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U3A APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

April is the cruellest month

Says who? T. S. Eliot

BUT WE'VE GOT:

...free flu jabs, covid jabs...*more jabs than the Thriller in Manila*

...the Gold Card...*you only pay 95% of the cost...maybe.*

...adorable grandchildren...*maybe (Stalin was a grandchild)*

...crosswords...*not cross words, it's to be hoped*

...U Tube, email, Messenger, Instagram, facebook. How about Tik Tok?...*Getting control is the thing.*

...drinking is inexpensive...*it doesn't take so much to get legless*

...discounted meals at Cobb and Co...*as long as you don't mind the squealing kids at birthday parties*

...socially uplifting exercise classes ...*just love those squats*

...Coronation Street... *Ken Barlow lives!*

...plenty of time to do things..... *or....*



ANYWAY, HAPPY APRIL.



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COMMUNITY FORUM

Date and Time: Wednesday, April 17. Doors open at 9:30 am

Venue: Bridge Club Rms, Neil Hunt Park, Tarawera Rd, Lynmore

Welcome to our Autumn get-together.

Enjoy tea, coffee and munchies (no charge!)

Want to know more? Call 027 310 8348

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Guest Speaker: Chris Duggan

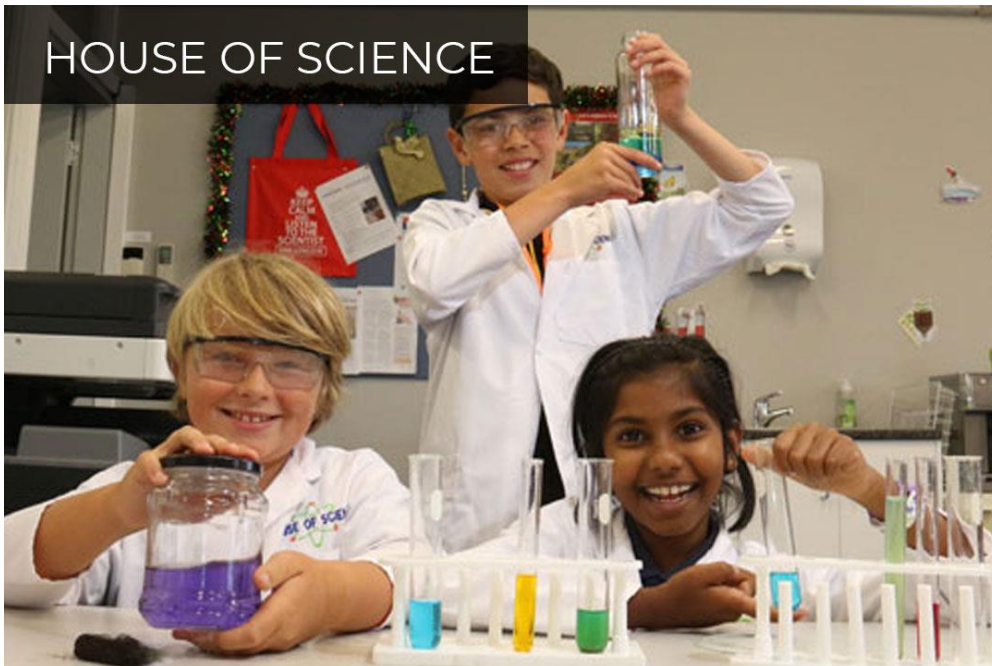
Chris is the founder and CEO of **House of Science**, based at the charity's head office in Tauranga.



House of Science has been working in NZ primary and intermediate schools for 10 years, empowering teachers to deliver great science lessons. They develop science resource kits with all the materials needed to carry out engaging science lessons. These bi-lingual kits are delivered to schools using a subscription based library system. **House of Science** are also a Ministry of Education registered Teacher Professional Development provider with a team of facilitators working across the North Island. Over 700 schools currently use the resource kits and over 100 schools have accessed the PLD.

With a background in Science and teaching, Chris gained a BSc from Massey University in Biochemistry and taught secondary chemistry, Biology and Science for 15 years. Fuelled by an Education Review Office report in 2013, which said 73% of NZ

primary schools were not teaching Science, she left her secondary middle management role to set up **House of Science** and now oversees a team of 45 staff and 100+ volunteers. In 2021, Chris was a finalist in the Innovation, Science and Health category of the Women of Influence Awards.



STEM festival, Tauranga

S = Science
T = Technology
E = Engineering
M = Mathematics

Karyn Hickmott is the House of Science Branch manager in Rotorua, servicing the greater Rotorua lakes area including Taupō. After having three children and now adding grandchildren to the clan, she appreciates the need to engage every child. They are all incredible, inquisitive sponges and she believes all tamariki should have access to opportunities they might otherwise miss. In a previous life, Karyn studied production/landscape horticulture, worked in administration, and made wedding dresses and ball gowns, before moving to Rotorua and becoming a self employed landscaper and deer farmer.







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YOUR COMMITTEE

PETER WOOD: <i>PRESIDENT</i>	07 345 5099
MELVYN BOWEN: <i>VICE-PRESIDENT</i>	07 345 3221
LIZ LOVE: <i>SECRETARY</i>	07 332 5608
ANN SULLIVAN: <i>TREASURER</i>	07 348 1991
PAUL GELLATLY	027 4987 124
BRIAN GILLESPIE: <i>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</i>	027 310 8348
JIM HARTWIG	021 027 47976
JILL NICHOLAS	027 424 3091
JOHN TURNER	07 345 6955

Each newsletter, we will profile a committee member.

LIZ LOVE



Adelaide-born, Liz did nursing for a short time before marriage and children. With husband Don and their two daughters, Rebecca and Sharon, a Volkswagen Kombi van with a glass bottomed boat on top and an outboard motor in the back, they arrived in Aotearoa in 1972.

Don's first job was labouring in Kaingaroa Forest where they lived for 6 months, a cultural shock, but enjoyable for the family. Then they moved to Kaharoa, then Hari Hari (SI), then back to Kaharoa. Don became a possum hunter, (trapping more than 20,000 in 7 years) while Liz worked at Fletchers (Ngo) as a Debtors' Clerk (5 years) and then managing Timber Dispatch (6 years). She was also a local Girl Guide leader.

In 1986, it was back to Nursing for Liz through a Waiariki programme leading to stints as a Registered Nurse at Rotorua Hospital and QE. Returning to Waiariki as a tutor in 1992 Liz enjoyed the best of both worlds with classroom tutoring, and being in the field with students in clinical practice.

On retiring Liz became a docent at the Museum and involved in teaching ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) through English Language Partners.



The Loves built their first New Zealand home at Hamurana when husband Don was hunting, and ventured into Deer farming. He caught his first live deer, a young stag in 1978. When live numbers reached 17 and too many for their 6 acres they moved to Kaharoa to establish a viable farm and build their second house.

With growing herd numbers, more than 1,100 six or so years ago, they needed more land and bought a farm at Mamaku, where they now live. Daughter Sharon manages the farm at Kaharoa. However, with Rotorua catchment farming regulations, deer numbers have now more than halved.

Liz has been an intrepid traveller, sometimes with Don, or on her own but usually with a small group. While she intends to continue finding new destinations she has become comfort- conscious.

Stamps on her passport include: India (4), Turkey, Nepal, Vietnam, Egypt, Morocco, Russia, Thailand, Borneo, Cambodia, Alaska, Canada(3), Papua New Guinea, South Africa, South America, the Galapagos, U.K., Niue, Eastern and Western Europe, Vanuatu and Scott Base in Antarctica.



Liz enjoys U3A, coming in through the portal of Philosophy three years ago. Philosophy, by the way, needs more Philosophers. She has met old friends and made new ones. Now Secretary of U3A Rotorua, Liz has been on our Committee for two years.



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FILM REVIEW: *The Convert*

There's a bit of hoohah going on at the moment about what should be in the Secondary School History Curriculum. This particular film, *The Convert*, is a prize inclusion if you ask me.

Early 1830's New Zealand. Pre-Treaty. Tribal wars. European settlements constantly under threat and life was a wee bit grim for everybody. A romantic stranger turns up, played by Guy Pearce, no less, and the film is about his settling into two societies Maori and Pakeha.

There is much for him to learn, to get the accord of the English settlers at Epworth (fictional I think) and to arrive at an understanding of the two iwi with whom he comes into contact.

He saves the life of the Chief's daughter with one iwi, and has to deal with the truculent chief of the other iwi who has a simple policy of eradication of those he chooses to dislike. Resplendent in a black and white feather cloak, this character, has been a guest at George IV's dinner table. (William IV now has the throne) suggesting Hongi Hika and his destructive drives.

The musket issue comes up and the trading of these which is a bit murky as it was Europeans who transported and sold/traded them. Pearce plays a missionary contracted by the Epworth leaders to spiritually service their expanding community. However, his fascination seems to reside with the tangata whenua and that's the way the story goes.

Lee Tamahouri (*Once Were Warriors*) directed this visually impressive film. I found the Haka (in a war context) compelling along with many other 'instances' where the cultural detail is absorbingly presented.

BG



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RE-VISIT FROM YANN LEHE

On Monday morning (April 8th) many of us were again privileged to attend a presentation by Yann Lehe at the **U3A Science/Engineering Group** meeting.

Yann was in the French Navy serving as an aircraft pilot, with the rank of Commander. He retired from the Navy in 2003. He is currently involved with Classic Flyers in Tauranga, where he has part-ownership of an Air-Tourer aircraft in which he takes visitors on local scenic-flights.

In this session (April 8), he concentrated on his varied international career since 2003 as a pilot covering a wide range of activities in the world of Civil Aviation.

2003-2006 A kind of civilian fighter pilot testing aircraft for a French armaments firm, simulating attack and defence situations in his fighter. He 'died' countless times. By 2006, he was being charged out (with fighter) by his firm at E11,000 an hour . It was proving too expensive so he moved on

2006-2014: Yann flew Beechcrafts as an Air Ambulance pilot. He recalls one trip where he was transporting a baby in an incubator. The incubator lost temperature and the solution was to raise the cabin temperature to about 35 degrees Celsius. The baby came through the trip OK but everybody else felt fried.

Somewhere in there, he worked for the owner of Montpellier (a notable French rugby club side). One of his passengers was Placido Domingo. Jann inquired what he did at one

stage and the great tenor told him that he did a bit of singing!

His next line of work saw him flying all over North Africa looking for 'bad guys' sometimes on a month on/month off basis. He used hi-tech surveillance gear taking detailed photos from 5000m. One interesting weapon was a Caesar Cannon which could be fired 40 km to a target with an accuracy of one metre; the deluxe version is capable of travelling 80 km with the same degree of accuracy. Currently, the Ukrainians have some Caesars - courtesy of the French Govt

Yann came to New Zealand with his Kiwi wife in 2020. A colourful, genial, engaging speaker, he has absorbed us on two occasions now. He just could find the Bay of Plenty more verdant than the Sahara!

Search, look, listen and report over
AFRICA : Niger, Mali, Libya, Tunisia,
Egypt, Chad





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ROTORUA U3A INTEREST GROUPS: Highlighting indicates that the group currently has vacancies (February, 2024.) For more information, visit our website: www.u3arotorua.com

Topic	Time	Contact
Art History	2 nd Monday 10.00am	Anne Hunt 3487680 anneanddonhunt@gmail.com
Book Reviews (1)	3 rd Mondays, 2.00pm	Jill Nicholas 027 4243091 jill.nicholas@gmail.com
Book Reviews (2)	4 th Mondays, 2.00pm	Jeanette Ogg 348 8501 mandj.ogg@gmail.com
Cities	1 st Wednesdays 1.00pm	Cate Frey 220853913 catefrey1@gmail.com
Cooking for One	Check with Annette Bogun.	Annette Bogun 345 8198
Current Events (1)	1 st Thursdays, 10.00am	Nan Miller 3455817
Current Events (2)	1 st Wednesdays, 10.00am	Annie Wells 027 459 5157
Current Events (3)	2 nd Tuesdays, 10.00am	Jim Hartwig 985 4146
DVD Movies	3 rd Thursdays, 2.00pm	Ann Sullivan 348 1991 annsullivan822@gmail.com
Films	1 st Mondays, 12.30pm	Judy Somerville 357 2292
History	2 nd & 4 th Fridays, 10.00am	Bob Christensen 020 4069 0982
Philosophy	4 th Thursdays, 1.30pm	Peter Wood 345 5099 stpeterwood@gmail.com
Photography	2 nd Tuesdays, 2.00pm Outings on 4 th Tuesdays	Dell Gee 021 050 2440 or 345 6557
Poetry	2 nd Thursdays, 2.00pm	Margaret Lett 343 9223 margaretlett@gmail.com
Ratbags	Check with Peter Wood	Peter Wood 345 5099
Science and Engineering	2 nd & 4 th Mondays, 9.30am	Mel Bowen 345 3221 mel.bowen@xtra.co.nz
Singing – The “Grey Warblers”	Twice monthly – time and venue notified by e-mail	Hilary Calman Hilary.calman@gmail.com
Spanish Conversation	1 st & 3 rd Fridays, 1.00pm	Joan Wood 345 5099
Visits	1 st Fridays, 1.30pm	Judy Somerville 357 2292
Wednesday Art Group	Every Wednesday, 1.15-3.00 pm	Mel Bowen 345 3221 mel.bowen@xtra.co.nz
Writing for Families (1)	1 st Fridays, 9.30am	Anne Stewart 345 9369 bastewart@xtra.co.nz
Writing for Families (2)	3 rd Mondays 10 am	Gordon White 273458634 poppagordie@gmail.com