



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

Newsletter

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021

Beachside General Meeting

**2nd November ... please note change of
venue to Tauranga Yacht & Power Boat
Club, Sulphur Point, Tauranga.**

\$5 entry fee

Start @ 10 thru to 12

Morning Tea

Guest Speaker: Jamie Troughton

*Jamie has been a journalist and photographer for 25 years, covering
mainly sport for both newspapers and latterly editing magazines.*

*Jamie will give us an interactive presentation about his career
and his passions.*

Election General Meeting

19 November

**Venue Tauranga Yacht & Power Boat Club,
Sulphur Point, Tauranga**

\$5 entry fee

Start @ 10 thru to 12

Morning Tea

For more info about the EGM see Pg.16

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NEWSLETTER TEAM

(this issue)

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Photos**

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QUIZ CORNER

Test your general knowledge with these questions. Answers on page 13

1. In which New York borough is Central Park?
2. In which century was Isaac Newton born?
3. Who kills the monster Grendel in an Old English poem?
4. Which of these paintings has the largest dimensions: a) Mona Lisa (da Vinci); b) The Starry Night (van Gogh); c) The Night Watch (Rembrandt)?
5. What gas forms the holes in Swiss cheese?
6. Which celebrated naturalist famously visited the Galapagos Islands?
7. In the Bible, what causes the destruction of the walls of Jericho?
8. Beside which lake is Queenstown situated: a) Dunstan; b) Wakatipu; c) Te Anau?
9. The Titanic was registered in which English city?
10. Who sang I Walk the Line and A Boy Named Sue?



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

What a messy couple of months we have been through! From my perspective the decision to “proceed” or “cancel” this activity or that meeting, and the repercussions of those decisions have certainly been adding to the workload. However, I am well aware that Conveners have been grappling with the same issues, and members also with “shall I attend or not.” Congratulations are due to you all for your forbearance and cooperation throughout.



Thank You.

We decided to bite the bullet and hold the Tauranga October General Meeting. We felt it important to give those of you who wished to attend, the opportunity to do so. What a wonderful meeting we had! There was a great atmosphere, and our delight at seeing other members was enhanced by journeying through Brixton with Margaret Marsh, before Les Cheyne transported us to the time when Moa roamed our land.

A Notice has been included elsewhere in this edition about our position on requiring members attending groups, meetings, or other U3A activities to be fully vaccinated. Please read it carefully and heed the message if you have chosen to remain unvaccinated. While we regret having to impose this action, we have a responsibility to protect the Health and Wellbeing of the majority of our members.

Exploratory moves are being made to set up an autonomous U3A in the Mount/ Papamoa area. At the next Beachside General meeting on 2 November at the Yacht Club, Sulphur Point, Tauranga, 3 people involved in this initiative will take the floor to give further information and answer any questions you have. I hope you take the opportunity to participate in this session.

The guest speaker will be Jamie Troughton, a local, who will speak on his career and his passions. More information on the front page.

Finally, a reminder that the Election General Meeting will be held on 19 November at the Yacht Club, 9.30 for 10am start. At this meeting we will elect the Executive, and set the Subscription, for 2022. After morning tea we will get our toes tapping and maybe our voices tuned to the music of the Ukulele group and the Acoustic Music group. Let us see this year off in a lighthearted fun manner!

I hope you are well and making the most of what we are able to do, while staying safe from Covid.

*Regards,
Anne Withy.
President.*



Covid Vaccination Decision made by U3A Tauranga

The U3A Executive has made a clear statement to the membership regarding vaccination. The following motion was passed unanimously at the October Executive Meeting:

“As this is a Health and Safety issue, U3A Members should not attend U3A activities until double vaccinated.”

The Government has moved to mandate the use of Vaccine Certificates which will be required to gain entry to some events and premises.

This backs up our decision, and we will all need to carry proof of vaccination to show if asked.

Your GP is able to provide you with a certificate drawn from your NHI records, or you can go to www.health.govt.nz and click on Requesting Proof of Vaccination which will take you to your own health records and enable you to print off a copy from there

Beachside Matters

In 2017 General Meetings were started at Beachside.

Beachside incorporates Mt Maunganui, Arataki and Papamoa, a rapidly growing area of Tauranga.

Covid-19 has tempered the growth of Beachside significantly but with a strong committed team we manage bi-monthly meetings and approximately 15 groups are based here.

The vision / aspiration shared by many is to create a U3A Beachside that will provide for the needs of the local community and serve to strengthen U3A across the BOP.

There are challenges ahead but there is a desire to act in good faith with U3A Tauranga to make this journey a success.

John Powell

COORDINATORS' REPORT

With the impact of Covid, decisions had to be made about meetings, looking at ways to keep in touch and considering solutions for the present and future. Some groups again looked at the positive ways Zoom can be used for meetings and staying connected. Most groups went into hibernation during levels 4, 3 and even level 2. Where social distancing was possible like Hiking, Biking and Yoga, groups continued to meet.

The question was raised as to whether members should be requested to attend groups only if they were vaccinated. Some groups decided among themselves that if they had a 100% vaccination rate, they were happy to meet complying with Covid regulations.

Some A-C groups decided to postpone their meetings until 2022. A few groups are tentatively meeting again but complying with Covid regulations.

Suggested New Groups

Camera Club – Margaret Marsh 281 2408 (see Ad on pg 7)

Computer Scrapbooking - a new 4 week course with Margaret Marsh (see Ad on pg7)

Short Distance Walkers – Pat Russell 07 562 3467

This group would accommodate those seeking a weekly walk of about an hour around local areas of interest followed by a coffee or lunch break at a local café. It is envisaged the group would start early in 2022.

Groups in Recess

Genealogy 1

Acoustic Music – probably until early 2022

Groups seeking new members

Ancient History 1

Buildings and Cities

French 3

Garden Ramblers

Philosophy for Today

Yoga 3

U3A Travel Group

Scrabble

Convener changes

Garden Ramblers 1 needs a new convener for 2022, Jenni Baxter has offered to help any new convener with the admin work.

Lone Rangers 1 – Sheena Spittles (07 544 7039 027 458 2768) has taken over as Convener.

Memoir Writing – Glenn Findon has replaced Jean Akers. Contact Glenn re courses for 2022 (571 2925 027 435 3515).

Photo Enhancing – Richard Thompson 021 827 471 has replaced Mary Goldfinch

Rialto 1 needs a new convener to replace Alan Reynolds

Science Today 1 needs a new convener to replace Kate Mulligan.

Please contact Gail Moore, Coordinator 021 299 1009 to enquire about taking on one of these roles or nominating another group member.

Other Group Matters

The Mah Jong group joined members of the Citizens Club, Tauranga in one of their meetings.

The Oceanside Music Group provided some of their members to perform at the Mount Maunganui RSA on 23 October as a gesture of thanks for the RSA allowing them to rehearse in their establishment throughout the year at no charge.

The New Members Meeting was postponed due to the Covid restrictions at Wesley Church. A new date will be set for 2022 when restrictions permit.

Total groups 95

Anne Briggs (I2P Coordinator)

No more fogged up glasses

We are all reluctantly getting used to wearing face masks in these days of Covid. If you are having problems with your spectacles fogging up each time you breathe out, you may be interested to know there is a solution.

An engineer named Ben Robertson from Palmerston North has produced an inexpensive 3D-printed nose-clip to fix at the top of the mask.

Ben began making the nose-clips to give away to hospitals and health board workers. The profits from commercial sales of the little devices goes straight back into subsidising that worthy project.

Ben recently featured on TV1 News “Good Sorts” slot. If you wish to check out the nose-clips, go to [Art-isan – Art-isan Design NZ Ltd](#)

My wife and I use them on our face masks, and I can tell you they work a treat!

Paul Chapman

Camera Club — a new group at U3A



DO YOU want to learn more about your chosen capture device, whether it's a camera or phone? You will learn how to change device settings, how to use the equipment, how to edit the images, how to print them and create photo books and display your photographic works of art. Here is a run down of topics this group would include:

- How to use the many different kinds of capture devices
- Setting up the device for indoors, outdoors, low light, bright light images, etc.
- Information on taking a GREAT photo!
- How to edit the images using free and other apps
- How to make online photo books and images good enough to frame and display
- Guest speakers, workshops, competitions, field trips and club outings
- Notes will be given where appropriate
- And generally anything and everything about the device and taking photos, editing and printing

email for info: a2c.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Computer Scrapbooking — a new group at U3A



Computer or Digital Scrapbooking is a memory-keeping creative craft using your images and words. Wikipedia describes it as:

"the creation of a 2D artwork by combining various graphic elements. It is done using a computer, digital photos and graphics software such as Powerpoint."

Scrapbook pages can be created for Weddings, Birthdays, New Baby, Special Occasions and Holiday artwork. You can use the same techniques to create all sorts of items such as greetings cards, posters, invitations, gift wrap, decorations, party favours, stationery, calendars and much more!

Finished layouts can be printed as individual pages and added to traditional scrapbook albums, or printed as a photobook or shared with family and friends via email. You can also print your artwork to frame and hang, or make t-shirts, tote bags, badges, magnets and more!

email for info: a2c.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

GROUP NEWS

ZOOMING UPWARDS

by Ian Morrison

If, at the start of last year, you'd suggested I'd become a Zoom enthusiast, I'd have said you were crazy. After all, there's always yet another technological mountain to climb. And, normally, when you reach the summit, you wonder if it was worth all the stress and bother. So why should this latest geekish folderol be any different?

But, then, suddenly, the first Covid lockdown was upon us and I had to make a choice. Would the International Affairs group I was convening cease to exist for the duration or would we keep going by holding meetings online? To my surprise, a majority of members wanted to keep going. Impressed and a mite intimidated, I pulled out my long-neglected webcam, attached it to my venerable desktop computer and boldly declared myself still in business. But I'd forgotten how to fix the webcam securely, so that, within seconds, it had crashed onto the floor and was now kaput. Replacing it during lockdown seemed impossible without vast expenditure and even vaster patience. So I powered-up my cheapo, camera-equipped laptop and managed, after several maladroit attempts, to make contact with the group's members. But, alas, within half an hour, the laptop went dead. It had all been too much for the poor wee, underpowered soul!

My next trick was to try connecting with the group via mobile. This more or less worked. But chairing a gathering with only a tiny cellphone screen proved too nerve-racking by far. Anyhow, I eventually managed not merely to acquire a second-hand webcam but to avoid destroying it. And from that point on we really were back in business.

By now, I was uncharacteristically hooked on defying the odds. So why not, I asked myself, start inviting some real experts on international affairs, including the occasional famous one, to talk to us about, say, the US elections, the wars of the Middle East or the seaways around China?

And, to my amazement, the plan worked. In the first few months, we managed to attract respected commentators such as Professor Robert Patman from Otago University and Dr Paul Buchanan from 36th Parallel, both of them familiar from frequent appearances on radio and television, as well as Dr Reuben Steff from Waikato University. In each case, we were treated to a highly informative and stimulating session that left us keen for more.

So, at the start of this year, we decided to alternate between conventional "in the flesh" meetings in each others' homes and Zoom gatherings with guests. And then, along came Delta and Zoom became our norm again!

All of our guests from last year have either returned or are scheduled to do so. In addition, we've had a superb presentation on the Middle East from Associate Professor Stephen Hoadley of Auckland University, as well as a thought-provoking session on the Australia/UK/US submarine deal, led by Geoffrey Miller from Victoria University's Democracy Project.

Looking to the next few months, we've got a speaker booked to talk on prospects for an independence referendum in New Caledonia and another to reflect on how the Biden administration's first nine months of foreign policy have worked out. We're also planning for a further session with Paul Buchanan before the end of the year.

None of this could have been achieved without Zoom or some similar platform. But another advantage over traditional meetings is that there's no need for anyone to supply refreshments. Instead, you just raid the pantry and munch on your own biscuits. As our Zoom gatherings are free from constraints of space, we're happy to invite any U3A members who might be interested, irrespective of whether or not they're formally members of the group. If you'd like to take part, please feel free to get in touch with me on jottings@xtra.co.nz

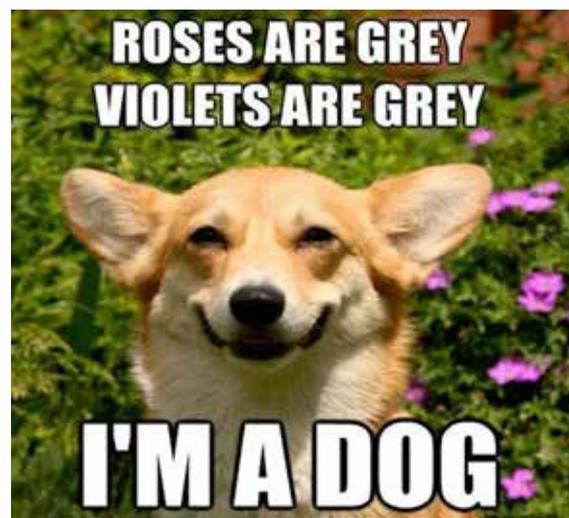
And one last thought! We really don't know what Covid still has in store for us. So, maybe, Zoom and the like will play a role in how many U3A groups operate in the future. If our experience is anything to go by, you could do a lot worse.

POSTPONEMENT

History B Group

Because of all the uncertainty around Covid we have postponed Chalium Poppy's talk until 27 April next year! This is the earliest he can fit us in!

Venue and time remain the same and will be confirmed closer to this event.



DID A CARTWHEEL
THE OTHER DAY,
THINKING
IT WAS LIKE RIDING A
BIKE. IT'S NOT.

Opera Appreciation

DONIZETTI'S THREE QUEENS

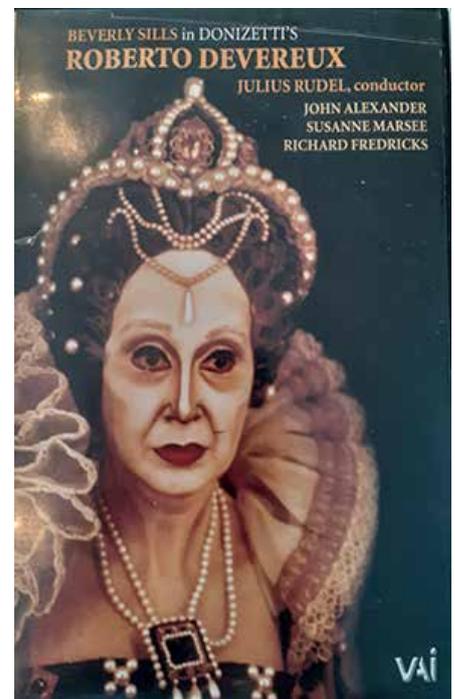
To those who think that in Opera Appreciation we endlessly recycle the old favourites, Carmen, La Boheme and La Traviata, note that we have just completed a cycle of operas, sometimes known as Donizetti's Three Queens. The Italian composer was fascinated with English and Scottish history, his best-known opera being "Lucia di Lammermoor" with its famous mad scene based on a novel by Sir Walter Scott.

We began with "Anna Bolena", Henry VIII's second queen Anne Boleyn after his divorce from Queen Catherine of Aragon. The soprano role of Anna was sung by Anna Netrebko in a Vienna State opera production.

That was followed by "Maria Stuarda", Mary Queen of Scots, with Mary sung by Mariella Devia in a La Scala production.

The final one was "Roberto Devereux", rarely performed today, with the major role of Elizabeth I, daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, sung by the great Beverly Sills in a New York City Opera production. She made the cover of TIME MAGAZINE as America's Queen of Opera in 1975. Roberto Devereux was a favourite, boyfriend if you like, of Elizabeth. She spends the opera trying to save Roberto from execution for treason after failing in his expedition to quell the rebellious Irish. Sound familiar? She is unsuccessful.

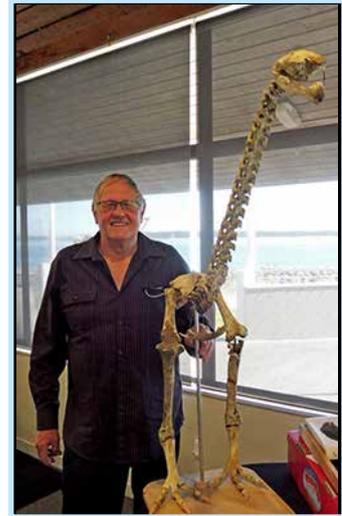
All three central characters in the operas are executed. To round off the cycle we propose to have another rarely-performed opera, "Henry VIII" by Saint Saens.



OCTOBER 2021 GENERAL MEETING SPEAKER

Les Cheyne was a funny and entertaining speaker and was greatly appreciated by his audience. He comes from a circus background and was every inch the showman!!

While Les has no professional Training in Archaeology, as a teenager he found remains of Moa while exploring the caves of Takaka. He took a very keen interest in the subject, excavating two Moa hunter sites in the Nelson area, at Takaka Hill and Cable Hill. Les brought artefacts which were handed round the audience. He described one or two of his adventures while caving looking for Moa remains. One example being that he was stuck in a cave and unable to get out! However he did get out by tying knots in a long rope for hand and foot holds.



Les believes the Moa Hunters arrived in New Zealand from Persia, Easter Island and Iran approximately 2,000 years ago. The characteristics of Moa hunters were red hair and green eyes. They were a peaceful people and didn't build pas or forts. This period of material culture is remarkable for its lack of weapons. The Moa hunter period was the period during which the hunters made their first contact with the Moa. Some of the species were relatively small. Les described three types of Moa as:

- 1) A large bird with long legs, approximately 7ft high
- 2) A smaller bird with long legs
- 3) A medium size bird which was obese!

The hunters utilised the Moa for food, while from its bones they manufactured ornaments, fish hooks, bird spear points, and other items. Moa were killed by spears and traps. The Moa hunters also appear to have eaten Kiwis, Moa eggs and Tuatara, as evidenced by the number of lower jaws, mingled with Moa remains, found in middens.

The Moa hunter people were great adze makers. They wore necklaces and pendants of bird bones. In addition to these they made cloak pins, stone fish-hook shanks as well as bone with points often drilled for attachment. When the Maori people arrived in New Zealand, in approximately AD 1350, they brought taro and yams, some of the traditional canoe plants of the Polynesians, along with rats and dogs for meat. They also ate shellfish, fish and people. Les believes that the Moa was long gone by the time Maori arrived in New Zealand. The pa or hill fort became well established.

The Maori also made Adzes which were straight and made of basalt. They made necklaces of shells, shark teeth, oca and human teeth. Moa Hunters and Maori drilled bone and stone with a hand gouge.

Les was informative and enthusiastic and invited the audience to interact and to ask questions which they did with great enthusiasm. He left us with the following rhyme:

*No Moa, No Moa, In old Aotearoa, Can't get em, They've eat them,
They're gone, And there aint no Moa*

Well, Fancy That!

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



What's the secret of the keys?

By Paul Chapman

We are all familiar with the QWERTY keyboard on a computer. Most of us have been around long enough to remember its original incarnation on a typewriter.

In my 50-year career as a journalist I spent countless hours pounding away on such keyboards (although I never progressed much further than two-fingered typing).

But have you ever wondered how the QWERTY came about? Why are the keys placed in that seemingly random fashion and not simply positioned in alphabetical order, starting with ABC at the top left?

The answer goes back to one Christopher Latham Sholes, an innovative newspaper proprietor who lived in Kenosha, Wisconsin. In October 1867, Sholes and two colleagues patented an early writing machine, which was the predecessor of the typewriter.

Sholes spent the next five years struggling to perfect the invention, having started by placing the keys in alphabetical

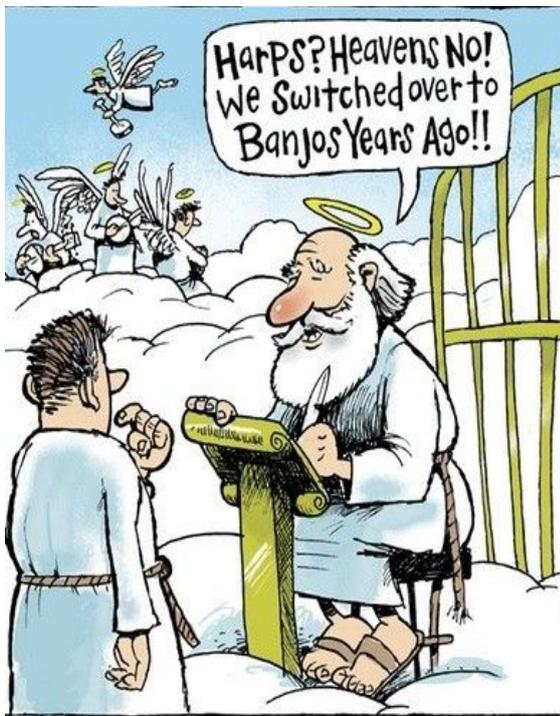


order. The problem he encountered was this: the mechanical arms carrying the characters that struck the paper in the carriage kept getting tangled up.

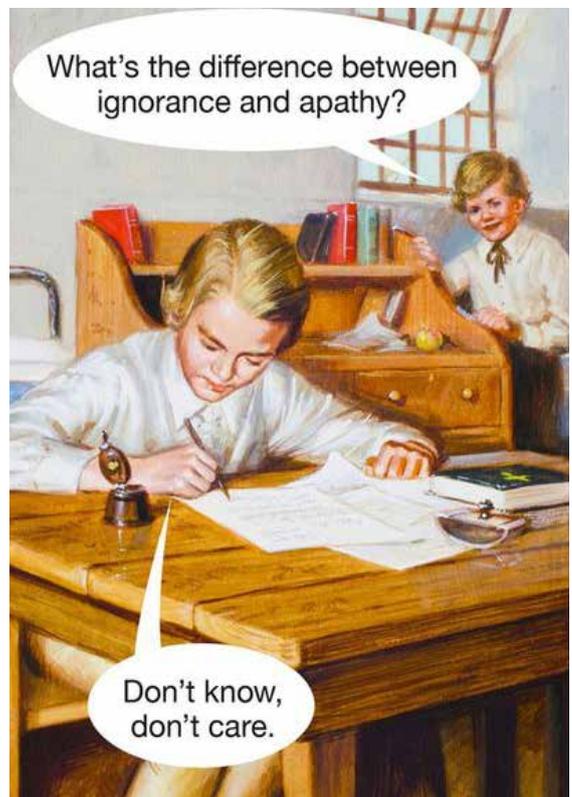
He quickly realised that some letters in the English language were used far more often than others. Through sheer trial and error, Sholes eventually came up with what appeared to be the optimum arrangement to ensure the most frequently used keys tended to avoid clashing with each other, thereby reducing the chances of entanglement.

At that point, James Denmore, who had financially backed Sholes in developing the invention, sold the manufacturing rights to E Remington and Sons. The keyboard was finalised by Remington's mechanics and the QWERTY configuration was here to stay.

When computers became widely available most of the original users were office workers who had trained on typewriters, meaning the QWERTY keyboard was retained because it was so familiar. So it remains ... and the QWERTY looks unlikely to be replaced any time soon.



one Man's Heaven...



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Manhattan;
2. 17th;
3. Beowulf;
4. c) The Night Watch;
5. Carbon dioxide;
6. Charles Darwin;
7. Trumpets;
8. b) Wakatipu;
9. Liverpool;
10. Johnny Cash

It's a funny old world



Know the name but can't place the face ...

By Paul Chapman

Britain lost a cultural icon – of sorts – in 2014 when Louis Tussaud's House of Wax in the seaside resort of Great Yarmouth finally closed its doors after more than 50 years. The place had become a must-see tourist attraction, once hailed by the Daily Mirror as “the worst –and we mean the worst – museum in the world,” because its exhibits were so atrociously un-life like.

The 150 waxworks of celebrities, royals, politicians and sportspeople bore little, if any, resemblance to the men and women they were meant to represent. Visitors flocked to see them to enjoy a good laugh for the cost of the five pounds entry fee. Thankfully, the models had name tags to help with identification.

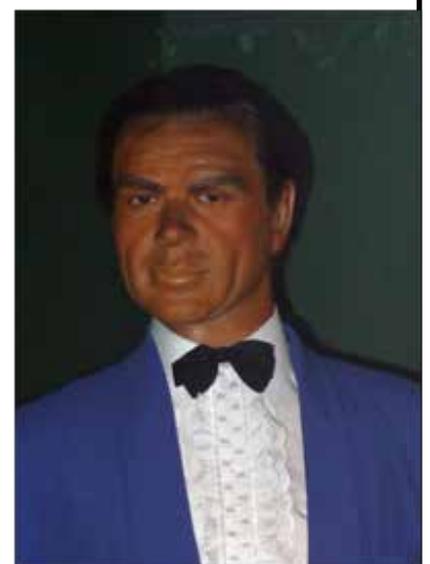
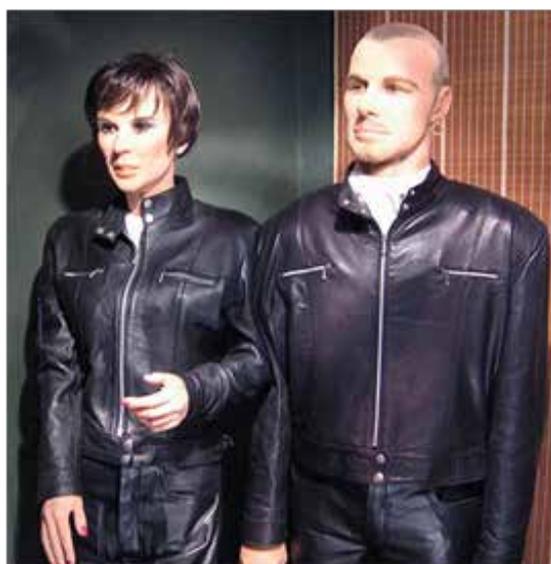
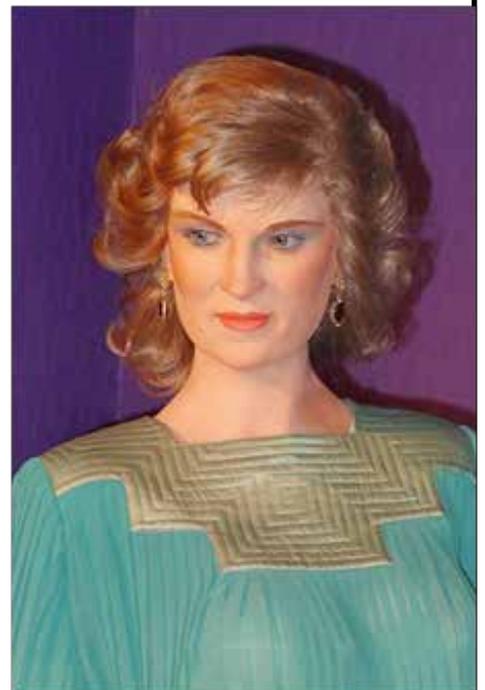
Princess Diana, considered by the owners to be the star of the collection, was likened by one critic to “a straw coloured moptop that could be a Saturday afternoon wrestler from the 1970s.”

The museum was sold by Peter Hayes, 86, and his wife Jane, 83, to a buyer from the Czech Republic. "All the models and machines and frames were sold in one go," Jane told the BBC at the time. "I don't really know who the chap was, but he took everything."

The couple, who used to live above the museum, also had to leave because they could no longer afford the rates on the building.

Louis Tussaud was the great-grandson of Marie Tussaud, founder of the celebrated Madame Tussaud's waxworks in London, although the two businesses were never connected. He died in 1938 and the rights to his name in the United States now belong to the Ripley's Believe It or Not organisation, which operates a wax museum of an entirely different quality in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Now check out some of the former great Yarmouth wax celebrities for yourself. They are (in case you can't guess): The Queen, Prince Charles, Princess Diana, Prince William, Victoria and David Beckham, and Sean Connery.



**U3A TAURANGA INCORPORATED
AGENDA FOR ELECTION GENERAL MEETING**

To be held at the Tauranga Yacht Club on
19 November 2021 at 10.00 am.

Welcome:
Apologies:

Minutes of the 2020 Election General Meeting.

Election of the Executive 2022

Officers:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Committee Members
- Coordinators
- Membership Administrator
- Speaker Organiser
- Publicity

Subscription for 2022

Close of Election General Meeting

Morning Tea followed by:

Entertainment Music Song Laughter

REMEMBER TO...

SCAN IN

WEAR YOUR MASK

STAY DISTANCED

BE VACCINATED

NEXT NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2022 Deadline for contributions is 6 January 2022

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