



MARCH-APRIL 2025



**BOOT CAMP:** It's a great time of year to be enjoying the garden. Thanks to **Sharyn Crawford** for the picture. You can see more of the **Photography** group's work on our website.

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### Newsletter Team

**Editor and design:** Paul Chapman / Allan Mathews

**Proof-reading:** Liz Chapman

**Correspondents:** Tauranga, Graham Dainty / Katikati, Francis Young, Allan Mathews

**GM photographs:** Colin Basire, Glenne Findon



## QUIZ CORNER

1. Which president of Egypt nationalised the Suez Canal?
2. In music, which note is written on the bottom line of the treble clef?
3. Who went to sea with silver buckles on his knee?
4. Complete the title of Rossini's opera: *The Barber of .....*
5. The letter O is on which line of a computer keyboard?
6. Who had a lover called Mellors?
7. Which significant line of latitude goes through Taiwan?
8. In which English city is the Fitzwilliam Museum?
9. What is the Māori name for Dunedin?
10. Who is pictured here?



■ [Answers on Page 11](#)

## IMPORTANT NOTES FOR MEMBERS

- If you have not yet paid your Annual Subscription for 2025 **it is now overdue!** If it is still unpaid as at 31 March your membership of U3A Tauranga will be deemed to have lapsed and will be formally archived in our records. The subscription is now \$25 with the price for new members being \$36, including a one-off charge for a name badge. New members may join at any time during the year. Only paid-up financial members are entitled to attend U3A groups and vote at General Meetings. Please contact Membership Administrator Joni Burgess at [membership@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:membership@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz) or by calling 0210 250 3032 if there are any concerns or issues.
- Please note that the date of two of our Monthly Meetings in Tauranga will be changed this year, as the normal third Friday dates clash with the Good Friday and Matariki public holidays. The Good Friday meeting will be moved to the third Thursday of the month and will take place on 17 April. The alternative date for the Matariki meeting is yet to be confirmed.
- This year 2025 marks the 30th Anniversary of U3A Tauranga.
- The 2025 Handbook is now available online at [U3A-Tauranga-Handbook.pdf](#)



# It's been a year of changes

**G**REETINGS,

Wow, 30 years! Happy Anniversary, everyone! It was an absolute pleasure to welcome the large turnout at our AGM on Friday, 21 February.

Looking back on the year just gone, the first Executive meeting on 8 March, 2024 welcomed a high percentage of new Executive members – myself as President; Bev Edlin, Vice Present; Kay Ebden, Secretary; Carol Outen, Treasurer; Joni Burgess as the Membership Administrator; and Pat Goldstiver as the new Coordinator for groups D-H.

Initially it was a table of stunned mullets, all thinking to themselves “When did I say ‘yes’ to taking up this position?” All concerns were quickly alleviated by the good humour and endless support given by the “old hands” – Raewyn Gallagher, Jim Pryor, Paul Chapman, Mary Stewart, Margaret Marsh, Jan Holden, Margaret Down and Tom Robson.

Above all else, every Executive member, along with the large number of members holding non-executive roles, continually proved throughout the year to be fully committed to the ongoing success of U3A Tauranga as an organisation that provides opportunities for people to connect through stimulating physical, intellectual, creative and social activities.

Support sessions were held during the year for Coordinators, Conveners and new members respectively. New groups were started while others closed or changed direction as determined by group members. If anyone is interested in starting a new interest group at any time, please let the Coordinators know.

In March, we had a booth at the Seniors and Travel Expo held at Baypark. We have been invited back this year, as well as to appear at the Wellness Expo being held at Bayswater Village. The Executive has continued to support the Katikati sub-group under the guidance of the sub-committee chairmanship of Tom Robson. This group has been having a very positive impact on the wider Katikati area, with many opportunities for people to connect through group activities.

It was wonderful to have both the new Constitution and the request to re-register as an Incorporated Society under the new 2022 Act approved at the AGM. Many hours reviewing and adjusting our Constitution to meet the required changes were spent by a group of members under the guidance, hospitality and support of one of our past presidents, Anne Withy. Many thanks go to Anne.

A special thank you to Margaret Marsh for the wonderful Handbook she produces, Paul Chapman for the publication of the Newsletter that we have all enjoyed so much over the past two years, and Jim Pryor who steadfastly keeps our essential data base and website up to date. We also thank the non-executive role holders: Richard Thompson, Peter Simmons, Jenny Pryor, Phil Hansen, Phil Sinclair, Glenne Findon, Colin Basire, Lynne Hewson and Pam Simons, all of whom are the backbone behind the Executive.

It is a pleasure to be welcoming new role holders to the team, while thanking those that are moving on from the responsibilities they have held. All have been excellent and positive team members.

*Continued on Page 4*

Linda Clifford is replacing Jan Holden departing as Coordinator for groups I-P, Allan Mathews, is replacing retiring Newsletter Editor Paul Chapman, and Pam Simons is being replaced by Carol Love as the new Skills Administrator.

Finally, I thank all executive members for the endless support I have received across the past year as President. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you all and look forward to continuing our positive work as a team throughout 2025 for all members of U3A Tauranga.

Nga mihi nui,  
Warm regards,

*Gail Moore*

President U3A Tauranga

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

# 30 YEARS That takes the cake!



LIFE member and former President Anne Withy was called on to do the honours by making the first cut in the cake to celebrate U3A Tauranga's 30th birthday. A special morning tea of savoury, sweet and fresh fruit was also served to members and guests at the AGM. Anne has put in countless hours' work on updating the Constitution.



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

RETIRING members of the Executive Jan Holden and Paul Chapman, and non-executive officers Lynne Hewson and Pam Simmons, were thanked for their service. Immediate Past President Raewyn Gallagher presented pot plants.

Pictures by Colin Basire



EXTRA seats had to be found by Yacht Club staff when 131 people turned out for the AGM, far more than expected. Treasurer Carol Outen (*above left*) and President Gail Moore (*above right*) presented their annual reports. Gail also welcomed new I-P Coordinator Linda Clifford (*right*). The resolutions to approve the revised Constitution and apply for re-registration under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 were carried unanimously.



# Where there's a Will, there's a way forward



*Bill Holland makes a point at the meeting.*

WHEN **Bill Holland** (*right*) opened the February monthly presentation, a seminar on *Wills and Power of Attorney Seminar*, he certainly got the attention of his large audience.

His personal situation, including a cancer diagnosis, two strokes and a number of seizures, reminded us all of our vulnerability and the need to plan accordingly.

The wisdom of not only making a will, but updating it as necessary and having discussions with family members, ensures an efficient and stress-reducing procedure on one's death.

Bill is a consultant with Holland Beckett, and together with his colleagues, solicitors **Courtney Sinclair** and **Angus Hendry**, gave an informative and well-structured presentation. By listing many questions, all aspects were covered and then summarised in a printed handout. The trio also gave clear and concise answers to questions put by members of the audience.

What follows is an edited highlight of some of the questions and answers in the handout. If you would like your own copy, please contact Holland Beckett by emailing [lawyers@hobec.co.nz](mailto:lawyers@hobec.co.nz), write to Private Bag 12011, Tauranga 3143, or call 07 578 2199. For further information, you can also visit their website at <https://hobec.co.nz>

– **Graham Dainty**

### **What is the difference between a trustee and an executor?**

These terms are often used interchangeably, and it is sometimes difficult to determine when a person is performing the role as executor and when they are a trustee. Usually, the same people are appointed as both the executors and trustees of your Will. Strictly speaking, an executor is the person who the assets pass into the control of following your death and who applies for Probate. Their role is to administer the Will in accordance with its provisions and distribute the assets to the beneficiaries. If, however, the Will creates an ongoing obligation, such as a life interest to a surviving partner or indeed that assets be held on trust until children or grandchildren reach a certain age, then this is more the role of a trustee as they will be holding those assets upon trust in accordance with the terms of your Will for an extended period of time.

### **Who should be the executors and trustees of my estate?**

A beneficiary may be an executor/trustee; and if everything is left to one person (e.g. the spouse) it is standard practice to appoint that person. The situation becomes more complicated if there are multiple beneficiaries, especially if any of them are still minors. In this situation you need to appoint someone suitable and whom you trust implicitly to carry out your wishes. You may want to include one or more of your children and, in some cases, an independent person, such as a

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

trusted family friend, accountant or solicitor. The ultimate decision will depend on your particular circumstances. It goes without saying that they need to be the sort of person who is good at managing their own affairs. While it is not essential to have someone who lives nearby, it is preferable to having trustees in different parts of the country or, indeed, overseas. They must be at least 18 years of age.

## **What do my executors do?**

Your executors are in charge of administering your Will in accordance with its provisions. They will apply for Probate (if required) and the assets will be transferred into their names as executors of your estate. Once they have accumulated all of the



*Bill was joined by Angus Hendry and Courtney Sinclair.*

assets, they will need to distribute them to the beneficiaries of your estate. Your executors are also in charge of determining what funeral service you have and what happens to your body after the service.

## **What is Probate?**

Probate is the authority given by the Court to confirm that the Will of the deceased has been proved and registered in the Court. It also grants to the executor or executors named in the Will the right to carry out the terms of the Will.

## **What is a Power of Attorney?**

In its simplest form, it is a document whereby you appoint a trusted third party to make decisions or sign documents where you are not available to do so (e.g. if you are overseas).

## **What is the difference between a normal Power of Attorney and an Enduring Power of Attorney?**

The old form of Power of Attorney granted your attorney the power to carry out actions in relation to your property whilst you still had capacity but were unable to sign documents yourself, either because of physical inability or, more often than not, because you were out of the country for a period of time. Whilst these Powers of Attorney are useful documents, they did not continue if you lost mental capacity, and often it was at this time when such documents were really needed. As a result, the Protection of Personal Property Rights Act 1989 was enacted which provided for “Enduring Powers of Attorney”. This meant that the grant of a power in relation to property could last (or “endure”) beyond the point of you losing mental capacity. The Act also provided for Enduring Powers of Attorney in relation to “personal care and welfare”, enabling the person to appoint an attorney to act on such matters if you lose your mental capacity.

## **Who should be my attorney?**

You must choose your attorney wisely. In most situations, people consider appointing their spouse if they are of suitable physical and mental capacity. Thereafter, people often consider family or close friends. Given the power that you are vesting in this person, they must be a trustworthy person and you must have confidence that they will act in your best interests.

# Gallery to reopen later this year

By FRANCIS YOUNG

TAURANGA Art Gallery Director **Sonya Korohina** (*right*) was the main speaker at the Monthly Meeting in February. Sonya grew up in Tauranga and then moved for tertiary education.

She studied arts administration in a new degree programme at the University of Auckland. Following graduation, she worked at the Auckland Art Gallery, Arts Space and Ilam School of Fine Arts at the University of Canterbury. She was appointed as Director in Tauranga not long before the renovation of the gallery was confirmed by the foundation which runs it.

She explained how it had become necessary to create a new entrance so the gallery would become a part of the new Cultural Precinct that was approved by the city's Commissioners.

The opportunity was taken to renovate the whole building to respond positively to the results of a survey of visitors taken earlier. The upgrade includes a coffee shop, along with more space for workshops and digital components. The new design was created by the Auckland firm of architects Warren and Mahoney, working with local artist Marea Timutimu as an advisor.

The gallery closed in October 2023 and will reopen in late 2025. It will be the first part to open in the Cultural Precinct, with the library following in 2026 and the museum in 2028. The museum has acquired a building in nearby Waihirere Lane for collection storage and a research library.



## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

THIS is my final issue after two and a half years as Editor of your Newsletter. It has been an enjoyable ride, getting to know so many people and putting the publication together every two months. One thing I have learned is how much the members of U3A Tauranga enjoy their Newsletter, and how fond of it you all are. So with that in mind, it has been a real honour and privilege to hold the office. I am relinquishing it now only because I plan to move on to another project: a book has been calling me to write it for some time.

My experience as Editor has also reinforced my appreciation of U3A Tauranga and what a wonderful organisation it is. Where else can we “young-at-heart oldies” enjoy such stimulation for our brains and bodies among such convivial company? I have made many new and dear friends in the past few years. My thanks go to everyone who has been such a great support to me in this role, especially former Editor Jan Holden, our tireless photographer Colin Basire, and that redoubtable proof reader my wife Liz, who has saved me from many an embarrassing typo. Finally, my congratulations to your new Editor, Allan Mathews. It is a great reassurance to me to know that I leave you in his good hands.

– **Paul Chapman**

### WHO'S SPEAKING AT OUR NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

#### TAURANGA

**When:** Friday, 21 March, 9.45am

**Where:** Tauranga Yacht Club, Sulphur Point

**Speaker:** Andrew Gregg on *The Elms Te Papa: The Spirit of a Place*

THE Elms Te Papa is owned and operated by The Elms Foundation, a charitable trust established to preserve and protect one of New Zealand's oldest and most significant heritage sites.

The Elms Foundation is fortunate to enjoy loyal, passionate and far-reaching support from the community, with a key strength of the organisation being the quality of people engaged in its work.

Come and hear from Andrew Gregg, General Manager of The Elms Foundation (*pictured right*), talk about the trust's work and the opportunities to become involved.



**Brian Jones**, one of our U3A Tauranga members, will be giving the short talk on *New Zealand's Sub Antarctic Islands: A Brief History*. Brian has visited the Auckland Islands twice and will include his father's World War II experiences as a coast watcher in the islands.

#### PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DAY OWING TO GOOD FRIDAY FALLING ON 18 APRIL

**When:** Thursday, 17 April, 9.45am

**Where:** Tauranga Yacht Club, Sulphur Point

**Speaker:** Steve Subritzky on *The Highlights of India and Nepal*



**STEVE Subritzky** (*pictured left*) is a member of U3A Tauranga who is well known for globe-trotting adventures. He says: "In this talk I will be exploring, among other highlights in India, the relationship between trains and lunches, street food and fast food, slums, tigers, the Ganges, the Himalayas and, of course, the Taj Mahal.

"I have a passion for travel, which I have done all my life, usually to places off the beaten track. I have travelled to every continent plus over 50 countries and am a member of the SKI Club (Spending Kids' Inheritance)."

**Faye Mayo** will be giving the short talk, which is titled *Cooking Class for Seniors*. Faye will tell us about an eight-week course, one morning a week, which is Tauranga City Council funded and free for participants. The course is particularly useful where a spouse is no longer able to cook or has died, leaving a partner who doesn't cook. It is also helpful simply for brushing up one's cooking skills!

#### KATIKATI

**Where:** The Hub, 21 Main Road, Katikati / **When:** Wednesday, 12 March, 10am

**Speaker:** Dr Jessica Turner of the University of Waikato on Artificial Intelligence

**Where:** The Hub, 21 Main Road, Katikati / **When:** Wednesday, 9 April, 10am

**Speaker:** Kit Wilson of Oceana Gold

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# YOUR U3A NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for members to volunteer for the following:

**Helpers** are needed for our U3A Tauranga stand at the Wellness Expo, taking place at Bayswater Retirement Village, 60 Maranui Street, Mount Maunganui, on **Wednesday, 12 March**. We also need volunteers for our stand at the Travel and Seniors Expo at Baypark on the weekend of **22-23 March**. We work a rota of two-hour shifts. If you can help, please contact Gail Moore, our President, at [president@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:president@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)

### **U3A Web Master / Data Manager:**

Jim Pryor has been acting in these roles for a number of years and needs to find replacements

**Data Manager:** Provide advice to the Executive on the best way to deal with association information

**Web Master:** Maintain the U3A Tauranga website and keep it up to date with regular group changes

Interested? Contact Jim, 021 073 1538 or email [webmaster@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:webmaster@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz) to discuss what is involved

### **Health and Safety Officer:**

- Attend at least one Group Coordinators and Conveners meeting to convey responsibilities and to cover the U3A Health and Safety Recommendations
- Manage incidents and accidents
- Report to the Executive
- Prepare a monthly report of any incidents for the Secretary, to be delivered at the monthly Executive meeting
- Work with the Executive to review Health and Safety Policies every two years



As an entirely voluntary society, we rely on willing members to step forward to take on executive roles. If you can help, please contact either Gail Moore, our President, at [president@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:president@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz) or Kay Ebdon, Secretary, at [secretary@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:secretary@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)

Sparse food stocks, oppressive heat and humidity ... JOHN HILL wraps up his account of

# Two years on a tropical island

THE islet of Amatuku, on the northeast of the ring of small islands that formed the atoll of Funafuti, was not much bigger than a super tanker and it was run like a ship. By this stage, 1984, I had been at sea with various shipping companies for 18 years, so I thought I knew how to run a ship. Wrong!



This “ship” had 10 staff member families on it, each having a wife and dependent children, all having housing needs. It had two staff members who lived across the lagoon, so we had to provide a ferry service. There were 40 pupils housed in dormitories, who had to be fed, and another 20 learning their trade as sailors on board the *MV Nivanga*. I had female staff for the first time in my life, not to mention having to deal with the wives of the staff. My Tuvaluan boss lived a boat ride across the lagoon, my Australian funder was in the Australian High Commission in Suva and my ultimate employer was based in Hong Kong.

I may have been the “Captain”, but I quickly realised that I was not in charge!

Barbara and I had arrived with only our suitcases and Andrew who, at the time was 20 months old. Our stores, being shipped from New Zealand, would, unbeknown to us, not arrive for another two months. The other wives quickly informed us that we would need to go to the “Fusi”, the government-run store across the lagoon in Fongafale. The stock came by ship on an irregular shipping service out of Sydney via Fiji, so shopping was a lottery – the amount and variety of the food dependent on how long since the last supply ship.

We survived, our ship came in. We had the beginnings of a survival kit, but quickly realised that we had not consigned enough of the right sort of supplies. Then came the news that the Danish ship, chartered to supply Tuvalu, was being withdrawn from the trade and the service abruptly stopped. The Pacific Forum Line (funded by Pacific island governments to provide shipping services to all its mem-

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**QUIZ ANSWERS**

1. Gamal Abdel Nasser; 2. E; 3. Bobby Shaftoe; 4. Seville; 5. The top letters line; 6. Lady Chatterley; 7. The Tropic of Cancer; 8. Cambridge; 9. Ōtepoti; 10. Jean Batten.

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## NEWSLETTER FEATURES



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bers) stepped in and Tuvalu finally had a reliable shipping link to the outside world. Nothing in the Pacific happens quickly, however, and it was four months before the next ship arrived!

We were fortunate, as we had a huge chest deep freeze and our frozen food from the Fusi, kept us going. There was no fresh fruit, other than limited paw-paw and coconuts and some other native plants which grew outside our door – none of those things which we had come to expect as our right, when we lived in our affluent bubble in Auckland. In this time, we ran out of sugar, milk powder and flour. Barbara was having to be increasingly inventive in meal ideas. Things were so bad that the Customs Department released all their confiscated beer so the one, government-run, hotel could keep going. It had been in storage for a very, very long time and tasted vile – so I’m told!

There are no bees or land-based birds on Tuvalu. Why, you may ask, is this important? The answer is simple – there are no natural pollinators! Gardening, the growing of vegetables becomes a huge challenge. We had brought hydroponic gardening equipment with us, which was duly set up and started with high hopes of having fresh veges galore. It was not to be – you try pollinating tomato flowers with a tiny paint brush. Plus the unrelenting heat, the constant high humidity, the total reliance on rain to supply all fresh water, and the unvarying 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness meant that many vegetables either never matured, “bolted” or rotted on the vine. Because of equal daylight and dark, it was easier to grow winter vegetables – go figure!

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We then tried making a little “borrow pit”, where you scrape a shallow depression in the coral, line it with coconut husks (to retain the moisture) and fill it with as much mulch as you can find and rot down into soil. This too was a dismal failure, for the reason given above, plus it only took one downpour to wash any nutrients in the soil straight through the coral! It is amazing how many nutrients a coconut will provide throughout its different life cycles, plus the sap can be tapped and turned into a delicious syrup. Thank you, Lord, for the humble coconut, which by the way fed the pig that we kept and flavoured his flesh – but that is another story!

Six months into our first year, we realised that we had been woefully underprepared, physically and mentally. Barbara needed a break. She returned to Auckland, reconnected with friends, bought the dry food, pulses, lentils and, most importantly our ground coffee that we craved, and returned to Funafuti several weeks later having also enrolled at Massey. Being in Tuvalu did not make communication with tutors easy. In those pre-internet days the assignments had to be mailed to New Zealand for assessment and then, having been examined, returned by mail with the Massey tutor’s comments. Barbara persisted with her studies during our remaining time in Tuvalu and this has led to the career in Group Facilitation and counselling, that she continues to pursue to this day.

The staff on Amatuku all had children, most of them under five years old. They would roam the island, from dawn to dusk, being indulged by staff and trainees alike. Andrew in particular, with his white blond hair, stood out and was soon taught by the trainees to swear fluently in Tuvaluan. In fact, by the time we left Tuvalu he spoke far better Tuvaluan than he did English! The adults decided that the children needed a kindergarten but shipping them across the lagoon to the one on Fongafale was not a good idea. It was decided that we would build a “maneapa”, or meeting house, and have a kindergarten teacher come to us.

This is where the Tuvaluan staff taught us palangis how to build in the traditional style and where I came to realise how close the water table was to the surface! Firstly, we needed the pillars, so suitable coconuts palms were felled and trimmed. They had to be set into the ground, so holes were dug, which showed that the water table was barely a foot from the surface. The pillars were sunk into the ground and their tops joined by horizontal beams and then all held together by roof beams – all of these being hand sawn.

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Meanwhile, the women had been collecting pandanus leaves and flattening them out by pulling them round a stick placed in the ground. Pandanus leaves are tough but have nasty spines along their edges, so it is no easy task! The leaves are sewn on to a coconut palm leaf rib to make a panel of “thatch”, which the men then layer and tie onto the roof structure. The Tuvaluan equivalent of the “roof shout” happens when the last of the thatch panels is in place and the edges neatly trimmed right round the building. And there it was, a small perfectly formed maneapa, which turned out to be a very successful kindergarten and communal meeting place. Barbara and I slowly expanded our circle of friends, meeting people at social gatherings across the lagoon at Fongafale – any excuse for a party. People leaving, new people arriving, Independence Day, Australia Day, Waitangi Day! The number of palangis was small, virtually all of us ex-pats on various aid programmes and constantly changing. The Waitangi Day Regatta, which we instigated, was a particular success when we invited anybody who had a boat to spend the day with us at Amatuku for a picnic, swimming and “racing”. We still keep in contact with two of the families we met all those years ago.

Our two years at the school, with a six week break back in Auckland at the end of the first year, were not all plain sailing. Ill health plagued Andrew, tropical ulcers affected Barbara and me, the irregular supply of fresh fruit and vegetables was a continual worry, the school’s generators continually broke down, trainees would drop outboard motors in the lagoon, staff fought among themselves, our venerable launch *Taikoo Nui* always needed maintenance and finally stopped running. The lack of infrastructure, however, threw us back on to our own resources and proved that there was a huge pool of talent in the relatively small number of us at the school. Our time in Tuvalu was a period of our lives that proved to be a watershed. Our family was growing, Barbara was set on her career path and I “swallowed the anchor” and started work ashore.



*John Hill is the Convener of History A*



Al Mathews has been watching *Conclave*



**Directed by Edgar Berger, starring Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow and Isabella Rosselini**

EVEN if the story was terrible (it's not), the acting appalling (it's not), and the direction clumsy (it's not) *Conclave* should still win an Oscar. It's an extraordinarily beautiful film.

The Vatican is not overly fond of film crews crawling over their hallways, corridors, and kitchen, so the vast majority of the movie was shot in hand-built sets that echo the grandeur of the Holy See beautifully.

The film, adapted from Robert Harris' eponymous book, tells of the events that follow the Pope's sudden death.

Dozens of Cardinals, attended by their ambitions, strengths, weaknesses, fears and follies, are flown to the Vatican from around the world to attend the Conclave – the meetings that precede the voting for the new Pope's succession.

Ralph Fiennes plays Cardinal Lawrence, the man entrusted with co-ordinating the Conclave.

The aspirations of the hopefuls, their fears and dreams, their conservatism or liberalism, their secrets and dreams all need his understanding, compassion, and discipline.

The problem? He's unsure of his own faith. And there's a dark secret that could bring scandal to the Conclave.

He has three supporters: Cardinal Bellini (Stanley Tucci), Sister Agnes (Isabella Rosselini), and Cardinal Tremblay (John Lithgow).

They are his closest friends, and – given the enormity of the task ahead – they must all deal with their own demons and ambitions. Powerfully directed, acted, and photographed, *Conclave* is a magnificent piece of storytelling.

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# Busy year keeps us on our toes

OUR **Ballet Appreciation** group will appeal to lovers of both traditional and modern ballet. Ballet is one of the great story-telling traditions in dance and encompasses highly classical as well as modern, ethnic and folk traditions.

It is diverse and cosmopolitan, expresses emotion, secrets and desires.

Ballet is great in costume, fashion and visual arts as well as superb music and choreography. It really is amazing.

During 2024 we watched the lovely Paris Opera Ballet Company perform *Coppelia*, then the lesser-known *Le Source* later in the year. The Northern Ballet Company has



connections with the Royal Ballet Company

*The Paris Opera's* Notre Dame de Paris.

and has an innovative repertoire, including *Hobson's Choice*. Few of our members had seen this, although it is not new, so it fitted nicely into the policy of a big production followed by a lesser-known one.

Among the major works over last year, we watched the Royal Danish Ballet Company's *Romeo and Juliet*, the Toulouse Ballet's *Le Corsair* and, of course, the Bolshoi Ballet Company was present with *La Bayadere*.

It can be difficult to find lesser-known, works as many are not put into the public domain.

However, *Aladdin* by the National Ballet Company of Japan was a tremendous Christmas present, full of dream-like scenes, with the flying carpet and the appearance of the genie from the lamp. We also enjoyed La Scala Theatre Ballet Company's *Excelsior* and the Kremlin Ballet Company's *1001 Nights*.

This year promises to be just as colourful. The Paris Opera Ballet Company is strongly present with *Notre Dame de Paris* and, later in the year, *The Nutcracker*. This is so well known but never disappoints. Among the lesser-known productions will be *Napoli* with the Royal Danish Ballet Company, and *Raymonda* from La Scala.

Our Christmas present will be either the Ballet Preljocaj production of *Snow White*, or *Beauty and the Beast* with a children's ballet company.

There is always one production which stands tall, and everyone loved *The Taming of the Shrew* with the Bolshoi Ballet Company – minimalist settings and costumes, fantastic music and dancing.

The venue is Hairini, with plenty of parking nearby. Meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month, the time 1–3pm; each ballet plus refreshments is usually two hours in total.

If you would like further information, please call me on (07) 544 3865.

**Margaret Osbourn, Convener** [Return to Page 2 index](#)

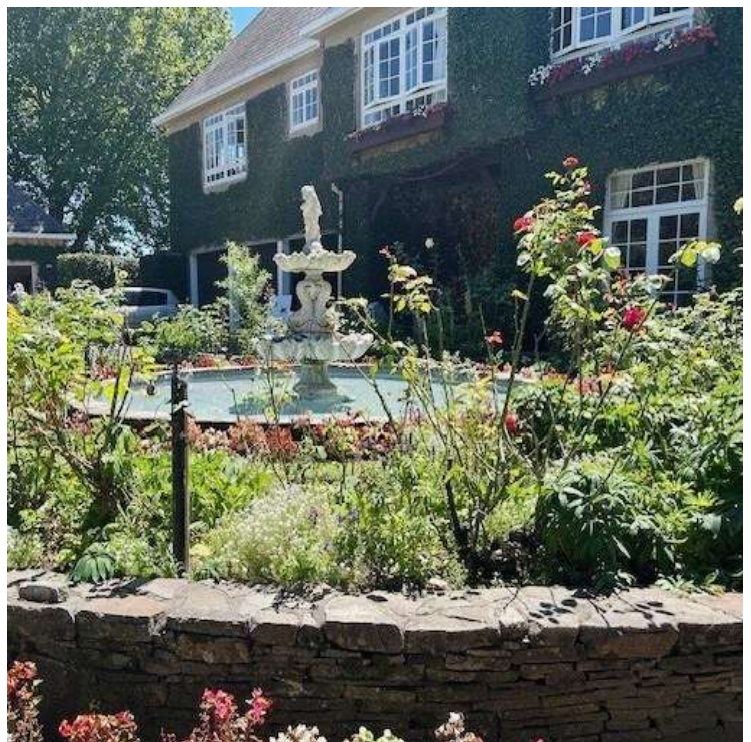
Stay up to date with the online Handbook at [U3A-Tauranga-Handbook.pdf](#)

## GROUP NEWS



**GARDEN RAMBLERS 1:** The group enjoyed a visit to the Wright Family homestead in Omokoroa during February. It is a beautiful home in a stunning location and, despite the dry weather over the summer, the gardens and lawns looked extremely well maintained – no doubt due to having their own water supply. Wayne Wright also gave freely of his time, giving the group an interesting overview of the history of the property as well as the many things that the Wright Foundation is involved in.

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## GROUP NEWS

**FESTIVAL AND FOREIGN FILMS:** We have been meeting at the Pacific Coast Village each month and hope to continue using this excellent venue. However, the monthly day or week may change. So check the Handbook on the website for updated information. A new Convener is being sought for our group. We watch a video and then have afternoon tea at the café on the premises, where we informally discuss the film.

I chose the videos and a film person (who is not a U3A member) living at the village was the technician. Unfortunately, we have had to release the booking for the theatre.

I have a large collection of suitable videos bought through contributions from our members with the intention that they are U3A property. All of them have only been played once. I will hand them over to a new Convener, along with a list of when they were played.

At the moment we have 23 names on the list but the actual attendance is about 12, due to various personal obligations. I have thoroughly enjoyed my 10 years of leading this group and would be happy to help a new Convener settle in. – **Rosemary Heath**

**ETHNIC DINING:** This group faces closure unless a new Convener can be found. The purpose of our group is for members to enjoy sharing convivial company while eating an ethnic meal. Each month a different group member selects a restaurant and makes the arrangements.

- If you would consider convening either of the above groups, please contact our D-H Coordinator **Pat Goldstiver**, email [d2h.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:d2h.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz) or call 021 491 652.

### COORDINATORS' REPORT compiled by Margaret Marsh

#### TAURANGA

**Groups seeking new members:** Acoustic Music, Art Practical, Ballet Appreciation, Hikers 1.

**Groups closed:** Luncheon 1; Music Appreciation – Betty Bishop and her late husband started this group way back when U3A Tauranga was founded, she has been the Convener for all this time. Quite a feat! The group has now closed as it has only had four members in recent years, two are over 90 years of age.

**Groups in recess:** Ethnic Dining, Festival and Foreign Films, Scrabble (new Conveners needed).

**Change of Convener:** Garden Ramblers 1, Marlene McLaren is the new Co-Convener, replacing Mike Richardson. Weekend Walkers, the new Co-conveners are Sandra Atherstone and Jan Bradley.

**Change of group Information:** Philosophy & Philosophers now meet on the first Friday of the month.

#### KATIKATI

**Groups seeking new members:** Films, French Conversation, Speakers, Poetry Appreciation.

**Suggested new groups:** A new Memoir group has been mooted. Possibly a Dinner Club – see below.

**Groups closed or in recess:** The current Memoir group is in recess until further notice.

**Other group information/comments:** Wordsters group is now meeting on the third Wednesday of the month, 1.30pm. Christine Selwyn has been convening the Lunch group since it started. She would like to step down but wants the group to continue. Should the group fold, members would be interested in forming a Dining group.

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## GROUP NEWS

### MEET & GREET



Members and guests attending the AGM had quite a reception – both from **the Tauranga Luxe Film** group, who were the Meet and Greet team, and from Carol Outen and Jan Holden, who were acting as scrutineers for the card ballot on one of the two resolutions put to the meeting.

### Do you have experience in memoir writing?

### Could you help a group of people achieve this rewarding activity?

Retirement is a time when many people think about writing their life story but don't know where to start. Currently, our **Memoir Writing** group is in recess, but it could be resurrected with your help, either in the format of a short course or a group that meets continually throughout the year. If you are interested in convening a Memoir Writing group, please contact Linda Clifford, phone [027 552 2819](tel:0275522819) or email [i2p.groups@u3ataurange.kiwi.nz](mailto:i2p.groups@u3ataurange.kiwi.nz)

Margaret Marsh will be giving a presentation on Puccini's opera *Turandot* to **Classical Music Lovers B** at Bethlehem Shores retirement village on Thursday, 13 March at 2pm. Perhaps the best known aria from *Turandot* is *Nessun Dorma*. It is sung by Calaf, the unknown Prince of Tartary, who falls in love at first sight with the beautiful but cold Princess Turandot. Any man who wishes to wed her must first answer three riddles. If he fails, he is beheaded. For more information on the group, contact Convener Vaughan Chetwynd on [027 565 7724](tel:0275657724).



Be careful where you shop online. We ordered a german shepherd and now this guy lives with us.







# Maids of Honour are a delight

MAIDS of Honour cakes (sometimes known as Richmond Maids of Honour) are traditional English baked tarts consisting of a puff pastry shell filled with either curd cheese or a jam and almond mixture.

Traditionally, the tart was puff pastry filled with sweetened milk curds. They seem to be presented in various forms, depending on which geographical area you are eating them in, but the recipe here is the one I make and know to be very acceptable!

The tart is said to date back to Henry VIII (1509 -47) when he witnessed some of the Queen's Maids of Honour eating some cakes and demanded to taste one. (History does not tell which Queen it was!)



He found them delicious and named them after the maids. Some tales claim that the maid who made them was imprisoned and had to produce them solely for the King, but this does sound more than a little unreasonable. The recipe was said to have been kept secret in a locked iron box at Richmond Palace. However, there is another theory, that they were named after Anne Boleyn, a Maid of Honour at the time, who made them for Henry.

A commercial enterprise started making them on a much bigger scale in the early 20th Century. The original Maids of Honour shop was set on the corner of Hill Street in Richmond, Surrey, under the ownership of one John Billet. A young lad called Robert Newens served an apprenticeship

and went on to open his own premises, first in King Street and later at 3 George Street, and so the tradition of making and selling Maids of Honour in Richmond continued.

Robert Newens' family helped to build the business, and in 1850 Alfred Newens opened a brand-new establishment on Kew Road, exactly where it is today.

During World War II, the elegant early Victorian building that housed the bakery, shop and dining room suffered

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*Alfred Newens' original shop in Kew Road, Richmond.*

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bomb damage and the future looked bleak. A surveyor's report from 1947 described the site as little more than a pile of rubble. Fortunately, when John Newens' son Peter left the army, he and his family set to work to get the business back on its feet.

Freshly made Maids of Honour are still served warm from the ovens every day, along with other home-made cakes, meat pies, cream teas and traditional lunches.



*Peter Newens' replacement shop, built in 1947.*

You can look back at Carol's articles and recipes in previous issues of the *Newsletter* here: [Newsletters - U3A Tauranga Inc](#)

## HOW TO MAKE YOUR MAIDS OF HONOUR

### **YOU WILL NEED:**

3 sheets shortcrust or puff pastry; 2 tablespoons softened butter;  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup white sugar; 1 tablespoon all purpose flour;  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon nutmeg; 2 eggs;  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup ground almonds; 2 tablespoons jam

### **METHOD**

1. Preheat oven 180°C.
2. Roll out pastry and cut circles to fit muffin tins.
3. Cream together, butter, sugar and flour.
4. Beat in the eggs and stir in ground almonds and nutmeg.
5. Place  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon jam into bottom of each of the lined cups.
6. Cover with almond mixture.
7. Bake 15 to 20 minutes.
8. Dust with icing sugar when cool.

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Check the latest information about all our groups at [U3A-Tauranga-Handbook.pdf](#)

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## THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT U3A

U3A Tauranga offers a wide range of interest groups, some of which are based in Katikati. Members are welcome to apply to join any of our groups, full details of which are regularly updated in the online Handbook. For more information, just click on the link on our website [www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](http://www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz) For information regarding the Katikati groups, contact Jenny or Allan Mathews at [amjam09@gmail.com](mailto:amjam09@gmail.com)

If you wish to become a member of U3A Tauranga, you can complete the online application at [Application Form | U3A Tauranga \(infooodle.com\)](#). [Return to Page 2 index](#)

## Newsletter

**Next issue: May-Jun 2025** Deadline for material is 26 April.  
We welcome your articles at [newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)