



# HOBSONVILLE NEWSLETTER

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## APRIL 2024 MEETING

Thursday 18th April, 10am

Hobsonville Bowling Club, Memorial Park Lane, off Hobsonville Road

**Morning Tea:** Wine Group

**Hosting:** International Films

**Mini Speaker:** QUIZ DAY

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sadly, daylight saving has finished. Yes, the mornings are lighter but the evenings are drawing in fast and those temperatures are dropping.

*Thanks to those of you who have paid your subs. If that's not you – they are now overdue! Not sure if you have paid, please check your bank records. Also, you should have received an emailed receipt from Tiina.*

(The recommendation from the committee is that the rate should be \$35.00 per person.) We do have one person who went into the bank and deposited cash directly into our account, thanks, but, unfortunately they forgot to give us their name as a reference! **Was this you?** If so, please talk to Tiina. Do you no longer wish to be a member? No problem, we will miss you, but please let Tiina know - we do have a number of very keen people anxious to become members as soon as possible. If you are having difficulty making payment for any reason, please talk to us, we would hate to incorrectly assume that as your sub has not been paid you wish to resign.

Just a very quick reminder - a part of your membership obligation is that you should try to attend at least 2 or 3 general meetings a year and belong to at least one Special Interest Group.

This month, it is our Annual Quiz so come along and enjoy the social atmosphere and maybe even win a prize! You will be part of a team, hence, it doesn't matter if you don't know the answer- someone else is bound to have it covered and that way you can just bask in the glory!



*Bronwen King  
President*



# APRIL QUIZ TIME!



**Have some fun, mix and mingle at our popular Annual Quiz at this Thursday's meeting**

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

### ADVENTURE WALKING Convenor: Graeme Johnston

For our March outing, ten dedicated walkers took on the challenge of scaling Maungakiekie/One Tree Hill, followed by a loop through Cornwall Park. The day was clear enough to give us great views over a wide area of the city, while overcast and cool enough to make the exercise comfortable. The spectacular views more than make up for the effort involved. A ramble through Cornwall Park never disappoints, especially when one of our number treats the group to ice-cream at the Creamery.

**Next Walk:** 3rd Monday **Time:** 10am. **Venue:** TBA. **VACANCY**



Maungakiekie/One Tree Hill

### BOOK GROUP Convenor: Karen Willmott

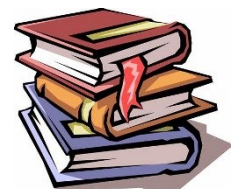


Travel theme. *The Girl From London* by Olivia Spooner, 1940 London - Ruth, a young schoolteacher, volunteers as an escort helping to evacuate children from war-torn England to Australia and New Zealand. She bonds with Fergus, a troubled child. Tragedy strikes on the return voyage as their ship Rangitane is attacked by German raiders - survivors become prisoners of war. 2005 New Zealand - Hazel is off to London with a book from her grandfather Fergus, a book that will reveal Ruth's story - 4 stars. *The Year of the Locust* by Terry Hayes - 3.5 stars; *An Idiot Abroad:*

*The Travel Diaries of Karl Pilkington* - 3.5 stars; *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho - 3 stars; *Neither Here Nor There* by Bill Bryson - 3.5 stars. **Meetings:** 3rd Thursday **Time:** 1.30pm. **FULL**

### BOOK CLUB II Convenor: Liz Van Brink

We discussed our titles around the theme of "Scotland". *The Maiden Voyage* by Joan Biggar – Pleasant read, based on actual diaries. 4.5/5. *Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon – A woman walks through a stone circle into 1743 Scotland 4/5. *Dark Waters* by GR Halliday – A hideous murder mystery 1/5. *Skinnners Round* by Quintin Jardine – Scottish detective fiction 5/5. *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* by Muriel Spark – Miss Brodie is a teacher unlike any other 4/5. *The Bookshop on the Shore* by Jenny Colgan – on the shores of Loch Ness 3/5. *Hear No Evil* by Sarah Smith – Based on a true court case. 4.5/5 *Scottish Wit: an Anthology of Quotations* by Aubrey Malone – Scotland's natives at their comic best 5/5. Our theme for April is "China". **Next Meeting:** 1st Thursday. **Time:** 10.30am. **Venue:** Hobsonville Point. **VACANCY**



## COMPUTER GROUP Convenor: Nigel Dempster



The computer group is thriving with new members joining monthly. Everybody is keen to learn what is happening in the future of technology at present or in the future. With that in mind, ask yourself this, do you want to be one step in front of your children or 5 steps back. Please come along and find out what we are all about and maybe have fun along. **Next Meeting:** 2nd Thursday. **Time:** 1.30pm. **Venue:** Summerset Cinema, Hobsonville. **VACANCY**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS Convenor: Judy Lewins

The announcement that Media company Newshub is to close its newsroom in New Zealand on June 30, was met with concern. New Zealand needs more than two news outlets to give us more balanced reporting and now there will only be one. There is also a need for more in-depth investigative journalism. We discussed at length the sources we use nationally and internationally to get our news. One of our group reported on a meeting he had attended earlier in the day, addressed by the Reserve Bank of NZ Governor, Adrian Orr, where he discussed the OCR and how it was decided. It was very interesting. **Next Meeting:** 2nd Thursday. **Time:** 1.30pm. **VACANCY**



## EAT AROUND THE WORLD: Convenor: Jan Edmonds



The Little French Café in Mount Albert is the latest find in our search for culinary delights, and they did not disappoint. There were freshly baked croissants and quiches in the cabinet, and a full lunch menu. We could not resist two dishes, Madame and Monsieur croque, ham and gruyere cheese with béchamel sauce on sourdough bread. And the difference – Madame comes with a fried egg. There is an explanation for that - the egg resembles a woman's wide-brimmed hat! Our seafood eaters had salmon eggs benedict, and the Quiche Lorraine from the cabinet came with a very generous salad. We were all very satisfied with our dishes. The almond croissant was fresh and delicious. Another lovely local eatery. **Next Meeting:** 1st Thursday. **Time:** 1.00pm. **VACANCY**

## EXERCISE TO MUSIC Convenor: Colleen Soljan

Our Exercise to Music sessions are progressing well this year held every 2nd & 4th Thursday in the month at the Bowling Club. We have been trying some new exercise videos the last couple of months and endeavour to keep in time with the music we all know so well, such as Dolly Parton and songs from the 80's & 90's. Come along and join us for a session to see if it's the type of exercise you would enjoy. **Next Meetings:** 2nd & 4th Thursdays. **Time:** 10am. **VACANCY**



## FAMILY HISTORY Convenor: Shared by all members



Our Convenors Jeanette and Judy, set us the task of choosing a photo and talking about it to the group. Examples of shared stories included the information about the village where ancestors emigrated from in Scotland; a series of photos over time noting the changes of a family plot in Waikumete cemetery; what life events happened in between two photos of a group member taken 10 years apart and how a portrait painted of a family member led to research on the artist's life. This exercise raised the importance labelling photos informatively. A photo with the caption "me at the beach" is not going to mean anything to our descendants who inherit the photo album in years to come! **Next Meeting:** 2nd Tuesday. **Time:** 1.30pm. **VACANCY**

## FOOD FOR FUN Convenor: Marilyn Page

This month some of our group went for a Yum Char Lunch at Asian Wok Yum Char in Albany. Trolley service to our table was super-quick and food descriptions were not always very easy to understand. However, the food was delicious, tasty and filling, with a variety of items. Prawns seemed to be the most popular ingredient and were very enjoyable. Continuous refreshing cups of jasmine tea accompanied our food as we relaxed and enjoyed food prepared by others. **Next Meeting:** Last Tuesday. **Time:** 11.30am **FULL**



## GOLD CARD TRIPS Convenor: Tiina Delacey



We travelled to K Road and Ponsonby on the WX1 bus from Northwest. A quick and convenient alternative to the North Shore buses. After a bit of persuasion, we were given a table at Fort Greene for our morning coffee - they baulked at the number of us. Auckland Arts Festival had a couple of exhibitions showing. One was quite dreadful - I think we all agreed. We could not even moan about the young artists of today as they were from our era. The second exhibition was much better - contemporary Japanese artists. Then we visited shops and galleries on one side of Ponsonby Road until we reached Ponsonby Central where we had lunch. Then ditto on the other side, back to the bus stop and home. **Next meeting:** 4th Wednesday. **Time:** 9.30am **FULL**

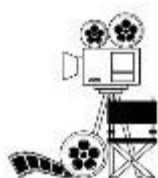
## iPAD-iPHONE Convenor: Kay Hamilton

We have had very informative meetings of our group in March and April at Sandra's home in Hobsonville. With a new member joining us and asking lots of questions, it made all our brains work overtime. And we discussed many varied subjects. As I had a friend lose her phone while on holiday, I do think everyone should have the Find my Phone as an app on their iPhone, especially if you have an iPad to track it down. We went for lunch at Puriri cafe after the meeting in April and we had a great meal. **Next Meeting:** First Tuesday.



**Venue:** Hobsonville. **Time:** 10am. **VACANCY**

## INTERNATIONAL FILMS Convenor: Claire Brickell



This month the group watched a YouTube video on ten women film producers as part of a series of fifty women producers around the world. Each woman brought her own perspective to her work and it was interesting to hear their varied strengths. *"I want to find new ways to place the camera to evoke more of a feeling. My goal is to put the camera inside of the character."* – Chloe Zhao. *"Be fearless in the pursuits of what sets your soul on fire."* – Jennifer Lee. **Next Meeting:** 2nd Tuesday. **Time:** 10am. **VACANCY**

## ITALIAN COOKERY FOR MEN Convenor: Alessandro Laryn



Being so close to Easter, in April we've presented Easter recipes containing eggs, the traditional symbol of rebirth: *Easter Tart with Eggs* (from Central Italy), and *Falsomagro* (from Sicily), a roll of meat richly filled with mince, cheese, mortadella and egg. **Next Meeting:** 3rd Wednesday



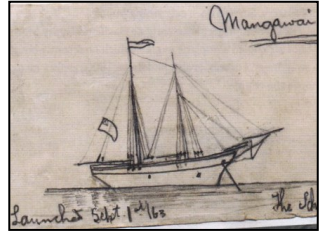
**Time:** 10am. **Venue:** West Harbour. **VACANCY**

## **MAHJONG** Convenor: **Bronwen King**

March continued as normal with our 2 meetings on the 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> with 3 & 4 tables in play. Our mahjong books are being well thumbed and a good variety of games are being played. In order to increase our repertoire once we have succeeded at a hand we try not to play that hand again in the same session. **Next Meetings:** 2nd & 4th Monday. **Time:** 12.30pm. **Venue:** TBA. **FULL**

## **MARITIME MATTERS** Convenor: **Graeme Barnard**

This month was a bit of an adventure, travelling to Mangawhai Museum to view the well preserved wreck of the schooner "Daring"; the journey which took us via the new motorway from Puhoi to Warkworth, a picnic lunch and a tour at the "Morris and James" pottery works at Warkworth. This trip proved to be an extraordinarily enjoyable and entertaining outing and a reflection on how dangerous the New Zealand coast was to ships in the eighteen hundreds. The Daring was blown ashore on to Muriwai beach in 1865. Being such a well preserved wreck, of that time, it attracts people from all around the world to come and see it. **Next Meeting:** 2nd Tuesday. **Time:** 2pm. **Venue:** Waimarie Road. **FULL**



## **QUIZ GROUP** Convenor: **Bill Kittelty**



The quiz group has held another 2 successful meetings in March and April, with the recent April meeting recording the highest turnout of members with 6 tables of 4 playing. Questions were set by Don and Angela Chambers requiring much delving into the recesses of the brain. A highly informative afternoon with a great team effort helping to set up and clean up the hired room. **Next Meeting:** 1st Friday. **Time:** 2pm. **VACANCY**

## **SUNDAY BRUNCHERS** Convenor: **Bronwen King**

The Coffee Club, Pine Hill was a pleasant venue with good parking on account of sharing the Woolworths parking area. March saw 14 of us enjoying the convivial atmosphere and went home replete from a hearty brunch. April 14<sup>th</sup> will see us at The Brigham. We do try to support the local businesses when we can. Our May venue will be sorted, all in good time, we can't rush these things! As always new members are welcome. **Next Meeting:** 2nd Sunday. **Time:** 9.30am. **VACANCY**



## **WINE APPRECIATION** Convenor: **Linda Meehan**



The group met at Coopers Creek Winery for a tasting this month. Our very knowledgeable sommelier John Palmer selected 8 varied and interesting wines, including the rather obscure varieties, Arneis, Albarino, and Montepulciano. The usual suspects, Pinot Gris, Chardonnay, and Pinot Noir were also in the mix. We sipped and listened, and nibbled on cheese and fruit platters under the vines on what might have been our last visit. There have been big changes at Coopers Creek. **Next meeting:** 1st Tuesday. **Time:** 1.30pm. **FULL**

## **WORLD WARS I & II** Convenor: **David Thompson**

March's meeting focused on two contrasting figures of World War II: Benito Mussolini and Chester W. Nimitz. We explored Mussolini's rise to power as a fascist dictator and his alliance with Hitler, leading Italy into the war. We discussed his strategic blunders and eventual downfall. In contrast, Admiral Nimitz's leadership of the US Pacific Fleet was examined. We highlighted his strategic planning in the pivotal Battle of Midway, a turning point against Japan. We compared their leadership styles, Mussolini's impulsiveness versus Nimitz's calculated approach. **Next Meeting:** 3rd Wednesday. **Time:** 2pm. **Venue:** Summerset Cinema. **VACANCY**

