

March 2026



By the left... Quick MARCH! Putting our Special Edition announcing the launch of the rebuilt Website aside, this is our first proper Newsletter for 2026. We kicked off the New Year in style. Our extraordinary EGM last month was a ripper, with over a hundred people in the audience. It was great to see a number of Katikati faces there, too. Our Groups are all back in action, and we're anticipating another year of continued growth. U3A is a real community of like-minded, curious, and life-affirming people, and we extend a warm welcome to all new and prospective members. Let's make 2026 a truly great year for keeping our minds alive and active.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the recently appointed President of U3A Tauranga, together with an experienced executive team I am looking forward to a very active year ahead. So let me introduce myself to those of you I are looking forward to meeting. My Wellington-centric career has included working with a number of corporations including telecommunication, construction, marketing, product development and professional development. All coupled with undertaking continuous and sometimes challenging academic studies.

What I find the most satisfying aspect of U3A is the wide range of activities our members are now enjoying or able to participate in; activities that keep many of us up to date on a wide range of aspects or are keeping us physically or mentally on our toes.

For a growing organisation such as U3A Tauranga there will always be a number of administrative matters to give due consideration to, so Phil Hanson, your new Vice President, and I are at present reviewing and set our annual work programme to ensure the administrative route ahead allows all necessary administrative activities to function accordingly to U3A's constitution.

It is a real pleasure to welcome Pam Mazoner to the Executive team as the new Katikati Chair, as well as Ian Howell the Web Manager, a new member who together with Bruce Smith, our Web Developer, has worked tirelessly to ensure strong communication channels and U3A Tauranga has a revitalised image.

While we are sorry to have lost two of our very experienced Executive members; Pat Goldstiver and Margaret Down; two new members Gloria Selkirk and Jan Bradley, have stepped up into the roles and are now members of U3A's executive team.

Like U3A Tauranga, U3A Katikati is moving forward with group numbers increasing and/or new groups opening up. So together with both the experienced and talented new members of the Executive team, the good work of past Executives will continue. With our newly refreshed website we hope it now highlights the diversity of subjects and activities we, as U3A members, have to select from, activities that are allowing us to acquire or increase our knowledge and others that are keeping us either mentally or physically fit.

Bever Edlin

President

U3A Tauranga Inc.

Newsletter Deadline Is Now the FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH

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One Hit Wonder Quiz

- 1: The Buggles only hit song became the first song played on MTV. What was the song?
- 2: What martial arts song by Carl Douglas hit the charts in 1974?
- 3: The Star Lords managed to thrill music lovers with what song in 1970?
- 4: 1976's "Afternoon Delight" was sung by which Vocal Band?
- 5: 1976, and what type of alcoholic drink featured in the name of a song by Looking Glass?
- 6: "Seasons in the Sun" sold more than 11 million copies. Who was the singer / songwriter?
- 7: 1979, and "My Sharona" hit the radio: Name the band.
- 8: Stealers Wheel were stuck where, in 1973?
- 9: Deane Waretini's only hit was huge: name, please.
- 10: "Come On Eileen" was a monster hit by which 1982 one-hit-wonder band?

CONTRIBUTORS

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**Newsletter Deadline Now The
First Day Of The Month**

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One Hit Wonder Answers

- 1: Video Killed The Radio Star.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8r-tXRLazs>
- 2: Kung Fu Fighting.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjnFXgdyyLw&list=RDbjnFXgdyyLw&start_radio=1
- 3: Spirit In The Sky.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2msh0jut2Y&list=RDW2msh0jut2Y&start_radio=1
- 4: The Starland Vocal Band.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JtCA0esyOU&list=RD7JtCA0esyOU&start_radio=1
- 5: Brandy.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVx8L7a3MuE&list=RDDVx8L7a3MuE&start_radio=1
- 6: Terry Jacks.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tPcc1ftj8E&list=RD-tPcc1ftj8E&start_radio=1
- 7: The Knack.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbr60I0u2Ng&list=RDbbr60I0u2Ng&start_radio=1
- 8: Stuck In The Middle With You.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjoqBaW6QMk>
- 9: The Bridge.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2VKY1iCUG4&list=RDU2VKY1iCUG4&start_radio=1
- 10: Dexy's Midnight Runners.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BODDyZRF6A&list=RD6BODDyZRF6A&start_radio=1

The Love To But Can'ts

**I have a disease called
The "LoveToButCan'ts" -
I'd love to help with that garbage
can
But my fingers just can't hold it.
Hand me a bag of groceries and
My wrists just turn to jelly.
The smell of paint will make me
faint,
Sweat makes my eyes start itchin'.
Dishwater on my little hands
Will start 'em shaky-twitchin'.
Pickin' clothes up from the floor
Would paralyze my shoulder.
I must not try to close a door
At least not 'til I'm older.
So though I'd love to join the work
-
'til this disease is done,
I'll have to lie in the shade
While you have all the fun.**

Can you think of three words that describe what you, as a U3A member, feel explain what you believe U3A offers members? For example: Living, Learning, Growing. Or Knowledge. Sharing. Experience.

I'm working on a logo-style marketing device that will catch the attention of prospective members and that also explains, in just three words, what our philosophy / raison d'être is.

I welcome and appreciate your input. U3A means many different things to practically everyone who is involved. Please send your thoughts to me at newsletter@u3atauranga.org.nz.

Al Mathews.

Your U3A Needs You!

PUBLIC NOTICES

Every time you attend a Group Meeting or come along to one of our hugely informative monthly meetings you are enjoying the end result of someone else's efforts. This is as it should be: we are a sharing organisation, basing our entire raison d'être on the fact that we all have something to share, something to contribute. Our individual skills, knowledge, and experiences makes each one of us unique, and U3A gives us the opportunity to share that uniqueness.

All organisations like ours depends on the input of people's time and skills. Occasionally, due to any one of a wide range of factors, a need you may be able to meet comes up. Chair stacking. Helping in the kitchen. Writing for the Newsletter. Assisting with your data-management skills, accounting, administrative, or creative abilities.

Even if there's no need right now, your Committee would love to know if they can call on you some time in the future should a particular need arise: if a need arises, we want to be able to meet that need straight away, with having to advertise.

If you have skills that you know we can use in the future, please let us know that we can call on you. Sharing is what we do, and it's really fulfilling. Contact our Secretary or President and tell them that you want to help out.

Your Invitation to the Opera ... try something new for 2026

If you have never seen a full opera ... you have missed something fantastic!

If you like music, and stories of life, love and death Watch an Opera!

You might think opera is dull, obscure, pretentious and out of touch in 2026. You are wrong! Opera can be fun, audacious, and actually gloriously stupid if you read the plots.

In 2026 we will be showcasing **Opera Heroines** ... the drama, passion and artistry:

From the passion of **CARMEN** ... to the intoxicating drama of **SALOME**

From the world of **LAKMÉ** ... to the tragedy of **MADAMA BUTTERFLY**

From the cold heartedness of **TURANDOT** ... to the timeless beauty of **ORPHEUS AND EURIDICE**

All operas will be sung either in English or have English Subtitles.

presented by

THE OPERA APPRECIATION GROUP

for more information, please ring: Kathleen on 022 187 8588



Unleash Your Inner Artist: Join U3A Tauranga's Art Practical Group!

Whether you are a seasoned painter or someone who hasn't touched a brush since primary school, U3A Art Practical will welcome you! We are looking for enthusiastic members to help us brush, sketch, and create our way through the year. We're NOT about being "perfect" - It's about exploration, social connection, and the joy of creating. Here is what you can expect:

* **A Supportive Space:** No critics here! We provide a relaxed environment to practice your craft at your own pace.

Unleash Your Inner Artist: Join U3A Tauranga's Art Practical Group. **Shared Knowledge:** While we aren't a formal class we occasionally bring in professional tutors to help with techniques and different media, we occasionally host skilled tutors in specific media to expand our knowledge and experience.

Unleash Your Inner Artist:

U3A Tauranga's Art Practical Group!

We believe in the "U3A way" - learning from each other by sharing tips, techniques, and inspiration.

When - On the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month from 9.30 to 12.30

Where - The Lyceum Club, 68 First Avenue, Tauranga

Skill Level - Beginner to Advanced

Requirement - Bring your own supplies (if possible) and a sense of fun.

CONTACT – Zinta on 022 673 9571 or come along to our next meeting at the Lyceum Club.

PILATES!

Interest has been shown in creating and developing a U3A Pilates Group.

Pilates offers significant benefits for seniors by focusing on low-impact, controlled movements that improve core strength, balance, and flexibility, directly reducing fall risks. It enhances mobility and posture while strengthening muscles, supporting joint health, and boosting mental well-being and confidence in daily activities.

If you can help develop and convene a Pilates Group, please contact Miranda Howell through Ian's email webmanager@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz or Linda Clifford i2p.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

As ours is an entirely voluntary society, we rely on willing members to step forward to take on executive roles. If you can help with anything please contact either our President, Bev Edlin, at president@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz or Kay Ebden, Secretary, at secretary@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

TAURANGA'S MARCH 20 SPEAKERS

The short talk on March 20 will be delivered by a representative from Taonga Tū Heritage Bay of Plenty, a not-for-profit group dedicated to preserving and presenting the rich history of our beloved Bay. There are over 6,600 recorded heritage sites in the Bay of Plenty, and Taonga Tū are keeping the flame of the past alive for future generations.



The main speaker will be GILLIAN MARKS.

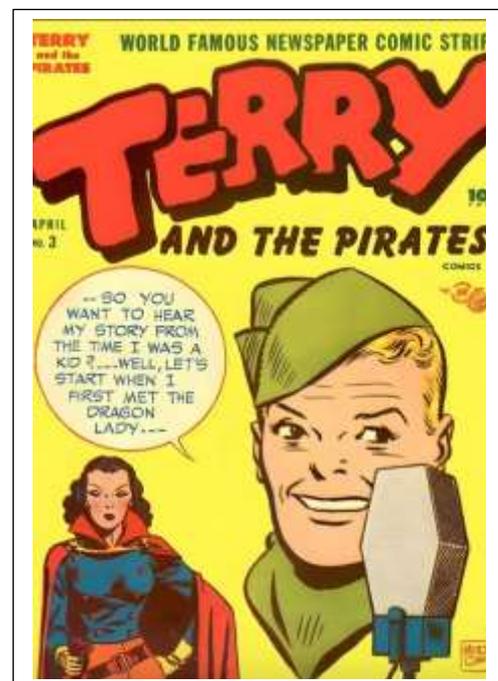
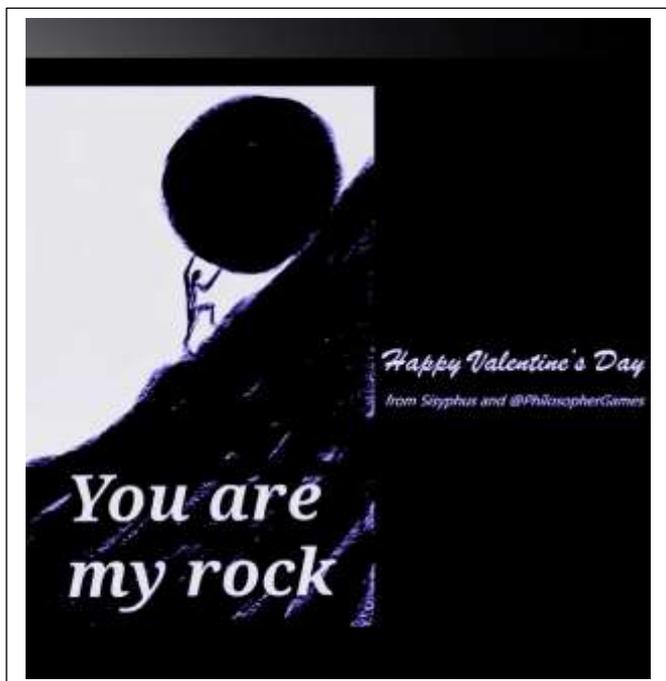
Gill's Activities in the Karakoram, Northern Pakistan.

In 2012 Gill visited Karakorum, a trip that changed her retirement years in ways that she could not imagine: she has subsequently been operating an aid program in the most remote villages of the Gojal Hunza region in Gilgit Baltistan, far north of Pakistan, deep within the legendary Karakoram mountains. She supports community infrastructure, medical aid and surgeries, and orphan girls' education until they complete university.



A VALENTINE'S DAY MESSAGE

AND A BLAST FROM THE PAST



REMEMBER: YOU ARE ADVISED TO NOT WEAR YOUR MAGNETIC NAME BADGE IF YOU HAVE A PACEMAKER INSTALLED. MAGNETIC BADGES CAN CAUSE YOUR PACEMAKER TO MALFUNCTION.

KATIKATI'S MARCH 11 SPEAKERS



Pam Mazoyer, U3A Katikati's Chairman, will be presenting a talk entitled "The Seven Rules of Trust", from the book by Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales.

Jimmy Wales has a profound belief that trust, confidence, co-operation, and sharing should be the most-used tools in any businesses toolbox: Pam will tell us how this philosophy has led to the astonishing success of his greatest venture, Wikipedia.

The longer speaker U3A Katikati will enjoy hearing from is a return from one of last year's great favourites: **Donna Forde, from the Western Bay Museum** will be back with another great selection of Treasures From The Past. Last years' presentation for Katikati U3A saw us rocking the rafters with laughter... and inspired many a nostalgic chat. Remember that bright yellow ladies' swimsuit – and the tool that no-one quite knew what it did, but by golly weren't they handy back in the day?



Football, beer, and above all, gambling filled up the horizon of their minds. To keep them in control was not difficult."

George Orwell, 1984



MOST OF HER PLANS FOR WORLD DOMINATION CAME TO HER WHILE SHE WAS KNITTING



www.taurangau3a.org.nz

TAURANGA'S SPEAKERS

A Plague On All Your Houses!



At January's EGM, a near record-breaking U3A audience was treated to a startling talk by Liz O'Riordan, from one of U3A Tauranga's four immensely popular History groups. Keeping the mood of the morning light, Liz's chosen topic was The Black Death, otherwise known as The Great Plague, The Great Death, the Bubonic Plague, or Going To London This Weekend Was A Really Bad Idea Plague.

Her presentation for a subject that could have been truly morbid was light, entertaining, and – occasionally – funny. We learnt how it spread from eastern China to Mongolia and hitched a ride with the Golden Horde to Europe, where it really started on its grim job of killing Europeans by the tens of thousands and eventually the millions.

Bubonic plague was a dreadful disease, usually fatal within a week of the first symptoms appearing. We now know that the *Yersinia Pestis* bacteria enters the skin through a fleabite. The



bacteria travels via the lymphatic system to a lymph node, swelling it. The characteristic buboes then appeared under the arm, on the neck, and around the groin. Combined with the black bruising under the surface of the skin, fever, vomiting and spasms, the plague was a truly terrifying disease that spread with startling ferocity.

None of this was known in the 14th Century. Surprisingly, the quarantine procedures that developed throughout the three centuries of experiencing this devastating disease are still being used today. Upwards of 75,000,000 people died in Europe, and the social upheavals included the end of serfdom, the ability of workers to negotiate their pay, and the design of some quite eccentric prototypical face-masks.



We were introduced to the Derbyshire Downs village of Eyam, where vicar William Mompersson convinced the townspeople to quarantine the village after the plague appeared. Many people died; entire families were all but wiped out. But the plague didn't spread to neighbouring villages. The quarantine may well have saved thousands of lives.

Liz O'Riordan's talk was much more than a once-

over-lightly address: her talk introduced her audience to the people who lived, suffered, and died from the Bubonic plague from the 14th through to the 18th century.

Bubonic plague still exists, although no cases have been reported in New Zealand since 1911, when 12 cases were reported. And if it does make a comeback? No worries. Well, not too many, anyway: we have Alexander Fleming's antibiotics to protect us. KATIKATI READERS PLEASE

NOTE: Liz has accepted your invitation to speak at your May meeting.



As we are now publishing a digital U3A Newsletter every month, our deadlines have changed: All stories, articles, notices, information must be with the Editor by the first day of the month: April 1st for insertion in the April edition.

We will still be publishing a paper copy for members who either can't or don't use electronic media. This will be a stripped-down version of the digital copy. The same deadline will apply.

Please send all material you want to see in the next physical or digital edition to newsletter@u3atauranga.org.nz, or direct to Al Mathews at swethamnalla@gmail.com by or before the first day of the month.

UP, UP, AND AWAAAAY!

Look! In the sky! Is it a bird? Is it a 'plane? Nope – it's Graham Dainty, taking flight in his helicopter again!

Graham presented our February meeting with the second part of his remarkable history as a helicopter pilot and chief trainer in Britain.

Following his RAF service, Graham joined Bristowe's, which became the world's largest helicopter operator. In the UK they carried out SAR operations, and serviced the great North Sea oil platforms: an often perilous way of earning a living. The North Sea is a wild environment, with weather that can change in

a heartbeat: heavy fog cutting visibility, wild storms, lashing winds, driving rains, calamitous waves, and – occasionally – calm and balmy skies, flat blue seas.



Helicopters were used to ferry men and materials to the many floating and fixed oil rigs that dot the ocean to the north-east of the British Isles, and the call for highly-skilled pilots was

never-ending. Getting and granting a Pilot's Licence was a long and demanding process, and Graham helped many pilots meet the demanding standards.

Oil companies were paying upwards of £750,000 per day to lease a single oil rig, so were understandably demanding in requiring the men and supplies got through promptly and safely.



Britain's coastline is also often dangerous, and Bristow Helicopters were tasked with supplying helicopters and men to run and operate the nation's Coastguard Search and Rescue services – another high-risk operation that demanded a great deal of machines, pilots, and their crews.

Among the many types and varieties of helicopters Graham was certified to fly and instruct on were the almost ubiquitous "Huey" – the Bell 212 – and large passenger and freight-carrying Sikorsky machines, including the 61 and 76 models.



As Bristow Helicopters grew to become a huge international company, with bases scattered around the world, so Graham was tasked with overseeing the qualification of people from many nations and cultures. In time, Bristow came to fly more helicopters than many, many nations' Air Forces could boast.

Graham Dainty's life has been event-filled, adventurous, and satisfying: and so far we've only heard two-thirds of the story. Graham's a natural storyteller and yarn-spinner – and we look forward hearing the final chapter as time goes by.

It's a great story so far, Graham: thanks for sharing it with us.



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KATIKATI SPEAKER REPORTS

The **Katikati Crew** enjoyed a stimulating and entertaining meeting on February 11, at their usual venue, Pātuki Manawa, on the Main Street. The first (short) speaker came from the Group's own membership:

Robbie Selwyn told us a little about his life as an international oil executive. He experienced many different and exciting assignments in the USA, Latin America, Africa, and Asia during his career with ExxonMobil. Like all good presenters, Robbie entertained, informed, and intrigued his audience – leaving us all wanting to hear more.

Wymond Symes then took the baton for his longer presentation titled “How Land and Search Rescue Serves Our Community”.

Land Search & Rescue: Unsung Heroes.



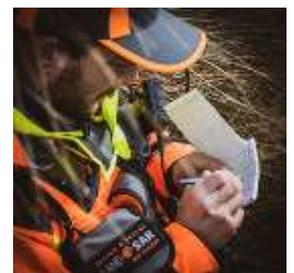
WYMOND SYMES, representing the Coromandel /WBoP Land Search and Rescue team, told an enthralled Katikati General Meeting on Wednesday 11th about the astonishing work done by the highly-trained volunteer group that he is a part of do.

NATIONWIDE the Land Search and Rescue boasts around 3,000 volunteers: they're the pointy-end of the stick the Police call on when someone goes missing in the New Zealand bush. From 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 they undertook 526 search and rescue operations, totalling 186,827 unpaid hours – and saving 40 lives, while also helping a further 149 people find their way home.

Wymond took us through the exacting methodology employed by the skilled and tenacious teams, from what happens when the first call is received through to the location and rescuing of people who are often disoriented, injured, hypothermic, dehydrated, and extremely distressed.

Searches can vary in length from just a few hours to many days. Team-

members will be discovering all they can about the lost person from his or her relatives and friends, while the in-bush team will use a number of ingenious devices to track where they've wandered. Hi-tech drones are now being used to cover more ground more swiftly – but the most reliable tool is a simple drover's stick with three docking rings to measure foot and stride length of any tracks found.



It can take a team of up 30-odd searchers many, many hours to find and rescue a single lost soul. A recent rescue in the Coromandel bush involved an elderly gentleman overestimating his own strength and wandering 10 kilometres into dense bush. The alarm was sounded in the late afternoon, and he was quickly located by the GPS on his cellphone: he was a half-hour away from a trampers' hut – and records showed it was occupied by a tramping party, who were immediately called. They went to the man's immediate rescue. Despite his dramatically weakened physical condition, the trampers managed to get him back to the hut within a couple of hours – and that's when the weather closed in. Heavy winds, torrential rain, and a very ill elderly man. It took the LSR team all night to get to the victim, who had been nursed as well as the hut's occupants and facilities allowed. When the LSR team reached the hut, the man was hypothermic and seriously dehydrated. The weather was atrocious, a helicopter rescue impossible. The team was left with no option but to stretch the man back to base.

They trussed the man up "like a taco!" in thermal blankets and tarpaulins through a vicious storm, down steep and muddy trails until the weather cleared enough for a helicopter rescue.

Exhausted, the LSR team went home to hot showers, hot meals, and knowing that they'd done well. Unsung heroes, indeed. Please follow this link to donate to this voluntary organisation:
<https://givealittle.co.nz/Cause/every-rescue-starts-somewhere>

TRUST YOUR LOCAL EXPERTS
 TOTALSPAN Coromandel 146 Kapa Road, Kapa, Thames
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 TOTALSPAN.CO.NZ

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 WWW.CANTOTALSPAN.COM

'Lucky to be alive'

"If I didn't have my phone, I would have died."

That was Richard Simpson's take on a casual bush stroll that turned into near-disaster a few days before the New Year. He shares his story with reporter ALICE PARMINTER

W hatever man Richard Simpson knows he is lucky to be alive after getting stranded in the Coromandel forest in inclement weather, with limited supplies.

Now mostly recovered from his ordeal, he has been left with a deep sense of gratitude for the many people involved in his rescue – along with stern instructions from his son to "not go into the bloody bush again, Dad".

Richard's December 28 adventure began innocently enough. It was a sunny, clear morning, and he decided to walk from his home up to the Waikare Kauri Grove.

"Then I thought, oh, what a lovely day. I'll just move on a little bit further."

A bit further became a bit further still until Richard, who was clad only in a t-shirt, shorts and track shoes, found himself climbing over root systems and delving further along the Waikare Valley Track, a steep and difficult track with an elevation gain of more than 700 metres.

With the day mostly gone and the weather turning, Rich-

ard eventually decided it would be safer to continue on to Crosville Hut, which is around 10km from his starting point.

By now, he had finished the water, banana, and handful of hockies he had brought along. He was also thoroughly soaked through from rain, and bleeding from a gash in his arm. "I sort of curled up in an area and phoned my son, who lives in Tauranga, and told him the position. I was in and to ring the police," Richard told *The People*.

"I was getting very cold at that stage and started to shiver."

It was now 10pm. While a policeman stayed on the line with Richard, a lot was happening behind the scenes. A helicopter was sent to pinpoint his position, which

Richard Simpson is rescued by the LandsARL team. INSET: Richard shows a map of the route he took along the Waikare Track towards Crosville Hut. PHOTO: LANDSARL

CONTINUED ON P2

NEW ZEALAND APPLES

02

NEW ZEALAND GRANNY SMITH FANCY

This month in History:

THE IDES OF MARCH.

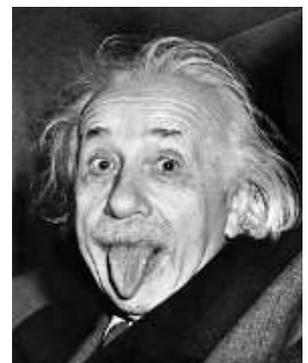
MARCH 15, 44 BCE: A Killer Caucus of Roman Senators decided that a Corpus of Caesars would be a great idea – so Julius Caesar was perforated in the Curia of Pompey in Rome, which is now a cat sanctuary. Julius Caesar is famous for slaughtering tens of thousands of Gauls, and invading Britannia, where the Romans men later met Boadicea and counted themselves fortunate if they survived the encounter.

MARCH 1918: As if the War wasn't killing enough people, the Spanish Flu made its first recorded appearance. The 'flu ended up killing more people than the war did: up to 100 million for the 'flu, up perhaps 22 million for the War. Counting things in those days was difficult. These days up to 700,000 people die of complications from 'flu every year, but we can protect ourselves with a simple (and free) 'flu shot from your pharmacist.

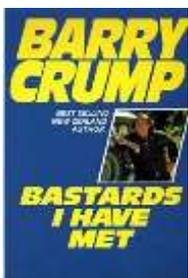
MARCH 17, 5th Century CE: A hirsute British Roman named Patrick sailed to Hibernia and set about banishing all the snakes from the land. No lawyers or used chariot salesmen were harmed in this project. Patrick was later Sanctified for this, for which he said "Sanctuary much", which was considered high humour at the time. March 17 is now the date when normally sane people rush around saying "Argh, begorrah!" and drinking too many pints of green-dyed beer.



MARCH 14, 1879 CE: Mrs Einstein of Ulm, Germany, gave birth to a bonny bouncing genius she named Alfred, who went on to think about relativity. He summed up his pondering in the famous equation $E = MC^2$, which may well explain everything in the known universe, but is understood by only seven living people at any given moment in relative time. Albert Einstein was not responsible for creating the Atomic Bomb. That was Sir Christopher Nolan, a British movie-making person.



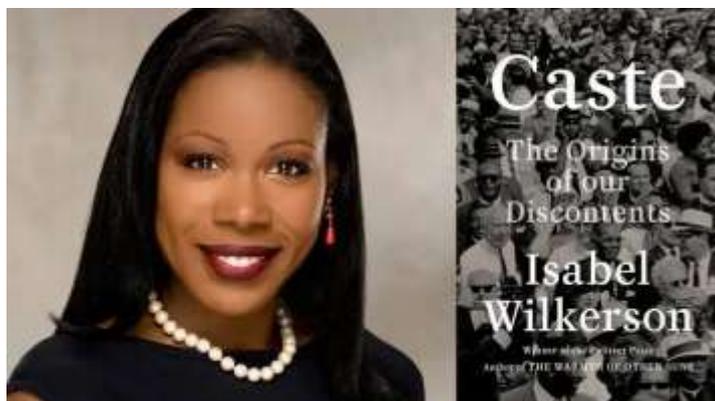
MARCH 26, 1773 CE: Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany. He wrote many pieces of music, including the 1812 Overture, which isn't an overture in the accepted sense of the word. This has provided a living for violinists, oboists, kettle-drummers and cannon-loaders around the world.



March 3rd, 1960 CE: Barry Crump's book, "A Good Keen Man", is published, immediately super-glueing the mythos of the ever-adaptable, man-goes-bush, yarn-spinning BS artist and totally blokeish blokey-bloke into place. More books followed, as well as TV commercials for hard-working farm-vehicle that could survive falling off a 100-metre cliff. Eventually, of course, it came out that Crumpy wasn't really much of a good keen man person, but may, in fact, have been better described as one of bastards he had met and known during his eventful and, ultimately, sad life.

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Book Review: CASTE The Origins of Our Discontents Isabel Wilkerson



Isabel Wilkerson is a university lecturer and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of the best-selling “The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America’s Great Migration”. In “Caste”, Wilkerson’s hypothesis that it is caste rather than race that has created vast gulfs of discrimination within human societies. Race rarely counted for much prior to the legalised enslavement and brutalisation of millions of Africans started by Europeans in the

1600s and carried on by the Americans from then until the 1960s.

Caste, on the other hand – being closely related to Class – is much older, subtler, and much more pernicious. The religiously-ordained Indian caste system created and legalised rigid and artificial social strata, with the Dalit caste, often referred to as the Untouchables, at the bottom: for a Dalit person’s shadow to touch a Brahmin, would move the dominant caste Brahmin into a frenzy of cleansing. *Legal* slavery in Europe and the Americas was created in the 14th and 15th centuries on the back of the caste system to justify the dehumanising of “different” peoples so that the slave traders, shippers, and owners from the 14th and 15th century onwards as a means of morally justifying their trade. These false narratives were used to create the legal barriers used by nations, traders into social constructs.

Wilkerson deftly analyses the colour barrier in the USA, and finds that it is a rigid caste system, that has grown historically as a means of legally holding sector of society into a proscribed position and encourages the use of violence to maintain that status quo. It is similar to the Hindu system, and the German / Jewish divide of the 1930s and 1940, today’s Israel / Palestine division, and any other system designed to keep one class, race, colour, creed, and / or gender in a place of legal discrimination.

Wilkerson’s writing is clear, concise, and very readable. Her reasoning is fact-based and backed up by an extensive reference section.

Hardcover published by Random House, paperback by Penguin. Available at your local Library.

Reviewed by Al Mathews.

Al Mathews, your Newsletter Editor, is always looking for new content he can 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 say a hundred words or so, add a couple of picture, and send it to newsletter@U3Atauranga.kiwi.nz or swethamnalla@gmail.com

MOVIE REVIEW:

NUREMBURG.

Written & Directed by James Vanderbilt.

Nuremberg is based on the book "The Nazi and the Psychiatrist", by Jack El-Haiand. It is a well-crafted historical drama that centres around the relationship between psychiatrist Douglas M. Kelley, played by Rami Malek and the Nazi (Reichsmarschall Goring, played by Russell Crowe) he is asked to evaluate before Nuremberg Trials begin in November 1945.



Malek and Crowe are supported by the ever-compelling Michael Shannon and newcomer (at least to me!) Leo Woodall.

For some reason the film didn't receive great reviews, yet I thought the acting, photography, directing, and writing was superb. It was the smaller, more intimate moments between Kelley, Göring, and Göring's wife and young daughter that made it more insightful and complex.

What Kelley discovered was not what he expected. Instead of shedding light on the nature of evil, he found these murderers to be disturbingly normal.

I recommend watching it when it comes to a streaming service. Netflix are currently streaming the inferior but still very watchable 2000 film also called "Nuremberg", with Alec Baldwin.

As a companion watch, I can also thoroughly recommend the intriguing Netflix series "Tokyo Trial" which covers the pre-trial drama

before Japanese war criminals were tried in Tokyo in 1946.

Reviewed by Jenny Mathews.

Octavia Butler: Choose your leaders with wisdom and forethought..

To be led by a coward
is to be controlled
by all that the coward fears.

To be led by a liar
is to ask
to be told lies.

To be led by a fool
is to be led
by the opportunists
who control the fool.

To be led by a tyrant
is to sell yourself
and those you love
into slavery.

To be led by a thief
is to offer up your treasures
to be stolen.

My Cutty Sark

Stewart Cairns

It was Burns Night a few weeks ago – and as half the blood coursing through my veins is of Celtic origin, this auspicious day presents an opportunity to remember and celebrate Scotland's favourite poet son, Robbie Burns.

With my Celtic blood and background, my family have always celebrated significant days in the Celtic calendar. More recently my Irish ancestors have been to the fore, but before that Scotland is where the Cairns clan came from. Galloway and West Lothian originally and then transported to Ireland at the time of the Plantations of the 17th Century – so Celt I am!

Burns Night and Saint Patrick's Day have always presented a reason – or excuse – to foregather and remember the significance of the occasion and where we came from. Keeping with the Celtic tradition of food and drink, traditional fare has always been the order of the day. Smoked salmon, boiled bacon, farls of soda bread, and whiskey, (spelled with an 'e') have been the required sustenance for Saint Patrick, whereas haggis, neeps, and tatties, and the odd (or not so odd!) libation of 'e'-free whisky -while never taken to excess – fill the need for Robbie Burns, usually accompanied by some of his better-known writings. Auld Lang Syne, the Address to the Haggis and the Selkirk Grace immediately come to mind, but Tam O'Shanter with its deeper and darker meaning has always been my favourite.



The mental picture of Tam, the farmer, out on the town and into the local pub in Ayr has always stirred my thoughts and memories. His eventual decision to return home to his long-suffering wife Kate, having flirted with the landlady all evening, and then clambering aboard his trusty steed Maggie and heading off into a dark and stormy night, tightly clutching his bright blue bonnet (his Tam O'Shanter) to keep it on his head in the wild wind and weather, and singing bawdy songs to keep his spirits up.

When he reaches Alloway Auld Kirk he happens across a wild party of witches, a coven of 'rigwoodie old hags', and warlocks, engaged in wild revelry and demonic dances. However, there is one nubile young witch, Nannie, that caught his eye. She was young and beautiful, and scantily clad. Tam watches her dance then calls out in a loud voice 'Weel done cutty sark' which literally translates to 'Well done short skirt'. Nannie in her cutty sark could have been the originator of the 'mini skirt'!



Nannie and her cohorts are not best pleased to hear this: when they realised that Tam had been witness to their revelry. They made to catch and set about Tam who climbs on to Maggie's back and flees at pace with the screeching witches in hot pursuit. He manages to reach the River Doon and race over the bridge to safety for, as we all know, witches cannot cross water.

Nannie grabbing Maggie's tail at the Brig O'Doon

But Maggie isn't so fortunate and Nannie, the attractive young witch in the short skirt, was much faster and manages to grab hold of Maggie's tail just as she steps onto the Brig O'Doon, leaving just a stump of a tail for the poor horse!

NEXT MONTH: THE *OTHER* CUTTY SARK IN MY LIFE

FROM THE SHED

From Pounds and Pence... To Dollars and Cents! It just makes sense!

Decimal Currency. Born 1966, still going strong 60 years later!.

From my small stack of Newspapers from the 1960s – an article about the impact of the new-fangled decimal coinage on the share market, which was the first organisation to legally use the new monetary system. Remember the ads? Sixpence becomes five cents, one shilling becomes ten cents, and a ten-bob note is transformed into one dollar.

Share Prices In Decimals Early In '66

By the Finance Editor

Nobody in New Zealand will welcome the introduction of decimal currency more than share investors, share brokers and their employees.

They will get used to it sooner than others.

● At right are three of the coins in the decimal series — the bronze one cent and two cent, and the cupro-nickel 50 cent.

THE OTHER COINS WILL BE THE cupro-nickel five cent., 10 cent.

Discover the difference! The previous year, your local GMH dealer was selling the all-new HD model for around £1250 – or \$2,500. Powerglide Transmission, 5 inches

more shoulder room, and sleek styling that'll stay modern for years. You needed Overseas Funds to buy a new one off the showroom floor. If you have one in good nick in your garage now, you'll be insuring it for around \$35,000

Google informs me that – allowing for inflation – a single 1966 New Zealand dollar had the spending power of nearly \$16 today. 10 cents (do we even have a ten-cent coin now?) would buy what it takes \$1.60 to buy today. The Woolworth's ad below is slightly post-decimal and the prices aren't too dramatically different from today's: for instance, corned beef at 89 cents a pound works out to \$18 a kilo in today's money – and that was on special. Today we can find ourselves paying between \$20 and \$30 a kilo. Perhaps the good old days really were a little better?

Ensure the difference!

best combination of style, space and savings you can **buy**

all-new Holden

MANTHEL MOTORS LTD.
CARPENTERS BUILDING, 100 RIVER STREET

GM CUSTOM PRICES

<p>SMITH BROWN Kiwit Trading Stamps</p> <p>100,000 FREE STAMPS GIFT CERTIFICATE!</p> <p>TOP VALUE FURNITURE & APPLIANCES</p>	<p>WALLACE FURNISHERS</p> <p>ANNUAL SALE NOW ON!</p> <p>HALF PRICE BARGAINS</p> <p>SAVE £50</p>	<p>WOOLWORTHS</p> <p>SUPER SAVER SALE</p> <p>CHECK THESE LOW, LOW PRICES!</p> <p>CORNER BEEF 89c <small>per lb</small></p> <p>SOAP POWDER 33c <small>per lb</small></p> <p>ICE CREAM 47c <small>per 1/2 lb</small></p> <p>BEEF 33c <small>per lb</small></p>
<p>Me foot Brown's Kiwit Trading Stamps</p> <p>100,000 FREE STAMPS</p> <p>TO BE GIVEN AWAY!</p> <p>TOP VALUE FURNITURE & APPLIANCES</p>	<p>NEW GM HOLDEN KINGSWOOD MONARO - TORANA</p> <p>TAKES ON ALL COMERS!</p>	<p>NEW GM HOLDEN TAKES ON ALL COMERS!</p>
<p>the Warehouse</p> <p>BARGAIN BONANZA!</p> <p>TV \$179</p> <p>BBQ \$88</p> <p>Bicycle \$97</p>	<p>NOEL LEEMING</p> <p>WELLINGTON'S LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED</p> <p>\$799</p>	<p>FOODTOWN</p> <p>BIG DEALS!</p> <p>100% FRESH 100% LOCAL \$3.99 <small>KG</small></p> <p>FRESH CUT CHICKEN \$3.99 <small>KG</small></p> <p>COCA-COLA 1.5Ltr 99c <small>PKT</small></p>

New Group Suggestions

There've been a few intriguing ideas washing about, as well as a few old favourites.

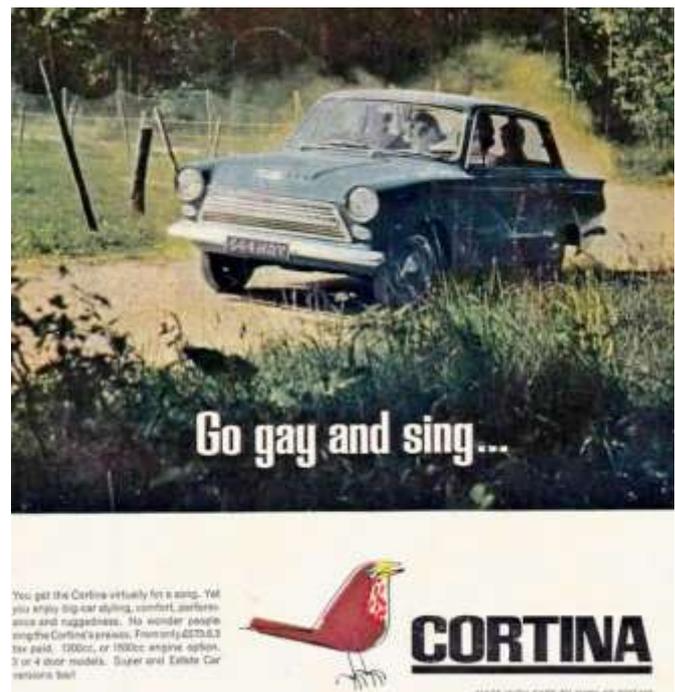
Katikati reports that they're looking for someone to start a **PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP**. As Tauranga's already-operating camera and photography groups can attest, photography provides members with a structured way of being as outrageously creative as they may desire... and also help with improving your techniques: what a change of f-stop can do, why you should move away from the Automatic setting on your camera, what your i-phone or android device is truly capable of (lots!), things to look out for when taking a quick snapshot of all ten of your favourite grandchildren, what and when the Golden Hours are.. and so on. Please talk to Al Mathews if you feel you'd like to convene such a group.



And here's an idea that was kicked off in idle conversation (NB: two men in conversation: how could that be anything *but* idle?): how about a **DEBATING GROUP**? A group that asks its members to argue points-of-view that they may not actually hold can lead to spirited, hilarious, and eye-opening results. What could fit the U3A ethos better? To re-learn how to learn, how to exchange knowledge, how to research, and how to take joy in the exchange of ideas. Sorry, but I couldn't find an age-appropriate illustration... Again, have a chat with Al Mathews if you're keen on taking this idea further.



Moves are afoot in Tauranga to start a **PILATES GROUP**: the impact-free exercise system that may take the "old" out of old age. Meet new people, do some you-appropriate exercise, and have a bit of a laugh while doing it. Sounds like a win-win. Have a chat with Linda Clifford i2p.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz



FROM OUR GROUPS

Garden Ramblers 1 recently visited a very interesting garden/museum off Cambridge Rd in Tauriko owned by Steve Miller.

The garden itself was unique with numerous paths leading us in all directions throughout the extensive valley property. It was well suited to growing bromeliads



and other shade loving plants amongst the mature native and exotic trees.

As well as this Steve was happy to show us his vast collection of old farming machinery, pipes and pressure valves etc which he takes great pride in restoring to their original condition.

Our group was made so welcome and we came away astounded at the energy and enthusiasm it must take to look after everything on the

property.

A very worthwhile visit and one which I'm sure we would all recommend.

The Group has a few vacancies if any members would be interested in joining. We meet on the 2nd Wednesday afternoon of the month.

Café Book Lovers 3 Visit to the Elms / Te Papa, Tauranga

Our book club visited the mission station at [The Elms | Te Papa Tauranga](#). It was fascinating! As one of the oldest surviving buildings in the Bay of Plenty (built in 1847), it represents early European and Māori interaction.



We had an excellent guided tour through the historic buildings, including the library, gaining a rare glimpse into Tauranga Missionary life. The original books are extremely well preserved and valuable. They provide information on attitudes towards religion, education and domestic life of this period. And the Devonshire Tea was an added bonus!

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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

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

Newsletter

Next issue: April 2026 Deadline for material is 01 April.
We welcome your articles at newsletter@u3atauranga.org.nz