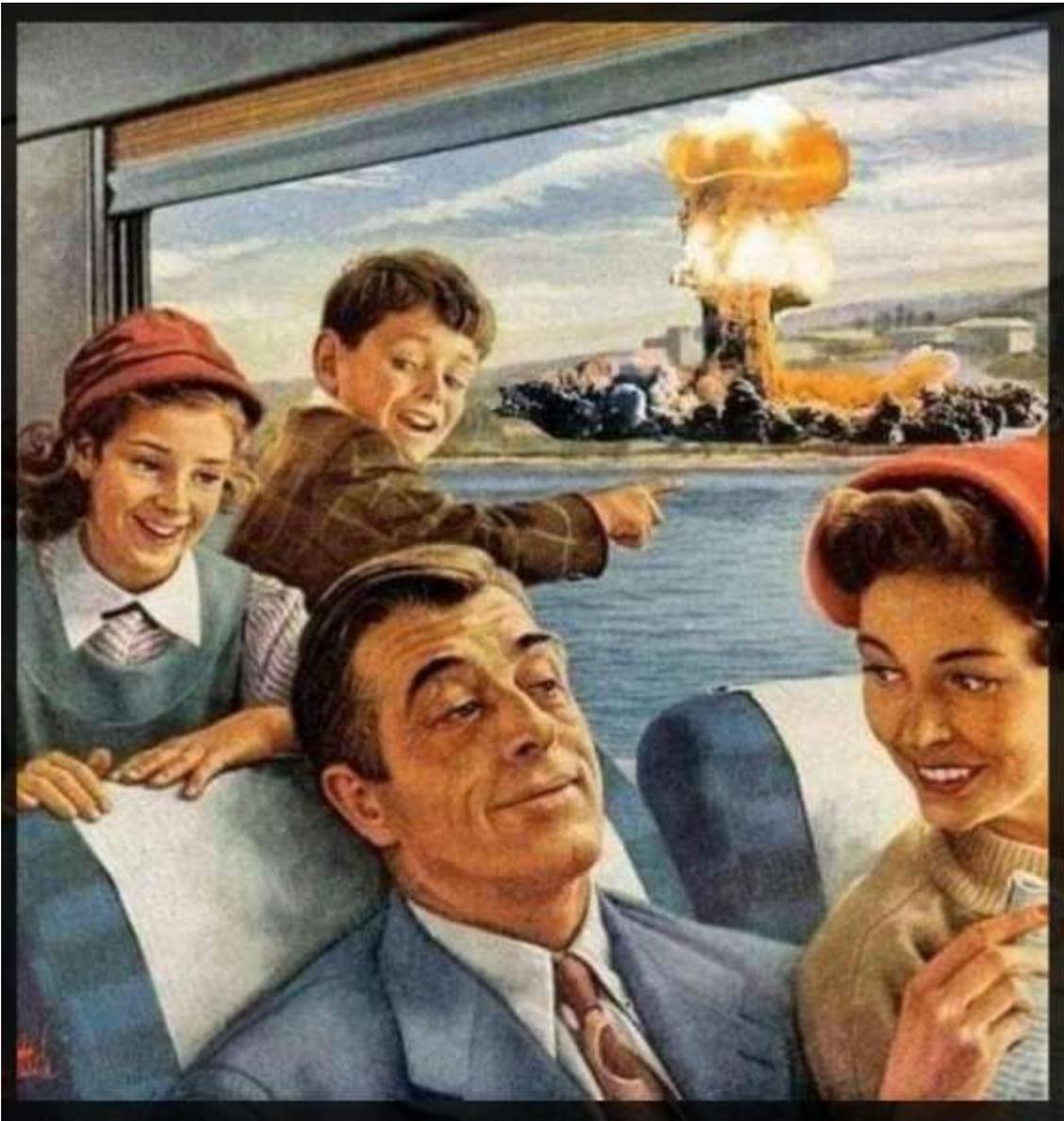




November 2025



There's always something that goes wrong over the Holiday Season! This 1950s nightmare fortunately didn't happen, but please: keep safe, keep happy, and we hope that this year has brought you more joy than the year before – and less than the New Year will bring. We'll see you all back at your usual U3A activities next year. Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year's celebration with all your beloved family and friends.

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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)

**If you wish to become a member of U3A Tauranga**, you can complete the online application at [Application Form | U3A Tauranga \(infooodle.com\)](http://Application Form | U3A Tauranga (infooodle.com)).

**Tauranga U3A's** General Meeting is held at The Yacht and Power Boat Club, Sulphur Point at 10.00am on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month (February – November). You'll enjoy hearing from two speakers: a short talk of around ten minutes, and a one-hour talk after Morning Tea. There is a \$5 door charge to cover venue costs and the morning tea,

**Katikati U3A's** General Meeting is held at the Pātuki Manawa Digital Hub (by the Library) at 10.00am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month (February – November) and follows the same format as Tauranga. There is a \$3 door charge to cover costs.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well November is upon us, and Xmas is around the corner - according to the very early Xmas decorated shops tempting us. Don't misunderstand me: I love Xmas but, like many others, already have many, many stimulating activities happening through our U3A Tauranga membership to need decorated Xmas trees and fairy lights just yet.

While we have enjoyed welcoming new members throughout this year, we also wish to acknowledge members who have passed away over this year. My thoughts are with their families and friends who will struggle at times over the festive season as they remember a loved one who is no longer there.



We have been privileged at the Tauranga and Katikati Monthly Meetings to have had superb speakers to entertain, stimulate and inform us with talks ranging from; 'Wills and Power of Attorney', Oceana Gold Operations in Waihi, First World War personalized stories, to a talk by Simon Keable-Elliott while visiting NZ. from Great Britain, Simon a grandson of Robert Keable the author who created a storm after the publication of his 'scandalous' novel 'Simon called Peter' in 1921. However, we learnt it sold internationally like hot cakes especially in Napier, NZ. If still available could make a very interesting festive season read(It is – Editor.).

The November Monthly Meeting is the Election Monthly Meeting where voting will take place to elect our new Executive starting from the end of February 2026. Nominations must be received by the secretary on the official nomination forms by November 10<sup>th</sup>. 2025. The elected executive will be announced at the AGM. in February 2026.

We are pleased to announce that a Website Manager has been appointed to replace the previous Web Master Jim Prior who recently passed away. Jim's many successful and valued years in this role are greatly valued and appreciated.

A new look website is currently being developed, and should be launched early 2026. Meanwhile please keep in touch via the current website which is being carefully monitored and updated.

I look forward to seeing you all at the EGM. On November 21<sup>st</sup>. and wish you a very happy and productive end of year. Look out for new groups planned to start 2026, groups with vacancies, and do please let us know if you would like to consider offering to take up a position that is vacant like Group Coordinator, Vice President, Group Convener, IT Technician or Skills Administrator.

Kia Kaha  
With regards,

*Gail Moore*

President  
U3A Tauranga Inc.

# The United Nations Quiz!

- 1: Who was the first United Nations Secretary General?
- 2: How many nations initially signed the UN Charter?
- 3: The Inter-Allied Declaration formalised the intent to establish the United Nations organisation. When and where was it signed?
- 4: The United Nations Charter, formally establishing the United Nations organisation as a legal entity, took place on what date?
- 5: How many Nobel Peace Prizes has the United Nations been awarded?
- 6: Was New Zealand one of the original signatories to the United Nations charter?
- 7: When was the iconic 39-storey United Nations Secretariat building in New York opened?
- 8: How many countries make up the Security Council?
- 9: How many times has New Zealand been represented on the Security Council?
- 10: Former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark led what part of the United Nations for how long?



The United Nations Building in New York

## Newsletter Team

**Editor and design:** Al Mathews

**Proof-reading:** Jenny Mathews

**Correspondents:** Photography Group, Margaret Marsh, Graham Dainty, Gail Moore, Al Mathews, Lynn Shearman, Pam Mazoyer, Stewart Cairns.

**GM photographs:** Colin Basire, Glenne Findon, Margaret Marsh, Graham Jones, Tauranga Photography Group.

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## **New U3A Website – Help Needed**

I'll let you in on a secret — we're planning to relaunch the U3A Tauranga website in the New Year!  
Our goal is to give it a fresh new look that's easy for members to use and appealing to potential new members.

We're looking for help from U3A members who have time and skills in any of the following areas:

- Graphic design – to help make the new website look amazing
- Writing or editing – to prepare, edit, and curate the site's content
- Technical expertise with WordPress or similar – to assist with website development and maintenance

If you can help — even just a few hours — or know someone who might be interested, please contact Ian Howell at:

email: [webmaster@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:webmaster@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)

phone: 022 590 1234

## **United Nations Quiz Answers**

- 1: Trygve Lie, of Norway, 1945 – 1952.
- 2: 50. Poland signed a little later than the original 50, due to its government not being in place at the time of signing. The Polish signature subsequently brought the total to 51.
- 3: 1941, St James Palace, England.
- 4: 24 October, 1945.
- 5: 12.
- 6: Yes.
- 7: August 1950. The entire complex was open and operating in October 1952.
- 8: 15 – of which 5 (USA, UK, France, Russian Federation, and China) are permanent.
- 9: Four times, most recently in 2015-16.
- 10: The United Nations Development Programme, for 8 years (2009 to 2017).

## **Est habla Espanol?**

A Spanish for beginners group is almost ready to start. If you're interested please contact Margaret Down, r-z co-ordinator for details. 07 6523655 or [r2z.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:r2z.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz) .

## **STOCK MARKET KNOWLEDGE?**

Anyone who knows of a person knowledgeable about the Stock Market and who would be willing to share knowledge in a short course (no financial advice to be given.) please contact Margaret Down on [r2z.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:r2z.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)

## **Geology Follow-Up**

'GNS Science and Waikato University published a report on the Geology of the Tauranga Area in 1996, which is a good introduction, well-illustrated and includes a Map of the Tauranga geological area. The local library will have a copy, if anyone wants to get further information:

Reference is: Geology of the Tauranga area, Occasional Report No 22 Dept of Earth Sciences , University of Waikato, 1996-R M Briggs. '

It is also on the web:

<https://fl-nzgs-media.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2021/08/Ref.4B->

# Memoir Writing – and More!

## 'Ink-credible Tales'

Yes, we now have the much-wanted memoir writing group starting up from February 2026. **Helen D'Ath**, who will be the convenor, has a range of amazing skills. She will provide you with a new slant to your Memoir writing. Please read what she has written below. An interest meeting will be held on **Thursday 6th November, 10:30 am at Patio Rose Cafe, 528 Cambridge Rd.** We would love to see you there.

*What sayings and lectures can you remember from your childhood?*

*Your favourite Christmas memories*

*Did you ever run away and hide to escape a smacking?*

There are uncountable memories within us, and we often forget to share them with the next generation. This is REAL history!!

I recently relocated back to Tauranga, after living in Rotorua for nearly five years.

There I was involved with two wonderful writing groups. One was U3A, named "Writing for Families"; and the other was a fascinating small group run by local author Lyndsay Campbell.

Lyndsay challenged our brains by encouraging us to "write properly", often something like Flash Fiction, where you chose a theme and wrote including five unrelated words. When it came time to read our stories at the next meeting, it was such fun!

I would like to combine the Memories with attractive writing and am thrilled to convene this new group here in Tauranga.

## Knit a Teddy Bear to help a child in grief.

Nicki Turner at The Collective wrote to us looking for people to knit small teddy bears for the children who attend the Season's for Growth programmes run in schools across Tauranga. This is an 8-week, school-based course aimed at helping local children deal with grief, change, and loss.

She writes: "The Season's team really need some keen knitters to restock their 'teddy bear' bags.

The knitted teddies are given to the primary children that do the course as a reminder of their time together and so that they have something special as a 'memento' of the Season's programme.

I'm very happy to connect you with the local SFG Coordinator if you would like more details.

They are easy bears to knit and can be a great way to use up leftover wool.

I know the local Season's team would love some support."

Here are her details if you can help out.

**Nicki Turner | Community Engagement Advisor**

The Collective – 145 17th Ave, Tauranga **M:** 021 225 2994 **E:** [nicki@socialink.org.nz](mailto:nicki@socialink.org.nz)

**Hours of work: Mon, Tue, Wed 8am – 4.30pm**

[www.volunteeringservices.org.nz](http://www.volunteeringservices.org.nz)

# FROM TAURANGA'S GROUP MEETINGS

## The ANZAC Mounted Horse Brigade

### Chris Archer and Warren Dawson

**"Recovering a New Zealand ANZAC Legacy -The story of the New Zealand Mounted Rifles' Brigade in Egypt and Palestine (1916 to 1919)".**

On the Eve of WW1 in 1914, New Zealand dispatched two brigades to join the Imperial Army. One was an Infantry brigade; the other was a brigade comprising three regiments of Mounted Horse: The Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch regiments. Both the Infantry and Mounted Brigades served with great distinction in the catastrophic Gallipoli Campaign, but while the Infantry Brigade was subsequently sent to Europe to fight on the Western Front, the Mounted Rifles Brigade was returned to the largely unsung defence of Egypt, Palestine, and the Suez Canal. Over the next three years the troopers of the NZMR rode their horses 400 miles across desert and mountain in a campaign that utterly defeated the Ottoman, German and Austrian forces in a series of decisive victories, unmatched in military history. Yet their extraordinary story was largely forgotten in the aftermath of the war. A hundred years later their legacy started to be recovered.



Christopher Archer is a former secondary teacher, historian and author. His book, 'Saviours of Zion' describes the action of the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade in Egypt and Palestine during WW1.

Warren Dawson is a farmer, developer and entrepreneur businessman who in 2018 connected with Israeli historians to follow the route his grandfather had ridden 100 years before as a member of the Mounted Brigades.

Both have been closely involved with a project to erect a 5 metre Silver Fern in the Moshav of Gan Sorek, Israel, to commemorate the sacrifice of New Zealand troopers during the Palestine campaign.

The Badge and motto illustrated is from the Auckland Regiments of the Mounted Rifles – the regiment that many men from the Bay of Plenty served in.

See also: <https://www.jewishlives.nz/history/a-forgotten-ww1-battle>

[https://www.facebook.com/p/ANZAC-Israel-Fern-Memorial-100067163200939/?locale=zh\\_CN](https://www.facebook.com/p/ANZAC-Israel-Fern-Memorial-100067163200939/?locale=zh_CN)

Christopher Archer asked us to provide his contact details: [cjwarcher@gmail.com](mailto:cjwarcher@gmail.com) / 021 820 911

Stay up to date with the latest information at [www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](http://www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)

## To EV, or not to EV? It's a new mindset.

Tauranga's September short talk was delivered by Phil Hanson, who included some useful visual comparisons of EV vehicle options and battery types.

A show of hands from the audience suggested some 10% already own an electric car.



Phil pointed out how energy efficiency – fossil fuel vs electricity - compares when factors such as climbs and descents, wind effect, tyre pressure, regenerative braking use and town vs. country driving are considered.

Charging options, their availability and costs were discussed and the need to plan journeys out of town is considered essential. The availability of online planners means that long journeys and suitable charging stops can be utilised, the better planners easing any travel anxiety.

Phil concluded that the future of car dealerships will inevitably change and quite possibly disappear. Purchase of EVs on-line, lower maintenance costs and on-line updates will all have a significant effect, as will the development of self-driving cars. Australia is the first country with right hand drive vehicles to begin trials.

## Our Meeters and Greeters



The Meeters and Greeters for Tauranga's September Meeting all came from the Practical Art Group that meets on the second and fourth Friday of every month at the Lyceum Clubrooms.

The Group's aim is to learn about the various art media and how to use them. They have tutors for water colour painting, oil painting, drawing and composition, pen and wash, and pastels – and they brought along a number of their works for their fellow U3A members to admire.

Stay up to date with the latest information at [www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](http://www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)

# The Chaplain, The Nurse, and Paradise

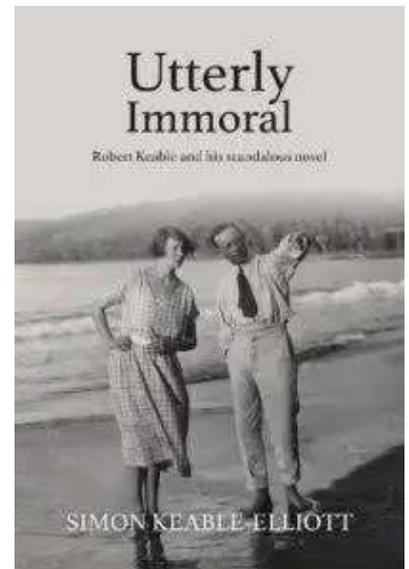
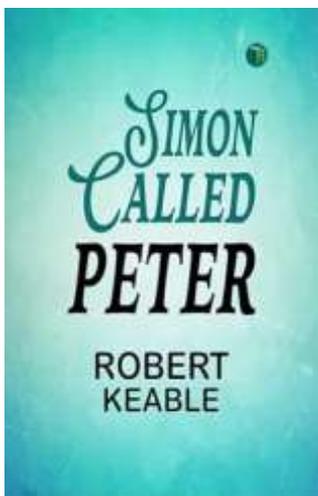


**Simon Keable-Elliott** spoke to our October 17 General about his infamous and deliciously scandalous grandfather who, sadly, is virtually unknown today.

Robert is a former teacher, café owner, and barman who has written for Genealogy Today, The Church Times, The History News Network, The Beresford Family Society Magazine, and The Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research. He has spoken to U3A audiences throughout the Uk, and now in New Zealand.

Simon's best-selling biography "Utterly Immoral: Robert Keable and His Scandalous Novel" tells the story his grandfather's life and the how *his* best-selling semi-autobiographical book "Simon Called Peter" kept the 1920s reading audiences in the USA, England, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand deliciously scandalised.

Robert Keable was an energetic evangelical priest who travelled to Zanzibar with his wife prior to WW1. Following the outbreak of hostilities, they moved to Basutoland to work as a parish priest. He travelled to France as chaplain to the black labourers of the South African Native Labour Corps. It was during the war that he began to lose his faith, dispirited by the appalling treatment of his men, the horrors of the war and the implications of his secret affair with the nineteen-year-old lorry driver, Jolie Buck. He wrote the autobiographical novel "Simon Called Peter", left the church, and fled England with Ms Buck to start a new life in Tahiti. When Jolie died in childbirth, Robert met and married a Tahitian princess and lived quietly until his death in 1927, aged just 40.



The novelisation of his life – in which the priestly protagonist meets a nurse named Julie - was banned in Boston, twice referenced in "The Great Gatsby", became a Broadway play and a hit Hollywood movie.

"Simon Called Peter" is available as an eBook at Amazon, and "Utterly Immoral: Robert Keable and His Scandalous Novel" written by our speaker is available as a hard copy: you may have to order it from your favourite bookseller.

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

# Still On Windows 10 – and want to upgrade?

It seems that our (non-Apple) computer's operating systems get an upgrade every five minutes – and then Microsoft will, once every so often, announce the launch of a whole new finger-lickin' good dynamised and shiny-chromed electronic engine that'll take your humble desktop or laptop into the stratosphere.

And that's what happened in 2021, with the launch of Windows 11. Depending on the age of your computer it will probably have hummed a few bars of "Always Look On The Bright Side Of Life" and updated itself, removing 10 and installing 11.

But many didn't. And in a few months from now Microsoft are going to withdraw support for the now hopelessly outdated Windows 10.

If you're one of those few whose computer is still running Windows 10 and want to know how to upgrade (FOR FREE!) Margaret Marsh – whose computer knowledge ranks right up there with par excellence – has supplied us with a few links to YouTube tutorials that will take you through the how-to process. It's easy to do: you'll probably only swear once, and your computer will run so very much better. Here are the links:

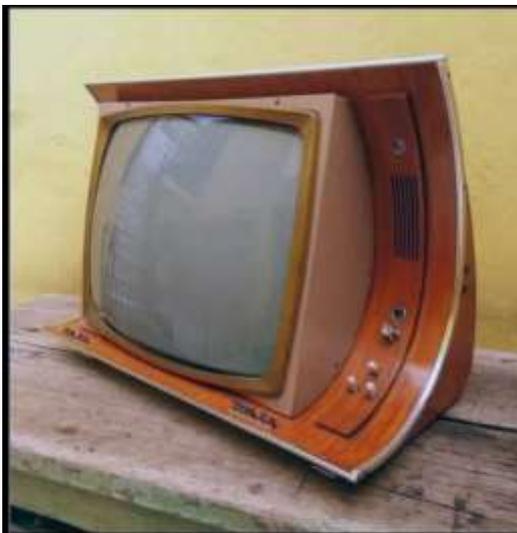


How your computer feels without Windows 11.

1. [How to install Win-11 on a Win-10 computer which MS says is out of date for Win-11. 9.52.](#)
2. [Install Win-11 on ANY Win-10 PC with NO data loss! 23.27.](#)
3. [Make ANY Windows PC faster in MINUTES - FREE! 19.48.](#)
4. [Ask Your Computer Guy Channel.](#)

*Margaret Marsh*

## HOW WE USED TO WATCH TELE – AND RECORD OUR FAVOURITE SHOWS....



# KATIKATI'S KORNER

## Preserving and Improving our Land and Water: It's A Never-Ending Story. Katikati's September Speaker.

U3A Speaker at General Meeting Wednesday 10 September

Braden Rowson – Land Management – BOP Regional Council



**Braden Rowson presented** a fifty-strong audience at Katikati's General Meeting with an extensive and illuminating discussion on the far-reaching activities of the Land Management Department of the Regional Council.

The Bay of Plenty region is a huge area encompassing Whakatane, Tauranga and Rotorua, and the Land Management activities cover many aspects of virtually all activities within the area. The current population is some 335,000 people, and the Council are responsible for the successful and sustainable management of most aspects of life in the Bay. This extends to the regulatory and consenting policies that impact on the key industries in the area – when you consider that this includes the Port of Tauranga, the extensive agricultural, silvicultural, and horticultural

industries, as well as subsidiary and supporting industries, and also the management and control of pest animals and plants extending to the marine environment, it becomes obvious just how critical the Land Management Department is to the ongoing success and sustainability of the region.

Water, water conservation, water quality, pollution and contamination with and by Nitrogen, Phosphorus, E.coli, and sedimentation are major issues and are mainly caused by altered land use and, of course, a rapidly increasing population.

Revision of land use with the accompanying degradation of the original land structure by drainage and altering gradients and falls on what is mainly volcanic soils, and associated changes to long standing wetlands, have created an environment that is far removed from the original, and has created unique and ongoing issues and problems for the Regional Council. The extensive earthworks and drainage needed to establish and support the more intensive land



use is a major factor in the sedimentation of the Harbour, as is the significant area of forestry on unstable steep land.

The constant degradation of the Tauranga Harbour is a significant problem and high technology farm and rural planning to control and reduce the negative impact of fertilisers, particularly in dairying and horticulture, is critical. There are significant areas of wet land and salt marsh being restored to the betterment of the Region overall. A sustainable and noticeable increase in the populations of rare and endangered species of birds is a pleasing factor and relates specifically to the care of the wet-lands, salt marshes, and riparian plantings of otherwise damaging drains. There is significant drop or lowering of land levels in some areas with a resultant issue of drainage and altering of water tables.

There were many questions presented to Braden, ranging from the ongoing issue of forestry slash and associated problems, through the ever-encroaching mangroves and extensive sub-division throughout the entire Region. We not only live in an area of great beauty but also an area with ongoing critical problems caused in part by its popularity and location. It is encouraging that, in spite of many negative comments in some quarters, the future of the Bay of Plenty is well served by the Regional Council Land Management team.

# Mini-Mini Cars of our Youth...

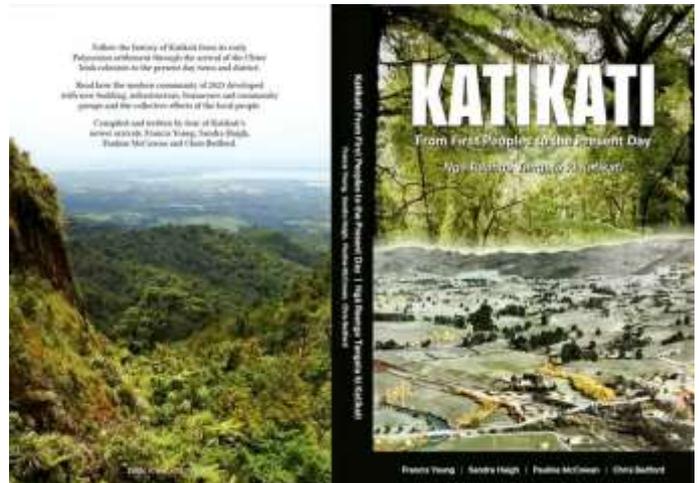
Look, Ma! Three Wheels!!



# Katikati

## From First Peoples to the Present day

It may take a village to raise a child: it takes generations to create a history. On the October 8<sup>th</sup> U3A Katikati General Meeting one of our own members, Francis Young, presented us with a yarn about our town and area, and introduced us to the book that he and three others – Sanda Haigh, Pauline McCowan, and Chris Bedford – have been working hard on writing, editing, and shaping over the past year or two. Released to coincide with Katikati's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary centenary, the book is now available online and at Paper Plus.



After a 30-year long career teaching and researching at the University of Illinois in the USA, Francis returned to New Zealand in 2000 to retire on a lifestyle block on Matahui Road. He has since been a leading light at Katikati's Museum, and is currently chair of the Western bays Heritage Trust. He also still volunteering at the Museum.

Covering all human migrations to the area, the book starts, logically enough, with a round-up of the first Waka to land in the Bay of Plenty. The Matātua arrived first, having been sailed from Rangiatea in what is now known as French Polynesia. It was followed by the Takitima, Tainui, and Te Arawa waka. Modern archaeological digs around the area have unearthed many taonga and domestic goods dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century – although it is demonstrable that humans have been making their

homes here from as long ago as the year 1050.

Samuel Marsden is recorded as being the first European visitor to the Katikati are: he arrived here in July 1820. He had been invited to visit by a Rangatira named “Aneenee” at a village at a place Marsden spelled as “Towranga”. He trekked as far north as the Karangahake Gorge and south to Hikurangi.

Agriculture and Horticulture have been the town's (and the district's) backbones ever since. Dairying, citrus, kiwifruit, and – more recently – avocado have been the flavours our pioneering forefathers hard work have produced.

Change comes both very rapidly and also at a snail's pace, and this is as true for Katikati as it is in any newly settled land. New agricultural techniques bring larger harvests, which in turn means seasonal workforces come into the equation: Indians arrived first, working for and then becoming landowners. Then the RSE (the Regional Seasonal Employee) programmes brought in pickers

and packers from a number of Pacific Island nations. At the time of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi there were few Pakeha in the Bay of Plenty. This was to change when the land confiscation and subsequent wars started in Waikato. People fled the fighting but brought it over the Kaimai Ranges with them. The Bay of Plenty's Ngaiterangi supported the Māori King in Waikato, and major battles were fought at Pukehinahina (Gate Pa) and Te Ranga. The Colonial Forces' victories led to the "forced acquisition of Native lands under colour of a voluntary sale". Thus was Katikati born with European settlement starting after 1865.



Legendary sporting figures blossomed in Katikati and bloomed on international playing fields: David Gallaher, Greg Davis, Peter Kennedy, Graeme Moore, and Ian Johnstone all started their respective careers in Katikati.

Today, Katikati is thriving, perhaps even more than it ever has before. Famous for the many murals that decorate the Main Street, its strong community spirit, relaxed lifestyle, thriving arts and crafts, and excellent schools, Katikati lacked only one thing: and, thanks to Francis

Young and his friends and co-conspirators, it now has what it was lacking – an excellent and beautifully presented history.

*Photography: Graham Jones*



## Katikati Walking Group Convenor Robbie Selwyn

“We start at Beach Rd Reserve at 10am,” Katikati Walkers Interest Group convenor Robbie Selwyn said. He added “I only know half the track.”

All six Walkers were on time, all wearing rain jackets, and all cheerfully smiling.

“We’ll the Right Hand Reserve walk. It should take an hour,” So we set off eagerly, and within two seconds chat erupted.

Personal observations, memories, questions and answers all shared. And within a few minutes we were transfixed by the sight of the botanically spectacular Gymea Lily (*Doryanthus excelsa*) with erect, 6-metre spikes: so glorious we neglected to take a photo! Despite being an Aussie native, the Gymea is more common in New Zealand.



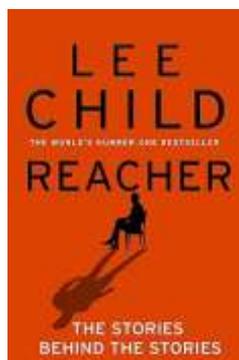
The four-kilometre walk was easy, chosen to accommodate people of a respectable age. About half way point Robbie asked a couple walking from the opposite direction what lay ahead. Keep going. The loop wends back to Beach Rd only 10 minutes away from your start point, they claimed. Up till now we had seen mangrove seedlings with bright yellow seeds growing on the foreshore, first-of-the-season Cabbage tree flowers, and at least another five, rarely-seen unusual exotic species. At our destination - The Somerset Café, for lunch – our chat focussed the botanical observations, and on the amazing host of Monarch Butterflies we’d seen. We’re all eagerly anticipating November’s walk in Omokoroa. Robbie’s convenorship A One. His intermingling, encouragement and time keeping was exceptional. There is room for new members – contact Robbie at [selwyns@xtra.co.nz](mailto:selwyns@xtra.co.nz)

**A recent talk about downsizing at a recent General Meeting reminds us that our friends in Rotary have a huge annual fundraising sale of books, jigsaw puzzles, and they’re always glad to receive the products of your cleaning out, tidying up, downsizing, or just thinking “I’ll never read that again”. Go to Rotary Tauranga’s website <https://taurangarotary.org.nz/> for details on when it’s on, where to drop your books off, and how Rotary dispenses the money they earn. Every book and Jigsaw puzzle helps!**

## BOOK REVIEW: LEE CHILD REACHER

### The Stories Behind The Stories.

Written by Lee Child, Published August 2025, Bantam.



A couple of years ago the owners of The Mysterious Bookshop in New York told Lee Child that they wanted to release a limited edition of all his Jack Reacher stories, to be released sequentially, and in order. They would be half-bound in leather, marbled paper, gilt inlays, the works. Highly collectible. They asked him to provide forewords for each of the books, which he did. This book collects all those forewords in the order of the original books' individual publications, and adds a new Reacher short story as a tasty bonus.

Part memoir, part biography, and totally readable, **REACHER, The Story Behind The Stories**, is an excellent deep-dive into a writer's mind and discipline. Before handing the majority of the writing responsibility to his brother, Lee Child always (with one exception) started the physical writing on September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year, thus keeping two years ahead of the publisher's requirements. There was a lot of thinking done beforehand, although that often went out the window once his pencil hit the paper (although graduating to using a computer many years ago he still has the stub of the pencil he used to write the first Reacher book): he genuinely doesn't know what is going to happen after he's written the first sentence. Confession: I'm not a fan of the character, or of the books, or of Child's writing style. But I loved this book. It's always entertaining, and Child's wry self-deprecating humour shines through.

After reading this, I tried a few of the Reacher yarns again. Still don't like him, but I do now admire the writer and his writing style.

*Al Mathews.*

## MOVIE REVIEW: Mr. Burton.

Directed by Marc Evans. Starring Toby Jones, Harry Lawtey.

"Mr. Burton" is a Welsh retelling of "Pygmalion": rags to riches, swallowed syllables to well-rounded vowels.

It's also a story of love, dedication, learning, courage, strength, and of ambition. Harry Lawtey (Industry, Joker: Folie a Deux) plays Richard Jenkins, a mining-family schoolboy being tutored by Toby Jones' English teacher, Mr Philip Burton, at a state school in Pontrhydyfen, Wales. Mr Burton sees and understands Jenkin's restless mind and spirit, and coaches him in drama, voice, and Shakespeare. Over the next ten years, in which Lawtey convincingly ages from gangly youth to solid manhood, Richard Jenkins matures and changes into Richard Burton, one of moviedom's greatest-ever actors

This is an emotionally charged, beautifully told story that garnered excellent reviews and more than a couple of awards. Toby Jones is, as ever, astonishing. Harry Lawtey, as the future Richard Burton is extraordinarily convincing... and Lesley Manville's supporting role as Mr Burton's landlady positively glows.

The film is currently streaming on Neon: watch it with a box of tissues.

*Al Mathews.*



# The Tauranga Garden Ramblers 1



On a recent Wednesday afternoon Garden Ramblers 1 enjoyed lunch together prior to visiting two gardens in the Te Puna area. The first was Piwakawaka Garden in Borell Rd, a large garden which over many years has been restored to one of two freshwater wetlands in Te Puna.

The second garden, owned by one of our members Chris Freeman, is situated in a beautifully sheltered valley on the Minden. The birdsong and wisteria in full bloom was the very best indicator that Spring had indeed arrived.



Your Newsletter Editor is always looking for new content to put into this publication. If your group has done anything interesting over the past month (and that means all groups...) please write the story in a hundred words or so, add a couple of pictures, and send it to [newsletter@U3Atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:newsletter@U3Atauranga.kiwi.nz) or [swethamnalla@gmail.com](mailto:swethamnalla@gmail.com)

Put U3A (Group Name) in the subject line, and I'll find the space to let your fellow U3A members know what they're missing out on!

# The Gunpowder Plotters Meet Their End! Betrayal, A Bungled Plot, Blood, and Thunder!



In the final few years of Queen Elizabeth's life laws were passed that imposed ever heavier fines and strictures in English Catholics: a fine of up to £20 per month (that was *5 times* the annual income of a working man) for not attending a Protestant church service. It became treasonous for a Catholic priest to enter England from Europe, as well as for anyone who harboured or sheltered them – and treason meant an automatic death sentence.

On Elizabeth's death in March 1603, there was talk of a new world that offered hope and opportunities to the Catholic population. Some overtures had been made to James before he came to England to take the throne, and he let it be understood he was in favour of more tolerant treatment for Catholics.

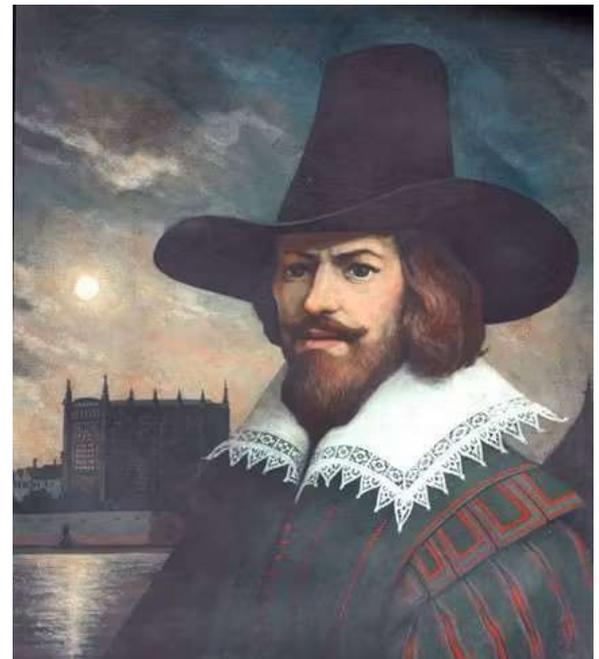
Whatever promises he made were broken once he took the throne. Catholic hopes were dashed on February 10th, 1604, when James in

a speech to parliament said he 'detested the Catholic faith,' and days later ordering all Catholic priests to leave the realm.

So - why not blow-up Parliament and everyone there when the King came to open it in 1605? And also kidnap James' 9-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, and install her on the throne to be controlled and manipulated as required? Some thought this was quite a reasonable response to persecution. Robert Catesby, a Catholic gentleman from Warwickshire who had previously been involved in a plot to overthrow Elizabeth 1, assembled the core group of 5 conspirators, including Thomas Wintour, Jack Wright, and Thomas Percy. at the Duck and Drake pub on the Strand in London. They discussed the proposed Plot and swore an oath of secrecy.

It was Thomas Wintour who, in April 1604, brought Guido "Guy" Fawkes - who had, at age of 23 gone to fight for Spain against the protestant rebels in the Low Countries and learnt how to handle explosives - back to England. Fawkes, at this point, did not know what he was being recruited to do.

The plotters had a stroke of good luck: a storeroom under the House of Lords became available in March 1605, which enabled Percy to take out the lease. 20 barrels of gunpowder were transferred to the storeroom from Percy's house. 16 more barrels of fresh powder were brought in on 20 July, in preparation for the opening of parliament set for 28 July. However, continuing concern over the plague then saw a further postponement until 5 November. Guy Fawkes was put in charge of guarding the concealed gunpowder. – and of igniting it at the planned time.



**Betrayal!** On 26 October Lord Monteagle received what is probably the most important anonymous letter in British history. It advised him to avoid the State Opening of Parliament, saying

**'I want to make sure you are safe... this parliament will receive a terrible blow, but they will not see who it is who hurts them'.**

Monteagle was a Catholic, and loyal to the monarch. He took the letter to the earl of Salisbury, the King's Chief Minister, who then showed it to King at the earliest possible moment – November 1<sup>st</sup>. The countdown had started.

On the morning of 4 November 1605 the King ordered a search of the storeroom, where a man calling himself "John Johnson", Thomas Percy's man, and had been told to look after storeroom. Suspicion was aroused as Thomas Percy was known to the authorities as a Catholic agitator.



A second search was ordered late that evening and in the early hours of Tuesday 5 November, Guy Fawkes, alias John Johnson, was found hiding, carrying a lantern, fuses and matches. Further searching uncovered the 36 barrels of gunpowder (enough to flatten a city block). Fawkes was arrested and, when brought before the King, asked to explain his actions. Fawkes declared **"a desperate disease required a dangerous remedy"**. He also indicated **"I wished to blow the Scottish King and all his Scottish lords back to Scotland"** and expressed regret this hadn't happened. Fawkes was then taken to the Tower of London,

brutally tortured, and gave up his fellow conspirator's names – all of whom had gone to Staffordshire to kidnap the Princess Elizabeth.

They eventually arriving at Holbeche House around 10pm on 7 November. It was raining and their gunpowder had become damp in transit – so they lit a fire and tried to dry it in front of the fire. A stray spark ignited some of the gunpowder and several in the group were maimed. Things got worse at noon the following day, when an armed posse of 200 led by the Sheriff of Worcester arrived. The conspirators, however, were not going quietly: a gun-fight took place, during which Catesby and Percy were shot and killed. The other conspirators were arrested, tried, and – with Guy Fawkes – hanged, drawn, and quartered.

Harsh laws followed. Catholics were forbidden from holding public office and practising law and medicine; prohibited from acting as a guardian or trustee; magistrates could arbitrarily search their homes for arms. An Act for the "Attainder of Divers Offenders Committing Treasons" specified Catholics could be punished and stripped of property rights *without trial*. These laws remained until the 1829 Catholic Emancipation Act (albeit with some restrictions), they couldn't be the Lord High Chancellor (changed in 1974), and Catholics still can't be the monarch

The Gunpowder Plot had significant implications for England's foreign policy. The Plot intensified anti-Spanish sentiment and cemented anti-Catholic sentiment in British culture.

In January 1606 James 1 passed the Observance of 5 November 1605 Act, it mandated special church services, bonfires and fireworks to take place every 5 November. This Act remained in force until 1859. Thereafter, such celebrations have been voluntarily held each year.

This stopped in 1939: you can blame Hitler for that! Also, every year, ahead of the State Opening of Parliament, the Yeomen of the Guard still embarks on a search for explosives in the cellars beneath the Houses of Parliament.

## From Tauranga's Photography Group's Files



Tauranga U3A boasts two excellent groups for people interested in improving their image making: The Photography Group and the Camera Club. Full details are on the U3A website under "Groups".