



JULY – AUGUST 2023



A NEW REIGN BEGINS: May saw the Coronation of King Charles III. Many U3A members have now lived under three monarchs, some even count five (with Edward VIII included). Turn to [Pages 8-9](#) for a fascinating guide to the elaborate symbolism of royalty.

Official Coronation portrait courtesy of Buckingham Palace

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the
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QUIZ CORNER

1. In the Bible, who reportedly said: "What I have written, I have written"?
2. In which sport might there be a nightwatchman?
3. What was Tin Tin's dog called?
4. How many angles are there in a trapezium?
5. Which film studios were founded by Harry, Sam, Albert and Jack?
6. The Renaissance artist Caravaggio went on the run to escape a charge of a) Treason; b) Heresy; or c) Murder?
7. Which is the largest city in Africa by population: a) Cairo; b) Lagos; c) Kinshasa?
8. In which Dickens novel does Miss Havisham appear?
9. Brass is an alloy of which two metals?
10. Who is pictured here?



■ [Answers on Page 23](#)

WHO'S SPEAKING AT OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETINGS?

TAURANGA, 21 JULY: Tara Kanji (pictured right) is the Principal of Tauranga Girls' College. Tara is a NZ-born Gujarati Indian with 30 years of secondary schooling experience. One constant factor during her time in education is "change". In her talk, titled *Personalise the Learning*, Tara shares insights of her own educational journey and as an educator in the secondary school context.



TAURANGA, 18 AUGUST: Speaker to be confirmed. Please check www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

KATIKATI, 12 JULY: Andrew Turner, Principal of Tauranga Boys' College, will be sharing his insights into 21st-Century education with an emphasis on boys' and young men's education.

KATIKATI, 9 AUGUST: Buddy Mikaere (Ngati Pukenga and Ngati Ranginui), Project Director of the Pukehinahina Charitable Trust, will be bringing us up to date about the Pukehinahina project – and much more besides! A wide experience in industrial relations plus his extensive experience as an author and researcher led him, among other places, to environmental advocacy.

Newsletter

THE NEXT ISSUE

Sept-Oct 2023 Deadline for contributions is 24 August

We welcome your articles at newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz



U3A helps lift winter blues

DEAR Members,
The rain is certainly making people reluctant to go out, so I hope you have a selection of books to read or have downloaded some on your Kindle. I have to admit I love cuddling up in a chair with a book and reading for several hours. Winter is also a great time to join a U3A group. The interaction with other people and the robust discussions that result are good for our minds and spirits. Remember, if you cannot attend a meeting, please send your apology to the Convener.

I receive information each week about hikes and walks by our outdoor groups so that, if there is an accident, I am one of the people informed. Each group Convener carries a locator beacon which, if activated, ensures I receive a call from the people monitoring the beacons. One Convener attached a list of the items in the small pack he carries on the walks, which include: first-aid kit, bottle of water unopened, Munchie bars, whistle, compass, notepad and pen, facemask, packet of tissues, cigarette lighter and emergency poncho. So hikers, it would be a good idea to review your own packs.

If you are prepared to give a short talk at a General Meeting, please contact me at president@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

I am pleased to say we have been able to appoint Lynne Hewson as our new Almoner. She will begin in August. In the meantime, please contact me if a member is seriously ill or has died, so that we can send them or their family a card. Two people have agreed to cover the Treasurer's position and Elizabeth Reeves has begun their training programme. I wish them well in the role.

There was a New Members' Meeting on 22 June. We have gained about 30 members since the previous such meeting. Chris Hector collates all the membership information. I notice in his report that 95 members are not financial – meaning they are not up to date with their annual subscriptions – so if that is you, it is time to either renew your membership or resign.

Elizabeth Reeves has informed me we are holding \$20 from the General Meeting in Katikati in February for a member who renewed their subscription but unfortunately did not have their name recorded. Please contact Elizabeth on treasurer@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz to resolve this issue.

I look forward to meeting you at this month's General Meetings in either Tauranga or Katikati.

Kind regards,

Raewyn Gallagher

President U3A Tauranga

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NEWLY CO-OPTED APPOINTMENTS

The following members have been appointed to take up vacant positions:

- **Almoner**, Lynne Hewson starting in August
- **Treasurer**, Anne O'Reilly starting in August
- **Back-up Treasurer and Membership Data**, Carol Outen, currently in training

There is still one vacancy to be filled and that is the **Short Talk Organiser**. If you would like to undertake this position, please call Raewyn Gallagher on 027 439 7252.

To the ends of the earth

By JAN HOLDEN

WHEN you think of expeditions to the Antarctic you can't help but conjure up mental images of those first intrepid explorers and the hardships they endured. But not so **Steve Subritzky**. When he visited the frozen continent earlier this year, Steve travelled in luxury on a cruise ship (albeit one with a hull that was ice strengthened). The cruise was limited to 200 passengers and they had five-star ensuite cabins, gourmet meals, unlimited alcohol, a heated swimming pool and a theatre.

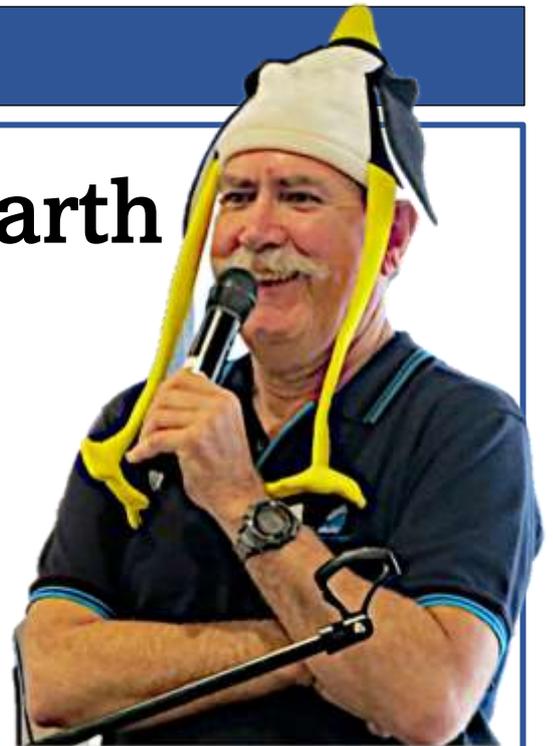
The cruise left New Zealand and travelled via Campbell Island and other islands to the Ross Sea. The return journey was via Macquarie Island, terminating in Hobart, Tasmania. Unfortunately, it was not possible to land on many of the

islands, either because of weather conditions or there being too much ice. Instead, it was usually possible for the passengers to board Zodiacs and explore the coastline from the ocean. At Campbell Island passengers had a good view of the albatross colony, penguins and seals.

Steve was lucky enough to have good weather but the outside temperature was around -5°C, meaning everyone had to wear several layers of clothing. There were strict biosecurity protocols if going ashore on Antarctica, to ensure no unwanted seeds or other contaminants were transported to this pristine land. Outer clothing was vacuum cleaned, including the zips and pockets. Boots had to go through an antiseptic bath. Nothing could be put down on the snow.

The tour group visited Scott's Hut, where each passenger had eight minutes to view everything. They also visited McMurdo Base, where they had an unobstructed view of volcanic Mt Erebus.

Before his main talk, Steve gave us a mini-presentation about a visit to the Kruger National Park in South Africa. He described what a big culture shock it was for him when he arrived at the Johannesburg airport to see more armed guards than there were passengers. The group stayed in bungalows inside the national park and had to be escorted by armed guards to ensure that they didn't end up being on the menu for one of the wild animals! In both presentations Steve showed a wonderful selection of his photographs.



Steve Subritzky shows off a joke "penguin hat" he acquired on his travels.

Picture: Colin Basire



How Uncle Scrim made history

By PAUL CHAPMAN

IT IS the turbulent 1930s, the Depression is making life miserable for ordinary New Zealanders and, long before the age of television, radio rules the airwaves. And ruling the radio was a fearless social justice campaigner known as “Uncle Scrim,” who gave voice to the crushing concerns of the common people in his hugely popular *The Man in the Street* weekly broadcasts.

Colin Scrimgeour’s nephew **Don Scrimgeour**, who is a member of U3A Tauranga, painted a colourful picture of how his celebrated uncle played a key role in getting the first Labour Government of Prime Minister Michael Joseph Savage elected in 1935, then rose to the pivotal role of Controller of the National Commercial Broadcasting Service. His star fell just as dramatically on Savage’s death in 1940 when Peter Fraser succeeded as PM. Fraser and Scrim were implacable enemies. Scrim found himself called up for military service, despite having heart problems and being the head of a government department, which would normally have exempted him. It was a vindictive act on Fraser’s part.

Don explained that his uncle rose to prominence as a Methodist missionary, organising Sunday services at The Strand Theatre in Auckland in 1929. By cannily showing films at these sessions he attracted capacity congregations of 1,500 inside the theatre, with hundreds more outside listening via loudspeakers. The radio broadcasts followed and, on the eve of the 1935 General Election, the Coalition Government was so angered by his campaigning that *The Man in the Street* programme was deliberately jammed. In that single act, the government virtually guaranteed that Savage’s rival Labour Party would get elected. Scrim died in 1987, aged 83.

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- The speaker giving the short talk was **Paul Aked**, who described his experiences as a scuba diver and showed slides of striking underwater shots taken in locations where he has swum.



Above: An overspill crowd listens to one of Scrim’s services outside The Strand Theatre. Left: A publicity shot of Scrim in the 1930s. Right: Don Scrimgeour at the meeting.



Picture: Colin Basire

DO COME ALONG TO OUR GENERAL MEETINGS

U3A Tauranga General Meetings take place at the Yacht Club, Sulphur Point, start time 9.45am for 10am, usually on the third Friday of the month.

U3A Katikati General Meetings are held at The Hub on the second Wednesday, start time 10am. Members and guests are welcome to attend all General Meetings.

MEET & GREET



Hikers 1 welcomed everyone who attended the General Meeting in Tauranga on 26 May.

Pictures: Colin Basire



International Affairs did the honours at the meeting on 16 June.



TALKING POINT

Petition aims to bolster living wills

WHEN 78-year-old retired teacher Barbie Duffy suffered a stroke in October 2021, her daughter Louise – who had power of attorney over her care – told the doctors treating her that she had signed a “living will”. The document, better known as an Advance Care Directive, made it clear that if Barbie should suffer a debilitating medical event that would severely impact her quality of life, she wished to be allowed to die peacefully. Louise says the medical staff at Christchurch Hospital ignored those wishes and continued to treat her mother. The single-page document, signed by Barbie, her GP and a witness, asserted her right to refuse life-saving treatment should she suffer a “serious loss of mental or physical capacity” where the “condition is unlikely to be reversible or to improve”. Louise says the major stroke she suffered had been her mother’s “biggest nightmare”. Unable to speak, read or write and needing 24/7 care, Barbie was sent to a rehab unit where she refused food and, eventually, water. It took her 58 agonising days to die. Now Louise has launched “Barbie’s Bill”, a petition asking Parliament to establish a central Register of Advance Care Directives, which would be accessible to all medical practitioners, thereby ensuring all such directives were followed. For further information see: [barbie's bill - Make advance care plans count \(barbiesbill.nz\)](http://barbiesbill.nz); [Daughter of woman who had advanced care plans ignored launches petition for directives to be binding | Newshub](https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/national/news/daughter-of-woman-who-had-advanced-care-plans-ignored-launches-petition-for-directives-to-be-binding); [Barbie's Bill: Petition launched to make a person's dying wishes binding | Stuff.co.nz](https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/news/125484411-barbies-bill-petition-launched-to-make-a-persons-dying-wishes-binding)



Louise Duffy
Picture: Newshub

Disclaimer: U3A Tauranga does not take a position on political issues. Articles that may include controversial opinions are published for the information of readers and do not imply endorsement of any views expressed. Comments are welcome at newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz - Editor

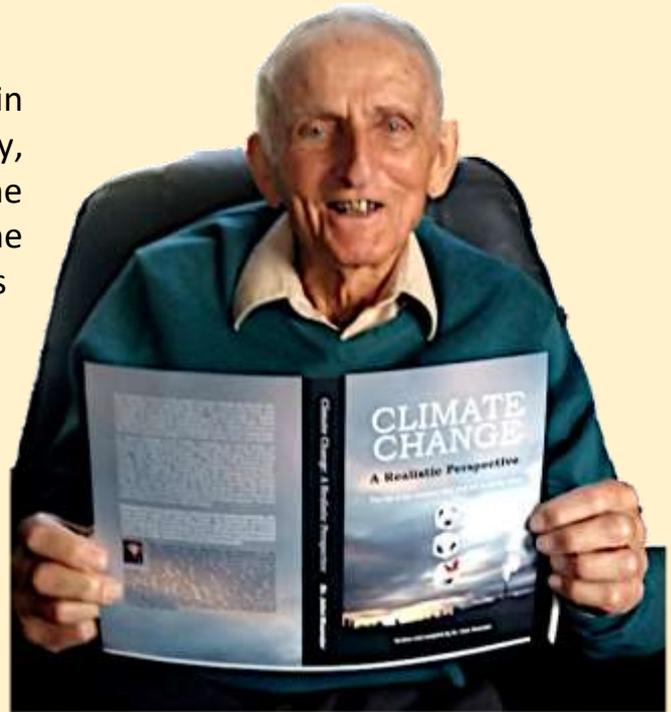


Doctor John, the weather man

By **PAUL CHAPMAN**

AS AN eight-year-old boy growing up in Takaka, at the southern end of Golden Bay, John Maunder wanted answers about the weather. Why did it rain? Why did the paddock near the family home sometimes get flooded? Now at the age of 90, and after a lifetime spent pursuing the science of meteorology at an academic level, his interest in this fascinating subject remains as lively as ever.

To prove the point John, who despite his advanced years is one of U3A Tauranga's most active members – he belongs to no fewer than six groups – writes a regular blog for the *Sunlive* website and has just published his sixth book.



Dr John Maunder looks over a proof copy of his latest book. Picture: Paul Chapman

He doesn't shy away from controversy either, arguing in *Climate Change: A Realistic Perspective* that – while we humans urgently need to cut down our carbon emissions and global pollution – natural forces such as volcanoes, the oceans and, above all (literally), sunspot activity have far more effect on the Earth's climate than anything we do.

He points to events such as the Medieval Warming Period and the "Little Ice Age" of the 16th-17th Centuries. "They were significant climatic events and there wasn't any pollution then," he argues. John admits: "There would probably only be about 10 per cent of the world's meteorologists who agree with me. My argument doesn't mean we should do nothing about it – we do need to clean up our act – but I also think we need to get things in perspective. Over-simplification lacks a full appreciation of the complexity of the climate system."

Whether you believe he is right or not, you have to acknowledge that John has the credentials to be taken seriously. While working as a weather forecaster for the MetService, he did a Master's degree and went on to gain his PhD at Otago University. He has lived and worked as a meteorologist in Canada, the US, the UK, Ireland, Switzerland and Australia. From 1989 to 1997 he was President of the Commission for Climatology of the World Meteorological Organisation, an official United Nations body.

And the reason for all that rain over recent months? Big blocking high pressure systems that set up shop to the east of New Zealand and refused to budge, he says.

Climate Change: A Realistic Perspective is available from Amazon.

[See also Page 17](#)



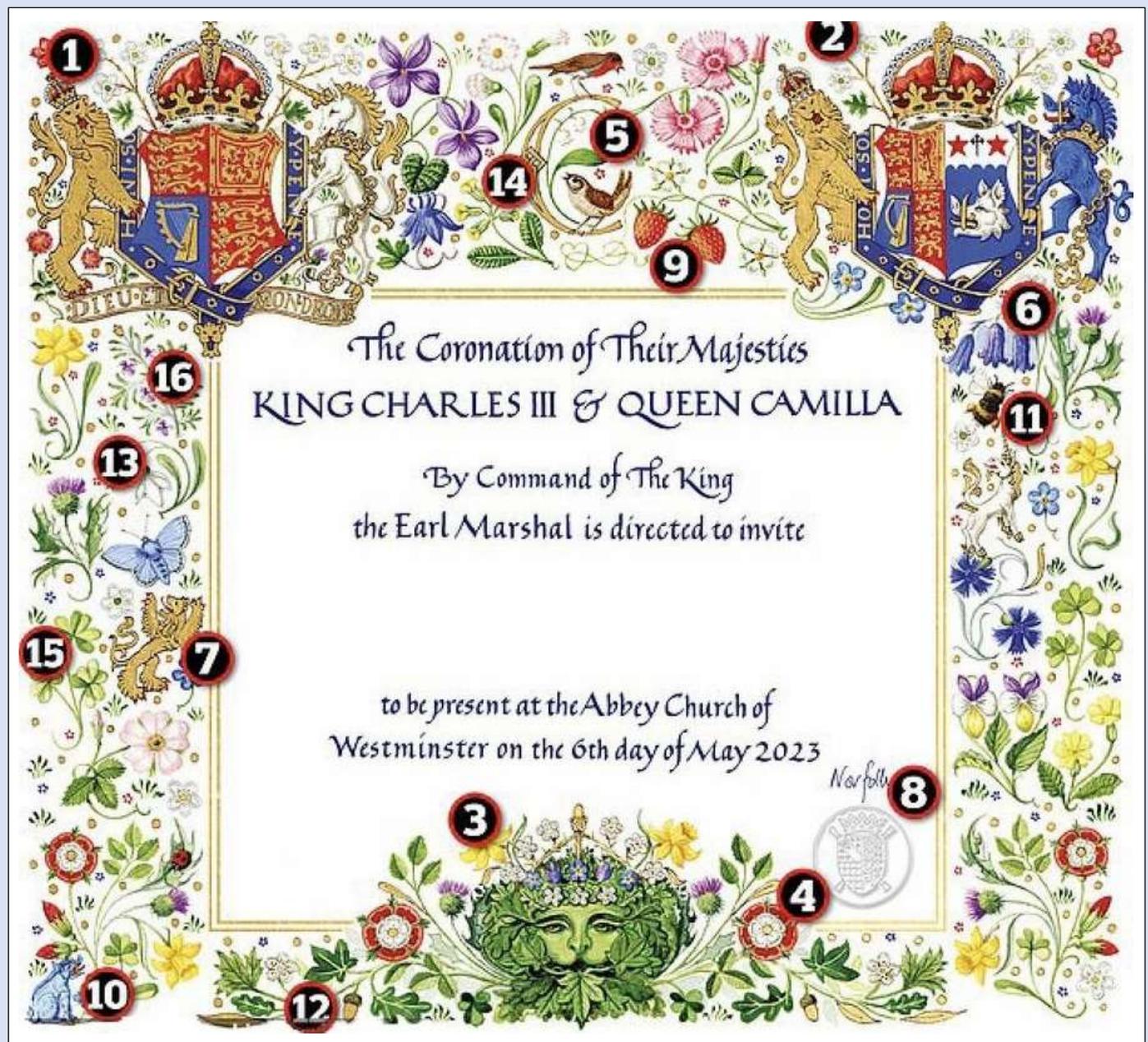
CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

The Coronation Invitation issued by the new King was filled with hidden symbolism. What did it all mean? Among the most striking figures were the ...

Green Man, a lion and a unicorn

WHEN **Margaret Marsh** first saw the elaborate piece of royal artwork, she set about researching every item on it. The result was a stunning PowerPoint presentation, which she shared with a number of our groups and at a Coronation dinner. On this page and the next, we feature the Invitation itself and a summary of her findings. You can enjoy Margaret's presentation in full on the U3A Tauranga website by clicking on this link:

<https://www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz/index.php/news/1298-king-charles-iii-coronation.html>





1. **King Charles' Coat of Arms** sits in the top left-hand corner. The King was given the coat of arms when he was 13 years old.
2. **Queen Camilla's Coat of Arms** sits at the top right corner and features a Boar from her father's Coat of Arms. It is enclosed by the Garter following her 2022 installation as a Royal Lady of the Order of the Garter.
3. **The Green Man**, at bottom centre, is an ancient figure from British folklore and a symbol of spring and rebirth to celebrate the new reign. The image is crowned in natural foliage formed by leaves from oak, ivy and hawthorn trees, and the national flowers of the UK. It is a medieval motif, there is a Green Man wood carving in Westminster Abbey and in many churches.
4. **The borders** show a wildflower meadow featuring lily of the valley, cornflowers, wild strawberries, dog roses, bluebells, and a sprig of rosemary for remembrance. Wildlife is also shown including a bee, a butterfly, a ladybird, a wren and robin ... and the national flowers of the UK: the Scottish Thistle, Irish Shamrock, Welsh Daffodil, and the English Rose.
5. **The robin and the wren**, which sit on the golden "C" at the top are symbols of rebirth and immortality.
6. **Along the right-hand border** is a sprig of three bluebells, which symbolise immortality and everlasting love. There are two forget-me-not flowers, which are a tribute to a lost loved one, and which might be for the late Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip.
7. **The lion**, which is one of the three wild animals featured on the invitation, has historically been known as the symbol of England. Legend has it that only a king could overpower and command a unicorn. If you look closely at **King Charles' Coat of Arms** (top left), you can see that **the unicorn** wears chains around its body and a crown around its neck, which means it has been brought under the command of the monarch. The unicorn became a symbol of Scottish royalty and is still used today.
8. **The Earl Marshal Coat of Arms** of the Dukes of Norfolk is shown at bottom right. The Earl Marshal, currently Edward Fitzalan-Howard, 18th Duke of Norfolk, is a hereditary royal office holder and chivalric title under the sovereign. Among his responsibilities is the organisation of major ceremonial state occasions such as the monarch's coronation, royal weddings and state funerals.
9. **The wild strawberries** which feature in the top border are a nod to the late Queen Elizabeth's love for this fruit.
10. **The boar**, from Camilla's coat of arms, is from the crest of her father, Major Bruce Shand.
11. **The bumble bee, butterfly, and ladybird** symbolise rebirth and evolution.
12. **The acorns** around the Green Man represent the Middletons, Katherine's family, whose coat of arms display three acorns, one for each of their children, and was invested in 2011 ahead of her wedding to Prince William. The English oak is a symbol of strength and longevity.
13. **The lily of the valley**, the late Queen Elizabeth's favourite flower, features on the left-hand side of the invitation.
14. **The golden "C"** is the first initial of both King Charles and Queen Camilla.
15. Many of the **symbolic flowers** on the invitation appear in groups of three signifying the King becoming the third monarch of his name.
16. **The sprig of rosemary** is a reminder of the late Queen's funeral, the wreath on her coffin contained the remembrance plant. [Return to Page 2 index](#) [Coronation Quiche recipe, Page 22](#)

Next year marks the 110th anniversary of the start of World War I. In the first of a series of articles, we tell how the turmoil upturned the lives of ordinary families.

When Archie went off to war

By ANN SLIGO

BRITAIN declared war on Germany on Tuesday, 4 August, 1914. Two weeks later, the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) landed in France. Each side manoeuvred forward, probing to find out where the enemy was. The BEF and the Imperial German Army clashed for the first time at the village of Obourg, southeast of Mons in Belgium.

The first British soldier to be killed was Private John Parr, aged just 17 years, a cyclist scout. He was shot dead by a German cavalry patrol. Another early victim was my relative, John (Archie) Sligo. He was a career soldier serving in the 1st Battalion Somerset Light Infantry.

This is his story.

Archie, as he was known, was born on 25 June 1884 in the Rhondda Valley, deep in the coal mining area of South Wales. The family later moved to the village of Curry Rivel in Somerset, and lived in a thatched cottage on the Burton Pynsent Estate in Somerset. (Burton Pynsent was a historic country house bequeathed to William Pitt – Pitt the Elder – by Sir William Pynsent, who did not want the house to go to Lord North, a relative of whom Pynsent disapproved.)

Archie's family later moved to a cottage in the village. Neither house now exists. Archie and his younger brother Joseph were educated in the Curry Rivel village school. According to the 1901 Census, Archie became an apprentice painter. In 1902, he and Joseph followed their father into his old regiment The Somerset Light Infantry. Their father had served in the Zulu Wars. Archie served in Malta, where they were inspected by the Kaiser. The German emperor, who would soon enough be the enemy, had arrived in the island on his private yacht.

The Somersets arrived at Le Havre on the 23 August 1914. The men were packed into cattle trucks and transported to the Le Cateau District, southeast of Cambrai. They first encountered the enemy near the village of Malincourt. Doves of Germans poured out to greet them with barrages of gunfire and showers of shelling. At nearby Ligney, Archie was knocked unconscious by one of the exploding shells and badly wounded. He was carried by stretcher-bearers to a nearby church and dressing station. There he was left with several others as the rest of the battalion moved on very swiftly towards Saint-Quentin.

When he regained consciousness, and despite being badly wounded, he set out to rejoin his battalion. He set off on foot in heavy rain at night, becoming one of the many hundreds of British stragglers fleeing in front of the advancing German juggernaut.

[Continued on Page 11](#)



Archie Sligo and (below) the thatched cottage where the family lived.



Hunted down as he ran for life

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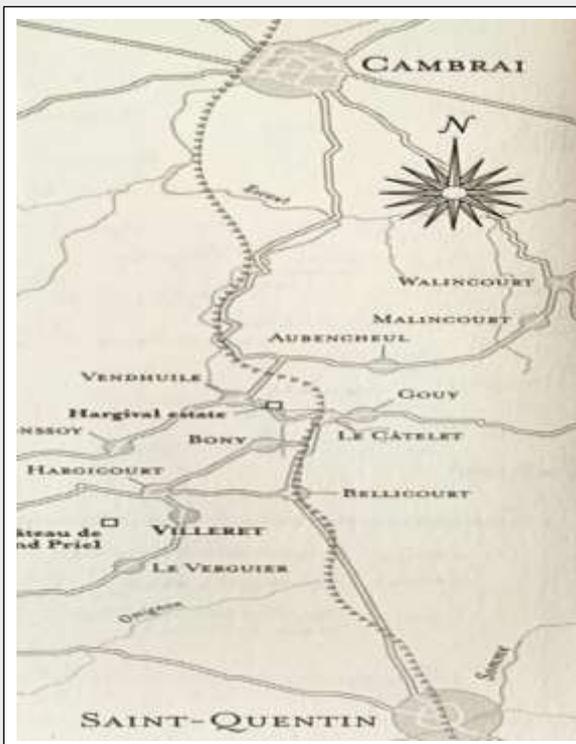
During the constant troop movements, the soldiers had become separated from their companies and lived in perpetual dread of falling into the hands of the enemy. The men wandered for days without food. In the village of Gouy, a priest named Abbé Morelle tended to Archie's wounds. Private Robert Digby, another straggler, arrived and had his arm bandaged. Archie and Robert befriended one another and, the following day, the two men set out together. They walked by night, hiding by day so as not to be discovered, and rested a while in an abandoned factory. Three nights later their path took them about 20km across the rolling countryside to Villeret. The village had about 600 inhabitants.

Villeret moved to a rhythm and pattern as immutable and familiar as the motifs in the cloth woven down the centuries by its villagers. The looms rattled in every cellar reaching a crescendo at dusk and then slowly fading into the night, the steady clanking heartbeat of a Picardy village. Crops included sugar beets, wheat, barley and potatoes. There was also a phosphate mine, which damaged the lungs of the villagers. Pain was treated with *blanche*, a home-made liquor similar to absinthe, which destroyed the minds of some of the villagers.

Archie and Robert entered the village just on dusk. Unbeknown to them a squad of eight German dragoons, the very tip of the enemy's advance guard, had spotted the two men. The dragoons spurred their horses. Hearing the clatter of hooves and turning to see the German patrol less than a kilometre behind them, they ran. Through the town square, past the Town Hall, past Leon Lelong the baker, the butcher Monsieur Cardon, and the local Café Aux Deux



The village of Villeret in 1914.



Entêtes (with its sign of asses pulling in opposite directions). They ducked right out into the open again, sprinting towards the edge of the village toward a dense copse, some 200 metres away.

Robert, a keen footballer and younger than Archie, reached the woods well ahead of him and disappeared into the thicket. Archie, badly wounded, and unable to run fast was shot at the edge of the copse.

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Helpless villagers saw him die

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German Dragoons hunted the two soldiers.

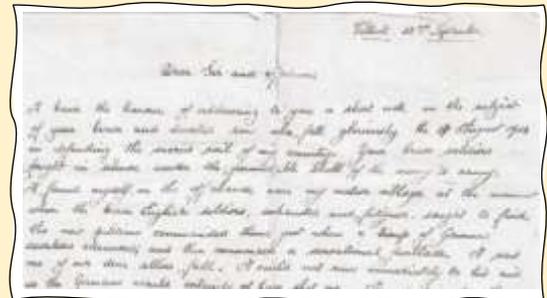
The woods were impenetrable on horseback and night was closing in. The German Dragoons paused briefly at the edge of the copse to peer into the vegetation before they swung about and trotted away. A handful of village men emerged from their homes and retrieved Archie. They had seen him trying to get up, but as they reached him, he died.

It was beside the place they called Les Peupliers de la Haute-Bruyere – The Poplars on the High Heath. There is still a row of poplars there to this day. On a visit to his home village of Villeret was Alphonse Dabancourt. He witnessed the killing of Archie.

The village mayor filled out his death certificate, copying the Welshman's name from his identity tags in immaculate curling script. After the war ended, Monsieur Dabancourt wrote to Archie's parents. The letter is very moving and expresses his great sorrow that he was unable to save their son.

*To be continued in the next issue. This article is an edited version of a talk Ann Sligo gave to **History B**.*

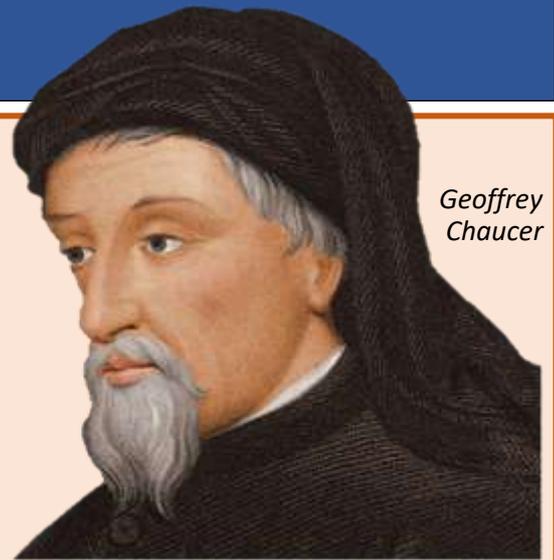
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Poignant letter tells of Archie's last moments

In September of 1919 or 1920, Alphonse Dabancourt wrote a heartfelt letter in English to Archie's parents. In it, he tells how he had witnessed the death of their "brave and devoted son, who fell gloriously in defending the sacred soil of my country." He explains: "I could not run immediately to his aid as the Germans would certainly have shot me. I still watched the English soldier making efforts to rise but unfortunately he had been mortally wounded." When the Germans had left, Monsieur Dabancourt and others went to retrieve Archie. "At the moment that I reached his side, I found that he had expired. This soldier being dead, I had him transported to the village cemetery, where we buried him." Monsieur Dabancourt offers to provide them with details of exactly where their son's grave is, adding: "My dear friends, I partake in your sorrow. Receive my deepest sympathy."

Why does one of England's most celebrated writers vanish from history without a trace? Is his tomb in Westminster Abbey empty? It's a Medieval mystery.



Geoffrey
Chaucer

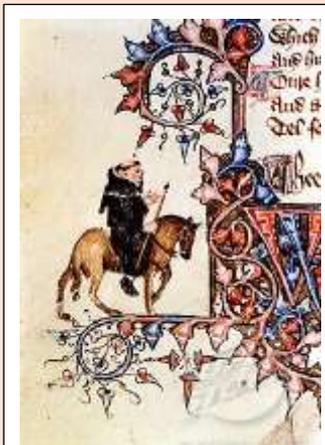
Did the Archbishop murder Chaucer?

By RICHARD THOMPSON

IN THE year 1400, Geoffrey Chaucer – the most famous writer in England – disappears from all the records. The date on his tomb in Westminster Abbey is 25 October, 1400. However, the tomb was not erected until 1556, more than 150 years after his supposed death. What's more, some historians believe the tomb is merely a sarcophagus, containing no body. What happened?

It helps to know that in 1399 Henry Bolingbroke usurped the crown of England from Richard II and became Henry IV. Henry's chief adviser at this time was Thomas Arundel, previously Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Chancellor (the equivalent of the Prime Minister today). Both men had been exiled by Richard II but, after Henry seized the throne, Arundel was restored to the archbishopric. He was a nasty piece of work, notorious for his hardline approach to religious practice. A few years later, he even persuaded Henry to reintroduce burning at the stake as the punishment for people he deemed to be heretics.

Chaucer had been writing his famous work *The Canterbury Tales*, and from 1387 to 1400 he had been publishing the stories. Mysteriously, the tales were unfinished when he disappeared. In fact, *The Cook's Tale* stops suddenly on line 58. Tellingly, many of the tales contain derogatory references to various types of clergymen. Take *The Pardoner's Tale*. Pardoners were churchmen who sold "indulgences" – extracting hard cash in return for the forgiveness of sins. Chaucer's Pardoner admits to being totally corrupt, boasting of duping his victims for whom he has nothing but contempt while also hawking his wares to the other pilgrims.



The Friar

In *The Friar's Tale*, the Friar reveals that he would rather seduce women and frequent taverns than minister to the poor and sick, or go out on a hunt rather than attend spiritual duties in a monastery. He cares little about a poor widow who gives her last penny to him rather than feeding her child.

The Summoner's Tale tells of an official whose job it is to hand out summonses to defendants in court hearings. But the Summoner is steeped in corruption, handing out false summonses and withdrawing them in return for bribes, taking more than his share of court fines, and blackmailing other victims. Could tales such as these have spiked the ire of Archbishop Arundel?



The Pardoner

[Continued on Page 14](#)

NEWSLETTER FEATURES

Continued from page 13

This intriguing Medieval mystery is explored in a 2003 book by Terry Jones (of *Monty Python* fame) and his co-authors. Although it must be said that the evidence is circumstantial at best, the questions raised are intriguing. They include:

1. Where are all the original manuscripts? Chaucer would have written the manuscript then handed it on to a scribe to copy. Why are there only fragments of some manuscripts in existence, none of them in Chaucer's hand? Were the originals purged by Arundel and Henry? The first printed copies of *The Canterbury Tales* were produced on William Caxton's press in 1476.

2. Why have some of the illustrations on the manuscripts been altered? In the *Ellesmere Manuscript*, the most intact hand-made copy that survives, the mounted Knight is thought to have originally depicted Sir John Hawkwood, a famous mercenary. The image has been changed to disguise the resemblance and it doesn't fit the description in the text. The illustration of the monk has been overpainted also. The description in the text is of an extrovert, good-living prelate, with a bald head and a twinkle in his eye. Have the illustrations been censored to make them less objectionable for some reason?

3. Was he seeking a place of safety from Arundel? Just before Chaucer disappeared, he rented a house for 53 years. This house was in the grounds of Westminster Abbey and therefore a place of sanctuary. The lease was dated 24 December 1399, less than two months after Henry had seized the crown.

4. Where exactly is Chaucer's body? There is a theory that it is under a plain flagstone in the floor of the abbey – but which one? The elaborate tomb we see today was erected in 1556 by a scholar named Nicholas Brigham, who reportedly had Chaucer's bones moved there from wherever his body was first interred. Over the following centuries, a rumour circulated that Chaucer's remains had never actually been moved at all. By the 19th Century, Arthur Stanley, the Dean of Westminster, found the question of who was buried where so confusing that he had a large stone cut and installed in the abbey's floor, bearing the suitably vague inscription: "Near this spot lie buried Geoffrey Chaucer, 1400, John Dryden, 1700 ..." among others.

5. Why did Chaucer not leave a will? All his friends and contemporaries left one. Chaucer was a meticulous civil servant and surely would not have wanted to die intestate.

6. Why is there no record anywhere of such a famous man's death? Was he "disappeared"?

Thomas Arundel was a man without sentiment or any shred of a genuine spiritual vocation. It was his policy to combine a McCarthyite witch-hunt for religious dissidents with the king's search for counter-revolutionaries. Heresy and treason were seamlessly elided in a state policy that entrenched the autocratic power of both usurper and archbishop. Chaucer's literary output, especially *The Canterbury Tales*, would have been regarded as a subversive and dissident influence on the intellectual life of the society over which the archbishop wanted complete control. The finger of blame points squarely at Thomas Arundel, says Terry Jones.



The Knight



The Monk



Thomas Arundel

Richard Thompson has been reading Who Murdered Chaucer? by Terry Jones et al (Methuen).

In the final of our two-part series on the development of painting as a Māori art form, we look at kōwhaiwhai and the brief adventure into figurative imagery.



The unique interior of Rongopai Marae at Waituhi, near Patutahi in Poverty Bay, was created in honour of the prophet Te Kooti. In addition to the striking examples of figurative art, kōwhaiwhai patterns can be seen on the rafters.

Courtesy Margaret Rose Orbell Collection, National Library of NZ

Short-lived but oh so beautiful

By LORRAINE DEMPSEY

KŌWHAIWHAI

KŌWHAIWHAI are traditional Māori painted scroll patterns, mainly used for decorative purposes. They can often be seen adorning the ridgepole and rafters of wharehau (meeting halls). The oldest known examples of kōwhaiwhai patterns are on hoe (paddles) held in different museum collections around the world. Kōwhaiwhai designs involve a good deal of mathematical precision using symmetry, rotation and reflection. The most basic design elements are the koru and the kape (crescent). The design process elaborates on these motifs to produce the scroll patterns traditionally in red, black and white colours. Contemporary kōwhaiwhai makes use of many colours and materials.

As well as being decorative, kōwhaiwhai patterns in whare are designed for the iwi the house belongs to. They tell stories of the history of the iwi. H W Williams, missionary and ethnologist, who was stationed in Gisborne in the late 1800s, collected 36 kōwhaiwhai designs, of which 29 were published as part of Augustus Hamilton's book *Maori Art* (1896-1901).

[*Continued on Page 16*](#)

NEWSLETTER FEATURES

Continued from Page 15

FIGURATIVE PAINTING

Beginning in the 1870s, a remarkable development of figurative painting occurred in Māori art. Soon figurative painting had spread through the eastern areas of the North Island, lending a distinctive appearance to those Māori whareniui in which paintings supplanted carvings. But within the short period of 40 or 50 years this painting art had almost ceased, downgraded in a revival of “traditional” Māori arts, painted over and obscured in many whareniui, often completely forgotten by the people, even the owners of whare bearing this art under layers of later paint. It is only in recent times that renovations of older whare have started to reveal more of this art, but in other cases the only surviving records are early photographs.

Figurative painting evolved as a response to missionary criticism of Māori church decoration. Several distinctive figurative painting traditions developed, especially in association with Te Kooti and the Ringatū Church. Decoration of the whareniui was transformed in many striking and beautiful ways to give visual expression to new tribal histories based on Ringatū teaching and the experience of land alienation. The Ringatū movement under the leadership of Te Kooti developed radical figurative painting styles for many of its whareniui from the 1880s. Previously, figurative painting had not been practised in traditional culture.

However, this creative period did not last and figurative painting was superseded in the early 20th Century by a government-sponsored return to orthodox art forms. The Young Māori Party led by Apirana Ngata, Maui Pomare, Peter Buck and others, promoted a somewhat romanticised and idealised image of the Māori past that would be acceptable to Europeans while providing a proud basis for modern national Māori identity. Ngata was well aware of the power of art for encouraging national Māori unity and obviously realised that figurative painting, with its messages of fragmented group identities, was completely inappropriate for this purpose. Instead, he turned to woodcarving as the most highly valued of the surviving traditional arts.

The creation of art was governed by the rules of tapu. Styles varied from region to region: the style now sometimes seen as “typical” in fact originates from Te Arawa, who maintained a strong continuity in their artistic traditions, thanks partly to early engagement with the tourist industry. From the European point of view there was another strong political reason for the acceptance of Arawa style carving as the national style. Te Arawa were staunch allies of the European government during the Land Wars of the 1860s. The continuing bitter settler sentiments about Te Kooti and the Hauhau rebels would not have allowed an art closely associated with Te Kooti, as was figurative painting, to become the national painting tradition.

*This article is an edited version of a talk Lorraine Dempsey gave to her **Art History 2** group.*

Share your research ... and let the learning live on!

Every week, interesting talks are given by speakers to our U3A Tauranga groups. Don't just stash them away in a drawer somewhere afterwards! We would like to edit them into articles for other members to enjoy in the *Newsletter*.

Please get in touch by emailing newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz with your suggestions.





What do scientists talk about when they get together? The weather, of course!

JOHN Denne, Convener of **Science 2**, arranged a joint meeting of the group with **Science 1** and the **Geology** group on 17 May to hear Dr Willem de Lange give a PowerPoint presentation titled *Tauranga Precipitation: Historical Patterns and Causes*.

Dr de Lange is a senior lecturer in Earth Sciences at the Faculty of Science and Engineering, University of Waikato. His field of interest is earth and ocean sciences, with a focus on coastal oceanography.

The venue in the Althorp Village community theatre was an ideal meeting place for our groups to get together.

The recent rainfall has been attributed to hotter air – higher than 1°C above the “pre-fossil fuel era” – supercharged storms, warmer seas and bad luck. Graphs were shown to demonstrate the variable rainfall in Tauranga over the years.

There is no significant long-term trend apparent in the available data, but there is an indication that we are getting warmer and carbon dioxide levels are increasing.

The worst rainfall year recorded was 1907, when most of the rivers flooded. Another extreme rainfall period was on the West Coast in 2019, when the Cropp River flooded.

A picture was shown of the South Pacific Convergence Zone, where the recent “atmospheric river” formed. These “rivers” consist of strong thunderstorms in a row, usually about 50km wide, which drop a lot of rain over small areas, as seen in Auckland and Hawke’s Bay recently.

Dr de Lange suggested these were all random events, not connected to climate change. He was thanked for his interesting presentation by Dr John Maunder.

Vivienne Mills

CAMERA CLUB: The guest speaker at the meeting on 1 May was professional portrait and wedding photographer Ann Bolton. Steve Subritzky compared taking JPG images with using the RAW file format. Margaret Marsh presented her slideshow *An Invitation to a Coronation*. The group’s Easter images were also viewed. The “homework” topic for 5 June was Flat Lay Photography, in which images are shot directly from above to give a “bird’s eye view” of carefully arranged objects (*see picture, right*). The group has vacancies for new members. Contact Margaret, the Convener, on (07) 281 2408 if you are interested.



Find out what's really going on

AN IMPRESSIVE line-up of academics and other experts have addressed our **International Affairs** group so far this year – and others are waiting in the wings. The popular group has 27 members but has room for many more. “We’re a Zoom-only group, which means we’re not limited by the size of venues. It also means that we can attract top speakers from all over New Zealand, as well as from overseas,” says Convener Ian Morrison. “So, if you really want to know what’s going on beyond our shores, we’re the team to join!”

The group began the year by inviting Associate Professor Jason Young, Director of the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre, to discuss the recent 20th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, which saw Xi Jinping further fasten his grip on the leadership.



A few weeks later, they welcomed back a respected old friend, Associate Professor Stephen Hoadley from Auckland University, for an update on the war in Ukraine. Next on the guest list was Professor Robert Patman of Otago University, who provided a spirited critique of the new AUKUS agreement between Washington, London and Canberra.



Stephen Hoadley “We were also delighted to welcome back Dr Paul Buchanan,” says Ian. “In his inimitable style, Paul wove his way through power struggles in Russia, elections in Turkey and Thailand, and the gap in perceptions between the ‘Global South’ and the developed world.” Another outstanding meeting was with Simon Eccleshall, Head of Programmes at *Médecins Sans Frontières* Australia.



In June, the group played host to Sam Sachdeva, Newsroom’s national affairs editor and author of the recently published work *The China Tightrope*.

Paul Buchanan

Subtitled *Navigating New Zealand’s Relationship with a World Superpower*, the book takes a detailed look at points of strain in the relationship with our most important trading partner.

The group meet on the first and third Thursday afternoon of each month. All that is required to take part is U3A Tauranga/Katiki membership and internet access. If you are not used to Zoom, the group can help you get the hang of it. For further information, please contact Ian at jottings@xtra.co.nz or by telephone on 021 236 3199. [Return to Page 2 index](#)

THERE’S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT U3A

U3A Tauranga and U3A Katiki are affiliated and together offer more than 90 interest groups. Members are welcome to apply to join any of our groups, full details of which are regularly updated in the online Handbook. Just click on the link on our website www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz Members are also welcome to attend General Meetings in either location. Please note that U3A Beachside is a separate organisation. Members of U3A Beachside who wish to join U3A Tauranga groups are required to also become members of U3A Tauranga.

If you are interested in becoming a member of U3A Tauranga, check out the information on our website, come along to a General Meeting or talk to any member of the Executive. Or you can simply complete the online application form at [Application Form | U3A Tauranga \(infooodle.com\)](#). For **U3A Katiki** you can also email Pam Mazoyer at pamkapiti@gmail.com.

How movie makers ‘rip off’ the classics



IT'S a sequence of musical notes that hammer out a message of dread and foreboding. And if you are a fan of the movies, you are likely to hear it everywhere. From *The Lion King* to *Star Wars*, from the 1927 classic *Metropolis* to *Batman Returns*, *The Exorcist*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *The Fellowship of the Ring* and many, many more. Mozart and Verdi incorporated the sequence into their magnificent Requiems, while Berlioz made compelling use of the notes to portray a witches' sabbath in a midnight graveyard in his *Symphonie Fantastique*.

Where did they originate? The grim musical phrase is contained in the opening bars of the *Dies Irae*, which translates from the Latin as "Day of Wrath". The sequence began life as monkish plainchant, dating back at least to the 13th Century, while some scholars ascribe it to St Gregory the Great himself, who died in 604 AD. The words that originally accompanied the notes are from the Roman Rite liturgy and tell of the "Day of Wrath" when, according to Christian teaching, God will deliver judgment on the dead.

Classical Music Lovers B enjoyed a fascinating presentation by Margaret Marsh on how movie makers, pop groups and advertisers have been "ripping off" – or finding inspiration in – classical music for many years. Among the works compared are Pachelbel's *Canon in D Major* (*Memories by Maroon 5*), Martini's *Plaisir d'Amour* (*Can't Help Falling in Love* by Elvis Presley), Bach's *Air on a G String* (*Whiter Shade of Pale* by Procol Harum), Orff's *Carmina Burana* (Australian beer commercial) and Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* (ad for HP laptops). You can enjoy Margaret's presentation with its interactive links at: [PowerPoint Presentation \(u3atauranga.kiwi.nz\)](http://u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)



COORDINATORS' REPORTS Summarised by Margaret Down

New groups: Work still in progress on starting a Sign Language of New Zealand group.

Groups in recess: My Music – Anything Goes, Ancients Online.

Groups seeking new members: French Conversation 2, Acoustic Music Performers Group, Art History 2, Book Lovers 2, Camera Club, Classical Music Lovers 2, Computer Support Group 2, Current Events D, Dining 5 (has a vacancy for one), French Conversation 2, Garden Ramblers 2, History of New Zealand — last 1000 years, International Affairs (Zoom), Five Hundred – Card Game, Mini Hikes 1, Oceanside Music Group, Opera Appreciation, The Seas and Oceans, Te Reo.

Changes of group details: Book Lovers 1 now meet only on the first Wednesday of month. Cycle Group now meet on the first and third Thursday. Dining Group 3 are reverting to lunches for four months, with meetings starting at 1pm.

Other information: Mini Hikes 1 is combining with Mini Hikes 2 from July to mid-September while the Convener of Mini Hikes 1 is unavailable. Rialto Cinema groups 1 & 2 have successfully merged. Weekend Walkers managed two walks without getting wet! [Return to Page 2 index](#)

John shares his vision for town

By PAM MAZOYER

KATIKATI Community Board chairman **John Clements** spoke about some of the issues that have been part of the board's recent submission to the council on the Annual Plan. The board's focus is based on the "3Rs" – renewal, rejuvenation and resilience. It is also based on equity of spending between the wards, to ensure the Katikati/Waihi Beach Ward receives an equitable amount of the rates. Katikati does not want to be on the fringe as shown in the Tauranga Moana Infrastructure map recently published.



John Clements

John explained that renewal is about repairing and renewing some of the infrastructure that has been built in the community over the years. This would cover items such as pavements, playgrounds, toilets and parks and reserves. As the community and the wider rural has grown and needs changed, this would include increasing such facilities and upgrading them to current standards and expectations. Rejuvenation is about positioning the town for the future. With an ageing community there is a need to bring jobs and younger people in and have a future pipeline of community leaders who volunteer and support the many community organisations in our ward. This also underpins community resilience along with ensuring that infrastructure is in a fit state for extreme weather events.

The following topics are the focus for the Annual Plan:

- Develop the Market Square, and the Landing to attract visitors
- Commercial/industrial land availability – want to make it easier for businesses to establish and jobs to be created in the town.
- Attracting young families to Katikati – actively attract and appeal to younger families to move to Katikati. Needs investment in facilities and jobs to help achieve this.
- Facilities – want to allow for a range of sport codes along with toilet facilities. Need hard surface courts (for netball/basketball/tennis) at Moore Park.
- Support increased medical centre facilities to meet increased demand.
- Development of Beach Road Northern Harbour boat ramp area as an integrated facility.

The discussion that followed was wide ranging and indicated the keen interest of the meeting in the future health and wellbeing of Katikati.

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The short talk was from **Francis Young**, who gave a lively presentation on three seasons of archaeological excavations during 1961-63 of the Owaru Pa at Kauri Point. Carbon dating of the artefacts discovered suggests that the pa was occupied from 1300 to 1700 AD, and maybe even earlier. The earlier occupation is well before Ngaiterangi arrived in the area. Possibly the Ngamarama, a pre-fleet tribe, built the pa and the Arawa iwi Waitaha reconstructed it. Artefacts found in the adjacent swamp included obsidian flakes, red ochre in gourds, heru (hair combs) in about 300 fragments representing more than five combs and fishhooks. The combs dated from 1340-1700 and reflect the evolution of design. They were included in the Te Māori exhibition that toured the US in 1984. It is thought that the pa housed a group of tohunga and that the obsidian flakes would have been used for scarification.

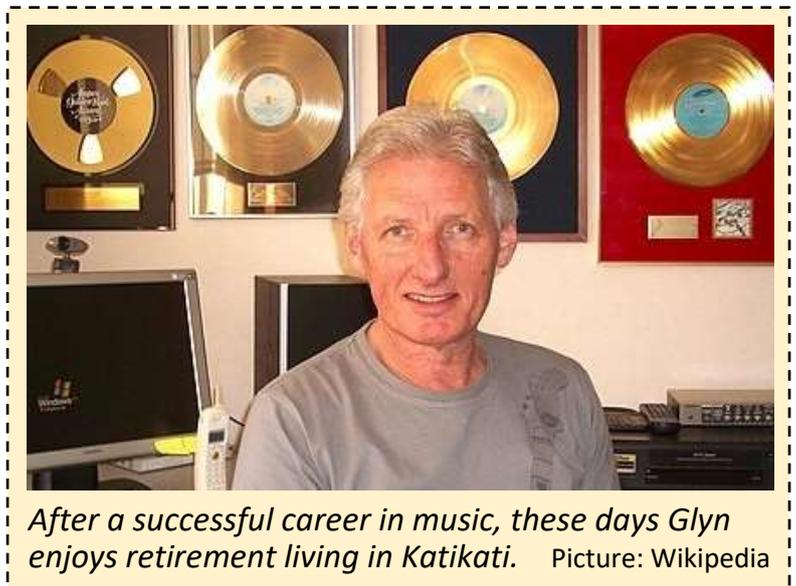


Glyn's talk is music to our ears

By **MARJORIE SQUIRE**

THE personable **Glyn Tucker**, pop and rock singer, song writer and musical producer flattered the audience by commenting on the right amount of grey among the good-looking folk!

He then narrated his musical journey, encouraged by his mother, to learn the piano to “develop his ear” and taking part in singalongs around the family piano. Violin lessons were later added to the young Glyn's developing musicality. Other early influences were gained from radio and movies.



After a successful career in music, these days Glyn enjoys retirement living in Katikati. Picture: Wikipedia

Two inspirational movies were Elvis's *Loving You* and a Tommy Steele film. Rock and roll spread throughout the world and the impressionable teenaged Glyn was determined to emulate this sound. He did so by shutting himself in the bedroom with his \$5 flat-topped guitar and strumming along with popular recorded artists. After moving to Auckland, he joined The Gremlins and their first single, *The Becoming Generation*, became the anthem for teenagers in the mid-1960s. Life progressed with song writing, studio recording and travelling around New Zealand to give concerts in town halls, cinemas, and theatres. Glyn now concentrates on Neil Diamond-type shows and country music with Barb Davidson, with further gigs planned once the winter is over.

- The first speaker was well-travelled U3A member **Steve Subritzky** on his South African adventure, during which he visited the Kruger National Park. Here were the slow moving majesty of an elephant family crossing the roadway, leopards stretched out on tree branches, huge rhinos, water buffalo, zebra, giraffe, monkeys, ostrich, hyenas, lions and warthogs.

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

WONDERS OF THE WEB



Rossby Waves Affect Our Weather and Tides, But What Are They?



What Came First, the Chicken or the Egg?

Trending in Science



Venice Isn't Alone: 7 Sinking Cities Around the World



June's Full Moon Is the Strawberry Moon

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SCIENCE

EVER wanted to know which came first, the chicken or the egg? Heard of Rossby Waves and the startling effect they can have on our weather? How can it be that minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit is the same temperature as minus 40 degrees Centigrade? You can find the answers to these and many other intriguing science-based questions at <https://science.howstuffworks.com>

RECIPE CORNER



CORONATION QUICHE

You will need:

1 x 150g block shortcrust pastry; 125ml milk; 175ml cream; 2 eggs; 100g grated cheddar cheese; 180g cooked spinach (I used frozen but squeezed out a lot of the moisture); 60g cooked broad beans; salt and pepper

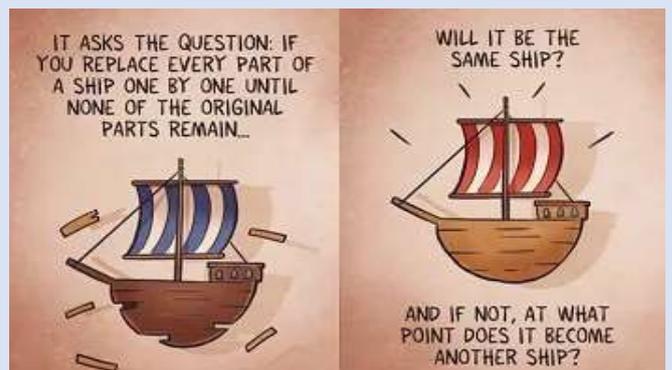
Method:

1. Line dish with pastry and bake blind for 15 mins at 190°C. Remove from oven.
2. Reduce oven temp to 160°C, then beat together milk, cream, eggs and seasoning.
3. Scatter half the grated cheese on base of pastry case, top with spinach and beans.
4. Pour over liquid mixture. Sprinkle over remaining cheese.
5. Bake 30 to 35mins or until set and golden. Serves six people. **Carol Chetwynd**

WHAT IS ...?

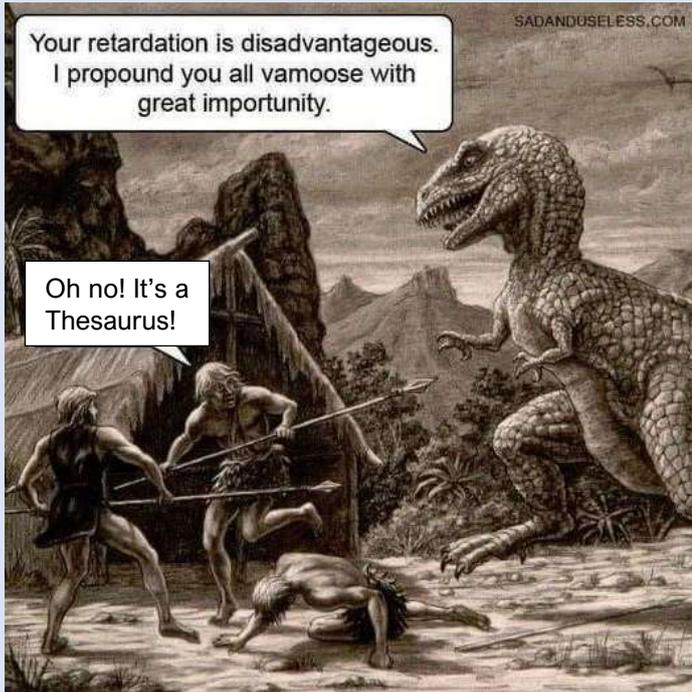
THE SHIP OF THESEUS

IN ONE episode of *Only Fools and Horses*, Trigger (played by Roger Lloyd-Pack, pictured right) boasts that he has just won an award from the council for using the same road-sweeping brush for 20 years. "This old broom has had 17 new heads and 14 new handles in its time," he adds proudly. He doesn't know it, but what Trigger is alluding to is known to philosophers as "The Ship of Theseus" Paradox. According to the Greek writer Plutarch, Theseus, the founder-king of Athens escaped by ship from the King of Minos after slaying the Minotaur. Long after his death, the Athenians continued to sail the ship in his honour, but over the years they were forced to replace every part of it due to decay. The question then arose: was it still the same ship?





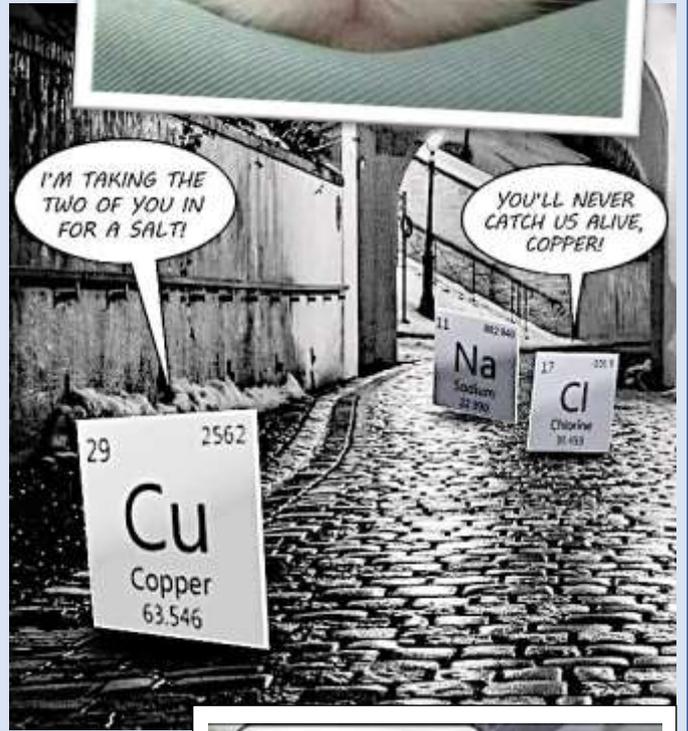
SMILE AWHILE



Good at keeping patients staying alive, staying alive ...



and a specialist in Saturday Night Fever



A policeman saw a man striding along the pavement with a penguin walking beside him. "What are you doing with that penguin?" the officer asked. "It just started following me," the man explained, "and I don't know what to do." "Well," said the policeman, "take it to the zoo, of course." Next day the policeman saw the man again and the penguin was still walking beside him. "I thought I told you to take that penguin to the zoo yesterday," he said. "I did," replied the man. "He enjoyed it so much now I'm taking him to the cinema."



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Pontius Pilate;
2. Cricket;
3. Snowy;
4. Four;
5. Warner Brothers;
6. c) Murder;
7. b) Lagos;
8. *Great Expectations*;
9. Copper and zinc;
10. Taika Waititi.

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IMPORTANT HEALTH & SAFETY UPDATE

SEVERAL members have emailed me for comments on our current health guidelines within U3A Tauranga. I will highlight them:

- Stay away from General Meetings if you are ill, as a courtesy to other members.
- If you are immune compromised sit in the seats allocated so you have more distance.
- Wear a facemask to meetings if you prefer.

Currently there are free vaccines available for influenza, Covid and shingles at health hubs around Tauranga, if you wish to avail yourselves of this opportunity.

Many of our members will be undertaking grandparent duty during the school holidays. If your grandchildren should succumb to any communicable illness, I ask you to remain home from meetings until the family members are out of the infectious stage.

As most of our members are over 65 years of age, it is our individual responsibility to follow these simple guidelines. Thank you.

Raewyn Gallagher, President