



U3A South Coast

Newsletter December '20

Welcome everyone to our Christmas edition of the U3A South Coast Newsletter

It seems that 2020 hasn't been the most auspicious of years, and the latest outbreak being reported as I write doesn't bode well. However, this year has shown me that U3A South Coast members are a resilient lot. You have weathered well the storms presented so far by COVID 19 and it didn't take long to pick yourselves up and get your groups back to meeting and enjoying each other's company while sharing your interests and knowledge. My hat goes off to you and a big Thank You for your patience and what you have done, and how you've been prepared to engage as members despite the ongoing difficulties. From group leaders, coordinators and group participants, you've ALL been terrific – so please, go on doing what you've been doing so well!

I also want to thank members of both the U3ASC Management Committee and Program Committee for the work and effort that has been put into keeping us together as an organisation throughout this year. At times it has been difficult and confusing and I'm sure that I haven't been the only one swearing quietly about the hoops we needed to jump through in order to comply with all the SA Health and Government regulations and constrictions, and the sometimes confusing situations that have arisen and still arise.

Putting all that aside, I trust you are looking forward to enrolling again in a variety of groups and classes next year. In the meantime, I wish you all a wonderful Christmas, and a safe and peaceful New Year and look forward to us seeing each other again in 2021



A couple of reminders for WHEN **2021** COMES AROUND

Sign On day / Registration for 2021

When: **Tuesday, 12th January 10 am ~ 2pm**

Where: Lutheran Centre, Adelaide Road

Please Note: Due to COVID 19 restrictions likely still in place, there is no refreshment being served. Also, note that we are extending our open time until 2 pm so you don't need to rush. At any stage if attendance exceeds our number limit at the venue we will, as per requirements of our COVID-Safe plan and that of the Lutheran Centre, we'll be asking you to return later.

Thank you!

U3A South Coast Annual General Meeting

When: **Tuesday 16th February 2pm**

Where: HMVC - Victor Harbor

Want to have a say? Make a difference? Be part of getting things done? U3A is an organisation for members, by members so join a U3A Committee! We will be sending out official AGM notification and nomination forms at the beginning of 2021. As with above, we will be making sure that social distancing adheres to procedures set out by our COVID-Safe plans

Please make every effort to attend – it's your U3A and we can't function without you!

Subject to COVID restrictions at the time and Venue requirements



Trees in Riverbed by Hillary Gillett
Image courtesy of Shutterbugs Photography Group



A traffic cop spies a woman
driving down the highway and
knitting at the same time.

He pulls alongside her and yells
out 'Pull Over' .. 'No', she yells
back, 'Cardigan' .. boom boom !!

News from the Groups



Latina Legamus



During lockdown, the Latin group communicated via emails but are now happily back to regular Wednesday afternoon meetings. Apart from learning grammar and reading stories, they exercise their brains with crosswords set by teacher Peter Tillett. The clues are bilingual but the answers must be in Latin! Why study Latin? One answer is that one learns about Roman society and its culture. Reading the great Latin poets in the original is to understand them more fully. Although Latin is considered a 'dead' language, it lives on in French, Italian and Spanish - the Romance languages. So a little knowledge of Latin helps with learning these. Our own English language has borrowed an enormous number of words from Latin. None of us are going to study medicine or law in the immediate future but the study of Latin presents the kind of mental challenge which many of us are looking for.

New students are welcome, so consider a virtual trip to ancient Rome for 2021

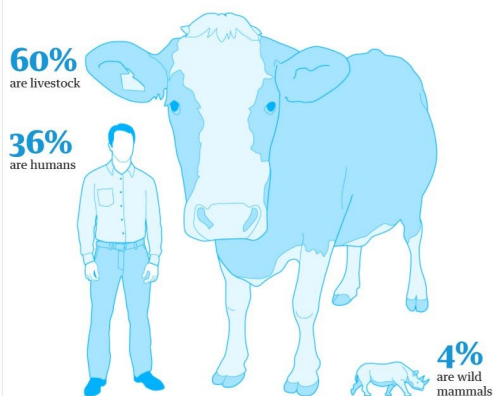
Poetry and Verse

This group has now been meeting for the best part of four years and has developed into a series of round the table discussions, arguments, and general chat about (logically enough) poems and verse, the poets that created them and the contexts within which they were written.



We enjoy the pleasure and the occasional frustration of listening to and reading poetry and verse from all over the world.

Of all the mammals on Earth, 96% are livestock and humans, only 4% are wild mammals



Source reference ... Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel

A WORD PUZZLE *(with thanks to Barry G.)*

'Portmanteau words' are formed by merging the sounds and meanings of two different words. e.g. 'slithy' in Alice in Wonderland means 'lithe' and 'slimy'!

Work these out. No answers will be given.

GLARE - CHUCKLE - RITZ - BREAKFAST- FOG
SMOKE - FLAME - SNORT - GLAMOROUS
LUNCH

(Clue: Breakfast plus Lunch gives us...?)

Philosophy Unmasked

The group has been in existence for several years and has recently restarted after social distancing rules were relaxed. We meet monthly on the first Wednesday morning in the HMVC.

Our facilitator until at least June of next year is the unflappable Trevor Rose. After that, he will be off on his travels, either abroad or to warmer parts of Australia.

We are sometimes asked "What do you talk about in Philosophy?" A topic is chosen in advance. The subject might be anything from 'Freedom of Speech' 'Do We have Free Will?', 'What is meant by a Good Life?', to 'Why Do We Dream?' It is not meant to be a discussion on current affairs, far from it. Philosophy, (which simply means love of wisdom), is the study of the most fundamental questions about existence and values.

Our reasoning is conducted according to valid principles and we often find ourselves in the world of abstract concepts such as time, space and identity.

Yes, Philosophy makes us think and that cannot be a bad thing. Drop in next term and see if we float your boat!

Words Plus



The Love of Words group has shortened its name to 'Words Plus'. We use 'plus' in the sense of an advantage as well as an addition.

We meet every two weeks on Wednesday afternoons and rely on the wonderfully patient Beth Nixon to keep us informed about the mental stimuli in the form of puzzles and exercises which we set each other.

The group was started some years ago by Richard Kleinig, who was our much-loved guide and mentor until a cruel illness took him from us.

Although numbers are limited by COVID 19, we welcome newcomers interested in the vagaries, origins, meanings, and usage of our fascinating and frustrating English language.



Getting Crafty

Sue Collett invited me to have a look at what the Craft Group are doing and it was an eye-opener. Started at the beginning of this year, and having weathered the lockdown period, this group is flourishing. My first question to Sue was "Why did you start a Craft Group?" and there was not the slightest hesitation in her reply: "Because there wasn't one!"

These craft workers like to reuse where they can and colourful out-of-date magazines make attractive boxes. In fact, any strong paper that is no longer wanted is suitable. Why pay for expensive gift boxes when these one-offs are free?

Some old-fashioned activities are new again. Remember reading about 'tattooing' in your Regency novels? This delicate form of lace-making is fascinating to watch, as is another method using bobbins. Would you like to try them? I was told that all that is needed is a good light and a lot of patience.

Knitting, crochet, origami, macrame, quilting, basket-making....choose what floats your boat or start something new. One of the craft group does made-to-order snake-bags. Well, what did you think the snake-catcher does with his capture? Another uses dried beetroot, pumpkin and other edibles in her spectacular baskets.



The group is more than happy to welcome newcomers. It meets on the third Wednesday morning of the month at the Lutheran Centre, starting at 10am.

Some Crazy Inventions that never got Patented

1. Underwater Hair Dryer
2. A parachute that opens on impact
3. Non-Stick Glue
4. A telescope that makes objects look further than they really are
5. A microscope that makes objects look smaller than they really are
6. A solar powered flashlight that only works during the day
7. An anchor that floats
8. A waterproof bathing sponge
9. Waterproof Tea-Bags
10. A battery powered battery charger
11. Silent alarm clock (or an alarm clock without an alarm)
12. Sundial without a dial
13. Braille Drivers Manual
14. Double sided playing cards
15. Ejector seats for Helicopters
16. Adhesive Toilet Paper
17. Permanent Band-Aids
18. Invisible Ink
19. Unsweetened Sugar
20. Unbreakable Eggs





Overseas Travel.... by Ken Harvey

So your neighbours are going to Paris for a week's holiday and you are green with envy? Don't worry! You can enjoy the same experience at almost no cost.

Just pack your bags and spend the next 14 hours in your car whilst staying in the garage. This will nicely simulate your airline trip to Paris. First, pull your seat forward so your knees are jammed up against the dashboard. Then play some white noise on the CD player with the volume turned up and bribe the kid next door to randomly scream through the car window just to get that authentic experience of plane travel. Get a takeaway or two delivered to your car. East European, preferably. And make sure you have paper bags handy. And read the car maintenance manual several times to help pass the time. Then go back inside your house and log on to Google Earth Street View on your computer and "wander" through the streets of Paris, playing some Edith Piaf at the same time. This is the fun part. Sip on "un verre de vin blanc" whilst munching on a chocolate croissant or "*une tartelette citron*" for that French cuisine feel. Keep this up for the next week ensuring you speak only Franglais during that time. It wouldn't be a bad idea to dress accordingly, but forget the beret and string of onions. They've been passé since WW2.

At night-time confine yourself to a camp stretcher in your ensuite or broom closet. (Parisienne apartments are about that size.) Arrange for a CD of a garbage truck picking up bins to be played loudly every morning at 5am. This should wake you up fully refreshed ready for another day at the computer.

After a week, go back to your car for 14 hours as before for the return journey. Then rush to the nearest police station and tell them you may have a bomb strapped to you. You will then be stripped searched. Just like a real custom's experience. Garner some photos of Paris in case your friends or relatives ask to see some. (I can help you out there for a small fee.) Brush up on your Maurice Chevalier accent for when you meet them.

Take comfort knowing that you have just saved yourself several thousand dollars, haven't caught an exotic (or erotic) disease, avoided travel sickness, haven't been accosted in a dark foreign alleyway and saved yourself heaps on travel insurance, especially if you have a dodgy heart.

Next year my wife and I are "going" to Germany. Anyone got some Marlene Dietrich records?

(Seems like Ken didn't enjoy France as much as many others do! (Ed.)

This edition of the U3A South Coast Newsletter has been
compiled by
Anna Kiernan and Julian Moore

