



SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2023



NATURE'S ARTWORK: Spring is just around the corner and Colin Basire captured this striking image during a recent stroll along our beautiful coastline. You can see more of the **Photography** group's pictures at www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

How Uli found his perfect place



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Symbol of hope risen from adversity

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Hidden by the villagers until his luck ran out



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WHO'S SPEAKING AT OUR NEXT GMS?

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QUIZ CORNER

1. Which continent did turkeys originally come from?
2. The author Laurie Lee wrote of *Cider With* whom?
3. Where do mosquitoes lay their eggs?
4. The Armagnac region of France is known for what drink?
5. Which English football team has its home ground at Stamford Bridge?
6. From which explorer did America receive its name: a) Cortés; b) Vespucci; or c) Magellan?
7. Which planet has a moon called Titan: a) Jupiter; b) Saturn; c) Uranus?
8. Which is further west: a) New Plymouth; b) Wellington; c) Christchurch?
9. Who was New Zealand's first Governor under British rule?
10. Who is pictured here?



■ [Answers on Page 23](#)

WHO'S SPEAKING AT OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETINGS?

TAURANGA, 15 SEPTEMBER: **Anne Withy** (*pictured right*), our Immediate Past President, will be telling us about her recent adventures in Morocco. Anne says: "For me, it was awesome to experience this country, which has been shaped by the forces of nature for over two billion years. It has been invaded by the Carthaginians, the Romans, Arabs, Spanish, Portuguese and the French over Over 2,300 years. Today, Morocco is a reflection of this history but now has a strong identity of self. Many cities are examples of the old and the new. Away from the city, it becomes evidently clear that where there is water, there is life!"



TAURANGA, 20 OCTOBER: Hear the latest from **Gareth Wallis**, General Manager of City Developments and Partnerships for Tauranga City Council, as he tells us about some of the exciting projects now under way to revitalise our city centre.

KATIKATI, 13 SEPTEMBER: Theatre set and costume designer **Alf Weston** presents the second of his entertaining talks about his varied career in the showbiz industry around the world.

KATIKATI, 11 OCTOBER: **Hilary Johnson** is the driving force behind the Innovation Horticulture Hub at Katikati College, where students can learn every aspect of the industry.



How education is changing!

DEAR Members,
Welcome to our new members and I hope you have found some interest groups that you are enjoying. We have a New Members meeting on 21 September and you will be receiving an invitation to this.

I would like to thank Gail Moore for taking over the Executive and General Meeting this month when I was isolating as a result of a lung infection.

Last month I had the opportunity to hear two views on education from the Principals of Tauranga Boys' and Tauranga Girls' Colleges. Andrew Turner outlined that the majority of students entering the college had not been taught by a male teacher in their early schooling and 50 per cent came from single parent families. Therefore the staff tried in the first year to establish good male role models. This was outside the usual curriculum courses.

Tara Kanji brought three students with her and they spoke at the end of her address. What interesting young women – but it was Aya, who is attached to the Te Manawa unit at the college, who particularly interested me. She was autistic but had learnt to deal with this, had made it to Year 12, and was now planning to go university. Aya wore headphones, which enable her to cope with unexpected noise, but surprisingly one of her hobbies is playing in a rock band. Her description of how the school has helped her to adjust to life was thought provoking.

Tara gave us a wide view on the changes in education, especially how students are encouraged to research their own work related to the topics being covered in class. The students are able to take a wide range of subjects outside English, Maths and Science. They are no longer streamed into taking a narrow range of subjects related to their academic ability. The role of the internet and its influences, such as disinformation, was also discussed.

In September, Carol Gordon is undertaking the short talk at the General Meeting, giving us further information on the UN project: *The Decade of Healthy Living*. I wonder if there is some way some of the members could interact with the colleges, because as a body of people we have many skills that might be of use. Think about it!

I am looking forward to Anne Withy's upcoming talk on Morocco. When I lived in Spain, especially Tenerife, we could go there regularly as it was only 90km away. The food was tasty, colourful and different. Life was a different pace.

Kind regards,

Raewyn Gallagher

President U3A Tauranga

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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.

School is so very different now

By JAN HOLDEN

U3A MEMBERS will remember their school days when they sat at wooden desks all set out in straight rows. Classrooms were silent. Pupils didn't talk to each other and only spoke if the teacher asked them a question. Breaking the "rules" was a serious offence and often dealt with by corporal punishment.

Tara Kanji, Principal of Tauranga Girls' College, was the guest speaker at the Tauranga July General Meeting. Tara's enlightening address informed us about the very different approach to education today – and that pedagogy is about empowering the learner to learn. It is not a "one size fits all" methodology. While knowing stuff is important, not everyone will excel at the highest levels and it is the process of learning that is most important and students being the best version of themselves.



Tara Kanji with the three students from Tauranga Girls' College who also spoke.

Picture: Colin Basire

Understanding what they learn, why they are learning it, and being able to apply it are the crucial factors. However, so often there is an imbalance between learning and exams and teachers can become focused on content in order to get students through assessments.



You must remember this ... the way schooling was in the 1940s and '50s.

The message that Tara was espousing is aptly illustrated in the quote she presented by Alvin Toffler in his book *Future Shock*: "The Illiterate of the 21st Century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn."

Accompanying Tara were three of her senior students – Bree, Aya and Ansh – who each spoke briefly on their experiences at Tauranga Girls' College. Their self-confidence and ability to articulate what the values of the College – respect, pride and participation – and

student-centred learning style has meant to them, served as powerful exemplars of what Tara outlined as important in today's world.



Ross Henderson (left) gave the short talk on behalf of his wife, Pam Henderson. Pam is the Convener of the Photography Group. Ross explained how the group operated, stressing that members are amateurs and do not need to have expensive cameras and equipment. Ross gave a slideshow presentation of some amazing photos taken by group members. Many of these can be viewed on the U3A website.

Spies, abuse, bribery and a coup

By JAN HOLDEN

THE grass is not always greener when it comes to living overseas. That was the message of *Living in Difficult Countries*, the talk **Christine Norton** gave to the Tauranga August General Meeting. Christine lived in seven countries in the 20 years she spent away from New Zealand, and her talk was about the three she found the most difficult: Iran, the Philippines and the former Yugoslavia.

When she arrived in Ahwaz, Iran in 1974 she was very quickly warned “walls have ears”. Be careful what you say and do not to criticise the dictator Shah or his regime. Ahwaz had a harsh desert environment, with temperatures of 30-46°C in summer. Women at that time wore clothing that covered them from neck to ankle, but their face and hair was exposed.

Christine was alarmed when she first went out and about when got her bottom repeatedly pinched. She discovered to her embarrassment that, while she was modestly dressed, her forearms were exposed and men thought she was a prostitute. It was a very primitive way of life with no freedom of speech. Life was made bearable by having a houseboy to cook and clean and being able to socialise with other expats at pool and sangria parties.



Christine Norton

Picture: Colin Basire

A new job contract took her to Manila in the Philippines in 1979, where she lived for eight years. This was in the Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos era where ruthlessness, corruption and bribery was the usual way of life. Christine met and married her second husband there. The judge who married them wanted a new car for the honour of performing the 15-minute ceremony! Christine started up her own company in Manila, training young women in secretarial skills.

The scariest part of living there was during the “Peoples’ Revolution” in 1986 when the Marcos regime was overthrown. Christine was alone at the time as her husband was out of the country on business. It was impossible to leave the country as no one could drive along the road, let alone fly out of the airport, and martial law was imposed. The Marcoses had amassed a personal fortune of US\$10 billion by the time they were deposed.

It seemed like out of the frying pan into the fire when Christine, her husband and young child arrived in Belgrade in the former Yugoslavia in 1987. Every day was a challenge: water cuts, power cuts, no milk, no meat, nothing in the shops and three months living in a hotel with no nappies. It was difficult to find their way around as the maps were written in the Latin alphabet but the road signage was in the Cyrillic alphabet. This was yet another country where corruption was rife and you had to pay bribes to get anything done. Christine said her sanity was saved by the computer courses she set up for the International Women’s Association of Belgrade in 1989 and the social life within the expat and diplomatic communities. The take home message from Christine’s talk was that we don’t know how lucky we are to be living in New Zealand.

The informative and humorous short talk was given by **Rob Heath**, who told us about some of the great opera houses of the world. Rob has seen performances at many of them and was able to state what opera it was and the name of the singer taking the lead role. Not bad going considering he had left his speaker notes at home!

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MEET & GREET



The **History of New Zealand** group welcomed members and visitors to the Tauranga General Meeting on 21 July.

Pictures: Colin Basire



Lone Rangers 1 greeted guests with a cheery smile at the Tauranga General Meeting on 18 August.



TALKING POINT

Don't fall victim to online scams

NETSAFE and Chorus have launched a scam and fraud prevention video presentation created with seniors in mind. The video features NZ anti-fraud award winner and Netsafe "Scambassador" Bronwyn Groot and chief online safety officer Sean Lyons. This is the first initiative as part of a partnership to create online safety resources for older people, so they can enjoy the benefits of technology while being confident and safe online. Watch this video and share it with older friends and family members for tips, advice and resources on how to avoid being scammed online.

You will also find other helpful tools and resources on the same webpage, including a PDF version of the *Little Black Book of Scams*, which is free to download, print and keep on hand for reference – and the CheckNetsafe tool, which tells you if a website or link is likely a scam.

Click on: [Top tips for older people - Netsafe – social media and online safety helpline](#)

There is also a copy on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7pXRM4GJU4&t=1s>

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Fraud prevention video and links can help keep you safe

MARTIN DUMBILL: IN MEMORIAM

Martin Bennett Dumbill (9 March 1940 – 7 August 2023)

MARTIN and Paula Dumbill both came from the North of England, meeting in Liverpool where Martin took his law degree. In the 1960s, the New Zealand Government made it easy for young British lawyers to come and work here, and the young married couple took up this opportunity.

They made occasional trips back to the UK to visit family and friends, but they quickly adopted a New Zealand lifestyle, their two children, Pip and Matt were born and raised here, and New Zealand became their permanent home.

After Martin retired from his law practice they settled in Tauranga, and in 2008 they both joined U3A. Martin served on the Executive for three years, including filling the role of President in 2010. With his legal mind and strict sense of propriety, he was an excellent steward of the society's affairs.

But it was his love of history and enthusiasm for the U3A history groups that were his abiding contribution. He belonged to **History A**, **History B** and **Ancient History 1**, serving Ancient History as group Convener from 2011 to 2016, and as group Convener for History B for some 10 years from about 2011. He was also an enthusiastic member of the **Shakespeare** group.



This verse in memory of Martin was supplied by his friends in the Shakespeare group. The lines are taken from a poem in Shakespeare's play *Cymbeline*:

*Fear no more the heat o' the sun,
Nor the furious winter's rages;
Thou thy worldly task hast done,
Home art gone and ta'en they
wages ...
Quiet consummation have;
And renownèd be thy grave.*

A large number of U3A members, together with members of the Tauranga Civic Choir (to which Martin belonged until recent years), joined his family and other friends for a funeral service at Legacy Tauranga on Saturday, 12 August.

He was fascinated by the history of Europe, and deeply knowledgeable about many regions and periods. From Linear B writing to Byzantium, from the Holy Roman Empire to England, his talks were unfailingly well researched and a pleasure to listen to. And while his knowledge was vast, his behaviour towards all group members was so courteous that none would ever have felt inadequate or intimidated. Sadly, neither Paula nor Martin survived long enough to enjoy the fulfilling retirement they must have hoped for. Paula suffered a protracted and debilitating illness, which ended her life in 2021. And having supported and cared for her to the utmost, when Paula went Martin was himself already showing the signs of the terminal illness which took him less than two years later.

Martin was a stalwart of U3A throughout the 15 years of his membership. But more than that, he was collaborative and supportive, kindly and unfailingly courteous in his dealings with all the members he had contact with.

He was truly one of nature's gentlemen.

Chris Hector



Uli discovers his perfect place

By **PAUL CHAPMAN**

ULI Hoppe remembers falling in love. With his wife Ruth in Vancouver: “The moment I saw her, I knew she was the one.” With New Zealand: “I absolutely loved the country and the lifestyle.” And with beautiful Mount Maunganui: “It was so relaxing to get away from our busy lives in Auckland. We came here every chance we could get.”

Uli joined U3A Tauranga in 2005 and is a popular member of several groups, including both **History A** (British history) and **History B** (European history). “People want to know why, as a German, I am interested in English history,” Uli says. “I love England and I find British history fascinating – but I am still trying to understand the Wars of the Roses!”

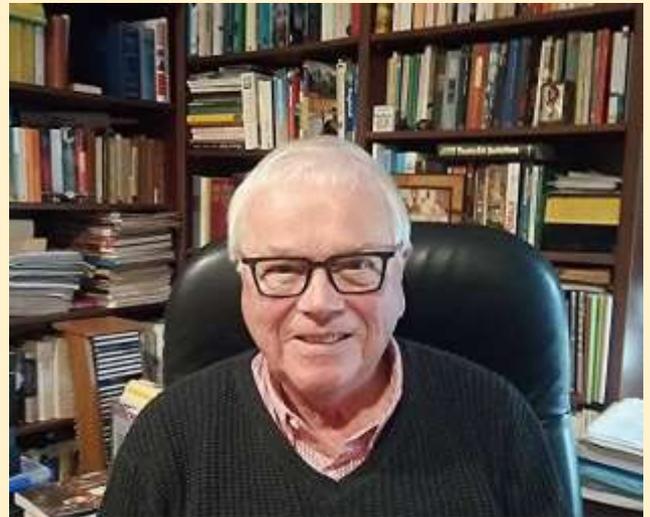
Growing up in Münster, in the British-occupied zone of West Germany during the aftermath of World War II, Uli remembers asking his father – the headmaster of a local school – why there were so many English soldiers around. “His answer was: ‘They liberated us’.” Brought up as a Roman Catholic, Uli learned Latin, English and French at a school run by Benedictine monks.

A fascination with hospitality was sparked by visits to a small hotel owned by a relative in the Rhineland. “I loved that hotel,” Uli recalls, “especially the kitchen. It was an inferno, very busy. I thought it was wonderful! I decided, to the horror of my mother, to go into the hotel business.” He began by serving a three-year apprenticeship at the Dom Hotel in Cologne, working in reception, accounting and cost control, taking a course at a trade school and passing an industry exam. It was to be the start of a career that would take him around the globe, rising to the highest levels of management in large international hotels.

While working at the Dom he met an Englishman who persuaded him to take a job at the luxurious Treganna Castle Hotel in the Cornish resort of St Ives. “I wanted to improve my English so I spent six months as a waiter and barman,” says Uli. “There was something different about England after Germany. It was a friendly, not so controlled environment. People were so relaxed. I couldn’t believe it when I was called ‘love’ by an old lady in a shop.” From St Ives he moved to a hotel in the Devon village of Moretonhampstead. “It was so old-fashioned. People dressed in tuxedos or long tails for dinner. I learned all the tricks of the trade at that place.”

Deciding to improve his French, Uli’s next move was to the kitchen of the Grand Hotel Suisse Majestic in Montreux, where he became a trainee chef. “For the first six months I peeled onions and washed salad,” says Uli. “The Swiss chef was very fond of his wine and in those six months I learned absolutely nothing. Then he asked me to stay on and during that time I did learn a lot.”

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Keen reader Uli Hoppe in his study.

Picture: Paul Chapman



TEA FOR TWO

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One evening a party of American women guests ordered duck at a banquet. The hotel didn't usually offer duck and so a supply had to be specially bought in. "I worked at the *saucier* station," says Uli. "My instructions were to keep an eye on the ducks in a casserole. It was busy, the chef was screaming orders into a microphone. Then the chef's eye met my eye and we both saw a stream of black smoke coming out of the oven and we knew what was going on inside. The hotel had no more ducks!" The chef was drunk and had a big knife in his hand. When he started yelling "I cut your throat!" (in French), Uli knew it was time to take off. "I jumped over the oven and ran out into the street. All the other chefs were helpless with laughter. The chef ran into the street after me, with the knife. It was like a scene from *Monty Python*." Having survived the incident unscathed, no more was said until the next New Year's Eve rolled around. Much to his dismay, Uli found himself singled out to work late, carrying out the annual kitchen inventory – a formidable task. "So I asked: 'Chef, why me?' He replied: 'Remember the ducks?'"

Uli's career then took him to Geneva and to the West Berlin Hilton at the height of the Cold War. "It was the most American place in Berlin," he recalls. Next came a course in Montreal, Canada, to train to become a food and beverage manager with Hilton Hotels, and – in 1974 – a posting to the Sydney Hilton. "It was a hotel opening," says Uli, "and the place was only half finished. We had to set up everything from scratch." Two years later came a move to the Jakarta Hilton.

In a landmark career change, Uli then switched from the Hilton group to Hyatt and took up a post in Iran. He was working on opening the new Hyatt Crown Hotel in Tehran in 1977 when the demonstrations began that would result in the violent overthrow of the Shah. "We suddenly had troops around the hotel," he recalls. "It was frightening. The hotel was packed with people waiting to get out of Tehran. Sometimes we had no electricity, no gas and no food."

After escaping Iran, Uli became executive assistant manager at the Hyatt Hotel in Vancouver where he met Ruth, who would become his wife. Uli's first role managing a hotel was in Antigua. As the previous manager was leaving, he handed Uli a gun and told him to keep it for his own safety. The manager's accommodation was an isolated bungalow and the man warned Uli that if he ever heard suspicious noises while sleeping there, he should shoot. "I had never held a pistol in my life," says Uli. "One time I heard the strangest noise coming from the front door. I was shaking. I kicked the door open and shouted: 'Hands up!' These big eyes looked back at me. It was a cow, eating the flowers outside the door."

After a spell in Cairo where he became general manager, followed by Malaysia, Uli and Ruth moved to Auckland in 1984 when Hyatt took over the former InterContinental Hotel. "I had a marvellous time in Auckland, we loved New Zealand," Uli remembers. Then came postings to run hotels in Sanctuary Cove in Queensland, Dubai and Saudi Arabia and, finally, back to Auckland in 1995 to run the Hyatt Regency (now the Pullman). "We came to Tauranga for the first time in 1984," says Uli. "We fell in love with Mount Maunganui and came here as often as we could." When Uli retired in 2005, he and Ruth knew there was only one place they wanted to settle. "Then it got even better, I discovered U3A!" says Uli with a smile.



Uli with Margaret Thatcher. She was addressing a conference at the hotel he managed in Dubai in 1994.

In the first of two articles, we visit an extraordinary landmark on the remote Orkney Islands off the northeast coast of Scotland.

Symbols of hope arose out of adversity

By **JEAN GARMONSWAY**

IN JUNE 1940, the Italian people were plunged into war by Mussolini. In a few years, millions of

their men were either killed or taken prisoner, among them a gifted painter named Domenico Chiocchetti. Captured in North Africa, Chiocchetti was one of several hundred prisoners sent to Orkney – to the wet, windswept island of Lamb Holm – to help erect the Churchill Barriers sealing the eastern approaches to Scapa Flow. A greater contrast to the green pastoral valley in the Dolomites where he had grown up could hardly be imagined, but in these bleak and inauspicious surroundings Chiocchetti set about easing his homesickness by erecting an extraordinary reminder of his native land.

The Italian Chapel stands as a white beacon of peace on Lamb Holm. People from all over the world are drawn to it by its story of hope and faith over adversity. However, it is not the only surprising remnant of the infamous Camp 60, where more than 500 Italian Prisoners of War were held after being captured in North Africa during World War II.

Adjacent to the car park is an often overlooked sculpture of St George, sitting on his rearing horse, slaying a dragon with his lance. The statue was also created by Chiocchetti, who thought it would lift the spirits of his fellow captives. It was completed on the 7 August 1943 and set up in the camp parade square on top of a plinth with the inscription “P di G, Italiano, Li 7-8-1943”. P di G stands for *prigioniero di guerra* – Italian for Prisoners of War. Although in the UK, St George is primarily thought of as the patron saint of England, among other things he is also the patron saint of soldiers and several Italian towns and villages. According to a fellow prisoner, Bruno Volpi, the sculpture was also meant to be “a concrete representation of the desire to eliminate all wars, all wars that cause pain and injustice to so many people. It is a symbol of the will to ‘kill’ all misunderstandings between people of different cultures”. Volpi placed a container within the plinth

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People from all over the world visit the Italian Chapel.



The statue of St George.

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detailing the names of all the prisoners in the camp, along with some Italian money. After the statue was badly vandalised in the 1970s, it was confirmed during restoration work that there was an old milk bottle hidden inside which held rolled-up pieces of paper, Italian notes and coins. Unfortunately, water damage meant the names were no longer legible. The bottle was replaced with the addition of British coins from the year of restoration. The container and the sensitive reconstruction, which included installing a replica lance made by a local blacksmith, are two of the sculpture's hidden secrets.



Domenico Chiocchetti stayed on in Orkney after the end of the war to complete his chapel. When he died in his home village of Moena, Italy in 1999, a requiem mass was held for him in the chapel.

This detailed work of art is impressive in its own right, however its creation from scrap barbed wire and cement, along with its story as a symbol of hope, make it all the more remarkable. The statue preceded the chapel and in some ways it helped to pave the way for the ornate sanctuary by strengthening the relationship between the prisoners and the camp commander, Major Tom Buckland. His love of all things Italian and his appreciation of Chiocchetti's sculpture ensured his enthusiasm and support when the artist approached him about building a place of worship. A shortage of

labour force had resulted in more than 1,200 Italian POWs being brought to uninhabited Lamb Holm and Burray. To maintain their morale, prisoners set about creating spaces in the camps where they could relax, have fun, reflect or pray. After the war, the prisoners were freed and Camp 60 was flattened. The statue of St George and the Italian Chapel are the only intact reminders of its existence. Along with the enduring friendships that formed between the people of Italy and Orkney, they are part of a paradoxical heritage on the islands, where beautiful things have grown from the horror of war.



Today, making the journey to visit Lamb Holm is an easy one thanks to a series of four causeways built by the prisoners, known as the Churchill Barriers. Completed in 1944, they link the five Orkney islands of Mainland, Lamb Holm, Glimps Holm, Burray and South Ronaldsay. However, the barriers were not built to connect remote communities, they were put in place as naval defences. Earlier blockships sunk to protect the Royal Navy fleet based in Scapa Flow proved ineffective, so Winston Churchill ordered the building of four permanent barriers.



This drawing of Italian POWs building the barriers was made by Domenico Chiocchetti.

Next issue: *How the chapel was built ... and restored. Jean Garmonsway visited the Italian Chapel during a recent trip to the UK. She gave a presentation on the subject to **Art History 1**.*

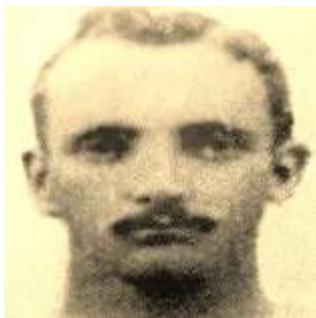
Private Archie Sligo became an early victim of World War I. In her second article, **ANN SLIGO** tells us what happened to Archie's straggler companion who escaped into the woods.



Hidden by the villagers...until

ARCHIE had paired up with another British soldier who had become separated from his unit, when they were discovered by a patrol of German Hussars in the Picardy village of Villeret. Both ran for the nearby woods and, although Archie was shot and died of his injuries, the other soldier, Private Robert Digby, managed to escape just as night fell.

For three months Robert survived in the woods with six other British stragglers. Finally, the number of German troops became too many for them to remain hidden safely. Two risked going south, one disguised as a woman. Robert and the other three made back for Villeret, where they were hidden by the villagers at enormous risk, as the village was obliged to cater for and billet the Germans. Robert lived with the Dessenes, the family of the local stonemason.



Robert Digby

Robert, who already spoke French, learned the slang and guttural twang of Picardy. He learned who was related to whom, all about the families, how to thread the family loom, grew a long drooping moustache, wore the traditional wooden clogs, and worked in the fields beside them.

Like most small rural communities, the village was riven with feuds so ancient no one could quite remember how they had started. Jealousy and anger flared frequently, and window curtains were always twitching.

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Archie's grave as it is today.

Picture: Stephen Sligo

Archie Sligo was buried in the cemetery at Villeret, the first foreign "resident" of the village's tiny graveyard. That same night Pierre Doumoutier, Villeret's carpenter, armed with an antique shotgun, had been courageously guarding a key bridge when he was discovered and killed by a German patrol. Pierre was buried alongside Archie.

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But now, added to this tiny melting pot of human emotions, were the young soldiers who had to be hidden and fed from the ever-decreasing bread grain. At great risk, Robert fell in love with Claire Dessenne, his host's daughter. They had a baby daughter whom they named Hélène – "le bébé rose" (the pink baby), as the villagers called her.



Claire Dessenne

But jealousy came in the form of the baker's daughter Clothilde (also known as Charlotte), who wanted Robert after being spurned by a German soldier. Robert was in love with Claire and remained faithful and happy. Clothilde's family, the Lelongs, were intensely jealous of the Dessenne family and bitterly resented having to share their



After the war: Hélène, aged about eight, and Claire.

meagre supply of bread with them. In the end, Clothilde betrayed Robert to Major Karl Evers, the despised German officer who was in charge of Villeret. Robert and the other three soldiers, who were also rounded up, were taken to the town of Le Câtelet and shot in 1918. It was the last year of the war and they had survived in France since 1914.



Villagers pose for a photo with German soldiers. The baby may be Hélène.



Jealous betrayal: Clothilde Lelong.

Next issue: *Ann Sligo will conclude her series of articles by revealing what became of the village of Villeret.*



The 'penny' that everyone dreaded

The World War I Memorial Plaque was made from bronze and became known as the "Dead Man's Penny" among front-line troops,. It was in October 1916 that the British Government set up a committee to design a commemorative plaque that could be sent to the next of kin for those men and women whose deaths were due to the hostilities. The first a family would know of the death of family member was the arrival of a telegram from the War Office. This would be followed by the plaque and any medals the serviceman had earned. No rank was given as it was intended to show equality in their sacrifice. On the outer edge of the disk it bears the inscription, "He died for freedom and honour". The memorial plaque was posted to the next of kin protected by a firm cardboard folder, which was then placed in an official white envelope.

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How we got the word ‘ostracism’

By ALISTAIR BLENNERHASSETT

IT IS said that the ancient Greeks invented every form of government known to humanity and couldn't make any of them work. One such democratic process was ostracism. Ostracism was an Athenian procedure in which any citizen could be expelled from the city-state for 10 years. While some examples clearly expressed popular anger at the citizen, ostracism was often used as a way of neutralising someone thought to be a threat to the state or a potential tyrant.

The term “ostracism” is derived from the pottery shards that were used as voting tokens, called *ostraka*. Broken pottery, abundant and virtually free, served as a kind of scrap paper (in contrast to papyrus, which was too costly to be disposable). To vote using *ostraka*, Athenian citizens would write the name of the person they wished to ostracise on a piece of broken pottery known as an *ostrakon*. The name would then be deposited into a communal pot.



Ostraka inscribed with the names Aristides, Themistokles, Kimon and Perikles, 5th Century BC.

Picture: Agora Museum, Athens

Every year a question was put to the members of the Athenian Assembly (in principle all Athenian citizens, of whom there might have been as many as 50,000, though only a fraction of those would attend any one meeting) – who were asked whether they wanted to hold an ostracism that year. If a majority raised their hands, officials arranged for one to be held two months later. Citizens then gave the name of someone they wished to be ostracised to a scribe, as many of them were illiterate, and the scribe scratched the name on a pottery shard. Officials supervised the process, counting the *ostraka* submitted and sorting the names into separate piles. The person whose pile contained the most *ostraka* would be banished, provided that a quorum of 6000 was met.

Ostracism was not a form of punishment but instead a way to prevent one person from becoming too powerful and dominating Athenian democracy. It was also a way for the people to express their frustration with a particular individual who had become unpopular. The person newly ostracised had 10 days to leave the city. If he attempted to return, the penalty was death. The property of the man banished was not confiscated and there was no loss of status. After 10 years, he was allowed to return without stigma.

Ostracism was crucially different from Athenian law at the time; there was no charge and no defence could be mounted by the person to be expelled. The two stages of the procedure ran in the reverse order from that used under almost any trial system. It is as if a jury were first asked “Do you want to find someone guilty?” and subsequently asked “Whom do you wish to accuse?”. Ostracism was an automatic procedure that required no initiative from any individual, with the vote simply occurring on the wish of the electorate – a diffuse exercise of power.

The two-month gap is a key feature in the institution. It prevented the candidate for expulsion being chosen out of immediate anger. It opened a period for discussion (or perhaps agitation),

Continued on Page 15

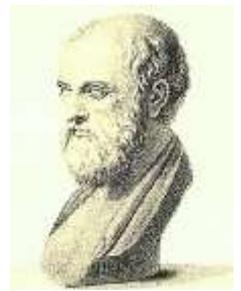
NEWSLETTER FEATURES

Continued from Page 14

whether informally in daily talk or public speeches before the Athenian assembly or Athenian courts. In this process a consensus, or rival consensuses, might emerge. In that cooling-off period, ordinary Athenian citizens must have felt a certain power over the greatest members of their city; conversely, the most prominent citizens had an incentive to worry how their social inferiors regarded them and would have felt pressure to please the *hoi polloi*.



Over the course of 60 years, some 12 or more individuals that we know of were ostracised. But it was also over a major foreign-policy issue, at the end of the 5th Century BC, that the ostracism procedure eventually failed. And it failed so badly that after 416 it was never used again. In 416 there were two likely candidates for ostracism, Alcibiades and Nicias, offering opposing policies. Athens had been at war with its major Greek



enemy, Sparta. The peace that followed was an uneasy peace. *War: Alcibiades* favoured outright resumption of war. *Peace: Nicias* favoured the recent peace treaty. In the year 416, ostracism seemed to offer the only way of resolving the differences between their policies.

An ostracism was held but each of the two principals urged his supporters to vote for a third party, a minor political figure by the name of Hyperbolus. And their collusion worked, or rather it worked to disastrous effect, as harmless Hyperbolus was ostracised, leaving Nicias and Alcibiades – and Athens – just where they all were before. There is no sign of ostracism's use after this but it remained on the books. The question was put to the assembly each year, but they did not wish to hold one.

Unlike modern voting procedures, the Athenians did not have to adhere to a strict format for the inscribing of *ostraka*. Many extant *ostraka* show that it was possible to write expletives, short epigrams or cryptic injunctions beside the name of the candidate without invalidating the vote. Examples are: Kallixenes “the traitor”; Archen “lover of foreigners”; Agasias “the donkey”; Megacles “the adulterer”. One anecdote told of an illiterate country voter coming up to Athens desperate to vote against one Aristides and asking the same Aristides, whom presumably he had never even seen before, if he would scratch the name “Aristides” on his potsherd. When Aristides asked why, the rustic replied that he was sick of hearing Aristides called “the Just”! A similar modern practice in some countries is the recall election, in which the electoral body removes a previously elected officer. While no one would advocate the introduction of Athenian-style ostracism today, its example is suggestive: strong measures are sometimes needed to protect democracies. Democracy is precious and fragile. As a result, we need robust, but carefully regulated, legal mechanisms for removing individuals who pose a threat to the very foundations of democracy.

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*This article is an edited version of a talk Alistair Blennerhassett gave to **Ancient History 1**.*

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 can edit them into articles for many other members to enjoy in the *Newsletter*. Share your research and let the learning live on! Please get in touch by emailing newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz with your suggestions.



OMG always have a real blast

MEMBERS of **OMG (Oceanside Music Group)** have such a fun and enthusiastic vibe at each session that they often don't want the adrenalin buzz to end. At least, they always leave with big smiles and hearts full of happiness.

Our sessions are at the Mount RSA, from 10am to noon on the second and fourth Tuesdays. The sessions are becoming so popular we now attract audiences of between 15 and 50. Many of audience members sing along with us or even get up and line dance or boogie.

A group of us recently visited the U3A Tauranga **Acoustic Music Performers** group meeting, shared their music, and had a blast with their members. They were great hosts and put on a fantastic afternoon tea. We have invited them to visit us at some future date.

The photographs on this page were taken at a recent OMG meeting. The top picture shows the core band for the group. The picture below shows about half the other members present, with some of the audience in the background. We are still open to new members who can play any musical instrument. So come along and have a blast with OMG! See the Handbook for details.

Alan Read and Linda Tocker



That takes the cake! Jean's 90 years young

MEMBERS of **Ethnic Dining 2** had a lovely surprise in store to celebrate Jean Tennent's ninetieth birthday. They presented her with a delicious birthday cake when the group met at the Turkish restaurant in Brookfield. "I had a wonderful time," says Jean. "I really have been spoiled!"

Jean retired after a distinguished career as a music teacher, which included training several choirs. One of the highlights of her musical career was singing in the World Choir that supported the great tenor

Luciano Pavarotti on a concert tour of Australia. "I've had a wonderful life," says Jean looking back, "it's been absolutely fulfilling." That included being happily married for 61 years. Our thanks to Isobel Robertson, the group's Convener, for sending in the picture.



Te Reo has opened up a whole new world for us

EARLY this year, several enthusiastic U3A Tauranga members welcomed a long-awaited opportunity to gain a deeper appreciation of **Te Reo Māori**. The group have been meeting fortnightly at the Arataki Community Centre, Bayfair, every second Monday afternoon, ever since. While all the group members work both enthusiastically and collegially, our very patient teacher Te Pora Owens makes the learning experience an absolute pleasure.

Many of us studied languages as a child. Some studied French or Latin, but many other languages were taught. Te Reo Māori is no different – it's about understanding the grammatical structures, supported by pronouncing the words correctly with the ultimate outcome of moving these skills into conversation. These learnings have challenged some of us more than others, but we have had our minds opened in respect of associated or secondary learnings.

For instance, some of the English names given to our cities can be associated with individuals, many of whom were of British descent. As we learn the Māori names for our cities and regions we have realised that many refer to or reflect a geographic feature of that area in our wonderful country. For example: Kirikiriroa (Hamilton) refers to a "long stretch of river and alluvial soils" – this reference reminds us of the productive gardens in the area and the historic Kirikiriroa Pā on the west bank of the river (one of the first trading sites between Māori and Pākehā in the 1800s). Otautahi (Christchurch), on the other hand, can be interpreted as "the roaring tide" – the Māori name for "the Garry River".

It is the enthusiasm of every member of the group – a group who willingly share their learning experience – that is the motivator for us all. However, as in most groups, one enthusiastic and astute member stands out. Why? Because at 93 years old he continues to remind us that age is no barrier to learning. If you are interested in joining this enthusiastic group, contact Gail Moore, the Convener (see the Handbook for details).

Bev Edlin

Making images picture perfect

PHOTO Enhancing are a small group who meet at a member's house twice a month. The aim of the group is to develop skills in improving the look of photographs. These may be photos taken on a camera recently or old pictures from family albums or archives. We mainly use a program called Photoshop Elements, which gives most of the functionality of Photoshop but at a fraction of the cost. We have also used several other programs, such as Snapseed (free on mobile phones and tablets) and Photomyne, for scanning and editing old photo prints and slides. Check out the example below of "before" and "after" images showing figures removed and colour enhancement. The group are seeking new members. We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, 9.45-11.45am.

Richard Thompson 021 827 471



Life on the ocean wave means never a dull moment



A PROFESSIONAL diver started The Sea group at U3A Pakuranga and it was very successful. So when I came to Tauranga I decided to start one here. The group began in 2016 and, for the sake of clarity, it was named **The Seas and Oceans**. The group meet on the second Tuesday of the month at my house in Pyes Pa, ending with afternoon tea (I think that's why the guys come!). The subjects are endless, but some we have discussed over the years are: Plastic in the ocean; sea creatures (turtles, whales, crab, sharks, seals among them); sea shells; lighthouses; the Red and Black Seas; the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans; currents; *The Wellington Shipping Reporter*; the Mariana Trench, the Swedish warship *Vassa*; Nelson and Lady Hamilton; well-known pirates; New Zealand ships and tragedies; ghost ships; famous yachts ... and many more. Now that we can bring pictures from laptops to TV, it has enhanced our talks.

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Pat Chainey

In the next issue: Pat Chainey will write about the extraordinary achievements of Zheng He, the Chinese admiral whose fleets roamed the oceans between 1405 and 1435 ... and who may well have beaten Columbus to discover America.



From sickly child to greatness

HE COMPOSED instrumental concertos, sacred choral works and more than 40 operas, but Antonio Vivaldi is best known today for his series of violin concertos *The Four Seasons*. Vivaldi epitomises Italian Baroque music, composing more than 800 works in all. During his lifetime, his music and influence was widespread across Europe. But who was he?



Born in Venice on 4 March 1678, he was baptised immediately after birth because of his poor health. His mother dedicated him to the priesthood, which he entered at the age of 15. Vivaldi's crop of curly red hair, inherited from his father, led to him becoming known as the "Red Priest". Throughout his life he suffered from severe asthma.

Margaret Marsh gave a presentation on his life and music to **Classical Music B** on 22 June and 13 July. You can enjoy it by clicking on this link:

<https://www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz/images/2023/07GroupsJul/Vivaldi-presentation-MMarsh-07-281-2408-WEB.pdf>

Margaret will be giving her next presentation, titled *The World's Best Classical Music Venues*, to the group on 14 and 28 September, from 2-4pm. The group meet at the Bethlehem Shores Village theatre. Contact Vaughan Chetwynd, the Convener, on [027 565 7724](tel:0275657724) for further details. See also [Classical Music Lovers B - U3A Tauranga Inc](#)

THE **Cafe Book Lovers 3 – Any Book Book Club** meet monthly at the Raft Café, where there is a private room we can use. We decided to have a mid-winter Christmas theme for our June meeting and the café kindly allowed the tables to be decorated and for one of our members to bring Christmas mince pies to add to the festive theme. Ten people enjoyed our normal book group meeting, each person discussing the best or worst book they had read that month. Then we moved on to those mince pies, with many of us declaring they were the best we had ever tasted! Members were invited to bring any books they no longer wanted on their shelves and there was a large and interesting pile for people to go through and take any books. Any leftover books are being donated to the Lions' book fair collection.



Lise Claiborne and Lynne Edmonds

CURRENT events are never dull. Every meeting of **Current Events D** is different and each member of our group has something to contribute. Differing backgrounds, life experience and opinions make for very interesting discussions. We all prepare a topic of our choice, which we present at the meeting, then everyone discusses it. I feel it is important that everyone is involved and that no one dominates or is left out. Topics are wide ranging. What do we think about climate change? Is it manmade? Problems with the health system: where do we start? What should happen to the racecourse or the Domain or the Bongard Centre? How will we generate more electricity? We are going to need it. What about housing problems and aged care for an increasing older population? How do we make hydrogen and what about batteries, are they safe? Then there is immigration and exploitation. Problems overseas. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays. Contact me, we may have a vacancy. **Angela Scott** [027 6142 738](tel:0276142738)

COORDINATORS' REPORTS Compiled by Dianne Beveridge

Details of new groups: Nil; **Suggested new groups:** Nil.

Groups closed or in recess: Mini Hikes 1 and Walking/Hiking (Katikati) are in temporary recess until mid-September.

Groups full: History A, limit 30.

Groups seeking new members: Acoustic Music Performers; Ballet Appreciation; Book Lovers 3; Camera Club; Computer Support B; Hikers 2; History of New Zealand: The Last 1000 Years; Photo Enhancing.

Convener changes: Acoustic Music Performers, Reg Clothier has resigned. A new Convener is yet to be announced. Hikers 2, Robyn Luijken is Convener, Mary Stewart is Co-Convener. Lone Rangers 2 are seeking a new Convener. Rummikub 2, the new Convener is Penelope Ashton.

Groups information: Singing for Joy, a new hire agreement is to be signed. History B, two members have retired, both in their nineties. French Conversation 2 (Intermediate) meet on the first and third Thursday 10am-12 pm at one another's homes. Rialto Cinema members are having issues with parking. History A is full but three non-members turned up without notice.

KATIKATI

The new Group Coordinator for Katikati is Stephanie Norrie, who started on 2 August.

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KATIKATI GENERAL MEETING: JULY

Older folk can help the young

By TOM ROBSON

ANDREW Turner, Principal of Tauranga Boys' College, drew on his considerable experience as an educator to emphasise the importance of history, traditions and culture in the lives of young men when he addressed the General Meeting in July. He emphasised the importance of relationships between young men and people of older generations to establish the authenticity of these elements in the face of a wave of "virtual reality" and "artificial intelligence".



The many challenges facing young people today are more diverse and challenging than ever – ranging from the normal pressures of that age, including part-time work, family relationships, social media and school work. Add in the whole field of the technological world and there is a huge amount of challenge facing young people. Therefore, the need to help them stay grounded in reality is a role older people can play. The authenticity of real-life experience has never been more important, he said. Andrew's address was a most thought-provoking insight, *Andrew Turner* which was appreciated by us all.

The short talk was given by **Francis Young**, who presented a brief summary of the research he is doing as part of a history of Katikati. He traced the history of the Mulgan family, starting with William Mulgan, who was the second teacher at the primary school in town. Three generations later, John Mulgan wrote *Man Alone*, regarded as an iconic work of New Zealand literature.

Bold vision keeps history alive

By LYNNE SHEARMAN

BUDDY Mikaere gave a very informative talk on the work of the Pukehinahina (Gate Pa) Charitable Trust at our General Meeting in August. The 2014 commemoration of the battle at Pukehinahina (29 April 1864) was the impetus for the journey of setting up a New Zealand Wars Centre – Te Putake o te riri. The centre will cover battles that occurred across Aotearoa, mainly focusing on what happened at Pukehinahina. This battle is particularly notable because, despite being outnumbered, Māori forces were victorious due to their ingenious construction of fighting trenches.



Buddy Mikaere

The trust is at the stage of applying for resource consent for its plans, which will include a two-storied multi-purpose building, plus restoration of the trenches. Its overall purpose is to “understand our history, see how far our community has come, and look forward to our future”, while the purpose of the commemoration of the Battle of Pukehinahina is to “honour our Māori tupuna and the British soldiers who fought and died in Tauranga”.

Tauranga is the only city in New Zealand with a battle site within its urban boundary. The site is an opportunity for some land that was confiscated (because Māori fought the British) to be returned to the local people, Ngai Tamarawaho.

Aerial plans of the proposed development were shown, with the idea of keeping trees as they are a memorial to fallen soldiers. Some of the plans for the building include a working artists’ studio, where visitors will be able to view people working on their creations and having exhibits on stands that can be moved aside to allow for events such as conferences. Ian Taylor (of Animation Research fame) has also been approached for his involvement – imagine being welcomed by both a virtual Māori warrior and a British soldier! Further authenticity is provided with the building having external cladding to represent the palisades of the fighting pa site.

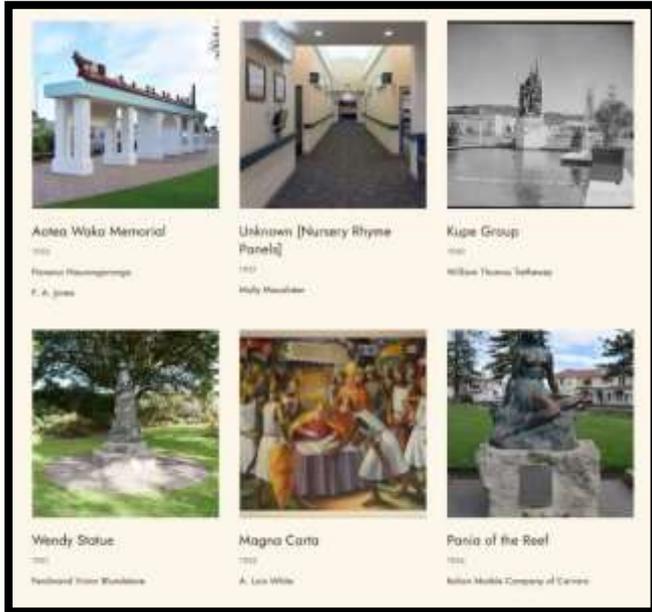
For now, the trust is working on raising the \$55 million to fund the project, with the vision that the development will be well under way by 2026. Buddy also gave us an overview of the development that is happening at Te Ranga Reserve on Pyes Pa Road, where another battle was fought, using the same style of trench warfare that was used at Pukehinahina. A recreational reserve is being developed with the escarpment planted with natives, while consent has been applied for part of the land to be used as an urupa (cemetery). Engaging the younger generations is also valued, with the involvement of nearby Aquinas College. [Return to Page 2 index](#)

ON THE WEB: [Pukehinahina Charitable Trust — Battle Of Gate Pā \(battleofgatepa.com\)](http://battleofgatepa.com)
[Battle Of Gate Pā \(battleofgatepa.com\)](http://battleofgatepa.com)

[A Brief Summary: The Battles of Gate Pa \(Pukehinahina\) and Te Ranga | Pae Korokī \(tauranga.govt.nz\)](http://tauranga.govt.nz)

Missed an interesting article? You can look back at previous issues of the *Newsletter* by clicking on this link: [Newsletters - U3A Tauranga Inc](#)

WONDERS OF THE WEB



WHERE TO SEE PUBLIC ART IN NZ

NEW Zealand's first ever register of 20th-Century public artworks is now online. The website provides a resource for Kiwis to gain knowledge of public art on display in towns and cities all around the country. At launch, the register contains details of 380 works, which can be searched by information about the artwork itself, the artist, or the location. Go to <https://publicart.nz>

RECIPE CORNER



NO-BAKE CHOCOLATE SLICE

Naughty but nice ... just remember, it's all about portion size!

You will need:

100g butter; 250g chocolate – dark/ milk/ white etc; 4tbsp syrup; 1tsp vanilla essence (optional); 250g biscuits, crushed

Method:

Melt butter, chocolate and syrup. Add vanilla essence (optional) and crushed biscuit crumbs. Mix well. Pour into greased 15cm (6-inch square) tray. Set in fridge. Cut into portions. Enjoy!

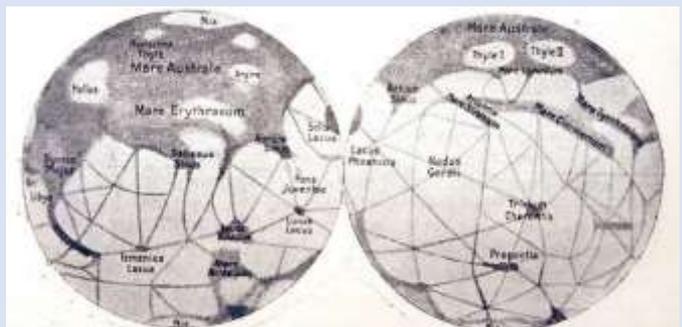
Make it your own by adding chopped glacé cherries or crystallised ginger, orange zest, chopped toasted nuts, dried fruit, coffee granules, handful of coconut, etc.

WHAT WERE ...? THE CANALS OF MARS

THE theory that there was intelligent life on Mars was given a major boost in the late 19th Century after an Italian astronomer named Giovanni Schiaparelli (*right*) announced that he had discovered channels while observing the Martian surface. He used the Italian word “canali”, which quickly circulated in English as “canals” – a term suggesting water courses that had been constructed by intelligent beings.

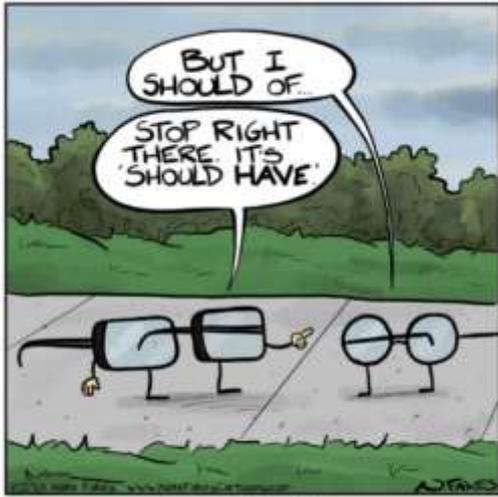


Schiaparelli's observations were then taken up by the eminent American astronomer Percival Lowell, who became convinced the “canals” carried water from the polar regions to Mars' rust-red deserts. The apparition appears to have been caused by a combination of optical illusion and wishful thinking. *Lower right:* A 1916 chart of Mars showing the “canals”.

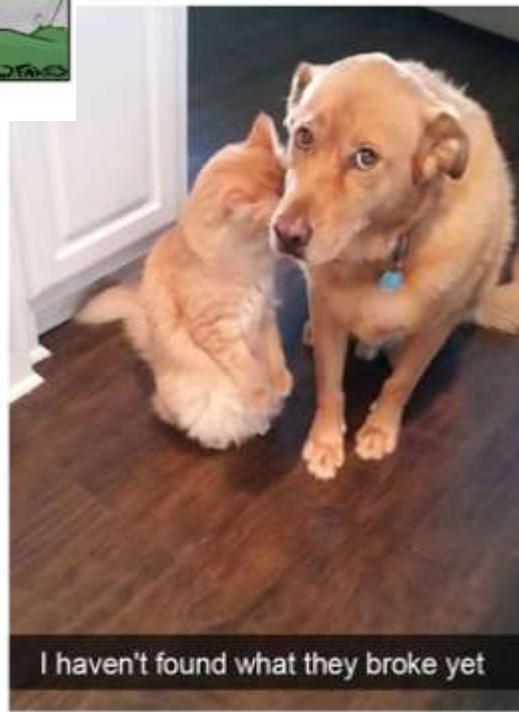




SMILE AWHILE



Corrective Lens



My coffee cup reminding me why I shouldn't have a donut with it.



EVER FEEL LIKE YOU FORGOT TO DO SOMETHING IMPORTANT?



Two explorers were on a camping expedition in Africa. One always insisted on going for a five-mile run first thing every morning. "Why do you do that?" asked his companion. "I'm training in case we are ever attacked by a cheetah," the first man replied. "What's the point?" asked his friend. "If we are ever attacked by a cheetah, you are never going to be able to outrun it." "I don't have to outrun it, mate," the first man explained. "I just have to outrun you!"



QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1. North America; 2. Rosie; 3. In water; 4. Brandy; 5. Chelsea;
- 6. b) (Amerigo) Vespucci; 7. b) Saturn; 8. c) Christchurch; 9. Captain William Hobson; 10. Karl Marx.

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THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT U3A

U3A Tauranga and U3A Katikati 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 \(infooodle.com\)](http://Application Form | U3A Tauranga (infooodle.com)). For **U3A Katikati** you can also email stephanienorrie@yahoo.com

Newsletter

Next issue: Nov-Dec 2023 Deadline for contributions is 25 Oct
We welcome your articles at newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz