

U3A AH Chairperson's report – 2021 – 2022 AGM September 30, 2022

What an interesting and unpredictable year it has been, globally, nationally and locally. Reading from last year's report, "So far South Australia has been free from significant outbreaks of Covid virus and lockdowns." How quickly that all changed (along with changes of government and the monarchy!)

Again the committee thanks all our members who were conscientious and proactive in caring for the health of others by using Covid-safe measures. Some members decided to step back from activities to protect themselves and others, and I believe as an organisation of senior citizens we had a relatively low rate of infection within the group. Our sympathy to those who suffered and to the few who are still suffering the after-effects of this virulent disease.

About 50 members did not renew their membership this year, and at the same time we had about 65 new members, some because of work changes due to Covid! Current membership numbers stand at 312, slightly up from previous years. It might be of interest to know that, for this calendar year alone, this constitutes over 1400 hours of face-to-face meetings, 1610 session enrolments in 76 courses or events, presented by 38 volunteers. While talking of members I must pay our respects to our hard-working ex-committee members, Rev Brian Young, Lynley Keynes and Sue Lear, who sadly passed away this year.

The new online registration process is working well and, despite the teething problems and occasional hiccups, has been widely accepted by members, and welcomed gratefully by the hard-working group who previously managed the endless paper-shuffling and hair-tearing that the manual system demanded. Organisers and presenters also appreciate the ability to directly monitor information pertaining to their course.

Thankfully we always manage to find new courses and presentations, along with the tried and tested "old faithfuls" – the back-bone of our program. One great find was Susan Garforth, who has presented two fascinating series on English Royalty, one on suspicious deaths, and more recently Royal Marriage Disasters. We look forward to more from her extensive repertoire.

Other new courses in the past year include For the Love of Folk Music, Games, Games, Games, Bridge for Beginners, Mental Fitness, two philosophy groups, and Table Tennis. A few others were cancelled for various reasons.

Members appreciate sharing a meal and conversation and we have enjoyed many such opportunities over the past 12 months including the two lunch clubs and an end of year function at the Bridgewater Hotel. A highlight of this year was the Auchendarroch Bastille Day lunch, where members of our French classes, complete with baguette microphones, accompanied by Dora on the piano accordion, entertained us with some French songs. We were also graced by the Emperor Napoleon, in the form of Egon Shore.



One-off presentations continue to attract much interest, and the past year's program has covered such subjects as the relevance of journalism, the adventures of Edward Snell, understanding Dyslexia, delving into the State archives to uncover stories of young aboriginal domestic women, why our culture avoids using the 'Died' word, and the Antikythera Mechanism.

The two Circle Dance groups recognised the Winter Solstice with special events, with the Mount Barker group attracting many visitors. Mosaics classes have again been widely supported, and you can see the results of some of these on the table. Time prevents me from mentioning the many other continuing courses which are well received and enjoyed by members.

We have enjoyed several excursions including birding and a tour of the Glenbarr Homestead in Strathalbyn. Some interesting outings to come include a tour of Regional Profile Cutters at Taillem Bend, a Murray River Cruise and Lunch on a paddle steamer, a tour of Old Government House, complete with morning tea, and a tour of the Auchendarroch gardens, with morning tea included!

The committee sincerely thanks all the organisers and presenters who make all these activities happen. To those long-term presenters and organisers retiring at the end of this year – thank you. Their departure will leave a gap in the program – we are always looking to enhance and broaden the program so if you think your experience would be of interest to members, please talk to one of the Committee after the meeting.

We are very appreciative of the Mount Barker Council, Aldgate CFS, the Stirling and Mount Barker libraries and Rebekha Sharkie MP for offering free venues for our courses and meetings; and most especially to St Paul's for free access to this wonderful space where we now hold many sessions. Thanks also to the staff and volunteers at The Hut and the Mount Barker Community Centre.

Thank **you** to all our members for supporting and participating in our U3A, making us one of the most vital U3A's in the state. Extra thanks to our hard-working out-going committee, most of whom are making themselves available for re-election, and to any incoming members who may join us. We hope we all continue to enjoy our participation in Adelaide hills U3A, keeping us all more alive physically, socially, emotionally and intellectually. We look forward to the coming year.

Suzanne Arbon



Mid-year Lunch

Thank you to the U3A Adelaide Hills Committee for organising a great lunch at Auchendarroch today. The presenters and course coordinators very much appreciated the "thank you" lunch and the opportunity to catch up with old and new students. Big thank you to the French students and their musical offerings in the spirit of Bastille Day. Great event, and a very positive start to Semester 2!

Marjolijn Haraghey

Committee 2022—2023

Chairperson—Suzanne Arbon

Deputy Chairperson— Brent Danks

Secretary—Jane Horton

Treasurer—Janet Hemsley

Program Coordinator— Susan Smallldon

MyU3A Coordinator—Susan Smallldon

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U3A-SA Delegate—Geoff Edwards

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Public Officer—Mark Randell

News from D.I.G.

Thursday August 18th saw the DIG group sitting in the warm at the Oak listening to the knowledgeable and entertaining Anita Podder talk about one of her passions in life - Cyclamen.

She had many photos of her growing treasures in her beautiful Adelaide garden. She told us how to grow them from seed and how easy and frequently they cross pollinate. This can lead to two or three different coloured flowers in one pot. She was generous too, bringing with her some 'give-aways'. Her other garden love is Crocuses and we hope she will come again next year sometime - maybe even a garden visit too!

Two Cyclamen. The left one is one of Anita's give-aways:

a Cyclamen balearicum, a scented variety with leaves that are blue and green, with silver mottling.

In September we enjoyed a visit by Jen Pitman of National Parks and Wildlife Services who works as a Ranger at the Scott Creek Conservation Park. She impressed us all with her passion, great love and knowledge of the flora and fauna of the park. As we all know the park was damaged in the bush fires. So it was engrossing to hear of the continuing work of the rangers and park volunteers in partnership together in the restoration of the area. *Jenny Twigden*



"You are never too old
to set another goal
or to dream
a new dream"

Games, Games, Games

'Wooden Block Skittles Game'. This Scandinavian game has been brought in by Annette who has since made a 'safety backdrop' to protect the walls in the room. Some get very enthusiastic when throwing lumps of wood around. This is a great game and keeps us all moving and good exercise.

Geoff Edwards



MEMORIES FROM CHILDHOOD.

On Thursday, 8th September there was a photo of Queen Elizabeth on the counter of Bridgewater's Grocer shop. A shiver came over me. The next morning we all woke to the news of the Queen's peaceful passing. Memories flooded in, and here are a few from our members.

1952 The family was sitting in the lounge room listening to the radio and the slow drum beat of the King's funeral. My new brother was whinging and my aunt and mother were trying to get him to breast feed. The steady and haunting drum beat was there again at Elizabeth's funeral, but this time we could watch it on TV.

June, 1953. In the same lounge room, on a cold winter's evening, in front of the coke burning Cosy Fire, I listened to the roar of "God Save The Queen" from the four corners of Westminster Abbey. *Janet Hemsley*

I cried for 2 days. The Queen was like a family protector and everything would be OK as long as she was there. *Margo Poirier*

My Dad bought 2 home movie films of the coronation and we played and played it. One of the Ladies In Waiting had a cranky face and we always noticed her. In 1954 I was a pupil at a 1 teacher school. My parent's drove us 180 Miles to Wagga, and the school lined up at the oval to see the Queen drive around in an open jeep and we waved our flags and cheered. *Dorothy Whiterod*

The Queen visited South Africa in 1995. One of the places she went to was Port Elizabeth, where I was an invited guest to a function in a black township at the edge of the city. I was invited as principle and founder of farm school (for black children). It was safe as I had plenty of security. I was seated against an aisle barrier, surrounded by chattering and laughing Africans. Then there was silence and everyone stood up and stared down the aisle at the tiny woman dressed in pale blue, walking beside a dignitary. There was a communal gasp and the silence continued She stopped here and there and clasped a hand and said a word. I was one of those few, but I can't tell you what she said!

My world fell out of balance at the news of her death as she has always been there, a constant, someone to live up to and admire. I will miss her so much. *Lyn Dickason*

1953 Elton Park, London. I was three years old and my mother took me to the local Church Of England. We sat quietly in the pew and each child was given a cup, saucer and plate set to celebrate the coronation. I still have it plus the mug for the coronation of George VI. *Jenny Twigden*

1954. When the Queen came to visit Australia, the whole school went to see her. It was a hot day and two of my class mates fainted and I was looking after them as the Queen passed by. I didn't see the Queen, much to my mother's disappointment. *Margaret Jacob.*

Chatham in Kent, We had a street party, and I was dressed as a bee and won first prize. We were all given a mug, a hankie decorated with crowns and a small packet of dolly mixture sweets to celebrate the Coronation.

Susan Huggins





The ukulele group entertaining arrivals at the AGM.

The card makers are a very creative lot. Give them an idea and off they go. They all did balloons, even though there was the choice of butterflies or ladybirds. Our sessions are always enjoyable and we create two cards each time.



Come Lunch With Me (2)

The group enjoyed the food and company at Mt Lofty, and had great views until the fog rolled in. Each time we enjoy ourselves,

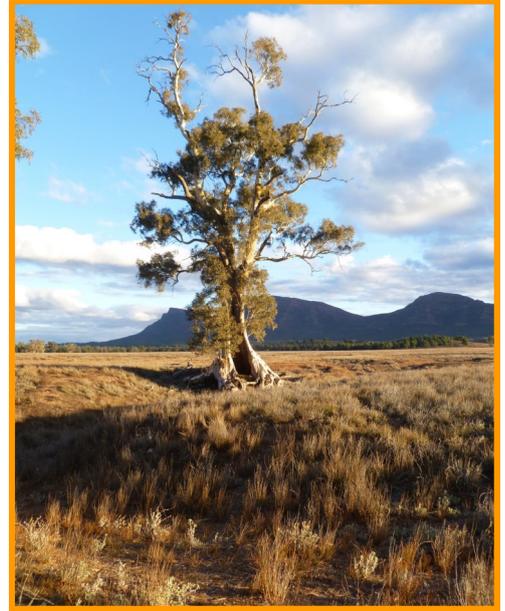


Come Lunch With Me (1)

Great lunch at Auchendarroch recently. Service, food and especially the company was very good with interesting conversations in all directions. Thanks for the photos Heather.

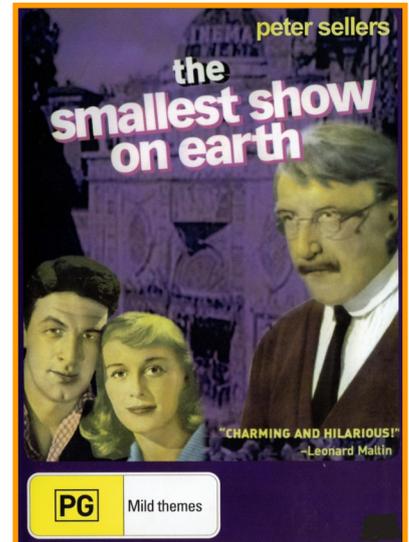
Travel

The travel talk 'Birdsville and Back in 8 Days' was well received. There was C.J. Dennis at Laura with his 'slanguage', the Cazneau Tree 'The Spirit of Endurance' made famous by the grandfather of Dick Smith, Mungarannie Station and the black swans, the oldest mosque in Australia at Marree, Cordillo Downs and its huge shearing shed when there were 80,000 sheep (the dingoes had a great time) so they now have cattle, the Burke and Wills dig tree at Innaminka and the Ridge Top tour at Arkaroola. So many stories could be told about this country and we are only starting to know its history.



Film Club

The Movie for November 9th will be a British Comedy "The Smallest Show on Earth" – Produced in 1957, Stars: Peter Sellers, Virginia McKenna, Margaret Rutherford, Bill Travers, Sid James. When Matt Spencer and his Wife Jean inherit a small cinema, they are shocked to find a decrepit building that comes with a group of aging employees. Matt & Jean decide to run the cinema and compete with the big new cinema in town. (Classed by the British Film Institute as award winning comedy) B/W runs 80 min. and in December will Screen the original sound version of "Wuthering Heights" Merle Oberon, Laurence Olivier, and David Niven with Flora Robson. Fully Remastered to Cinema Standard. Runs:104 min.



The mosaic balls made at Dorothy's home provided an interesting display at the AGM. A quick look at their stands give ideas for display. Glass bowls make great stands as well as plastic pots. With U3A we can all participate in one way or another.

Murray River Cruise and Lunch

On a beautiful Spring day about 30 members and friends enjoyed a delightful 2 hour lunch cruise on the paddle steamer Captain Proud. We first chugged upstream from Murray Bridge, with an informative commentary from the captain — when we could hear him above the noisy chatter!

The return journey downstream almost to Swanport Bridge was much faster as we were going with the current. Then back to the wharf at Murray Bridge to disembark.



Royal Marriage Disasters—Edward and Mrs Simpson

The last talk of the year by Sue Garforth, on Royal Marriage disasters. Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson (“a woman can never be too thin or too rich”) kept us interested and amused. Edward was not liked by his father, secretary and high officials. He had no empathy, chose inappropriate friends, did not respect his position, but, he did have to dress in funny clothes at times, and do things he hated. The non Commonwealth press knew what he was like. The pictures say a lot. In 1936 there were 3 kings in one year - George V, Edward VIII and George VI. Queen Elizabeth's uncle was poorly educated and had dog-like devotion to his mistresses.



Aaah Not you!