



JULY - AUGUST 2024



**NATURE'S BEAUTY:** Members of **Garden Ramblers 1** were awed by the stunning autumnal colours they saw on a visit to McLaren Falls. More pictures on [Page 19](#).

**UKRAINE,  
GAZA,  
CHINA:  
WHAT'S  
GOING ON?**



Professor Al Gillespie sheds light on international affairs  
*19 July General Meeting*

**TWO  
SPEAKERS  
YOU WON'T  
WANT TO MISS**

[Turn to Page 2  
for details](#)

**DON'T  
BE THE  
VICTIM  
OF A  
SCAM!**



Meet the bank expert who can help you keep safe  
*16 August General Meeting*

## IN THIS ISSUE

<a href="#">Message from the President</a>	3
<a href="#">Tauranga General Meetings</a>	4-5
<a href="#">Katikati General Meetings</a>	6-7
<a href="#">General News</a>	8-9, 17
<a href="#">Meet and Greet</a>	9
<a href="#">Feature: Tapestry's fate</a>	10-11
<a href="#">Feature: The Hundertwasser Centre</a>	12-14
<a href="#">Feature: Nursery rhymes</a>	15-16
<a href="#">Group News</a>	18-21
<a href="#">Coordinators' Report</a>	20
<a href="#">Food for Thought</a>	22-23
<a href="#">Executive</a>	24

### Newsletter Team

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**GM photographs:** Colin Basire, Glenne Findon, with thanks also to Margaret Marsh



## QUIZ CORNER

1. What is the chemical symbol for lead?
2. What are Regulus, Betelgeuse and Aldebaran?
3. Is the state capital of California: a) Fresno; b) Sacramento; or c) San Francisco?
4. LX - XL =? (LX minus XL equals what?)
5. Who reportedly said on arrival at New York Customs in 1882: "I have nothing to declare but my genius"?
6. Which of these military units is largest: a) Company; b) Battalion; c) Brigade?
7. Which US President was NOT assassinated: a) Abraham Lincoln; b) Herbert Hoover; c) William McKinley?
8. In the *Holy Bible*, which book directly follows Genesis?
9. Who immediately succeeded Robert Muldoon as Prime Minister of New Zealand?
10. Who is pictured here?



■ [Answers on Page 7](#)

## WHO'S SPEAKING AT OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETINGS

### TAURANGA, 19 JULY, TAURANGA YACHT CLUB, SULPHUR POINT, 9.45am

**Professor Al Gillespie's** talk, *Navigating Stormy Seas: NZ in an Increasingly Challenging International World*, will address NZ's place in war zones such as Gaza and Ukraine and how it impacts us. Al is a published author and is a Professor of Law at Waikato University. He has also been the expert on a number of international delegations and he has advised the NZ Government on multiple international concerns.

### TAURANGA, 16 AUGUST, TAURANGA YACHT CLUB, SULPHUR POINT, 9.45am

It seems that almost every day we hear or read about another victim of the scammers – whether it's through a phone call, email, dodgy website or even a phone text. In his presentation, *Scammers and How to Beat Them*, **TeRa Arthur**, ANZ branch manager at 11th Avenue, Katikati and Waihi, will guide us through common frauds and scams, what we can do to protect ourselves, and where we can turn for help if needed.

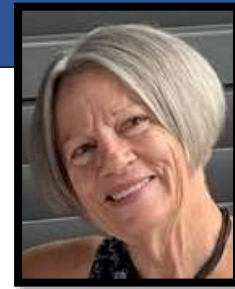
### KATIKATI, 10 JULY, THE HUB, 21 Main Road, 10am

**Sandra Haigh**, Senior Librarian and Archivist at the Katikati Library, will bring us up to date on services available through the Western Bay of Plenty Library Services.

### KATIKATI, 14 AUGUST, THE HUB, 21 Main Road, 10am

The guest speaker is **Margaret Weir** of Amnesty International.

Please regularly check our website [www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](http://www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz) for further information.



# How enjoyable our GMs are

**D**EAR Members,

On Friday, 21 June, we celebrated the winter solstice which marks the day when the Southern Hemisphere is tilted farthest from the sun. The outcome being fewer sunlight hours, meaning that the day was the shortest day in the year. I can only say how lucky we were to have had such a beautiful sunny day all day across Tauranga City. Yes, it was rather cold, but that is expected in what is officially the season of winter.

Many people across NZ may have celebrated the day with a romantic candlelight dinner, by taking a nature walk, or spending time to reflect on the past year and even doing some goal setting. A larger than usual number of U3A Tauranga members chose to celebrate the winter solstice by attending the monthly General Meeting at the Tauranga Yacht and Boat Club, located at Sulphur Point. What a stunning venue it is, with crystal clear blue water views across to Mt Maunganui, Mauao. The day was so beautiful many members chose to sit outside on the welcoming balcony for morning tea.

A different interest group does the Meet and Greet each month as members arrive at the venue for our monthly meetings. Many thanks to the Photography and Scrabble groups, who fulfilled this role in May and June respectively. Also, a thank you to Phil Hansen and Bruce Smith for providing the technical requirements for the June General Meeting. Plus a thank you to Mary Stewart for the work she does to arrange so many inspiring speakers for our General Meetings.

The audience was soundly inspired, informed and challenged by the two invited speakers in June. Rowan Dawson, Manager of Circability, challenged everyone to return home and start brain stimulation and physical enhancement by practising the fun movements he demonstrated using mini hula-hoops, juggling balls and sticks. Greg McManus, the Tauranga Museum Director, spoke about the new museum for the city. In his words, museums are about “exploring the past, pondering the present and imagining the future”. Both speakers were fully endorsed by the audience. It is always a pleasure to receive very positive comments from the U3A members as they leave the General Meetings: “That was such an enjoyable meeting”, “Gosh, the speakers were great, so inspiring”, “I learnt so much about our city from that speaker”. I really enjoy attending these General Meetings, as I get to talk with so many different people.

As we all know, U3A functions through the volunteer workers in the background and the much-valued support the volunteers receive from the members. We have been asking for a volunteer to take on the role as Membership Administrator. We are very happy to announce that at the recent General Meeting a member stepped up offering to seriously consider taking over from Raewyn Gallagher. Identity will be revealed soon 😊. Meanwhile, are still asking for 2-3 volunteers to join the publicity team. Please, if interested in joining this group contact me by email.

Kia kaha, take care, stay well and keep warm. I Look forward to seeing you all at our next General Meeting.

*Gail Moore*

President U3A Tauranga

[Return to Page 2 index](#)



After inviting two members of the audience to join him, Vince started throwing a ball between the three of them. Then it became a game for just two people. "I'm feeling left out here!" said Fred to much laughter.

*Pictures by Margaret Marsh*

### Why Fred felt left out ...

Vince Ford carried out an interesting demonstration to illustrate a point he was making about social interaction



# Vince has a message for us all

By JAN HOLDEN

**VINCE Ford** is a researcher, author and speaker whose very informative address, *Social Connection – People Need People*, emphasised the importance of social contact for our health, especially in old age. He felt, however, that he was probably speaking to the converted, as members of U3A attending the meeting were obviously making lots of social connections!

He explained how lack of connection and loneliness impacts our wellbeing, involving physical as well as mental and spiritual wellness. Females, he said, were good social organisers and make connections through talking. Whereas males spend less time with their friends, and connections are made by doing stuff together.

Statistics have shown that men are more prone to depression and suicide. That is why Men's Sheds have become so important and successful at helping retired males to not only form connections, but to have a purpose in life. Vince previously gave his address at the March Katikati meeting and a full report is on Page 7 of the May-June *Newsletter*.

**Sharaine Steenberg**, who describes herself as a social entrepreneur, gave a passionate talk about her work with people with disabilities. She said it was important to ensure that people with disabilities can be involved and immersed in the community. Sharaine is Operations Manager of Chrome Collective, an organisation that provides vocational training to those with disabilities. They have many projects where the disabled can be involved and it is the first organisation to start a resource recovery centre in the Bay of Plenty. Their base in Katikati generates income from recycling, particularly e-waste and an op shop. See also an article on Sharaine on Page 8 of the May-June *Newsletter*.



*Sharaine makes a point.*

See the May-June *Newsletter* here: [20240501MayNewsletter.pdf \(u3atauranga.kiwi.nz\)](https://u3atauranga.kiwi.nz/20240501MayNewsletter.pdf)

# Museum will show city treasures

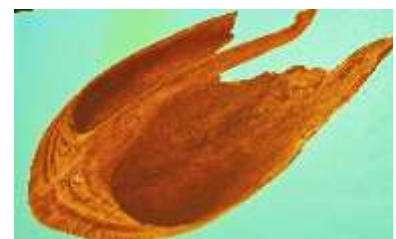
By JAN HOLDEN



IN HIS talk, *A New Museum for Tauranga: Challenges and Opportunities*, **Greg McManus** (*pictured left*) inspired the audience with his vision for the new museum, which is due to open in 2028.

Greg gained his academic qualifications at Auckland and Leicester (UK) Universities and he has over 30 years' experience as a museum director. His most recent tenure was completing a 10-year term as Chief Executive of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds.

Museums, Greg explained, are places that tell stories. They are places that create a sense of awe and wonder in young minds.



Yet this experience is not available in Tauranga. Tauranga has a rich history and it also has 35,000 artifacts in storage in Mt Maunganui, which the public cannot access. Just one example is the ancient canoe bailer (*pictured right*).

The museum will be part of the new precinct stretching from the Baycourt Theatre to the waterfront, which will include the Library, Community Hub, Civic Whare and Art Gallery, as well as park-like gardens.

Included in the interior design are a permanent exhibition space, two temporary exhibition galleries, a learning hub, discovery centre, café and museum shop. The concept for the permanent exhibition is being developed now and will be curated to showcase the rich cultural heritage of our region. Using modern museum technology, the display of Tauranga's heritage collection will offer an immersive and interactive experience for visitors of all ages.

## Rowan causes quite a stir with his juggling act

By JAN HOLDEN

**ROWAN Dawson** (*right*), Bay of Plenty Regional Hub Manager of Circability, gave a very entertaining short address. Circability is a unique form of circus arts that combines the physical skills of the circus with the social and emotional benefits of community engagement, helping develop important life skills such as self-confidence, communication, teamwork and perseverance. Circability's mission is to improve the lives of people with disabilities or those who find it difficult to fit in socially. A short demonstration included how to learn to juggle or spin discs on the end of a stick, which had everyone in awe of his skills.



[Return to Page 2 index](#)

# Guiding hand for our youngsters

By **MARJORIE SQUIRE**

The main speaker at the Katikati U3A General Meeting in May was **Don Allan-Gordon** (*pictured*), Bay of Plenty regional manager for the Graeme Dingle Foundation. The very active foundation provides programmes that focus on young people and youth, encouraging the development of confidence, direction and purpose in life.

This is achieved with in-school programmes, peer support and for older students, mentorship. Don told us that within one of Tauranga's participating colleges there had been a noticeable reduction in bad behaviour and bullying.

The economic consultancy firm Infometrics has evaluated the economic returns of the foundation's programmes to society. For every dollar invested there is a return of \$10.50. That is an amazing social investment, both for young people and for society.



### **This is how the Graeme Dingle Foundation's website spells out its aims:**

Over 28 years ago, Sir Graeme Dingle and Jo-anne Wilkinson, Lady Dingle, had a vision to improve New Zealand's negative youth statistics. Together they continue to be relentless campaigners, supporters, fundraisers and champions of the charity's quest to help young New Zealanders achieve their potential.

The Graeme Dingle Foundation works with Aotearoa New Zealand's tamariki and rangatahi at different life stages, working directly with schools and communities through our programmes. Established in 1995, we are proud to be a leading Child and Youth Development charity.

Our programmes are currently delivered to over 27,000 young people in 10 regions across Aotearoa New Zealand every year. Our vision is to ensure Aotearoa will be the best place in the world to be young.

<https://dinglefoundation.org.nz>

Our first speaker was **Carole Parker** (*pictured*) from the Katikati Abbeyfields Trust, who gave an update on the building target to house 14 over-65-year-olds.

Each resident would have a self-contained room, own front door and a paid housekeeper providing lunch and dinner. The trust's application for a grant from the Affordable Housing Fund has been successful.



The very good news is that the building team have met for the first time and a project manager has been appointed. Further fund-raising community events are planned, including Jo Carrol, Editor of the *New Zealand Gardener*, who will be speaking at an afternoon tea at the Waihi Beach RSA. You can visit their website at [www.abbeyfield.co.nz](http://www.abbeyfield.co.nz)

[Return to Page 2 index](#)

# Coroner explains her vital role

By LYNNE SHEARMAN

WE WERE privileged to have the very busy Coroner **Donna Llewellyn** (*right*) as our guest speaker in June. Donna gave us details about her job along with outlining the background to some cases, which certainly kept us interested. She explained that all coroners need to have at least seven years' experience in legal practice and most in New Zealand have around 15-20 years before becoming coroners. They are rostered on duty 24/7 and can work from home as well as in their offices. There is a broad range of backgrounds among coroners, they are ethnically diverse and there are more women than men in the service.



The Judiciary are often criticised as to why it takes such a long time for cases to be concluded by the coroner, which means the grieving process remains unresolved for families. But there are only 22 full-time coroners in New Zealand, although four more were appointed in a relieving capacity prior to the Covid outbreak, in expectation of a sharp rise in need.

Coroners are appointed by the Governor-General and are part of the Judiciary, though are not judges. They wear royal blue gowns, not black ones. Coroners have the same procedural powers as a District Court judge and can call people to attend their courts, but about 90 per cent of the job involves sending out for and reading reports from a range of sources.

After assessing all the information available, coroners then decide on the cause and circumstances in unexplained deaths and make recommendations that may prevent future such deaths. These include medical causes, suspected self-harm cases and deaths where a doctor cannot certify a death because the deceased was not registered with a doctor. And as we know, they are involved in cases of mass deaths, such as Whakaari/White Island and the Christchurch Mosque attacks.

Donna says she takes the attitude of being on the side of the deceased, treating them with respect and ensuring their family is given information in a sensitive manner. She concluded by leaving us with the message "You never learn to tolerate death, you learn to manage it," pertinent to us all.

IF YOU know of serious illness or the passing of a U3A Member please contact the **Almoner, Lynne Hewson, on 021 968 022** so that a card can be sent to the member or member's family as appropriate.

## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Pb (from the Latin word *plumbum*);
2. Star names;
3. b) Sacramento;
4. XX (60-40=20 in Latin numerals);
5. Oscar Wilde;
6. c) Brigade;
7. b) Herbert Hoover;
8. Exodus;
9. David Lange;
10. Elon Musk.

[Return to Page 2 index](#)

# Is the information you have on groups out of date?

FOR convenience, you may have downloaded the digital Handbook from the website or you may be referring to the printed Handbook. Please note that the hard-copy Handbook is printed only once a year but the digital version is updated four times a year. Be aware, therefore, that the information in the document you are accessing will be only as current as the date the file was downloaded or the book was printed. Groups are continually evolving, so for the most up-to-date details please check out the “**All Groups**” link on the home page of our website [www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](http://www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz) (circled on the image below). Any changes to group details are updated here as they occur.



[Return to Page 2 index](#)

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



**TAURANGA Civic Choir**, to which several of our U3A members belong, are presenting the World Premiere of *Flax Fingers Weave the Moonlight*, composed and directed by Nigel Williams, on Saturday, 6 July.

The special event to celebrate Matariki, which takes place at St Peter’s in the City, 130 Spring Street, Tauranga, promises to “weave a tapestry of connection with soul-stirring melodies and rhythms as we celebrate this special time of year”.

The MC is Tauranga singer, songwriter and teacher Carol Storey, and the choir will be accompanied by a string quartet, flute, piano and percussion.

Performances take place at 1.30pm and 4pm, and the choir will be providing kai to share (at no extra cost) between the two performances. Audience members are welcome to stay after the first performance or arrive early for the second.

Tickets are available online for \$20 plus \$2.20 booking fee, with door sales (cash only) at \$25. Schoolchildren are admitted free of charge but will need a ticket for seating purposes.

For more information visit <http://www.taurangacivicchoir.org.nz/concerts.html>



## GENERAL NEWS

**CAROL Outen** is putting her years of financial experience to great use in the demanding role of Treasurer for U3A Tauranga.

Originally from Gisborne, Carol was involved in farming Perendale sheep, Murray Grey cattle and Appaloosa horses at Awanui Station, Whangara, off State Highway 35 (halfway between Gisborne and Tolaga Bay). She has lived in Papamoa for 16 years.

Her two children and husband Henry Williams showed horses all over New Zealand in Western Shows and she became involved in the organising side.

“There is nothing more boring than a horse show once your family has done their thing,” says Carol. So she began helping to organise Polocrosse tournaments, Western Riding Club shows (big and small), four-day National Breed Shows, Endurance Rides and Competitive Trail Rides. Then came the formation of the New Zealand Western Horse Federation, of which at various times she served as president, secretary or treasurer in both the North and South Islands.

“A long, long time ago, I worked at Firestone using their computer system, which was a hangover from the war years,” recalls Carol. “Thinking our New Zealand system was ancient history, I discovered that it was the same used in the United States during a trip there!

“Since then, I have used five or six different financial programs for different businesses – jack of all trades but master of none!” she says with a smile.

Carol finished work four months ago, after six years of working remotely as Chief Financial Officer of a large Māori Trust, who were producers of Manawa honey in Ruatahuna.

“These days I love lots of Country music (LOUD), textiles and sewing, patchwork and quilting, organising peggy square blankets for Operation Coverup (heading for 40 this year), and knitted garments for Women’s Refuge,” she says.

“I have been lucky enough to travel overseas several times and hope to continue with that. I am a serious (LOL) wine taster. Best night out – dinner! It means no cooking and no dishes!”

## MEET & GREET



Members of the **Photography** group (left) greeted everyone at May’s Tauranga General Meeting.

Members of the **Scrabble** group (right) welcomed those attending the GM in June.



A remarkable work of art has resurfaced after going missing for 200 years. It could be lost again into private hands unless a minor museum can raise the funds to buy it.



# Tapestry's fate hangs in the air

By LATI MOODIE

PICTURE the scene: It's 1539 at Hampton Court Palace, candles flicker, courtiers gather, a hush falls, then a flourish sounds, and in strides King Henry VIII. As he walks forward, he sees nine brand new tapestries, all based on the life of St Paul, which he has personally commissioned from the best artisans in the Low Countries.

Of the set of nine tapestries Henry commissioned, only one survives – this one, called *Saint Paul Directing the Burning of the Heathen Books*. The dramatic scene takes place in Ephesus, in modern Turkey. It is based on a text in *The Acts of the Apostles*, which refers to people embracing the new Christian faith and bringing their books about magic and sorcery to be burned.

Here's St Paul himself, with his hand outstretched towards a plume of smoke rising from a big pile of books being thrown on the flames. The tapestry is pretty big – 5.5 by 3.5 metres. There is lavish use of silver and gold thread, and it was among the most expensive works of art commissioned by Henry VIII. Interestingly, the gold and silver thread is in remarkably good condition; many other tapestries from this era are quite tarnished in comparison.

The work is both politically and religiously symbolic. Henry had actually commissioned the tapestries in 1535 – so he had waited four years for them. It is significant that the Act of Supremacy was passed in 1534, so just a year before he ordered the tapestries, he had become

*Continued on Page 11*

## NEWSLETTER FEATURES

*Continued from Page 10*

the Supreme Head of the Church of England. Henry was comparing himself to St Paul (the Pope, of course, looked to St Peter), and making a statement that he was following in the biblical tradition of suppressing books regarded as heretical.

Tyndale's *New Testament* was banned in 1535 and had been publicly burned outside St Paul's Cathedral on Henry's orders. So this tapestry indicates that Henry's identification with St Paul rather than St Peter, his status as head of the Church, the burning of books he thought were heretical, and controlling what people believed were all in the forefront of his mind.

Tapestries were very popular in Tudor times, as one can see in various Tudor grand houses and palaces. At the time of Henry's death, an inventory of his vast possessions showed that there were about 2,700 tapestries in the collection.

This tapestry was missing for 200 years, and the other eight tapestries Henry commissioned are still missing. They were last recorded in the inventory of Windsor Castle in 1770, but the trail then goes cold. This single tapestry reappeared 200 years later – in the 1970s – in Spain, where it has been held in private collections. Nobody knows where it has been during those 200 years, or what has happened to the other eight; perhaps they no longer exist.

It is currently on the market in Spain. There has been a lot of interest in getting it back to Britain, as it is obviously a very historically significant work. The Spanish Government has imposed an export ban on it, but they have agreed to lift the ban if the tapestry is bought by a suitable UK museum or gallery which has the ability to display it properly and to conserve it. Apparently, various British institutions initially expressed an interest, but the price tag and the space and expertise needed to exhibit it have proven to be major obstacles.

Only one museum in Britain remains interested – this is a new so-called Museum of Faith in Auckland Castle, just south of Durham in the Northeast of England. They need over £4 million (\$8.3 million) to cover the asking price plus the export taxes and other costs. As of February this year, they had raised £1 million through crowd funding. They are also hoping to get grants from various arts councils, lotteries and the like.

If they don't succeed, it is likely to be sold to another private buyer in Spain and to disappear into some grand house or castle, where it won't necessarily be conserved – or even displayed. I think you would agree with me that this would be a real shame! [Return to Page 2 index](#)



*Two examples of exquisite detail from the tapestry.*

It's the jewel in Northland's crown ... but problems arose from the very beginning.



# How the HUNDERTWASSER Centre almost didn't get built

IN 1993, the Austrian-born artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser was invited by the Mayor of Whangārei to design an art centre for the city. He chose the former Northland Harbour Board building in the Town Basin (corner Quayside and Riverside) and made a number of visits to study the building and sketch his ideas.

He sketched a two-storey building with a forest on the roof at the most beautiful spot in Whangārei, on an arm of the marina. Two columns, one "European", the other "Māori", at the front corners of the building were intended to accentuate the façade. The existing Council Building was to be included in the overall site design. But there was a problem. The chosen site was owned by the Northland Regional Council, which did not wish to sell.

The project was revived in 2008 after Whangārei District Council bought the building. Councillor Kahu Sutherland and chief executive Mark Simpson travelled to Vienna to win the support of the Hundertwasser Non-Profit Foundation. (Hundertwasser himself had died in 2000.)

The foundation not only retrieved the artist's original drawings and architectural concept from its archive, but also persuaded Heinz Springmann, an architect on many Hundertwasser projects, to produce plans for the council, faithfully capturing the artist's vision.

Joram Harel, Chairman of the Hundertwasser Foundation Board, came up with an offer to create, instead of an art gallery, the Hundertwasser Art Centre (HAC), which would present Hundertwasser's legacy in New Zealand from 1973 to 2000. Harel offered the inclusion of a space for a dedicated Māori Art Gallery with autonomy in all matters, represented by an advisory board of Māori dignitaries. He also offered to provide know-how and architectural plans, as well as a Hundertwasser exhibition, free of any cost.

Whangārei District Council committed a total of \$8 million to the project over three years and began assessing seismic strengthening of the proposed building. *Continued on Page 13*

## NEWSLETTER FEATURES

*Continued from Page 12*

The total cost of the build at that stage was expected to be \$13 million and private and public donations were sought to raise at least \$5 million. In mid-2014, however, came a major reversal of fortune. Newly elected Whangārei District Councillors voted: “That all previous motions and/or commitments on the Hundertwasser Art Centre be rescinded.”

After the disappointment of the council withdrawing its support for the original Hundertwasser Art Centre (despite \$5 million having already been raised and the project’s inclusion in the district’s Long-Term Plan), a group of local citizens decided to find a way to build it on their own. They formed Prosper Northland Trust and started the complex process of rebuilding relationships and scoping the project from scratch.

In September 2014, the council asked the public to submit proposals for the eventual use of the former Harbour Board building in the Town Basin. Prosper Northland jumped at the chance to put forward their revised vision for the project and made their submission along with 21 others.

The Hundertwasser proposal scored the highest points against the council matrix used to evaluate the projects. At a meeting to decide which project to proceed with, the council instead voted to take the final decision to a public binding referendum in March 2015. The options proposed for referendum were – Option



**A:** Habourside (a marine museum project, which scored second); **B:** The Hundertwasser Wairau Māori Art Gallery; **C:** Demolition of the building. Delayed until June 2015, the hotly contested referendum resulted in a landslide win for the Hundertwasser project, which received more than 50 per cent of the total vote. The art centre finally had a public mandate and the community support it needed. After the referendum success, Prosper Northland formed a team of volunteers in collaboration with Whangārei Art Museum Trust and the Wairau Māori Art Gallery Board to raise the required funds. The project team was required to reach the target of \$16.25 million by the end of June

*The proposed Hundertwasser Art Centre took shape in 2008.*

2017 for the project to proceed.

In addition, they were required to secure a \$2 million underwrite of Operating Costs. On meeting these conditions they had until June 2018 to secure a building contract which could be fully funded by the amount raised. To ensure funds raised would be sufficient, the project team commissioned core sampling and undertook engineering due diligence and re-costing. Based on



*In 2016, He Kakano gave tradespeople practice.*

*Continued on Page 14*

## NEWSLETTER FEATURES

*Continued from Page 13*



*The centre was an extraordinarily complex building to construct and had to be extremely heavily engineered.*



*Bricklayers threw away spirit levels.*



*Even tile floors are undulating.*

this work, they revised the cost estimate up to \$20.97 million.

In February 2016, Prosper Northland welcomed an announcement of a \$4 million contribution from the Government. More than \$10 million had been raised by that time. In March of that year, the Hundertwasser Non-Profit Foundation and Whangārei Art Museum Trust entered into an agreement regarding the construction of the Hundertwasser Art Centre. In June, the Lotteries Environment and Heritage Fund announced a grant of \$500,000, bringing funds raised to two-thirds of the total needed. August saw an agreement between the Hundertwasser Foundation and the Art Museum Trust for the set-up, operation and maintenance of the art centre, in accordance with identity, philosophy and appearance stipulated by the Foundation and in fidelity to Hundertwasser's concerns and philosophy. In October, a \$1.8 million grant was committed by Foundation North, formally known as the ASB Community Trust, bringing funds to almost 80 per cent of the total needed to commence building.

On 21 October 2016, the tiny building planned as a precursor to the Hundertwasser Art Centre opened. He Kakano ("The Seed") was blessed by kaumātua in a dawn ceremony. The spiral structure, known as a folly, was designed to give local tradespeople some practice in Hundertwasser-style building techniques. The Seed incorporated bricks, plaster, tiles, glass and wood in a koru pattern on a 60 square metre footprint.

By the 30 June 2017 deadline, the full \$20.97 million had been raised. In June 2018, Trigg Construction of Whangārei were appointed as lead contractor and work got under way. Piles needed to be founded in bedrock, 37 metres into the ground. The centre was an extraordinarily complex building to construct and had to be extremely heavily engineered to meet NZ Building Codes. Volunteers cleaned 18,000 recycled bricks, de-nailed and prepared 3,500 metres of re-used native timber flooring. In 2020, some 10,000 sheets of gold leaf were applied to the building.

Bricklayers had to throw away their string lines and levels. Craftspeople were able to add their own creative touches. In 2021, planting of the roof garden began, with many different native species. The art centre finally opened in February 2022.

*This article is based on notes for a talk **Rod MacDiarmid** gave to **Buildings and Cities**.*

**MURRAY ARMSTRONG** continues his fascinating delve into the origins of nursery rhymes – and has uncovered some dark tales from English history.

# Mary takes her bloody revenge

*Three blind mice, three blind mice, / See how they run, see how they run; / They all ran after the farmer's wife, / Who cut off their tails with a carving knife; / Did you ever see such a thing in your life, / As three blind mice?*

WHEN Henry VIII divorced Catherine of Aragon, she and her daughter Mary were banished from Court, retiring to their estates. Lady (no longer Princess) Mary later became called “the farmer’s wife”. She remained true to her Catholicism and was always seen as a threat to Protestant England. Religious leaders Thomas Cranmer, Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley kept her under close scrutiny – they all “ran after the farmer’s wife”.

When Mary later became the monarch, numerous Protestant leaders ran into exile, but Cranmer, Latimer and Ridley were all captured. Mary ordered the execution of these three clerics. The three were tortured, blinded (“three blind mice”), and then burnt at the stake in central Oxford in front of hundreds of shocked spectators, becoming known as “the Oxford Martyrs”.



*Mary Mary, quite contrary, / How does your garden grow? / With silver bells and cockle shells / And pretty maids all in a row.*

History tells us there was an attempt to reverse the Reformation in England when Mary, married to King Philip of Spain, became the monarch in 1553. This is a particularly dark nursery rhyme. On becoming Queen, Mary set about undoing the religious legislation of her predecessors, plunging England into further turmoil. She was indeed Mary quite contrary!



She appointed Stephen Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester, as Lord Chancellor, the most powerful official in the land. He led a merciless purge of Protestants. It is suggested that “How does your garden grow?” is a play on the name of Gardiner, although some say it could also have been a taunt at Mary’s empty womb and her failure to produce an heir.

What is clear is that Gardiner ordered imprisoned dissenters to be tortured using a gruesome array of devices and Mary became known as “Bloody Mary”. A very unpleasant instrument for crushing a man’s genitals was known as a “cockleshell”. Thumbscrews were known as “silver bells” and rows of guillotine-type devices used for beheading were known as “maidens” or “maids”.

*Continued on Page 16*

## NEWSLETTER FEATURES

*Continued from Page 15*

***Ladybird, ladybird, flyaway home, / Your house is on fire and your children are gone; / All except one, who is called little Ann, / For she has crept under the frying pan.***

Mary was monarch for only six years. When she died, her half-sister Elizabeth I succeeded to the throne. Elizabeth re-established the Church of England and Protestantism. It became dangerous then for Catholics to refuse to embrace the new Anglican religious uniformity.

Reference to these developments is contained in this nursery rhyme. The word “ladybird” in fact derives from the Catholic term for the Virgin Mary, “Our Lady”. The rhyme offered a warning to Catholics who refused to attend Protestant services of the very real risks they were running.

***Little Miss Muffet / Sat on her tuffet / Eating her curds and whey. / Along came a spider / That sat down beside her / And frightened Miss Muffet away.***

During the 1500s it was “all on” between Catholics and Protestants. Elizabethan England faced the threat from a Catholic conspiracy to put Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, on the throne and the threat of a Spanish invasion to overthrow Elizabeth. “Little Miss Muffet” was Mary, Queen of Scots. The “spider” was John Knox, the great Scottish Protestant reformer of the Presbyterian Church. Knox held vast religious influence in Scotland and regularly rebuked Mary. Eventually, her nobles rebelled and Mary escaped to England. Elizabeth held her under house arrest for 19 years. But Mary remained a magnet for Catholic conspiracies, in which she became complicit. Eventually Elizabeth ordered her execution in 1587.



***Flour of England, fruit of Spain / Met together in a shower of rain; / Put in a bag and tied with a string; / If you tell me this riddle, I'll give you a ring.***

Just as Elizabeth I had feared, Mary Stuart’s execution galvanised the Spanish into an invasion of England. The Spanish Armada set sail in 1588. This is described in the “Flour of England” rhyme. Fortunately for Elizabeth, her admiral Lord Howard and vice-admiral Francis Drake, with the help of a nasty storm in the English Channel (“a shower of rain”), managed to rout the Armada. The riddle of why the Spanish couldn’t win, despite having overwhelming force, was one the Spanish were unable to answer. Hence the final line: “If you tell me this riddle, I’ll give you a ring” is an English taunt to the Spanish king that he would never be King of England again, either through marriage or by force.

[Return to Page 2 index](#)

*Murray Armstrong will continue his investigation into the origin of nursery rhymes in our next issue. Murray’s articles in this series began in the January 2024 issue. You can read previous copies of the Newsletter by clicking on this link: [Newsletters - U3A Tauranga Inc](#)*

Stay up to date with the Handbook at [U3A-Tauranga-Handbook-2024-03.pdf \(u3atauranga.kiwi.nz\)](#)



## Can you help in cognitive skills research?

PEARSON Clinical Assessment Research are currently developing Australian and New Zealand editions of the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale. The WAIS-5 is a test of cognitive skills (for example, the ability to think, problem solve and pay attention). The WMS-5 is a test of memory and learning. The TFLS-2 is a test of functional ability, such as the ability to communicate or prepare food.

Pearson are recruiting people from New Zealand who are aged 16-90 years. To ensure that the sample is representative of the population, it is essential that a diverse group of people across this age range are included. This includes older New Zealanders.

The participation of older New Zealanders is essential to ensuring these tests provide useful information about the cognitive, memory, and functional ability for this group.

When participants are invited to take part, they are connected with one of the partner registered and trained psychologists in their area, who will get in touch with them directly to organise a time and place for the study sessions. Please note that tests are not a diagnosis and participants will not receive any results or feedback.

As a thank you for completing the sessions, each participant will receive a gift card.

More details about the project, what the testing involves and eligibility of prospective participants can be found at: [www.pearsonclinical.com.au/participant](http://www.pearsonclinical.com.au/participant)



### SMILE AWHILE



**Patient:** "Doctor, doctor, I've broken my arm in three places." **Doctor:** "Well don't go to those places!"

A man was passing through a strange town when he saw a sign outside a pub saying: "A pie, a pint and a friendly word \$15." He went in and ordered the pie and a pint. The surly barman grumpily poured his pint and then slammed a pie down on the bar in front of him.

"Hey," said the man, "how about the friendly word?"

Without even looking up, the barman replied: "I wouldn't eat the pie if I were you!"



An old farmer writes to his son in prison: "Dear son, this year I won't be able to plant potatoes because I can't dig the field by myself. I know if you were here, you would help me." The son writes back: "Dad, don't even think of digging that field! That's where I buried the money I stole."

The police read the letter and next day the whole field was dug by police looking for the stolen loot but nothing was found. The following day, the son wrote again: "Now you can plant the potatoes, Dad. It's the best I can do from here."

**How do you tell the difference between an alligator and a crocodile?**

Easy! An alligator will see you later and a crocodile will see you in a while!



# Making sense of a crazy world

By IAN MORRISON

OUR online **International Affairs** group has ramped up its activities this year, to reflect a world beset by war and political contention.

Armed conflict is raging in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, Myanmar and dozens of less-publicised arenas. Meanwhile, significant elections have either taken place or are scheduled to happen soon in, among other places, Taiwan, South Africa, India, Mexico, the European Union, the United Kingdom and the United States.

We can't cover everything that is happening at this time of rapid change and trepidation. But we do feel obliged to put our best foot forward, with the help of our now well-established Zoom-based format, which allows us to invite expert speakers on a regular basis.

Ever since our start-up in 2020, we have benefited from the input of distinguished New Zealand-based scholars. But we are now spreading our wings to include more guest speakers from overseas, including, most recently, the Paris-based British journalist and political analyst Samantha de Bendern (*pictured*), who has just returned from a visit to Ukraine.

It was a privilege to host Samantha, who is an Associate Fellow at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London and a frequent commentator on Russia, Ukraine and the EU for both the UK and French media. Her account of her stay in Kyiv was highly moving, particularly when she spoke of the young men and women with an arm or leg missing who, after more than two years of war, can be seen frequently on the city's streets. In addition, Samantha's lucid, well-informed and well-reasoned analysis of the war was deeply appreciated by our members.



International Affairs' next overseas speaker will be Anand Menon, Director of the think tank UK in a Changing Europe and Professor of European Politics and Foreign Affairs at King's College, London, who will be discussing the current British General Election and what the future might hold for whoever wins the keys to 10, Downing Street.

Another welcome guest in upcoming weeks will be Associate Professor Chris Ogden, of Auckland University, an internationally recognised expert on the rise of Hindu nationalism.

[Return to Page 2 index](#)

IF YOU enjoy spending a foot-tapping hour or so in convivial company, **Jazz, Blues & Beyond** has vacancies for new members. The aim of the group is to listen to, appreciate and learn about



jazz and jazz artists past and present. Members are invited to give short presentations from time to time on a particular genre or artist of their choosing. The group meet in Papamoa on the first Friday of the month from 1-3.30pm. Contact Convener Maureen (Mo) Tatler on [07 575 7637](tel:075757637) or Co-Convener Brian Williams on [07 572 2553](tel:075722553) if you are interested.

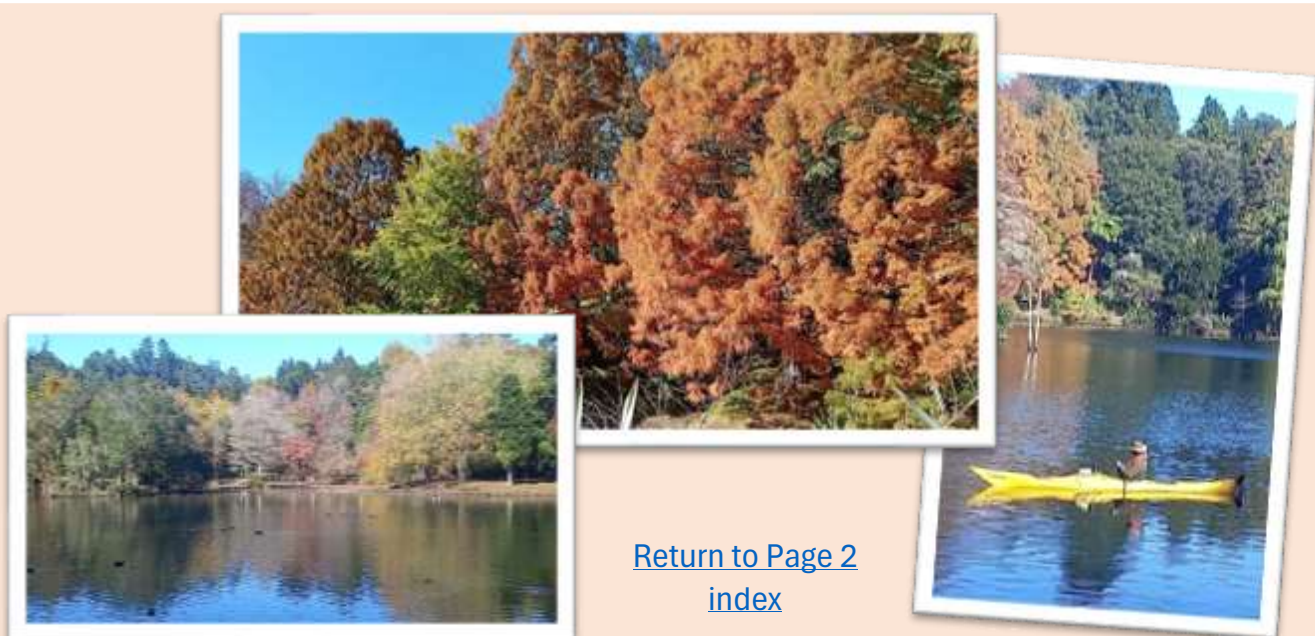


### Autumn turns on a colourful display

**GARDEN Ramblers 1** enjoyed a visit to McLaren Falls on 8 May and the autumnal colours plus the weather were simply superb. The group may have been a bit low in numbers but everyone enjoyed the beautiful surroundings and nice luncheon afterwards at the Falls Café.

A couple of members have recently retired from the group, so they now have space for another two or three members. If you are interested in joining, contact Convener Eileen Ammann ([021 026 90802](tel:02102690802)) or Mike Richardson ([021 256 6777](tel:0212566777)).

Garden Ramblers 1 meet on the second Wednesday of the month, from 1.30-4pm.



[Return to Page 2](#)  
[index](#)

## GROUP NEWS

**CAMERA CLUB:** The group was launched in February 2022 with six very enthusiastic members – some novices and some experienced photographers – gathered around Liz O’Riordan’s dining table. We have gradually grown to a current membership of 22, now meeting at the Raft Café.

This year we are enjoying an exciting programme of topics and photo shoot exercises, such as *Negative Space*, *Glass and Glass Ball* images, *A Foggy-Misty Day*, *Juxtaposition*, *Wes Anderson* images, *Tabletop Still Life*, and more.

We have also started a very interesting series of YouTube videos from the George Eastman Museum. The group meet on the first Monday of the month, 9.45 am for 10am start.

If you are interested in reading our latest club programmes, please go to:

<https://www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz/index.php/groups-alpha-list/35-groups-category/group-categories/photography-category/1160-camera-club.html>



**Margaret Marsh**



**CLASSICAL MUSIC LOVERS B:** At their meeting on 9 May, the group enjoyed a programme of *The Music of War*, which can be viewed here:

[https://www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz/images/2024/05\\_May\\_2024/CML-B/The Music of War.pdf](https://www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz/images/2024/05_May_2024/CML-B/The_Music_of_War.pdf)

## GROUP COORDINATORS’ REPORT

### TAURANGA

**Groups closed or in recess:** **Lone Rangers** will go into recess after the September meeting. **Te Reo** is in recess due to lack of a tutor but one may be becoming available. **Rummikub** is in recess.

**Groups seeking new members:** Acoustic Music, Art History 1 & 2; Art Practical; Apple Support; Building and Cities; Café Book Lovers 1; Current Events D; History B; Global Issues; Dining 1; 500 Cards; Geology; History of NZ; Photo Enhancing; Jazz, Blues and Beyond; Opera Appreciation; International Affairs; Tivoli Luxe; Walkers Inc.

### KATIKATI

**New group:** Mahjong for Beginners. First meeting was held on 2 May. Convener is Christine Selwyn, 027 294 7742, [selwyns@xtra.co.nz](mailto:selwyns@xtra.co.nz)

**Change of meeting time:** Walking group now meeting only once a month, on second Monday.

**Groups seeking new members:** Films; Your Choice Book Lovers; French Conversation; Walking; Philosophy; Mahjong for Beginners.

**Change of Convener Contact:** **Wordsters** – Lynne Shearman has new email: [moslyn1@gmail.com](mailto:moslyn1@gmail.com)

**Groups in Recess:** Memoir Writing is in recess until 2025.

**No Current Vacancies:** Early NZ History, Wordsters, World Affairs. Waiting lists have been established.

**Other group information:** Lazy Lunches Convener reports that there are a few people who have missed several meetings and she requests that members apologise when they cannot attend and/or keep in touch about whether they will return or wish to resign from the group.

You can keep up to date with the latest changes on our website [www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](http://www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)

# Love darts and other mating rituals

By VIVIENNE MILLS

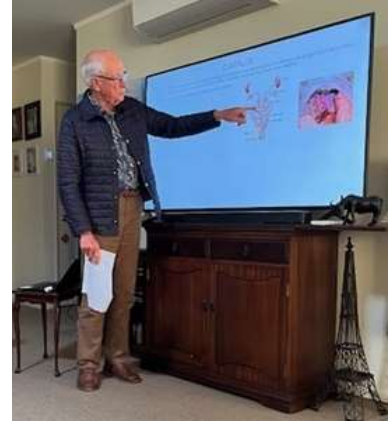
OUR **Science Today 1** group has 12 faithful members, who meet monthly in members' homes around Tauranga and Mt Maunganui. Recently Robin Tervit (*pictured*) gave an interesting PowerPoint presentation titled *Unusual Reproductive Strategies in Animals*.

Without going into too much detail, the strategies included: Diapause (delayed development of the embryo) in kangaroos, bears, weasels and flying bats. Parthenogenesis – virgin birth with no male involved – fish, lizards, birds and snakes and some insects. This has been considered a quirk of prolonged captivity where the female has no access to males but is actually quite widespread in the wild. Genetic material normally discarded in the egg acts like sperm and “fertilises” the egg.

Cloning: this is the production of identical clones of a female, for example, water fleas and the Amazon molly fish. The pseudo penis in female hyenas, which is used to signal submission/dominance. Non-penetrative sex – cloacal kissing in birds and serotine bats. Fusion of male angler fish to the female. Mammals laying eggs – platypus and echidna; Semelparity, where animals such as salmon, octopuses, marsupial mice and honeybees reproduce once in their life then die.

The porcupine female is receptive to the male for 8-12 hours a year(!) and then mates carefully with the male. The praying mantis female eats the male's head during the mating process and then the rest of him. Other animals, such as puffer fish and birds, make intricate designs or nests to attract a mate. Land snails shoot “love darts” into the head of their mates. And the seahorse male receives eggs from the female and fertilises them in his pouch.

A very interesting informative presentation with interactive group discussion, and a few laughs!



## YOU MUST REMEMBER THIS ...

*More nostalgia from Margaret Marsh*





A series that delves into the history of some of our traditional dishes.

# Bonfires and oh so yummy parkin

LIVING in the North of England in the early Fifties, one of the highlights of the year was Bonfire Night. It was always preceded by Mischief Night which, as its name suggests was an opportunity for children to get up to no good! However, the preparations made for Bonfire Night were tremendous. It involved canvassing the neighbourhood for anything that was surplus to requirements and, most importantly, could burn! Piles of combustible material were jealously guarded by groups of children, whose one priority was to prevent anything being stolen by the kids in the next street.

Bonfire Night was, of course, an annual commemoration of that eventful day when a plot by Guy Fawkes and his companions to assassinate King James I and his Parliament was averted.

The tradition has continued down the centuries, though nowadays much safer gatherings have prevailed. We were lucky in that our street was mainly cobbles so a fire could safely be lit without worrying about melting the asphalt!

One northern tradition that also grew up around Bonfire Night was its association with food. Potatoes were pushed into the embers to cook, bonfire toffee and toffee apples were consumed and, about a week before, our mothers would make delicious loaves of parkin.

The first published date reference to parkin was from 1728 when one Anne Whittaker was accused of stealing oatmeal to make parkin.

Sometimes described as tharf cake, it was also mentioned in a 17th Century ballad about Robin Hood:

*When Arthur, to make their hearts merry / Brought ales and parkin and perry.*

*Continued on Page 23*



*A mountainous Guy Fawkes bonfire stands ready for the big night in the 1950s.*

THE year was 1605 and some English Catholics were angry because King James I was treating them badly. In November of that year, a group of men plotted to blow up the Houses of Parliament in London. An enormous explosion was planned for 5 November. That was the day that the king was due to open Parliament. The plan became known as the "Gunpowder Plot" and the man discovered among 36 barrels of gunpowder under the Houses of Parliament was Guy Fawkes. The authorities found the gunpowder before it could be ignited and caught all the men involved in the plot. The plotters were tortured before being put to death. To celebrate his survival, King James ordered the people of England to light a bonfire on the night of 5 November. The tradition persists to this day – and even travelled as far as New Zealand, where it is often still observed.



*Continued from Page 22*

Parkin is not particularly popular in the south of England. It was, and is, eaten in the north, where areas of oats used to be the staple grain for the poor, rather than wheat.

Traditionally, tharf cakes were made directly after the oats harvest in early November. In the 17th Century sugar started to be imported from Barbados, with molasses being a by-product of the refining process.

Molasses was first used by apothecaries to make a medicine called theriaca, from which the word treacle is derived.

As it became plentiful, treacle was incorporated into the preparation of tharf cakes. Having hygroscopic qualities, molasses allowed the cakes to become softer and stickier with time. Sweetened tharf cakes became, in fact, parkins.

Ovens were rare in the homes of the poor, so cakes would be cooked on bakestones on an open fire until, in the early 1800s, access to public bakers became available.

The best parkin was made from fresh oatmeal, fixing the date to the first week in November. Nicely timed to the date for Bonfire Night and its associations!

The main ingredients of a Yorkshire parkin are oatmeal, self-raising flour, black treacle, butter, and ginger. One of the key features of parkin is that it retains its texture well. It is baked to be hard but, after storing in a sealed tin for several days, it becomes soft again.



## HOW TO MAKE DELICIOUS PARKIN

### You will need:

350g medium oatmeal; 175g self-rising flour; 2tsp ground ginger; 175g soft brown sugar; 175g butter; 250g golden syrup; 50g black treacle; 2 eggs; 110ml milk

### Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 160°C
2. Grease and line a deep baking tray with greaseproof paper
3. Combine oatmeal, flour and ginger in a large mixing bowl
4. Melt the sugar, butter, syrup and treacle in a saucepan over a low heat
5. Pour into dry ingredients
6. Add eggs and milk and mix well
7. Bake for 45 minutes until golden brown but still sticky and soft on top
8. Reduce oven to 130°C and bake a further 30 minutes
9. Allow to cool. Wrap in cling film and store for three to five days before eating.

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

[Return to Page 2 index](#)

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## THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT U3A

**U3A Tauranga** offers more than 80 interest groups, some of which are based in Katikati. For more information regarding the Katikati groups contact Stephanie Norrie, [katikaticontact@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:katikaticontact@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz). Members are welcome to apply to join any of our groups, full details of which are regularly updated in the online Handbook. Just click on the link on our website [www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](http://www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)

Members are also welcome to attend General Meetings in both Tauranga and Katikati.

**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: Sept-Oct 2024** Deadline for material is 26 August  
We welcome your articles at [newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)