Hamilton Newsletter

December 2025

Contacts

President & Course Coordinator: Alex Pederick 0411758405
Secretary: May Ferguson 0429914471
Treasurer: Edwin Maclean 0417786274
Speaker and Trip Coordinator: Marg Langford 0428240830
Apologiess: Helen Bell 0428435592
Enquiries u3ahamiltonvic@gmail.com
Bank Account: Westpac. BSB: 033 625
Acc No: 145 286
Account: University of The Third Age

December Meeting

Tuesday 9th December 10am - 12 noon
Senior Citizens Centre, 104 Lonsdale St, Hamilton.

Guest speaker

"Gilly" Tony McGillivray
Hamilton District Skills Centre
Work with the First Nations People in N.T & Kimberleys

Please Bring a Plate of Festive Food to Share for the end of year break-up

February Excursion

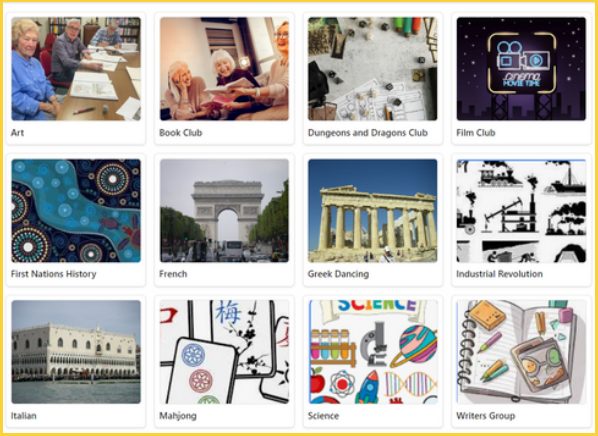
Lunch at Basalt Winery, Killarney, with talk about history of winery. Tuesday 24th February, 2026. $50.00 per person. Car Pool transport. Bookings are essential and payment to be made by 10th February. Please call 0428 240 830.

Help Needed

Margaret would like some volunteers and ideas to assist with the setting up of the table and the room in general for the December Meeting. Please come half an hour before the meeting.

U3A Hamilton Course Calendar

Click here to view the course calendar.



Current Short Course

The Industrial Revolution
conducted on Zoom
starting 1:30 pm - Thursday 3 July 2025
Registration and Enquiries to
David Ingham 0423 670 994
Recommencing 2026
Click here for 2025 short course calendar

Read On for...

Meeting Minutes
Book of the Month: Once there were Wolves by Charlotte McConaghy
Film of the Month: Lion
From the Writers Group: Amid the Laughter by Geoff Sanderson

eeting

Meeting Minutes

November 2025

Opened and welcome from president Alex Pederick

Apologies
H Ward, R Kiely, B Aarons, C Ingham, I Edwards, K Little, K Haines

Visitors
Betsy Hunt

Lunch today Grand Central hotel

Minutes of previous meeting as circulated

Business arising
Congratulations to Chris Simpson on his award at our Senior week special meeting
EOI forms on the table for the various programs running at present and next years interest. Chess on Friday afternoons
Personal Style course in progress and hopefully again next year if enough interest
Industrial Revolution in recess at present but possibly next year an evening zoom class

Correspondence
Advertising prochures from U3A Bentleigh visiting overseas universities

Treasurers report
Edwin Maclean absent with apology

Reports from interest groups
as follows
Science, languages, Greek dancing, art, film, writers, mah-jong and personal style

General Business
Welcome to guest Betsy Hunt
Guest speaker today is Tim Pitt Lancaster from Eventide
Further interest groups welcome?
Marg Langford put out interest forms for various outings next year and preferred dates for same.
Auslan still to be investigated for course and probably fee paying
Helen Bell's mobile phone number will be on our further newsletters to take meeting apologies preferably by text message
For our December meet please bring a sweet or savoury plate for Christmas Morning Tea.

May Ferguson
Secretary

Book Club Book of the Month

The book was read in October & discussed in November

The story revolves around the narrator, Inti Flynn, and her sister Aggie, their family, work colleagues, and a small community in northern Scotland as well as several packs of wolves.

Inti has a rare neurological condition called mirror-touch synesthesia where when she observes a living creature being touched she feels a similar physical sensation on her own body. This empathetic ultra sensitivity on occasions involves much drama for Inti and others nearby.

The story moves between British Colombia where their father is an off-grid naturalist and the sisters spent most of their younger life, Sydney where their mother works as a detective and the Cairngorms in the Scottish Highlands. Interaction with the local Cairngorms community becomes a significant part of the story.

Inti is head of the Cairngorm Wolf Project

Aggie teaches languages at a tertiary level.

A vital exposé is that of fighting climate change, all part of the Cairngorm Wolf Project to rewild the area where once there were wolves. Over time wild deer have become the enemy, breeding unchecked, devouring new growth leaving large swathes of land bereft of trees to absorb carbon.

The theory is that rewilding the area by reintroducing wolves who will breed and form packs, as predators of deer will be helping to fight climate change.

There is much depth to the story in this book.

Film Club Film of the Month
Lion

Wednesday 10th December 4pm - 6pm, Hamilton Senior Citizens Rooms, Lonsdale St, Hamilton

In 1986, Saroo was a five-year-old child in India of a poor but happy rural family. On a trip with his brother, Saroo soon finds himself alone and trapped in a moving decommissioned passenger train that takes him to Calcutta, 1000 miles away from home. Now totally lost in an alien urban environment and too young to identify either himself or his home to the authorities, Saroo struggles to survive as a street child until he is sent to an orphanage. Soon, Saroo is selected to be adopted by the Brierley family in Tasmania, where he grows up in a loving, prosperous home. However, for all his material good fortune, Saroo finds himself plagued by his memories of his lost family in his adulthood and tries to search for them even as his guilt drives him to hide this quest from his adoptive parents and his girlfriend. Only when he has an epiphany does he realize not only the answers he needs, but also the steadfast love that he has always had with all his loved ones in both worlds.

Contact May Ferguson 0429914471 for more information

Story of the Month - Writers Group

Amid The Laughter

OK I ope youz are lissnin as I have sum indressing stuff that just might stop you laughin. Sadly such examples of Inglish langwij abuse are normal but how do we spell words one way and pronounce them another.

Don't get me wrong, Its not my purpose to expose the crime and then simply laugh it all off. If I confuse you or raise such apparent silliness that you think its too silly when its not at all that silly to be silly then its time you lightened up.

Anyways, how can there be laughter, especially raucous laughter on a sad day?
Too few realize how we have been gate-crashed, thwarted and generally deceived, not by the obvious but by surreptitious skulduggery that erodes the English language,
For starters, you need to know that this month really doesn't exist as there is no vember, not even a small bit, let alone none at all.

No point chewsing a day either as the days we once enjoyed for a rest or some sunshine have been replaced by sadness. Sat urday is now a sad dy and Sun day is now a day for pop ardists, any other sorda ardist, no communidy stuff but lotsa foody stuff, ned ball, car racin and such like all of which effectively replaces Saturday with another Sad day. Certainly not a day for laughter.

Only this morning the ABC news reader drew my attention to the Adlaid festival when ardisd's from the weld over will gather for oarsome events but they start on a sad day in a paddik with amboze angin around justin case; so how much fun is that?

Nothing else can happen on a full day as they have all been changed to dees, Mundee, wedsdee even Fry dee. No way of knowing how long a dee lasts either.
Nidetime is equally uncertain as my clock shows numbers but makes no reference to nide time. Maybe that's when you blow your node!

To gain some sense of reality, we could return to the roots of our days , for example, return to the only day of the week when Thunder was permitted, as per Thor. Hence my legitimate concern that thunderstorms may be disallowed in future if there is no more than a dee for such drama and they choose to be on other than Thorsdee.

Fridee will have to be overlooked as Roman origins linked it with love and fertility and a dee is likely not long enough for any of that sort of thing.

So when we supposedly save day light there is nothing to save except dees and no one has defined the size of a dee. At least when the supposed collective of dees ends there is nothing to give back.

Talking of frivolous, the Gummint az ways to charge us fer whatever we do, silly or otherwise.

Even amid the gummint morning tea laughter sessions, public officials can find new ways to manipulate the eroding language and curtail our understanding of their demands by avoiding use of the rational, and instead use ridiculously complex language for the simplest request.

As an example, our fire fighters, who have little to laugh about, given the charges they face for putting out fires, have to submit a claim for reimbursement of a loss or an expense. The claim forms, like tax claims, require precise data but how can they be precise about how many square meters of fire they actually put out.

Do they leave the experts to judge that or stretch the truth?
Amid the tea room laughter, those experts would exploit eroding language and say that as the fire was a variable, temporary event it is likely to be immeasurable. As long as fire fighters are unable to prove otherwise they cannot even claim for replacement of burnt boot laces, especially non fire resistant boot laces.

Keep laughing, some clever person thought of a name for a race horse, "Half Yours", so the tax experts couldn't work out which half was theirs for taxing winnings and so the owners kept reminding officialdom that only half was theirs. Which half was it though, the bit with legs or the other bit that was useless without the legs.

Any earnings that are already half yours weren't ever all mine and whoever had the other half only needed to say it was half yours anyway, so what is the issue? Very clever.
My idea of a racehorse named "All Mine' was no good as the tax man would easily identify all mine and want more than their share of earnings, earnings easy to identify if it was all mine.

I thought it may be safer to be a ardist, any kind of ardist because the value of the ardistry is so subjective it can be all mine and none of it half yours. Ardists that cook like Nutella Cook or Sue Chef have their own language, everything is either, wow, delicious or if not, caramelized, unusual, inneresting, but never gut wrenching orrible.

Food is much more logical for the erosive specialists as we ave spuds, martas, Maccas, snags, KFC, ubers, lamb sangas, ped fude, yes, and whatever you need for Chrissy.
How do you explain shops called woollies where you can get food but no woollies.
Should be as clear as... so the Libs and Nats and the other pardies know, or think they know what you are talking about and the pollies know what, or think they know what they are talkin bout.

I trust my obsessive logic is perfectly clear and to be taken seriously as there is a need to return to proper English, spelt and pronounced correctly without abbreviations.
Those of you who have no problem with any of the examples I use and think there is no problem at all with the erosion, are now likely to be welcomed as fully paid up members of the Englisherosion club.

Inneresding as it is, by good fortune we have the ABC which offers free lessons in language erosion ardisdry, speshly on Saddy.

Geoff Sanderson

Your Home Key Location for Ambulance Victoria

SPPTrequest@ambulance.vic.gov.au

Include:

- **Your Full Name**
- **Address**
- **Location of key safe + Code**
- **OR Location of your spare key**
- **Plus details of anyone else who might be living in the house, and/or animals.**

These details will be stored securely in the Ambulance Victoria system and linked automatically to any emergency call-out to your address

Wishing you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Next Newsletter will be out late January

Leanne Huf
Editor