



Adelaide Hills Autumn Newsletter 2024-2025



From the Editor

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2025, with information about this term's doings, and some for the future. Our year opened with our usual meeting for course presenters and organisers, followed by the Bridgewater lunch.

The committee altered our Hot Weather policy to reflect local temperatures rather than Adelaide's, and there were a few cancellations because of the extreme heat.

You will have noted that most of our "continuing" courses are still running, and many are full. Enrolment numbers are still at a record high with 327 members, consisting of 68 males and 259 females.

Read about some of our current and completed courses in this newsletter.

Suzanne, Chairperson 2024-2025



Bridgewater lunch, above, and Presenters meeting, below.



Our thanks to the office of Rebekha Sharkie MP for printing this newsletter.

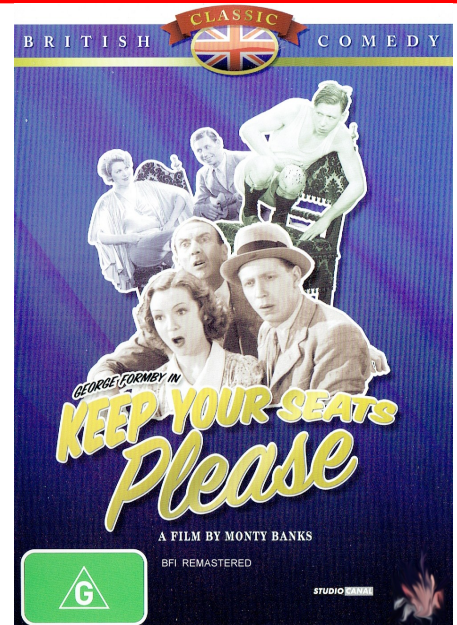
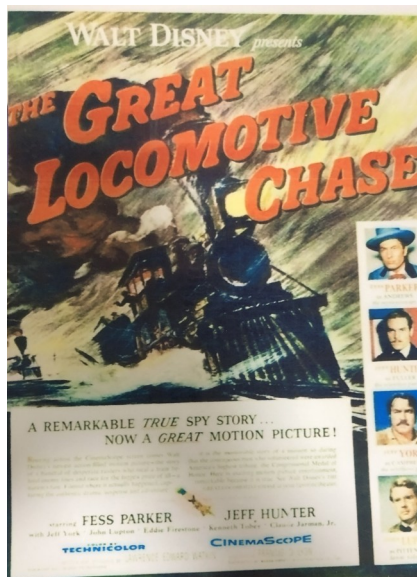
Film Club 2025

We were fortunate to have three films this term. The first, *The Little Foxes*. It starred Bette Davis, an ambitious and greedy woman who hoodwinks and blackmails husband and brothers to gain wealth and power for herself, in the aftermath of the American Civil War. A 1942 Academy Award Winner for Best Support Actress, Best Actress, Best Picture and Best Director William Wyler.

Then a rollicking 1956 Walt Disney Production which is a true story based on the Great Locomotive Chase that occurred in 1862 during the American Civil War. The film stars Fess Parker as James J. Andrews, the leader of a group of Union Soldiers who volunteered to go behind Confederate lines in civilian clothes, steal a Confederate train, and drive it back to UNION lines in Tennessee, tearing up railroad tracks and destroying Bridges/Telegraph lines along the way. This is a very rare film and when released in USA 1956 returned Walt Disney Productions \$1.7million at Box office. This film features the actual locomotives that were involved in this incident. Filmed in Georgia and North Carolina, along the now abandoned Tallulah Falls Railway. The Locomotives are now in a rail Museum.

Our third film subject (as requested by a few in our class) an English comedy, (NOT FROM CARRY ON SERIES) but you could say a carry-on, titled 'KEEP YOUR SEATS PLEASE'. 1936 George Formby, Alistair Simm and Florence Desmond. George's Aunt leaves a fortune in jewellery in one of her six chairs, all George has to find is the right chair. This storyline was again re-made by Mel Brooks in 1970 and titled 12 chairs by UNIVERSAL MARION (The Jewish division of UNIVERSAL STUDIOS) and that was based in Russia not England as is the original.

Thanks Frank for an excellent term of classic films.



Frank excels at sourcing the movies for our monthly movie session. The Great Train Race didn't disappoint. The main actor was better known as Davey Crockett.

Riddles

1. Spelled forwards, I'm what you do every day. Spelled backwards, I'm something you hate. What am I?
- 2 A nation without borders, government or laws. Everyone travels there, and no one leaves.
- 3 What can go through a door closed but not go through a door open?
- 4 What do you call a dentist who doesn't like tea?

Come Lunch With Me (group 2)



First lunch for 2025, at Auchendarroch, welcoming a few new members.

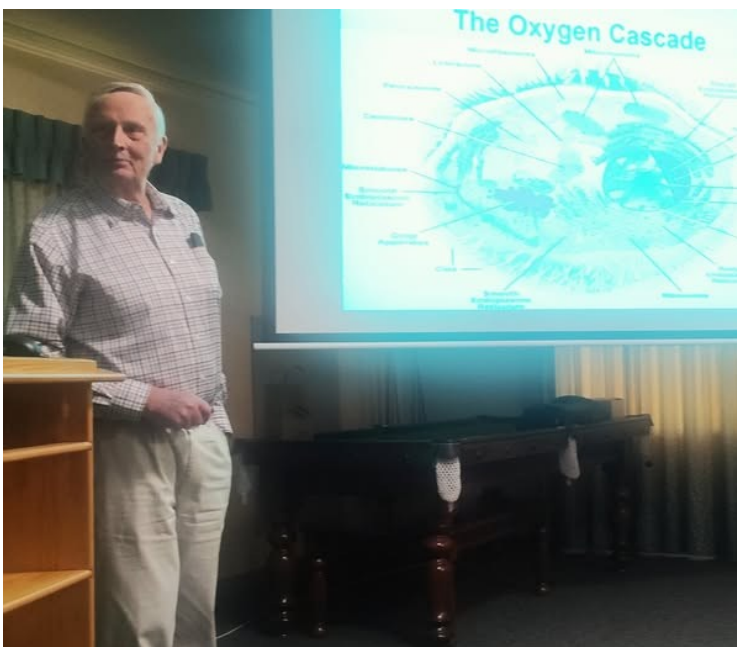


"Well done Adelaide Hills, continue to share your courses, activities and events. It all helps to promote what U3A has to offer."

U3A Murraylands on Facebook

"One-off Specials"

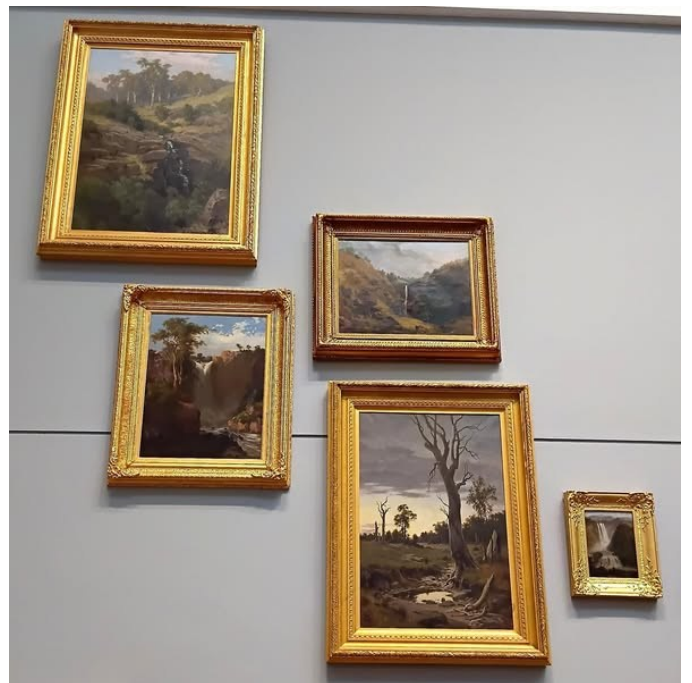
Dave Fenwick (retired anaesthetist) held members captivated with his presentation on the Oxygen Cascade - the fascinating and complex process of taking oxygen from the atmosphere, transporting it to the lungs and releasing it into the tissues. Much, much more than simply breathing in and out, as we all learned. The information was presented beautifully in ways easily understood and supported with humour, anecdotes and even a green bucket prop!



Guided Tours of the Art Gallery of S.A. March 2025

This visit showcased the favourite pieces of our guides Jill & Bryan from the Elder & Melrose Wings.

1. Big Mother 2005 by Patricia Piccinini is made of silicone, fibreglass, leather & human hair depicting a breast feeding female baboon so overcome by grief that it kidnapped a human infant as a substitute.
2. Hans Heysen's Red Gold 1913 painted in Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills.
3. Evening Shadows by H J Johnstone in 1880 depicted the backwater of the River Murray in SA.
4. Wine Dark Sea 2021 shows 23 Italian Marble columns referencing passages of verse from Homer's Odyssey.
5. A collection of Waterfalls including Morialta, 1882 & Waterfall Gully 1860 painted by various artists including H J Johnstone.




Embattled Queens

Once again Sue Garforth enthralled us with stories of three embattled, and largely unknown, queens (or would-be queens). The first was Empress Matilda, 1102—1167. Daughter and Heir of Henry I, king of England and Normandy. Married to the future Holy Roman Emperor Henry V, and crowned Empress. No children came from that marriage, but she subsequently married again and bore a son who became Henry II, after a long and convoluted period called “The Anarchy”. She was never queen, but was given the title “Lady of the English”, and advised and guided her son during his early reign.


Matilda
1102 – 1167

Great in her birth,
greater by marriage,
greatest in her offspring.

Here lies the daughter,
wife and mother of Henry.



Catherine is 40 years old.
She wields power for the remaining 30 years of her life.



Determined to be seen as an Enlightenment Ruler.

Law Reform

Education

Public Health

Development of
Trade & Industry

Patron of the Arts



Foreign Policy

Alliances

Wars

Expansion of
Russian Territory

The second contender was Catherine de Medici 1519—1589, of the infamous Italian Medici family. She was married to the French dauphin Henry, who became King of France. Although she was Queen from 1547—1559, Henry excluded Catherine from state affairs, but upon his accidental death in 1559 she became the power behind the throne of her frail 15 year old son Francis II, who died the next year. She then became Regent to her 10 year old son, Charles IX, and following his death in 1574 she played a key role in the reign of her third son Henry III. He dispensed with her advice only in the last months of her life, but outlived her by only seven months. Catherine’s life, and her three sons’ reigns, were plagued by constant civil and religious wars because of dispute over the succession of rule.

Catherine the Great of Russia, 1729—1798, reigned for 34 years. From minor German nobility, Catherine (Sophie as she was then) was groomed for a powerful marriage. On meeting her second cousin and future husband (Peter III) she pronounced him detestable for his “pale complexion and fondness for alcohol”. Peter was very immature, and possibly mentally deficient, and is in doubt as the father of his successor Paul; certainly she had other children by various men. She eventually overthrew her husband, forced him to abdicate, and probably instigated

his death eight days after his overthrow, and after he had ruled for just six months. Catherine became Empress Regnant until her son Paul was old enough to rule. In the early years of her marriage Catherine became interested in literature, philosophy, the arts, education and law. The Hermitage Museum (the former Winter Palace) began as her personal collection of books, art, and magnificent furniture and architecture. *Look out for Sue’s next trifecta—Two Canals and a Wall, next semester.*

Ukulele and Song Group

Performing at Infinite Care, Hahndorf. Lots of gigs at Aged Care venues.



Wednesday walkers



U3A is back! Laratinga Wetlands for a lovely morning walk under the gum trees (oh what stories they could tell), followed by a coffee break.



Cleaning up the environment. The items were picked up in the shelter shed where we have our coffee after the walk. They were full of ants and despite trying to 'bang' the items, there were still a few ants left behind. The sticks were to distance ourselves from the ants, who naturally wanted to keep their food source in the discarded rubbish that we placed in the bins.

Travel Group term 1.

Our first speaker was Phil Hoffman, who talked mainly about cruises, his favourite form of travel. Some members of the audience asked questions specific to their needs, and some general questions.



In March I showed the first part of my visit to the 5 (good) Stans of the Silk Road—Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan, commonly known as Central Asia. Each country has its own attractions; Kyrgyzstan has spectacular scenery, with most of the country being mountainous. We saw only a small part of Kazakhstan, as it is such a huge country. Tajikistan is also mountainous, while Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are mainly desert. Uzbekistan has the most beautiful

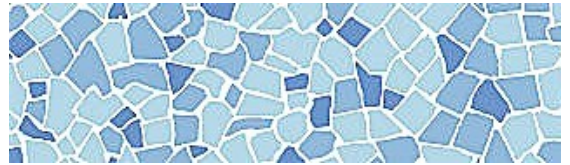
remnant (and restored) buildings from the Silk Road era—approximately 200-900 CE. The suffix “stan” means “land of”, describing the areas previously occupied by the various ethnic groups. Next instalment next semester.



Burana Tower, 11th Century CE, only remnant of a large Muslim city, Kyrgyzstan; glacier, over 3000 metres asl; yurt camp same altitude; Fairy Valley, one of many amazing rock formations; Kyrgyzstan was a wonderland of fantastic geographical features, including canyons and mountains.

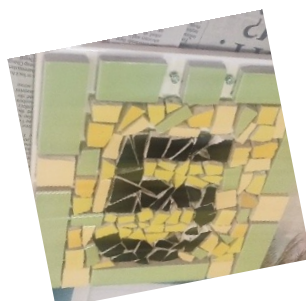


MOSAICS for BEGINNERS— A smashing good time...



Three weeks designing, nipping, smashing, glueing and grouting culminated with, not only a beautiful wall plaque for the garden, but a surprise visit to Irene's Tickle tank in Mount Barker, where we all enjoyed that special afternoon tea with Irene. Tickle tank gave us inspiration to continue our mosaics journey now that the basics have been mastered. Well done everyone and a huge thank you to Irene.

Submitted by Susan Smalldon



TRAVEL BACK in TIME with the BLACKWOOD HISTORY GROUP

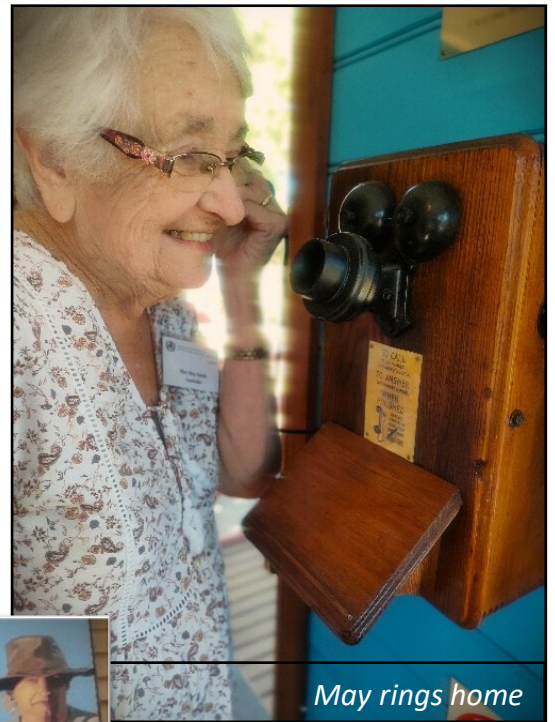
Early on Monday 3rd March 18 members caught the bus, driven by volunteer Glenn, to the Belair Railway Station for five very enjoyable hours learning and experiencing the history of the railway and local area. The trip included short train trips to three railway stations where volunteers from the local history group were on hand to expand our knowledge and understanding.



Station-master Chris explaining the points



Belair railway station opened in 1883 with the opening of the Adelaide to Aldgate section of the Adelaide to Melbourne line. A large wooden shelter was built for the crowds who used the train to visit the nearby National Park.



May rings home



The day was topped off with surprise servings of scones, jam and cream at the Blackwood Railway Station ("the best scones we have ever tasted") before catching the train back to Belair and the bus home.

Many thanks to the passionate members of the Blackwood History Group and the Mount Barker District Council for making the day possible.

Susan Smalldon

Card Makers

Card making started on a hot **February** day in a cool venue. One card took a long time while the birds were fun and made everyone smile.



March

A card to have when needed to share sorrow with someone special. Then onto one with windows that open and even have 'glass' in them. Decorating was the fun part.



GUESTS

KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN JOINING U3A ADELAIDE HILLS?

Intending members may attend one session to 'try' before paying membership fees and enrolling, but should contact the presenter or organiser of that course first (contact details in program).

REMINDER: The policy is for people interested in becoming members, not our guests or family members.