



PO Box 14453, Tauranga 3143
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Newsletter

January – February 2021



Happy
New Year
2021

February Meeting Annual General Meeting

- Date:** Friday 19 February 2021
- Time:** 10.00 am to 12 noon
- Agenda:** AGM, Morning Tea, Guest Speaker
- Venue:** Tauranga Yacht & Power Boat Club
Sulphur Point, Tauranga
- Entry Fee:** \$5.00
- Guest Speaker:** Phil Waters, *"Who Dunit"*



Phil is an ex New Scotland Yard Detective who will tell us about his long career in one of Britain's top police units, including dealing with sophisticated crime as well as lighter moments.



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(this issue)

*Jan Holden - Editor and Layout
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*Paul Chapman - Quiz and Feature
Articles*

Kit Divehall –Proofreading

Col Basire – Anniversary Photos

Quiz Corner

Test your general knowledge with these questions. Answers on page 19.

1. What event did Franklin D. Roosevelt describe as “a date which will live in infamy”?
2. Which bird was synonymous with advertising for Guinness?
3. You are standing on the surface of the Earth. You walk one mile north, one mile west, and one mile south. You end up exactly where you started. Where are you?
4. Lithuania, Latvia and which other country form the three “Baltic states”?
5. Which planet in the Solar System has moons named after Shakespearean characters?
6. What is unusual about Charles Dickens’ novel *Edwin Drood*?
7. What did Adolphe Saxe invent?
8. The song *Matchstalk Men and Matchstalk Cats and Dogs* was written about which artist?
9. Before Boris Johnson, who was the last British Prime Minister to take office who didn’t have a wife?
10. You buy a bat and a ball for \$10.10. The bat costs exactly ten dollars more than the ball. How much does the ball cost?



Editor's Note

Happy New Year everyone. No doubt you will be very pleased that 2020 is now behind us!

This is my last newsletter as Editor. I have really enjoyed being on the Newsletter Team for the past 5 years and the last 3 years as Editor. It has been a very rewarding experience and I would like to thank everyone who has worked on the Newsletter Team, and to those who have contributed articles, photos, reports, poems, short stories, quizzes, puzzles etc etc. All of which have made the newsletter interesting and up-to-date.

I would like to give a warm welcome to Lynette Viertel (pictured right) who will be taking over as Editor in February and producing her first issue in March. If you give her as much support as you have given me, I know she will love the role and the newsletter will continue to evolve into a publication that serves U3A Tauranga members well.



As I will act as backup for Lynette this will perhaps be au revoir rather than goodbye. My very best wishes for 2021

Regards

Jan Holden

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of U3A Tauranga Inc is to be held on Friday 19 February 2021 at the Tauranga Yacht & Power Boat Club, Sulphur Point, Tauranga, at 10.00 am.

The AGM will be followed by morning tea and a speaker. All members are cordially invited to attend.

Lati Moodie

Secretary

10/12/2020

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples.

- Mother Teresa

President's Message



Dear Members

I hope you have had a very Happy Christmas and I wish everyone all the best for 2021.

The year of 2020 was a difficult and challenging one. Covid 19 affected and is still affecting the world in a devastating way. New Zealand has been so fortunate to have the guidance and leadership that has, so far, kept us relatively safe.

However, in spite of Covid 19, U3A Tauranga continued to 'carry on regardless.' We adapted to the 'new normal' and learnt new skills to keep meeting and communicating with our groups, friends and family.

The original 25th Anniversary event which was planned for May last year was, as we all know, cancelled. However, we did celebrate this landmark year by combining it with the November Election General Meeting. The event went really well, and everyone enjoyed the Guest Speaker, Mike Allsop; the music from the Oceanside Music Group (which got everyone in the mood) and the special morning tea.

The organising of these proceedings takes hours of hard work and effort. I would like to give my special thanks to Anne Withy, Raewyn Gallagher, Elizabeth Reeves, Jan Holden and Kit Divehall who were a pleasure to work with and made the whole thing fun!!

We have had some members who have passed this year and we remember them and their families and the contribution that they made to U3A.

My two years as President is almost over and I'm looking forward to being more involved in my chosen groups as well as taking on a new role as Immediate Past President. I will be handing over to Anne Withy at the Annual General Meeting in February. I wish her and the new Committee all the very best for the future.

I have so many people to thank for their commitment and support to U3A Tauranga over the last two years. I would like to thank the Exec, Committee and Committee Support volunteers for all the work that they have done to maintain U3A Tauranga. I would also like to thank the Group Conveners because without you the groups would not function. I could not have managed without any of you.

It is teamwork that keeps U3A Tauranga functioning and moving forward.

I look forward to catching up with you at the General Meetings and the AGM.

Jean Garmonsway
President

Incoming President's Message



Dear Members

As I look forward to stepping into the President's role in February, I want to begin by wishing all our Tauranga U3A Members the best of health, and much happiness in 2021.

After two years of excellent leadership by Jean I also want to express my personal sincere thanks for the tireless and successful way in which she has led us through this time. She has not spared herself at any stage and we all have much to thank her for.

We have several new people on the Executive and in Executive Support roles this coming year. We all bring our own strengths and weaknesses to our tasks and may carry out our responsibilities a little differently from the previous incumbents. However, I can assure you that the U3A Tauranga Executive of 2021 will continue to prioritise your needs as members. You are the very core of our organisation and I hope you will feel confident in communicating your thoughts with me or any members of the Executive so that we continue to be a vibrant force in ensuring our individual well-being at this stage of our lives.

Regards

Anne Withy

President Elect 2021



2021 General Meetings

Tauranga - 3rd Friday of each month. Tauranga Yacht & Power Boat Club, Sulphur Point, Tauranga.

Mount Maunganui - 1st Tuesday of March, May, July, September and November, Arataki Community Centre, Mt Maunganui

All General Meetings commence at 10.00 am and conclude at 12.00 noon. Entry Fee is \$5.00.

Casual Opportunity

The Beachside Subcommittee is seeking willing hands to assist at some of the General Meetings at the Arataki Community Centre, Mount Maunganui to set up and serve morning tea. These meetings are scheduled for the 1st Tuesday of March, May, July, September and November 2021. Approximately an hour and a half of your time is needed.



All clearing up is done by the venue team so that you can be seated to hear the main speaker. No experience is necessary. Personal attributes sought are strong work ethic, ready smile, commitment to customer service and a ready sense of humour. All training will be given!

Phone Anne Briggs on 07 975 1888 or 021 0243 2073

Facts and Figures to Date

Financial members as at 11 December 2020	957
Life members	9
TOTAL	966
Number of Groups:	93

Election General Meeting

The Election General Meeting was held on Friday 20 November 2020, with approximately 150 members in attendance. The 2021 Executive Committee consisting of Officers and Committee Members were duly elected and Members to be co-opted on to the Committee were announced. Photos of the 2021 Executive Committee Members are displayed on p8. Contact details of those serving on the Executive and in Committee Support roles are printed on the back page of this newsletter and in the 2021 Handbook.



President Jean Garmonsway Chaired the EGM and Secretary Lati Moodie read the Minutes of the previous EGM

Meet and Greet Teams

Meet & Greet - Art History



25 Year's Registration



2021 Executive Committee



Anne Withy
President



Raewyn Gallagher
Vice President



Jean Garmonsway
Imm. Past Pres



Helen Roberts
Secretary



Elizabeth Reeves
Treasurer



Sheila Freer
**Membership
Administrator**



Sheila
Riddel-Harvey
**Meeting/Speakers
Organiser**



Max Lynd
**Publicity
Officer**

Group Coordinators:



Margaret Marsh
Groups A to C



Carol Simpson
Groups D to H



Anne Briggs
Groups I to P



Gail Moore
Groups R to Z

Coopted Members:



Jim Pryor
**Data Manager &
Web Master**



Lynette Viertel
**Newsletter
Editor**



25th Anniversary



V.I.Ps



Vice President, Anne Withy presenting corsages to: (above) Foundation Members: Marie Frendrup, Juliet Price and Betty Clethero; and (below) to Centenarian, Eunice Barnes



L-R: President, Jean Garmonsway, Former Presidents: Warwick Kingston, John Powell, David Gordon & Viv Mills, President Elect, Anne Withy

Entertainment



Oceanside Music Group

Cutting the Cake



Founding Members: Betty Clethero, Juliet Price and Marie Frentrup cut the Anniversary Cake.



Morning Tea



Guest Speaker

Guest Speaker Mike Allsop's topic was "Conquer Your Mountains". Mike held the audience spell-bound from the beginning as he described blow by blow, second by second an aircraft that he was the co-pilot of, about to crash in the Pacific Ocean. Mike went on to give a riveting talk about his many adventures and how he manages to go about them and importantly how to fit them around family life.



Thank You

25th Anniversary Sub-Committee
L-R : Raewyn Gallagher, Anne Withy, Jean Garmonsway, Jan Holden, Elizabeth Reeves and (inset) Kit Divehall.

Group Coordinators' Report

Note - Group Etiquette:

Now that we have started 2021 and members are re-joining groups or joining new ones, we would like to remind members that if you are unable to attend a meeting it is your personal responsibility to advise the convener. Please, phone, text or email your group's convener so that your apology is noted. Effective communication between conveners and members is crucial to the successful running of the groups.

Suggested New Groups:

- **Floral Art**
- **Philosophy for Today** – Dave Higson is wishing to start this new fortnightly group. It would be an interactive discussion/debate style group in which modern philosophical issues will be addressed. There is no need to have previous experience in the subject but have a willingness to stimulate the mind and be open to new ideas. Meetings will be based in members homes in the Mount Maunganui/Papamoa area. Expressions of interest should be made to Dave Higson, phone 027 234 6548. Dave will be the convener of this group.

Groups Closed or in recess:

- **Classical Greek**
- **Creative Writing**
- **Current Events F**

Group Changes:

- **Lone Rangers 2** - has now re-joined the I2P listing of groups having abandoned their name of Solo Adventurers.
- **Mini Hikes 3** - is in recess until March 2021 when it will be readvertised and will seek a convener.
- **International Affairs** and **Philosophy 3** - have primarily met via Zoom this year but will revert to a combination of physical group meetings and Zoom meetings in 2021 so that outside speakers of interest can be involved.
- **History B** - has a new convener, Carol Chetwynd
- **Shakespeare Group** - Convener: Jean Garmonsway, phone 579 1918, Sub-convener, Paul Chapman, phone 021 1065088.
- **Rialto 3** – Allan Matthews is keen for this film group to continue and he will take over as convener. Session Times will be 2nd and 4th Monday of the month (usually mornings). Allan's contact, phone 022 1616313.

Groups seeking new members:

- **French conversation 2**
- **Garden Ramblers 1 & 4**
- **Geography** – with the view to starting up the group again
- **Hikers 1**
- **Yoga 1**
- **Apple Mac 2**
- **Art Practical**
- **Ballet Appreciation** would like 2 more members.
- **Current Events D** has 1 vacancy.
- **Memoir Writing** – 6 session course – Jean Akers has 4 people interested but needs 7 to 8 to make it viable.
- **The Sea and Oceans**

Anne Briggs, Margaret Marsh, Gail Moore, Carol Simpson

In Remembrance Maryellen Carr



It was with great sadness that just before Christmas we were advised of Maryellen's passing after a short illness. Maryellen was Secretary of U3A Tauranga in 2016 and 2017. She was also a foundation member of the Ukulele Group.

As a tribute to Maryellen some members of the U3A Ukulele Group played a selection of tunes in a fitting farewell.



Jocelyn Hicks

We received sad news from **History of NZ – last 1000 years**. Their very first convener, Jocelyn Hicks, suffered her 3rd stroke and passed away. Her funeral took place in Omokoroa on 30 November.



Group News

Opera Appreciation

Big Names in Soprano World 2020

Recently the Opera Appreciation group viewed DVD operas featuring the newly famous soprano, Anna Netrebko, singing in operas by Bellini and Donizetti.

When people ask who is the big name in opera sopranos now, with the retirement of Kiri Te Kanawa and death of Montserrat Caballe, the answer is Anna Netrebko (pictured right). She is of Austrian and Russian ancestry, discovered by the great Valery Gergiev of the Marinsky Theatre, Marinsky, where she worked part-time as a cleaner, getting free lessons listening in on rehearsals.



Her repertoire is very wide now, including Verdi and Puccini, but interestingly she has specialised in the operas that Maria Callas pioneered in the late 1950s, such as Donizetti's, "Lucia di Lammermoor" with its well-known Mad Scene and Bellini's "Norma". Those of us in the typical age group of U3A will go back to the 1950s and the dominance of Maria Callas and her rivalry with Renata Tebaldi. I remember a sarcastic review by a critic who said, "There is only one difference between Callas and Tebaldi, and it is this: Tebaldi can sing".

Then followed the age of Joan Sutherland of Australia. She recorded a great series of Bellini operas with Luciano Pavarotti. He freely acknowledged how much he learnt from Sutherland, especially on breathing. When Joan Sutherland was recruited by Rudolf Bing she insisted that her Australian husband, Richard Bonyngue, conduct. Bing resisted but eventually conceded, commenting that, "well, when you get wonderful meat, there is always a bit of bone". Her answer to that is not recorded. We have seen many greats come and go since, including Birgit Nilsson, Leontyne Price, Grace Bumbry.

In the last two or three years we have seen the passing of the Italian Mirella Freni, the black American Jessye Norman and the Spanish Montserrat Caballe, who startled conventional opera lovers when she teamed up with Freddy Mercury, an admirer of hers, and classical opera. Convener: Rob Heath, phone 574 6468.

Photography

The photography group held their last meeting for the year, with morning tea outside in the sun to get some fresh air and vitamin D before gathering in the darkened room to view their photos on the TV.

After the meeting, we all met at 'The Atrium' for lunch where the convener for the group announced that the photographers with the most total votes for the year were Bill and Glenne with 24 points each. All members of the group received some votes over the year, so everyone received a small Christmas gift.



Photographers Pam and Bill also received a calendar featuring their photos – both of which received 5 votes from the members – the highest of all the photos voted on anonymously over the year (see following picture).



The photo group have already selected their set subjects for each month next year, so will be on the lookout for suitable photo opportunities over the summer holidays and will start meeting again in February.

Rummikub 1

Some of the Rummikub 1 members enjoying an end-of-year Christmas lunch:



French Conversation 2



The French Conversation Group had a Christmas morning tea on Thursday 10 December, their final meeting day of the year. This was held at Bob and Linda Kennedy's. It had a French theme, and everyone enjoyed their time together.

Convener: Linda Kennedy, phone 027 2803670.

Mah Jong

Building walls for Christmas! Christmas fun at the Mah Jong group with a yummy afternoon tea. Convener: Susie Buchanan-Welch, phone 021 2775027.





Well, Fancy That!



This caricature of the Berners Street Hoax was drawn by William Heath in 1810.

Mrs Tottenham's nightmare of a day

By Paul Chapman

At five o'clock on the morning of 27 November 1809, there was a knock on the door of 54 Berners Street, a grand house in the fashionable Westminster area of London.

A maid employed by the householder, a certain Mrs Tottenham, answered the door to find a sweep who was expecting to clean the house's chimneys. The maid assured him that there had been some kind of misunderstanding and his services were not required.

Minutes later, another chimney sweep turned up. Then another, and another, until twelve in all had arrived.

But that was only the beginning of the well-to-do Mrs Tottenham's weird morning. After the last of the sweeps had been turned away, a fleet of horse-drawn carts appeared carrying sacks of coal. Next came a series of cake-makers bearing specially ordered 10-guinea wedding cakes.

Then doctors, lawyers, vicars and priests appeared, all saying they had been summoned to minister to someone in the house who was dying. They were followed by undertakers bringing bespoke coffins.

Fishmongers arrived with trays of fresh fish, butchers' boys came with meat, shoemakers and hat-makers touted their wares, and more than a dozen tradesmen attempted to deliver pianos. Then "six stout men" arrived "bearing an organ".

Astonishingly, the Governor of the Bank of England turned up, followed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Mayor of London, and even royalty in the shape of the Duke of York.

Deliveries and visitors continued to arrive all through the day and into the evening. Police officers pressed their way through the throng, concerned that the streets all around the house had become hopelessly congested. Soon a sizeable part of London was impassable to traffic and constabulary reinforcements had to be sent for.

According to the *Morning Post's* report the following day: "Every officer that could be mustered was enlisted to disperse the people, and they were placed at the corners of Berners Street to prevent trades people from advancing towards the house with goods."



Poor Mrs Tottenham did not have a clue as to what – or rather, who – was responsible for the mayhem.

In fact, that person was a 23-year-old practical joker named Theodore Hook (*pictured*), who had laid a one-guinea bet with his friend Samuel Beazley that he could transform any house in London into the most talked-about address within a week. In preparation for his prank, he set about writing no fewer than four thousand letters in the name of Mrs Tottenham, requesting every one of the callers to attend on her.

Hook had absolutely no connection with the unfortunate lady, and on the day in question he and Beazley stationed themselves in a house across the road from 54 Berners Street to watch all the commotion.

He fled London to "convalesce in the countryside" in the immediate aftermath and somehow continued to evade detection. Years later he admitted to friends that what became known as the "Berners Street Hoax" was all his doing. Many of them had already guessed.

Answers to Quiz p2:

1. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour; 2. The toucan; 3. The South Pole; 4. Estonia; 5. Uranus; 6. It is unfinished; 7. The saxophone; 8. L. S. Lowry; 9. Theresa May; 10. Five cents.

2021 Executive & Committee Support

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Rob Heath - 574 6468

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Next Newsletter March 2021

Deadline for contributions is 26 February 2021

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