



Adelaide Hills Winter Newsletter 2025



From the Editor

I am writing this somewhat earlier than usual, as I am leaving for my annual “escape the winter” holiday before the end of term. So this issue may be somewhat thinner than usual, and next term’s equally fatter! This also means that I will miss seeing you all at the annual “Thank-you lunch for Presenters and Organisers.” My heart-felt thanks is extended to all those wonderful volunteers who give up their time to present these invaluable classes. You are what makes U3A happen.

It has been an interesting term, and first semester, with many exciting new presentations, as well as the reliable long-running regulars. Next semester looks to be equally exciting with many new one-off courses, as well as Sue Garforth’s new trilogy – Two Canals and One Wall. Another new series is Michele Langman’s Writing course, and the continuation of Giordana’s Eating For Optimal Health. Michiel Lucieer will give a repeat performance of Early Lighthouses, for those who missed out last time, and he will also talk about Shipwrecks, Graves and Lighthouses. Other “specials” include The Origins of Intensive Care Medicine; The Brain, Consciousness and Anaesthesia; Humour is the Best Medicine; Treasury and Tunnels Tour; Road Safety; The role of DNA in Criminal Investigation; and a Winter Warmer Afternoon Quiz, which sounds like fun. Plenty of choice there, so if you haven’t registered time is running out, and sessions are filling. Likewise our mid-year lunch at Auchendarroch.

Suzanne, Chairperson 2024-2025

More lovely results from last term’s mosaic class.

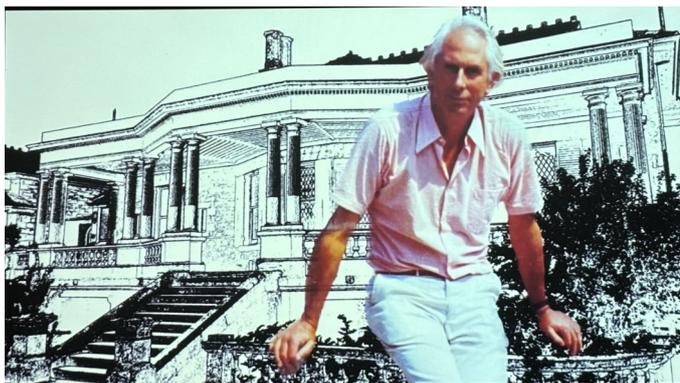


The Many Loves of Geoffrey Dutton.

South Australian film-maker, director, producer and author Rob George screened his award-winning documentary (New York International Film Festival—Best Biographical Film, September 2024) on one of S.A.'s more colourful figures. Writer and founder of the Adelaide Festival and Writers' Week, Geoffrey Dutton's many loves included two wives and a fiancé, mistresses, his children, fast cars, travel, flying, literature, art and a republic. He was raised on the family's property at Anlaby Station near Kapunda, with his upbringing being described as "dominated by material wealth but haunted by emotional poverty." Rob's thorough research, and Geoffrey's detailed photographic and written memories, produced a vivid picture of a loveable man controlled by his impulses. Geoff, as he was known, admitted early in life that he was a "serial adulterer," although his first wife, Ninette, mother of his three children, was unaware of this for most of their 40yr marriage.

During his career Geoff wrote or edited over 200 books, including poetry, fiction, biographies, art appreciation, art and literary history, travel books, novels for children and critical essays. He was awarded an Order of Australia in 1976.

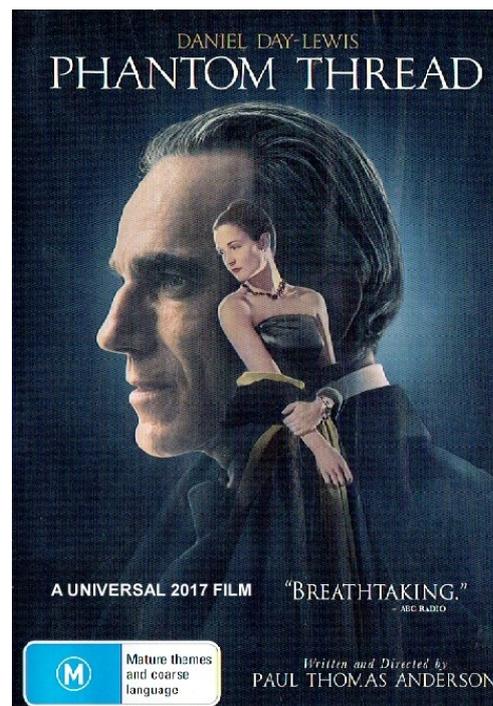
Thanks Susan for organising a viewing of another of Rob's films, after the beautiful Madge and Bibs and the Advanced School for Girls. Rob has a passion for South Australian history and historical figures. More please!!



Film Club 2025 Term 2

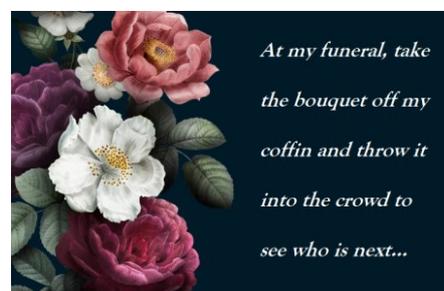
On May 1 we watched a fascinating psychological drama based on a true person. Daniel Day Lewis played a fastidious fashion designer who adopted as his model and muse a much younger woman. She caused havoc in his ordered life, but he couldn't live without her, literally! She twice poisoned him with toxic mushrooms, so that she could be the one to save him, in order to make him dependent on her. Almost everyone loved the movie, and the costumes and acting were superb.

June's film, *The Glass Mountain*, had to be postponed because of a power outage at the venue. Hopefully next time!

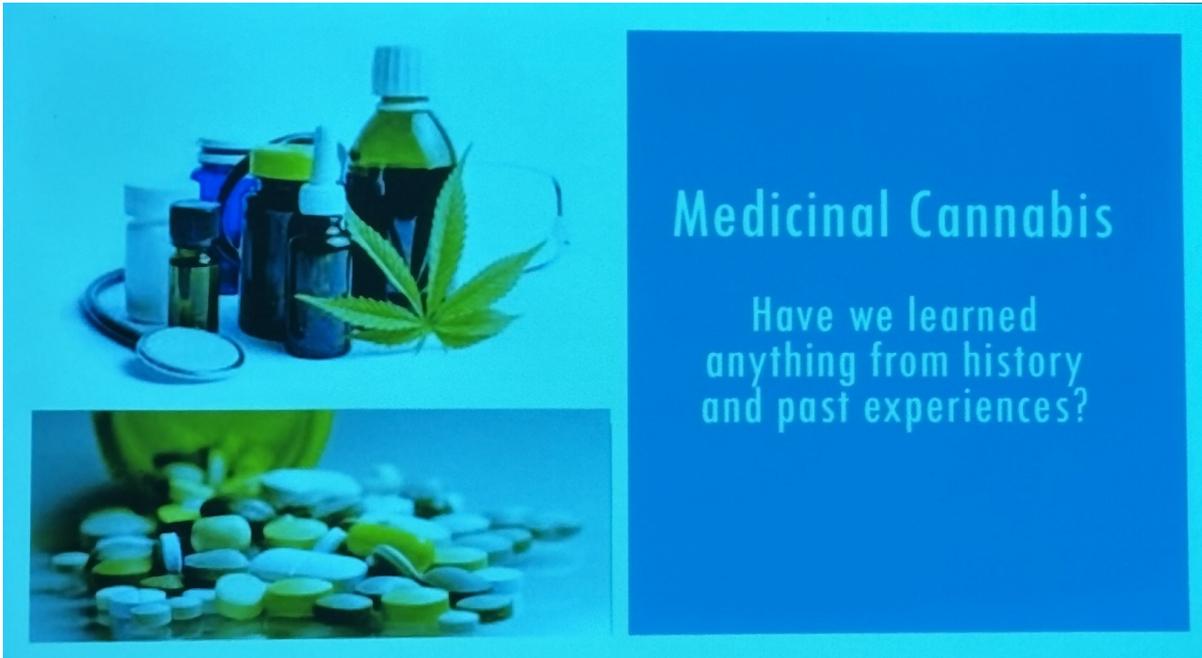


Riddles

1. What movie-related word starts with "p" and ends with "n"?
2. You answer me, although I never ask you questions. What am I?
3. What lies at the bottom of the sea and shivers?
4. What belongs to you, but everyone else uses it more?



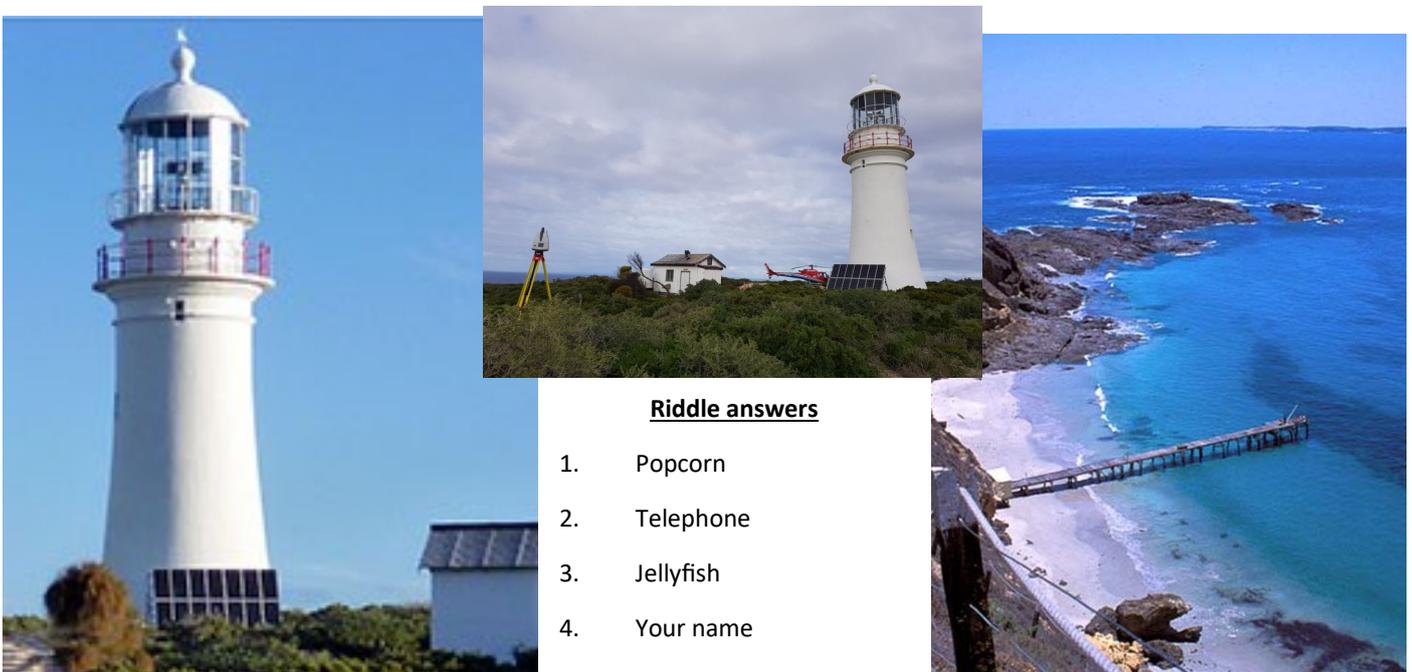
“One-off Specials”



I expected Professor Pamela Macintyre to give a whole-hearted endorsement for the use of Medical Cannabis, but I was wrong. Instead she took us through several cases where drugs were prescribed without sufficient testing, with catastrophic results. Apart from the appalling episode of Thalidomide, with which we are all acquainted, there are a number of other drugs which were efficacious but caused dependency. Valium, OxyContin and Lyrica were some of the worst, causing dependency and addiction in many cases. Remember the advertisements for Bex: “a Bex and a good lie down!” She acknowledged that Cannabis can be used for pain relief, but without proper thorough testing its use is problematic. The big drug companies are the ones who have to first provide the test results, and if they consider the costs are greater than the financial benefits to the company they just won’t do it. So we’ll just have to wait for it to be legalised!!

Suzanne

Michiel Lucieer was a lighthouse keeper for many years, and he still has a passion for lighthouses. He gave a fascinating presentation on SA’s early lighthouses, and his time on Althorpe Island. One of the most interesting facts was the steepness of the cliff on which the lighthouse sat, necessitating everything from building materials to groceries being winched up on a cable. The lighthouse was automated in 1991, after 113 years and 150 keepers. Michiel is now involved in a preservation group which tends the island, and he has recently published a book—“A History of Althorpe Island—South Australia.”



Riddle answers

1. Popcorn
2. Telephone
3. Jellyfish
4. Your name

Lovely morning (last term) to visit **Duck Flat Community Garden** in Mt Barker. Directly behind the tranquil garden is the busy construction site of the new Mt Barker Hospital. Eddie was our guide and talked about the produce being used in the Community House for those in need. Many groups use it, from playgroup, home schoolers, artists, and with so many art works creativity flourishes in nature. Thank you Dorothy for organising it.

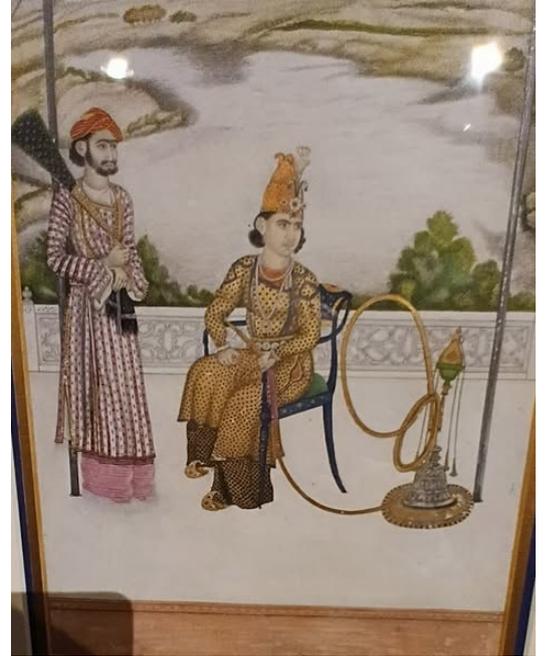
From Facebook, by Janet



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

Hindu & Islam culture & religion on display included:

- * Miniature watercolours painted in gold with camel eyelashes dated 1799 -1830.
- * Camphor wood leography columns depicting a lion trampling an elephant, a symbol of auspicious Protection
- * Hand of Fatima (daughter of Prophet Mohammed) invoking divine protection of Islamic World,
- * Iranian "Polonaise Carpet" 1625-30 silk pile brocading in silver thread.
- * Cotton Indian Tent panel 1775-1825, (very rare to have survived intact)
- * Indian wedding skirt with fine gold twisted onto silk thread & sequins.



Travel Group term 2.

In May Dave Fenwick gave a hilarious presentation about a group of innocents setting off on an ocean voyage on a yacht, in the middle of a gale. The Captain ignored the weather warnings, only to fall victim, like most of the crew, to severe seasickness. This left Dave and his inexperienced mate to sail the ship together, trying to avoid any possible hazards along the coast of South Africa, while tending to the sick, bed-ridden men. This led to them literally sailing off the edge of the map (see below!). When the captain recovered enough to poke his head out of his bunk, he berated them for sailing off-course, and returned to his bed. No word of thanks or praise from him, or any of the others, for tending to them as well as managing the boat for several days.

Our second talk misses my deadline, so you'll have to wait till next term for that.

Suzanne—Travel group organiser



Our happy Card Makers

Last day of term 1 and four happy card makers took home their work. One challenging and one just pretty .

Janet, card maker extraordinaire

