



Adelaide Hills Spring Newsletter 2023



FROM THE EDITOR

Why, you might be asking, is Suzanne using photos of the same flower? After all, last issue she repeated the clip-art from the previous issue. Did you notice? Answer, the left one was taken in my (inherited) garden in Hahndorf recently; the one on the right was taken in the highlands in Mongolia many years ago. We all knew that most of our garden plants came from overseas, but it was interesting to see forests of Rhododendrons in such an unexpected place. Australia has only 2 of the more than 1,000 species in the world, both in the tropical rain forest/cloud forest of Far North Queensland.

Welcome to our Spring issue of the U3A AH newsletter. We hope you find the articles interesting, and that you learn a bit more about the activities that we run. Any contributions are welcome, from members as well as course organisers. Today I'm adding some facts and figures from our National body, U3A Australia, as well as the state body, U3A SA, with its Statewide online service.

Soon we will have our AGM. We encourage all of you, especially anyone with IT skills, to consider joining our management team. Unpaid, but good fun and worthwhile results.

Suzanne, newsletter editor



Glen Wall, Chair, U3A Australia writes: In discussion with representatives of member U3As and the results of sample surveying of member U3As, it appears generally that 10% of the membership of U3As are volunteer tutors/leaders and that typically they connect with the other 90% of U3A members weekly. Extrapolating to a national Level, we have close to 10,000 volunteers connecting with approaching 90,000 seniors weekly. In closing, I acknowledge the good work of our member networks, member U3As in each state and the commitment of their committees, tutors and leaders to ensuring U3A in Australian can look forward to a bright future.

U3A Online is the world-first virtual University of the Third Age delivering online learning via the Internet. All that's needed to study online is access to a computer, tablet or other device with an Internet connection - and some basic computing skills. U3A Online is an individual, independent and autonomous U3A. U3A Online offers many other useful resources for older people, especially those who are geographically, physically or socially isolated. Currently offering about 70 courses, done solely online.

Mid-year Thank You Lunch

Held on Bastille Day once again, the lunch was thoroughly enjoyed by 85 members and deemed a great success, with those present enthusiastically expressing their appreciation to all course Presenters and Organisers. A special treat was entertainment by members of both French language courses, brilliantly accompanied by Dora on the accordion - all impressively attired and wielding baguettes no less!

Susan Smalldon



Vice-chair Brent opened the proceedings and welcomed everyone; some wonderful berets; and Libby and Egon really got into the spirit of the day.

A Fascinating Fact! Did you know that the Eiffel Tower grows during summer? It's true! The heat causes the iron to expand, making the tower grow up to 38 centimetres. Who knew?

Riddle— We are little creatures; all of us have different features. One of us in glass is set; one of us you'll find in a jet. Another you may see in tin, and the fourth is boxed within. If the fifth you should pursue, it can never fly from you. What are we?

Our gratitude to the office of Rebekha Sharkie MP for assistance with printing this newsletter

MEMOIR WRITING

Words of Wisdom Rights and Responsibilities

The day you were born your mother and father gave you all they can ever give you—your birthday suit. And on that day it was empty.

Only you can put anything into that suit. Only you can take anything out of that suit. What you put into your birthday suit can be as nice as peaches and cream. It can be as bad as road kill. The choice is always yours

You built you.

RL

Some of the group celebrating
Glenda's birthday



My Dad's funny war story.

My Dad was stationed in Egypt for part of World War II. It is from here that this funny story comes. He and a friend walked to a beach on the Mediterranean coast for a swim. Here they were approached by a group of Italian soldiers who wanted to surrender to them. (Thanks to Mussolini, Italy was a very reluctant ally of Germany, and these soldiers took the first opportunity to escape from a war that was anathema to them.) Dad and his friend were in shorts, and there was no way they were going to carry all these deserters' rifles, so they made them carry their own arms back to camp!

SA

My Brief Equestrian Career

At the age of ten, my parents decided that an equestrian ability would put the finishing touches to the man to be. Thus, they sent me to a riding school in the country, between Johannesburg and Pretoria. For the first attendance they attired me in my Father's army boots from the Second World War. He was a dapper little man and the boots were a tight fit, even at the age of ten. He also insisted that I wear his pith helmet from the same conflict. They found some hand-me-down jodhpurs, which ended a couple of inches above the top of the boots.

I was dropped off at the gates of the school and walked into a throng of immaculately attired children and adults, all of whom took a while to look me up and down. Eventually a lady, I took to be the teacher said, "What do you know about horse-riding?" I replied that if I could see the ears, I was facing in the right direction. To which she replied, "Well let's see, mount up."

I struggled onto the horse indicated and we straggled out onto a dirt road heading into the veld. My horse just ambled along at the back of the line and I just sat there. After some miles of an uneventful time, even boring, the teacher said, "Right, let's head for home." Well, my horse came to life! He whipped round, increased his speed and led the pack in the charge for the school. I did not know what his gait would be called, but suspected it was a gallop.

My bum was beating one rhythm on the saddle and the bloody pith helmet was beating another on my skull. Then my feet came out of the stirrups. I found myself flying through the air and then woke up lying in the bottom of a wash-away (called a donga in Africa). All I could hear was the souging of the wind in the grass at the top of the bank. I climbed out, looked at the direction the hoof marks went in and started walking.

After a couple of miles I arrived at the school, where I was inspected again. The teacher lady put her hands on her hips and said, "And we had to put your horse away!" After this encounter with horses and horsey people I turned into a mule and have not been within a hundred paces of any horse ever.

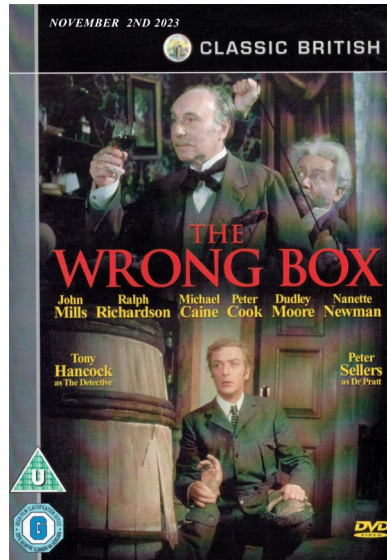
DF

Film Club

Enjoying another year of classic films from our film buff, Frank Robertson, in our lovely Hahndorf venue. The first film, Letter From an Unknown Woman, was greatly appreciated by us all. A poignant story, and a glimpse of the past. The second film, "The Great St Trinians Train Robbery" evoked peals of laughter from some of us. The hot cross buns to follow rounded off a delightful term. Then we had Seven Years in Tibet, based on a true story; a transformational film where Brad Pitt changes from a nasty self-centred man to become sympathetic and tutor to the young Dalai Lama. It ends with the horrifying take-over of Tibet by China.

This semester we had a change from the advertised programme—a short slapstick film called Things We Can Do Without, followed by the 1977 musical comedy A Little Night Music, with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. The only well-known actors were Elizabeth Taylor and Diana Riggs, a somewhat bawdy film about love and faithlessness!

Remaining offerings for 2023 : The Wrong Box on November 2, and then Blizzard on December 7. Plenty of room for more movie lovers.



U3A Statewide online—IT Tutorials

U3A SA Online (U3A Statewide Online) is still offering 12 courses, with 5 new IT basic courses. These are available free to all paid-up members of any SA U3A.

A new series of tutorials about getting to know and love your computer is now on offer. I am trialling a new way of delivering sessions. Rather than having to join a series, you can enrol in whichever of the 5 topics suit your needs. The topics are:

- 1 Organise Me
- 2 Photo World
- 3 iPad
- 4 Web Explorer
- 5 Search and AI
- They are aimed at beginners in each of these areas, providing enough experience to help get you going independently. If successful, more topics will be added.

John Travers

- <https://u3asouthaustralia.org.au/courses-2/>

Mark Twain:

'Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection.'

Riddle answer—the 5 vowels

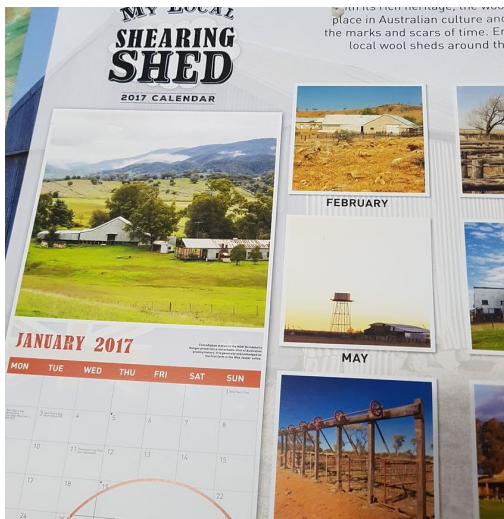


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Card making Group

This is what happens to an old calendar, a 53rd wedding anniversary card and a few sheep, craft punches and a group who just followed their sense of humor, and have watched 'Sean the Sheep'. Very enjoyable activity, and fun helping each other.

Janet Hemsley



Guided Tours of the Art Gallery - June

Milton Moon's ceramic collection titled "Crafting Modernism" was on display. The artist lived in Summer-town for many years before his death in 2019.

Susan Smalldon



Guided Tours of the Art Gallery—August

Frida & Diego: Love & Revolution—Gallery Visit on 28th August

Thanks to our brilliant volunteer guide Linda who dressed for the occasion, we were all enthralled with the stories & works of this Mexican couple. It's the only exhibit in Australia & I would suggest a visit before it returns to New York.



“Love, passion and politics lie at the heart of **Frida & Diego**. The couple, radical in their art and politics, were at the forefront of the artistic and cultural avant-garde in post-revolution Mexico from the 1920s to the 1950s. Today they are worshipped globally for their fusion of traditional Mexican folk art and international modernism.”
 Art Gallery of SA

Ramsay Art Prize 2023 — Gallery Visit on 24th July



The Ramsay Art Prize of \$100,000 for artists under 40 years was awarded to Ida Sophia's video on a continuous loop re-enacting her father's baptism that left her with emotional scars.



Submitted by Cheryl Oliver, Organiser

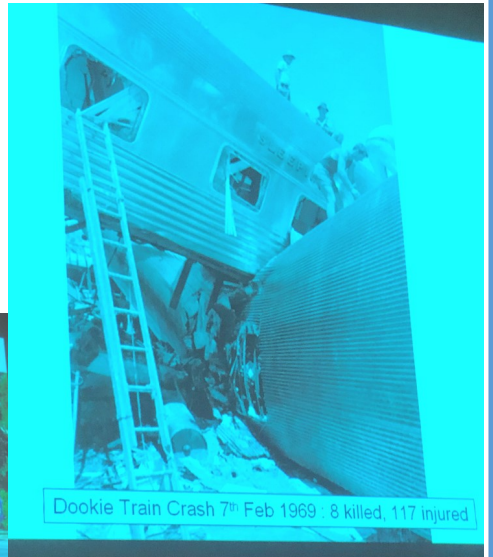
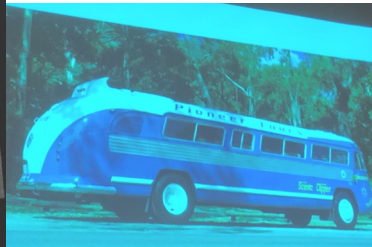
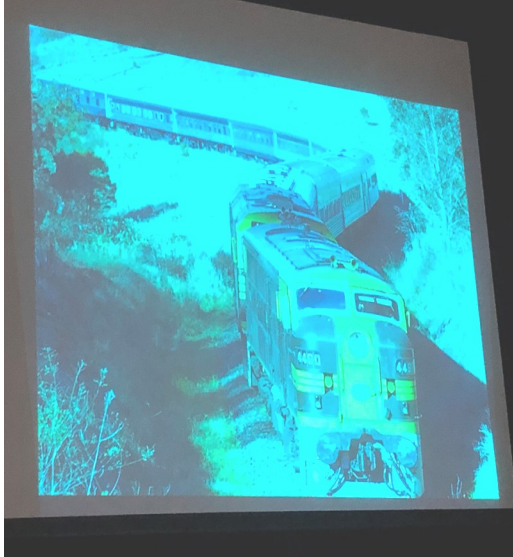


People's Choice Winner—Wonder Drug by Zaachariaha Fielding,

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TRAVEL GROUP

For our last travel talk in first semester, Mark Randell took us on a journey with him and his family on the heritage train Aurora Australis—formerly Southern Aurora, operating between Melbourne and Sydney. It is now a heritage tourist train, operating several routes. Mark's family followed the Riverina route. The train stopped at night for a comfortable sleep, and off-train experiences were catered for with a bus. Mark told us of the horrific train crash near the township of Dookie, with eight passengers killed, and 117 injured. We were enchanted to hear of the railway dog, who developed a passion for riding the trains for free throughout New South Wales.



Travel group



Our first talk for Semester 2 was a guest from U3A Inner North, Rodney Gracey, who took us on a quick tour of Vietnam. We saw the magnificent islands of Halong Bay near Hanoi, the tunnels used by the Vietcong soldiers during the Vietnam War (they call it the American War) and some of the incredible electricity wiring in the streets of Hanoi.



Larger Than Life with Sue Garforth

This term we have been treated to more of Sue's fascinating presentations about historical figures. We had Cleopatra, Genghis Khan, and Napoleon. Watch out for more enthralling sessions next year.

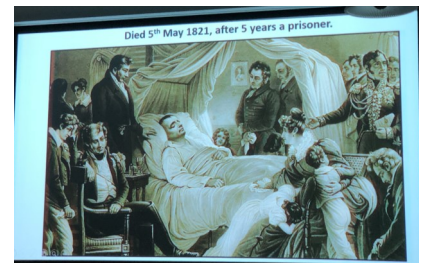
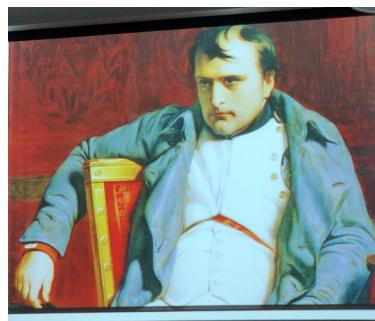


Cleopatra is the most dramatised woman in history

Genghis Khan ruled a vast empire, ruthless and fearsome.



The Mongolians love and revere him, and have built numerous statues of him. The gigantic stainless steel statue is in a grassland area— if you zoom in you can see people standing on the horse's head.



Napoleon—from this...to this! Born a commoner, rose through military ranks, eventually proclaimed himself Emperor; fought battles all over Europe, but eventually lost the war. Died in captivity on St Helena, but still revered by the French who built this huge mausoleum. Another megalomaniac restored to glory??

