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## CITY & INNER WEST REGION NEWSLETTER APRIL 2020

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### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: U3A CITY & INNER WEST REGION**

Following the bulletin from Barbara Boston, Sydney U3A President, you will be aware that classes are now put on hold until at least June.

Though this decision was inevitable given the progress of the virus, and although we are in uncharted territory, we want you to know that behind the scenes we are working to put together the second semester Course Book in preparation for resumption of classes as soon as this becomes possible.

We hope that as a group we can weather this storm and be able to meet in class before too long. We reinforce the reminder from Barbara Boston, Sydney U3A President to stay in touch with U3A friends through whatever means available to you.

We will stay in touch with our monthly newsletter and would welcome articles from members with interesting and hopefully uplifting tales overcoming this adversity. Many of our members have lived through wars, so I'm sure we'll keep our Aussie sense of humour and live through the toilet paper shortage.

Rest assured we will keep you advised of developments with regard to classes. Most of our members are on email now, but there are still some in the Inner West for whom we don't have email addresses - we will do our best to communicate with these members by mail.

Our best wishes to you all and stay safe,

Jennifer Waldron  
President, City & Inner West Region

Please send articles for the newsletter to  
[u3a.innerwest@gmail.com](mailto:u3a.innerwest@gmail.com)



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## SYDNEY U3A WEBMASTER JOHN HEPWORTH

Thank you to John for all your efforts in keeping the website up to date in these "fluid" times. It is sterling stuff!

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**FROM BARBARA BURTON - VC Leichhardt/Hannaford March 2020**

I usually write about all the wonderful things that have been happening at Leichhardt Library on Friday Mornings and Hannaford Centre, but as we all know, these sessions, along with all the others have had to be abandoned for an unknown period due to the unprecedented situation we all find ourselves in right now.

So, I thought I would try to cheer everyone up by telling you of some experiences I have had just today...Tuesday 17 March...having just passed another milestone on the birthday calendar, and beginning to feel my age, but fighting it every step of the way... I ventured out on a little shopping trip, just down to the post office, pharmacy and to my favourite marketplace. Nothing too exciting in this!

I had just returned to my car after visiting the Post Office boxes when a car came, pedal to the floor, engine screaming with a WHOOSH! right behind where I was standing by my driving-side door. Missed me by millimetres! This was my 'worst of humanity' experience for the day!

Shaken, I drove on to the pharmacy where I needed to collect myself before any further adventures. My pharmacy people are so kind and thoughtful. Their care and attention can certainly go into the 'Best of Humanity box',



But I was to experience even more contrasts when I reached my marketplace. The shelves in those all-important parts...bread...toiletries...cleaning materials...all bare! What is this with bread? Or for that matter, toilet paper? Then a child sneezed very near me...admittedly into his elbow, but it was a flying elbow, so what now?

I needed a seat, but of course, there are never any seats available in a market, be it Super- or not, so I chose the nearest box I could find... This is where 'Humanity' again showed itself. Show fragility and people come running... But, you think that is the end? Not at all... Next I lined up at the pay station. Behind me in the queue was a young man assisting his mother with her shopping. "Can I help you unload your trolley?" ..."Thank you"..."Do you live nearby?" So I

told him..."I will take your shopping and put it in your car and then follow you home after I've dropped Mum off"...

This young man deserves all the gold stars available. He did just that and carried my shopping upstairs into my unit and left his card in case he could help in the future.



THIS IS DEFINITELY A DAY OF EXTREMES IN HUMAN NATURE. So, I am hoping that during this period ahead you may all experience the BEST of Human Nature and that we'll all be back together again before too long.

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*Thank you Barbara - and there is another anecdote from a friend of Jenny Waldron who writes:*



The Joys of Cruising in 2020

Hello J&I

We are on the cruise to nowhere. You might remember that we lost out on the China and Japan bit and had to join the ship in Singapore. First things went well. We went to Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Phuket. After that the trouble started. Cochin, Colombo and Abu Dhabi were closed. We could get into Dubai which is now a cruise ship graveyard with 7 empty ships waiting for better days. Then on to Oman but, once again, the ports are closed, as is Aqaba. We won't see Petra, or reach Italy. With a bit of luck we can disembark in Marseille. How we get home we don't know yet. You all might be better off not going anywhere outside Australia. All safe, just bored and frustrated  
Love youse all XX

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## **AN UNEXPECTED CONNECTION - City & Inner West Talk - Millers Point**

We make unexpected connections in so many different contexts and U3A is certainly one!

A really special moment happened at a talk given by social historian Cate Whittaker recently. Cate's talk was on *Elizabeth Fry*, renowned Quaker and prison reformer.

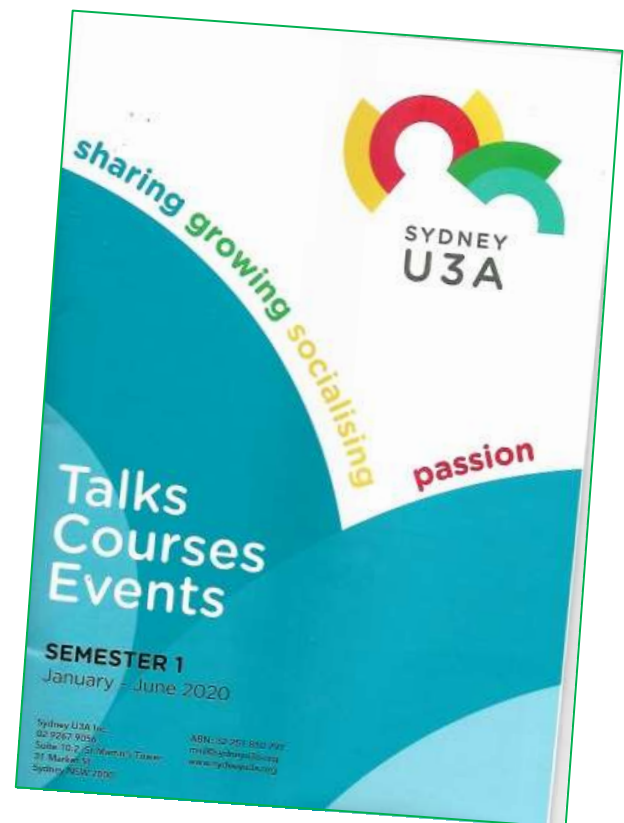
At the coffee break, one of the attendees Dianne Burgoyne spoke to Cate revealing her connection to Mrs Fry - Dianne is a *great, great, great granddaughter!*



Photograph: Cate Whittaker and Dianne Burgoyne

Ronda Gaffey

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**HERE'S HOPING**

**WE WILL BE BACK SOON**

**IN SHARING - GROWING - SOCIALISING**

**& WITH RENEWED PASSION**