

ARE YOU THE ONE?



We are looking for a **Secretary** to work with the Executive

Skills required:

- Sense of Humour
- Team Player
- Communication skills
- Office administrative experience

Responsibilities:

- Organise, prepare Agenda
- Take Minutes for monthly Executive meetings, Election General Meetings and Annual General Meetings
- Deal with correspondence

If you think you are the one and would like to work with an amazing team of people contact Anne Withy or Raewyn Gallagher or any member of the Exec.

We can't wait for you to join us!



GUEST SPEAKER FOR MARCH GENERAL MEETING

18 March 2022 @ 9.45 for 10am start, \$5 entry and Morning Tea
Venue: Tauranga Yacht & Power Boat Club Sulphur Point Tauranga

Anne Tolley TCC Commission Chair

Anne will talk about what has been achieved by the Commissioners of TCC and what governance she sees necessary to take TCC into the future. With Local Body Elections at the end of the year this will be informative and timely. Questions will be welcomed.

In this issue...

Quiz Corner	2
President's Message	3
AGM Photos	4
AGM Speaker	5
Group News	6
Coordinators' Report	7
Presidents Annual Report	8-10
It's a Funny Old World	11
Executive & Committee Support	12

JUNE NEW MEMBERS MEETING
Thursday 23 June, Wesley Church 2-3 pm



NEWSLETTER TEAM (this issue)

Lynette Viertel
Editor & Layout Design

Paul Chapman
Quiz, Feature Article & Proofreading

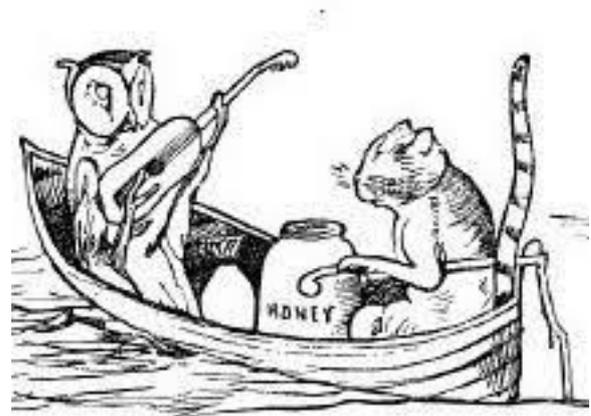
Margaret Marsh - AGM Photos

Liz Chapman - Proofreading

QUIZ CORNER

Test your general knowledge with these questions. Answers on page 11

1. In what country is Machu Picchu?
2. Earth orbits the Sun in 365 days and what:
a) Six hours longer; b) Six hours shorter; or c) Twelve hours longer?
3. The modern version of which popular sport originated in Scotland?
4. Which highway runs from Darwin in the Northern Territory to Port Augusta in South Australia: a) Eyre Highway; b) Stuart Highway; or c) Bruce Highway?
5. What did the Owl and the Pussycat dine on?
6. Which famous survey was started in 1086?
7. In which decade was the ANZUS alliance formed?
8. What is the third most populated city of the United States: a) Los Angeles; b) Chicago; or c) Philadelphia?
9. Which Dutch town is famous for its blue pottery?
10. Which road sign has the shape of an octagon in most countries?



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Members,

The U3A year is well under way.

We had the Annual General Meeting on the 18th of February where we managed to successfully deal with two major aspects of U3A Tauranga's business.

The Auditor's findings in relation to the auditing of the 2020 Financial Accounts were reported on, and secondly, the proposed Constitution we had circulated to members in January was adopted. The Constitution adopted in February 2022 will be posted on the Website if you need to refer to it in future.

After morning tea, we had a welcome change of pace when Steve Subritzsky entertained us with tales of his travels in Outback Australia. There is a fuller report elsewhere in this Newsletter.

I have been pleased to hear that most groups are continuing with their activities, but I do stress that it is important to take all precautions recommended by the Ministry of Health to minimise the risk of Omicron getting among us. Also, I hope health compromised members of your groups for whom it is not wise to attend in person, are being given feedback about activities so they do not become isolated.

I want to place on record my appreciation of the work of Conveners. You are such key people not only within the Groups but within our whole organisation. To the Conveners who retired during 2021 please accept my heartfelt thanks for the work you did, and I hope you can enjoy a little more discretionary time now.

To conclude, recently the Executive was saddened to receive the resignation of our Secretary, Helen. We wish her the very best on her road to recovery. To date we have been unsuccessful in finding a replacement for her.

Hence this plea!! **WE NEED A SECRETARY.**

If you would like to find out more about what the job entails, please contact me or any Executive member. (All contact details are on pg 4 of the Handbook). We will be more than happy to meet and discuss what is required for the role. In the meantime, stay safe and be positive as we move through 2022.

*Kind Regards,
Anne Withy.
President, U3A Tauranga.*



@ the
**ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING**



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Steve Subritzky gave his presentation on his experiences in the Australian Outback over the last 20 years or so.

He has travelled from the top to bottom, east to west and the centre in his trusty Land Cruiser that is a pop-top camper. His travels have taken him through deserts, into croc infested areas, areas where flies abound and the corrugations on the road wreck everything if you are not careful. Some days are long and dirty, water and fuel supplies have to be carefully planned.

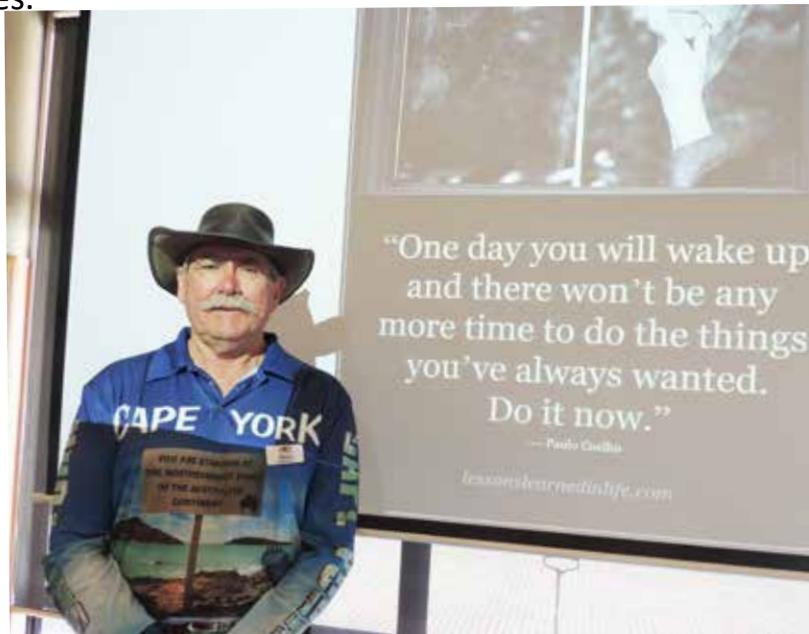
There is minimal communication when there is no phone or internet coverage for days at a time. There have been roads where the next instruction on the GPS is 1198km away, 3 days driving. He has helped people lost in the desert who would have died without his help.

Then there are the amazing sculptures on the Oodnadatta Track and at Aramac not far from Longreach. Huge sandhills have been climbed in his Land Cruiser at the edge of the Simpson Desert near Birdsville.

Highlights of his travels include the Simpson Desert, Oodnadatta Track, Gibb River Road in the Kimberleys, the Bungle Bungles, Cape York, Kakadu and Litchfield

National Park, the list just goes on and on.

Where to next? back to Australia in 2023 to fill in some gaps around Western Australia where there is a huge desert and not many roads through it, amongst other places.



GROUP NEWS

CAMERA CLUB

We held our inaugural meeting with 7 members present. Apologies from 3 who were out of town. After introductions, we discussed the capture devices we were using, what we hoped to get from the group and our aspirations regarding photography. I thought it best to keep the first session fairly low key to suit our skill levels, so we started off with Composition - composing your image for best results.

The Rules of Composition

Frame within a Frame study in depth, one of the composition rules which I thought was a good start point and very easy to accomplish. We also watched a very good YouTube video on the subject of Composing Photos.

A good time was had by all and we closed the session at 12 noon. We have changed our meeting date to the 1st Monday of the month, 10-12 noon.

Please contact me if you have any questions.
Margaret Marsh Convener, Camera Club
a2c.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz



COMPUTER SUPPORT B

We held our first meeting of the year on Monday 7th February, receiving apologies from 4 who were still away. It was good to meet up again after the Christmas break to discuss our Windows computer and any problems, and to discuss what we wanted to cover this year. In this session we looked at the following topics: Using Gmail and specifically the mysteries of creating folders (aka Labels in Gmail) to store emails away from the InBox.

We also looked at how to use Drafts to keep frequently used messages on hand so that we did not need to keep re-typing the same message over and over. I also showed the group that if you regularly contact a group of people (say family, friends or a U3A group), how you can keep their email addresses in Drafts and just copy and paste them into the To: or CC: box. Download the Gmail Quick Reference PDF. Many thanks to our hostess for afternoon tea. The session closed at 3.30 pm. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Margaret Marsh
Convener: Computer Support B
a2c.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

COORDINATORS' REPORTS

GROUP COORDINATORS: prepared by C Simpson (summarised)

Details of New Groups:

Short Distance Walkers to start this month. More details after meeting with proposed Convener, Jan Russell, next week.

Suggested New Groups:

European History: Convener Paul Wooding 021511323

To be held 2nd and 4th Wednesday Time: 9.45 – 12 noon. Venue Members' homes – Mainly at the Mount and Papamoa. The plan for 2022 is to follow the growth of nationalism and liberalism in 19th century Europe through members talks and discussion.

Groups Closed: Rialto 3

Groups in Recess: Acoustic Music, until after Omicrom outbreak has peaked.

Groups seeking New Members:

Refer to Handbook for convener or coordinator contact details

European History, Dining 5, Garden Ramblers 4, Hikers 1, Scrabble, Memoir Writing – register with Glenne Findon for the wait list; Music Appreciation, Philosophy for Today, Photo Enhancing, Cafe Book Lovers 2, Current Events D.

Groups requiring new Conveners:

Rummikub 1, Weekend Walkers 2 and Philosophy 3

We need a Convener to step forward ASAP to keep these groups active.

Conveners who retired at the end of 2021

Eve Grimley, Cafe Book Lovers 1

Philosophy 3 - Ian Morrison

Other Groups Information:

History A and History B Groups have a new venue for their meetings: Now meeting in the auditorium at Bethlehem Shores, 141 Bethlehem Road, Bethlehem. The days and times remain the same.

Rialto 1: Has a new Convener nomination. More details after a group meeting.

Psychology: New Convener: Sam Oliver 544 5047. Venue members' homes instead of at Grindz Café.

Apple Mac 2 Group postponed their February meeting.

Ballet Appreciation: New Convener, Margaret Osbourn, 544 3865.

Cafe Book Lovers 2

With the passing of Marianne Lammers, Cafe Book Lovers 2 now has new conveners:

Convener: Barbara Joyce, 021 244 3944

Co-convener: Anne Hughes, 022 185 1135 ...they are also looking for 2 new members.

Cafe Book Lovers 4 - Any Book Book Club

Convener: Lise Claiborne. New Venue: The Raft Cafe, Chapel Street Time: 2-4 pm

Current Events D4

Convener Angela Scott is convalescing after fracturing her shoulder and leg. George Stewart is temporary Convener [576 6170, geodor31@gmail.com]. After 3 resignations, she would welcome some new members.

Current Events Convener: Peter Jackson. New venue: Bayswater Retirement Village, 60 Maranui Street, Papamoa.

Cafe Book Lovers 1 has a new Convener: Pat Goldstiver, 575 3589.

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U3A TAURANGA INC PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report for the U3A Tauranga year of 2021.

MEMBERSHIP:

Our Membership increased from 966 to a total of 982 at year end. As always, the new member number, 151 over the year, was diluted by deaths and resignations, but this year we also received a number of resignations from members because of the Vaccination Requirement we put in place.

INTEREST GROUPS:

To serve the needs of members, our Group Coordinators and Group Conveners had a very busy year. As well as assisting in the implementation of a new Health and Safety Policy, which now requires the reporting of Accidents and Injuries, we have purchased 3 personal locator beacons for our Hiking Groups. Coordinators were also instrumental in increasing the number of groups from 89 to 97 at year end. While members are the heart of our Organisation, groups are the tool by which we enable members' to fulfil their lifelong learning aspirations. Groups are also one of the tools by which we can measure our overall effectiveness.

GENERAL MEETINGS:

Covid interfered with some of these. The U3A Tauranga meetings in the Beachside area were severely impacted with the March meeting restricted to 50 members, the September meeting cancelled, and the November meeting shifted to the Yacht Club. Covid also caused the August and September meetings in Tauranga to be cancelled. Despite all this disruption the Speaker Organiser team managed to provide an amazing array of very interesting people to address us on a wide variety of subjects. We have also benefitted from excellent Short Talks given by our own members. At the meetings we did hold, our Meet and Greet people ensured we experienced the warm welcome on arrival that has become such an important hall mark of our Organisation.

THE EXECUTIVE:

We had 5 new members join the Executive this year. After a settling in period, they have worked hard and effectively with the rest of us. The Executive is a strong team and we have all put countless hours of effort into ensuring our Constitutional obligations, and our members' needs are met.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT U3A IN MT MAUNGANUI/PAPAMOA AREA:

As member numbers continued to expand in the above area, in October a wish was expressed by some members there, that an independent U3A be established. A Steering Committee was set up at an Inaugural Public Meeting and have worked hard to achieve this goal. Any individual person from any geographical area is free to become a financial member of either or both U3A Organisations.

However, to address confusion that exists, I want to make it very clear that U3A Tauranga groups based in the Mount/Papamoa area will remain U3A Tauranga groups. They will not be automatically “moved” to Beachside. Some Tauranga groups may lose members. Our Coordinators will assist those remaining members to rebuild, if that is their wish. If it is not their wish and numbers are unsustainable the group will close. There will be other Tauranga groups in the Mount/Papamoa area that will not be detrimentally affected, and I can reassure you that U3A Tauranga will continue to serve the needs and provide support to all its groups regardless of location. At the same time we will continue to work with U3A Beachside as both organisations have the same aim of providing opportunities for older people in the wider area to live stimulating, active lives.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS / ACTIVITIES IN 2021

Newsletters

Our Newsletter Editor, and the team behind her, must be congratulated on the high standard of the bi-monthly publications.

Expo

In order to promote U3A, in February we had a stand at the 2-day Expo held at Bay Arena. This proved to be a successful endeavour from the perspective of informing the public of our existence and activities. It also yielded new members.

Infoodle

As well as containing our membership database and being the vehicle by which we send out Newsletters, President’s letters and other membership communications, this year we have increased our use of other services within Infoodle especially the Library.

Website

Our Website ISP, or Server, was sold to a new entity during the year. Our Website Manager has been kept busy ensuring the changes that inevitably came about as a result of this did not interfere with the smooth functioning of the Website. We have also strengthened the security of the site by installing https.

Barcoded Name Badges

At the beginning of the year these were printed and issued to members in the Mount/Papamoa area in response to a request from the Beachside Subcommittee. This was a trial project to measure the value of smooth entry to General Meetings, and to provide a record of those attending in case it was needed for Covid tracing or in the event of an Emergency Evacuation. Members involved are happy with the outcomes, and the system will now be taken over by U3A Beachside.

Audit

A full Audit of the 2020 Accounts was carried out as requested at the last AGM. Details have already been reported in Matters Arising.

Constitution

A Review of the current Constitution was undertaken. Some new clauses have been added, some altered and some deleted. Members present at the AGM on the 18th February 2022 voted to adopt the document.

Archives

Much of U3A Tauranga's early history was still in paper form. We now have a great deal of that information digitised and stored safely in two places. The work will continue this year.

Policies

Two policies were reviewed during the year as well as several of our standard documents.

Convener Meetings/ New Member Meetings

Unfortunately, one Conveners' and one New Members' meeting had to be cancelled because of Covid.

THE OUTLOOK FOR 2022.

With the formation of U3A Beachside BOP our membership will no doubt drop, leading to a drop in Income. We are already budgeting for a tight financial year and will make appropriate decisions as we go forward.

The 2021 year was busy and rewarding, though not without its frustrations. I am extremely grateful to the many, many people who have contributed so much to help us serve you, our members. A huge thanks to each and every one of you. Together we have placed U3A Tauranga in a strong position to go into a changing future.

Thank you all.

Anne Withy

President

U3A Tauranga

It's a Funny Old World

It's not just weeds you find in the garden

By Paul Chapman

If you think you're having a bad day, spare a thought for David Page from Coltishall, in the English county of Norfolk. Digging in his garden one day in September 2004, Mr Page, a JCB driver, unearthed a rusty metal object that resembled a camping-gas cylinder. Intrigued, the 40-year-old father of five went to investigate. Only when he had pushed a button on one end did the thought occur to him that what he might have discovered was an unexploded World War II bomb.

Sweating with fear, he phoned the police and was told not to let go of the button under any circumstances. So afraid was he that in a forgetful moment his thumb might slip off the button, he bravely taped his hand to the suspected bomb.

"When I pressed the button, I thought 'what have I done?'" he said later.

"I thought, with a mine, if you lift your foot up, it would trigger.

"I was absolutely terrified that I would be blown up into a million pieces.

"The woman police operator kept saying it would be okay, but I said to her 'You're not the one holding the bomb.'"

Mr Page then thoughtfully buried his hand – and the "bomb" – in a box full of sand.

"I thought if it does go off, I'll hopefully only lose an arm," he said.

By this time, for all his display of courage, Mr Page was reduced to tears.

"I told the police operator to tell my family I love them, if the worst happens."

Police arrived and cordoned off a 5km area, then called in the army. Alas, Mr Page was in for an agonising four-hour wait for a bomb disposal squad to arrive from an army base in Colchester, 112km away.

Meanwhile, he was joined by his wife Joanne, who took out blankets and a hot water bottle to keep him warm. Showing a courage to equal her husband's, she steadfastly refused to leave his side. When the boys in Kevlar finally showed up, they quickly determined that the "bomb" was in fact a discarded component from a Citroen's suspension system.

"The man from the army said that he'd blown up a few similar devices in the past because they looked so much like mines, so it was an easy mistake to make," a relieved Mr Page said after his terrifying experience was over.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Peru; 2. a) Six hours longer; 3. Golf; 4. b) Stuart Highway; 5. Mince and slices of quince; 6. The Domesday Book; 7. The Fifties (1951); 8. b) Chicago; 9. Delft; 10. Stop

2022 EXECUTIVE & COMMITTEE SUPPORT

President:

Anne Withy, 021 165 0298
president@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Vice President:

Raewyn Gallagher, 027 439 7252
vp@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Immediate Past President:

Jean Garmonsway, 027 632 5988
ipp@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Secretary:

secretary@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Treasurer:

Elizabeth Reeves, 07 562 2767
treasurer@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Membership Administrator:

Chris Hector, 027 434 3493
membership@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Publicity Officer:

Max Lynds, 027 277 6615
publicity@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Speakers/Gen Meeting Organiser:

Mary Stewart, 027 334 9211
speakers@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Group Coordinators:

Groups A to C:
Margaret Marsh, 07 281 2408
a2c.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Groups D to H:
Dianne Beveridge, 027 926 1881
d2h.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Groups I to P:
Anne Briggs, 07 975 1888
i2p.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Groups R to Z:
Gail Moore, 021 299 1009

CO-OPTED MEMBERS**Newsletter Editor:**

Lynette Viertel, 027 250 4144
newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Webmaster:

Jim Pryor, 07 219 7840
webmaster@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS**Almoner:**

Patricia (Pat) Chainey,
07 562 3366 or 021 124 8271

Data Manager:

Jim Pryor, 07 219 7840
data@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Equipment Manager:

Peter Simmons, 07 576 0952
equipment@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

GM Speaker Support Team:

Graeme Wilson, 07 574 2392
Phil Sinclair, 07 576 3823

Handbook Administrator:

Margaret Marsh, 07 281 2408

Health & Safety Officer:

Raewyn Gallagher, 07 562 8375

Meet & Greet Organisers:

Tauranga: Jenny Pryor, 07 219 7840

Mini Speaker Organiser:

Rob Heath, 07 574 6468

Photographers:

Glenn Findon and
Colin Basire, 07 571 2925

NEXT NEWSLETTER MAY/JUNE 2022

Deadline for contributions is 22 April 2022

Editor: Lynette Viertel - phone 027 250 4144 newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz