



JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2024



HOLIDAYS ARE SO TIRING! Christmas and all the excitement of summer can prove too much for young and old alike. **Pam Henderson** captured this charming scene.

IMPORTANT VENUE CHANGE

The Annual General Meeting of U3A Tauranga will be held on Friday, 16 February at **Bethlehem Baptist Church, 90 Bethlehem Road, Bethlehem**, 9.45 for 10am. Ample parking is available. Please turn to Pages [2](#), [3](#) & [7](#) of this issue for further information.



**GREAT
HOLIDAY
READS**

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*** HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ***

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GM photographs: Colin Basire, Glenne Findon



QUIZ CORNER

1. What is the Great Barrier Reef made of?
2. Joseph Stalin was born in what is now which modern country?
3. The moons of Mars are Phobos and:
a) Mimas; b) Phoebe; c) Deimos?
4. Which creature forms the Zodiac sign Capricorn?
5. Which South American country besides Brazil begins with a 'B'?
6. Which of these books was NOT by one of the Brontë sisters: a) *Wuthering Heights*; b) *Jane Eyre*; or c) *Vanity Fair*?
7. How many kings are there in two packs of playing cards?
8. How many operas did Beethoven write?
Bonus: Score a bonus point for the title(s).



9. Which King returned in 2005 in a big-budget movie?
10. Who is pictured here?

■ [Answers on Page 25](#)

WHO'S SPEAKING AT OUR FEBRUARY MEETINGS

GOING for a Song is the title **Glyn Tucker** has given to an engaging hour exploring his 50-plus years in the music industry at the **Annual General Meeting in Tauranga** on 16 February. As



singer/ songwriter in The Gremlins, Glyn had a smash hit with *The Coming Generation* in 1966. He founded Mandrill Recording Studios in 1975 and produced hundreds of Kiwi recordings through the late 1970s, '80s and '90s, including Citizen Band, Crocodiles, Mockers, and Satellite Spies. Mandrill also recorded Dave Dobbyn, Shona Laing, Streettalk, Billy T James, Carl Doy and many others. For more, see www.glyntucker.com

The main speaker at the **U3A Katikati General Meeting**, at The Hub on Wednesday, 14 February, is **John Barrett**, who will be talking about it was like to be a 21-year-old combat soldier in Vietnam. His talk will cover his time as a member of an artillery battery on operations; as a member of an artillery forward observer party with the Australian infantry; and the Battle of Fire Support Base Coral/Balmoral in 1968. The short talk will be given by **Allan Mathews**, who has an interesting working life as a creative director, copywriter and writer.



Thanks for your dedication

DEAR Members,
I wish all members a Happy New Year. I hope you enjoyed the company of family over the festive season. Those members who are on email will have already received a notice about the **Annual General Meeting**. The meeting is on **16 February 2024 at 9.45am for a 10am start at the Bethlehem Baptist Church, 90 Bethlehem Road, Bethlehem**. The annual accounts will be presented and the 2024 Executive introduced.

Following the formal part of the Annual General Meeting there will be morning tea and then the guest speaker will be Glyn Tucker, who was originally in a band called The Gremlins, and afterwards founded a recording studio where he recorded the works of many of our New Zealand performers.

Several members on the Executive have resigned: Dianne Beveridge, Max Lynds, Chris Hector and Elizabeth Reeves. Elizabeth and Chris have given many years of service to U3A Tauranga and their departure will also mean a large bank of knowledge goes.

In the last two years, Chris has been on the team updating the Constitution and also upgrading the application process. His quiet but knowledgeable input has been greatly appreciated.

Elizabeth has kept us upgraded with the Charities Commission and the Companies Office. She has also worked with Jim and Chris streamlining the interface with data, membership and the treasurer in the application process.

Dianne has been working with The Brains Trust and at the same time has been responsible for groups D-H. Her lively personality has been admired by all.

Max has found a number of activities he wishes to investigate, so we wish him luck.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the great job Anne Withy has played within U3A Tauranga. Her wisdom and her willingness to investigate law changes that may have an effect on U3A have been invaluable. Anne also took over the librarian role in our database system and has made it a very good resource.

Kind regards,

Raewyn Gallagher

President U3A Tauranga

Click here for a map showing the venue for the AGM:
[Bethlehem Baptist Church - Google Maps](#)

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The **2024 Handbook** is now available. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this and also to those who check the draft copy. Special thanks to Margaret Marsh for her enormous effort in compiling and updating the Handbook, which is a huge task at the end of the year. You can see the digital version of the Handbook at our website www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

ELECTION GENERAL MEETING

The Election General Meeting was held on 24 November. **Colin Basire** took the pictures.



ELECTION GENERAL MEETING



Entertainment was provided by the **Acoustic Music** group. See [Page 17](#)

Alf spills more showbiz secrets

By JAN HOLDEN

ALF Weston's return as guest speaker was by popular request. He presented *The Encore*, the second part of his original, very entertaining talk, sharing revelations of what goes on backstage.

Alf (pictured right) is a retired theatrical costumier and set designer. Assisted by his wife Cherie, who controlled the slide show, he gave a humorous account of his career in designing costumes for theatre, opera, ballet and TV. In his first address, Alf described the history of female corsetry. This time he illustrated that men have also, and still do, wear corsets.

Alf was taught to sew by his mother when he was about eight years of age. By the time he was 12, he was making clothes for her – a fact that saw him subjected to cruel bullying and beatings up at school. No wonder he left school when he was 15.

As well as theatrical and fancy-dress costumes, Alf designed and made both his wife's and daughter's wedding dresses. In addition to live theatre, Alf has worked as wardrobe "mistress" for TVNZ on pop shows and dramas. He has worked with many screen personalities of the 1960s and '70s, such as Ray Woolf, Howard Morrison, Paul Holmes and Billy T James.



Picture: Colin Basire

MEET & GREET



Mini Hikes 2 welcomed everyone along to the Election General Meeting. Picture: Colin Basire

EXECUTIVE ELECTED FOR 2024

President: Gail Moore
Vice President: Bev Edlin
Immediate Past President: Raewyn Gallagher
Treasurer: Carol Outen
Secretary: TBA
Membership Administrator: TBA
Newsletter Editor: Paul Chapman
Data Manager: Jim Pryor
Publicity Officer: TBA
Speaker Organiser: Mary Stewart
Group Coordinators:
Margaret Marsh, A-C
Coordinator D-H, TBA
Jan Holden, I-P
Margaret Down, R-Z
Katikati Coordinator
Stephanie Norrie

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NOTICE OF U3A TAURANGA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

Notice is hereby formally given that the Annual General Meeting of U3A Tauranga Inc is to be held on **Friday, 16 February, 2024** at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 90 Bethlehem Road, Bethlehem 9.45am – 12 Middy

The AGM will be followed by morning tea and a guest speaker.
All members are cordially invited.

U3A TAURANGA LIFE MEMBERSHIPS Awarded from 1995-2023

Roy Haywood	1996
Pam Haywood	1996
Dorothy Bush	2002
Les Bond	2004
Betty Clethero	2004
Jack Matthews	2008
Ken Rose	2010
Peter Simmons	2010
Warwick Kingston-Smith	2010
Thelma Cane	2012
Alan Freer	2013
Ken Gillan	2014
David Gordon	2015
Don McMillan	2017
Vivienne Mills	2018
Jean Garmonsway	2018
Lati Moodie	2021
Anne Withy	2023



YOUR U3A NEEDS YOU!

We urgently need the following to fill key roles on the Executive:

Secretary: A senior role on the Executive requiring good verbal and written communication skills. Familiar with Microsoft Word and Excel. Having administration experience to a reasonable standard.

Membership Administrator: Good team work skills as this position works closely with the Treasurer and Data Manager. Working knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel. Good administration skills.

Publicity Officer: Able to work with a small team and use media effectively. Good verbal and written communication skills are essential. Familiar with Microsoft Word and graphic art programs. Must be an innovator.

D-H Group Coordinator: Good verbal and written communication skills. Able to participate in meetings with Convenors and new members. Familiar with Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel. Good administration skills.

It has been said that membership of any organisation is made up for four bones. There are the **wish bones**, who spend all their time wishing someone else would do the work. Then there are the **jaw bones**, who do all the talking but very little else. Third, the **knuckle bones**, who knock anything anyone else tries to do. Finally, there are the **back bones**, who get under the load and do the work.

Which bones are you?

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The railway houses of New Zealand



By **MARGARET JENNER**

I FEEL I can speak with some experience of railway houses, having lived in one for nine years as a child. It was in Te Kuiti in the Waikato and, if you've been to Te Kuiti, you may recall that the approach to the township from the north is through what was known as the railway settlement. The houses that lined either side of the main road were of the older style, built in the late 1930s. Down a side road was a combination of old and new houses, and it was here (*in a house similar to those pictured above*) that, between the ages seven and 16 (1955-64), I lived in one of four of the brand-new ones.

These new ones were solidly built on the state house model. They had a weatherboard exterior, with wooden joinery and concrete roofing tiles. Supported on piles, concrete steps led up to front and back porchways. The back porch gave access directly into the kitchen on the right-hand side, and straight ahead into the wash-house (it didn't aspire to the term "laundry" back then). This contained one of those good old standard coppers for boiling the water (did we really *boil* clothes then?) and twin concrete tubs for rinsing.

The floors were wooden tongue in groove. In the aftermath of the big flood in Te Kuiti in the late 1950s, this flooring proved extremely convenient. On returning to the house when the floodwaters subsided, my father simply cut a hole in the floorboards in the hallway and swished the silt out. The opening windows in the three bedrooms were push out, while in the lounge they were sash, and so pushed up. Dad, being maintenance carpenter for the houses, occasionally had to repair the sash windows, and I discovered that the old sash cord was great skipping rope! In fact, I laid claim to have the best skipping rope at school.

Black roller blinds were standard provision for the windows, and one added one's own curtains. I remember the house being very cosy, with an open fireplace in the lounge for heating. There was a number written on the top right-hand corner of the front of the house, facing the road. Ours was B336. Although this was our address, it was not a street number. It apparently indicated the specific design of the building.

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One example in Taihape in 1957, referred to in *Railway Houses of New Zealand* by Bruce Shalders, gives an indication of the problems this numbering system created: “House number 153 had number 152 on one side and number 363 on the other, while on the opposite side of the road a private house had the street number 34.”

Older-style houses (*pictured right*) had a distinctive design. The front entry faced the road, with a window either side of the main door. Usually there was a decorative panel of trellis, which graced the lovely front porch. Often a bench-type seat was built into this. When a nearby house was vacated, I loved to take a book and ensconce myself on that seat and read.



Te Kuiti was not my only association with railway houses. When the Athenree railway station closed in the gorge back in the 1970s, there were five railway houses nestled in a cluster around the station. Four were sold and subsequently removed. My parents, then retired, purchased the remaining one, initially as a holiday home, and renovated it – naming it Arden Cottage.

As with our family, provision of railway houses was essential in accommodating workers in close proximity to their employment. This was especially important in remote areas, where railways were being extended. Railways were large employers.

The Railway Department’s housing scheme was approved in 1919. An architectural branch was initiated and a large factory (*pictured, below*), adjacent to the railway yards, was established at Frankton Junction. This was in full swing by 1924. The timber used was mainly rimu, coming from the Mamaku sawmill, and the factory operated until 1928.

Materials were pre-cut and bundled into house lots, ready for transportation to the site where they were to be erected. These were accompanied by a comprehensive set of instructions and pre-marked components, so they could be assembled on site by two relatively unskilled men in two to three weeks. Land was bought at important railway centres, and divided into quarter-acre sections.



sections.

Rental was less than market rental rates. Weekly rental was the equivalent to one day’s pay, deducted from wages. The rental income from houses, however, was never able to cover the cost of building or maintaining them.

Tradesmen were employed to do repairs. *Continued on Page 10*

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The scale of the housing settlements adjacent to railway workshops at Hutt is evident in the picture (*top right*). Most railway houses were sold off in the 1980s. Employees and existing tenants were given first option of purchase. The last house to be occupied by railway staff was sold in 2012. Many were remodelled, many relocated (*pictured, centre right*). There were no flashing lights



here, no advance warning vehicle, no fluoro jackets or orange cones in sight. Clarke Gayford in his TV programme of *Moving Houses* would have quite a commentary to make on this one! And how about the man up the ladder?

Others were re-purposed. Many became holiday homes. Some are registered on the Heritage New Zealand list.



The Frankton factory is now a listed building. Here in Tauranga we have two (*pictured below*), which were moved from Marsh Street when the approach to the harbour bridge was built over the railway line. They are now situated in the Historic Village. One in Te Kuiti has become a museum. This was moved from the railway settlement at the northern end of town and relocated to the town centre, where it now occupies a prominent position in the main street. The longevity of these houses remains as a testimony to the integrity of their construction.

*Margaret Jenner adapted this article from a talk she gave to the **Buildings and Cities** group. The pictures above are sourced from Bruce Shalders' book, *Railway Houses of New Zealand*. The two pictures below, of railway houses in the Historic Village, were taken by Margaret Jenner.*



Chinese sailor ‘beat Columbus’

Article supplied by
PAT CHAINEY

THE brave seamen whose great voyages of exploration opened up the world are iconic figures in European history. Columbus found the New World in 1492; Dias discovered the Cape of Good Hope in 1488; and Magellan set off to circumnavigate the world in 1519. However, there is one difficulty with this confident assertion of European mastery: it may not be true.



It seems more likely that the world and all its continents were discovered by a Chinese admiral named Zheng He, whose fleets roamed the oceans between 1405 and 1435. His exploits, which are well documented in Chinese historical records, were written about in a book which appeared in China around 1418 called *The Marvellous Visions of the Star Raft*.

Dramatic evidence that bolsters Zheng He's case is a copy, made in 1763, of a map (pictured above) dated 1418. Six Chinese characters in the upper right-hand corner of the map say this is a “general chart of the integrated world”. The detail on the copy of the map is remarkable. The outlines of Africa, Europe and the Americas are instantly recognisable. It shows the Nile with two sources. But the inaccuracies are also glaring. California is shown as an island; the British Isles do not appear at all. The distance from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean is ten times greater than it ought to be. Australia is in the wrong place – although cartographers no longer doubt that Australia and New Zealand were discovered by Chinese seamen centuries before Captain Cook arrived.



Zheng He

*Pat Chaaney is the Convener of
The Seas and Oceans group.*



In 1413, Zheng He's Treasure Fleet set out on its most ambitious expedition to date. He led his armada all the way to the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa. He returned to China with exotic goods and creatures, including giraffes, which were interpreted as the mythical Chinese creature known as the “gilin” and were considered to be very auspicious.

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What nursery rhymes mean

By MURRAY ARMSTRONG

WE ALL appreciate that our children and grandchildren loved having nursery rhymes read to them when young. Yet originally, what we call nursery rhymes were not intended for children at all. They were for adults. Understand this and it explains how nursery rhymes are often full of violence and sex. Many are about, or evolved from, particular historical events and were used as a means of passing important news around the countryside by word of mouth.

Indeed, it is debated by historians whether prior to the 17th Century there was any real concept of children as we know it today. Right through the centuries from antiquity, children were seen as small or imperfect adults. Works of art typically depicted them as miniature grown-ups, with adult heads on little bodies. As for the term and concept of “teenager” – this is a very modern notion, being the product of the 20th Century, especially in the post-World War II period.

Most of Britain’s population, until more recent centuries, were uneducated. The level of literacy was low. In the late 1400s, around 10 per cent of men in England were literate and 20 per cent by the late 1500s. The rate for women only reached 10 per cent by 1600. Catchy rhymes made it easy for people to remember and recite or sing. With the advent of the printing press, nursery rhymes flourished during Tudor times. Another important thing to remember about nursery rhymes is that, over time, words can change their meaning.

Take, for instance: ***Goosey Goosey Gander, whither shall I wander? Upstairs and downstairs and in my lady’s chamber. There I met an old man who wouldn’t say his prayers, so I took him by the left leg and threw him down the stairs.***

In the 16th Century the word “goose” meant a prostitute. The phrase “to be bitten by a goose” meant to contract venereal disease from the working girls. The nursery rhyme is set in Tudor times. During the Reformation, the Catholic Church was outlawed. But some families remained secretly Catholic. Those Catholics who had manor houses sometimes had hidden private chapels, where priests could be smuggled in to conduct covert services. Goosey Gander represented a Catholic priest, the goose being what was considered the prostitute-like Catholic Church, the gander the male priest.



The authorities would raid suspected manors, looking for secret rooms, often concealed nearby a bedroom, hence “whither shall I wander?” and they “searched upstairs, downstairs and in my lady’s chamber”. Sometimes they would discover a priest, who would be required to swear and pray to the monarch as the Head of the Church. When he refused, he would be punished. Hence: “I met an old man who wouldn’t say his prayers, so I took him by the left leg and threw him down the stairs.” Note it was the left leg, as in Britain a “left leg” or “left footer” was a term for Catholics. My father, a Northern Irishman, often referred to Catholics as “left footers”.

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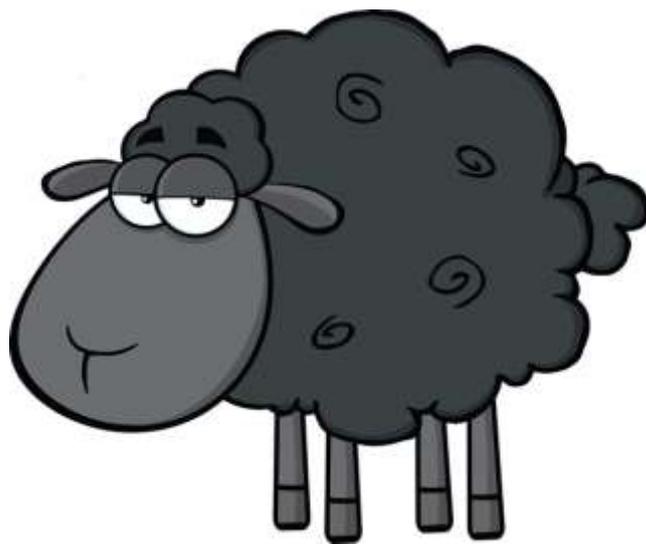
Last year, I gave a talk to **History A** on *Robin Hood and the Kings Richard and John*. While researching that, I noticed that “Jack Sprat” was one of the nicknames for King John (1166-1216).

Jack Sprat could eat no fat. His wife could eat no lean. And so between them both, they licked the platter clean.

King John and his wife Isabella became notorious for cleaning out the coffers that Richard I before him had established, and then imposing harsh taxation: “Between them both, they licked the platter clean”. In reaction, the barons famously forced John to sign the Magna Carta.

I also presented a talk on Edward I (1239-1307), alias the 6ft 2in king known as “Longshanks”. The production and trade of wool was England's economic mainstay. By 1260, some flocks consisted of as many as 7,000 to 8,000 sheep, and English wool was prized as the best in the world. There were a growing number of traders and a great deal of money flowing into England.

In 1275, Edward imposed what became known as “The Great Custom,” which was a royal tax of six shillings and eight pence per wool sack – approximately one-third of the price of each sack. In addition, another one-third was tax levied for the Church. This was regarded as disgraceful. In Britain, a “black sheep of the family” was held to be a person of disgrace. Hence: ***Baa baa black sheep, have you any wool? Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full; one for the master (the king), one for the dame (the Church), and one for the little boy who lives down the lane (the merchant who had purchased and processed the wool).*** Another version was: ***The little boy who cries down the lane.***



Edward I was also nicknamed “Doctor Foster” – Doctor because he championed learning, administrative efficiency and legal reform. Evidently one day, on a visit to Gloucester during a rainstorm, the king rode his horse through what appeared to be a shallow puddle. When it turned out to be a deep ditch, both king and horse became trapped in the mud and had to be hauled out by the people of Gloucester, much to Edward’s embarrassment and fury. He vowed to never return. Hence: ***Doctor Foster went to Gloucester in a shower of rain. He stepped in a puddle right up to his middle, and never went there again.*** Which is true – he never did.



Murray Armstrong will investigate the true meaning of more nursery rhymes in the next issue of the Newsletter. [Return to Page 2 index](#)

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.



In the first of two articles **ALISTAIR BLENNERHASSETT** *prepares to reveal ...*

The secret of the Great Pyramid

THE Great Pyramid of Giza has been a source of wonder and awe to tourists for thousands of years. Ancient Greeks and Romans travelled long distances to Egypt to gaze upon it and its lesser neighbours. It is the tallest pyramid anywhere in the world, and the largest by volume in Egypt. Once it was built, it became the world's tallest structure, a title it held for 3,800 years. It was the first of the three great pyramids at the Giza Necropolis, and it is the finest built anywhere in Egypt, in both the quality of its stonemasonry and finish work, and the complexity and precision of its engineering.

And it is this complexity and precision, not to mention the monumental size of the stones used in its build, that has given rise to many of the recent myths about its construction. Erich von Däniken, in his book *Chariots of the Gods*, claimed that the ancient Egyptians must have had help from aliens, because the Egyptians were too backward to construct such a monument by themselves. Edgar Cayce thought that survivors from the subsidence of Atlantis must have moved the gigantic stones by levitating them with mind power alone. Another claim made by theorists is that the Great Pyramid has magic powers because the angle of the pyramid's sides has a special mystical significance. There are those who think the pyramid's dimensions hold the secret of the Universe or that the pyramid's perfect orientation would have been beyond the abilities of our dim-witted ancestors. Other theories claim that the pyramids were power stations or water pumps, have healing power and are foci of spiritual energy – or can sharpen razor blades. And some of you may remember the scene from the film *The Ten Commandments* where an enormous group of slaves is lashed with whips into hauling a gigantic block of stone.

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However, the Great Pyramid did not just pop into existence without predecessors. The single most important thing to understand about it is its *context* within ancient Egypt's long tradition of pyramid building. Before Pharaoh Khufu began construction on his Great Pyramid, there was about a century of research and development into pyramid construction. Much of this was the product of Khufu's father and predecessor, the Pharaoh Sneferu.



Sneferu (left) and Khufu (right)

SNEFERU'S THREE ATTEMPTS



1. Meidum: Built on sand and collapsed.



2. Bent: Angles too steep.



3. Red: Success ... sort of. (The Bent Pyramid is seen in the distance.)

Sneferu built three great pyramids during his reign, each using different designs and construction methods, each refining the process a bit more and solving a few more of the problems. The first, the Meidum (Maydum or Maidum) Pyramid had five levels, and Sneferu tried to complete it by encasing it within a smooth-sided conventional pyramid. Unfortunately, Sneferu built his extension on a foundation of sand, which offered inadequate support, and it collapsed.

Sneferu started his next pyramid at the same time his engineers were having the problems at Meidum. The Bent Pyramid was on a proper foundation and was a steep, 54-degree pyramid. Halfway up, there's an angle and the rest of it is only at 43 degrees. The instability of such steep sides taught Sneferu not to use quite so aggressive an angle.

Sneferu's third pyramid, the Red Pyramid, was Egypt's first truly successful smooth-sided pyramid and incorporated all the lessons learned to date. It refined the engineering techniques and also laid the groundwork for planning the massive supply chains needed to keep such a project moving.

So it was with a wealth of experience building pyramids and supplying their construction that

Pharaoh Khufu set out to construct the Great Pyramid. Even with this background, Khufu and his team didn't get everything right. This is plainly evident at a glance: almost all of the smooth outer casing of fine white limestone is gone. Where did it go? Most of it broke up, fell apart, and tumbled down the sides (mostly triggered by earthquakes), where it was picked up by people and taken away to be re-used on other projects. This breakage was caused by thermal expansion of the casing stones themselves. By the time Sneferu built the Red Pyramid, they had refined their stonework manufacture with their sharp copper tools to make casing stones that fit

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very well and looked beautiful. But what they didn't know was that without gaps between the casing stones, thermal expansion would destroy their lovely flat surfaces over the centuries. This is why both the Red Pyramid and the Great Pyramid have almost no casings left, while the older Bent Pyramid has those smooth outer casings almost entirely intact: they were not built to as high a standard and thus had some give in the heat. This is also



Pyramid of Khafre: Casing at the top remains.

the case with pyramids built after the Great Pyramid, when they took the construction standards back down a notch to economise on the project: the Pyramid of Khafre — the son of Khufu, whose monument is the second largest and sits beside his father's on the Giza plateau — still has much of its casing remaining up near the top. Quicker construction, larger gaps, more room for thermal expansion, thus an accidentally more durable casing.

Note: It is a myth that thieves climbed 100 metres up the pyramids to slide the gigantic casing stones all the way back down that treacherous slope — an obviously implausible task. They did steal them, but mostly only after the thermal breakup and earthquakes brought them safely down to the desert floor.

The most important recent discovery about the Great Pyramid came in 2017, with the publication of *The Red Sea Papyrus* by French Egyptologist Pierre Tallet (*pictured below*). Tallet had been working for a few years at Wadi al-Jarf, an ancient Egyptian port on the Red Sea, where limestone blocks inscribed with the name of Khufu were discovered amid bathouses for transport ships. In 2013, a large collection of papyrus fragments were found dating from the 27th year of Khufu's reign, some 4,500 years ago. One was of particular interest, *The Diary of Merer*, a log of activities and transactions, which records three months of his career. Merer, previously unknown, was an elite shipping official and transport ship captain. He oversaw the transportation of fine white limestone from the quarry at Turah to Giza. Merer's group was not just considered elite, its description translates to "the chosen group", evidently a high enough office that he was in charge of recording all of these activities.

Merer's limestone deliveries were sailed into a great artificial harbour dug just for this purpose at the very foot of Giza, on the flood plain which normally separates Giza from the Nile, and



where the modern city of Cairo now sits. Merer gave us this artificial harbour's name, the Basin of Khufu, and archaeologists have since discovered traces of it based on his description. This provided an amazing insight into the seasonality of the work on the pyramid. During the flood season, when the farmers became available for pyramid construction, the Nile rose seven metres and filled the Basin of Khufu, completing the supply chain that made the work possible. [Return to Page 2 index](#)

*To be concluded in the next issue. Alistair Blennerhassett is a member of **Ancient History**.*



The Acoustic Music group perform at the Election General Meeting.

Picture: Colin Basire

Music makers hit just the right note

MEMBERS and guests received a harmonious welcome at November's Election General Meeting from U3A's **Acoustic Music** group, who presented an entertaining medley from their repertoire. Convener Chris Ingram says the group is for those who are reasonably accomplished on their chosen instrument and who enjoy fun jamming and singing together. He says instruments could include ukulele, banjo, guitar or mandolin, among others.

The group, who meet at St Enoch's Church in 16th Avenue every Thursday afternoon from 1.15-3.30pm, currently have openings and would welcome new members to join them. A \$3 contribution is required for each session to cover costs.

"We enjoyed ourselves immensely at the EGM," says Chris. "Come along and try us out. Solo singers are welcome too. Please contact me for further information on [021 234 6197](tel:0212346197)."

Right: *The group are pictured during one of their practice sessions.*



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

OUR **International Affairs** group has a habit of breaking new ground and has done so again with a special online link-up to the crisis-racked Middle East.

“One of our points of difference is that we meet solely online via Zoom,” explains the group’s Convener, Ian Morrison. “Another is that we’re able to link to a wide range of expert guest speakers, with interesting things to say about topics in the news.

“The horrendous eruption of violence in the Middle East presented us with a challenge as, although we couldn’t ignore what was going on, we weren’t initially sure we could find a guest speaker who was both sufficiently knowledgeable and capable of speaking calmly and with compassion, balance and insight, at a time of tragedy and of deeply felt and complex passions.

“Fortunately, we were able to make contact with Rabbi Ma’ayan Turner, a long-standing Jerusalem resident, who is actively involved with human rights organisations, working on behalf of both Palestinians and Israelis. Rabbi Ma’ayan hails from Auckland and is the first New Zealand-born woman to qualify for the rabbinate. We were all deeply impressed by her wisdom and the breadth of her perspective,” Ian adds.

The group has subsequently also had valuable inputs on the Israel/Hamas conflict from Dr Leon Goldsmith, Senior Lecturer in Middle Eastern and comparative politics at Otago University, as well as from security analyst Dr Paul Buchanan. If you are interested in joining the group’s Zoom meetings, contact Ian Morrison on (07) 575 6650 or email jottings@xtra.co.nz

HAS THE WORLD GONE CRAZY?

ACCORDING to internationally experienced clinical psychologist Beulah “Bubbles” Levinson (*pictured*), the short answer is “Yes”! In October, Bubbles talked to her fellow members of our **International Affairs** group about the global mental health crisis, drawing on more than six decades of study and practice in South Africa, France, Germany and New Zealand.



“If we define ‘crazy’ as being ‘cracked’ or ‘broken’, this definition fits accurately the current status of the family in our present Western world. Due to a significant loss of family structure, we find it very difficult to provide safety and support for our children,” she said.

“Early bonding should be a cornerstone of future personality development. The consequences of its failure are seen in the problems young people have in forming stable or committed relationships, including marriage.”

Bubbles added that the absence of parental support and guidance also leads young people to seek peer support, idolising celebrities and gearing their lives to fame and fortune.

“In modern societies, we don’t seem to know how to make children feel wanted,” she said, pointing to the contrast with many older cultures in which the whole community welcomes a child with ceremonies and rituals, a process that continues throughout life, inducing a sense of belonging and respect not only for parents and elders but also for others in the community. Although the mental health crisis has been with us for several years, Bubbles described it as having become significantly more acute as a result of the Covid pandemic.

“The ensuing lockdowns further confirmed an already existing tendency for alienation and isolation in our culture. Covid taught us to be afraid of each other and this made people turn in on themselves,” she said.

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GROUP NEWS

SHAKESPEARE: STARTING THE NEW YEAR AS TWO GROUPS

AS U3A Tauranga members know, it only takes one person to suggest an idea for a group of any description for that idea to flourish into fact! This is how the **Shakespeare** group began.

It appears that you either love or hate Shakespeare. Most of us, if we studied Shakespeare at school, hated it. It was too hard, why didn't he write in English like us?

However, for those of us who discovered Shakespeare later in life, studying the Bard opens up a whole new world of theatre, characters, history, words, poetry and so much more.

The group began in 2016. We met in members' houses on the second and fourth Monday afternoons, taking it in turn to host meetings. We chose the play we wished to study and watched a DVD of that play. We would stop and start the DVD as required as questions arose about the text or what was happening in Tudor/Jacobean England and Europe at the time. All of these things are relevant in the life and times of Shakespeare, his contemporaries, and the people who would pay their hard-earned money to watch the plays.

Unfortunately, Covid put a stop to our house meetings. Not to be deterred, we decided to turn to technology and use Zoom. Because no one was going anywhere – we were all in lockdown – we began meeting *every* Monday afternoon over Zoom. That is what we have been doing for the past two years. Our group has grown because of Zoom, and members who are compromised by health issues also feel confident enough to join us. All members bring their own wealth of knowledge and expertise to the group, which everyone appreciates.

I should add that this is a lively, friendly group who love a great discussion. Prepared talks and general discussion on any Shakespeare related topics are welcome. Now the situation has evolved so that, starting in February, there will be two Shakespeare groups:

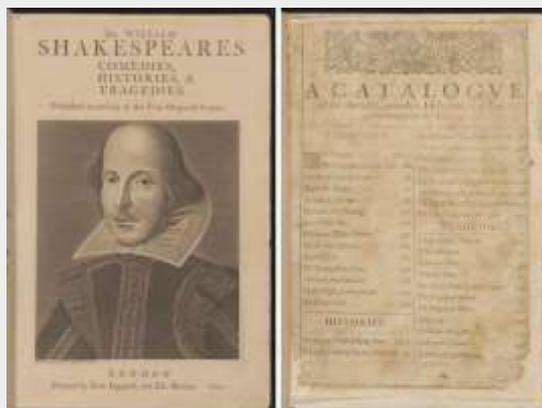
Shakespeare A will return to our original format of meeting on the second and fourth Monday afternoons at members' homes. We will begin the year with *Measure for Measure*.

Shakespeare Zoom will meet via Zoom on the first and third Monday afternoons. We will continue to study a particular play which we have watched already and go through it literally line-by-line. It's amazing how much more you learn and understand how clever Shakespeare was. This group will start the year with *Richard III*. To enquire about the groups, please contact the Conveners.

Jean Garmonsway

Shakespeare A: Jean Garmonsway, Convener, [027 632 5988](tel:0276325988); Paul Chapman, Co-Convener, [021 106 5088](tel:0211065088); **Shakespeare Zoom:** Ian Morrison, Convener, [07\) 575 6650](tel:075756650) or jottings@xtra.co.nz

THERE was a very special final meeting of the year for the **Shakespeare** group, in the week before their Christmas party. To mark the 400th anniversary of the publication of Shakespeare's *First Folio*, Renee Orr, Curator of Rare Books at Auckland Central Library, spoke to the group via Zoom about the library's very own copy (*pictured right*). The copy, one of only around 235 in the world, was gifted by Sir George Grey. Members resolved to arrange a trip to see it for themselves.



GROUP NEWS

FRENCH CONVERSATION 3 (BEGINNERS): FOR THE LOVE OF LA BELLE FRANCE

STARTING in 2021, our group grew out of an ongoing love for the French language, the country and its people. Our teacher is a capable speaker of French and has a gift for imparting her knowledge in an inclusive manner. It is a fun group and there is no pressure. Help is always at hand. We celebrate Bastille Day with a special lunch and also view some of the movies from the French Film Festival. Meetings are held at The Raft Café, who provide the use of an overhead projector and whiteboard. We meet every second and fourth Thursday of the month, in the morning. We are given homework sheets, which serve to reinforce what we have learned. At present we have seven members. We do keep a waiting list, so just contact me if you are interested in joining. Au revoir!



Linda Kennedy 027 280 3670

CLASSICAL MUSIC LOVERS B: HOW LONDON BECAME THE CAPITAL CITY OF MUSIC



LONDON as a world centre of music was the theme for the meeting of **Classical Music Lovers B** on 9 November. As both a magnet for the great performers and a creative melting pot, London has been one of the great cities of music for several centuries. In the 20th Century, London overtook Vienna, Paris, Berlin and New York as the great music city of the world, at least in terms of performance. Works the group enjoyed included Eric Coates' *Knightsbridge March No 3 (London Suite)*, Organ Concertos by Handel, performed by the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields and Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Symphony No 2 (A London Symphony)*. You can listen to all the pieces by following this link: [classical-music-B-9-11-2023-London.pdf \(u3atauranga.kiwi.nz\)](https://www.kiwi.nz/u3atauranga/classical-music-B-9-11-2023-London.pdf)

GROUP COORDINATORS' REPORTS

Compiled by JAN HOLDEN

Groups in recess: Book Lovers 2; Psychology.

Groups seeking new members: Current Events D; Hikers 1; Global Issues (five vacancies); Opera Appreciation; French 2 Intermediate; Scrabble.

Change of Convener: Buildings and Cities have new Co-Conveners, Jean Harold, 021 040 0365 and Margaret Jenner, 07 578 7467. Margaret Marsh is stepping down as Convener of Computer B.

Other information: Garden Ramblers 1, waiting list; Geology, full with 12 members, three on waiting list; Dining group 3, no vacancies. Jazz & Blues Appreciation have a name change for 2024 to Jazz, Blues & Beyond. They will also change their meeting day from fourth Friday of the month to the first Friday.

Details of new groups, Katikati: Creative Writing (title possibly "Wordsters" TBC), Convener Lynne Shearman, 021 402 126.

Suggested new groups, Katikati: Pétanque, to be offered again in 2024. Philosophy, to start in 2024. Seniors Dance and Movement, possibly to start in 2024. [Return to Page 2 index](#)

SMILE AWHILE



READER'S COMMENT

Email: newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

I WAS extremely interested in the articles about the Italian Chapel at Orkney (in the September and November issues). Some of my late wife's ancestors came from Orkney. We visited in 1999 to meet distant cousins, some she had never heard about. It was an amazing trip. We went to the local post office to try and track down one of the cousins. I asked for the telephone book, the lady went out the back and, as she was knocking the dust off it, asked what we wanted to know. As soon as we explained, she put the book down and verbally gave us all the info we wanted. Everybody knows everybody and as foreigners we stood out like sore thumbs. She then picked up the phone and said, "Would you like to talk to her?" and dialled the number. There was no answer, but shortly after the phone rang. It was the cousin ringing back. Telephone technology better than anything we had at home!

We spent a week and covered everything on the isle including the Italian Chapel. We were blown away, such an amazing place. When we came over on the ferry it was dead calm, but on our return south a tremendous storm had blown up – the most frightening sea voyage we have ever experienced. Cook Strait has nothing on this! But that's another story.

Colin Basire



GREAT HOLIDAY READS 1

We again asked our book lovers' groups to give us their recommendations for great holiday reading. Our thanks to everyone for a wonderful response.



Members of Café Book Lovers 3 pictured at the final meeting of what was a busy year.

CAFÉ BOOK LOVERS 3 – ANY BOOK BOOK CLUB

AT OUR last monthly meeting of 2023 on 27 November, **Café Book Lovers 3** met in our usual spot at the Raft Café in Chapel St. Everyone ordered their afternoon teas before the meeting so that it could be delivered to the Boardroom.

At most meetings, after some initial catchup, we take turns describing a recent book we've read, which is then discussed by all. Often others have read that book or other books by that author, so there are comparisons to be made.

Discussion ranges from literature to connections in our lives and places we've lived and worked. (Many U3A people have lived around the world.)

At our final meeting each person described our "Book of the Year". There was no clear favourite, but there were a couple of popular themes. The first was the historical setting for a novel. This can lead the reader into learning more about historical events while helping us to imagine experiencing these from the viewpoint of fictional people.

This year two people in the group chose ***The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese (2023)**. This covers the history of India from the views of a poor Hindu family and its interconnections with doctors from Scotland and Sweden. There are surprising twists in the plot, covering colonial Britain, life with leprosy, a genetic puzzle about an illness finally understood as medical rather than a curse, and redemption for those who had made terrible mistakes.

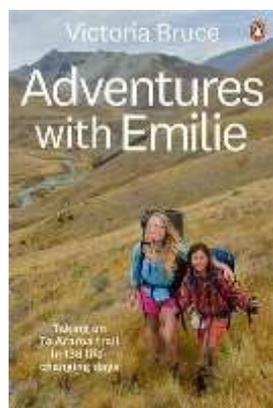
Another historical novel of note this year was ***Manhattan Beach* by Jennifer Egan (2017)**. This is set in the masculine world of the Brooklyn Naval Yard during World War II. An intrepid woman, always intrigued by the sea, becomes a navy diver, something she carries on even after having a child on her own. There is eventual family reconnection. The wartime setting adds elements of a thriller.

***All the Broken Places* by John Boyne (2022)** also references World War II, with the focus on an older German woman living in London who finally, after much struggle, acknowledges her family's involvement in Nazi crimes. This novel talks about facing ethical issues later in life that



have been shelved. There are good characters and plenty of suspense.

A final historical novel chosen this year was ***Dissolution* by C J Sansom** (2003). This is set in Tudor times, starting with the court of Henry VIII and Cromwell. This plot revolves around a murder of a commissioner after the closure of monasteries in England. This is the first of seven books in a gripping series.

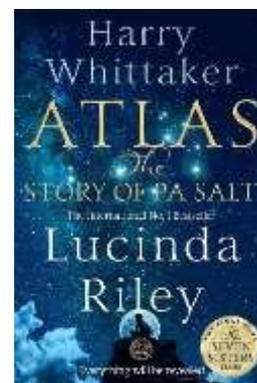


Another big theme this year, found in almost all the books we covered, was that of intrepid determination to survive despite extreme difficulties, especially for women on their own. Some books were non-fiction. In ***Adventures with Emilie* by Victoria Bruce** (2023), a girl and her mother leave an abusive husband and father and spend five months walking the Te Araroa trail across New Zealand. The story of this intrepid team is riveting, showing how people can blossom even after trauma.

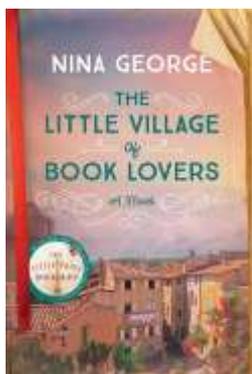
Another non-fiction account of survival, ***Freedom's Land* by Anna Jacob** (2009), focuses on settlers in Western Australia in the 1920s. Though the dry, flat countryside was entirely different, there are many resonances with the hard work of dairy farming in New Zealand in remote places. Survival depends on the community working together.

Another memoir of resilience was ***The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn** (2018), following the journey of a mid-life couple coping with several setbacks by packing up and setting off to walk through southern England. This is an account of faith in the human spirit and the healing that is possible after experiences of hardship.

Two novels chosen this year were recent offerings from well-known writers. ***Atlas: The Story of Pa Salt* by Lucinda Riley** and her son **Harry Whittaker** (2023) is the last in the series known as the Seven Sisters. Each of these books tells a story based on the legends in the Pleiades cluster of seven stars. This final book, published after the author's death, ties the ends of the series of novels together in a beautiful way.



Australian writer **Trent Dalton**, famous for ***All Our Shimmering Skies***, just published another intriguing novel with ***Lola in the Mirror*** (2023). Lola grows up without a name because her mother is on the run from the law. Domestic violence is portrayed in a way that shows the daughter's resilience. There is humour as well as horror, hope and despair, magic and realism in a gripping story.



Finally, overlap with U3A French conversation groups can be found in a recent book by **Nina George, *The Little Village of Book Lovers*** (2023). Set in Provence, France, it follows the story of a baby found on the patio of a nursing home. The tale mixes the supernatural with matchmaking and even a mobile library.

At the end of our meeting we reflected on the amazing range of fiction and non-fiction books we read this year. We decided that we would meet again in late January for an unofficial start to 2024, since we were all likely to get plenty of reading in over the summer.

Lise Claiborne, Co-Convenor

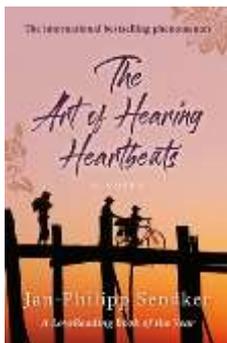


GREAT HOLIDAY READS 3

CAFÉ BOOK LOVERS 2

The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman: This is the first of what has become a very popular series (there are four books now). It particularly appeals to our age group as the books are set in a retirement village, and I think we all have a lot of self-association. The stories are about a group of four residents, all from very different backgrounds, who are unlikely friends due to their situation. They decide to keep their “grey matter” alive by attempting to solve some cold cases. There is a lot of laughter and a good bit of sleuthing! Easy reading and very enjoyable.

Star of the North by D B John: This is a very different book – not always an easy read, but hard to put down. Set in America and North Korea, the book entwines three stories – firstly, an American named Jenna, whose twin sister goes missing from a South Korean beach, presumed drowned. The second follows Mrs Moon, a North Korean lady, who lives and works in a penal farm. She discovers an international aid balloon filled with treasures and decides to use them to her advantage – a decision which could lead to the death penalty. Thirdly, a high-ranking North Korean official, Cho, who appears to lead a charmed life, but events turn nasty as the sins of the father are definitely visited upon the son! Can life really be like that in another country today? This is a stunning book – politically relevant, a gripping thriller and brilliantly written!



The Art of Hearing Heartbeats by Jan-Philipp Sendker: A successful New York lawyer disappears unexpectedly. His daughter finds a love-letter he has written to a Burmese woman many years previously. She decides to travel to Burma to find out what has happened to her father and why. What follows is a heart-rending but poignant love story.

The Final Judgement by Richard North Patterson: A gripping, convincing, great thriller full of family secrets, intrigue, love and murder.

Any books by **Geraldine Brooks:** Well researched historical fiction.

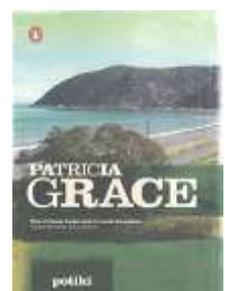
Any book by **John Boyne:** A very talented Irish writer, well known for *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, but the lesser-known sequel *All the Broken Pieces* is excellent – such a difficult task to create a sequel as good as the original!

Barbara Joyce

BOOK LOVERS 2

Our group was formed in 2004. Sadly, our numbers have dwindled in the last two years, so we have decided to close our group down. Though small in number, between us we have read many interesting books over the year.

Usually, each member shares with the group a book she has read during the past month. In July, we did things a bit differently and all read the same book. One member led a discussion, which led to a range of views being expressed – one member hating it, the rest enjoying it to various degrees. The book we chose was *Lucy by the Sea* by Elizabeth Strout. It was set in Maine at the time of the start of Covid-19 and the lockdown. It was an interesting exercise but we all agreed we would not like to be tied to one book every month. The following is a selection of titles recommended by our members for holiday reading: **Potiki by Patricia Grace:** This novel, written in 1986, explores themes of cultural identity, land rights, and the impact of urban development on indigenous communities.





There's a Cure for This: A Memoir by Emma Espiner: An insightful book, looking at the life of a young Māori woman medical student and junior doctor. She touches on a lot of big issues.

The Midnight Library by Matt Haig: Tells the story of Nora, a depressed woman in her 30s. On the day she decides to die she finds herself in a library full of lives she could have lived, where she discovers there's a lot more to life, even her current one, than she had ever imagined.

The Last Devil to Die by Richard Osman: This is the last book, and arguably the best, in the Thursday Murder Club series set in a retirement village.

The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot by Marianne Cronin: Set in a hospital, it tells the story of 18-year-old Lenni and 82-year-old Margot and the friendship between them that developed into something special.

The Barefoot Surgeon by Ali Gripper: It tells the story of Dr Sanduk Ruit, a Nepali eye surgeon who has broken through much medical red tape to provide affordable cataract surgery to more than 180,000 blind people in his own country and in other parts of Asia. **Diana O'Brien**

CAFÉ BOOK LOVERS 1

We are a group of members with wide and varied interests and, I have to say, I have read books through their recommendations that I perhaps never would have otherwise.

My choice:

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus: This book, which is Aotearoa Booksellers' Book of the Year, is a wee gem. Unconventional, uncompromising and funny – Elizabeth Zott back in the 1960s is not your average woman. She works in a very biased all male team in research. But she is forced to resign and then reluctantly takes on a cooking show! I loved this.

Also on our list:

The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese; Birnam Wood by Eleanor Catton; Going Zero by Anthony McCarten; The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles; The Penguin Lessons by Tom Michell; The Bookseller at the End of the World by Ruth Shaw. **Pat Goldstiver**

BOOK LOVERS 3

This is a list we compiled at our last meeting of the year, of books we have enjoyed and would recommend:

All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr; Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Gormus; Lily's Promise by Lily Ebert and Dov Forman; The Diamond Eye by Kate Quinn; Landed by Sue McCauley; Curlew Moon by Mary Colwell. **Vivienne Gaudin** [Return to Page 2 index](#)

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Coral; 2. Georgia; 3. c) Deimos; 4. Goat; 5. Bolivia; 6. c) *Vanity Fair*; 7. Eight; 8. One (*Fidelio*, originally named *Leonore*); 9. King Kong; 10. Napoleon Bonaparte.

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WONDERS OF THE WEB



IF YOU enjoy watching film versions of Charles Dickens' works, you are going to love this website recommended by Margaret Marsh: [20 Best Charles Dickens Adaptations, Ranked \(collider.com\)](#)



A big 'thank you' to Christine

By **MARJORIE SQUIRE**

AT THE November General Meeting of U3A Katikati, **Christine Pelosi** was thanked for her role in establishing the organisation.

Christine had been a U3A Tauranga member and had envisioned a similar group in Katikati without the hassle of highway commuting and all the associated road works! Such an organisation would provide social connection and educational interest for this growing community of older people.

Christine's expectations were more than met when the initial meeting drew a crowd of more than 60. Nearly two years later, U3A Katikati has a membership of 72 and supports 11 special interest groups.

Christine has stepped down from the sub-committee and will retain her interest in monthly general meetings and several of the interest groups. [Return to Page 2 index](#)



Steve shares his adventures on the ice

By **TOM ROBSON**

ANTARCTICA is firmly ensconced in the New Zealand psyche as we are a significant contact point with the "frozen continent" and we have long-standing connections with Scott, Shackleton et al. Erebus is, of course, part of our history.

Against this backdrop, it is always interesting to share first-hand experience of this unique part of the world, which is what we were able to do with our main speaker, **Steve Subritzky**, albeit using 21st-Century transport and comfort. A magnificent set of visuals accompanied Steve's address.

Steve and his fellow travellers ventured from New Zealand via Campbell Island to the Ross Sea, returning via Macquarie Island to Hobart, Tasmania. Very strict controls apply when landing on the ice and this, combined with the vagaries of the weather in this part of the world, means that much of the experience is from a distance. Suffice to say that Steve has the "Antarctic bug" and plans to return in the near future.



A new series that delves into the history and traditions of some of our most popular dishes

Ee bah gum, there's nowt like it!

THE first day of February is Britain's National Yorkshire Pudding Day! So, if you haven't already done so, please try the recipe and enjoy this ancient treat. The old joke going around used to be that a Yorkshire gentleman compared his wife with a Yorkshire Pudding – fat and podgy at the bottom and full of hot air! A description like this sums up a Yorkshire Pudding nicely!

The first ever published recipe for this Northern England delicacy was in 1737 in a book entitled *The Whole Duty of a Woman*. Presumably it contained more than just recipes!

Wheat flour had come into common use for making cakes and puddings, so cooks devised a means of using the fat that dropped into the dripping pan to cook a batter pudding while the meat roasted. It was suggested that the pudding got its name from Yorkshire's association with coal and the higher temperatures this produced, which helped make the pudding crispier.

Originally, the pudding was served as a first course with a thick gravy to dull the appetite with low-cost ingredients so that the diners would not eat so much of the more expensive meat in the next course. In poorer households the pudding was served as the only course!

Using dripping, a simple meal was made with flour, eggs and milk. It is, however, possible to use water instead of milk, which produces a lighter, crispier pudding. Allowing the batter to stand for a while before baking allows the gluten to develop, which gives the pudding its shape. Left-over puddings can be reheated and served with jam or fruit or syrup the next day. A Yorkshire pudding is meant to rise. Milk or water converts to steam, which pushes up the mixture.

According to the Royal Society of Chemistry, "a Yorkshire Pudding isn't a Yorkshire Pudding unless it is more than four inches tall". So, next time you make Yorkshires, get out the ruler and check!

HERE'S HOW TO MAKE THE PERFECT YORKSHIRE PUDDING



You will need:

- 3 large eggs; $\frac{3}{4}$ cup milk
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup plain flour; $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup fat (olive oil or melted butter)

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 200°C or 400°F.
2. Whisk together eggs, flour, milk and salt.
3. Allow to rest at least 30 minutes.
4. Add a teaspoon of fat to each cup of a 12-cup muffin tin and heat for about 7 minutes.
5. Divide batter equally between muffin cups and return to oven for 10 to 12 minutes or until puddings are brown and crisp.
6. Serve immediately.

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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: Mar-Apr 2024 Deadline for material is 22 February
We welcome your articles at newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz