with the team and the wider U3A membership. A preparedness to commit to a task is required.

**If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Peter Simmons, phone 576 0952 or email [petersimmonz@gmail.com](mailto:petersimmonz@gmail.com)**



## Facts and Figures to Date

Financial members as at 8 February 2019	851
Life members	10
TOTAL	861
Subscriptions owing	44
Number of Groups:	96



# Well, Fancy That!

*In this series we look at some remarkable but little-known facts.*

## How 'medium' Helen Duncan made history

By Paul Chapman

The last conviction in Britain under the Witchcraft Act of 1735 occurred, astonishingly, as late as 1944.

The offender was a Scottish woman named Helen Duncan, a self-proclaimed spiritualist medium and clairvoyant. Duncan was already a controversial figure, with her supporters insisting she had the ability to communicate with the dead while her detractors condemned her as a shameless fraud and charlatan.



Even claims by a photographer, who took pictures during one of her séances, that a so-called spirit manifestation was nothing more than a doll made from a papier-mache mask and an old sheet did little to dent her popularity.

She might have carried on with her activities unhindered had it not been for a remarkable series of events during World War II. At a séance in Portsmouth one evening in late 1941, Duncan claimed to be communicating with the spirit of a sailor who told her he had died in the sinking of the battleship HMS Barham.

The news shocked people attending the séance. No such announcement had been made by the War Office or reported anywhere in the press. Sure enough, HMS Barham had indeed been sunk on 25 November 1941 by a German submarine off the coast of Egypt, with the loss of 862 crewmen, but the announcement had been suppressed for operational reasons.

Reports of Duncan's comments caused alarm when they reached officials in the British government. How could she have known classified military information? Was she receiving leaks from a mole in the War Office? Did she have any connection with undercover German agents? What other classified material might she have access to?

Undercover police kept a watchful eye on her for several years until, with top-secret planning under way for the D-Day landings, a nervous official in Whitehall finally decided she posed too much of a risk to remain at large.

When Duncan staged another of her séances, on 19 January 1944, she appears not to have foreseen that the boys in blue would show up. She was arrested and, when her

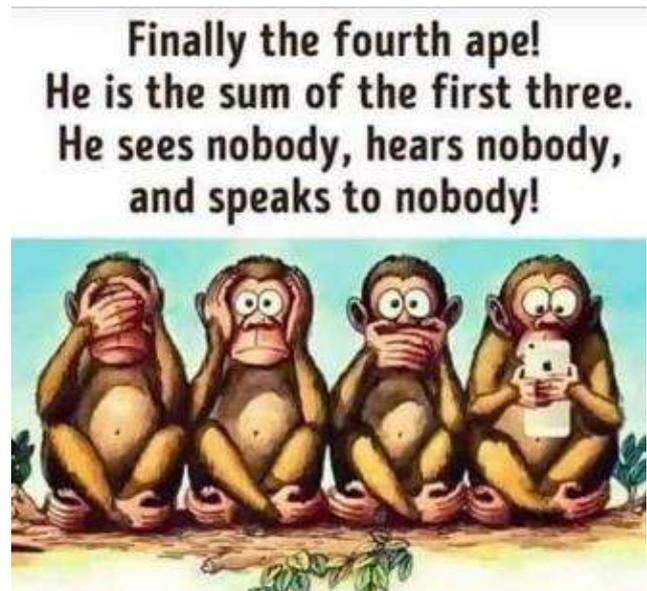
case came up for trial at the Old Bailey, charges had been brought under the Witchcraft Act of 1735, which covered “fraudulent” spiritual activity.



Her trial on 3 April 1944 caused a media sensation but it took the jury only 25 minutes to find her guilty. She was sentenced to nine months in Holloway Prison.

Prime Minister Winston Churchill was furious when he learned that a 200-year-old act dealing with witchcraft had been used in a modern court of law. He wrote to Herbert Morrison, the Home Secretary, complaining about the use of such “obsolete tomfoolery”.

Careful analysis would have revealed exactly how Duncan obtained her knowledge about HMS Barham. Although the sinking had not been announced, official letters of condolence had been sent out to relatives of the dead before her séance in 1941. That meant several thousand people would have known about the tragedy. Since Duncan was in Portsmouth at the time, there is every chance that she had simply picked up on the gossip doing the rounds in the home base of the Royal Navy.





## History B

### *Invitation*

#### **From History B Group**

**A Presentation by Chaliun Poppy**

**on Music Development in 18<sup>th</sup> Century Europe**

**DATE:** Wednesday, 24 July 2019 from 1.00 - 3.00 pm

**VENUE:** St Peter's Church, Victoria Road,  
Mt. Maunganui

**ENTRY FEE:** \$3.00 at the door. All welcome.

Chaliun Poppy, Organist and Choirmaster for the Anglican Parish of Mt. Maunganui, will give a talk on music in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, from the Baroque (including J S Bach, Handel and Vivaldi) to the Classical (including Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven).

Chaliun will illustrate his talk by singing and playing on the organ and piano.

**Enquiries: Pauline: 07 579 5297**

## Opera Appreciation – The New Pavarotti

Recently the newly-merged Opera Appreciation group watched the DVD of an opera probably not known to many members, *Werther* by the French composer Jules Massenet. I have had an LP recording for some years with the tenor Jose Carreras singing the title role. Our DVD featured the rising star of opera tenors today, Jonas Kaufmann (photo left), considered by many to be the new Pavarotti. He is a quite young German, very credible in the roles he sings and considered to be extremely handsome and with a glorious rich voice. All the women in the opera appreciation group are secretly in love with him. The bad news is he's taken, married with three kids. At a concert at the famous Royal Albert Hall in London, done Proms-style with the downstairs stall seats removed which some of you have no doubt experienced, a group of young women in the front row were so overcome by his sexiness they removed their knickers and threw them at him onstage. So, opera today can have its own pop stars, something of a change from years ago.



Kaufmann (photo left), considered by many to be the new Pavarotti. He is a quite young German, very credible in the roles he sings and considered to be extremely handsome and with a glorious rich voice. All the women in the opera appreciation group are secretly in love with him. The bad news is he's taken, married with three kids. At a concert at the famous Royal Albert Hall in London, done Proms-style with the downstairs stall seats removed which some of you have no doubt experienced, a group of young women in the front row were so overcome by his sexiness

they removed their knickers and threw them at him onstage. So, opera today can have its own pop stars, something of a change from years ago.

For those of you whose last memory of famous tenors is the Big Three of Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras singing *Nessun Dorma* at the World Cup, there have been changes. Pavarotti passed away a few years ago, Placido Domingo's tenor voice has dropped lower and now he mainly sings baritone roles like Nabucco in Verdi's *Nabucco*; and Jose Carreras has had operations on his throat and many consider he has not been the same since. If you would like to know more about Jonas Kaufmann, you can Google his name for YouTube clips. Convener: Rob Heath, phone 576 2175.

## Science 2

For our June meeting ten of us met at Gayle's home for a talk entitled "Light up your life," an intriguing title and so it turned out to be. It started with a demonstration of Crookes Radiometer, leading into a video regarding how it might work.



This was followed by an entertaining (and of course instructive!) video on DNA, its history, structure and little-known facts, such as if all your DNA were laid out in a straight line it would reach to the sun and back not once but many times. Discussion followed on telomeres and their importance in our life expectancy.

Changing tack again the ionising effect of magnetism, and the negatives seen to be associated with radio frequency emissions, was discussed.

For us this was a fairly normal meeting, starting with one topic which triggers queries on associated areas and which in turn leads to yet more diverse discussion! Not all of our group have science training or background but, because of this, questions are sometimes asked which make the rest of us stop and think. As a result, we all learn new things and ways of looking at old ones.

A tentative topic for next time is the sun and sunspots. Who knows where that may lead us? Science 2 is currently full but contact the R-Z co-ordinator if you would like to go on a waiting list. Convener: John Denne, phone 543 9483.

## Te Reo

We have two groups in the city interested in learning Te Reo – one in Papamoa and one in the Pyes Pa area. Despite approaching two people whose names were provided by one of our U3A members, I have not been successful in finding any tutors for these groups. Is there anyone in the U3A community who would feel confident in teaching basic Te Reo (and associated Maori culture) to some of their fellow U3A members? Alternatively, if anyone could suggest someone outside U3A who could tutor, please contact Christine, phone 543 9483 or email [r2z.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:r2z.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz).



## Yoga 3 (in Papamoa)



A very enthusiastic U3A member wishes to set up a new Yoga group in Papamoa. There is a room available at the Recreation Centre at Gordon Spratt Reserve in Papamoa any morning of the week. We have had an indication of possibly eight members who would be interested in joining a new group, so we are getting closer to the minimum of 12-15 members to make this new group viable.

If you would be interested in possibly joining this group, please contact Christine, phone 543 9483 or email [r2z.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:r2z.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz). by 10 July.

### Quiz answers:

1. William Gladstone;
2. La Manche (The Sleeve);
3. Portugal;
4. b) Augustus;
5. Carbon dioxide;
6. c) Austin;
7. b) Between Earth's crust and mantle;
8. Snakes;
9. W H Auden;
10. A curry (Ruby Murray).

# It's a Funny Old World



## When it's time to have the final word

By Paul Chapman

Don't mind me touching on the subject of mortality, but I would like to share with you my love of Famous Last Words.

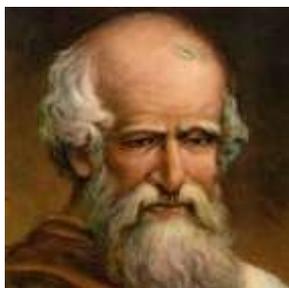
The final utterances of the great and good (and not-so-good) have a fascination of their own, even if it has to be admitted that some must surely be no more than apocryphal.

Take the words of Oscar Wilde, for example, purportedly spoken on his deathbed in a scruffy run-down apartment in Paris: "Either that wallpaper goes, or I do." Living his last days in abject poverty, Oscar had previously confided to a friend with customary panache: "I am dying beyond my means."



The reputed last words of the Welsh poet and heavy drinker Dylan Thomas definitely have a ring of authenticity about them. "I've had 18 straight whiskies, I think that's a record," he announced before dropping dead.

On the subject of drink, Humphrey Bogart groaned: "I should never have switched from scotch to Martinis."



History too has its gems to offer. The great Archimedes was apparently so engrossed in drawing up his latest invention that he did not even notice his native Syracuse had fallen to the Romans during the Second Punic War.

He did not take kindly to being ordered by a Roman soldier to go with him while the design remained incomplete, and snarled back: "Stand away, fellow, from my diagram!" The soldier immediately ran Archimedes through with his sword, even though instructions had been issued not to harm him.

General John Sidgwick, speaking to soldiers who were ducking for cover from a Confederate sniper during the American Civil War, is said to have died confidently declaring: "Don't worry, men, they couldn't hit an elephant from this dist..."

As for the mystic Nostradamus, he prophesied: "Tomorrow I shall no longer be here." Say what you like about him, he got that one right.

I rather like the Russian writer Alexander Pushkin who, on being asked if he would like to say goodbye to any of his friends, glanced across at a bookcase full of his favourite volumes and said: "Goodbye, old friends."



Royalty has its own track record. Marie “let them eat cake” Antoinette, Queen of France, stepped on her executioner’s foot on the scaffold and apologised: “Pardon me, monsieur, I did not mean to do it.” I guess you really didn’t want to upset the bloke in charge of operating the guillotine.

The response of the ailing King George V on being told by his doctors that he would soon be well enough to visit the seaside resort of Bognor Regis was famously: “Bugger Bognor!”

As for politicians, the British Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger must have been feeling hunger pangs when he said: “I could just eat one of Bellamy’s veal pies.” There is no record of whether he actually got his dying wish.

Comedians, as you might expect, have their share of quotations. When asked by his wife where he wanted to be buried, Bob Hope quipped: “Surprise me.”

Spike Milligan, the irrepressible Goon, went as far as to instruct that his “last words” be inscribed on his tombstone. Spike’s epitaph reads: “I told them I was ill.”

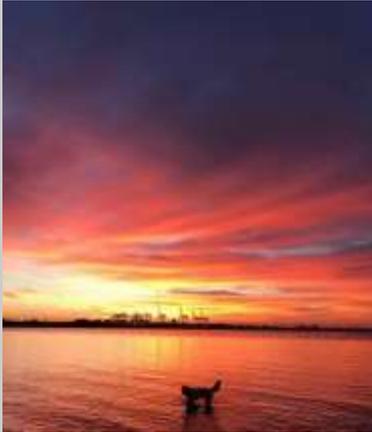
WC Fields, with accustomed pithiness, once proposed that his epitaph should read: “On the whole, I’d rather be in Philadelphia.”

On an altogether more ethereal note, the inventor Thomas Edison blinked open his eyes after coming out of a coma and said dreamily: “It’s very beautiful over there.” Unfortunately, it is unclear whether his words were inspired by some other-worldly experience or if he just happened to be looking out of the window in his room.

When all’s said and done, my favourite Famous Last Words have to be those of the delightful John Le Mesurier, better known as Sergeant Wilson in the TV series *Dad’s Army*. Surrounded by his family, he looked back fondly on a life well lived and said quietly: “It’s all been rather lovely, hasn’t it?”



## Amazing Skies



*Sunrise Tauranga*



*Sunset Mt Maunganui*



*Dusk Mt Maunganui*



*Dusk McLaren Falls*

*Source: Instagram @bayofplentynz*



*Dusk Lake Tekapo*



**I finally did it!**

**Bought a new pair of shoes with memory foam insoles. No more forgetting why I walked into the kitchen!**



# 2019 Executive Committee

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

## Next Newsletter - September 2019

Deadline for contributions is Saturday 24 August 2019

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