



Adelaide Hills Summer Newsletter 2021—2022



Dear Members,

Welcome to the last edition of the newsletter for 2021, with news of the coming year, 2022. Who can predict what that will herald, now the borders are open and people can travel freely again!

Our new digital enrolment system is operational, and we hope you enjoy using it. We thank all those committee members who have given up so much time in previous Christmas Holidays working through the old labour-intensive system which required many, many hours and much duplication of information. See separate email for details.

A very special thank you to Susan Smalldon, who has spent countless hours grappling with and mastering the new system.



We ask members to familiarise themselves with our bright and informative web site. It contains everything you need to know about U3A AH, is regularly updated, thanks to Lynley, and will be used more in the future for dissemination of information. We know some of our members are not comfortable with technology, but please ask a buddy (or grandchild) to help you if necessary.

Suzanne, Chairperson 2021-2022

U3A AH Committee 2021-2022

Chairperson Suzanne Arbon

Newsletter Editor Suzanne Arbon

Deputy Chairperson Mark Randell

Web manager Lynley Keynes

Secretary Jenny Twigden

Equipment Officer Jane Horton

Treasurer Janet Hemsley

U3A-SA Delegate Geoff Edwards

Program Coordinator Susan Smalldon

Public Officer Mark Randell

Minutes Secretary Susan Huggins

Members Tony Rogers, Dianne Bacciarelli,

MyU3A Coordinator Susan Smalldon

Kaye Sims, Brent Danks,

The U3A Adelaide Hills Committee discussed our position on people who have not been vaccinated against Covid19, and our concerns for members who are 'immunocompromised'. Here is our position statement—

Adelaide Hills U3A strongly encourages all members to be fully vaccinated before attending any face-to-face activities. Federal, State and venue restrictions and requirements will be adhered to at all times and as changes are announced. Presenters and organisers will have the final say in determining if their course is to be conducted face-to-face, via zoom or is deferred.

Stay safe, and keep us all safe

Introducing some of our new committee members

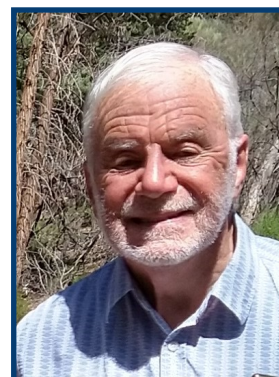
Jane Horton : As a young adult I knew all about U3A, as my mother was a French teacher with a U3A group in Brisbane. At the time I was disappointed I wasn't allowed to join! One of the first things my husband and I did when we retired was to become members of our local group. We have lived in the area for just on 40 years and, apart from U3A, are also involved with Stirling Rotary, the Stirling Community Theatre and the local organic food co-op. It is wonderful now to also be part of the Adelaide Hills U3A.



Jenny Twigden: With my husband Trevor I have been living in Mt Barker for 3 years, and have been involved with U3A during that time. I had an English childhood, and came to Adelaide with my parents as British migrants where I completed my education and became a teacher, married, and had children. Re-joining the workforce to 'make ends meet', I worked and supported myself and children until re-marrying and transferring to the Murraylands where I continued working as a teacher. During this stage of life, I fell totally in love with the River Murray, its anabranches, tributaries, flora, fauna, bird life, cliffs and curves and cruising in old wooden boats that hardly make a ripple. I have always been an enthusiastic gardener, and now enjoy life [and gardening] in the beautiful Adelaide Hills nearer to family and community services. *Jenny, with Heather Rowell, coordinates the DIG programme.*



Tony Rogers: I was born in the UK and moved to Canada in 1956. I had various jobs between 1956 and 1964, then did a teaching degree at the University of British Columbia (UBC). During those four years I supported myself working at any odd job that allowed me to eat. From 1968 to 1974, I was a teacher in Vancouver schools; from 1974 to 1977, I taught in Canadian Armed Forces schools in Germany. I was principal of a school on an island off the west coast of Canada from 1978 to 1982 then went back to UBC to do graduate studies. I met my wife four weeks after I started grad studies and, somewhat to my surprise, ended up, five years later, with an MA, a PhD (history of education), a wife and two children. I moved to Australia in 1987 because my wife's hometown is Adelaide and, after we had the kids, it seemed a good idea to live near grandparents and other family. From 1987 to 1991, I interspersed periods as fulltime house-husband with teaching. From 1991 to 1999 I was a lecturer in education at UniSA. I currently run a creative writing group for the Adelaide Hills U3A and, as a volunteer, I teach creative writing at Mobilong Prison. I have also taught various other courses at several other prisons. I'm officially retired but have been writing about the history of South Australian weather since 2004. *(Tony has had several works published)*



Find a
reason to
smile
everyday

Have you booked for
our Welcome lunch,
to be held at Bridge-
water Inn at 12.30 on
Wednesday Feb. 2

Book and pay
through the Online
enrolment system.

If you get tired,
learn to rest,
not quit

News from some of our groups

U3A Travel Exchange

U3A AH Travel group has started in a small way to arrange exchanges with other nearby U3A groups. Because of the Covid lockdown few people are travelling these days, so this has had an impact on our Travel group in particular. Perusing the newsletters and programmes that we receive from other U3As has brought up some interesting speakers and topics. We had the first guest speaker recently, Pauline Kemp who co-coordinates the Armchair Travel group for Inner North (previously Prospect) U3A. She gave a fascinating illustrated talk on “UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Eastern Europe”. Next year we will have Rodney Gracey, the other coordinator for Inner North, talking on “Christmas in Berlin, New Year in Norway”. In exchange Susan Huggins will repeat her enthralling depiction of 5 years living on a houseboat on French canals, and I will repeat my Mongolia presentation. We also have Mark Dale from the South Coast group talking on the Karst districts of China and SE Asia, and Geoff Osbourne from Murray-lands will tell us of some of the problems of working in China.

Interestingly, when someone mentioned China about 5 people said they could talk about their trip to China—so watch out for many future variations on a theme!

The Ukulele Group is going well at our new venue in the Crafrers Institute Hall. This is a large venue with good parking and everything recently refurbished with new toilets. We have had three new members join which results in new voices both in playing and singing. Because singing is such an important part of playing we will in next year's program be inviting people to join us just for the enjoyment of singing. So

anyone that feels too intimidated to strum a ukulele can come along and just join in with the songs.



Birding (John Hatch)

Twelve U3A-ers and I met at Laratinga Wetlands. It was sunny and warm with light winds, and this weather persisted through the next two or so hours. We walked slowly with many stops around the central area towards the boardwalk, and down beyond the Bob Snell memorial log and plaque. I made the point that a rather wet Winter and Spring and other matters meant that water levels are high and there is a lack of muddy areas which inhibits the presence of some birds. These factors will all have contributed to a relatively low total species count of 33, rather than the usual 40 or more. For example we saw none of the three Crakes, no waders other than Masked Lapwing and more generally no birds of prey, few pigeons, and not many large water birds. For example, we did not see Pelican, Spoonbill, Egret or Swan and just one Cormorant.

We tended to concentrate on Ducks and saw seven of the 11 which one could ever reasonably expect to see there or of the thirteen that occur in this State. The highlight was a few Blue-billed Duck, some Shoveler mostly in eclipse plumage and some nice Hardhead (White-eyed) Duck and Chestnut Teal. We also had good views of the two small Grebes, Hoary-headed and Australasian. Despite the lack of species it was interesting and some people got some views of notorious skulkers, Little Grassbird and Australian Reed Warbler. I hope that people enjoyed the general bird experience and the lunch and bird chat later.

With all the dabbling ducks, I was reminded of the following poem (Ed):

Ducks Ditty by Kenneth Graham (From Wind in the Willows)

All along the backwaters, Through the rushes tall, Ducks are a-dabbling, up-tails all

Ducks' tails, drakes' tails, Yellow feet a-quiver, Yellow bills all out of sight, Busy in the river

Every one for what he likes! We like to be Heads down, tails up, Dabbling free!

High in the blue above, Swifts whirl and call We are down a-dabbling, Up tails all!



U3A Statewide Online – Zoom sessions for any member of a U3A in South Australia.

It is so easy—you only need to have Zoom installed on your computer/device. Even if you don't, you will be given the opportunity when you try to join a "session". Once you have enrolled, you will receive a confirmation email. Then about a week before the course or session, and again a day before, you will be sent an email with a highlighted link. Just click on the link and follow the prompts.

Courses already on offer for next year - A to Zoom of Presenting Online; Agatha Christie; A Short Course in Positive Psychology; Armchair Travel; Climate Change: Information Inspiring Action; Reading the Ned Kelly short list 2021; French 2; Geology—Our Restless Earth.

For more information and to enrol, click on this link <https://u3asouthaustralia.org.au/courses-2/>

Lynley said—Having been given an introduction to Zoom during the early lockdown, I decided that I quite liked being able to participate in discussions and courses from the comfort of my home. When U3A South Australia decided to run a trial of online courses, which was free to members of all South Australian U3As, I immediately booked into some of their offerings. I participated in Positive Psychology which was a 4 week course that I found to be very personally fulfilling.

I also signed up for "The Restless Earth – the Australian Plate" which, having very limited knowledge of geography, proved to be quite fascinating. The way the planet has moved the continents around over many millions of years is really enthralling and I now understand how the Himalaya mountains were formed and how Volcanos occur.

The knowledge of the presenters of both these courses was very impressive and I am looking forward to next year's offerings. I highly recommend this program to you.

Kaye said—A new dimension has been added to the activities of U3A SA - we can now listen in to experts from all over South Australia. Presenters from the city and from the regions are hooking up to zoom to give all members a chance to hear what they have to say and you don't even have to get out of your work clothes! I have been listening to and watching several sessions on geology (Restless Earth) given by Bob Dalgano from the Mt Gambier U3A and it is fascinating stuff, although my brain feels completely inadequate by the end of each session. Next year I am definitely moving Statewide SA to my 'must do' list.

Suzanne said—I too have participated in several Statewide Online courses, and found them very interesting, and at times challenging. I presented 2 of the sessions I have presented in person to U3A AH, and plan to do a travel series next year, replicating the "live" ones I do. So if you want to catch up on one of those please check out the website.



SMILE

By Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the flu.

When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner
and someone saw my grin.

When he smiled I realised
I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile
then realised it's worth.

A single smile just like mine
could travel around the Earth.

So if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected.

Let's start an epidemic quick
and get the world infected!