

# Adelaide Hills Summer Newsletter 2024-2025



Welcome to the last edition of the newsletter for 2024, with snippets from the last few months, and news of the coming year. By the time you read this the new programme will be out, and I hope you have registered for and enrolled in your chosen classes/courses. Remember classes do not carry over from one year to the next, and you need to re-enroll each year. Next year we lose two of our long-running courses—Poetry Appreciation and DIG. Perhaps someone will step in to fill these gaps in the future.

As usual we have had a virtual cornucopia of courses from which to choose this year, and we look forward to a similar feast next year. Remember that if you have any ideas for a course or speaker, please contact one of the committee members, or use the Contact Us form on our website. We have room for more in second semester.

It is a good idea to familiarise yourself with our bright and informative web site. It contains everything you need to know about U3A AH, is regularly updated, and is used extensively for dissemination of information. Most importantly it contains all our policies and procedures, with which all members are expected to be familiar, and to comply. Looking forward to seeing you all at the members lunch at Bridgewater Inn, Friday January 31.

*Suzanne, Chairperson 2024-2025*

## U3A AH Committee 2024-5.

Chairperson—Suzanne Arbon

Vice-chairperson—Brent Danks

Secretary—Susan Smalldon

Treasurer—Janet Hemsley

Program Coordinator—Susan Smalldon

My U3A Coordinator—Brent Danks

Newsletter Editor—Suzanne Arbon

Website Manager—Susan Smalldon

Equipment Officer - Geoff Edwards

U3A SA Delegate - Suzanne Arbon

Risk Management Officer—Judy Curran

Public Officer—Brent Danks

Members in waiting—Lesley Ewing, Adeline Nitschke



The much appreciated Monday Folk group provided welcoming entertainment before the start of the AGM. Their first public appearance—well done Monday Folk.

### AGM 2024

Our "Not Your Usual AGM" was held on October 10, and as promised was short, sharp and shiny. We welcomed two new members to the committee, with committee positions being decided at the following committee meeting. Business was conducted promptly, followed by an enjoyable morning tea provided by committee members. Our guest speaker, Bruce Munday, then gave a fascinating talk about one of his passions, Dry Stone Walls. We saw many examples of those still existing in our state, including some that Bruce himself had built. We then had the opportunity to buy two of his books. On display for the meeting were some art creations by members of the Contemporary Art is Serious Play group, and published memoirs by two of the Memoir writing group, which has now finished. Members will complete their work in their own time, with Glenda's help.



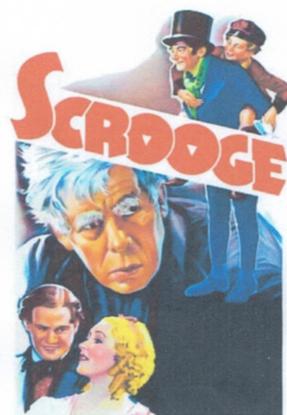
### Film Club 2024

A larger than usual group enjoyed the last offering for the year. Popcorn was provided, and Frank was presented with a token of our appreciation for an enjoyable and enlightening selection of films. Looking forward to more next year!

From Frank: I would like to thank those class members who kindly passed on how much you enjoyed "The Phantom of the Opera", and got from the Hammer Version a better understanding of who and how the Phantom came to be. That is part of the story that was not always clear in other adaptations. Our film for December, "Scrooge" is taken from Charles Dickens' 1843 "A CHRISTMAS CAROL". Our version stars Seymour Hicks who played Scrooge on stage and in a British 1913 silent film version which is now LOST. The version we will screen is from Twickenham Studios, a 1935 version Colourized by British Film Institute and considered one of the better versions on film. REGARDS Frank.



Ukelele and song group performing



**When Tom Hanks writes his memoir,  
it should be called...  
"T. Hanks - For the Memories"**

### Come Lunch With Me

Thank you Margo for arranging a unique lunch. Cooked by Brendon, reflecting his Lebanese origins, ably helped by wife Pat. We had 3 courses of very delicious Lebanese food, and enjoyed the Hahndorf rural countryside. Birds calling, sheep and cattle on green hills and a flourishing garden all added to a lovely lunch. *Posted on Facebook by Janet*



**Please remember this is your newsletter. I can only include articles that are sent to me, or are posted on our Facebook page.**

Enjoying the second visit to Mordrelle winery, with wine-tasting and barbecue.



Visits to the Art Gallery of S.A. October—The exhibition outlined the change from religious art in the dark ages to art from the 1500's. This included silverware, lacework tapestries & portraits. The couple are Martin Luther King & wife. Many exhibits are over 500 years old.



Art Gallery Visit Nov. 25th Eddie Mabo's daughter Gail's wall installation represents a fisherman & the constellations used for navigation. It was made of bamboo that Eddie planted in Townsville when he was the University's groundsman. Painted tree trunks hollowed out by termites were used to store the dry crushed bones of ancestors. Cheryl (Course Organiser)

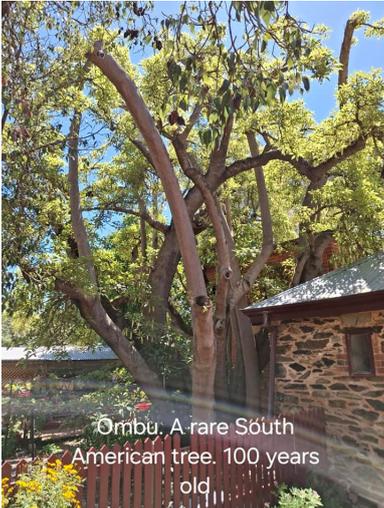


Stringybark canoe laden with painted snail shells from Central Arnhem Land.



Late in October about a dozen members enjoyed a trip to **Cummins House**, Novar Gardens. Built in 1870 on 132 acres by John Morphett, the property was a successful farm, orchard, garden and family home. His family and descendants continued to live there until 1982, when the remainder of the property was purchased by the SA government. Over the intervening years portions had been sold, mainly to Immanuel College, until by 1963 there were only 1.69 acres left. It is now managed by The Cummins Society, who maintain the grounds and house by providing tours, Devonshire teas, and plant sales.

The visit started with a delicious Devonshire Tea followed by an informative walk through the house. We enjoyed the gardens too. We saw several notable and historic plants, a bee hive, many historical items including laundry equipment and a display of antique irons. Many thanks Dorothy for arranging this fascinating outing.



Ombu. A rare South American tree. 100 years old



Ombu tree flowers



**MERMAID ROSE**  
Over 100 years old  
Large yellow single blooms with a slight scent.  
Vigorous and very thorny.  
Planted by the Morphett Family



For ironing sheets. Hard work!



Who doesn't have fond memories of "pepper trees" from childhood?



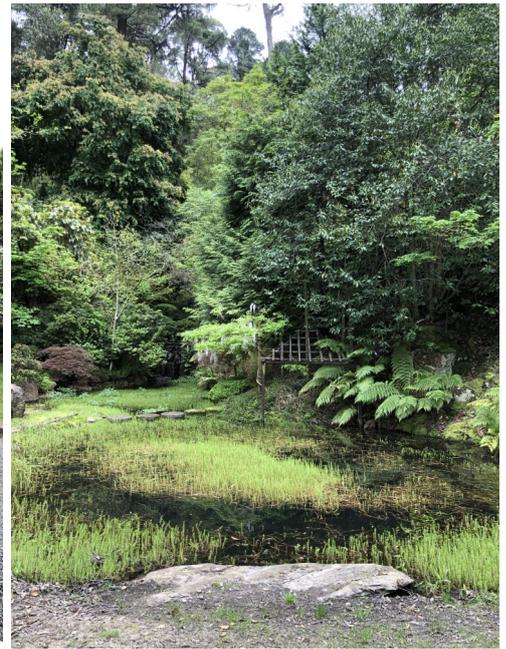
**Riddles : 1) What loses its head in the morning, but gets it back at night?**

2) I have pointed fangs, and I sit and wait. I have piercing force, and I crunch with weight. I grab my victims, but they do not fight. I join them each with a single, quick bite. What am I?

3) Two in a corner, one in a room, zero in a house, but one in a shelter. What am I?

**Word of the week—hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia—fear of long words**

In October the **DIG** group visited Lianne Healey's magnificent and extensive property in the hills of Crafers West. With some formal garden, and many native areas each with its own specific flora, it was a delight to wander, explore, and come across unexpected surprises.



### **DIG in November**

For our last meeting of the year, and for the foreseeable future, we had a short talk by Heritage Rose expert Paul Lindon, followed by lunch at the German Arms Hotel.

DIG will now go into recess until a new leader can be found.



#### Travel Group term 4.

In October Loraine Gager gave an interesting talk about Sri Lanka. Unfortunately the projector wasn't working properly, so the magnificent colours were not displayed. (Think computer-printer out of red ink!) Here's a glimpse of what we should have seen.—Stilt fisherman, colourful costumes, 2004 Tsunami memorial, monks strolling on the beach, fire dancers and much more.



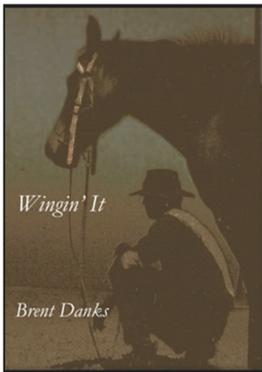
For our final meeting Janet Hemsley took us to China, to see the Terracotta Warriors (of course). It snowed while she was there, so the Great Wall was ethereal. And everywhere in public places were people spontaneously dancing or practising Tai Chi.

We have an equally interesting programme arranged for next year, including Italy and Central Asia. Come join us.

*Suzanne, travel group coordinator*

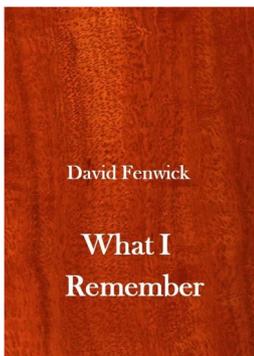


From the **Memoir Writing Group**, a glimpse of things to come. While they are still writing furiously, here is a sneak preview of their 'Book Covers'. This has been a two-year project; the participants have worked hard and produced amazing memoirs.



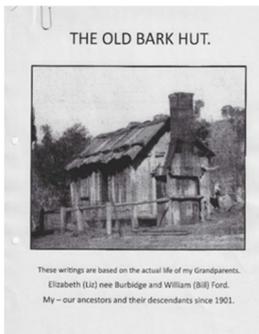
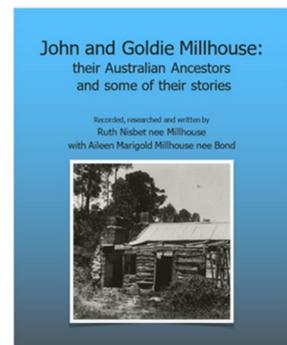
“Wingin’ It” by Brent Danks. A collection of stories from the many events throughout his life. Brent is a talented and emotive writer. His many character-filled short stories are most entertaining and full of humour. He is undoubtedly a very creative writer, possessing the natural ability to deliver real emotion and insight into his work. Well done!

“Little May Upton Grows Up” by May Smith. This memoir takes us through May’s journey right from childhood to her 90th year. May Smith earned the title ‘icon’ – defined as ‘An object of particular Admiration’ through self-education and dedication. Ultimately she was awarded the ‘Medal of the Order of Australia’ for her service to nursing and for her research into the ulcerative skin disease caused by Mycobacterium ulcerans. What an amazing achievement.



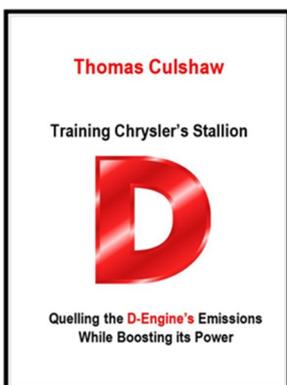
“What I Remember” by David Fenwick. David’s depiction of his journey as a doctor, anaesthetist, lecturer of medicine and a sculptor is told with humility and integrity. He grew up speaking Zulu and when conscripted into the army he was expected to enforce apartheid. This prompted his decision to emigrate to Australia which was a great move. David always had a captive audience whenever he spoke of his journey, particularly his recollections of working as a medical professional. An interesting man with a fascinating history.

“John and Goldie Millhouse” by Ruth Nisbet (nee Millhouse) Ruth writes beautifully, capturing the past and bringing it to life. With access to diverse sources and an interest in history, she has used her personal lens to tell the stories of ordinary people who have lived extraordinary lives. Ruth is a very warm person, her kind generous nature is felt by all. She has also found the process of writing both soothing and therapeutic. Your journey has just begun, we wish you well.



‘The Old Bark Hut’ by Russell Lynch. Russell shares a love of family and of hardships endured as a child, but despite a challenging childhood Russell is blessed with a good intellect and a curious mind, which he has used to advance himself. Russell has, through his own personal experiences and emotional journeys, gathered a deep and accurate understanding of Australian history which he tells in his own story, being impactful, concise and relatable. His early family history is guaranteed to leave a lasting impression on his readers. Your story must be told, please keep writing.

“Ol’ Gran’s Garden” by Gae Kiley. Gae’s memoir writing is laced with wit and fun but when you scratch below the surface you’ll find a wise, genuine, unassuming and practical person. With an understated approach Gae has captured her exciting life of adventures, challenges and adversities with hilarious and charming detail. A skilful writer, instinctively she has the ability to transform nothing into something and make people laugh. What I call a real ‘HOOT’. She is what one might call the ‘Salt of the Earth’. Gae is compelled to share her story and history for her family and for the future generations to come.



“Training Chrysler’s Stallion” by Thomas Culshaw. Thomas’s book explains the background to legislation, discusses the nature and relevance of critical testing, and relates his experiences and insights as the team made its sometimes unpredictable way to innovative success. After ten years at the start of information technology, he was unexpectedly given a new job in emissions engineering at Chrysler. Thomas approaches his writing with a scientific forensic ability, characterized by precision and objectivity. He is a true gentleman with a phenomenal intellect.

I wish them all the very best on their writing journey and look forward to seeing their books when they are finished. What a wonderful group of people, it has been an absolute joy getting to know you all, working with you and listening to your stories, and I truly value the friendships we’ve made along the way. Don’t stop writing! Love from Glenda Gregory (course coordinator)

## Contemporary Art is Serious Play

This term's projects were a fabric collage of "Memories of our Childhood Home", and a Mandala tray with paper collage.

We ended the year with a lunch, which unfortunately not all could attend. Thank you Susan Fereday for a wonderful year.



In November the card makers took on a challenging card and made it their own. An enjoyable afternoon.



Last card making for the year and Christmas time. So we made a card with Stars, a treat box, a bonbon and voucher holders. Several of the group make cards at home and we all enjoy seeing their creativity. *Janet, card group coordinator*



### 'Come Lunch With Me'

The last lunch for the year. This group has visited many venues this year and is a supportive group, with conversations ranging across many subjects.

We travelled to the Green Man at Ashbourne for this lunch. Thank you Margo for being our organiser and for your poems to each of us. Looking forward to next year.

*Janet, group member*



**The Taung Child** is the fossilised skull of a young *Australopithecus Africanus*, discovered in 1924 by quarrymen working in Taung, South Africa. Raymond Dart, an Australian anatomist working at Witwatersrand University, described it as a new species, somewhere between apes and humans (comparison below). After much controversy and further study he was proved correct. The two sides of the skull look different because the child was lying on its side. Thanks Dave for a fascinating talk.

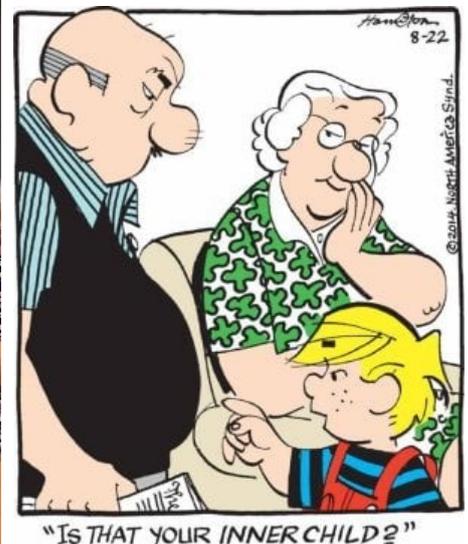


The **Mahjong** group from the Heathfield venue had its shared Christmas Afternoon Tea following the early session of play. The group meets weekly throughout the year with excellent support from the presenter Marjolijn to assist the new ones to learn the language of mahjong, and the rest of the group welcome participants to enjoy the camaraderie at their tables. Some turn up weekly because they are all addicted to the games and will not miss it for the world.

*Daisy*

Lovely photo (*below*) and a good example of how beneficial membership of U3A AH can be .

*Comment*



**FRENCH**

The French group shared afternoon tea after their last lesson for the year. Pictured are some of the group, and Helen, leader, being presented with a "Teaching Medal!"



*Wishing all our members and friends a happy and safe festive and holiday season. Looking forward to catching up with you all at our luncheon at Bridgewater Inn on January 31, 2025*

- Riddle answers
- 1) A pillow
  - 2) A stapler
  - 3) The letter "r"

**It's true that exercise helps with decision making. I went for a run this morning and decided never to do that again.**

