

University of the Third Age

Venue: The Philip Smith Centre, 2 Edward Street, Glebe

Website www.u3ahobart.org.au

PO Box 71 Sandy Bay 7006



Newsletter No. 137

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Patron: Peter Boyce

President: John Green

Vice-President: Carol Vincent

Treasurer: Ches Bogus

Secretary: Rose Farrell

email secretary.u3ahobart@gmail.com

Academic Program Co-ordinator:

Leone Scrivener 6225 2230

Property Officer:

John Adams 6272 5761

Newsletter Editor:

Robert Cox 6244 7393

email cornhill@iinet.net.au

Membership & Enrolment Secretary:

Laraine Robertson

email enrolment.u3ahobart@gmail.com

Course inquiries to:

Leone Scrivener 6225 2230

email leone.scrivener@bigpond.com

Committee Members:

Sandra Halliwell Rose Marwick

Pauline Dorey Alison Waters

Tim McDougall

Term Dates 2020

Term 1: 10 March - 21 May

Term 2: Suspended

Term 3: 14 September - 19 November

Academic Co-ordinators

Humanities:

Kitty Courtney 6221 5307 (H)

Languages:

Carol Vincent 0424 455 579 (L)

Science, Art, Music:

Louellen Cox 0400 653 967

Social Science:

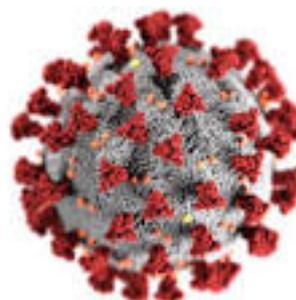
Alison Waters 0418 548 352 (SS)

From the President

In April the President sent the following message to members:

Last month, for the first time, the U3A Hobart management committee had a Zoom-assisted meeting.

The aim was to take stock and to try to anticipate how we will function in the months ahead. The uncertain answer to that question will be crafted not only by our own planning but also by the directions and actions of other agencies. They include the Tasmanian and Federal governments as well as the University of Tasmania.



We are encouraged by the falling numbers of new coronavirus cases in Australia. Nevertheless, we believe we are months away from being able to run face-to-face classes in the Philip Smith Centre. This cannot happen until meetings in large groups with no social distancing is allowed. Even then, we must consider the fact that currently 97 per cent of coronavirus deaths in Australia have been in the over-60 age group.

We therefore decided there will be no classes in the Philip Smith Centre in Term Two. When we do start face-to-face classes again—with luck in Term Three—

we will run, with minor adjustments, our advertised Term One program.

We also established a working party of our more tech-savvy members to investigate alternative ways of delivering classes. It is hoped they will be able to share their findings in what will be a skinny newsletter in May.

I am sure that, like me, many of you miss not being able to attend U3A classes but on my daily walks, I have encountered (at a safe distance) a number of U3A Hobart members and found them to be in good spirits. I know it is only a

small sample but hope it is a true reflection of how you are faring in these interesting and difficult times.

Warm regards,

John Green

PRESIDENT

Editor's note: see page 5

Roy and Maureen Davies

U3A Hobart is deeply indebted to Roy and Maureen, an English couple who immigrated to Australia, initially WA in 1964 and then to Hobart in 1972. They both worked at UTAS, Roy as a student counsellor and Maureen in the library. When they retired they were early members of U3A Hobart and Roy taught courses in psychology while Maureen participated mainly in book groups.

U3A was very important to this couple who had no children and when they died, Roy first, then Maureen, they left a generous bequest to our organisation and for this reason we honour them annually with the free key note lecture that forms part of the summer program. The first lecture was delivered by Professor Peter Boyce on 31 January 2005. Since then we have had many wonderful lectures delivered by luminaries in Tasmanian society.

2006	Science, Ideology and Modern Society.	Sir Guy Green AC, KBE, CVO
2007	Devils and Rascals.	Ian Matterson (now deceased)
2008	Whither with Our Health System.	Prof E Haydn Walters
2009	Criminal Justice in Australia - Have we got it right?	Damian Bugg AM, QC
2010	Two Men of Norfolk Island.	Hon William Cox AC, RFD, ED, QC.
2011	Van Diemen's Land Society 1836.	Prof Henry Reynolds FAHA, FASSA
2012	Stem Cells and the Future of Medicine.	Prof Peter Rathjen
2013	Changing Nature of Political Identification.	Hon Michael Field AC
2014	Wikileaks and Julian Assange	Greg Barns
2015	Gov Bligh Fires at Collis: 1808	Dr Alison Alexandra
2016	Are the Public as Punitive as Polls Suggest?	HE the Hon Prof Kate Warner
2017	Takanye /The Tarkine	Dr Bob Brown
2018	Why bother with contemporary art?	Dr Jane Deeth
2019	A Place-based Society	Prof Rufus Black
2020	Nature Conservation in Tasmania	Distinguished Prof Jamie Kirkpatrick

Who will take the stand in 2021?

Rose Marwick

The Summer Program 2020

How strange it is to be writing a summary of the summer program that wound up only six weeks ago but already feels like another era.

I stuck to my format of lectures on Tuesdays and Thursdays which seemed to suit many of you as we had full houses for all and standing room only for some. It was absolutely wonderful to see so many of you turn up, whatever the weather.

We had a very mixed bag of speakers, all excellent, starting with Dr Katharine O'Donnell speaking about home schooling in Tasmania, a subject she is extremely knowledgeable about, and although her lecture was short she answered many questions. Next we had our own Basil Sampson, who, predictably, drew the crowds with his talk on First Nations in the Australian State and treaties and who, predictably, caused a buzz in the tearoom afterwards.

Another of our own, Ken Chilcott, started week two with a delightful session on music and competitions and it was illustrated with brilliant slides and, even better, our maestro played us exquisite snatches of music on a small portable piano supplied by Pieter Buining. That was a standing room-only session. We all left the lecture theatre with smiles and a few tears. How wonderful it would be to see "our Ken" in his proper setting, dressed in formal jacket with tails, seated at a gleaming grand piano!

The next session was serious with Professor James Vickers from the Wicking Centre talking about dementia and the huge research project (The ISLAND project) going on in Tasmania. Many of us are part of that already and he held our attention and answered many questions afterwards. The mood was a tad more sombre after that talk!

Week three began with another of our own, Sue Lea, who delivered a fabulous talk on Lola Montez, a woman who had an incredible life thanks to her beauty and unfailing ability to seek an opportunity, but who sadly died alone in New York, penniless. We then had a meditative talk

from Dr Lucy Tatman who comes close to being one of our own after appearing at last year's summer program and delivering a fascinating series of lectures on women and religion in term two. Lucy is down to earth and approachable but is a true academic with a great sense of humour. She talked fluently, starting with the premise of what original sin might mean to an atheist and took us on a meditative journey of love and staring into the eyes of a possum who joined her in her back yard.

Week four began with some highbrow art delivered by Penny Clive, who has an A.M. for her services to art, and two of her associates from DETACHED, her gallery of contemporary treasures in the old Mercury Building. It was a challenging talk but the three of them gently walked us through some quite confronting images, rather as Dr Jane Deeth did for us in 2018.



Following Penny and the challenges of contemporary works of art, Paul Bywater's film on the story of two wildlife photographers, Olegas Truchanas and Peter Dombrovskis, soothed us with the brilliance of these men and their beautiful photos of Tasmanian wilderness. Tears

were shed for both men, who died too young, both found in the wilderness they loved so much.

Back to philosophy for week five with Dr Tim Jarvis from Fullers Bookshop who based his talk on Shakespeare plays, mainly *Macbeth* and *Hamlet*. This was another fascinating talk which made us read more into the plays and the brilliance of Shakespeare than most of us have had the opportunity to do.

Finally, our keynote speaker for the Roy and Maureen Davies Memorial Lecture was Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick, AM, who talked about conservation in Tasmania and some of the research projects he and his team are involved in. But he talked with passion and humour about so much more and yes, it was standing room only. The vote of thanks was expertly given by our patron, Professor Peter Boyce.

As always Sandra Halliwell supervised a wonderful morning tea with champagne.

From my point of view this was the best summer program yet. All the speakers were easy to deal with (not always the case), turned up on time, and delivered top-notch talks.

As always, I am grateful for the help I received. The summer program runs as well as it does only because of the efforts of a small band of volunteers.

Thank you to the Committee for allowing me artistic freedom with the program,

Thank you to Sue Mulcahy, John Adams, Tim, and Mick for always being there to set up and put away the equipment used, to make sure speakers had microphones, to set up the chairs, which have often been moved or even removed, in the theatre, and to trouble-shoot. They are the first ones in and the last ones out.

Astrid Walker, the chief morning tea lady, was always there early to set up the tea things and stayed until the last cup was in the dishwasher. Thank you to those of you who helped with the cleanup and to Carol Vincent who lugged in the supplies of tea, biscuits, and milk.

A special thank you to Margaret O'Connor who sourced and bought the wine, champagne, and gift bags, and to Alison and David Waters who sourced and

supplied real glasses for our champagne and who washed them all up afterwards!

Our final morning tea was provided by Sandra Halliwell with help from Pauline Dorey. Thank you ladies and all your helpers.

Most of all though, thank you to all of our wonderful U3A Hobart community who came along to the program and made it all worthwhile.

It has been enjoyable and a bit challenging at times running our summer program.

This was my last one.

I will of course be there, very much on the sidelines, and only if needed, to help the next person who steps up to present the summer program. It doesn't have to be the same formula. I look forward to what comes next.

Stay safe.

Rosey Marwick

SOME ISOLATED THOUGHTS ON AGEING ...

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example, how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

...

When you're dissatisfied and would like to go back to your youth, think of Algebra.

...

When I was a child I thought nap time was a punishment. Nowadays it feels like a small holiday.

Program Co-ordinator's Notes

May 2020



It seems we cannot expect to meet up before third term, as we are months away from being able to run face-to-face classes in the Philip Smith Centre.

However, our AV experts Ken Johnson, Sue Mulcahy, Graeme Ingram, and Alison Waters had a useful Zoom meeting last week in which they discussed a number of scenarios for online classes next term, and we think we might be able to offer several. Already a few classes are functioning: Writing Workshop, Ros Olsen's "Margaret Atwood", Book Discussion (using Zoom), the Drawing class (using WhatsApp), Brian McNab's Indian history series and Randy Rose's "From Fish to Man". Both Graeme and Sue are happy to offer their IT classes via Zoom next term.

Zoom does seem to be the most functional software, and Ken has

already arranged a Zoom account for U3A Hobart.

There are plenty of tutorials available for learning how to use Zoom, and perhaps we could run a workshop if there was interest.

This online program would clearly be limited to members who have internet access. When it is finalised Ken and Alison will notify members via the internet.

We will have courses from Professor Basil Sansom and Professor Susan Jones, two very popular presenters, and if you have any suggestions or requests we would be very happy to hear them.

Certainly Hobart U3A will continue to function. When/if we come together in third term we shall have a Shakespeare class, of course.

Very best regards to you all,

Leone

Drawing Online

What to do when our beloved U3A Drawing class had to be suspended during the Sars Covid-19 crisis?

Go online, of course!

Our class had bonded three years ago when our teacher had to leave early in the term and a replacement could not be found. With some fabulous help from the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery guides and a strong desire to keep our class going, we found by organising ourselves we got to know each other better, we could form a very supportive place to draw, and with help from the resources on the internet we could provide an interesting and stimulating program of activities.

When lockdown happened it was not surprising we would find a way to continue.

A What'sApp group was formed and the majority of the class joined. Those who could not are kept connected via email. We have continued with each week's activity posted online. We sit down in our homes on Wednesday afternoons, our usual class time, and draw. The results are photographed and posted online. A flurry of comments follow about our work and there is much pleasure in the shared posts.

Such is the keenness of class members that there are often further drawings completed before and after our regular class time. They are posted too as are other art-related resources found by our group. As well as more traditional drawing activities such as practising perspective, we have also done activities reflective of this time such as self-portraits, a view from one of our windows, and drawings expressing life in Covid-19 lockdown.

Class members comment regularly on the support offered by our What'sApp site. The continuation of a much-loved activity and the opportunity to immerse oneself in drawing have been so valuable for our mental health at this time. Mind you, we are all eagerly waiting for the time when we can be back together in our U3A classroom.

Jane Monaghan
Class Coordinator

