Hamilton *Newsletter*

November 2025

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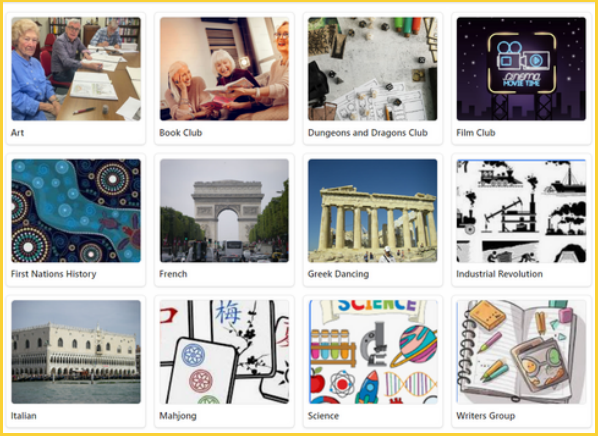
November Meeting

Tuesday 11th November
at 10am - 12 noon
Senior Citizens Centre, 104 Lonsdale St, Hamilton.

New Short Course
Not too late to join
Personal Styling
Mondays at 10:00 am
Contact Eunice to register
0488 864 478

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

In Recess until further notice

Read on for...

- Book of the month: The Lost Flowers of Alcie Hart
- Film of the month: Ghandi pt 2
- From the Writers Group:: In a Small Quiet Town by Anna Puls

Congratulations

Alex presenting Chris
with the Inaugeral
Certificate of Appreciation
for Outstanding Contributions
to U3A

Thank You

Alex thanking the Guest
Speaker for Seniors
Week, Mr Bob Handby
A.O.

Book Club Book of the Month

The book was read in September & discussed in October

The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart by Holly Ringland

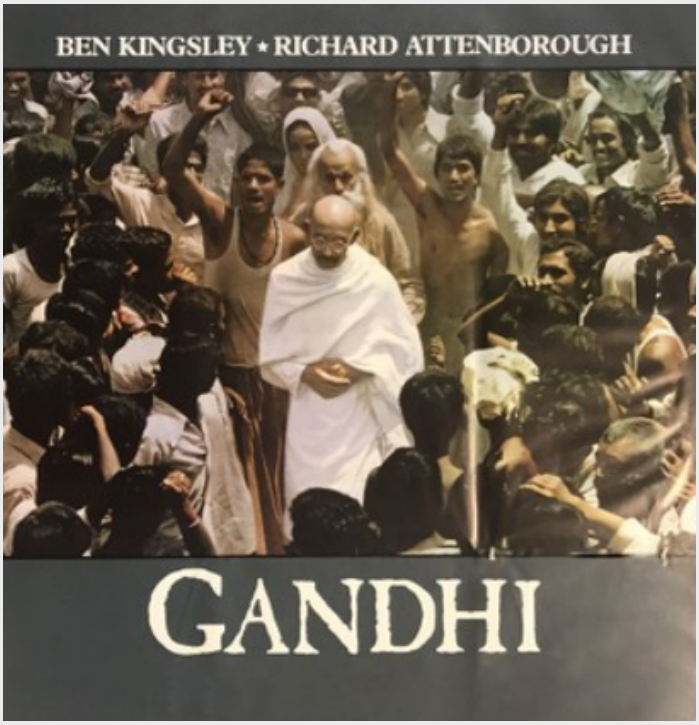
This debut novel is the journey of Alice from a young girl of 9 and spans about two decades. Following a family tragedy, Alice leaves her seaside home for an Australian flower farmwhere she is raised by her previously estranged grandmother and the woman who work there. As a young woman Alice finds herself in the beautiful central Australian desert.

This is an engaging novel with many themes including domestic violence, trauma and sadness. However overwhelmingly there is hope, love, resilience and beauty.

A worthwhile read.

Holly's book General Fiction Book of the Year at the AustralianBook Industry Awards and was adapted into a television mini series in 2023.

Film Club of the Month - Ghandi Part 2



Wednesday 12th October 4pm - 6pm,
Hamilton Senior Citizens Rooms,
Lonsdale St, Hamilton

This acclaimed biographical drama presents major events in the life of Mohandas Gandhi (Ben Kingsley), the beloved Indian leader who stood against British rule over his country. Dedicated to the concept of nonviolent resistance, Gandhi is initially dismissed by English officials, including the influential Lord Irwin (John Gielgud), but eventually he and his cause become internationally renowned, and his gatherings of passive protest move India towards independence.

Contact May Ferguson
0429914471 for more information

Story of the Month - Writers Group

In A Small Quiet Town

In a small room at the back of the now vacant newspaper building, four people met to discuss an article found in an old newspaper. They were Tom Baker, aged 83 a fit slim baldheaded sharp-witted man, who still took an active interest in his town. He was the owner of the building and ex editor of the now defunct local newspaper. He had started his journalistic career as a young cadet and apart from a few years in the city, had spent most of his live in this town of Almsley, now trying to accept the Aboriginal name of Tjipghup.

The other elderly person was Clive Johns 82, who in contrast to Tom, looked excessive. A lion mane of silver hair, florid complexion and expansive girth all emphasized the good life. Clive was also an old resident, owning the hardware store and was the Chamber of commerce president for 40 years. Mavis Bancroft, (don't tell anyone she's 54), was the hospital administrator, also President and stalwart of the local historical society. The last person present was Corey Curiano, 28 the local high school English and History teacher and relatively new to the district.

The town was on life support. Not so long ago it boasted 2 kindergartens, 3 primary schools and a high school. Now, it has a P-12, with ever dwindling students. The hospital has closed its maternity and acute bed wards, which were converted into an aged care facility. The town was established before the gold rush and had thrived with still seen substantial brick buildings, with a pub and bank on every corner. Since the first World war there had been a slow decline which had accelerated this century. Closures of the timber industry, abattoir, pubs, shops and government departments was evident. The town had stopped growing and despite endeavors and ideas to halt the decline people were leaving.

It was Corey, who was the instigator of this meeting. Going through some old school records, he came across a reference of Molly Moonlight. Quizzing his students and some parents, he found that most were aware of rumours about some event in the past, but they could not give any details. Unable to find out more, he went to the Historical building for more information, where he met Mavis and Tom.

Mavis had never heard of Molly Moonlight, as she had arrived in town about 20 years ago and so could not provide any information, but Tom acted a bit cagey, trying to change the subject and finally promised to check the back copies still in the newspaper archives.

The next day, he met Clive and told him about the reference to Molly Moonlight. After a good old laugh, and references to "Come to bite you on the bum after all this time" Clive had a lightbulb moment and said to Tom. "Let's think about this for a bit. Maybe this could still work for us. After some harrumphing and guffawing Clive suggested to Tom "Let's find that newspaper and have a look at the article and if we can get Mavis and Corey on board, maybe it could help the town."

Thus, it was that the following Monday night, these four conspirators met in the backroom of the newspaper building, finding and perusing an article printed in an old 1965 edition. The paper was still in mint condition, apart from the partially torn Masthead and date.

It related the historical event of our local Molly Moonlight, who as the first and perhaps only female highway person, in 1852 during the goldrush, held up a coach and bank. She escaped to the hills and hid in one of the many caves in the nearby ranges. She is believed to have succumbed to gunshot wounds in one of the caves with the stolen gold, which was still unaccounted for. Mavis asked "Who wrote the article and were you not the editor Tom" Tom rather uncharacteristically reticent admitted that he was the editor and told them. "The byline was by George Wiley, as a farewell piece. He left soon after to join the Murdock press before become a script and media manager for a political party". "But how true is the story" both Corey and Mavis asked. "Well, it was in the paper so I'm sure it was researched and must be true" Clive blustered. "Would it not be a great story and tourist attraction to promote the town" he envisaged. "This would beat any big Prawn, Pineapple, Ram, Banana or Koala. Slowly Clive's enthusiasm swayed the others. Corey promised to write a school play about Molly Moonlight. Even cautious doubtful Mavis offered to have flyers and maps of the bush tracks in the ranges available for the tourist, providing that the word alleged featured somewhere in the article.

Although Tom remained uncomfortable, both he and Clive got a new lease of life, promoting Almsley as the town where a female bank robber held up a bank. It was only after Tom had eliminated any further references and copies of the news article, that Tom relaxed and put all his energy behind the town's promotion.

It is now 5 years since that meeting. The entrances to the town display colourful flowerbeds with attractive billboards welcoming and extolling the attractions to visitors.

The P-12 school has performed the Molly Moonlight play and have a yearly Bushranger dress up day. The caravan park and kiosk are thriving. The pony and polo club combined with the commercial horse-riding school, making day trips into the ranges. The service station hires out metal detectors to day and short stay tourists. The council has spruced up the CBD, installed RV toilet disposal units and EV chargers near the tourist information centre. An antique shop and plant nursery has opened. But the piece de resistance and a must try is the Almsley bakery, with them to die for, special award-winning Molly Moonlight muffins.

Who would have guessed that an article published on the first of April in 1965, would become a lifeline to a dying town.

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