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President: Nanette Tunnickliffe

Honorary Secretary: Nanette Tunnickliffe

Office Managers: Office Volunteers

NEWSLETTER: Term 4, 2024

Editor: Daphne Sands



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Nanette Tunnickliffe

Dear Members,

Sometimes, as President, I find myself in the most dire and awkward situations – the challenges that occur require considerable thought and action. At other times, I enjoy the privilege of attending situations for members and tutors which require a personal visit.



On Friday the 30th of September I represented U3A Geelong at a funeral for Patricia Hochreiter, who I learned had died at the age of 92; a lady I never met but who had been a member of our U3A for over twenty years. Patricia had enrolled in so many classes; she was a lively, intelligent and inspirational lady. I came away from the service just wishing I had met her even once.

As part of the service, there was a wonderful reference to U3A Geelong and the importance we had played in her life. Speaking with one of her sons he stressed that Patricia kept the family, a most loving family, up to date with what she was up to.

This reminded me of why it is so important for your Committee to do its very best for the members; you are the people we work for. Classes, social interaction, learning, sharing and just having fun are what we strive to deliver.

Enjoy the final term and come back next year full of energy and a readiness to participate in all that is offered.

Nanette Tunnickliffe
President/Secretary

INTRODUCING MEMBERS OF U3A GEELONG

JUDITH PARK OUR OLDEST MEMBER

My name is Judith Park and I have been a member of U3A for several years. I was advised recently that I am now the oldest member of the Cobbin Farm branch and was invited to write a few memories of my life.

I am now 98 and attend one class "Adventures in Jazz", but over the years I have been to Philosophy, Solar System Navigation of big ships etc and have enjoyed very much learning about subjects which I had never had any knowledge, or very little, before.

I was born in 1926 at a private hospital "Somerton" in Skene Street, Newtown and lived in Retreat Road during my growing up years. I started school at 5 years at Newtown Primary and then at Geelong High School. In almost every class during my school years there were over 60 students.

At the High School I did the Commercial Principles Practice studies and ended up becoming a stenographer doing shorthand and typing. From there I had a job at Dalgety & Co, Wool Brokers and spent six very happy years there.

I became engaged at 19 and then in 1947 was married to Alan Park who did Engineering at the Gordon Tech. We lived in Melbourne for 37 years and had a lovely family of four children and now have 13 great grandchildren.

My husband died in 1992 and for the years since then I have been involved in clubs like Probus, Embroiderers Guild, U3A which have been a wonderful help, the friendship is a very big part of these associations.

I wish to pass on to the wonderful tutors and volunteers who keep these institutions available to us my sincere thanks.

With best wishes from Judith Park

HAVE YOU LOST ANYTHING AT U3A?

Then check the lost and found collection under the hallway table. Not much has been picked up and things keep getting added. Also, please retrieve any of your belongings from the Chapel's vestry as apart from the filing cabinet and tutors equipment, all will be cleared this term.

Writing from Iran to Australia – not an easy flight! At U3A Geelong on Monday 19th August

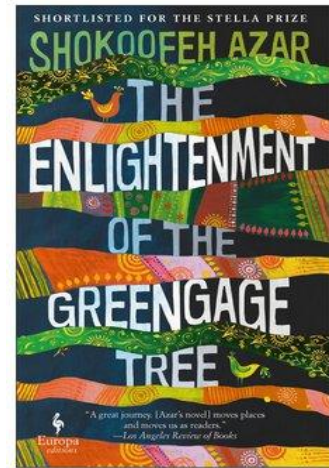
Shokoofeh Azar shared her life story - to date.

Of growing up in Iran with an eccentric father and loving family. Of art, literature and poetry, history and music. Of laughter, dance and makeup. This was her life before the oppressive Islamic regime took over in 1979 and took the colour out of her world.

Shokoofeh talked with passion of her beautiful Persian culture and the clash with the controlling Shia muslim government. Of working as a journalist and having their office closed weekly for writing articles the government did not like. Of being arrested for expressing an opinion.

She shared with us her escape from Iran (on a fake passport) to Turkey followed by the onward trip to Indonesia and boat to Christmas Island. Her absolute fear of this trip was palpable.

What followed was her joy of living in Geelong. Of writing her first book “The Enlightenment of the Greenage Tree” which was shortlisted for the Stellar Prize in 2017 and the international Booker Prize in 2020. Her second book will be published early next year. I am sure there is more to be heard from Shokoofeh!



Anne Miller, U3A Committee of Management

Craft on Thursday 1.30 pm, Tutor Jan Richmond

“Participants of the Thursday craft group have been busy this year. As well as knitting, crocheting and stitching our own personal projects, we have worked together to produce items to donate to pastoral care groups. These include blankets, hats scarves and clothing.”



From Margaret Gunning

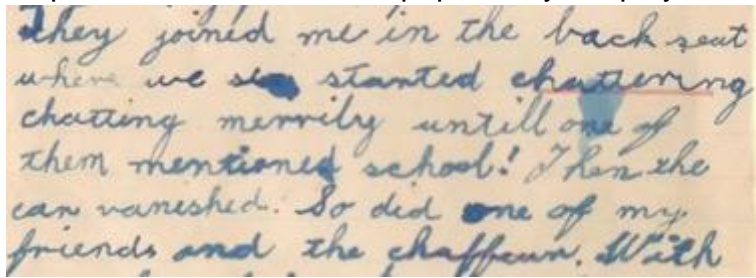


Spiders in the Inkwell

One puzzling aspect of my life is that I am quite reluctant to commit pen to paper, even though people tell me that I write well and effectively. I only write when I have to, often in the deadline's shadow. A likely explanation eventually emerged, but it has taken me eight years to do something about it.

I was tidying up a deceased relative's belongings and found two ancient office pens consisting of thin wooden handles, rusty metal ferrules and ink-stained nibs. They resembled the pens that people once used when composing telegrams at Post Office counters - the type of pen that left-handed pupils dreaded at school.

The split nibs would dig in as we pushed them across the paper, only to splay and discharge their ink into the roughened surface. Blots. Then they would jump out of the crater and skip across the page until they dug in again, splattering ink droplets everywhere. More blots. Occasionally they would leave something resembling a letter in their wake.



This was embarrassing enough for a ten-year-old, but the sweaty hand holding the pen would then move across these feeble efforts. Smudges. It was, as one author put it, "as though a spider had climbed from the inkwell and crawled across the page." Curling one's hand, flamingo-style, and trying to write "backhand" merely sent ink splattering towards one's shirt.

I quickly learned to use reams of blotting paper to prevent further chaos. Some fancy pens offered rounded nibs and quick-drying ink, but they yielded very little improvement for left-handers. Although the first Birus were less smudgy than traditional pens, we were not allowed to use them in primary school. Apart from being barely affordable, typewriters were also forbidden. Pencils were for drawing, not for "proper writing."

Despite the existence of sensible alternatives, the inevitable happened: I was prevailed upon to write with my right hand. The only remotely relevant reason offered for this imposition was that "it might be very useful should I lose my left arm in an accident"; this, of course, was not sufficient to persuade my right-handed classmates to reciprocate. I tried for a few months but it did not go well: I felt that I was being forced to conform just for the sake of conforming, and to become an entirely different person in the process.

Both my grades and my self-confidence declined, but they picked up again when I started high school and could resume being myself. Although new technologies have certainly helped along the way, I feel fortunate that I grew up at the start of an era of tolerance and acceptance towards diversity in our society. The current political backlash against so many disadvantaged groups appals me, and I hope

that it turns out to be a brief aberration in our history – perhaps I might write about it one day.

Brian Davies, Tutor for Cryptic Crosswords 50:50

Have you considered the U3A Geelong online options?

Due to some health limitations, I needed to cancel my Cobbin Farm face to face classes in 2024 so I decided to go with the online option. Whilst using 'Teams' software can have its challenges [and limits face-to-face interactions], I have really enjoyed Dr Bruce Watson's classes which have proved to be most enlightening.

Courses I am completing this term include:

- "What if faith was not a myth?" - understanding and questioning our belief systems,
- "Living science for non-scientists #2" - a system by system review of the human body,
- "Appreciating the art of film" - an examination of all major aspects of movie production, and [keeping perhaps the best for last],
- "Facing off social media" - an analysis of the implications, both positives and negatives, of Facebook, etc.

Bruce sources some brilliant resources for these topics and includes an up-to-date website for reviews or re-runs. I am sure a number of our U3A community would really appreciate these alternative to face-to-face classes.

Regards PJ, Peter Jager,

THUNDERSTORM ASTHMA KIT

With Spring not too far away, just a reminder to our members that we have 2 Thunderstorm Asthma Kits available for use. Each kit contains a Ventolin inhaler and spacer.

Located in the large First Aid Kit box on the kitchen shelf and on our office mantelpiece; it is essential that if used, they are replaced asap. Tutors or any staff member must be informed to organize replacement.

Please see attached link to Thunderstorm Asthma Info Sheet from Asthma Australia.

Stay prepared and stay safe

<https://search.app/a9Eau6Hmms468k3R7>

from Jenny Bond

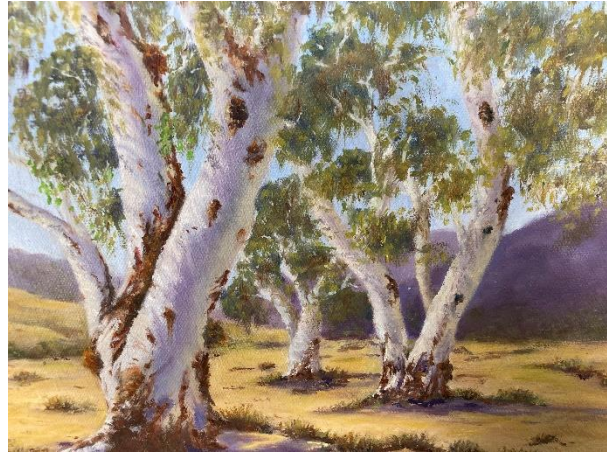
U3A Art Thursday

On Thursdays, our group, *Art in Practice*, meets in the Sunroom at Cobbin Farm. There are 2 sessions offered: 9:00 for 9:30 - 11:30 am, and 12:00 noon for 12:30 - 2:30 pm.

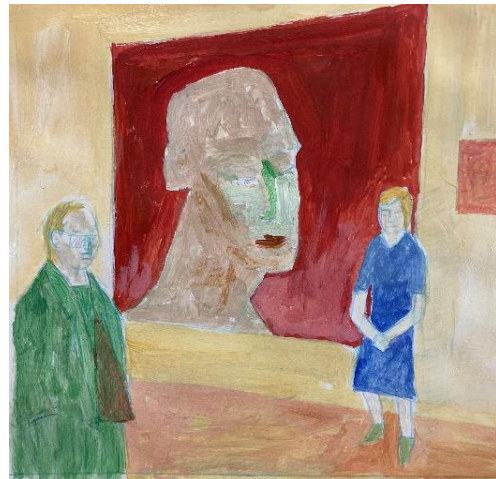
Later in the afternoon, Chris Scott conducts the *Drawing Advanced* group. In our group, each student works on a subject of choice, enjoying the company of fellow-artists. The Sunroom is heated in Winter and refreshments are available.



Bobbie McKinnon: Blue Cat



Trish O'Callaghan: Ghost Gums



Ted Reilly: In the gallery

We are interested in a range of subjects: Bobbie prepares colourful illustrations for Christmas Cards, Trish is interested in Australian landscapes, and I have been working on book illustrations.

Some of us have prior training in Art, others, like myself, are self-taught. A variety of manuals and study guides are available, and colleagues are always willing to offer advice based on their experiences.

There are plenty of places still available for Terms 4, and classes will continue in 2025.

Do visit us on Open Day, Oct 30th 10am-2pm. Students' paintings and cards will be displayed and for sale at reasonable prices.

Ted Reilly, Tutor.

Do you love reading classic English novelists?

The new course, being offered in 2025, will bring to life the novels and poetry of Thomas Hardy. You will also consider how one of his works was transported into film.

Book Group: Thomas Hardy Discussion Group

This course will explore the life and writings of Thomas Hardy, regarded as one of England's finest novelists of the nineteenth century and one of the greatest poets of the twentieth century, who through his rural settings of Wessex brought us novels such as "Tess Of the d'Urbervilles", "The Mayor of Casterbridge", "Far from the Madding Crowd" and "Jude the Obscure".

Hardy was born in Higher Bockhampton, Dorset, in 1840 to a stonemason father and maid-cook mother. He was educated at the village school and showed great academic potential and at the age of 16 was apprenticed to a local architect and focused on Gothic revival architecture. In 1862 he moved to London to continue his architectural career which gave him access to libraries and galleries. Here he started to write but because of ill health and disillusionment with London society he returned to Dorset in 1867 and began writing his first novel.

His first novel "Desperate Remedies" was published anonymously in 1871 and with the success of his fourth novel "Far from the Madding Crowd" in 1874, he took up writing full time. During an architectural mission to Cornwall in 1878 he met his first wife Emma and they were married in 1874 and moved into "Max Gate", the house Hardy designed at Dorchester in 1885. He continued writing novels until 1895 when "Jude the Obscure" was published and received harsh public attacks because of its 'immorality'. So after 14 novels Hardy vowed to never write fiction again and wrote only poetry for the rest of his life. Interestingly he always regarded himself as a better poet than novelist and published his first volume of poems in 1898.

His marriage to Emma became increasingly strained to the point of estrangement whilst living in the same house, but when Emma died in 1912 he was greatly affected leading to a series of deeply felt poems of remorse. In 1914 he married Florence Dugdale, his close companion and secretary. Hardy died in 1928 and his ashes were buried next to Charles Dickens in Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey, although his heart was buried in Dorset, next to Emma, his first wife.

Most of Hardy's novels are focused on the rural people of Dorset and examine the social constraints on their lives, especially those relating to marriage, education and religion and which limited people's lives and caused unhappiness. Hardy was always conscious of his own lower class background and how it limited his access to higher education and the privileges of higher class. He wrote over 1000 poems with common themes including disappointment in love and life, irony, war and the environment.

This course will examine the influences on Hardy that made him a major (at times scandalous) commentator on social class, gender, religion, marriage and the environment. While I am not an literary expert I have a deep interest in Hardy and his writings. My interest in Hardy goes back 50 years, to when I first read "Far From the Madding Crowd" and was amazed by the language and the depth of description of people and landscapes. I now have an extensive library of Hardy's novels, short stories, poetry, biographies, reviews and novels inspired by Hardy novels. In England I have visited many of the sites important in Hardy's life.

I have recently successfully conducted this course for U3A SurfCoast. Most of Hardy's novels have never been out of print and copies are readily available in bookstores (Op shops) and libraries. As his works are out of copyright they are readily available online as ebooks and audio books at no cost. Many of Hardy's works have been made into films and videos and these will be viewed during the course.

Greg Brinsmead

To Music Lovers

I regularly make group bookings for musicals and plays as a way to raise funds for the four Smith Family students our club supports. Currently I have seats reserved for three Melbourne shows. You don't need to be a member of a VIEW club to join us for any of them, but you do need to be a concession card holder. My contact details are below if you'd like to find out more.

Regards,

Meryl Greig, Program Officer, Geelong Evening VIEW Club
merrilyreed@gmail.com

"A Christmas Carol"

1pm, Wednesday 11th December @ Comedy Theatre

<https://marrinergroup.com.au/shows/a-christmas-carol-2024>

Group concession price \$75. 27 tickets reserved. We need to sell 8 by 20th October.

Agatha Christie's play "Then there were None"

1pm, Wednesday 19th February @ Comedy Theatre

<https://marrinergroup.com.au/shows/and-then-there-were-none>

Group concession price \$76. 16 tickets reserved. We need to sell 8 by 17th December.

"Jesus Christ Superstar"

1pm, Wednesday 9th April @ Princess Theatre

<https://marrinergroup.com.au/shows/jesus-christ-superstar-2025>

Group concession price \$76. 15 tickets reserved. We need to sell 8 by 3rd February.

Geelong
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Allegro con brio



Geelong Symphony Orchestra
presents

Heroica

Beethoven Symphony 3 'Eroica'
Mozart Horn concerto 2 • Bassoon concerto

Fabian Russell conductor
Nicolas Fleury horn • Lyndon Watts bassoon

Saturday 26 October 2024

Costa Hall 5pm

Tickets Geelong Arts Centre 1300 251 200

www.gso.org.au



Geelong Chamber Music Society

Friday 22 November 7.30pm
McAuley Hall Sacred Heart College

At the 2023 Melbourne International String Quartet Competition Affinity Quartet was awarded the Audience Prize, the Robert Salzer String Quartet First Prize, and the Monash University Grand Prize; the first Australian group to win the competition in its 32 year history Enough said!

Chance New String quartet (2024)

Beethoven String quartet No.2 in G major Op.18 No.2

Schubert String quartet No.14 in D minor D.810 "*Death and The Maiden*"



<https://www.geelongchamber.org/concert-5>

Here's a joke!

My grandpa started walking
five miles a day when he was 60.
Now he's 97 years old
and we don't know where he is.