



Newsletter

September 2026

Rob
Harley:
Making a
Difference



Be
A
Hero!

New Zealand's Suffrage Day – 19th September: Kate Sheppard's is the most memorable face of the many hundreds of women who worked tirelessly in the late 19th century to convince New Zealand's all-male Parliament to give all women – Pakeha and Maori - the right to vote. Inspirational leadership was also provided by Meri Te Tai Mangakāhia (Te Rarawa), who led the way for Maori women to also be given the vote. The Electoral Act of 1893 was signed on 19 September, and 109,461 women signed up to vote in that year's election. And it only took 40 years until the first female MP – Elizabeth McCombs - was elected. Tauranga's [NZ History Tauranga](#) and Katikati's [Early NZ History](#) have all the latest news from the 1800s!

Stay Up To Date at U3Atauranga.org.nz

Group Vacancies

Tauranga:

[Art Practical](#)

[Acoustic Music Group](#)

[Ballet Appreciation](#)

[Hikers 2](#)

[History B](#)

[International Affairs](#)

[Pilates](#)

Katikati

[Film Appreciation](#)

[Poetry Plus](#)

[French Conversation](#)

[Walking](#)

NEW GROUPS BEING
FORMED

- Book Club 2
- Conversational Italian

Newsletter Team

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Marshall, Grey Power
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What's In A Vote?

Our Monthly Quizzical Quiz.

All photographs sourced from Wikimedia

1: How long – after women's emancipation in 1893 – did it take until a woman was elected to the New Zealand Parliament?

- A: 40 years. B: 21 years.
D: 56 years. D: 18 months



2: When was Universal Suffrage allowed in the USA, the country often referred to as “The World’s Great Democracy”? Elizabeth McCombs. First NZ female MP.

- A: 1864. B: 1931.
C: 1964. D: 1916.

3: In what year did New Zealand hold its first national election?

- A: 1847. B: 1853.
C: 1840. C: 1864.



4: You might think that the first recorded democratic election of city leaders and official was in Athens, in 508 BCE – and you'd be right. But do you know who organised this new-fangled demokratia (rule by the people) – which allowed some citizens to vote on laws and elect specific public officials?

- A: Socrates. B: Androgenes.
C: Pericles. D: Cleisthenes.

5: Is it true that citizens of the USA actually vote to elect the local dog-catcher?

A: Yes: hence the common saying “He’s too dumb / inept / stupid / ugly to even be elected Dog Catcher”.

B: No. The saying was made popular in the mid-to-late 1800s, and was famously made by the Louisville Courier-Journal about Grover Cleveland, the 22nd and 24th USA President: the only man to serve two non-consecutive terms, until DJ Trump.

Quiz continued on Page 5

Our Election General Meeting is on at 10.00am, Friday
20th November at the Tauranga Yacht and Boat Club,
Sulphur Point.

What's In A Vote? Continued...

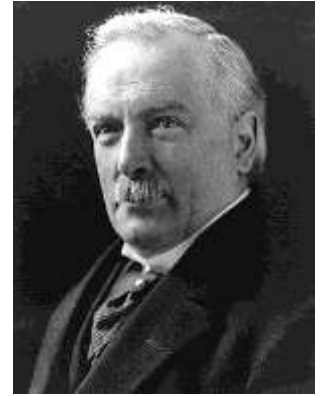
6: In which year were all men over 21 able to vote in England?

A: 1918. Which means that tens of thousands of young men who didn't even have the right to vote died and suffered in the First World War.

B: 1904, after the Boer War.

C: 1880, after the Zulu War

[David Lloyd George](#)



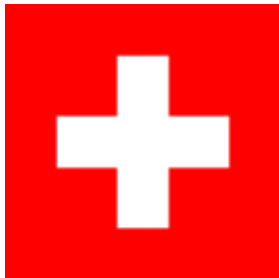
7: In which year were all men, Pakeha and Maori, regardless of whether or not they owned property, allowed to vote in New Zealand?

A: Pakeha 1867, Maori 1879.

B: Maori 1867, Pakeha 1879.

C: All men, 1840.

D: Pakeha 1879, Maori 1923.



8: Switzerland established universal voting for all men over 20 in 1848, although it was complicated by local Cantonal rules, property ownership, and taxation. When was Universal (Male and Female) suffrage established?

A: 1925.

B: 1912.

C: 1965.

D: 1971.

9: How many parties contested the last New Zealand General Election (2023)

*A: 17.

B: 26

C: 13

D: 32

10: What is the date New Zealand votes this year?



A: 7 November.

B: November 7th.

C: **Note: Advance (postal) voting starts 26 October and closes on November 6th.**

ANSWERS

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

QUESTION NINE: The answer is A - although one party (Freedoms Party) was a loose coalition of three separate parties, two registered (NZ Outdoors and Freedom Party and Vision New Zealand) and one unregistered party (Rock the Vote Party). Only 4 parties (National, Labour, ACT, and Green) nominated more than 50 electoral candidates.

Looking for a group to join? Check Page 2, or go to [U3A Tauranga](#)

The Election General Meeting

10.00am, Friday 20th November

Tauranga Yacht and Boat Club, Sulphur Point

NOTICE OF ELECTION GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE ELECTION GENERAL MEETING OF U3A TAURANGA INC TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2026 AT THE TAURANGA YACHT AND POWER BOAT CLUB, SULPHUR POINT, TAURANGA AT 10.00 AM

In accordance with the 2025 Constitution, an Election General Meeting of U3A Tauranga Incorporated is to be held to elect the 2027 Executive and set the annual subscription for 2027.

The Executive elected at this meeting will take office at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting in February 2027.

As described in paragraph 10.5 of the 2025 constitution, the following positions are open for nomination:

Officers: **President**

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Newsletter Editor

Data Manager and Webmaster

Group Coordinator(s)

Membership Administrator

Speaker Organiser/General Meeting Organiser

Publicity Officer

Katikati Representative

Copy of the Executive Nomination form is attached. The nomination form is also available on the U3A website: [U3A Tauranga](https://u3atauranga.org.nz)

Completed nomination forms must be received by the Secretary or Acting Secretary by 10 November 2026 and may be:

- Given to the Secretary in person
- Scanned and emailed as an attachment to the Secretary at secretary@u3atauranga.org.nz
- Posted to:

The Secretary
10A Egret Ave,
Maungatapu
Tauranga 3112

Coming Up At Our September and October Monthly Meetings

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

September 17th: Short Speaker: Murray Armstrong. Little Bo peep, Jack Horner, and All the King's Men – there's much more than meets the ear when you're reciting a Nursery Rhyme. Often highly political, often satirical, often terrifying. Murray's helping us see Nursery Rhymes in a new way.

Long Speaker: Brenda Tahi, Tuawhenua Trust: Saving the World's Biodiversity. With at least 1,000,000 species under direct threat of extinction. Nature's systems declining and decaying at rates never before seen. Brenda Tahi is one of the lead authors of the dry-sounding yet vitally important Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Global Assessment – and she knows the trouble we're in. She knows that Western science alone can't save us, and that the planet's salvation is in the hands of indigenous populations – people power. Join Brenda as she shares what's behind this global assessment and how we need to use both hands to do the heavy lifting ahead. [Tuawhenua Trust](#)

October 16th: Short Speaker: George Stewart: The Village Radio Story – that's the Historic Village's long-running radio station, run by volunteers, beloved by thousands of loyal listeners.

Long Speaker: Wymond Symes from LandSAR, with a thrilling talk about how Land Search and Rescue Serves our Community: some rescues they've made, the hard yakka that goes into even the easiest rescue job, the lives they've preserved.

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

September 9th: Short Speaker: Jeanette Shepherd will be giving us a short talk about SAYGO (Steady As You Go) Exercise for Older People, whoever they may be.

Long Speaker: Our own **Francis Young** will be talking to us about something that's high on the list of historically important New Zealand cultural events: the song "Blue Smoke": how it came to be written and recorded, what it meant (and continues to mean) to New Zealand as a whole, and the impact it had on the international scene.



October 14th: Short Speaker: Francis Young will chat about the United States of America's Mid-Term Elections. What do the results mean for us in Aotearoa New Zealand? [World Affairs \(Katikati\) – U3A Tauranga](#)

Long Speaker: Graham Wallis, from the University of Otago, has agreed to join us to chat about the importance and modern relevance of genetics: - something that's hugely relevant to the horticultural future of Katikati and the broader Bay of Plenty.

Situations Vacant

WE ARE LOSING SOME VALUABLE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMITTEE – AND IT'S MORE THAN POSSIBLE YOU HAVE THE SKILLS AND ABILITIES TO FILL THESE VACANT POSITIONS.

Can You Be A Hero?

U3A COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Kay Ebdon, our amazing Secretary, is hanging up her shorthand pad and Imperial 66 typewriter to take up competitive Synchronised Swimming. (Only one of the two statements in the previous sentence is true, and we have our doubts as to the accuracy of the other.)

Kay wouldn't categorise the job as being a doddle, but she does acknowledge that it has been a rewarding few years for her. She's met people she wouldn't have otherwise met, rubbed shoulders with many, many fellow U3A members, and generally had a ball.

Check out the ad on the following page: having fun isn't there, but it's certainly a major part of the job. [Team Vacancies – U3A Tauranga](#)

GROUP CO-ORDINATORS: By an extraordinary (and sad) set of coincidences and circumstances, three of our Tauranga Groups Co-ordinators are having to leave the committee. One is moving from the area, and there are a variety of personal reasons for two others to also reluctantly give their notice.

A Group Co-ordinator's job is one of keeping your finger on the pulse: finding out what your designated group leaders are doing, guiding them on procedure, helping with finding new members, attending their activities – generally just knowing what's going on, and helping solve any problems. Sound like you? Check out the ads of the following pages, and online at [Team Vacancies – U3A Tauranga](#)

SPEAKER AND MONTHLY MEETING ORGANISER. Our main meetings are a real highlight of our month: and Mary Stewart has been doing a fabulous job of finding our speakers (all inspirational, all entertaining) and making sure there's a chocolate biscuit available for you to enjoy during the break. Mary has enjoyed the full support of everyone at U3A and acknowledges that the job is made easier by the suggestions, help, and support she's received from everyone. Take a look at the Ads on the next page – and they're all on our website, too. [Team Vacancies – U3A Tauranga](#)

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN JOINING U3A? Send them this a link to this Newsletter, or to the U3A Website. Between them, U3A Tauranga and Katikati have a host of individual groups for you to participate in. There are social groups, groups to help you keep fit and active, groups that'll stretch your mind, groups that will help you stretch your tendons. From Acoustic Music to Yoga, there's a group that's perfect for you and your friends.

The U3A Tauranga website is kept right up to date with all the information you need about our groups.

[Interest Groups – Tauranga – 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.



Contact Joni Burgess

021 0250 3032 • membership@u3atauranga.org.nz

Join the U3A Tauranga Executive Committee!

We're looking for a Secretary



As a **KEY POSITION**, the Secretary supports effective governance, ensures statutory and constitutional compliance, and facilitates official communication.



Official Records
& Minutes



Statutory
Compliance



Effective Communication
& Meeting Organization

This is a key leadership role.

Facilitates properly organised and documented meetings.



For details on the full position description, contact the current President. • president@u3atauranga.org.nz

Join the U3A Tauranga Executive Committee!

We're looking for a Group Coordinator



U3A groups are at the heart of what we do, and we are looking for someone to help our convenors and groups thrive. It's a varied, people-focused role that makes a real difference to members' enjoyment of U3A.



Convenor Support
& Mentoring



New Group
Establishment



Accurate Records
& Information

This is a key leadership role.

Helps existing groups, establishes new ones, brings people together.



For details on the full position description or to apply, contact Margaret Marsh: a2c.groups@u3atauranga.org.nz

Meet Your Committee Members This Month: Bev Edlin, President

DISCLAIMER: Bev was reluctant to write her own Bio. She is not the kind of person who puts tickets on herself. So, I accept full responsibility if this all sounds a bit hagiographic.

Bev thought her working days were over when she married and had two children. But her return to the workforce saw her working for a well-known nationwide home furniture retail. While initially working part-time in the office it was not too long before the job became full time as she ventured into selling a wide range of product – a task that opened the door to interior decorating.

The next challenge and possibly her most infamous: Bev was part of a very small team at Philips NZ who introduced New Zealand's first mobile (transportable) telephone. It was a big very heavy boxlike affair, it could make telephone calls, and moving it constituted a serious physical workout.

When an opportunity arose to join a well-established finance company she took the plunge - a step she found opened a number of interesting and challenging roles that added to her increased desire to make things happen or move to a new level as opposed just carrying out a job.

Some years later, Bev joined a well-established nationwide property development company. Working with the real-estate market and local architects she along with a small team designed purpose-built commercial premises in Wellington and the Hutt Valley. After the financial crash of 1987 brought with it a downturn in the property market it was time for her to move on.

Her next big challenge came about when she was asked to join New Zealand Post. For three months she and a very small team worked diligently to design and later introduce the first commercial stamp-free postage system in the world – something other countries at that time believed could not be achieved. Her work was later published by D. Gilbertson and R.M. King in a book entitled *Innovation and Management in New Zealand*. Another change arose when along with a small group of three New Zealand Post employees, the team worked tirelessly to raise \$8,000,000 (over \$18 million in today's dosh) for the New Zealand Olympic Team to help get the team to the Barcelona Olympics.

A few years later she joined the Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand in a role she really enjoyed for many years. It required her to manage all PR

matters, promote the profession and oversee its extended branch network. She was instrumental in establishing Institute of Chartered Accountants branches in Sydney and London, working alongside other international accounting bodies to promote the profession more widely while finding time in her weekends to complete an MBA followed by a PhD in Governance. During this time a promotional campaign she had worked on with an advertising agenda was awarded the 1995 International Broadcasting Medal – a night in New York she says she will never forget. On the completion of her PhD, she was asked to present her findings to the Worldwide Academy of Management's 2003 Annual Conference in Philadelphia. With a passion for assisting organisations to function coupled with new knowledge and boardroom experience she set up her own business training and consulting – yes, you guess it – governance.

Putting her feet up in retirement was never going to be an option for Bev so on reaching that so called phase of life and with her business in start-up mode, together with her husband they purchased a flower farm and another lifestyle and moved into horticultural industry. After planting rows and rows of Lime Trees and building a new home, they established a small orchard. Between planting and picking flowers or fruit, advising or training boards she worked tirelessly to raised funds (\$8 million) to enable Levin's public facility and events centre to be built. The application now sits in a collection of applications that she is proud of, highlighting that this was but one of many such funding raising activities she undertook during her working life.

She has been involved with U3A since 2017. She served as Vice President for 2 years, and has, since being voted in as president, working hard to ensure our Constitution and regulatory requirements are fit up to date and fit for purpose.

Look! Up in the sky! Is it a bird? Is it a 'plane? Nah. That's just Bev, doing what Bev does.



Wikimedia

Tauranga's August Meeting

Rob Harley's Interesting People

Rob Harley - veteran TV presenter, journalist, author and supporter of charities gave us a glimpse into his life and some of the most amazing people he has come across and – occasionally - helped get their lives back on track or assisted others to help those in need. He came to us on the final day of a 12-day tour - he had already spoken to 15 U3A groups prior to ours! He describes himself as a “vagabond”, and yes, he rides a Harley motorcycle. With a surname like his, why wouldn't he?

Given his achievements, he admits to having no qualifications and proudly advises that his son is a neurosurgeon in Brisbane and his daughter a TV producer in London. His wife Alison is his “rock”. Their support has been crucial to his health and well-being for some years. He is the author of 12 books; his two recent editions were on sale at the meeting.

Following liver transplant surgery he suffered depression. With the support of his physician, close friends, his family and a dose of good fortune, he regained strength and now travels the world helping those who have fought adversity but not before having travelled a difficult path to get there.

Amongst Rob's many stories is the one about the ex-Mongrol Mob member: a man with 75 convictions, who tried to go straight, worked on Karangahape Road mixing with people leading miserable lives (mainly prostitutes), gained a reputation as “Pastor Owen”. He then decided to try the armed forces, became a driver in the navy, and subsequently served in the Ukraine. This man has helped save 60,000 plus Ukrainians and continues to drive an ambulance around the war zone rescuing people.



Then there was the Christchurch Asian Refugee Headquarters - needing immediate help with food. Donna from “Good Bitches Baking” arrives and fills the need. As a result of Rob spreading the word there are now 80 branches of the bakery throughout the country. People are on a waiting list to receive their food. Check them out at <https://qbb.org.nz>

Christmas Day, 1985, was what became the celebrated Auckland City Mission Christmas feast for those in need, those that have no place to go, and people to share the celebration with. Rob saw it as an opportunity to film the occasion and show it to the New Zealand public on the commercial-free evening news that Christmas night. No commercials gave Rob more story-telling time. The event is now so popular over 600 people are fed on Christmas Day, all through the help of an army of volunteers.

Next was his exposure of our appalling road toll. He and a medical reporter decided to report on why it was so many people died on our roads. In 1973 the road toll was 853 people – and many, many more were injured. 30% of those admitted into intensive care died of their injuries. Rob shared tragic stories of people whose loved ones died. He took camera crews into the hospital to show the carnage - showing near-dead people in corridors. He decided to air this on Christmas Day.

A year later he was still asking the question “why so many deaths on our roads?” He filmed a documentary series “Intensivists” and visited the A & E Department at Auckland Hospital each Friday and Saturday night. He drove around Auckland with the police filming the queues outside nightclubs and hotels. He met plastic surgeons who put people’s faces back together after the accidents.

After Rob’s gritty detective work the answers were laid bare - no crash barriers on our killer roads, most accidents during holiday weekends were alcohol involved and speed. Our hotels were literally “booze barns” with carparks for 500 cars! By 2020 the road toll had dipped to 258 (still one more than had died on the slopes of Erebus!). The ICU percentage dropped to 5%. There was so much more attached to this story questioning “what worth is a dead person versus the economic value of fixing the roads”. One of his books reveals the detail and his conversations with David Lange, the Prime Minister at that time.



Picture Waka Kotahi

His investigative work didn’t stop there. His exposure of the ill-equipped children’s hospital wards in Auckland hospitals was next on the list. As a result Auckland now has the Starship Children’s Hospital.

He decided to quit the current affairs programmes and television news he was involved with in 2002. The pressure and mental toll was always there. He continued to travel to war zones and meet those in need - this time in Bethlehem, West Bank, Palestine. He met a young girl who has cerebral palsy. Without parents she had no means of independence and she was one of many. The Gaza Strip is not for the faint-hearted with prosthetic limbs all too prevalent. A New Zealander - Paula Whetu Jones, herself disabled, lives there. She gained access to unused wheelchairs and a group of people who are able to repair them to give these children a sense of dignity. The service is provided free.

Rob was smuggled into Burma. Here he met Nam Wan (disabled), who had recently been displaced by the army. His wife and children are now forced to live under cardboard on a much reduced area of what was his land. Their 14-year old daughter prostitutes herself so her parents do not have to live in the slums. Parents here are forced to sell their children into sex slavery.



And so we sat and listened to this man’s fascinating stories of his ability to sort the wheat from the chaff and get help where needed. The above is a small window of the tales he had to tell. It was humbling and at times his experiences were difficult to take. The sales of his books went well. On his admission, some of his stories will make you cry.

Our thanks to another quality guest speaker as we were left wondering - what if there was no Rob?

Judi Casey

KATIKATI'S AUGUST MEETING

A COLOURFUL TALK... FROM A GREY (POWER) MAN

We're all aware of Grey Power. We all have an awareness of what they do, why they do it, and how they have accomplished everything they've done. Grey Power was started 40 years ago when a small group of Auckland Superannuitants got together to discuss what they could do to combat the introduction of a surcharge on New Zealand Superannuation.



David Marshall, Katikati resident and the newly-elected Grey Power Federation President smiled as he told this story to an appreciative U3A audience on August 12. And then he launched into the whys, what's, and wherefores of Grey Power: how it's become a hugely influential lobbyist, working tirelessly on behalf of all New Zealand superannuitants, representing all of us to not only local and national

governing bodies and departments. Grey Power, to this reporter at least, is much more than a mere lobbying group. They've become an initial port-of-call for any journalist, governmental department, public servant, or politician who has any dealings, interactions, or works with superannuitants.



But that's just half the job. Because Grey Power is also heavily involved in directly helping people of our age navigate the vicissitudes of daily life. They're working a housing downsizing plan, due to be trialled in Katikati. The thinking was that many, many people have lived in their family homes, in their local neighbourhoods, for many years – and to downsize

usually meant leaving those lifelong associations – by either going to a Retirement Village (which is an excellent option for some, but not for all), or going to a different neighbourhood entirely..



The solution? Find a financial institution that would put up the money to sub-divide the family home's section, build a granny flat, and *then* sell the old family home. This meant that the entire project would be done without any financial outlay required from the homeowner. Great idea. But the banks universally turned their backs on it. Eventually, an independent financial outfit looked at the idea, understood it fit their corporate ideals... and then the banks started revising their earlier decision. For full details, email tgagreypower@gmail.com, putting Katikati Pilot in the subject line.



Grey Power Energy is another initiative, offering lower-priced electricity, gas, and broadband to all Grey Power members.

This link [greypower](https://www.greypower.org.nz) will take you directly to their website: it's well worth taking fifteen minutes to find out what they can do to help you, and what you can do to support them, should you so

desire. The website is currently featuring the responses from five of the major political parties to an age-related questionnaire about the parties' policies that will affect us.

David's talk was vital, exciting, and a real call to action for all superannuitants.

Photographs and illustrations courtesy of Greypower



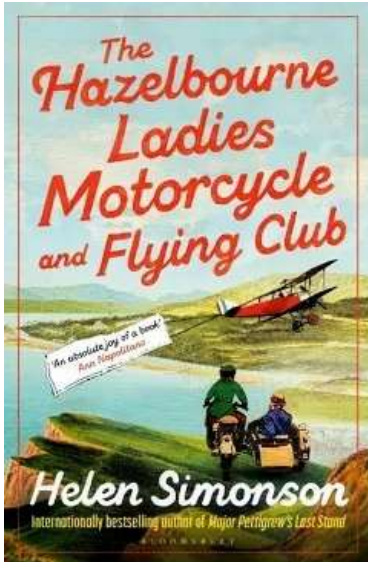
Plate One Al Mathews



Have you been impressed by the work a Group Convenor is doing, or has done over the time you've known them? Email Al Mathews (your Newsletter editor) at newsletter@U3Atauranga.org.nz and let me know. I really want to spread the word that U3A Convenors are the heroes and backbone of everything we do. Their stories deserve to be told.

BOOK REVIEW

The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club Helen Simonson



This book is so far away from my comfort zone that I approached it with trepidation, trembling, and a slight twitch under my right eye. Jenny, my better three-quarters, recommended it to me. She's a minx, that woman!

Let's get into it. Set in the years immediately following the Great War of 1914 – 18, this rollicking yarn follows Constance Haverhill as she is removed from the responsible job she was doing while all the men were busy being shot at, to assume the humdrum and cloistered responsibilities of an Edwardian Woman, once again. One must be proper, young lady! She takes a position as a Lady's Companion at Hazelbourne-on-Sea, where she meets the rebellious Poppy, the daughter of a local baronet, and a woman who simply won't abide with the artificial restrictions of Society. Women who had been

liberated by the war were now forced back into Not Being Allowed to Take Tea Alone in A Public Salon!

I loved it. It's a timeless and razor-sharp comedy of manners, and while Jeeves didn't shimmer into view, I wouldn't have been at all surprised if he had. Stropky women, outraged (and outrageous) and bristling bish-bosh-bash chaps, charming and chuffingly handsome war-wounded former RFC pilots, high society, giggles and garters, and shenanigans galore: first class fun, old bean. *Al Mathews*

MOVIE REVIEW

In The Hand of Dante

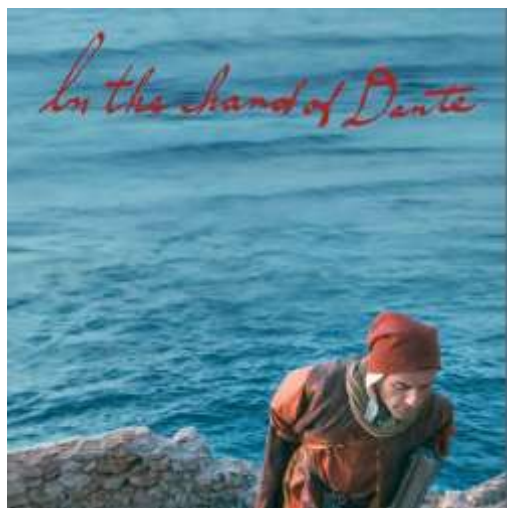
In the Hand of Dante is a Netflix flick that I took great delight in – but it seems I may be in a minority. Rotten Tomatoes damns the movie with faint praise, (or praises with faint damnation!) but I revelled in its excesses.

From the book by Nick Tosches (well worth a read), the story involves a fictional character named, oddly, Nicholas

Tosches, and played brilliantly by Oscar Isaac. The fictional Tosches is hired by a Mafia chief to authenticate a newly discovered handwritten manuscript of Dante's *Inferno*. Was it, or was it not, written by Dante himself? So far, so simple. Complication is piled on complication, blood is casually and with off-hand violence shed, startlingly superb performances from the likes of



Gal Gadot, Al Pacino, Gerard Butler, and John Malkovich, Jason Momoa, and Martin Scorsese make the story sing, and the cinematography is astonishing.



The story toggles between the 13th and 21st centuries, as Dante (also played by Oscar Isaac) struggles with writing his poem while falling in love with Gal Gadot's glorious Giulietta, and Tosches – accompanied by Gerard Butler's appalling stone-cold killer Louie – crosses the globe authenticating the manuscript, which was discovered in a Vatican store-room by a corrupt priest. Tosches also spends time finding and falling in love with a 21st century Giulietta (Gal Gadot, glorious again). Martin Scorsese and Al Pacino also play dual roles: you need to keep your wits about you. And yes: references, visual and spoken, to Dante's great poem are thrown at the screen with gleeful abandon.

The whole thing is stitched together with rare brio by the director, and the climactic scene is masterful. Watch it: I found it puzzling, infuriating, hilarious, shocking, and simply superb. I'll be going back for another helping soon.

My rating? 9 out of 10. Rotten Tomatoes? 44%. Bah. What do they know? *Al Mathews*

September Stories: a Kiwi Springboard

September 6th, 1948: The day all New Zealanders officially became New Zealanders. Prior to this date all Kiwis were British citizens. But this was the day the British Nationality and New Zealand Citizenship Act took effect – and voila! We all became New Zealand citizens. The apron strings were starting to loosen, but I'm sure we can all remember our parents or grandparents speaking of England as "home", despite never having been within 20,000 kilometres of the place.



September 4th, 1939: Adolf Hitler felt a shiver of fear run up his spine when he heard the news: New Zealand had declared war on Germany. But seriously: New Zealand's contribution to the Second World War cannot be under-estimated. We suffered more casualties in proportion to our population than any other Allied nation. A Kiwi, Sir Keith Park, led RAF's magnificent defence during the Battle of Britain. Kiwi soldiers were pivotal in Africa (El Alamein and Tunisia) and Italy (Monte Cassino). And the New Zealand Navy's HMS Achilles was responsible for helping bottle the German pocket battleship up at Montevideo: the Graf Spee's captain subsequently scuttled the ship.

September 19th, 1893. See our cover: New Zealand became the first self-governing country to free women from a millennia or seven of being disenfranchised. Good on us, I say.



ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD:

September 2, 1666: The Great Fire of London – a massive conflagration that cleared the way for Christopher Wren to design and build a few dozen churches and cathedrals, notably St Paul's.

While 6 people died in the fire, records suggest quite a number more died during the building of the church.

September 9, 2001: AKA 9/11, which makes me think it happened in November. New York, the World Trade Centre, and four hi-jacked passenger jets. More than 3,000 dead, including the terrorists. A day of horror and infamy, which led to more than 20 years of warfare, death, and destruction in Afghanistan – and, ultimately, the success of the Taliban and their iron-age attitudes towards women.



Deadline for material for October's Newsletter is October 1st.

Are you a member of a Group that really inspires you?

Your Newsletter Editor is looking for stories about the Groups you're either a member of – or would like to join or start.

The following page tells us one story about a couple of regular U3A members who've superbly served their Group for 15 years. A great achievement, and one which – hopefully - may inspire someone to kick-start a new Group.

Send me your story today: newsletter@U3Atauranga.org.nz



Wikimedia Photo of the Year 2014

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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 \(infooodle.com\)](http://Application Form | U3A Tauranga (infooodle.com)).

NEXT ISSUE: 12 October, 2026. Deadline 01 October. newsletter@U3Atauranga.org.nz