

Adelaide Hills Spring Newsletter 2024

From the Editor

The first half of semester two has seen many exciting and interesting sessions, with some of the highlights mentioned in later pages. We look forward to many more such sessions in term 4. These include Madge and Bibs and the Advanced School for Girls, Early Adelaide Railways, Fauna of Thailand, When Sydney Went Mad, The Taung Child, Come Try Petanque, and visits to Mordrelle Winery and Cummins House. Check the website to see which still have vacancies. We welcomed several new members recently, with a current enrolment (at time of writing) of 355, our highest ever. Remember the AGM on October 10, and we are still looking for new committee members.

Suzanne



Semester 1 was capped off by the mid-year lunch to thank all our wonderful volunteer members for their generous contributions to the program. Our usual entertainment by the French for Fun group, Vice Chairperson Brent presented the door prize to Margo, and the beautifully decorated room at Auchendarroch before the hordes arrived.

Posted on Facebook by Susan Smalldon.



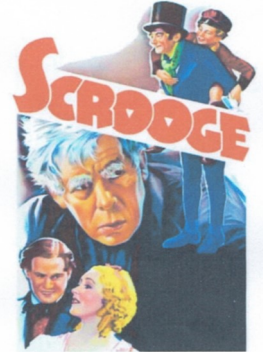
Our thanks to the office of Rebekha Sharkie MP for printing this newsletter

FILM CLUB

July's film was Don Juan, an old film starring then-heartthrob Errol Flynn. August's film was Infinite Storm, made in 2022, based on a true event from 2010. Naomi Watts gives a stunning performance as the 57 year old hero.

On November 7 we will screen the Hammer film adaptation of Gaston Leroux's novel "The Phantom Of The Opera". This version was released to cinemas in UK. in 1962. Be warned, this is not the beautiful musical, but an altogether darker version!

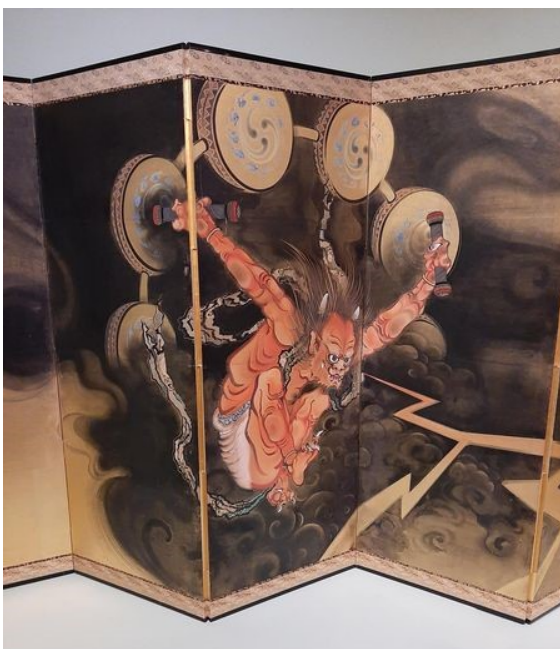
Our film for December 5 will be (of course) from Charles Dickens' Novel "SCROOGE." This version from 1935 is in colour and considered one of the best film adaptations of "A CHRISTMAS CAROL". Sir Seymour Hicks gives a riveting performance as Ebenezer Scrooge seeing he was 64 at the time.



JULY ART GALLERY VISIT

MJM Carter was one of Australia's most significant philanthropists to the arts. This month's visit concentrated on over 50 years of his unparalleled generous donations to AGSA from his 1st to his last gift of a Japanese screen. He also was a volunteer guide for the Art Gallery for many decades. A gallery is named in honour of his legacy.

Posted on Facebook by Cheryl (Organiser)



1. Helen writes down on a piece of paper: pineapples - eggs - bread - milk - toothpaste. What is she making?
2. Which letter of the alphabet keeps a pirate calm?
3. What three-letter word changes a girl into a woman and a boy into a man?

TRAVEL

For our first travel session, Kathy Read took us to Scandinavia. First stop Copenhagen, then on a Hurtigruten ship along the coast of Norway into the Arctic Circle and back, and finally Oslo. These ships are transport vessels for the otherwise unreachable fiord settlements, and carry only about 200-300 passengers. Sights along the way: summer huts for women shepherds, Trondheim Cathedral, Arctic Circle, Sami dwellings, Aurora Borealis.



In September we visited Namibia, with its fascinating landforms including Africa's Grand Canyon, animals and birds large and small, and interesting ethnic groups.

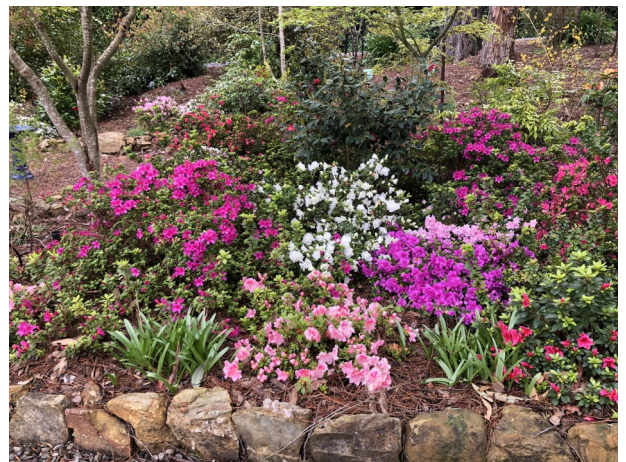


DIG

Richard Harman is a flower grower, retailer, and many other things besides. He gave us a fascinating account of how he started his career, the positive effect of Covid, as people bought flowers instead of going out, and his involvement in returning Flower Day to Adelaide. During Covid, his business needed to launder the cash.



In September we visited the magnificent garden of Lyn and Robin Austin. Although the weather was not kind to us, there was no actual rain so we all enjoyed wandering around the myriad paths, enjoying the multitude of plants and Robin's quirky additions. For any who became cold or tired, there was a welcome fire and refreshments inside the house.



ROAD SAFETY FOR SENIORS

Several of us took advantage of the invitation from Bene-St Paul's to join them in this lively and informative talk by our local friendly policeman Andy. He talked about the Fatal Five Causes of Road Trauma, explaining each one, and showed us how the statistics for road deaths had increased last year. There were many questions from the audience, including the use of motorised wheelchairs on the roads. A very useful and interesting session.



South Australia Police Road Safety Centre

Fitness to drive

- if you feel at anytime you are not in a fit state to drive, then do not drive and consult your doctor
- both you and your doctor are required to report any medical condition that could affect your ability to drive safely to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles



FATAL 5

DISTRACTION

- using a mobile phone
- reading while driving
- using stereo or GPS
- applying makeup
- talking to passengers
- eating and drinking
- smoking
- animals

Focus on driving, not your phone, friends or music.



Some of our musicians at work!



CONTEMPORARY ART IS SERIOUS PLAY

For our first session this term we made bottle people in the style of the Dada movement. Such a variety of creations! These will be displayed at the Annual General Meeting in October, along with some finished memoirs from that group.



September's project was a tiny abstract torn paper collage of "The Four Seasons in My Garden"



Memoir Writing Group

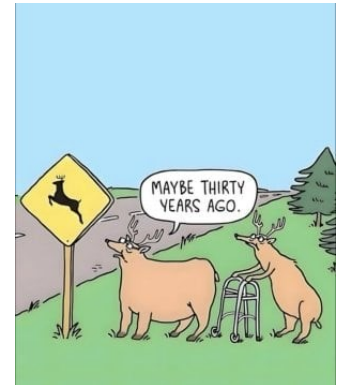
We celebrate the successes of Glenda Gregory and Ken Lyons who have now completed their Memoirs. Their books are printed, and they are beautiful. The whole 'Writing our Memoir' experience has been a most fulfilling and rewarding process. Through the support from this wonderful group, we have all overcome the many obstacles that can stand in the way of a writer. And for those in the class who are yet to complete their books, I can't wait.

And I do have to thank these beautiful people for their input, their humour and sometimes the tears as we share our stories. You are the best.



From left standing Thomas Culshaw, Gae Kiley, May Smith, David Fenwick and Brent Danks. Seated Glenda Gregory and Ken Lyons. Absent from the photo are much loved Russell Lynch and Ruth Nisbet, but they will be joining us to celebrate come end of term.

Glenda



Riddle answers

1. A list
2. P, otherwise they are irate.
3. Age

Card Makers

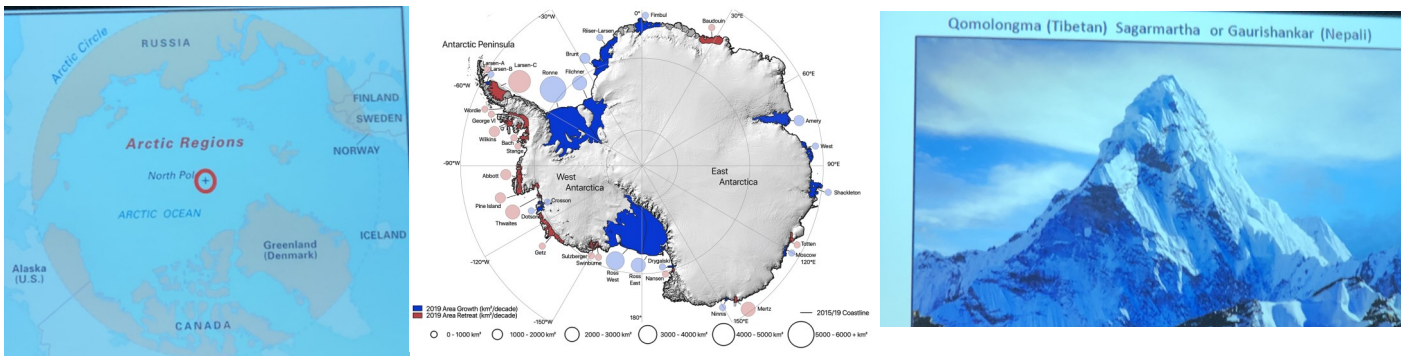
Only a small group but we all enjoy making cards and adding our own touches.

Janet

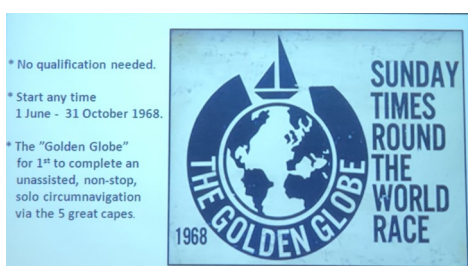
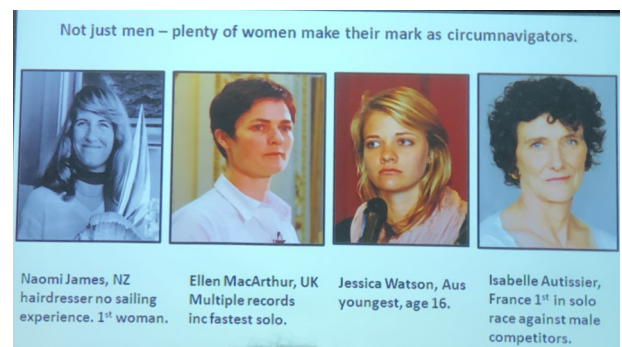
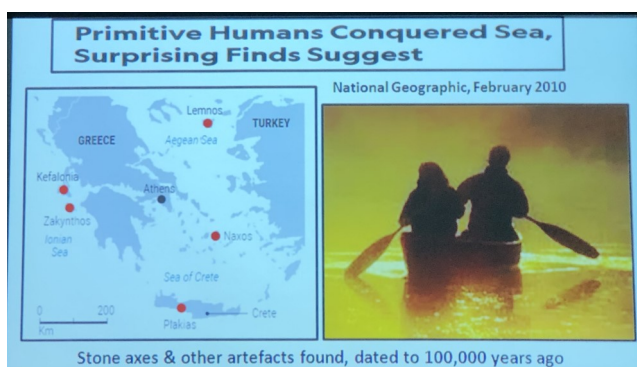


EXTREME ADVENTURES

Another of Sue Garforth's interesting series, taking us from the extremes of the Poles to Mt Everest, and then the open oceans. We learned of the various attempts and failures to reach the North and South Poles, to find the North-West Passage "across the top of the world", and to climb the highest mountain in the world. Finally the race to circumnavigate the globe. Sue's portrayal of the bravery, and sometimes stupidity, of the men who made these attempts, and the tragic loss of life, along with the heroism of some, brought this aspect of history to life. Although not the first to reach the South Pole, Ernest Shackleton is memorable for the Endurance expedition, when his crew survived a year and a half stranded on the ice, and all 28 men survived. For the feminists amongst us, the first women to achieve these heights occurred decades later. Because they weren't "the first" their names are largely unknown. Junko Tabei scaled Mt Everest in 1975, climbed the highest peak on every continent, and performed many other "firsts" for women. Ann Bancroft (not the actor) was the first woman to reach both the poles (1985 and 1993) and again continued to explore and break other barriers for women.



Erik the Red was probably the first person to sail to Greenland, where he established a Viking colony. His son, Leif Erikson, was the first European to set foot in America, 500 years before Christopher Columbus; remains of a 1000 year old Norse settlement have been found in Newfoundland. After that there were many attempts, both brave and ludicrous, to conquer the oceans and eventually to sail around the world. This began in earnest in 1968 with the Sunday Times Race Around the World. Nine men entered, some with no sailing experience; 4 retired before leaving the Atlantic Ocean, one retired soon after rounding the Cape of Good Hope; the leader sank within 2000 kms of the finish, one decided he liked the life on the ocean so abandoned the race and continued sailing circling the globe one and a half times before presumably settling in Tahiti. One sad case was an impoverished man called Donald Crowhurst, who had been sponsored to finish the race, which would have ended his financial woes. He sailed around in the Atlantic, sending back fake reports of his position. Presumably he intended to join the race after several boats had gone past. When he realised there were only a few boats left he realised his trickery wouldn't work and presumably committed suicide. Robin Knox-Johnson was the only finisher, becoming the first person to sail single-handed and non-stop around the world. When he heard about Crowhurst, he donated his 5000 pound prize to the desperate family.



After losing her title to an 82 year-old man, Jeanne proudly changed her slogan.

