

### 2021 GENERAL MEETINGS

<b>TAURANGA</b>	<b>3rd Friday of each month</b> <b>Tauranga Yacht &amp; Power Boat Club, Sulphur Point, Tauranga.</b>
<b>BEACHSIDE</b>	<b>1st Tuesday of March, May, July, September &amp; November.</b> <b>Arataki Community Centre, Mt Maunganui.</b>

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

#### TAURANGA - March

Friday 19 March 2021

**Guest Speaker:** Pim de Monchy from BOP Regional Council  
Ongatoro/Maketu Project



#### TAURANGA - April

Friday 16 April 2021

**Guest Speaker:** Ron Mcquilter- My Life as a  
Private Detective



#### BEACHSIDE - May

Tuesday 4 May 2021

**Guest Speakers:** Aaron Balsem & Chris Batten - Rehab  
of the body

#### CORRECTION

*Dates of Beachside General Meetings*

*Please note that the dates published in the January Newsletter were incorrect. The correct dates for General Meetings at the Arataki Community Centre, Mount Maunganui are:*

*1st Tuesday in March, May, July, September and November.*

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**Kit Divehall - Proofreading**

## QUIZ CORNER

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

- 1 What is the first name of the mother of Britain's princesses Beatrice and Eugenie?
- 2 Which New Zealand born singer had a hit in 1991 with World in Union?
- 3 In Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, which of the two title characters dies first?
- 4 Who invented the lightning rod in 1749?
- 5 In Samuel Beckett's play, who are Vladimir and Estragon waiting for?
- 6 Who telephoned Neil Armstrong during his first moon walk?
- 7 Which African country has a capital named after an American president?
- 8 The death of which English king led to the Battle of Hastings in 1066?
- 9 Which Scottish poet is celebrated with a statue in Dunedin?
- 10 What do we call the galaxy which contains the Sun?



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members,

Firstly, welcome to Lynette Viertel who has taken up the challenge of being our Newsletter Editor for the first time. This is a big task, and I am sure it will help Lynette if you, as members, offer contributions for her to use in future publications.

The year has got off to a very busy start for me and the rest of the team, and of course some of our retiring members are still busy completing their responsibilities as well as assisting their replacements into new roles.

It was heartening to see so many members attend the AGM last Friday at the Yacht Club. Thank you for your participation in the meeting. We were fortunate to have an excellent Guest Speaker, Phil Waters, who was able to entertain us in a light-hearted manner by sharing some of his experiences as a member of the London Metropolitan Police force.

Before you receive this Newsletter, we will have had a booth at the Seniors' and Travel Expo held at Baypark. Our aim is to promote more awareness in the community of who we are and what we offer for the 'not so young' of Tauranga and surrounding areas. I hope some of you attended this event and found us.

We will also have had our first Beachside General Meeting of the year and will report more fully on that in the next Newsletter.

I hope you are all delighted to be back into the routine of your U3A Group activities, and you stay busy and well.

Anne Withy  
President.



Anne with Phil Waters

# PRESIDENT'S 2020 REPORT TO THE 2021 AGM

I think you will agree that 2020 was an interesting and challenging year!!

We were looking forward to our special 25 years Anniversary event which, after months of planning, was to take place in May. We were also looking to the future of U3A in Tauranga by

- continuing to review our administration and procedures to meet the changing needs of our membership
- continuing to develop Infoodle and have an organised plan to train more of our key members
- to encourage our members to volunteer for various roles, to reduce the burden on the few
- and to publicise our organisation to the larger community so that more people can benefit from U3A.

And in spite of Covid 19, which continues to rear its ugly head, we have accomplished the above. As an organisation we have overcome whatever Alert Levels have been in place and proved how resilient we are!

## **Membership**

In February 2020 we had 662 financial members

In February 2021 we have 697 financial members

At this time of the year Sheila Freer, our Membership Secretary, works tirelessly to make sure that when you have paid your subs it is entered on the database and you are shown as being financial. She then posts your handbook with your receipt number on it within 24 hours. At which point of course it's in the hands of (the Gods) or our postal system as to when it's delivered to you!

Sheila also continues to administer the magnetic name badges.

Thank you Sheila for all the hours you spend on our behalf.

## **Administration Systems**

As I reported last year we continue to use Xero as our accounting system and Infoodle as our data management system. I have to thank Elizabeth Reeves for her work as Treasurer and for continuing to be our Treasurer for 2021.

The Infoodle database continues to be developed and training in the use of the database is on-going. Our new Exec members have already begun their training.

## **Exec / Committee**

Five members of the Executive are retiring: John Powell, Lati Moodie, Christine Denne, Jan Holden and Kit Divehall. You will be hearing more about them later. Angela Dold has also resigned from the Almoners role.

The new members on the Committee are:

Helen Roberts – Secretary

Gail Moore – Groups Coordinator, Groups R to Z

Sheila Riddell-Harvey – Speakers Organiser for General Meetings

Max Lynds – Publicity

Lynette Viertel – Newsletter Editor

Chris Hector - Committee Support

And Pat Chainey has taken on the role of Almoner.

I'd like to thank all of you for taking on these roles and wish you all the very best.



## **Handbook 2021**

Margaret Marsh has again produced an excellent Handbook for 2021. The digital version with updates will be made available periodically on the website.

## **Newsletter**

I believe the Newsletter excelled itself last year and maintained its usual high standards even under lockdown. Under the leadership of Jan Holden together with Kit Divehall, Paul Chapman and photographer Cliff Freer. Glenne Findon and Col Basire took over the photography for us when Cliff Freer became ill.

Graeme Wilson was the photographer for the Beachside General Meetings and Judith Armstrong volunteered to write the articles for the Newsletter about the guest speakers at the Beachside. Thank you to all of you for contributing to the success of the Newsletter.

## **General Meetings**

The General Meetings have again been well attended both in Tauranga and Beachside. It was a challenge to make sure that we complied with the Ministry of Health regulations regarding Covid 19, especially keeping the numbers of attendees to the required level. However, the raffle tickets given at the door solved this problem and also helped in the 'balancing of the books' for Elizabeth.

We have had some entertaining, informative speakers and I would like to thank Anne Withy, Warwick Thorburn and Graeme Wilson for organising the speakers for the General Meetings on both sides of the bridge. Rob Heath and Anne Briggs found us interesting mini speakers for Tauranga and Beachside meetings. Thank you both for that.

The General Meetings wouldn't be the same without the Audio/Visual teams. They are the people who make sure that the presentations for our guest and in-house speakers work properly. A big thank you to Phil Hansen, Bruce Smith, Alistair Blennerhasset, Bryan Dunn and Peter Simmons.

## **Meet and Greet:**

The Meet and Greet groups at the General Meetings make such a difference to the atmosphere at the meetings and make people feel so welcome. I would like to thank the Groups Coordinators and Jenny Pryor and Maggie Bowcock for organising the various groups to do this for us.

## **Groups**

We started the year with 103 groups and ended with 100 groups. The Groups Coordinators have worked hard to make sure that all the Conveners have been well supported. An example of this was at a Conveners meeting where various issues were discussed. There was such a great atmosphere at that meeting; virtually everyone contributed and many ideas were formed. There was also great communication between the Conveners themselves, planning how they could help each other. This was due to the leadership and guidance of the Coordinators. I would like to thank Christine, Anne, Carole and Margaret for the time and effort they put into supporting their groups.

A number of Conveners have stepped down and I would like to thank them for the time and effort they have given to their groups and also thank the new Conveners for taking on these roles.

## **The Website**

Jim Pryor has continued as our Webmaster along with the Web Development group who are continually looking for ways to improve it and make it more user friendly. The website is a valuable resource to inform the general public and U3A members about U3A Tauranga in general and group information. Jim relies on all of us to give him articles, photographs, information to add to the website so I would encourage everyone to keep him informed of any events, group activities that would interest all members.

## **Almoner**

Angela Dold, our Almoner, unfortunately had to resign during 2020 and give up her role as Almoner. She always had a wonderful way with words, sending messages to members who were unwell or to the families of members who have died. I would like to thank Angela for all the years she has been a dedicated U3A member and wish her well.

We have had a number of deaths throughout last year, one or two in distressing circumstances. It is a timely reminder that we have to make the most of every day.

## **Plans for the future**

A trial of Swipe cards at the Beachside General Meetings will commence at the March General Meeting at Arataki.

Health and Safety Procedures are now a big part of keeping everyone in the organisation safe and we have initiated a new role of a Health and Safety Officer. I have to thank Raewyn Gallagher who has volunteered to take on this new role. She will make sure that we keep up to date with the Ministry of Health Guidelines.

We will also continue to review our administration and procedures to meet the changing needs of our membership. We will continue to develop and learn more about Infoodle and how it can help us to reduce the workloads on the Exec.. We will continue training more of our key members.

My sincere thanks to the Committees of 2019 and 2020 for working with me over the last 2 years. I wouldn't have made it without you. I would also like to thank the Committee support and everyone who has volunteered their time and energy to U3A Tauranga.

My very best wishes go to our new Exec and our extremely capable new President Anne Withy.

*Jean Garmonsway*  
U3A Tauranga President 2019/2020

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDED TO  
LATI MOODIE  
SECRETARY 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 / 2018, 2019, 2020**

Lati joined U3A in 2011. She is a member of the Science group, has been a member of both History A & B groups and she initiated and convened until 2020 the Shakespeare Group.

I have some comments from members of these groups:

*I remember being very impressed by her clear and very well organized presentations to the group.*

*What I do remember are her talks to both groups on differing subjects, always interesting, always so well prepared and sometimes using her scientific background.*

*Lati is a highly valued member of the group, contributing sound and rational views to discussion. She has given a good number of thoroughly researched talks to the group making very good use of visual material via PowerPoint presentations which we have all appreciated.*



However it's her role as Secretary that I want to highlight today. She has gone above and beyond the job description. She held the role of Secretary in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016. She took on the role again when the need arose in 2018 and has continued in the role, 2019, 2020.

She is always supportive  
Very well organized  
Made sure that the Exec was well prepared  
She is a stickler for detail which in an Exec meeting situation is essential  
Accurate and precise  
Often asking pointed questions

She has been a force for accuracy and contributed to the updating and amendments of: the Privacy Policy, the IT Policy, the Health and Safety Guidelines, the Travel Reimbursement Guidelines and the Constitution.

And it is all of the above and more that have made her such an amazing Secretary. It was my great pleasure to move:

*"That on the recommendation of the Executive, this meeting approve the appointment of Lati Moodie as a Life Member of Tauranga U3A."*

I'm happy to confirm that the motion was approved unanimously.

*Jean Garmonsway*





**In Remembrance of Jim Carruthers**  
**12 July 1932 – 20 February 2021**

It is with great sadness that we recently learned of the passing of Jim Carruthers.

Jim was a member of the original steering committee and his memories of that time were of the enthusiasm of the members. He said that it was a lot of hard work, but he was thrilled that just a little notice in the local paper was enough to attract enough interest to get the organisation started. Previously he had given talks to various groups such as Probus and he was very excited about the formation of U3A Tauranga.

Juliet Rice who was also on that steering committee has many memories of Jim in the early days of U3A. “He played a big part due to his many experiences of life and had a lot to offer. He convened several groups over the years and gave interesting talks at monthly meetings.” She always remembers the Christmas when he played Santa Claus. He made it so much fun for everyone. “Jim had a warm, generous, cheerful personality and great sense of humour and was loved by all who knew him.”

In 2020 when we celebrated the 25 years Anniversary of U3A Tauranga Jim was asked what kept him belonging to U3A for 25 years, he replied that it suited his interests and he liked what U3A was all about.

I would like to acknowledge how much the members of U3A Tauranga over the 25 years owe to Jim and the other inaugural members; Jim has been involved and contributed so much to U3A Tauranga since its formation. He was delighted that from such small beginnings U3A in Tauranga has become so popular with approximately 900 members and 100 groups to date.

He will be sadly missed by his many friends at U3A.

Jean Garmonsway

Immediate Past President

# GROUP COORDINATORS' REPORT

## SUGGESTED NEW GROUPS

***Philosophy For Today*** - based in Mount Maunganui/Papamoa - Dave Higson is willing to convene - 027 234 6548

***Scrabble*** - based in Mount Maunganui/Papamoa area - Rona Morgan has offered to start this group - 021 137 3424

***United Cinema Bayfair*** Mt Maunganui - Dianne Gibson has offered to convene - 07 2812424

## WEEKEND WALKERS

Helen Stone has advised that this group may withdraw from U3A and just carry on as an informal walking group. Helen will confirm next month.

## GROUPS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

*Ancient History 2*

*Ballet Appreciation*

*Buildings & Cities*

*Current Events D* (2 new members)

*Garden Ramblers 1* (room for 2)

*International Affairs 2-3*

*Apple Support 2*

*Book Lovers 4* (any Book Club)

*Computer Support B*

*Cycle Group* no limit, new members welcome

*French Conversation* (room for 2)

### *Memoir Writing:*

Jean Akers has just contacted all the people on the waiting list for this group. This is a 6-session course, run on the 1st and 3rd Thursday mornings over three months. The next one will be held at her home, 19 Landing Drive, The Lakes. Seven or 8 people are needed to make the group viable, preferably 8. Jean has names of 6 people ready to begin. If there are 2 more people out there keen to write their memoirs, she would love to hear from them. Due to her own commitments the meetings may not be able to start until May, but hopefully earlier. Name, phone number and email address required.

*Music Appreciation 2-3*

*Philosophy 3*

*Travel*

*Yoga 1*

*Opera 2-3*

*Photography Advanced:* This group can now take extra members as they are planning to meet at the Arataki Centre. (check with Neville Harlick 027 574 9069),

## OTHER GROUP INFORMATION

Book Lovers 4 has a new Convener, Lise Claiborne who has replaced Bev Pitkethley.

## MEETINGS

A Coordinators' meeting was held on 20 January. Revised Attendance Lists and Group Members Lists for Conveners were discussed and subsequently sent to Conveners ready for 2021.

A New Members' meeting is set down for Thursday, 18 March, 2.30 to 3.30pm, in the Wesley Church Lounge.

A Conveners' meeting will be held at the Arataki Community Centre, Zambuck Way, Mt Maunganui on Tuesday 30 March, 9.30 to 12noon.

## NUMBER OF GROUPS

A - C 25

D - H 22

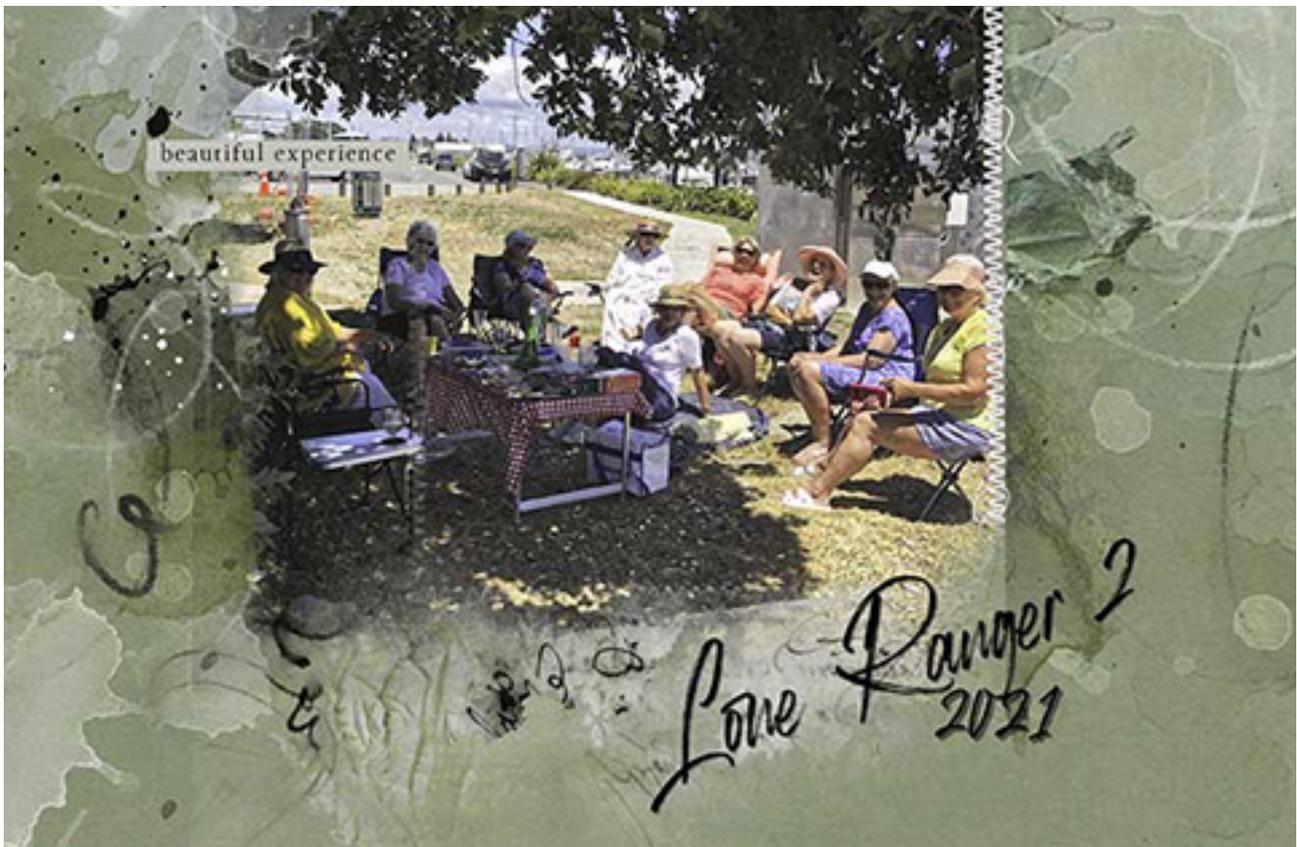
I - P 24

R - Z 18

TOTAL: 89

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# GROUP NEWS



Liz Russel is very skilled at this work. She produced a very special scrapbook card for me. Very painstaking. Not inexpensive, but worth it for a special event. *Judith Cornwell*

# GROUP NEWS

## SCIENCE TODAY

Members were given a construction problem to solve at our final meeting of 2021.

Each group was given 5 pieces of spaghetti, some string, some adhesive tape, a marshmallow and some scissors.

Using only these materials they had 40 minutes to construct a free standing tower to support the marshmallow as high as possible above the table top.

Amazingly, all the finished towers measured somewhat over 70cm with only 3 or 4 cm separating the highest from the lowest. The groups were separated, so no peeping/copying and the competition was fierce and a lot of fun.



## MEET & GREET



The bubbly ladies from Ballet Appreciation

## GUEST SPEAKER FOR AGM

**Phil Waters**



Phil gave us very interesting, and often humorous, tales of when he was a detective at Scotland Yard in London. He described his journey from being a constable on the beat in Surrey (which he found boring as there wasn't much crime) through to his transfer to a more exciting London. His career then progressed firstly to the Crime Squad and eventually after many exams, to being made a detective. Phil now works for Age Concern as a Counsellor and as he puts it, "he visits lonely ladies"!

# RESIGNATIONS

## **Angela Dold Almoner 2016 - 2020**

Angela has been a member of U3A since 2009. She was Vice President 2011 and 2012 and became President in 2013. Unfortunately she couldn't complete the two years as President due to ill health. She took on the role of Almoner in 2016. She always has a wonderful way with words, sending messages to members who were unwell or to the families of members who have died. I would like to thank Angela for all the years she has been a dedicated U3A member and wish her well.

## **Kit Divehall Newsletter Editor 2016 - 2017**

### **Publicity Officer 2019 – 2020**

### **Jan Holden Committee Support 2017**

### **Newsletter Editor 2018 - 2020**

I would like to thank all the Newsletter team for the amazing job they have done and are still doing in developing the Newsletter into the publication we have today.

## **Christine Denne Groups Co-ordinator 2017/2020**

Christine initially took on the role of Groups Co-ordinator in 2017. She stayed in the role for 2 years. But then, because we couldn't find anyone else who would take on the role, she agreed to stay on for a further term. She has been a mentor and great support to the new Coordinators.

## **John Powell President 2017/2018**

### **Immediate Past President 2019/2020**

John instigated a review of the constitution in 2017; the preparation of a strategic and forward thinking plan for the future. He was also involved in the search for new premises for our General Meetings when members voiced their concerns about parking situation at Wesley Church.

When the old database began to struggle with the size of the membership he researched a new Member Management System called Infoodle which is our current database system.

John has been the driving force for the new database technology. Responding to requests from members 'over the bridge' he instigated the General Meetings in Arataki and Papamoa which are a great success.

# Well, Fancy That!

*In this series we take a look at some remarkable but not so well-known facts*

## Is this island what's left of East Germany?



*The beautiful beaches of Ernst Thälmann Island were waiting for East German visitors.*

East Germany – or the German Democratic Republic (GDR), as it was officially named with more than a hint of irony – is long gone and most people would say good riddance. It disappeared with the fall of the Berlin Wall and reunification of Germany.

Or did it?

Technically, one tiny corner of the former Soviet-bloc state may still exist. Ernst Thälmann Island is 15 kilometres long and 500 metres across at its widest point. It lies thousands of miles from chilly Berlin, lapped by the warm waters of the Caribbean Sea. This geographical curiosity came about in June 1972, when the East German leader Erich Honecker paid a state visit to Cuba, and Fidel Castro formally gave the island to his Communist allies.

Originally called Cayo Blanco del Sur, the tiny island was renamed after Ernst Thälmann, a Communist Party leader who unsuccessfully ran against Adolf Hitler in 1932 to become Germany's leader. Thälmann was subsequently arrested by the Gestapo and spent more than a decade in solitary confinement, before being shot dead on Hitler's orders in 1944.



Castro also officially renamed a strip of golden sand on the uninhabited island's coastline as the "Beach of the GDR" and a bust of Thälmann was even erected on a plinth there. The bust (pictured) was unveiled on 18 August 1972 in the presence of the GDR ambassador, a group of East German delegates, and about 100 Cuban government representatives. (It was blown over when Hurricane Mitch struck the Caribbean in 1998.)

In March 1975, the East German government sent a popular singer named Frank Schöbel to Cuba to make music videos and footage of the island was shot, which was later included in a propaganda documentary emphasising the GDR's friendship with Cuba. Ambitious plans to turn the island into a tourist destination for East Germans came to nothing as a result of financial problems, however.

Following Germany's reunification in 1990, a German newspaper decided to follow up the historical quirk by requesting permission to send a news crew to the island. The Cuban government officially declined, insisting the transfer of territory to East Germany had only ever been "symbolic".

*By Paul Chapman*

#### **Quiz Answers**

1. Sarah; 2. Kiri Te Kanawa; 3. Romeo; 4. Benjamin Franklin; 5. Godot; 6. Richard Nixon; 7. Liberia (the capital is Monrovia after James Monroe); 8. Edward the Confessor; 9. Robbie Burns; 10. The Milky Way.



# 2021 EXECUTIVE & COMMITTEE SUPPORT

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**Meet & Greet Organiser Beachside:**

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**Photographer Beachside:**

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**NEXT NEWSLETTER MAY/JUNE 2021**

Deadline for contributions is 26 April 2021

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