

GENERAL MEETINGS

3rd Friday of each month

Tauranga Yacht & Power Boat Club, Sulphur Point, Tauranga.

All General Meetings commence at 10.00 am and conclude at 12.00 noon

Entry Fee is \$5.00.

Friday 20 May 2022

Guest Speaker: Carole Long

Carole is an educator with the Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust established in 2002 following concern at the declining brown kiwi in the pristine and unlogged Ōtanewainuku Forest 20km south of Tauranga.

Carole will inform us about the indigenous inhabitants of this forest in particular the re-introduced kokako now breeding successfully, the kiwi who now thrive and the Trust's path to this success.

Much of the Trust's work is based on volunteers including trustees, pest management teams, kiwi and kokako teams, education and communication.



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Please note:

When contacting U3A email addresses, please use the @u3atauranga.kiwi.nz address. You may need to check in your email app that the correct address is displayed. Please see current list of email addresses on the back page.

NEWSLETTER TEAM

(this issue)

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QUIZ CORNER

Test your general knowledge with these questions. Answers on page 10

1. On what object does Venus stand in Botticelli's The Birth of Venus?
2. Which of these capital cities does not stand on the Danube: a) Bratislava; b) Belgrade; or c) Bucharest?
3. According to the Bible, who was the first person to see the risen Christ after the crucifixion?
4. In 1831, the French Foreign Legion was created to supply reinforcements in: a) Senegal; b) Indo-China; or c) Algeria?
5. Whom could you "ask" on Who Wants to be a Millionaire?
6. What was the world's largest city in the year 1900?
7. What was the nickname of US President Dwight Eisenhower?
8. How many women have landed on the Moon?
9. Which planet is nearest to the Sun?
10. Who teamed up with Benny, Bjorn and Anni-Frid to form Abba?



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Members,

I hope you all enjoyed your Easter break and were able to do something special with family or friends. I was caught out by my actions! I had set up an Easter Egg hunt around my section for the children of a lovely family who live close by, only to find they were out of town until Tuesday!

Oh my, I have paid the price by having to eat so many Easter Eggs!

However, the purpose of this part of the Newsletter is to bring you up to date with U3A News not share my personal faux pas!!

One of the most important and exciting recent developments is the request from Katikati residents that groups be formed there, and similarly, there is strong interest for the same to happen in Omokoroa. Both these centers have rapidly growing populations and could certainly support more U3A activities. More details are contained in an article placed elsewhere in this Newsletter. Read it to learn more.

As a result of more groups using Zoom on occasions, the Executive has decided that we will buy a 12 month Zoom Licence which gives unlimited time for meetings of up to 100 people. We hope that groups will use this to meet if we are impacted by other Covid variants, or to include group members with compromised immune systems for whom it is unwise to attend meetings in person. We will advise all Conveners of how this system will be managed.

At our May meeting we will have a Pre-Paid Admission Card available for those who wish to purchase one. It will cost \$20 and give entry to four General Meetings. We hope this card will remove a little of the hassle many of you encounter in getting cash each month to pay the \$5 entry fee.

Finally, I am delighted to advise that a lovely lady has volunteered to take on the role of Secretary. We welcome Christine Norton to U3A and to the Executive. Thank you, Christine, we are indebted to you.

I do hope you can dodge the winter ills and chills and stay well.

Regards,

Anne.

President U3A Tauranga.

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Anne Tolley was the speaker at U3A's March General Meeting. Anne updated us on the role and achievements of the Commissioners who temporarily replaced the Council in the last year. Their term has been extended by the Minister.

They reviewed all aspects of the Council plans for transport, infrastructure, housing developments



Oceanside Music Group is continuing to meet and practice at the Mt Maunganui RSA on Tuesdays under the leadership of Alan Read, our popular 'frontman' and Elsie Pollard, our very capable lead singer. We have been a popular group within U3A with many requests to join. Covid19 restrictions meant we lost some members but our numbers quickly built up again.



Noeline Campbell Mini Speaker for April GM



APRIL GM MEET & GREET LADIES

APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Our guest speakers were Isaac Orchard and Liz Oliver, from the TCC Emergency Management Team "Tsunami in Tauranga"

As the Community Resilience Advisor, Isaac and his team is tasked with raising awareness in the Tauranga community, of the major hazards identified in the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Group Plan.

This was a very informative discussion.



THINGS TO REMEMBER:

Tsunamis are the greatest natural hazard risk for Tauranga. If an Earthquake is 'Long or Strong: Get Gone'.

Don't wait for an official warning; it may be too late. Have a plan, know your plan, practice your plan – including your evacuation route. Make a plan

You will find evacuation maps at our local beaches located in the 'Red Zone'. These maps provide information about safe locations and accessible routes to these locations. You and your whānau need to have your own plan that you review frequently. If you are in a tsunami evacuation zone, you should practise your evacuation route, as in the event of an emergency, you need to know how to get to safety. Learn the best route from your house to the safe zones by looking at the maps or following the signs.

It is key to make sure you have an alternative evacuation route if your primary route is not available due to an unfolding disaster.

Talk to your family about your individual plans. Know your children's school evacuation plan or parents' retirement villages evacuation plan and meeting points.

A vital part of an evacuation plan is an emergency bag. Work out what you will need in an emergency and have it ready to go.

REALLY IMPORTANT

Please note it is ultimately the responsibility of each individual to have a plan and take care of themselves. Inform your family and neighbours of your emergency plan

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

COORDINATORS' NEWS

prepared by Margaret Marsh (summarised)

Suggested New Groups:

European History:

Paul Wooding, 021 511 323, 2nd and 4th Wednesday. 9.45-12 noon.

Home Brewing and Distilling:

Dennis Matthews, 027 733 4041, attended the Executive meeting, introduced himself and gave brief history of his experience and outlined his plan.

Groups Closed: Money Matters, Philosophy for Today, Rialto 3, Yoga 2.

Groups seeking New Members:

Art Practical, Book Lovers 2, Camera Club, Classical Music Lovers B, European History, Garden Ramblers 4, My Music – Anything Goes, Music Appreciation, Travel

Groups seeking a new Convener:

United Cinema Bayfair, Rummikub 1, Philosophy 3

Other Groups Information:

Digital Scrapbooking: Interested members are being contacted

International Affairs: are continuing to have their meetings via Zoom engaging University Professors to speak on a variety of global issues.

Mahjong: have put their meetings on hold until this month.

Memoir Writing: have started their first meeting for the year on 21st April.

My Music – Anything Goes and Music Appreciation: These two groups are small and considering organising some sessions together.

Oceanside Music Group (OMG): they are NOT looking for new members; jam sessions have not been well attended due to Omicron.

Rialto 1: New convener: Kathleen Landsman, 027 487 189.

Rummikub 1: Looking at a change of Venue.

Weekend Walkers have new co-conveners: Trish Stockley Ph. 07 543 1108 and Eleanor Cunningham Ph. 027 447 7063.

Grant Applications from Groups:

Current Events A: Rita Carter is seeking a grant for printing information for group use.

International Affairs are seeking a grant for engaging Dr Paul Buchanan and the Convener has provided the necessary documentation.

NUMBER OF GROUPS

A-C groups 27 D-H groups 23 I-P groups 24 R-Z groups 18
= 92 groups

GROUP NEWS

U3A Acoustic Music Performers Group

We meet at St Enochs Church hall, 16th Ave at 1.15pm until 3.30pm, each Tuesday.

Our group is open to all players of acoustic instruments who want to sing and play. We do have a few members who are just there for the singing and don't play an instrument, so strong singers are welcome.

We play pop music from the 50's on, The Beatles, The Eagles, Country classics, ballads, there's something for everyone. We perform at rest homes, retirement villages, and on the odd occasion at club functions.



Our focus is on sharing our love of music and having great time each time we meet.

Reg Clothier, Convener
reg.clothier@gmail.com
Ph: 022 011 4776

The role of U3A Tauranga Almoner

The role of Almoner came my way at the beginning of 2021. It involved sending cards out to the families of U3A members who had died. Also to those members who have had an accident, were sick and also those who were in hospital. It makes such a difference to those lying in hospital or in bed at home to know that they are being thought of and that someone cared.

In the case of a death, I do need to know where to send a card as in most cases, they do not go to the private house. Usually a poem or thought goes with the card.

'Thank you' notes are very nice to receive back, and I am pleased that the cards' sentiments are appreciated.

Forty three U3A cards have been sent out to date. However we have a lot of people belonging to Tauranga U3A and I am sure quite a few needy people are missed.

I rely on you the members, to help me do my job. It just takes an email or a landline phone call (or a call to my cell phone) to let me know where to send a card expressing thoughts that U3A members are thinking of that person.

Written by Pat Chainey. Almoner U3A Tauranga

KATIKATI CORNER



Recently the Executive of U3A Tauranga were approached to consider whether some groups could be formed in Katikati so as to reduce the cost of travel to Tauranga and Papamoa. These groups might also include members from Waihi Beach and Omokoroa. Christine Pelosi elected to canvas interested persons in Katikati and then arranged a meeting at The Hub next to the Library. 50 people attended and Anne Withy, Raewyn Gallagher and Jean Garmonsway spoke.

U3A TAURANGA

Katikati General Meeting

To be held on 11 May 2022
@ The Hub, Community Centre
21 Main Rd, Katikati.

From 10 am till Noon.
Gold Coin Donation please.



Guest Speaker...Gayle Hemsley

FOLLOW YOUR PASSION

Anyone for Robotics?

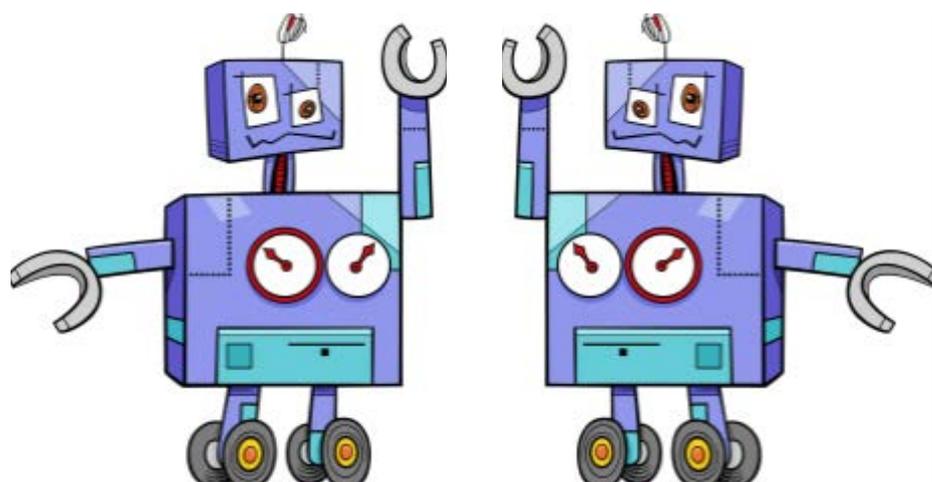
Robots are becoming a big part of our economy, so would you like to learn about the subject from experts? If so there is an opportunity for a group of a minimum of 6 U3A members to attend a weekly 2-hour session for 8 sessions at:

STEAM-ED Charitable Trust (formerly the educational class wing of House of Science. 671 Cameron Road, opposite Tauranga Boys College.

The course includes how to build a basic robot and how to design robots to carry out a particular task. There is a \$30 fee for each session to cover the cost of the educators and other expenses, including morning tea/coffee/biscuits.

After the robotics have been designed and built, there would be opportunities to 'compete' with the Trust's robotics club youngsters and do some mentoring.

If you think you may be interested, contact Peter Simmons on phone 576 0952, who will arrange an exploratory meeting with the Trust.



Conveners' Meeting

A Conveners' Meeting was held on Thursday 17 March at the Wesley Church Hall.

Agenda items included discussing with Conveners how best the Coordinators can assist them for 2022, running meetings with Zoom and working successfully with group members to enhance their learning and enjoyment.

New Members' Meeting

A successful meeting for New Members who joined at the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022 was held at the Wesley Church Hall on 24 February. There were 22 new members who attended and the Coordinators were impressed by their engagement and enthusiasm. Many had already joined groups, others enjoyed discussing the options U3A Tauranga offered.

Would any of these items help make your group activities better?

U3A owns several items of equipment that may assist your group's activities – in several instances the items may be retained on a long term basis.

For displaying PowerPoint slides

Data projector and laptop, able to display images from a memory stick on a wall or screen.

Screen for displaying the above images, of a suitable size for homes.

Projector/laptop stand, on which to place a data projector or laptop.

Floor-mounted cable cover, to prevent people tripping over power leads.

For displaying maps, pictures, etc

Framed soft-board for attaching items with drawing pins.

Lite-weight hard-board for attaching items with 'blu-tack'.

Lite-weight wooden easel for elevating the above boards to eye-level.

Other items

DVD player, 2007 vintage but in excellent condition, able to display DVD audio-visuals through a TV set.

Radio/CD player with 2 speakers, 2008 vintage, for playing music in a hall setting.

Public address amplifier, useful where members of a group find a speaker difficult to hear in a room or hall setting.

Table top or stand lectern for holding speaker's notes.

These items are all readily handled and transported.

Enquiries for them, and any other item not in stock, are welcome to phone Peter Simmons, 576 0952.



OMG entertaining on Anzac Day

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. A seashell;
2. c) Bucharest;
3. Mary Magdalene;
4. c) Algeria;
5. The audience;
6. London;
7. Ike;
8. None;
9. Mercury;
10. Agnetha.

Well, Fancy That!

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

Swift predicted the moons of Mars

By Paul Chapman

Gulliver's Travels is a classic of English literature whose popularity has endured through the three centuries since it first appeared. What is not so widely appreciated is that the third part of the book, A Voyage to Laputa, contains a startlingly accurate scientific prediction. Laputa is a magical flying island inhabited by an educated elite much given to the pursuit of science. We read that the Laputans' achievements in astronomy include discovering "two lesser stars, or satellites, which revolve around Mars".

What makes this passage of Jonathan Swift's so remarkable is that Gulliver's Travels was published in 1726. Phobos (pictured) and Deimos, the two moons of Mars, were not discovered until 1877. They were found by the American astronomer Asaph Hall using what was, at the time, one of the world's most powerful telescopes at the US Naval Observatory in Washington, DC. Hall was actively searching to see if Mars had any satellites, so finding them was no mere happy accident.



Both moons are minute. Phobos has a diameter of only 22.2km and Deimos 12.6km. No, those figures are not a typographical error, they really are that tiny - much too small to be seen from Earth with the aid of any telescope that existed in Swift's day.

Gulliver's Travels goes on to state: "The innermost is distant from the centre of the primary exactly three of his diameters, and the outermost five. The former revolves in the space of ten hours, and the latter in twenty-one and a half." Phobos and Deimos have orbits which are about 1.4 and 3.5 diameters from Mars' centre respectively. The Laputans gave figures of three and five. Phobos and Deimos complete one orbit around Mars in 7.7 and 30.3 hours, respectively, while the Laputans reported 10 and 21.5 hours. Not quite accurate but, given the immensity of space, not that far off either. Bear in mind, our own Moon takes 27.3 days to go once around the Earth.

To add to the intrigue, in a short story titled Micromégas published in 1752, which recounts the visit to Earth of a being from a planet circling the star Sirius, the French writer Voltaire also tells of Mars having two moons. So what was the source of this seemingly mystical knowledge? No one can be sure. One theory suggests that Swift got the idea from reading the writings of the German astronomer Johannes Kepler (1571-1630). Kepler, it seems, concluded that Mars had two moons through misinterpreting a



cryptic anagram written by Galileo – cryptic because it was necessary to conceal such "heretical" messages from the Roman Catholic authorities at the time.

Galileo had in fact been writing about Saturn. His small telescope was unable to distinguish Saturn's rings and had made that planet appear as three blurry objects, side by side. Kepler appears to have thought Galileo was referring to Mars and concluded that it had two companion moons. Fittingly, both Swift (pictured) and Voltaire have craters named after them on Phobos.

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NEXT NEWSLETTER JULY/AUGUST Deadline for contributions is 22 JUNE 2022

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