

JULY – AUGUST 2022

Meet
our
new
Secretary
Page 7



SPECIAL REPORT

To Zoom
or not
to Zoom?
Pages 16-18



Ever seen an entire
rainbow? Page 15

Bevan shares his stories

THE next General Meeting will take place one week later than usual on **Friday, 22 July**. Start time remains at 9.45am for



Bevan Hari

10am. Our guest speaker, Olympian **Bevan Hari**, will talk about his wide-ranging experience as a member of the Blacksticks Men's team (he has 215 international caps), representing NZ at the

Commonwealth Games, World Cup and the 2004 Athens Olympics, as a member of the NZ Olympics Committee Athletes Support Team, and playing professional hockey in more than 15 countries. Bevan loves to chat and answer questions, so come along and hear what he has to say.

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE

The July General Meeting will take place **one week later** than usual. Please note the new date in your diary:

Friday, 22 July

Start time is 9.45am for 10am

TAURANGA GENERAL MEETINGS

are usually held on the third Friday of each month at the Tauranga Yacht & Power Boat Club, Sulphur Point
9.45am for 10am to 12 noon
Entry fee is \$5, including refreshments
Pre-paid admission cards are now available covering four meetings

KATIKATI NEWS: Pages 20-22

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www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

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QUIZ CORNER

1. Who painted *The Scream*?
2. On which continent are there no bees?
3. Who famously crossed the Rubicon?
4. Who wrote *Das Kapital*?
5. Which country's capital stands on the Potomac River?
6. Which Shakespeare play was banned during the time of George III's "madness"?
7. In which century did Joan of Arc become a saint?
8. Whom was Lord Lucan said to have murdered?
9. Who gave Pip his wealth in *Great Expectations*?
10. What is the largest structure ever made by living creatures?

■ [Answers on Page 23](#)

SMILE AWHILE



I finally got him off to sleep!

**SOMETIMES I
WONDER IF ALL OF
THIS IS HAPPENING
BECAUSE I DIDN'T
FORWARD THAT
MESSAGE TO 10
OTHER PEOPLE**

Just a thought: What do the people who make Styrofoam use for packing when they ship the stuff?



Covid is an awful illness

HELLO Members,
While writing this I am thinking of many of you at the General Meeting as I languish at home in splendid isolation. Yes, I have fallen foul of the dreaded Covid. While I have had no complications, I want to assure you this is not a virus to be trifled with.

However, over the past few days I have been able to reflect on our U3A stance regarding vaccinations and masks. Taking simple and obvious precautions, such as we have insisted on, is a much smaller inconvenience than experiencing the results of getting infected. Please keep up the practices of protecting yourselves, and at the same time, protecting others.

Thankfully, there is a good team behind me, and I am indebted to VP Raewyn Gallagher, who has so capably stepped up and kept everything running smoothly over the past two weeks. In a recent email to you, I paid tribute and thanked Lynette Viertel for her work as Newsletter Editor over the past 18 months, and I know she is now finding other rewarding activities to fill her days. Her publications will be evidence of her contributions to U3A Tauranga. Thank you so much, Lynette.

I sincerely thank Paul Chapman for stepping into the breach. He has produced a bumper winter issue for you to engross yourselves in on these colder, shorter winter days. Enjoy.

Executive Activities

The rapid establishment of U3A in Katikati is reported fully later in this issue, and it is exciting to be assisting with this. Well done, Katikati.

While the June Executive Meeting was cancelled due to the exposure to Covid of several members, and other absences, work goes on. One of our aims is to convert as many of our paper-based forms as possible to digital format. The first of these is the Skills Questionnaire. We are sending this out now to new members, who can fill it in online and return it by email. As the year proceeds, we will convert other forms and documents in the same way. This will improve our efficiency and reduce costs.

I will keep you up to date with our progress and don't be surprised if we ask for feedback from you on some of the changes we want to implement.

Stay warm and stay well.

Kind regards,

Anne Withy

President U3A Tauranga

Helping kiwi numbers take off

GM speakers reports by JAN HOLDEN

THE main speaker at May's General Meeting was **Carole Long** (pictured right), an educator at the Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust. Otanewainuku Forest, which is pristine lowland coastal forest, is 20km south of Tauranga and can be reached from Te Puke up the Number 2 road. For those wishing to go there, facilities include a carpark, shelter, toilets and well-signposted tracks.



The community-based trust was established in 2002 following concern about the declining numbers of North Island brown kiwi. The trust, manned by volunteers, have set over 180km of trap and bait station lines, 250 stoat trap tunnels and 2142 bait stations to control pests in the area.

Carole's very interesting talk informed us about the life of the kiwi and the dangers the bird faces from its many predators. The trust's conservation programme includes collecting the eggs when they are 60 days old and sending them to Rainbow Springs in Rotorua for incubation. Once the chicks have hatched, they are kept in a predator-proof area until they are two years old, when they are then released back into the Otanewainuku Forest.

The trust also works to preserve all the flora and fauna in the forest and now other species of birds can be seen there. For more information go to www.kiwitrust.org

How artists capture the agony of Ukraine

ROSEMARY Heath gave a very poignant and topical talk, *The Artists Have Their Say: Sadness in Ukraine*. Artists in Ukraine and all around the world have been creating works of art including paintings, posters, cartoons, street art and sculptures as their way of communicating the crisis in Ukraine.

Rosemary's talk was illustrated with slides showing a sample of art that has been posted on the Instagram site: [artists_4_ukraine](https://www.instagram.com/artists_4_ukraine). The work pictured right, *I'll Stand With You*, appeared on a wall in Wales.



Chris shares his tales of the road less travelled

THE mini talk, *Remote Britain*, was presented by **Chris Hector** about his trips to the islands off the coast of Scotland.

Chris and his wife visited the Outer Hebrides (to the west), Orkney (north) and Shetland (further north). His interesting talk was illustrated with pictures of the spectacular scenery.



Calanais Standing Stones, Lewis, Hebrides



Chris Hector

The islands teem with wildlife, especially birds and marine life. The breeding grounds for birds are very productive as the islands are predator free. Sheep roam freely and are often found over the roadway. Some examples of early settlement of the islands are the prehistoric village of Skara Brae on Orkney, which dates to 3200 BCE, and stone circles which are widespread in the Hebrides. These predate Stonehenge by at least 2000 years.

Sowing seeds of change

THE guest speaker was **Venita Campbell** of Hemp New Zealand Limited speaking about *Hemp and its Uses*. Dave and Anne Jordan founded the company in 2008. They operate their own grower programme and process seed products at their facility in Tauriko, Tauranga which are marketed through their Hemp Farm brand.

Their hemp fibre is processed into hemp and hemp/wool products at their Christchurch facility, in partnership with NZ Natural Fibres. The combination enables them to supply a broad spectrum of industrial hemp to New Zealand.

While widely grown overseas, there has been some resistance to hemp in New Zealand because of confusion with the intoxicating plant, cannabis (marijuana). Hemp is a *Cannabis sativa* cultivar, but it is grown specifically for industrial or medicinal use. Industrial hemp was legalised in New Zealand in 2006 and hemp seed oil became legal in 2018. Only the stalks and seeds are processed as it is the leaves that contain the drug known as THC. Products manufactured in Tauriko include hemp seed oil, hemp seed hearts, protein powder, natural leather and wood polish, and a skin care range. These can be purchased online or from the factory shop <https://hempnz.co.nz>



Venita Campbell





Why there's a new look

DEAR Reader,
I was privileged to be invited recently to take on the role of Editor of your Newsletter. It's a duty I take seriously. Let me begin by paying tribute to my recent predecessors, Kit Divehall, Jan Holden and Lynette Viertel, who all in their turn worked hard to make the Newsletter so highly regarded by members like you. I will do my best to live up to the standard they have set. I am especially grateful to Jan for all the help she has given me in settling into the role.

You will probably notice a few differences in the layout and design this issue. I hope you like what you see. To my mind, the Newsletter has three key functions:

- To keep members up to date about important matters concerning U3A Tauranga
- To publish articles and photographs of our members and their groups' activities, and
- To interest, amuse and entertain readers with stimulating items and features

As the Maori saying puts it: *He tangata, he tangata, he tangata*. It is the people, it is the people, it is the people. People are the most important thing about U3A, and the organisation is built on an ethos of caring and kindness. So the Newsletter should be all about people. Conveners, that means you may be getting a phone call or email from me in the next few weeks and months, because I will be striving to pack as much information as I can into each issue about what your group has been up to. Better still, don't wait for me to call. Please drop me a line at newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz and send a short article about your group. If you can also email in a picture or two, that will be even better.

As for me, my background is a busy retirement after a 50-year career in journalism. I began as a trainee reporter on the local weekly in my hometown in England, then worked at various newspapers around the UK until landing a staff job with BBC World Service radio in London. My wife Liz and I emigrated with our two children in 1987, when I took up a senior editorial role at *The Dominion* (now *The Dominion-Post*) in Wellington. I also spent two decades as New Zealand correspondent for the UK's *Daily Telegraph*.

Finally, let me just say how impressed I am with U3A Tauranga. The fact that members rarely need to give a thought to how the organisation operates is a tribute to the countless hours of hard work and dedication put in by members of the Executive and the many others who are always ready to pitch in with help, every moment of it voluntary.

PS. A warm welcome is extended to our new friends in Katikati. I hope you too will find plenty to interest you in this, our biggest ever issue.

Sincerely,

Paul Chapman

Travelling Kiwi settles in the Bay

WE are delighted to welcome **Christine Norton** as the new Secretary of U3A Tauranga. Christine originally qualified as a secretarial teacher in New Zealand then spent 20 years overseas – living in seven countries. In that time, she:

- Taught at a finishing school called St Godric's College in Hampstead, London
- Worked as office secretary for Brown Boveri and Cie, an electrical engineering company with a branch in Ahwaz, Iran
- In Manila, Philippines, she established a business to upgrade the secretaries in large companies
- In Belgrade, Yugoslavia, she set up computer training courses for the diplomats, using the International School computer room. These were the first available computer courses for the expatriate community in Belgrade.



Since returning to New Zealand, Christine has enjoyed a varied and successful career. She and her husband established a family business in Auckland, which they eventually successfully sold. She has also worked as a management recruiter with BridgesOne, a recruiting company in Auckland.

As a franchisee, she later built up her Auckland territory of The Great Kiwi Backrub Company, which engaged in corporate (stress busting) interventions to alleviate and prevent RSI and similar problems. In that role she employed four therapists and, by the time she sold the business, it was administering hundreds of therapeutic backrubs in workplaces every week.

Christine then established her own business called Forget-Me-Not Life Stories and developed it into a national franchise with a team of 11, including writers, editors and graphic designers. After publishing 40 life stories, career histories and company histories over 11 years, the business was sold in April 2020, although Christine says she is still completing two projects.

As if her career didn't keep her busy enough, she is also active in volunteer work. For seven years she held the position of Secretary on the Omokoroa Community Church Council; she has been a mentor with Business Mentors NZ; and she is currently working one afternoon a week at the Combined Bethlehem Community Church and Omokoroa Community Church Op Shop in Moffat Road. When invited to say what had led her to offer her services to U3A Tauranga, she said: "My work is solitary, from home, and I felt I needed to meet more like-minded people. I thought that being in the secretarial role might achieve that."

Music for the Queen's Jubilee

AT the meeting of **Classical Music Lovers B** in the Bethlehem Shores Theatre on 9 June, we celebrated the Queen's 70th Jubilee with a special programme of royal and regal music. The six pieces we enjoyed were Parry's *I was glad when they said to me*; *Crown Imperial* by Walton; *Coronation Ode* by Elgar; *Land of Hope and Glory* by Elgar; *Hallelujah! Chorus* by Handel; and *Jerusalem* by Blake and Parry. If you would like to listen to these pieces, there are links to them on the website at www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz



The emblem pictured was approved by the Queen, and designed by Phillip O'Shea, the NZ Herald at Arms. Within a frosted silver (platinum) frame is the Royal Cypher, composed of the letters and Roman numeral EIIR in gold, surmounted by the Royal Crown, with the inscription *Te Hokoturu Mā Ngahuru*. Based on the Māori system of counting, the inscription translates as "three twenties plus ten". The dates 1952 and 2022 in gold are placed on the Poutama step design in the traditional Māori colours of red-ochre and white.

Vaughan Chetwynd



Looking down



Looking up



At eye level

THE **Camera Club** met one week late as the previous Monday was Queen's Birthday. We viewed our homework *Images for Leading Lines*, which is one of the "Eight Rules of Composition". Much fun was had working out where the photos were taken!

The main topic for our meeting was *Point of View Photography – Angles – Perspectives* (another Rule of Composition). "Point of view" in photography simply means the position from which the camera sees the scene. Are you looking down at the subject, looking up, or at eye level? (See examples above.) Shooting a subject from an unexpected angle will have more impact than the viewing angle encountered in everyday life.

If you are interested in photography and would like to join us, please contact me via email at a2c.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Margaret Marsh



Lunch spreads joy in the bleak mid-winter

THE **Ancient History 1** group took a break from their studies of the classical Roman and Byzantine worlds to indulge in a much more recent Kiwi tradition, the mid-year Christmas party. Complete with a fully decorated Christmas tree, of course! The tables groaned with scrumptious food at the lunch on Tuesday, 14 June and everyone enjoyed what was described as a very special occasion. Two members were unable to attend.

Ancient History 1, who meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month, have been getting together for over a decade. The group's Convener is Alistair Blennerhasset.

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD



A SPECTACULAR illuminated artwork titled *Midnight Sun* by Sara Hughes is on display outside Tauranga Art Gallery until 24 July (free).

BAY of Plenty Symphonia, a community orchestra made up of amateur musicians, is presenting a concert titled *Out of the Shadows* at Holy Trinity Church, Tauranga on Sunday, 10 July at 2.30pm. Entrance is \$15. See <https://bopsymphonia.org.nz>

TAURANGA Art Gallery's collection of prints by Dame Robin White (born Te Puke, 1946) feature in an exhibition titled *Goodbye Bay of Plenty* until 14 August (free but donations welcome). For details go to <https://www.artgallery.org.nz/exhibitions/id/1859>

Robin Hood and the merry historians

HISTORY A is a group whose aim, as stated in the *U3A Handbook*, is: “British History from Ancient Britain to the 20th Century. Learn about fascinating characters, important developments and interesting stories which have all had an influence on the modern world.” We certainly seem to have stuck to the brief for, since I joined the group in 2017, we have studied the 17th Century and then travelled through time to the 20th Century, back to Ancient Britain and this year we are looking at the Plantagenet kings.



Our most recent talk was on *Robin Hood, King Richard, King John and the Magna Carta, with a comparison with the Treaty of Waitangi*. Thought provoking indeed!

We are a large group (28 of us at present) and we meet in the Theatre at Bethlehem Shores Club House on the first and third Wednesday mornings. The members choose their topics, hopefully in some sort of chronological order within the era we are studying, and use the state-of-the-art facilities to entertain and inform us.

We are in the lap of luxury – reclining armchairs, plenty of space (important in this time of Covid), a café and a great sound system. I still have nostalgic memories of our previous venue at Wesley Church, but the vast majority have embraced the change with enthusiasm. History teaches us that nothing stays the same for very long! *John Hill*

THE **Cycle** group now have more than 25 members. Typically, between seven and 15 are present for each fortnightly ride. Members range from life-long cyclists on self-powered bikes to recent purchasers of e-bikes – still coming to grips with gears and somewhat wobbly on sharp turns.



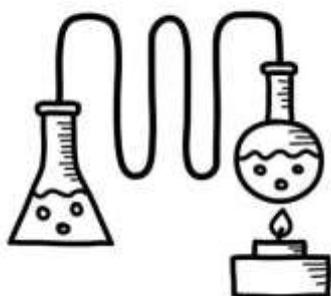
Bruce Kitchingman, our very obliging and knowledgeable Convener, chooses cycle tracks to cater for the wide range of abilities, from the gentle tracks around The Lakes, to longer rides along the Waikato River and the wilds of the Rotorua forests.

In May, Bruce threw down a challenge to the group to test themselves on the Whakarewarewa Forest Loop track – the latest addition to the Ngā Haerenga Great Rides network. The ride is an easily accessible 35km, grade 2/3 ride. New territory for most of us in the group. Fifteen were up for it and we drove to Waipa car park. Riding up into the massive redwood trees, we were grateful for the e-assist on the bikes. After the redwoods there is some beautiful bush with easy riding conditions before a stunning, unobstructed view over Rotorua and the Lake (*pictured above*).

Distilling a recipe for success

THE newly formed U3A **Homebrewing and Distillers** group have evolved into a **Home Distilling** only group after it became clear that just one prospective member was interested in the homebrewing side. The group held their first meeting on 5 May for the purpose of organising how and when future meetings would be conducted. There were seven members (including potential members) present plus Dianne Beveridge, the Coordinator.

It was originally decided to separate the home-brewing and distilling groups and run the meetings alternately, two weeks apart. So the first meeting of the distillers group took place on 19 May, where we learned how to get started with distilling by:



- Discussing the equipment needed to produce a batch of spirit
- The consumables required and where to buy them
- The procedures of setting up the still, collecting the spirit, treating the spirit and finally adding the flavourings and oak before ageing

We also found that there is no single, correct method in achieving this, as we all had different ways of achieving the same outcome. “What works for you is okay” was the motto. There were many questions and answers throughout the session, and we finished with a small taste of our wares and some snacks. Everyone present learned something (including me) and enjoyed having attended. The total number of members is nine at the time of writing and is growing steadily. If anyone wants to join, please do so quickly as meeting sizes will soon be restricted because we meet at each other’s homes.

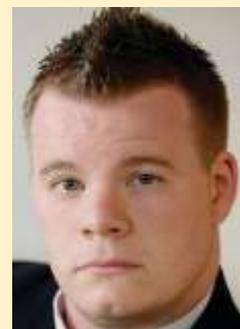
Dennis Matthews

THERE’S STILL TIME TO CATCH CHALIUM POPPY’S TALK

HISTORY B are pleased to announce the new date for Chaliu Poppy’s postponed talk on 19th-Century Romantic composers will be

Wednesday, 13 July at 1pm in St Peter’s Church, 15 Victoria Road, Mount Maunganui. To help cover costs there will be a \$5 charge. St Peter’s has been chosen as the venue so Chaliu can make use of the organ and grand piano, as well as his magnificent bass voice.

Please contact Carol Chetwynd [027 565 7725](tel:0275657725), Pauline Pibworth [021 180 7975](tel:0211807975), or any History B member for more information or to make sure of a place.



Tell us what your group has been up to: Email newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

World beats a path to our door

OUR **International Affairs** group have continued with their successful run of fortnightly Zoom meetings, including a session with Dr Adrian Macey, who is formerly New Zealand's first Climate Change Ambassador and, prior to that, New Zealand's Ambassador in Paris. Dr Macey led a highly informative discussion on both the challenges of climate change and the French presidential election.



Adrian Macey



Paul Buchanan

The group were also delighted to welcome back Dr Paul Buchanan, for a Zoom session concerning the war in Ukraine. Dr Buchanan is a frequent contributor to television and radio discussions on international affairs and is director of 36th Parallel Assessments, a non-partisan, non-governmental geopolitical risk and strategic assessment consultancy.

As on previous occasions, his comments were highly informative, balanced, wide-ranging, and insightful. Questions from our group kept coming and, such was the level of interest, that the session lasted for nearly three hours.

Ian Morrison



ANYONE FOR CANASTA?

Susan Divehall would like to start a small group to play **Canasta**. If you are interested, call Susan on **021 0231 2710**.

Conveners, Your Newsletter Needs

YOU!



Tell us what your group has been doing. Had some interesting talks? Been on a trip somewhere? Please email articles and pictures to newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

NEWS UPDATE

A **COORDINATORS'** meeting on 7 June discussed the development of Katikati groups, planning for a **New Members'** meeting on 23 June (81 invitations sent out), and possible Zoom workshops for members where applicable.

Just a thought: Do the people in Glockamorra ever wonder how things are here?

SUGGESTED NEW GROUPS: History of NZ 2; Genealogy 2; Dining Group 6

DETAILS of NEW GROUPS: Home Brewing and Distilling – Majority interested in distilling
Te Reo Maori – Language and culture beginner course is awaiting when a tutor can be engaged

GROUPS CLOSED OR IN RECESS: European History proposed – Paul Wooding

Garden Ramblers 4 – Members resigned to form Beachside Garden Ramblers

Photography Advanced – Members have chosen to pursue other avenues in the development of their photography

GROUPS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS:

Ballet Appreciation, Café Book Lovers 1, Acoustic Music, Cycling

French 2 – ring Chantal Taylor-Bizet 027 236 7896

My Music – Anything Goes – ring Convener Judy Elms (07) 576 2277

Music Appreciation – ring Convener Betty Bishop (07) 544 6195. These two music groups have trialled some sessions together but have decided they will stay as they are and seek new members.

Philosophy for Today – re-formed with Bev Edlin as Convener 027 618 4787. Two or three more members needed.

Scrabble – Convener Lynne Hewson 021 968 022, meet at Raft Café

Rialto 1 – Convener Kathy Landsman 027 4847 189

Travel Group – Convener Nancye Lucas (07) 543 0978

SEEKING NEW CONVENERS: Rummikub 1 – Convener needed to restart sessions

Rialto 1 – Co-Convener to support Convener when Convener away

GRANT APPLICATIONS FROM GROUPS: Nil

OTHER GROUPS INFORMATION:

Café Book Lovers 1 – Carole McFetridge has a new phone number, 021 227 6536

Cycling – have had a number of new members join

Book Lovers 1 – meeting once a month, instead of twice, trial for two to three months

Dining Group 5 – New joint Conveners are Ray and Christine Frayling, (07) 544 3733. Four enquiries received from prospective members new to Tauranga.

International Affairs are continuing to hold their meetings via Zoom. On June 2 the group consisted of 20 members and two guests. Geoffrey Miller, from Victoria University's Democracy Project, spoke on New Zealand's membership of IPEF, the current strategy of China in the South Pacific and the Prime Minister's visit to the US. Walter Zweifel, senior journalist at Radio New Zealand's Pacific Service, spoke on what China's foreign policy might mean for our Pacific Island neighbours.

Mah Jong are meeting again, with reduced numbers. The more experienced players find it difficult to give enough time to beginners. There will be further discussion with the Convener next month about this group's development.

Just a thought: If nothing sticks to Teflon, how do they get Teflon to stick to the pan?

MEET & GREET TEAMS



MAY GM: *The Five-Hundred Card group*



JUNE GM: *Bonjour ... French Conversation*



HEALTH & SAFETY UPDATE

MEMBERS are reminded that we are still in the Orange “traffic light” setting and, to meet the guidelines, masks should be worn at General Meetings. All members attending should also be fully vaccinated. If you are unwell please stay at home, as it is important we reduce the spread of contagious diseases. It is important to comply with the vaccination policy because we are in a vulnerable age group and it is a courtesy to other members. Groups can make their own choice about meetings but, where members are concerned about masks not being worn, an arrangement for participation through Zoom should be considered. U3A Tauranga President Anne Withy has emailed a message about Zoom meetings to all members.

Photography

When photographs are submitted for publishing in the Newsletter, you should have the agreement of all members in the photo for it to be presented. No names should be published but the group can be identified.

Hiking and walking groups

I would like to thank all the Conveners of these groups for emailing me the proposed details of each walk or hike. This enables me to have a clear idea where the group is should an accident occur and the beacon be activated. Your clear details about the gear required, probable weather conditions, transport, location and the duration have been excellent. I recommend more people join these activities.

Raewyn Gallagher, Health and Safety Officer



Have you ever seen an entire rainbow?

THIS beautiful picture, taken from her house, was sent in by Ann Sligo. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that there was a pot of gold at either end of the 180-degree rainbow!

ANN WRITES: For 18 months since moving up the Minden hill, I've become a sky watcher. Breathtaking glows of the rising sun, the moon shining on my pillow and the Southern Cross above my head at night, showers moving across the Bay and rainbows, lots of exquisite rainbows. This one embraced Tauranga and Mount Maunganui.

I have been a member of U3A since 2006. I've made many wonderful friends through the groups I belong to. My groups are Art Appreciation, Philosophy, Ancient History, History A (British), History B (European), Shakespeare, Ethnic Dining and Ukulele. I used to belong to a Short Story writing group. We all became special friends and still meet up regularly. I was a midwife for almost 50 years, but I also practised general health, child health and psychiatry, working in Saudi Arabia, Israel, Cambodia, the UK, and Australia. I served in the Royal Flying Doctor Service – it was always just the pilot and nurse, never a doctor – so it should be renamed the Royal Flying Nursing Service! I made many friends in those countries, with whom I still correspond, and in retirement it's U3A, filled with more lovely friends who keep me smiling and living a most fulfilling life.

We welcome your photos for this feature. Email to newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz
If you would like to enjoy more beautiful pictures, check out what members of our Photography group have posted on the website at www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

To Zoom or not to Zoom? That is the question



THE Covid-19 pandemic, lockdowns and traffic lights. It's been a heck of a roller-coaster ride over the past couple of years – and it doesn't look like being completely over any time soon.

For many people who are in the demographic likely to be members of U3A, that potentially presents a big problem. Most are in an age-group at risk of becoming seriously unwell if they contract the potentially deadly infection. Others are already immune compromised to varying degrees, depending on what health issues they have going on. If you have hit your seventies or eighties without suffering any chronic background conditions, count yourself one of the lucky ones.

It has all had profound implications for U3A Tauranga. Lockdowns put a halt to in-person meetings and, even now, the numbers attending some groups have been reduced by more than a third. That has meant several groups, especially smaller ones, have found it difficult to soldier on and some have gone into abeyance. For others, Zoom has been their salvation, as welcome as the US Fifth Cavalry charging over the horizon in the nick of time. While missing the face-to-face socialising, they praise the fact that an internet platform offering remote meetings via a computer screen at least allows the group to get together at all. Some groups have even found their numbers increasing, swelled by newcomers who, under normal circumstances, wouldn't all be able to fit into someone's living room.

For others, it's cold comfort. No amount of mouse-clicking could replace the cheerful *bonhomie* of the social gathering and friendly chats over tea and biscuits that is so much a part of group meetings. Zoom may, though, be a way of letting immune compromised members share in the fun from their homes. On the next two pages we consider the issue.



Group **Zooming** to new heights

YOU may think Zoom meetings are the ultimate mind-bending, techno-horror story and should have no place in how U3A operates. Alternatively, you may think Zoom's useful enough for keeping going during a pandemic but should be abandoned as quickly as possible thereafter. In neither case, would Ian Morrison, Convener of our **International Affairs** group, agree with you.

As to the techno-horror argument, Ian declares himself "a totally tragic cyber-dunce", adding that, if he can handle Zoom, then anyone can. So why is the group sticking with Zoom even as much of New Zealand seeks to return to normal?

"Because it works! We may have gone online just to stay safe but, once we tried it, we discovered so many advantages that it seemed sensible to keep going that way," answers Ian. "The most obvious improvement is that we can now invite regular guest speakers, including top academic experts, broadcasters, former New Zealand ambassadors or even the occasional diplomat from overseas.

"They've enriched the content of our meetings immeasurably. Moreover, we don't need to feed them, put them up for the night or pay for their travelling expenses. All we need do is link-up with them online. It's just so easy!" he says. Another advantage is that a group's size can expand beyond the numbers capable of sitting comfortably in an average lounge. International Affairs currently have 23 members and there is still potential for growth.

"A further plus is that, if you want to, you can attend online meetings, even when away on holiday. In fact, you don't even have to be a local resident. Just as long as you're a paid-up member of U3A Tauranga, you can live anywhere you like and still be part of our International Affairs team. To prove that point, we've even got a member in Auckland!

"What's more, our members don't need to expend time and fuel motoring to venues several suburbs away. Nor do they need to leave the warmth of their own homes on cold, wet, winter days, when attendance at U3A meetings can sometimes drop significantly," Ian adds.

When asked what, if anything, International Affairs might be missing out on as a result of staying online, Ian scratched his head, paused and replied: "Well we don't get delicious afternoon teas but, there again, you can always munch on your own personal choice of biscuits during meetings. So, really, what's not to like?"



Things go from Bard to better

THE **Shakespeare** group usually concern themselves with life in Elizabethan England, but they were among the first in U3A Tauranga to take up the very 21st-Century challenge of holding meetings via Zoom. New Zealand's first lockdown in March 2020 saw the Bard's fans take to the app like ducks to water.



The group normally watch part of whichever play they are studying on a DVD shown at a member's home and then hold a discussion. That presented a heap of technical difficulties after the switch to Zoom. Then someone had the bright idea of pointing an i-Pad at a TV screen and sharing the performance with everyone else via their computers.

The move has opened up other possibilities. Although the group officially meet on the second and fourth Mondays, some members are also getting together on the alternate Mondays to take a fresh look at plays they have previously studied – via Zoom, of course.

LET US KNOW

What are your group's experiences with Zoom? Do you need more information? Email newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

So how do I use Zoom?

ALL you need to use Zoom is an internet-connected device equipped with a camera/microphone and speakers (or a camera and headset).

Go to <https://zoom.us>

and register by clicking on the "Sign up, it's free" button at the top right of the screen. Follow the steps to download and install the program on to your device. When the group Convener hosts a meeting, you will automatically receive an email invitation to take part. Simply click on the link in the email when the meeting starts. Or you can open Zoom by clicking on the program icon, then click on "Join" and enter the meeting number and passcode included in the Convener's email.

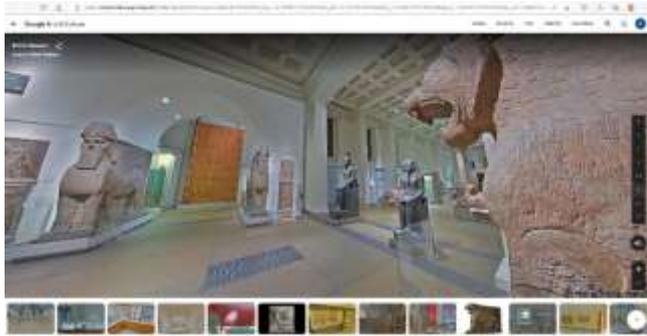


Get unlimited time with U3A's licence

U3A Tauranga now owns a Zoom Professional licence, which enables meetings to be held without the 40-minute time limit imposed on free calls. The licence is available **free of charge** to groups. Conveners should contact the Webmaster, Jim Pryor on 07 219 7840, email webmaster@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

If Jim is unavailable, contact the President, Anne Withy on 021 165 0298 or by emailing president@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

WONDERS OF THE WEB



'STROLL' AROUND THE BM'S GALLERIES

MOST of us are familiar with Google Streetview. But did you know the same platform allows you to stroll around *inside* the British Museum? Just click on [British Museum, London, United Kingdom — Google Arts & Culture](#) and you will find yourself inside the BM's hallowed halls. You can look around by moving the picture with your cursor, exactly as you would with the usual Streetview images. Click on the small icons at the bottom of the screen to "walk" from one gallery to another, and scroll the cursor to zoom in on any artefacts you wish to examine in greater detail.

Paul Chapman

RECIPE CORNER



POTATOES AND CHILLI BEANS

1 x 425g tin chilli beans
2 tbsp peanut butter (smooth or crunchy, preferably sugar free)
2 large potatoes
Grated cheese or sour cream

Method:

Cook potatoes in a microwave on high setting for about 10 mins or in a 180°C oven for about 45 mins or boil then mash. Gently heat chilli beans with peanut butter in a saucepan, stirring occasionally to prevent sticking.

Spoon chilli bean mix on to potatoes and sprinkle with grated cheese or a dollop of sour cream.

Serve with salad or vegetables of choice. Enjoy!

[Do you have a favourite recipe to share with other members? We would love to publish it in this column. Email \[newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz\]\(mailto:newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz\)](#)

WHAT IS ...?

THE SOLSTICE

LITERALLY, the point at which the Sun stands still (from the Latin *Sol* "Sun" and *sistere* ("to stand still"). The Sun reached its most northerly point of the year on 21 June, when it was overhead at the Tropic of Cancer for the Northern Hemisphere's Summer Solstice (their "longest day").

Since then, the Sun has been heading back towards the Equator. New Zealand's "shortest day" of the year has passed and our daylight is now increasing by 1-2 minutes each day. The Southern Hemisphere's Summer Solstice (our "longest day"), when the Sun is overhead at the Tropic of Capricorn, will occur on 21 December.



Just a thought: Ever wondered what was the best thing *before* sliced bread?



Members of the audience listen intently to the speaker at the General Meeting in May.

Nana Gaye's world of dancing

KATIKATI residents turned out in force to welcome U3A to their town when the first Katikati General Meeting was held at The Hub, next to the library, on Wednesday, 11 May.

An audience of around 50 people were greeted by Anne Withy, the U3A Tauranga President, who introduced the guest speaker, Gaye Hemsley (*pictured right*).

Gaye, known as "Nana Gaye", told how she is dedicated to passing on her love of dance to children and adults. She combines that passion with her favourite pastime, writing picture books, which she reads at children's parties.

In 2019, she published her book of memoirs, *Journey of a Dance Teacher*, which tells how she mothered four children while not letting her passion for teaching dance diminish.

Gaye, now in her eighties, is currently director of a non-profit group called Christina Productions, which is very involved with the Katikati community. A weekly event is a ballet class, with the participants mostly over 60 years old. She also runs a monthly memoir-writing group, known as the Sunday Scribblers.



To enquire about U3A in Katikati, contact Pam Mazoyer at pamkapiti@gmail.com

U3A's KATIKATI branch is now well under way, with the much-appreciated assistance of U3A Tauranga. Convener of the new branch, Christine Pelosi says: "Katikati is well served with a number of community groups that include many enjoyable activities for all ages, but I thought U3A would be likely to stimulate learning opportunities that appeal particularly to 'third age' minds." General Meetings are held monthly at the Hub, Katikati (next to the Library), from 10am to noon on the second Wednesday of the month.



Pam Mazoyer

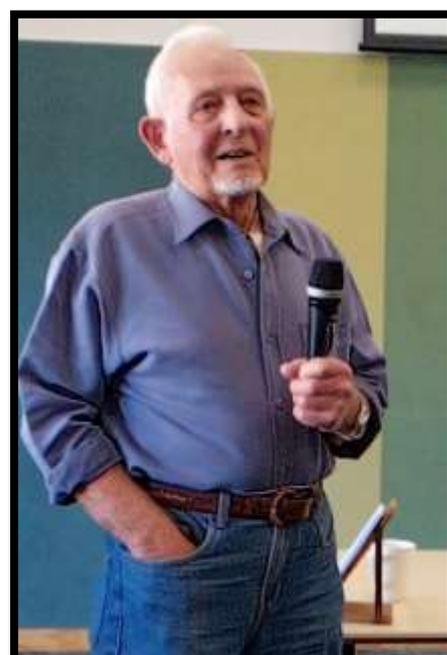
Co-ordinator of interest groups, Pam Mazoyer, says she jumped at the chance to be involved with U3A. As a fairly new arrival to Katikati, she was looking forward to meeting like-minded explorers of all things interesting and sharing experiences with other "third-agers". Groups are already thriving and there is also interest in setting up groups in Omokoroa. You can contact Pam at pamkapiti@gmail.com or phone 021 104 2925.

Poetry of the rugged bush strikes a chord

WAIHI poet Barry Jarvis charmed the audience at the Katikati General Meeting on Wednesday, 8 June.

Barry is the author of *Back Country Poems*, a collection of 59 pieces of verse, which he describes as a nod to "the bush, the men and the past".

Barry's stomping ground as a young hunter was the Urewera and Raukumara ranges, where he formed a deep connection with the outdoors. His appreciation of the wilderness was cemented when he and his wife Lorraine bought a block in a remote valley of the Raukumaras, where they raised their three sons.



Barry Jarvis reads his poetry

His "landscape poems," as he calls them, include reflections on the rugged countryside and its relationship to local iwi, as well as historic events such as the aftermath of the First World War. Barry captivated his audience, with his "hands on" delivery style, which required the mike to be held for him from time to time! His poetry was delivered with feeling and vigour, taking us all on a journey with him. There was demand for copies of his *Back Country Poems* when the talk concluded.

NEXT KATIKATI GM: Wednesday, 13 July, 10am, The Hub, speaker Jo Lynskey

THE Katikati **Early NZ History** group meet on the third Tuesday of the month in the Board Room of the Arts Centre. At the first meeting on May 17, each of the 16 members spent about 10 minutes sharing their early New Zealand history, where they grew up and early life experiences, and then linked that to how they come to be in Katikati now. It was a fun and stimulating meeting with everyone gaining a great appreciation of each other's backgrounds.



For our meeting on 21 June, the group arranged a visit to the Katikati Archives in the Library to meet Archivist Sandra Haigh. At the meeting on July 19, three members are going to share for 10 minutes each on an aspect of the early history of the Bay of Islands.

Chris Bedford 021 173 3979

THE first meeting of **Club Francais de KK U3A** was held at Chrome Café in Wharawhara Road. Six people attended and we had two apologies. Despite most claiming to not speak very much French, the breadth of knowledge hidden away was a surprise! But not unexpected. We decided to meet in members' homes on the second Friday and fourth Sunday of each month, from 1.30-3pm. Meetings were arranged for June 10 at Barbara's home, followed by June 26 at Stephanie's. You can email me at camellia.donehue@gmail.com. I now live in Summerset-au-bord-de-la-mer, Park Road. If anyone needs a lift, please let me know. See also Clubfrançaisdekatikatiu3a on Facebook.

Christine Donehue (07) 549 5827

THE **Walking** group enjoyed a walk around the Waihi Mine, with four walkers. The next walk was planned for 13 June, through the old railway tunnel in the Karangahake Gorge, a distance of about 4km and a total of around an hour of walking time.

Steve Subritzky 021 159 5613

THE first meeting of the **Technology** group was attended by nine people, who hopefully learned a bit more about their phones and computers. The following meeting was scheduled for 13 June at 7 Flounder Drive, Omokoroa. The plan was to spend half the time troubleshooting devices and half introducing useful apps.

Steve Subritzky 021 159 5613

TEN people were at the first meeting **Play Reading and Poetry** for "The Voice of the Poet". Everyone had a chance to read their own work. Nobody declined to participate. The next meeting was planned for 29 June.

Dorothy Barker (07) 549 3378

THE **Lazy Lunch** group scheduled a lunch for 21 June at The Beach House, Waihi Beach. Please come along and support this group. Lunch is such a pleasant meal to share!

Robbie and Christine Selwyn 027 294 7742

YOUR Choice Book Lovers arranged to meet on 22 June at the Arts Junction Board Room. This group is going well.

Irene Mead 021 182 6749

THE **Memoir Writing** group arranged a meeting for Monday, 6 June at 7 Flounder Drive, Omokoroa.

Chris Subritzky 021 255 6415



IT'S A FUNNY OLD WORLD!

A right royal firestorm

By PAUL CHAPMAN

HANDEL'S *Music for the Royal Fireworks* is a much-loved piece of classical music. What is not so well known is that its first performance in 1749 went anything but smoothly. Things started to go wrong when the Duke of Montagu, responsible for the Royal Fireworks, got into an argument with Handel and ordered the removal of violins from the



orchestra, insisting King George II wanted to hear "no fiddles". A rehearsal was unwisely held in Vauxhall Gardens, south of the River Thames, which caused a three-hour traffic jam of carriages on London Bridge when 12,000 people turned up to watch. Six nights later, at the royal performance, the rain started falling and turned many of the fireworks into damp squibs. Among those that did go off, some set fire to an elaborate timber-built Doric temple, which burned to the ground and was still alight at 2am. A rocket set a woman's clothes on fire and, sadly, three soldiers were injured by stray fireworks.

SMILE AWHILE



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Edvard Munch; 2. Antarctica; 3. Julius Caesar;
4. Karl Marx; 5. The United States; 6. *King Lear*;
7. The twentieth; 8. The nanny (Sandra Rivett); 9. Abel Magwitch (the convict);
10. The Great Barrier Reef.

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Just a thought: Would the oceans be deeper if they didn't contain sponges?

THE NEXT ISSUE

September-October 2022

Deadline for contributions is 22 August 2022

We welcome your articles and pictures, please email to newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Our website is updated regularly – remember to check www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz