

Adelaide Hills Summer Newsletter 2024



Welcome back to a new year of U3A activities. This newsletter is earlier than usual, because I had too much material to include in the last one last year. You will find these pages early in the newsletter, with some new year activities later. We had another beautiful, friendly lunch under the vines at Bridgewater, to officially open the new year. Many new members (of which we have 25 this year) attended the lunch, making new friends and connections, while longer term members appreciated catching up with old friends. (interestingly, the Indonesian language had separate words for old as in time, and old as in long-term - so for example the phrase "old friend" can never be misunderstood!)

As always I welcome contributions from all groups or members, about any interesting activities that are happening in your group. Thanks to those who shared for this newsletter.

As well as the lunch, we held a meeting for course organisers and presenters, to reinforce important information and pass on tips for better using our website and automated registration process. We encourage everyone to refer to our policies, especially hot weather and bushfire policies, and to keep on using the website for tendering apologies etc.

I recently read this apt description of U3A—"a community organisation that promotes healthy aging by sharing educational, creative, leisure activities provided by its own members. We ask for no qualifications for membership, and we award no degrees or diplomas."

Have a great year everyone.

Suzanne, newsletter editor



Susan Smalldon, Secretary and Course Coordinator, gave a power point presentation to presenters and course organisers. She shared the following statistics for this year. And remember, all these presenters as well as committee members, are volunteers!



2,200 hits on website since end November
42 Semester 1 courses, talks and activities
26 Presenters and Organisers
7 Guest Presenters
1,226 Presenter hours
294 Members (233 Female / 61 Male)
1,226 individual enrolments

Our gratitude to the staff of Rebekha Sharkie's office for assistance with printing the newsletter

Wednesday Wetlands Walkers 2023

What a treat for the last walks for 2023 — a baby heron and a group of swans preening themselves. *Janet Hemsley, organiser*



French For Fun Christmas

The French4Fun last lesson for the year was a shared lunch hosted in the beautiful garden of one of the members. The singing of French Carols was definitely helped by the excellent French rosé used to lubricate our voices. (*Jan - F4F presenter*)



Last lesson for Helen Hughes' French group for 2023. Afternoon tea followed.

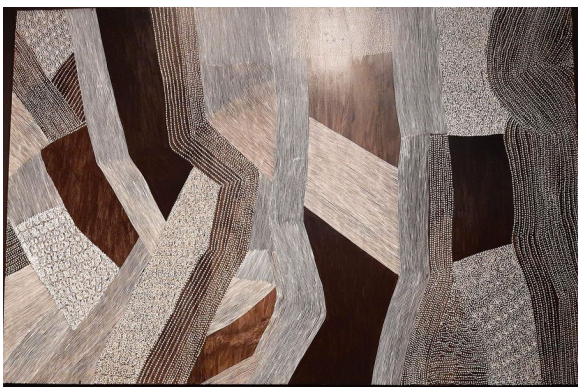
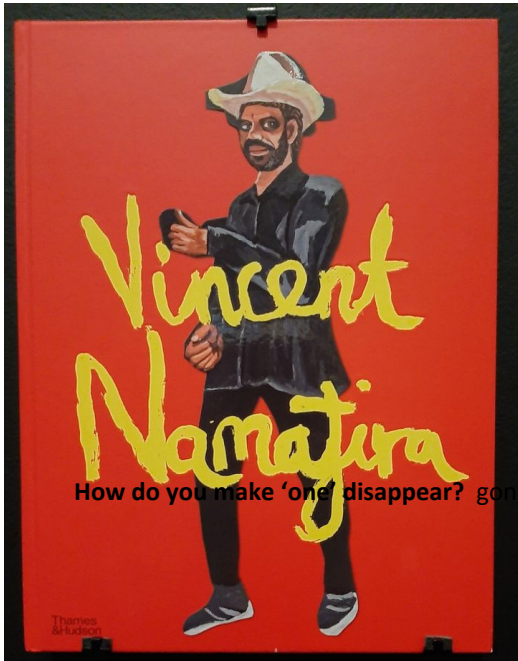
Edna R

GUIDED TOURS of the ART GALLERY (November 2023 visit)

A diverse collection of contemporary portraits by SA's Vincent Namatjira, pottery by NT's Hermannsburg Potters; SA's Tiger Yaltangki portraits expressing his love of AC/DC music; NT's Djakanju Yunupingu, sister to Yothu Yindi's Gurrumul; totem poles that were originally tree trunks hollowed by termites, painted with brushes made of human hair dipped in burnt natural clays; & celebratory dancing sticks from WA decorated with Pilbara grasses.

Many thanks to the brilliant AGSA volunteer guides who brought the works to life with stories every month. 🍷

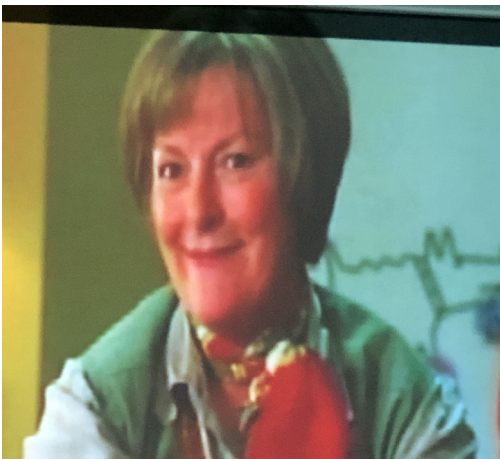
Cheryl Oliver U3A Organiser





FILM CLUB 2023 and 2024

Our final film was the delightful Christmas movie *Blizzard*. Starring the wonderful Brenda Blethyn, and an unrecognisable Christopher Plummer, it was a joyful mix of fantasy and real-life emotional issues.



The first film for 2024 will be “MAN OF LA MANCHA” (DON QUIXOTE) starring Peter O’Toole and Sophia Loren.

Man of La Mancha was perhaps the first true “concept musical,” the kind of musical in which the over-arching metaphor or statement is more important than the story. Originally produced as a non-musical television play, “I, Don Quixote” starred Lee J. Cobb as Cervantes, (who’s life experience the play was about, using Quixote as a story telling device.) Miguel de Cervantes was tried by the Spanish Inquisition in 1597, and was excommunicated for “offenses against His Majesty’s Most Catholic Church,” escaping more severe punishment, which could’ve included burning at the stake. He served several prison terms.

Frank

“Opening of the year” lunch under the vines at Bridgewater Hotel.

About 70 members and friends attended, in perfect weather. Lovely meal, lovely company, new friendships made. Relaxing and chatting with dessert and coffee.

