



NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2022



[Rob's got plenty to sing about](#) Page 5

[Grandfather cooked with the great Escoffier](#)

Pages 8-9



[Hikers are hitting the heights](#) Pages 14-15

Can you help run U3A?

THE call has gone out: Can you help run U3A Tauranga? Friday, 18 November is the date of the **Election General Meeting**, at which members of the Executive will be elected for 2023. **We need a Treasurer and two Coordinators** to help run our organisation (Please see the panel on the right.)

After morning tea, the tone lightens as members of **Writers Incorporated** read short stories. Convener Jean Akers says the stories will all have a Christmas flavour.

Oceanside Music Group will be playing lively background music as members arrive and again after the formalities. OMG Co-convener Alan Read promises high-energy entertainment with audience participation encouraged. He says: "Prepare to be bedazzled by OMG's song selections, their performance and their dance moves, proving you are never too old to have fun!"

HOW U3A ELECTIONS WORK

1. Any member has the right to nominate another member for a position on the Executive, but no nominations from the floor can be accepted at the EGM.
2. To meet Constitutional obligations, all nominations for the Executive must be in the hands of the Secretary by **3 November**.
3. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the website at [U3A Nomination Form Executive 2023.pdf](https://u3atauranga.kiwi.nz/U3A%20Nomination%20Form%20Executive%202023.pdf) (u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)

[See the President's Message on page 3 of this issue for further information.](#)

PLEASE NOTE: FACEMASKS MUST BE WORN AT ALL GENERAL MEETINGS

U3A members are in a vulnerable age group. Some also have compromised immunity. Please be considerate of other people.

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Season's Greetings from the Newsletter Team

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SMILE AWHILE



Visitor to museum: "Say, how old is this dinosaur skeleton?"

Attendant: "One hundred million and three years, seven months and eight days."

Visitor: "That's amazing! How can you be so precise?"

Attendant: "Well, I started working here exactly three years, seven months and eight days ago, and it was a hundred million years old then."



QUIZ CORNER

1. Lent begins on which day of the year?
2. Photophobia is aversion to what?
3. What was Fletcher's first name in the TV series *Porridge*?
4. Against whom did Oscar Wilde bring an unsuccessful prosecution for criminal libel?
5. What is the literal translation of the term *cul-de-sac*: a) Bottom of the bag; b) Neck of the sack; c) Turning point?
6. What male voice lies between tenor and bass: a) Countertenor; b) Baritone; c) Alto?
7. Which two countries share the world's longest border?
8. Yom Kippur is the Jewish Day of: a) Atonement; b) Passover; c) Thanksgiving?
9. The Statue of Liberty was a gift to the United States from which country?



10. Who is pictured here?

■ [Answers on Page 23](#)



Please consider helping

DEAR Members,
I can't believe that we are approaching the end of the year so rapidly. And what a year it has been for all of us! While it is tempting to look back at what has been accomplished, right now I need to keep my eyes fixed on what is still ahead.

Firstly, on [page 1](#) of this Newsletter you are reminded of the details of the upcoming **Election General Meeting** on 18 November. I do hope you will be able to attend. We want to ensure you know you have the right to nominate other members for any elected position on the Executive. If you wish to do so, please be aware that **nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary, secretary@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz by 3 November.**

At the point of writing, we are still without nominations for **a Treasurer and two Coordinators**. Your assistance in sending nominations, or suggestions of people you think may be suitable for those, or any roles, would be greatly appreciated. Please contact either myself president@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz or Raewyn Gallagher vp@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz if you would like to discuss what the roles require. Of course, volunteers can contact us, or any Executive member, directly as well.

CHOICES FOR 2023 HANDBOOK

We have signalled over recent months that, to take advantage of the digital age and to reduce costs, next year we are offering you the choice of your **2023 Handbook in digital form, or as a printed copy.**

Very soon we are going to send an email to all members asking you to reply and indicate your preference. It is very important we receive your reply, as we need to know how many copies to ask the Printer to produce. THANK YOU.

Having covered the information I had to convey, it is important that I pay tribute to the Executive, to all Conveners, and to the many, many people who contribute in so many ways to the smooth running of our organisation. I am extremely grateful to each and every one of you. Thank you.

Now let us look forward to the approaching summer and prepare for the Christmas season, holidays, and precious time with family and friends. My wish for you is that the festive season and 2023 bring you good health and much happiness. [Return to page 2 index](#)

Kind regards,

Anne Withy

President U3A Tauranga

The digital Handbook is available now for reading online or to download on to your computer at www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz
It will be updated with new information three times a year.

The life and times of a coroner

GM speakers reports by PAUL CHAPMAN

DONNA Llewellyn had the audience riveted when she spoke about her demanding role as a coroner for the Bay of Plenty and Waikato region. “I try to put myself into the shoes of the deceased person,” she said. “I am the *kaitiaki*, the caretaker of that person’s life. I speak for the deceased.” She said many people do not know what a coroner does and confuse the role with that of a pathologist.



“I am the judicial officer who deals with the aftermath,” she explained. Her duties involve examining: reports from pathologists and toxicologists; evidence of what led to a person’s death; witness statements; and medical and mental health reports. “I like to think that I’m putting together all the pieces in a big jigsaw puzzle.” About 15 per cent of deaths in New Zealand are reported to the coroner.

The process could involve presiding over a Coroner’s Court to examine evidence and hear witness statements, although a large proportion of investigations into deaths by natural causes can be closed without the need for a formal inquiry. The coroner’s role is not to apportion blame – “that’s up to judges in other courts” – but to shed light on how the person died.

Donna (*pictured*) said there is a huge backlog of cases for coroners to work through. Mondays could be the worst day because of the number of cases that had built up over the weekend. In a note of light relief amid a serious subject, she caused a ripple of laughter when said: “Don’t die on a Friday is the best piece of advice I can give you.”

She raised more wry smiles at the end of her very interesting talk when she closed with: “I always say to people ‘I hope I don’t see you again’.”

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Those oh so unromantic Romantics

THE intriguing title of **Alison Richards’** talk was *Unromantic Romanticism*. Alison explained that the meaning of the word “romantic” in Romantic Art had nothing to do with our modern ideas of love and romance. It was intended instead to convey the power of the imagination, with images that were “totally unrealistic” and the opposite of the ordinary and factual.

Romanticism arose as a rebellion against the technological advances of the rapidly industrialising world in the late 18th Century. It contrasted with Neo-Classicism, which contained many references to the classical world, including stoical human figures in scenes that lacked spontaneity. Romanticism looked to Medieval times for inspiration and favoured natural scenes involving storms, heroes who rescued damsels, and frightening “Gothic” creatures that inhabited nightmares. Landscape painting became the most important genre. To illustrate her talk Alison, a member of **Art History 1**, showed slides of examples of the movement, such as *Napoleon Crossing the Alps*, painted by Jacques-Louis David in 1801 (*pictured, above right*).



Rob's got plenty to sing about

ROB Heath had his audience roaring with laughter when he delivered what he described as his "swansong". Rob (*pictured*) is retiring from the role he has filled for seven years on the Executive as organiser of the mini-speakers for U3A Tauranga's General Meetings. Referring to the legend that swans sing before they die, he joked it was also thought that "some people should die before they sing". Undeterred, he sang a snatch of an aria from Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* and won a well-deserved round of applause. What many people don't know about Rob is that for 10 years he sang baritone with the highly regarded Singapore Symphony Chorus, performing in a wide range of languages. At the meeting he also spent some time singing U3A's praises, saying it was a great organisation for "keeping your brain alive". He also spoke of how much he enjoyed working alongside people who do everything on a voluntary basis. "We're all there because we want to be. There's no money involved and that's wonderful," he said. Rob went on to confide: "You are staring at someone who has claim to the throne of Britain." Just before his grandmother Cynthia left England for New Zealand, said Rob, she was informed that she was an illegitimate child who had been brought up by foster parents. But not just any illegitimate child. It turns out that Rob himself is the "illegitimate" grandson of a member of the Queen Mother's Bowes-Lyon family. "So, if anyone's phone isn't turned off and it's Buckingham Palace, it's for me," he chuckled. Thanking Rob, president Anne Withy commented: "I would forget Buckingham Palace if I were you. It's 10 Downing Street where there is a vacancy." To which Rob replied: "Well my name is Heath!" [Return to page 2 index](#)



Charity brings hope in the midst of despair

THOUSANDS of women and girls in Ethiopia have been spared horrific childbirth injuries thanks to the pioneering work of a charity founded by a Kiwi gynaecologist and his Australian wife.



Joli Wescombe (*pictured*) from Hamlin Fistula NZ told how the organisation founded by Dr Reg and Dr Katherine Hamlin has helped more than 63,000 women since it was founded in 1959. Most women in Ethiopia still give birth at home in traditional huts, with no doctor or midwife in attendance. Labour can be long and agonising and, because so many are malnourished or even too young to have a large enough pelvis for childbirth, the obstetric fistulas that often result can have a devastating effect for the rest of their lives. Too often the baby itself is finally born dead. Joli gave case histories of some of the girls and women Hamlin Fistula has helped, explaining that the charity now has six hospitals in Ethiopia as well as a rehabilitation centre. It also runs degree courses to train the next generations of midwives. See [Homepage - Hamlin Fistula New Zealand](#)

Victorian melodrama, anyone?

WHILE working on this issue of the Newsletter, I had the pleasure of meeting Ouida Rice, the Convener of **French Conversation 1** ([see Escoffier feature on pages 8-9](#)). Aside from the fact that Ouida is a delightful lady, I particularly enjoyed meeting her because I had first encountered her namesake four decades earlier when my wife and I lived in Bury St Edmunds, in eastern England. The original Ouida (1839-1908), after whom our Ouida was named, was Maria Louise de la Ramée (*left*), a Victorian author who was immensely popular in her own day. (“Ouida” resulted from an elision of “Louise de la”). Despite the French name, she was born in Bury St Edmunds, where I recalled seeing the monument constructed in her honour by grateful townsfolk.



Her best-selling novel was titled *Under Two Flags* (cover pictured right), and it tells the tale of an English aristocrat, apparently in disgrace, who disappears and joins a French battalion in Algeria. The book was so popular that in 1936 it was turned into a blockbuster of a movie, which claimed “a cast of thousands”. An advertising poster for the film (*lower right*) shows it featured the celebrity stars Ronald Colman and Claudette Colbert. Our Ouida had a French mother and an English father and so was born “under two flags”. As a result, her parents decided to name their own bonny wee baby girl after the author Ouida. “Have you ever read any of her books?” our Ouida asked me. When I told



her I hadn’t, she cautioned: “Oh don’t bother, they are absolutely dreadful! Real Victorian melodramas.” Despite her warning, I have had a go – but quickly gave up. If you fancy trying out *Under Two Flags* for yourself, it has been posted online by Project Gutenberg. Go to [Under Two Flags, by Ouida \[Louise de La Ramee\] \(gutenberg.org\)](#) if you must, but don’t blame our Ouida or me if you find yourself nodding off after the first few paragraphs.

Paul Chapman

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Take a stroll on Memory Lane

Have you always intended to get around to writing down your memories so future generations know something of how you lived your life? Or even just for the enjoyment of reliving those happy times with people and places you have loved? If so, U3A's **Memoir Writing** group may have just the thing for you.

WE DON'T write memoirs for ourselves; we write them for future generations of our family. Our children and grandchildren know nothing about our life before they were born, so one of the most important gifts we can give them are memories of our early years. Most people put off writing their memoirs as they don't know how to tackle it. This course is designed to get you started and consists of six two-hour sessions (two a month), starting early 2023, which guide you on what to write about and how to go about getting your memories down on paper.

The six to eight participants in each course will receive a "memory jogger", which will invoke many reminiscences from the past and, as you start to write about a subject, you will find that many other memories come flooding back. Mainly it will be memories from the past, although some stories will be more recent.

At each meeting, members are asked to bring a short memoir they have written to share with the group. Aspects of writing are discussed, and positive critique is given. Don't worry if you think you can't write. You can – you might just need some guidance. It is important that you write in your own voice, and not get someone else to write it, as they will put their own slant on your stories.

If you don't have children or grandchildren your stories can be passed on to nieces and nephews – or just write your memoirs for your own pleasure. Memories from your past will disappear when you pass on, which is why it is so important to start writing about them now. Vacancies are available. For more information, contact me at: creativewriter@inspire.net.nz or phone (07) 571 2925, mobile 0274 353515.

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Glenne Findon



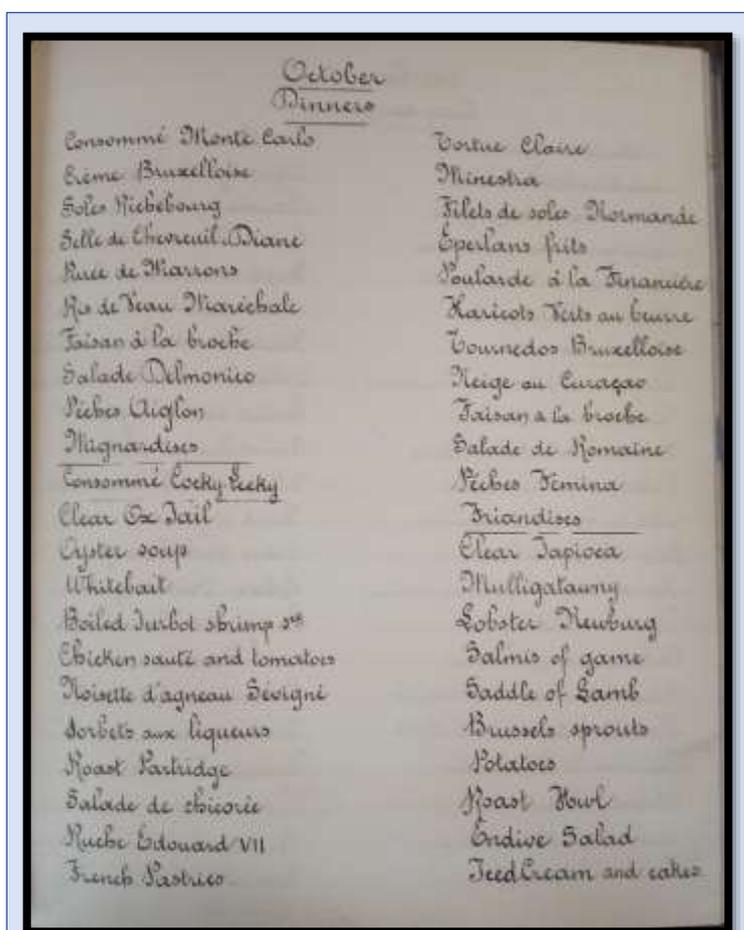
My grandfather knew Escoffier

BEFORE a recent meeting of **French Conversation 1**, while I was wondering what topic to discuss, I came across an old book that belonged to my grandfather, Victor Durand. The title was *Le Guide Culinaire* by Auguste Escoffier and it was published in Paris in 1903.

My grandfather was French, and he worked as a chef in Paris and London. He worked in the Ritz, the Savoy and the Dorchester among other hotels. I can remember him talking about Escoffier and I understand he worked with him for a while in both London and Paris.



Ouida's grandfather Victor Durand



Dishes for the season

OUIDA also showed members of the group a book of her grandfather's own menu lists. Dishes, depending on what was available at various times of the year, were set out in pages of beautiful copper-plate handwriting.

Escoffier was a prominent figure in London and Paris during the 1890s and early part of the 20th century. He updated and popularised traditional French recipes. His "Guide" contains thousands of recipes. He elevated the profession. Kitchens used to be dirty, noisy places with plenty of drunkenness. Escoffier demanded cleanliness, discipline and silence from the staff.

Escoffier was in the military for a number of years and this led him to develop order to the kitchens with his "brigade de cuisine" system. This was a framework for hiring and organising restaurant staff to maximise efficiency. Everyone has a specific and useful role, which helps the kitchen run like a well-oiled machine. It is still a standard in many restaurants to this day.

[Continued on page 9](#)

French Conversation 1, of which Ouida is the Convener, is for people who can confidently converse in French. Members discuss a topic and sometimes hold dictation sessions.



Lovely memories of my grandfather

Continued from page 8

Some of the many positions in the brigade: Chef de cuisine; Sous-chef de cuisine; Saucier; Chef de partie; Cuisinier; Commis; Plongeur, and so on and so on.

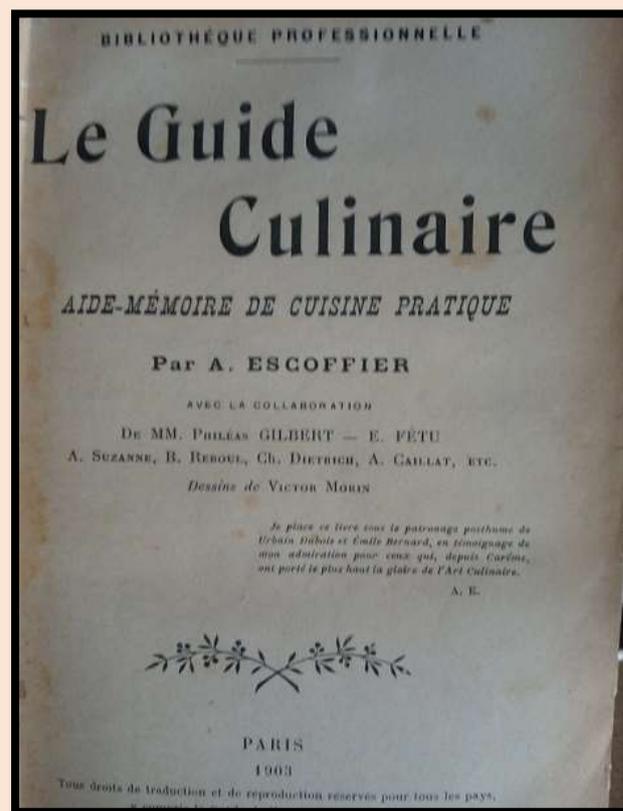
He created some famous dishes, like the Peach Melba in honour of Dame Nellie Melba. Other creations were the *Bombe Nero* – a flaming ice cream, *Baisers de Vierge* – meringue with vanilla cream and crystalised white, rose and violet petals.

We lived with my grandparents in England and my grandfather used to make special little dishes and cakes for me with ingredients considered essential for growing children. My favourite meal was *raie au beurre noir*. This was skate with a butter sauce slightly burnt and with crispy pieces of parsley – a lovely memory.

[Return to page 2 index](#) **Ouida Rice**

Food fit for royalty

AMONG the pages of Victor Durand's book are menus to be served for royalty and their guests. One page headed "Buckingham Palace" lists such delights as Consommé Royal, Saumon [Salmon] de Balmoral, Chapons [capons] Edouard VII, and Grouse et Perdreau [partridge] Rotis [roasted]. Another menu, headed "State Banquet" starts with Clear Turtle Soup, Filets de Sole Britannia, and Canetons [duckling] à l'Imperiale.



The title page of Escoffier's book of recipes, published in Paris in 1903.

The man who put the *haute* in cuisine

AUGUSTE Escoffier (1846-1935) is known as the "father" of modern cookery. Besides devising the "brigade" system of organising kitchens, he revolutionised menus and



Auguste Escoffier

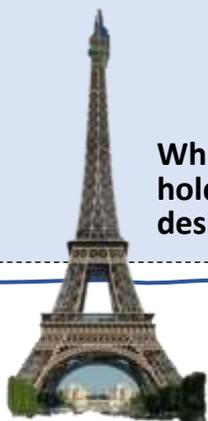
invented more than 5,000 recipes. He rose to prominence serving at the Savoy in London and later at the Ritz in Paris. When he cooked for Wilhelm II of Germany in 1913, the Kaiser is said to have declared him "Emperor of Chefs". His *Le Guide Culinaire* is still in print and is regarded as a textbook by chefs.



Mais oui!

U3A Tauranga have French covered

While Ouida Rice's French Conversation 1 group caters mainly for people who can hold a fluent conversation in the language, our two other French groups are designed for members with varying levels of ability. *Vive la différence!*



French Conversation 2

WE ARE a French intermediate group, a small group of people interested in everything about France and the French language.

Our group used to meet twice a month at the Raft Café until recently. We are now meeting at each other's houses on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 10am-12pm.

We start our meetings with *Quoi de neuf?* ("What's new?"), each person telling in French what we have been doing during the past two weeks.

We all contribute to the meetings in different ways in order to speak and learn French in a fun way. For example, one person brings a recipe, another a podcast, another will have a list of French idioms, etc. We are open to suggestions from anyone to vary and make our meetings interesting. We usually have a morning tea break in the middle of our meeting.

Being the only native speaker, I prepare some grammar exercises or other points of interest that the group would like to hear about. We would welcome a few more members keen to speak and to improve their knowledge of the French language and culture.

Chantal Taylor-Bizet

French Conversation 3

STARTING in 2021, our beginners' group grew out of an ongoing love for the French language, the country and its people. Our teacher is a capable speaker of French and has a gift for imparting her knowledge in an inclusive manner.

It is a fun group and there is no pressure. "Help is always at hand."

We celebrate Bastille Day with a special lunch; and also view some of the movies from the French Film Festival.

Meetings are held at The Raft Café, who provide the use of an overhead projector and whiteboard. We meet every second and fourth Thursday in the morning. We are given homework sheets, which serve to reinforce what we have learnt. We have seven members, with two more likely to join. We do keep a waiting list so just contact me, the Convener, if you are interested.



[Return to page 2 index](#) **Linda Kennedy**

Plucky woman in a man's world

NEXT time you visit the Redwoods at Whakarewarewa, look for Mary Sutherland's memorial plaque. She was the world's first woman forestry graduate, who came from Britain in 1923, and worked for the New Zealand State Forest Service till 1933.

When I first discovered Mary's plaque in 2009, I was curious as to how a woman was employed in forestry at the time, when not a lot of women work in the industry today. I decided to find out, and after searching through library, archival and private records, I wrote a book about her.

Mary Sutherland graduated from the University College of North Wales (now Bangor University) in 1916. She had a forestry career in Britain, before coming here. In New Zealand, she worked on several projects, including coordinating nursery/plantation research around the country, and a Forestry in Schools programme. After losing her position due to recommendations from the 1932 National Economic Commission report, she worked at the Dominion Museum, and became the botanist. During World War II, Mary supervised at the War Workers' Hostel in Woburn, Lower Hutt, and after the war, the Department of Agriculture appointed her as a farm forestry officer.

She died in 1955. When you have seen Mary's plaque, have a coffee at the café at the end of the road in Scion's fabulous building Te Whare Nui o Tuteata. That is where the NZ Institute of Forestry arranged and hosted a launch for my book, *A Path Through the Trees: Mary Sutherland – Forester, Botanist and Women's Advocate*, published by Writes Hill Press, for which I was awarded the 2021 ARANZ (the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand Ian Wards prize).

Vivien Edwards

Vivien is a member of [History of New Zealand – The Last 1000 Years](#). For more information about this lively group, please turn to [page 12](#).



Vivien is pictured at the plaque with Chriss Taylor, who was in charge of the Redwoods Information Centre for about 20 years. Chriss was responsible for the plaque being installed.



Following in pioneers' footsteps

HISTORY of New Zealand – The Last 1000 Years was formed in February of 2005 by a wonderful, enthusiastic historian, Jocelyn Hicks, who sadly is no longer with us. We meet in members' homes, with numbers averaging around a dozen. We research a wide range of people, places and events, including pre-European history – the arrival of the first canoes and inter-tribal battles, early Premiers and Prime Ministers, remote islands where there have been tragic outcomes and shipwrecks, as well as towns that grew from the arrival of immigrants. A real *pot-pourri* of topics. Over the years we have visited the Firth Tower and Museum in Matamata (*pictured*), the old health spa complex at Te Aroha, the Victoria Quartz crushing battery at Waikino, Whakatane Museum, Te Kura Whare – Tuhoë Living Building at Taneatua, and more recently the Treasury and School of Mines, at Thames. Usually, our meetings consist of two members presenting a subject of their choice that they have researched. Every time, whatever the subject, lively conversation follows. [Return to page 2 index](#) **George Stewart**



Time is running out



THE clock is ticking in the search to find a new Convener for the **Genealogy** group. Jennifer Smith is stepping down at the end of this year after six years in the role. The 10-strong group aims to help and support members who wish to trace their ancestry. Jennifer says that when they meet at her house, members connect a computer to the TV screen and access various databases to which she subscribes. "I do hope we can find someone to take over," she says. "We really don't want to see the group having to close."

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

TAURANGA Civic Choir are holding a concert featuring Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Christmas carols at 4pm on Saturday, 3 December. The venue is St Peter's in the City. Entrance is \$20. Book at [Vivaldi: Gloria, and Christmas carols Tickets, Sat 3 Dec 2022 at 16:00 | Eventbrite](#)



Unaccustomed as I am ...

IT IS said that people fear public speaking more than death! If you fall into this category and tremble at the thought of a short speech for a family gathering, making a tribute for a friend or giving a short presentation to a group you belong to, our **Public Speaking** group could be just the thing for you. We plan to develop a short course to offer an enjoyable opportunity to learn appropriate skills, gain confidence and have fun. Contact Anne Briggs, Coordinator I-P Groups, on 021 0243 2073.

Global reach brings experts to us

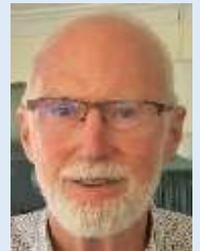
OUR **International Affairs** group broke new ground with their first guest speaker from overseas. Political scientist Andrea Chloe Wong joined the meeting via Zoom from the Philippines, to discuss the return to power of the Marcos dynasty, thirty-six years after being ousted. Convener Ian Morrison has hailed the computer link-up as “the best example yet of us using Zoom to abolish distance, when seeking out memorable speakers on current events”.



Chloe Wong

“Chloe, who has a PhD from Canterbury University, gave us a very lucid and well-informed account of how Ferdinand Marcos Jnr was able to win his country’s headline-grabbing presidential election, in May this year,” says Ian.

“Of recent months, we’ve also had some particularly good speakers from within New Zealand – including Associate Professor Stephen Hoadley, from Auckland University, who has twice provided us with a comprehensive overview of the conflict in Ukraine and is scheduled to lead a session on China and the Pacific.”



Stephen Hoadley

Other outstanding guests have included Ian Kennedy, New Zealand’s former Ambassador in Tokyo and current Chair of the Japan NZ Business Council, as well as Cathy Downes from Victoria University’s Centre for Strategic Studies. Dr Downes, a former Professor of Information Strategy at the US Defense University’s College of Information and Cyberspace in Washington DC, gave the group an all too credible glimpse of the future face of war. Members described her talk as “mind blowing” and “fascinating, if deeply disturbing”.



Steve Gross

Ian Morrison says he used to worry about high-profile guests not turning up for Zoom sessions. But, on the sole occasion that this happened, one of the group’s members, Boston-born Steve Gross, came to the rescue with a well-informed and highly enjoyable talk on the current state of US domestic politics.

“Steve gave his talk from Auckland, which further demonstrates the advantage of linking up online. We’ve also had members on holiday zooming into meetings from overseas, including that intrepid pair Janice and Derek Fowler-Wilde, who joined us over lunch from a campervan on, quite literally, the Road to Gundagai!”

IT MAY not exactly have the romance of the Road to Mandalay – made famous by that celebrated poem of Rudyard Kipling’s, and even more famous when it



was turned into a song by the US composer Oley Speaks – but the Road to Gundagai became a U3A landmark when Derek and Janice Fowler-Wilde (*right*) tuned in while on holiday in Australia.



Just a thought: Why are there flotation devices under plane seats instead of parachutes?

Adventures to fill your soul ...

WITH increasing numbers of U3A Tauranga members keen to hike, **Hikers 2** came into being a few years ago. We meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month and so provide an option to **Hikers 1's** first and third Wednesdays. We have members who belong to both Hikers 1 and 2 and, since we do many of the same walks as Hikers 1, we arrange our timetables accordingly.

Dealing with localised weather in the Bay of Plenty and Waikato presents its challenges for us Co-conveners, Mary Stewart and Robyn Luijken, and we have several favourite weather apps to ensure safe hiking. Each hiking group carries a personal locator beacon provided by U3A and, of course, we watch out for each other en route.

It's the company, fun and safety of walking together as a group to explore our beautiful area which we really enjoy and, of course, the café stop afterwards. This is a must, which is partly why we meet at 7.45am to be back before cafés close!

Hikes are usually within an hour of Tauranga, either in forest parks, along river trails or coastal tracks.

[*Continued on page 15*](#)



Here we are feeling pretty pleased with ourselves after completing the crater walk on Mt Tarawera and inviting **Hikers 1** to join us. This had been a must-do for members and a special extra to our Thursday hikes on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

... and keep you physically fit!

Continued from page 14

Typically 4-5 hours in length, the hikes require good fitness – the test being can you walk up and down and around Mauao in 1.5 hours? Boots or robust hiking shoes are necessary and wet feet can be a happening. We suggest hiking poles, which most members use. Currently, we have 18 members and we have room for one or two more.

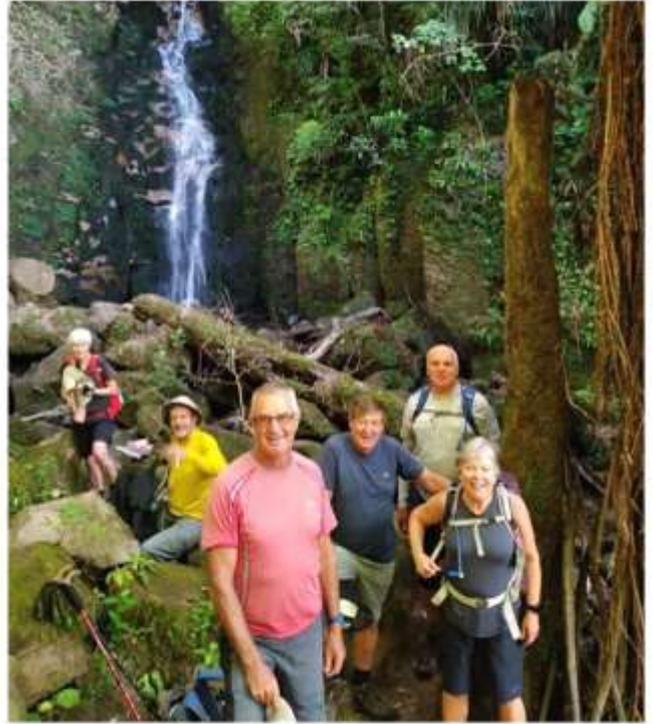
Trips in the pipeline for early 2023 include the Aongatete Long Loop, Homunga Bay and the Tuahu Track.

So U3A Tauranga not only keeps your brain active, it offers plenty of scope to keep physically fit too.

Our Hikers groups are among the most popular for outdoor activities and they offer a range of options to suit varying levels of age and fitness.

In addition to **Hikers 1** and **Hikers 2**, there are also **Mini Hikers 1, 2** and **3**, who go for shorter walks. They are a great option for those of us who in due course find the longer walks a bit tough. [Return to page 2 index](#)

Mary Stewart and Robyn Luijken



Members on a trip to the spectacular scenery of the Karaponga Dam in the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

Shakespeare group prove all the world's a stage

How many ages hence shall this our lofty scene be acted over in states unborn and accents yet unknown!

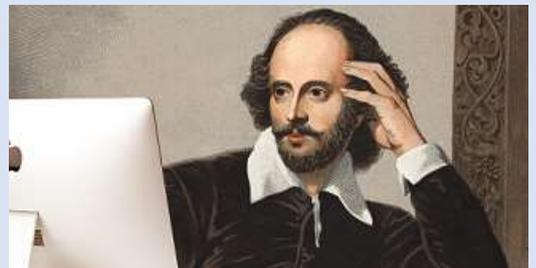
William Shakespeare

THE **Shakespeare** group went truly international in



September when one of their members joined in a meeting via

Zoom from Alberta, Canada. Martin Dumbill was staying with his daughter and her family in the remote town of Red Deer, more than 12,000km away, when he logged in to share a discussion of *Richard II*. Martin had, of course, taken his text of the play in his luggage.



GROUP NEWS



The first class for the newly formed **Te Reo Māori** language and culture group was held on 17 October. The group of 10 thoroughly enjoyed the first session with their tutor TePora Owens. They will meet fortnightly on a Monday at the Arataki Community Centre from 1-2.30pm. Pauline Barrell volunteered to be the first Convener. – *Gail Moore*

Is your group planning a **Christmas lunch or other festive get-together**? Please take a souvenir picture and email it to newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz for inclusion in our January 2023 Newsletter.

MEET & GREET TEAMS



Above and left:
SEPTEMBER
GM Garden
Ramblers 2

Below:
OCTOBER GM
Genealogy
[Return to page 2 index](#)

Book now for the U3A
**Computer Scrapbooking
Christmas Gift session**
2, 9, 16 November, 1-3 pm
at The Lakes, Pyes Pa
Bring your computer & images to
create beautiful Christmas gifts
To book your seat
email Margaret Marsh
a2c.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz



Please see page 18 of the 2022 Handbook

Signs of the times

THE subject of the **Photography** group's August competition was "Silly Signs" and we just had to share a selection with you. The titles and photographers are (clockwise from top right): *Could be a long night* (Glennie); *We support effortless case dragging* (Bill); *Burglar alarm needed for sleeping policeman* (Cliff); *What about the cows?* (Col); *Maybe stepping over is okay* (Pam P); *How much is 10 metres?* (Margaret M).



NEW GROUPS: Christmas Gifts – Short course in November, meeting at Convener's home, Pyes Pa. Creative. Crafts, computer design, text for special occasions. Margaret Marsh (07) 281 2408.

Te Reo Māori – Started 17 October, ring R2Z Coordinator Gail Moore 021 299 1009 for details.

Proposed new group: Public Speaking, see article on [page 12](#) of this Newsletter. Expressions of interest to I2P Coordinator Anne Briggs 021 0243 2073.

Katikati: Family History – Help and support members wishing to research their ancestry and write family stories. Omokoroa Library, Monday afternoons, ring Lyn Vaughan 027 259 8842.

GROUP IN RECESS: **Katikati:** Technology.

GROUPS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS: French Conversation 2, Lone Rangers 1, Lone Rangers 2, Art History, iPad (not beginners), iPad 2, Ballet Appreciation, Five Hundred Cards Group, Memoir Writing starting February 2023, Camera Club, History A, My Music – Anything Goes, Music Lovers B, Home Distilling, Psychology – not actively seeking members but visitors welcome, Computer Support B, Current Events E. **Katikati:** Book Lovers – Your Choice, Lazy Lunches, Film Group, Walking & Hiking.

GROUPS WITH WAIT LISTS: Contact Conveners to be on wait lists. Jazz and Blues Appreciation, Mini Hikes 2, Opera Appreciation, Philosophy 1, Philosophy for Today. **Katikati:** Early NZ History, French Conversation.

NEW CONVENER: Bill Frayling 022 544 3604 has taken over Global Issues from Gray Southon.

NEW CONVENERS FOR 2023: History of New Zealand – Jill King retiring, Trish Hanlon (07) 579 2335 is the new Convener, with Bev Edlin as Co-convener 027 6184 787. Photography – Glenne Findon retiring, Co-conveners Pam and Ross Henderson (07) 543 3133, 021 238 6263.

SEEKING NEW CONVENERS: Genealogy, My Music – Anything Goes, Lone Rangers 1, Travel. Contact current Conveners for details with expressions of interest.

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS CHANGES: Acoustic Music for the present time Chris Ingram (07) 578 3606 and Mick Christeller (07) 575 6167 are convening the group. **Katikati:** Films – Marjorie Squires 027 392 3191. World Affairs – Peter Jenkins 021 030 1191.

MISCELLANEOUS GROUP NEWS: Lone Rangers 1 – Continuing with guest speakers at meetings and monthly Sunday lunches. An outing is planned for November. Te Reo Māori has 14 members interested in learning Te Reo. A second group is under consideration. [Return to page 2 index](#)

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS RECIPE

CROCKPOT (SLOW COOKER) CHRISTMAS PUDDING

SAUCE: 1½ cups sugar; 3½ cups boiling water; 2 tbsp butter.

Place in crockpot and boil for 20 mins. (Can be done on stove top.)

PUDDING: 3 tbsp melted butter; 1½ cups of milk; 1 tsp salt; 2 tsp baking powder; 2¼ cups of mixed fruit (up to 1kg); 1 heaped cup brown sugar; 2¼ cups flour; 1½ tsp mixed spice; 2¼ tsp baking soda. Mix all ingredients together and place on top of sauce. Cook on high for approx 3-4 hours. Can soak the fruit overnight in brandy or sherry etc. Enjoy!

Supplied by Margaret Marsh





Unlocking homestead's history

TWENTY members of Katikati's **Early New Zealand History** group had a field trip to Athenree Homestead on 20 September. The trip was organised and led by Convener Chris Bedford, who is also a board member and tour guide at the homestead. The group met in the drawing room/lounge where tour guide Di Logan and Chris went into character as Adela and Hugh Stewart, first owners of the homestead, and talked about how they came to be there and what life was like in the period 1875-1906. The group then split into two smaller groups. One toured the grounds and outbuildings, while the other visited the rooms in the house. The two groups then swapped places. It was followed by a very good morning tea at the old Athenree Station (*pictured*), which is in the homestead grounds. The visitors then had free time to return and look at areas of the homestead and grounds that had particularly caught their attention. From feedback received, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. [Return to page 2 index](#)

Athenree Homestead, off SH2 between Katikati and Waihi, was built by Irish settlers Adela and Hugh Stewart and was a working farmhouse for 30 years. The house is open to the public throughout the year. A Christmas Fair will be held on 20 November. For information go to: <https://www.athenreehomestead.org.nz>



Alf reveals the secrets of style

By PAM MAZOYER

ALF Weston grew up in Waitoa in the rugby-crazed 1950s. After marrying Cherie, now his wife of 52 years, he moved to Christchurch, where he developed his love of theatre. This led to a career as a costume designer for theatre, television and film productions, both amateur and professional.



Alf (*right*) delighted the **U3A General Meeting at Katikati in September** with some fascinating highlights from his career. Figure defining and glamorous corsets were displayed, to illustrate his discovery that “corsetry defines stance”. In other words, improves deportment! Alf claims that the Art Deco styles of the 1930s were the crucible from which has come much of the designer clothing available to the modern woman. The plunging bare back and the slinky derriere (cut on the bias!) became the new erogenous zones.



Shows he has costumed include *Hunter’s Gold*, the 13-part TV drama set in 1860s’ Otago goldfields. Then there was *La Cage Aux Folles*, a drag queen nightclub show, with “athletic girls and shorter men”, where the men had the better legs and the audience had their time cut out telling the difference.

A TVNZ show, which featured a blonde attired in a stylish Captain Cook outfit and a shimmering red evening dress, won Alf an international award. When it came to a production of *Aspects of Love* by Andrew Lloyd Webber, which had 32 scene changes, Alf became involved in set design. We were treated to a demonstration of revolving panels, which allowed the cast to move a few items, while the background was completely changed. Other costumes were from *The Wizard of Oz* (the Munchkins) and



Anything Goes by Cole Porter at the Auckland Civic Theatre in 2011. The costume designs pictured here are from that show. Alf had a stint at the Sydney Opera House in 2006, where the costumery was extravagant and expensive. He also spent time with the Royal NZ Ballet, where a single costume could involve 200 hours of work. It was a fascinating insight into the world of glamorous and complex costumerie worn in popular productions that have delighted audiences over the past 50 years.



Just a thought: Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called the rush hour?



Noeline Campbell held her audience spellbound.

Life in a strange land

NOELINE Campbell gave a fascinating presentation at the **Katikati October General Meeting** about her time as an English language teacher in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan. Noeline lived in Kazakhstan from August 2012 until July 2014, arriving first in the capital, Astana. She described a strange dichotomy, with spectacular modern buildings which contrasted with the Soviet-style apartment blocks in which most people still lived. The school at which she taught was in the remote city of Oskemen. Winters were long and very cold, with temperatures as low as -50C. No medical professionals spoke English. Despite the hardships, Noeline told her audience: "My contract was for only one year, but I signed up for a second, and would have gone on for a third had I not been needed at home." [Return to page 2 index](#)



Katikati Coordinator Pam Mazoyer has sent us this ditty:



THE FACEMASK

The mask it is a fancy thing
 All white and fluffy flutter
 It keeps us safe and omigosh
 It stops the Covid splutter.
 When masked you are a hero
 You'd hate to be the spreader!
 So just in case you've picked it up
 Contain the wretched fellow.
 Oh, YES it's warm and YES it fogs
 And YES it's awkward truly
 But Covid is a deadly bug
 That damages our fellows.
 So stretch it up and stretch it down
 Make sure it covers snugly,
 When fitted thus you CAN be heard
 And glasses will stay drier.
 You have the choice, it's your response
 Will make the future safer,
 Our freedom to keep others safe
 Or choose more comfort now.

THE speaker at the **Katikati General Meeting** on Wednesday, 9 November, will be Tauranga lawyer and mother **Denise Arnold** (*pictured*), head of the Cambodia Charitable Trust. The trust was formed after Denise felt compelled to do something to combat the horrors of child sex trafficking in Cambodia. For further information see [DENISE ARNOLD – Cambodia Charitable Trust \(cctnz.org.nz\)](http://DENISE ARNOLD – Cambodia Charitable Trust (cctnz.org.nz))



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

WONDERS OF THE WEB



NATURAL WORLD CAUGHT ON CAMERA

NATURE in all its glory is on display in stunning photographs on the website of London's Natural History Museum. The pictures have all been taken by entrants in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition. They were awarded for their artistic composition, technical innovation and truthful interpretation of the natural world. You can wade through a series of galleries showing current entries and those of previous years.

[Gallery | Wildlife Photographer of the Year | Natural History Museum](#)

[\(nhm.ac.uk\)](http://nhm.ac.uk) [Return to page 2 index](#)

RECIPE CORNER



INDIVIDUAL BACON AND EGG PIES

You will need:

3 sheets of puff pastry
6 rashers of bacon
5 eggs
Enough milk to make 400ml liquid
Grated cheese

Method:

Line 3 muffin tins with pastry to make cases. Chop bacon and place small amount in each case. Sprinkle grated cheese on top. Beat eggs and milk together and fill pastry cases. Bake at 180°C for 20-25 minutes.

Makes approx 30 pies. **Carol Chetwynd**

Do you have a favourite recipe to share?

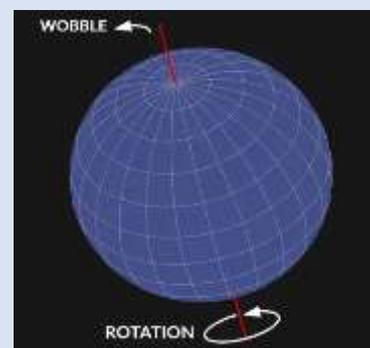
Please email

newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz



WHAT IS ...? THE CHANDLER WOBBLE

AS THE Earth rotates on its axis once every 24 hours it also wobbles like a spinning top starting to slow down. This wobble was named after American astronomer Seth Chandler, who described it in the 1800s. Our planet has for many years been slowing down, partly because the Moon's gravitational pull acts like a brake. That meant each day was getting just a little bit longer and led to the introduction of the "leap second", measurable only by atomic clocks used by scientists. This year, calculations revealed that the Earth had suddenly started speeding up. No one knows why. So we could soon need a "drop second" – the official removal of a second from global time. But relax, you are unlikely to notice!





IT'S A FUNNY OLD WORLD!

Let's settle this with swords

By PAUL CHAPMAN

WHEN an unemployed mechanic named Leon Humphreys, 60, appeared in an English court in 2002 charged with failing to notify licensing authorities that he had taken his 125cc motorcycle off the road, he shocked magistrates by demanding trial by combat under Medieval law. Mr Humphreys, of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, claimed he had the right to establish his guilt or innocence under the ancient tradition. He said: "I am willing to



fight a champion put up by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency if they want to accept my challenge – but they must remember it is a fight to the death." Traditionally, trial by combat (*pictured*) used to be settled by combatants wielding swords, lances or staves with iron heads. A spokesman for the DVLA said: "We are looking into the legal issues." After adjourning the case, magistrates later convicted Mr Humphreys and fined him £200 with £100 costs. His original fine would have cost him £25. [Return to page 2 index](#)

SMILE AWHILE

WHEN YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE REMOTE



SO YOU'RE TELLING ME



Just a thought: How did a fool and his money get together in the first place?

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Ash Wednesday; 2. Strong light; 3. Norman; 4. The Marquess of Queensberry; 5. a) Bottom of the bag (JRR Tolkien may have been having a little joke at the expense of town planners, among whom culs-de-sac were newly fashionable, when he created Bilbo Baggins' address at "Bag End" in *The Hobbit*); 6. b) Baritone; 7. Canada and the United States; 8. a) Atonement; 9. France; 10. Salvador Dali.

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**The Executive wish all members and their families a very merry
Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year**



Just a thought: What should you do when you see an endangered animal that only eats endangered plants?

THE NEXT ISSUE

January-February 2023

Deadline for contributions is 6 January 2023

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