



August 2026



KIWI AID & REFUGEE EVACUATION New Zealand Supporting Ukraine

It's not often that we have an absolute Sell Out crowd for one of our Main Meetings – but we knew we were going to experience a tsunami of interest when Tenby Powell, the Kiwi behind KIWI K.A.R.E, agreed to share his stories with us.

The Ukraine conflict takes an enormous daily human toll. Not just in lives, although that's devastating enough. But there are thousand ways of suffering, and Tenby Powell and his team on the ground in Ukraine have seen them all and continue to see them as they work tirelessly to bring care, comfort, and relief to the civilians who are suffering the consequences of warfare. Uncounted thousands of people have seen their homes destroyed, the lives of their friends and family snatched away, their children mutilated. To many of war's victims, seeing a friendly hand from far, far away can provide a measure of hope: and where there's hope, there's heart. And where there's heart, there's courage.

Welcome to all new members

Katikati's groups are all well subscribed and running well. No groups are currently actively seeking members, although the World Affairs group will gladly put you onto their waiting list.

[World Affairs \(Katikati\) – U3A Tauranga](#)

There seems to be no vacancies at Tauranga. But several groups have welcomed new members:

Dining 5 [Dining Group 5 – U3A Tauranga](#)

Julie Eagle, Yvonne Lendrum

Dining Group 3 [Dining Group 3 – U3A Tauranga](#)

Tony Culliney and Hendrika Vaneveld

Hikers 1 [Hikers 1 – U3A Tauranga](#)

Barbara Lowther

Garden Ramblers 2 [Garden Ramblers 2 – U3A Tauranga](#) Ros Taylor

A NEW GROUP SUGGESTION TEXTILE ARTS

Sewing, knitting, quilting, stitching, crochet, collaging, dying... making art with fabric and fibre is all these and so much, much more. **TEXTILE ARTS** is a wide-ranging activity, and a number of people have suggested they'd be interested in meeting to support each other while working on their own projects.

It is likely that workshops and visits to galleries and exhibitions could also be on the agenda.

The main idea is to support and learn from like-minded fabric makers and artists, folk like you who appreciate the role of textiles throughout history -and to learn more techniques that will boost your enjoyment in the colourful world of

fibre. Contact Ros Taylor on 021 356 732, or email rosandbrent@xtra.co.nz

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**DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT ISSUE IS
SEPTEMBER 1st.**

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we all listened to Tenby Powell outlining what is actually occurring in war-torn Ukraine, I wonder how many of us left the meeting with a greater appreciation in respect of the life we live here in the sunny Bay of Plenty. But like other such presentation it resulted from considerable energy and effect from a few, but very dedicated members.

I have since heard from many members who found the video an effective and refreshing way to stay connected, hear the presentation, or even replay it. However, considerable work took place behind the scenes. So, I like to express an extremely big thank you to your U3A Vice-President Phil Hansen and his wife for organising and filming Tenby's speech, as well as to small team who recorded the names of attending financial members.

But I must also acknowledge the first speakers on that day were also outstanding. By adopting a refreshed approach, we not only heard about the various and wide-ranging topics that are considered at "Inky Tales," but we also heard directly from three of the group's members – each of the three presentations were short but quite different and all very, very entertaining. In a comparable way Katikati is also attracting a high calibre of speakers bringing wide and diverse topics for our members to consider.

After giving due consideration to the attendance costs associated with the Monthly meeting in Tauranga steps have been taken to ensure each meeting covers the direct costs; these include room hire, morning team, speakers' costs (if any) as well raffle costs. While the cost from now on will be \$10 per meeting I can assure you that the cost barely covers all relevant outcomings while at the same time the Yacht and Power Boat Club's facilities and location cater well for the needs of U3A and more importantly its members. For members attending the Katikati meeting the fee will remain as is.

But such events do not simply happen. For instance, our wonderful 'meet and greet' teams often go unnoticed, but each does a wonderful job at each meeting.

Like any board the Executive's attention will shortly turn its focus on the coming EGS and AGM. The indication at this stage is that two or three vacancies are likely. So, with the wide diversity of talent in U3A we look forward to hearing from any member who may like to join us next year at the Executive table.

Bev Edlin

President
U3A Tauranga Inc.

What's going on at your U3A? Check out our website at [U3A Tauranga](#)

Could You Help Keep U3A Connected?

We're looking for a Membership & Groups Data Administrator.



If you're organised, comfortable with computers, enjoy accurate record keeping, and like helping others, we'd love to hear from you.



Organization



Technology



Help

Training provided – understudy
opportunity available.

U3A
TAURANGA

Contact Joni Burgess

021 0250 3032 • membership@u3atauranga.org.nz

AUGUSTINIAN KNOWLEDGE

As July is to Julius, so August is to Augustus.
St Augustine has little to do with the month, despite
living through 75 of them...

1: Julius Caesar came first, followed by Augustine. Were they related, and if so – how?

A: Not related. **B:** Julius adopted Augustus. **C:** Augustus was Julius' grand-nephew. **D:** They were lovers.

2: The Perseid Meteor Shower pelts the Northern hemisphere every August. What is the origin of the Meteors / Meteorites?

A: Halley's Comet. **B:** The Asteroid Belt.

C: The Swift-Tuttle Comet **D:** Cupid's Comet.

Photo: Pexels



3: On August 16, 1896, it was announced that there wuz gold in them there Canadian hills. Which hills were they?

A: Klondike. **B:** Yukon.

C: Victoria. **D:** The Grand Tetons

4: August 12th is the United Nations' Day for empowering and celebrating which group of humanity?

A: The Elderly. **B:** Vulcans.

C: Lawyers. **D:** Youth.

5. On August 18, 1840, a small group of Pakeha attempted to establish a French colony somewhere in New Zealand's South Island. What is the name of their settlement?

A: Mangakino. **B:** Hokitika.

C: D'Urville. **D:** Akaroa.

THERE ARE MORE QUESTIONS (AND THE ANSWERS) ON PAGE 5.

Looking for a group to join? Check out [U3A Tauranga](#)

The Quiz, Quizzically, Continued...

6: In August 1987 what language was officially designated an official New Zealand Language?

- A:** Klingon. **B:** English.
C: Te reo Maori. **D:** New Zealand Sign Language.

7. On August 5, 1914 who publicly announced the New Zealand Declaration of War to 15,000 cheering New Zealanders?

- A:** The Governor General. **B:** The Earl of Liverpool.
C: Arthur Foljambe. **D:** Prime Minister William Massey.

Photo Wikipedia



8: At the Barcelona Olympics, August 1992, who won New Zealand's only Gold Medal?

- A:** Mark Todd, Equestrian. **B:** Barbara Kendall, Windsurfer.
C: John Walker, 1500 metres. **D:** Ruth Richardson, Financial Advising.



9: August 3rd, 1872, which rockstar British author landed at Bluff to begin a two-month long tour of the colony?

- A:** Charles Dickens. **B:** Anthony Trollope.
C: Samuel Butler. **D:** Enid Blyton.

Image: Pen & Swrd

10: Mercury Baypark hosts what great show in August 15th 7 16th, showcasing as many as 150 Bay of Plenty experts and enthusiasts?

- A:** Tauranga Horticulture Show. **B:** Tauranga Food Show.
C: Tauranga Clog Dancers. **D:** Tauranga Home Show

ANSWERS:

- 1:** B & C. **2:** C. **3:** B. **4:** D. **5:** D.
6: C. **7:** A,B, & C. **8:** B. **9:** B. **10:** B.

Want To Keep Up With Everything New With Your U3A?
Make sure you visit our website once a week.

[U3A Tauranga](http://www.u3a-aurora.co.nz)

Coming Up At U3A's August & September Monthly Meetings

**Tauranga U3A Monthly Meetings are held at the Tauranga Yacht Club
on the third Friday of the month, 10.00 'til Noon.**

August 21st. Short Speaker: Berenice Langson, of Hato Hone St John will bring us up to speed on falls: we're all at or approaching the age when we are more prone to falling – and we don't bounce as well as we used to! Berenice will talk about St John's Falls Prevention Strategy, 'In Case of Emergency' Booklets, and the Health Shuttle Service and Community Engagement Division.

Long Speaker: Author and documentary-maker Rob Harley, one of New Zealand's most acclaimed journalists and writers. Rob's moving and inspiring talk, entitled "Life's Most Amazing People" covers his fifty-year career in some of the world's most challenging places, telling us about some of the bravest people you will ever hear about. He'll talk about his time in war zones, investigating some international mysteries, and also bring with him copies of his latest best-selling books "The Courage of Women," and "Relentless".

September 18. Short Speaker: Murray Armstrong, a past contributor to your Newsletter, will be telling about Nursery Rhymes and how they're not as innocent and jolly as they may seem. For instance – what's the connection between the Black Death and the Nursery Rhyme "Ring-a-Ring of Rosies, a pocketful of Posies"?



Long Speaker: Brenda Tahi, Tuawhenua Trust. In 2019, the most comprehensive biodiversity assessment ever attempted delivered a devastating verdict to the governments of the globe: one million species are on the brink of extinction, and nature is declining at rates unprecedented in human history. Brenda is a lead author for Chapter 2 of the IPBES Global Assessment and is here to share the work of IPBES and its place in international policy for biodiversity. She is not here to simply deliver bad news, but to point to a hopeful and urgent story about solutions that can make a real difference – solutions we may implement right here in Tauranga-Moana.

**Katikati U3A Monthly Meetings are held at the Katikati Community Hub
on the second Wednesday of the month, 10:00 'til Noon**

August 12 Short Speaker: Glenn Burt, a local JP, will be chatting to us about what it takes to become a Justice of the Peace, the duties and social requirements of a JP, and some of the stories he's been a part of as he's done his duty. **ALSO:** Chris Bedford will talk to us about the New Zealand History Group he convenes.

Long Speaker: David Marshall, of Greypower, the activist organisation for and by New Zealand's superannuitants. Greypower was established in 1984 by a group of Auckland superannuitants protesting a government proposal on surcharging the Superannuation benefits. 42 years later they're a voice for all New Zealand seniors, a nation-wide organisation dedicated to making sure the powers-that-be never forget (or take for granted) one of the biggest voting populations in the land. www.greypower.co.nz/

Deadline for the September newsletter is the 1st of the September.

TAURANGA U3A: THE TALK OF THE TOWN

Tenby Powell, Kiwi K.A.R.E.



Tenby Powell is described as a leader who embodies the spirit of community and selflessness. He has put his background in business and the military to good use to create a significant impact in Ukraine. How privileged we were to listen to his description of “**Life in The Red Zone**”, the war created by the Russians invading Ukraine on 24th November 2022. An act that Putin described as “a special military operation”!

The war is now entering its fifth year, so what was the attraction that drove Tenby to this humanitarian disaster area? He tells of being moved by the sheer horror of watching the invasion on television when the thousands of Russian troops poured into Ukraine via Belarus. This was the beginning of the devastation of innocent people and their lands and Tenby knew at that moment his calling was to assist where he could.

This was a “no frills” speech, presented by a skilled speaker who gave it to us exactly as it is - with the incompetence and ineptitude of the Russian military included. This was not the 3-day walk in the park that Putin had envisaged.

His wife Sharon, also present, is very supportive of his charity and his need to be “hands on” in this dangerous environment as are his adult children. **Continued Page 7.**

Want To Keep Up With Everything New With Your U3A?
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[U3A Tauranga](#)

His first visit to Ukraine in 2022 showed a country in chaos. He had a friend (an MI5 Officer) who saw the overwhelming need to immediately help the people, evacuate children and commit to a plan for strategic funding. There were psychiatric needs, children who were being “stolen” and given to the Russians - far beyond the numbers reported which now reach into the hundreds of thousands. Prostitution and drugs are a big problem. And so the beginnings of KiwiKARE (“KK”) began. A partnership with a legally binding agreement was formed. Members include people from Poland, Australia, the United States and New Zealand.



The logistics of the medical units required and the ambulance vehicles that he has managed to ship from the Port of Tauranga into Europe (68 so far) along with thousands of tons of medical supplies and clothing, electric chairs, this being the tip of the iceberg of requirements needed, is challenging and difficult to imagine.

Over 8,000 people have been evacuated out of Ukraine. Initially getting children out of Bakhmut (which has now fallen), was a priority. Many more now need immediate help.

Among these humanitarian tasks they also re-cycle high standing stoves and water boilers (electric cylinders). Each is etched with a heart displaying “With Love from New Zealand”. These give heat to the displaced through the harsh Ukrainian winter. The Russians are aware of KK’s presence and the team is constantly aware of the danger. The charity (which costs \$US40,000.00 a month to run), looks to the generosity of supporters and the “Give a Little” platform for donations. <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/kiwi-kare-ukraine-kiwi-aid-and-refugee-evacuation>



Photo Pixabay

He made the point that modern day warfare is no longer the place for previous world-war tactics, equipment, or strategies. The level of technology and equipment today has changed and re-shaped the world. On each visit he notices the change in the landscape - unrecognisable, the defensive capabilities, the distressed population of millions who are trying to live and work in these appalling conditions and trying to earn a living.

Noticeably there is now the development of drone nets. He gave an example of imagining having to drive from here to Cambridge under drone nets in the hope of some degree of protection. It doesn’t always work. The drivers are completely unarmed and the yellow cross on the ambulance gives no protection. One of the KK’s ambulances was attacked (named ‘Aroha’). The drone struck the vehicle on the left-hand side. The driver, who was on the right-

hand side, survived, despite being severely injured. The vehicle did not and is now on display in Kyiv. Incidentally - attacking an ambulance is a war crime.

There have been approximately 450 humanitarian aid people killed, including some from KK. They get calls to attend populations that are defenceless and displaced. Their teams shelter in buildings that have been demolished by the Russian artillery and make do with the provisions that are available.



In one month alone, 40,000 Russians were listed as killed, wounded or missing in action and 121 ships were sunk in the Black Sea - mostly oil tankers.

Tenby was due to head back to the “Red Zone” the week after he spoke to us and again expects the landscape to be unrecognisable since his last visit. He cannot see a clear end to this war but says Trump’s promises are worthless and his imposition of tariffs on the EU is a stretch too far. And even though Putin has failed on all strategic points, what will he do? Deploy a nuclear weapon? This could happen - a nuclear power station has already been fired on. Towns and

villages are being completely destroyed, apartment buildings and churches are being hit indiscriminately meaning more innocent thousands will die.

One of his more sobering comments - If Russia stops fighting - the war will stop. If Ukraine stops fighting - there will be no Ukraine.

Thank you, Tenby. The standing ovation at the meeting’s end was yours. *Judi Casey*
<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/kiwi-kare-ukraine-kiwi-aid-and-refugee-evacuation>

July’s Short Speaker: Helen D’Ath and friends from Inky Tales.



Helen D’Ath, Convenor of “Inky Tales” introduced us to an eclectic mix of members of her specialist group who reminded us of the pleasantries and accomplishments of days gone by. The specific subject was something “precious or sentimental”. This is what three of the members produced for our entertainment. First up was **Martin Tifford** who reminded many of us of the autograph books that were so popular in the day. He took the subject to the next level and listed a variety of famous people – including Clementine Churchill! - that he had made contact with and collected their signatures (he started at age 11). **Toni Bieleski**, a passionate poet, spoke about her school days in Waiouru. Her happy inclusion in the school choir, the important people who visited the camp base, and the many interests she had while at school - but endorsing how free she felt after leaving! The

third member was **Debbie Short**, a breast cancer survivor. She told us of her successful campaign to have the breast screening age increased from 40 to 70 years of age. She spoke about obtaining 135,000 signatures, her trip in a decorated bus with a delegation from Tauranga to Wellington and presenting the many boxes of signatures to the then Minister of Health, Annette King, and having television reporters there to greet them.

Helen says the group has great fun with the joys of fellowship, sharing life and memoirs. It is so popular that they have a waiting list. Do not be deterred! If you enjoy any of the above, have your name added to the list. You will be made very welcome.

Meeting and Greeting for the July Main Meeting The finely-tuned crew from U3A Tauranga's Classic Music Lovers



THE KATIKATI KONVERSATION

KEEPING IT LEGAL: Baywide Community Law



Fiona Joyce, the Short Speaker at U3A Katikati's July meeting, is Practice Manager for Baywide Community Law, a free legal information and education service for people on low incomes, or with disabilities or other disadvantages. Fiona pointed out that the service is not a full legal service: they help people help themselves withing the legal system. The information provided by Baywide Community Law includes family matters, employment, tenancy and housing, financial, youth oriented issues, Wills and Enduring Powers of Attorney, Human Right and Privacy rights, Immigration, legal issues for community organisations – and so very much more.

Fiona spent as much time answering questions – many of which centred around wills and PoA – as she did with her prepared talk. Baywide Community Law provide fortnightly in-person clinics in Waihi, Katikati, Te Puke, Kawerau, and Opotiki, with permanent offices in both Whakatane and Tauranga. Call them on 0800 905 916, or visit their website: <https://www.baywidecls.org.nz/>

SPEAK UP! Vincent Gambino on Speech, Singing, Communicating, and Laughing.

I am a Human Being and I have an Interesting Voice

This could well have been the title of Vince Gambino's talk to the Katikati Group's July meeting. It was certainly the message the audience went away with!



Vincent J. Gambino is a master impressionist, actor, voice over artist, comedian and singer. His repertoire of vocal impressions is vast and entertaining. He has performed with various Legends and Tribute groups all over the world and in many different venues. He used these abilities to explore the concept that we are innately talking beings from the time we are born and that, as we grow older, we lose the ability to communicate effectively through oral laziness. Only about one quarter of us had occupations that required us to use our voices on a daily basis. Vince used the audience as willing guinea pigs to demonstrate the importance of reading aloud to ourselves and how our voice changes as we reread a sentence aloud more than once. One needs to engage face to face at close quarters when speaking to effectively communicate, as facial expressions and hand movements are part of oral communication.

Vincent Gambino also led the audience in an often-hilarious goose-chase through his expert impressions of major stars of the past. If the voices alone were to be believed, we were sharing a few minutes of our time as an intimate audience while Frank Sinatra crooned, Dean Martin soothed, Sammy Davis Jr smirked, and John Rowles and Tom Jones vied for the honour of being the best balladeer.



Images Pixabay

His impressionistic cameos were pitch-perfect, bringing the speaking styles and voices of actors such as Ronald Reagan, Clint Eastwood, Jimmy Stewart and Sean Connery. The presentation concluded with a competition within the audience of Tom Jones singing *Delilah*. One half the audience had to sing the chorus line; “My, my, my Delilah.”. The other half sang: “Why, why, why Delilah.” The half who sang the loudest would win cases of Vince’s finest Pinot Noir. Not unsurprisingly the contest was declared a draw and no prizes were awarded. The thoroughly satisfied audience went home long after 12 noon.

Francis Young



An Ant's Life – Words that end with ANTS

A ruling ant = Dominant

A spicy ant = Fragrant

A trivial ant = Insignificant

A warlike ant = Militant

A learned ant = Pedant

A pathetic ant = Poignant

A leftover ant = Remnant

A stooge ant = Sycophant

A homeless ant = Vagrant

A watching ant = Vigilant

An idle ant = Dormant

A consenting ant = Grant

A fancy ant = Luxuriant

A cool ant = Nonchalant

A sullen ant = Petulant

A gravid ant = Pregnant

A ringing ant = resonant

A for-rent ant = Vacant

A modified ant = Variant

An ant license = Warrant

A bewitched ant = Enchant

A constant ant = Incessant

A dealer ant = Merchant

A performing ant = Pageant

A polite ant = Pleasant

A stubborn ant = Recalcitrant

A still ant = Stagnant

A heroic ant = Valiant

A pulsing ant = Vibrant

A wandering ant = Errant

A floating ant = Buoyant A winning ant = Triumphant

Then there's dominANT, ruminANT, defiANT, replicANT, and – probably – a thousand more.



Margaret Marsh.

Movie Review

The Odyssey

Directed by Christopher Nolan

I can't help but feel that Homer (not Simpson) would be dancing with glee.

A couple of hundred million US dollars have been well spent by Director Christopher Nolan on this sweeping story about the futile reality of gods, pride, love, greed, power, and war. And



that's a lot to fit into a mere 3 hours – give or take five minutes.

The word “epic” these days has come to mean anything mildly and momentarily interesting. In Homer's day, it meant hugely larger than life. He spun a yarn where gods – capricious, loving, disloyal, quick-tempered, unforgiving, arrogant beyond credibility - walked with equally fallible men.

The film begins with a lie: the “gift” of the giant statue of a horse to the king and citizens of Troy, and the subsequent sacking of, and victory over, Troy. Murder, rape, casual cruelty, and – worst of all – the defiling of the gods. Odysseus (Matt Damon,

broodingly superb), the king of Ithaca, has spent 10 years besieging Troy, so he thinks he'll take a short-cut home. The gods, of course, punish his hubris. The short-cut stretches out to a further 10 years, and on the way Odysseus and his men face wild beasts, starvation, a Cyclops, giants, an angry goddess (Circe) who turns Odysseus' men into pigs (Germaine Greer would have approved), a visit to Hades, and – after all his crew are killed – a seven year long drug-addled, lotus-eating sojourn with Charlize Theron's Calypso, yet another goddess.

Meanwhile, Anne Hathaway, perfectly playing Penelope, Odysseus' long-suffering wife and Queen, is being courted by a bevy of sweaty and scheming men who want Odysseus declared dead, so they can become King of Ithaca themselves, despite the rightful heir-in-waiting, Telemachus, being very much on the scene. Everyone but Mum wants *him* dead, of course – along with Odysseus' extremely old and faithful hunting dog.

Odysseus comes home, swords are flailed, stabby spears stabbily stab slow stabees, and then there's a final scene very reminiscent of Peter Jackson's “The Return of The King” where an adventurous hobbit or two sail into the West. Whew!

This is epic story-telling at its very best. Great script (thanks, Homer!), great cinematography, great directing, great locations. The best three hours I've spent at the cinema since Peter Jackson's aforementioned LOTR movies.

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 pictures, and send it to newsletter@U3Atauranga.kiwi.nz or 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!

Book Review

A Hymn To Life / Shame Has To Change Sides

Gisèle Pelicot

This book is a must read. It is also the most difficult book I have ever read. You'll remember Gisele Pelicot's story: the woman whose husband who drugged her and sold her unconscious body to a host – at least 50 – men for them to cruelly dehumanise with viciously abuse and rape.

It's a cliché to say that as I read this astonishingly courageous woman's story I felt ashamed to be a man. But it's true. I approached the book knowing it would shock and horrify me – what I hadn't counted on was the astonishing courage, humanity, and dignity shown by a person who has been so thoroughly and disgustingly dehumanised.



This is a story of extremes. Of the degradation some people are capable on inflicting on even loved family members with whom they have shared decades and imperfect happiness, and of the way a very ordinary woman becomes so incredibly extraordinary.

Gisele Pelicot understands what it is to be a victim. Through her story, we may also come to understand how courage, strength, and love can transcend horror.

The subtitle to this astounding volume is "Shame Has To Change Sides". Because of Ms Pelicot's ordeal we can come to understand anew how victims of any crime are often portrayed as being somehow responsible for their victimhood – and how our attitudes must change.

An astonishing, humbling story told by an extraordinary human being. Available at your local bookseller, and your local Library.

Al Mathews

Grabbing The Lighting: The Pros and Cons of Roof-based Solar Energy Systems.

Free and Renewable Energy

Humans are rapidly depleting and consuming the planet's non-renewable fossil fuels – coal, oil, and gas - at an ever-increasing rate.

Transportation by land, sea, and air uses energy exclusively derived from oil. Coal and gas are mainly used in industry. And there are 8.3 billion people whose requirements for electricity is increasing exponentially.

Continued Page 14





For this discussion we will confine ourselves to home-based electricity generation. All homeowners are now able to participate in an ever-growing way in its production.

Alternatives

Sources of renewable energy which are available for conversion to electricity are hydro, geothermal, biomass, wind, and solar, all of which are dependent upon availability, regulatory factors, flexibility, and cost.

For this discussion, we will confine ourselves to wind and solar, as they are the only sources of energy accessible to a

homeowner – and we'll keep it general, as the technology is developing increasingly quickly.

Wind

While wind is generally available everywhere it is unpredictable and variable. I would not recommend domestic wind turbines as they are relatively expensive, can be noisy, and – in comparison with solar-based systems - have high maintenance and running costs.

Solar

In contrast, Domestic Solar Energy can be easily harnessed in two ways: water heating and power generation. I have had both systems and would no longer recommend a solar water heating system for the home. Photo Voltaic (PV) technology has developed enormously over recent years, while water heating systems have been left behind by cost and flexibility. Existing systems still work, of course, and are better than nothing. But you cannot watch TV or cook your dinner with a solar water heating system.

Photo Voltaic Systems

PV panels have developed enormously over the past two decades. My first system, just 10 years ago, was about 14% efficient. The same composition panels today are in the mid-20% range. There is a new type in development called perovskite, which already has an efficiency of over 30%, but mass-manufacturing is still some way off in the future.

PV panels come in numerous sizes but residential panels, as mine are, in the examples below, measure 1.64m x 1.0m x 0.04m and weigh around 15kg, and output rated at 365Wp, (Peak power).

Some types convert the DC output to AC on the panel, while the more common types use an external inverter to change DC to AC.

Surroundings have a definite effect on output. Shading from trees and neighbouring buildings should be avoided. Panels *can* be mounted on frames which follow the sun but this adds costs. Because of their low mass, roof installation for homes is the most popular, with a north-facing direction giving maximum output.

Nevertheless, east and west directions still work well, albeit to a lesser degree.

The panels should be angled to the horizontal to meet maximum generation, but simply using the roofline pitch (as I have) is very common. For the technical, latitude is important, but as the sun's altitude varies with the seasons, a compromise is necessary. **Cont: Page 15**



Factual Example:

Our results in Katikati.

Situation: Residential, 5 people, 41 panels, nominal output 15kW, 35 facing North, 6 facing West all flush on roof angle. 27kWh of batteries and 2 electric vehicles (total 20,000km per year).

Average daily generation over 730 days (two years, eight seasons) is 48.4kWh equating to 17,666 per year. Our daily consumption averaged 53.8kWh per day.

Greatest daily output over this time was 95.9kWh and least daily output 2.8kWh – which is why I suggest a battery of some capacity. **Our daily generation exceeded our consumption 48.4% of the time.**



Payback Time

While our system was initially expensive, I calculate a payback time of about 8 years. To achieve this figure, I have predicted that domestic power and line charges will increase at a rate of 8% per annum. For the home vehicle I used petrol prices of at \$2.80/l (obviously pre-Hormuz Strait shenanigans!) and fuel economy at 8 litres/100km for a motor vehicle. The latest power and petrol rates were up 10% and 20% respectively, so my estimate is very much on the conservative side. Batteries and electric vehicles are critical for this calculation.

Our power supplier pays for electricity we export back to the grid. That's good but pays less than even the night

rate. It's also throttled to a maximum of 5kW (single phase) which causes our panels to reduce output if 5 kW is exceeded.

General

Don't expect to get maximum output and use all the time. Some systems have computer programs to improve usage: from my experience they have limitations – but the technology is developing fast. Our system has a very informative app display to both iPad and cellphone which helps in monitoring.

End of life is forecast to be over 40 years, so it is not considered here. Suffice to say that recycling will happen in the future as the panels contain valuable elements.

Factors causing reduced output.

Snow, rain, clouds, dust, and equipment malfunction. The latter is insidious as it can occur without notice. Regular checking of the app helps to stay on top of this. The seasons have a big part to play in output - in winter, when you want maximum generation, the earth's orbit does not oblige so a battery is recommended.

Myth:

Because the guarantee for panels is 25 years, it is assumed that they may not last much longer. This is incorrect, as the output at 25 years will not be less than 80% of new. From 30 years the efficiency of your panels will deteriorate by up to .8% annually. **Many Solar Panels have lasted over 40 years, albeit at a lower efficiency.** Economy (\$) and Efficiency (Joules) are important aspects of renewable energy which must be considered in any proposed installation. Illustrations in this article were either AI generated or sourced from the copyright-free site Pexabay.

Peter Magnussen, Katikati

Leading the headlines in 1966

It was only 60 years ago: ENGLAND ACTUALLY WON THE FIFA WORLD CUP, beating West Germany 4-2! With the score level at 2-2 at Full Time, Bobby Moore led the English team to dizzy heights as they scored two more goals in extra time. The crowd of 96,924 fans went home to celebrate with Tea and Scones, thrilled at having seen a spectacle that included one English player, Geoff Hurst, scoring a hat-trick. The other English goal-scorer, was Martin Peters. West German goal-scorers were Helmut Haller and Wolfgang Weber. The 1966 tournament was the only FIFA World Cup tournament to be hosted by England. It was also the only one they've ever won.



China's Great Leap Forward, helmed by Mao Zhedong, ended in abject failure and the deaths of 35 to 40 million people. . Determined to maintain his grip on power, Mao launched the Cultural Revolution: a harsh regime that led directly to a further 2 million deaths... and saw the international distribution of millions of copies of Mao's Little Red Book, written to carry the Revolution around the world. It, too, failed.

LBJ – Lyndon B. Johnson - the second Texan to be US President, after Eisenhower – touched down in New Zealand for a 24-hour visit in an attempt to rustle up support for the Viet Nam War. “Kiwi” Keith Holyoake, New Zealand’s Prime Minister, greeted the (much) taller Texan, and his Cabinet later agreed to send a small artillery contingent to Viet Nam. New Zealand eventually lost 37 serviceman dead, and 187 wounded. Two Red Cross aid workers were also killed.



STAR TREK BOLDLY STARTED GOING! One of the longest-living SciFi TV series debuts in 1966, (Dr Who is older) bringing creator Gene Roddenberry’s vision of the future to the small screen. Initially, the then low-budget show struggled to make an impression, but – having gone boldly where no TV show had gone before – Star Trek gathered a vast and loyal international audience. Guess which current U3A Newsletter Editor has seen each and every episode!

The Hills Were Alive with the Sound of Music at the 1966 Oscar’s ceremony. The Sound of Music was awarded 5 golden statuettes, including the coveted Best Picture. It also picked up best Director (Robert Wise), Best Music, Best Sound, and Best Editing. The Sound of Music beat Dr Zhivago, A Ship of Fools, Darling, and A Thousand Clowns to take the award: I have only seen – or even heard of - two of the final five (the singing one and one about the Russian), and hadn’t even heard of the last three. I might have to look them up one day. Perhaps tomorrow. All images on this page are copyright free.



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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 U3Atauranga.org.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)).

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