



Adelaide Hills Winter Newsletter 2024

From the Editor

As we come to the end of another term, and the mid-year break, it is interesting to look back on the past 6 months and all that has been achieved. Our membership now stands at 333 (261 Female & 72 Male) and still rising— the largest number on record. This is mainly through “word of mouth”, so keep telling your friends what a great organisation we are. Which brings me to another point—any organisation is only as effective as the people who run it. This year our committee numbers just 8—the lowest as far as any of us can remember. As the AGM approaches, please give some thought as to how you can help. We really would like to have more people on the committee—new points of view, new skills and contacts, and just to spread the load. It is not an onerous task, with about 6 meetings a year. We need people with enthusiasm, a willingness to interact with a small dedicated group and express opinions, and a commitment to the values and principles of U3A. If you are approached by a committee member, please think carefully (and positively) about joining our merry gang!

We hope you find many activities to interest you in our second semester programme. We work hard to make it interesting and varied. Check on the website for activities which still have vacancies.

Enjoy the mid-year lunch, which I’ll miss again—this time in the deserts of Central Asia. Registration closes on June 30.

Suzanne, newsletter editor

Recently, our U3A Ukulele group got residents up and dancing at St. Paul's (Bene) Nursing Home.

We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and we think our audience did too. *Geoff Edwards, leader*



Our thanks to the office of Rebekha Sharkie MP for printing this newsletter

Facebook News

Just three snippets from another great U3A Adelaide Hills week: Circle Dancers moving in time to wonderful music in great company, new 'Beginner Astronomers' celebrating their graduation, and Rae Campbell (the Koala Lady who founded the first Koala Hospital in Adelaide) after a truly enlightening and moving presentation. *Susan Smalldon*

Congratulations and well done U3A Adelaide Hills for sharing these fun and interesting activities via social media. Change happens through people. It's the pace of change that makes the difference...slow and steady to influence. U3A Murraylands



Some koala facts: Eucalyptus leaves are poisonous to koalas, so Mum feeds her babies her "pooh" to inoculate them.

Like wombats, koalas have backwards pouches so joey isn't injured as she climbs trees.

Koalas are the only animal, apart from man, with individual "fingerprints".

Riddle 1—What am I ? Turn me on my side and I am everything, cut me in half and I am nothing



CONTEMPORARY ART IS SERIOUS FUN

May's task was to create a "Memory Box" about our mother.

Here are a few examples, of what proved for most of us to be an emotional task.



June's task was to create a larger piece, on fabric, using some background work with leaf print overlays.

We produced an amazing array of textures, colours, sizes and patterns, and one renegade even made something wearable!

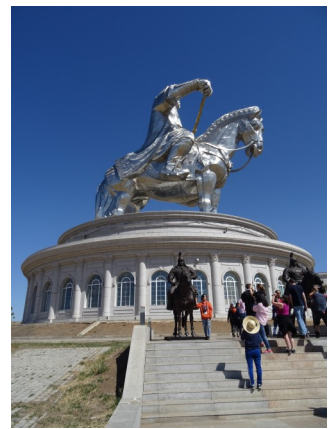


Life is like a camera. Focus on what's important, capture the good times, develop from the negatives, and if things don't work out, take another shot.'

Riddle 3—If you throw me out the window, You'll leave a grieving wife. But leave me in the middle of the door, And you might just save a life. What am I?

Travel

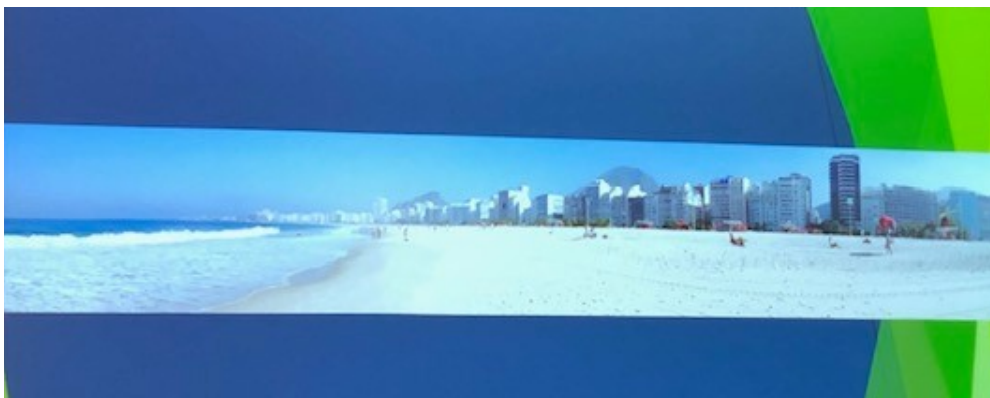
For our first travel this term, Edna and Suzanne took us to Mongolia. Their trips were 13 years apart, but little had changed, although their focus was different. Edna timed their visit to coincide with the Nadaam Games, which focus on three traditional games: horseracing, wrestling and archery. The winner of each wrestling round does an "Eagle dance". Suzanne saw the massive statue of Ghenggis Khan which was erected in 2008. We were both enthralled by the Mongolian Throat Singers (below)



In June Jill Bowden talked on a visit to Brazil many years ago. They visited Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Brasilia, Manaus and other cities. Jill's best memories are of Copacabana Beach, and Iguassu Falls, (and the Coati who tried to eat with them.)

Brasilia, a planned city
built in 41 months.

Inaugurated in 1960,
designed in the shape
of an aeroplane from
above.
Population 2.8+ million
Statue of JK, the
president who founded it



Members enjoyed a wine tasting and lunch at **Mordrelle Wines** in glorious Autumn weather. Martin and David made us so very welcome and, along with the fabulous food and the wide range of beautiful award-winning wines, we were even entertained by Martin and his guitar! A truly lovely day - thank you!

Susan Smalldon

There is another one coming next term, if you missed it. Even if you're not a wine drinker, you are provided for. Editor



How Safe is Your Password??

Mike Sussex gave a fascinating, if slightly scary, presentation on online safety. He showed us the accompanying graph, showing how quickly various password types can be cracked by hackers! For example the safest combination, on the right, with 6 characters, can be hacked instantly, whereas adding two more characters takes 5 minutes—still a scary thought in the world of Internet security.

Don't wait to enrol in his next presentation in September.

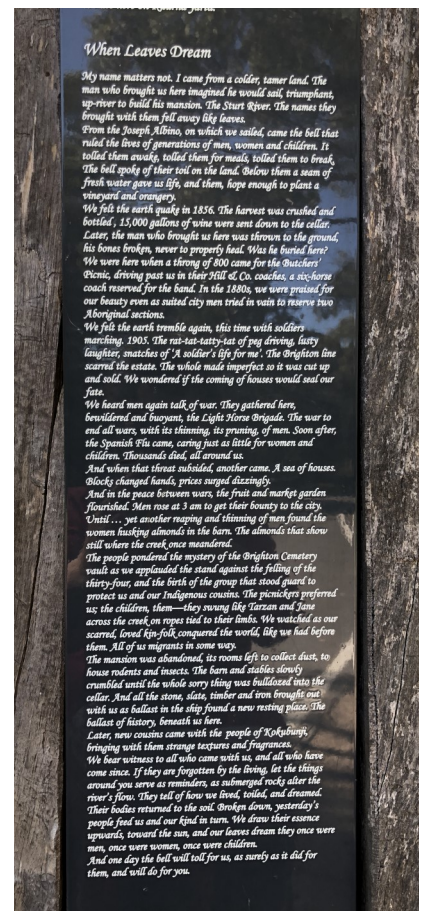
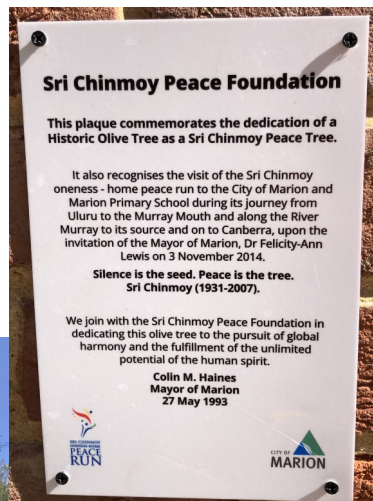
Riddle 2—How do you make one disappear?

Number of Characters	Numbers Only	Lowercase Letters	Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters, Symbols
4	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
5	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
6	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
7	Instantly	Instantly	1 sec	2 secs	4 secs
8	Instantly	Instantly	28 secs	2 mins	5 mins
9	Instantly	3 secs	24 mins	2 hours	6 hours
10	Instantly	1 min	21 hours	5 days	2 weeks
11	Instantly	32 mins	1 month	10 months	3 years
12	1 sec	14 hours	6 years	53 years	226 years
13	5 secs	2 weeks	332 years	3k years	15k years
14	52 secs	1 year	17k years	202k years	1m years
15	9 mins	27 years	898k years	12m years	77m years
16	1 hour	713 years	46m years	779m years	5bn years
17	14 hours	18k years	2bn years	48bn years	380bn years
18	6 days	481k years	126bn years	2tn years	26tn years

Image is courtesy of: <https://tech.co/password-managers/how-long-hacker-crack-password>

♪ Didn't we have a lovely time the day we went to the Oaklands Wetland. ♪

Bus driver Phil saw us safely delivered to the Wetland where we enjoyed morning tea and a chat before a presentation by Glynn Ricketts of the Marion Council. Glynn held our interest with an excellent overview of the wetland's history and management, how the infrastructure can treat up to 400 million litres of stormwater annually and the flora and fauna it supports - all very impressive. The morning was rounded off by a pleasant stroll around the wetlands in perfect Autumn weather.



Text by Susan Smalldon.

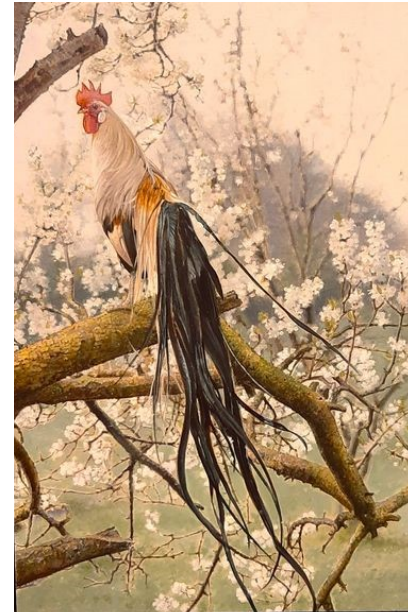
Photos by Susan and Suzanne



GUIDED TOURS OF THE ART GALLERY

MARCH - METAMORPHOSIS. Members enjoyed the guided tour of 40 works incorporating changes in nature, body & materials. "The Phoenix" incorporates the 1870 Adelaide Hunt Club Cup & a 1812 silver stand intertwined with flowers & butterflies. Our brilliant guide Pam explained the "Snow Goose" themed video image of Lady Gaga. "Onagadori on a Cherry Tree", sadly a chicken with long tail feathers, unable to fly, bred just for human use.

Susan Smalldon



APRIL Inner Sanctum was the theme for 18th Adelaide Biennial of Aust Art, showcasing contemporary works. All artists were personally invited by the curator Jose Da Silva to enter a piece of art or poetry.

MAY - 2nd stage of 18th Adelaide Biennial Inner Sanctum. Jacobus Capone's video detailed his knife carvings on a Glacier on an Icelandic island.

Clara Adolphs uses discarded photographs as subjects of her paintings "a collective memory bank".

Jasmine Togo - Brisby focused on Australia's colonial legacy between 1887-1904 of 60,000 Pacific Islanders transported by slave ships to work in sugar cane fields. Her plaster shaped sculptures TamTams (musical drums) represented 369 bodies in a ship named Brookes. The plaster reference is due to the Wunderlick plaster factory where many gained employment after the slave trade was abolished.



Cheryl Oliver - Organiser



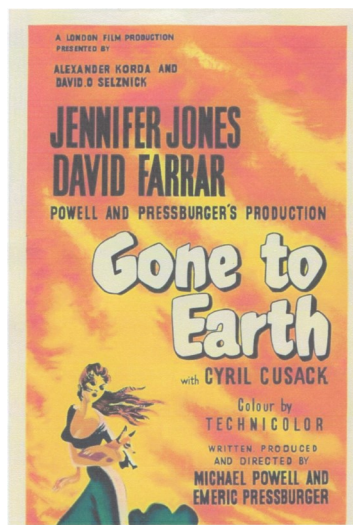
Both Mount Barker and Crafers circle dancers (dressed in light coloured clothing when their wardrobe cooperated) celebrated the forthcoming Winter solstice with meditative candle dances and beautiful music.



FILM CLUB—JUNE

"GONE TO EARTH" a fully restored English film, made in 1950 from the Novel of 1917 by British writer Mary Webb, it is set in Shropshire (a ceremonial County) in the West Midlands. Stars Jennifer Jones as Hazel and her pet fox. When husband (Cyril Cusack) fails to consummate their Marriage, she is relentlessly pursued by the rich squire and hunter Jack Reddin (David Farrar). As a motherless, half Gypsy-girl, Hazel's wildness and freedom are expressed through her close affiliation to her pet fox. British Film Institute: Classed as significant British Film.

One more film club in July, before the semester break..



Answers to riddles—1) 8

2) Put a "g" in front of it and it is gone.

3) The letter "n"

DIG—DOWN IN THE GARDEN

As our speaker for May cancelled, the group visited my home to see how I am transforming a European into a mainly native garden, and how I try to garden and live sustainably.

Suzanne, DIG organiser



Front garden, above; back garden below.



Our last speaker for the semester was Dan Austin, who spoke about some amazing botanical adventures around the world, that he has had through his work. Dan has worked in, or visited, such diverse places as the flood plains of Bangladesh, the deserts of Jordan and Israel, the floating gardens of Myanmar, the rainforests of Borneo, subsistence farming in Tanzania, the Solomon Islands, India, Bhutan, and of course the famous Gardens by the Bay in Singapore. Out of these travels Dan has produced a book of beautiful illustrations and interesting text, which many of us bought to learn more about his travels.

