



STAY CONNECTED
CENTRAL OFFICE NEWSLETTER



Welcome to Volume 7 of Stay Connected

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Everyone

After a number of meetings last week the U3A Board of Management decided that we will work towards resuming U3A meetings as of the first week in September. This is dependent on Health Dept, Councils and retirement village regulations and this awful virus. I know social distancing will have to be observed and maybe some smaller venues may not be suitable. A lot of work needs to be done behind the scenes before then, but let's hope we can all resume our meetings and catch up with our friends. I am having a U3A morning tea for 10 at a local café and maybe others can consider this option to keep in touch with each other.

I hope many of you are enjoying our Zoom classes, I know we can now call ourselves Baby Zoomers. I understand there are about 112 different zoom classes over all regions (please check your regional website for booking details). 6 or 7 weeks ago, I did not know what zoom was, I soon learnt how easy it is. If you are not technical, maybe you can ask someone to put the Zoom app on your computer or iPad and try it.

I want to thank Michael Suckling for chairing our Zoom committee for the amount of work he and his team including Howard Ferrer, Jeff Burgess, Ian Thompson, Mary-Lyn Lawrence, Stuart Cumming, Stephen Cooper, John Hepworth, Sue Bailey and Jim Sloane who are meeting weekly to obtain licences and speakers and sort out problems. It has been a mammoth task and very much appreciated.

Thank you for reading our newsletter and your great feedback
Most of all stay safe, keep well, and stay connected.

I look forward to meeting many of our members soon

Lastly have you put the Covid-19 safe App on your phone? It will help us all.

Kind regards
Judy Harris
President
Sydney U3A

ON-LINE COURSES

Currently we are providing more than 112 sessions using online platforms.

To check out courses and availability:

Visit our website - sydneyu3a.org

Click on the **large blue** "Membership" button on the left hand side of the home page

Log in using your ID and password

Select "**Classes 2020**" at the bottom of the page

This will take you to the list of online courses that are currently running. Courses are set out in regions.

Your regional newsletter, **which is also on the website**, contains more information and details of the courses available



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - The Life and Music of the great Classical Composer

An extract from the talk, The Life and Music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart given by member Graham Ball to Harbourside North groups.

Provided by Graham Ball

Mozart's situation was a very peculiar one. Although he was the socially dependent subordinate of court aristocrats his awareness of his own extraordinary musical talent made him feel equal, if not superior to them. He was a genius, a gifted and creative human being born into a society which didn't know the concept of genius.

We're very lucky to be able to tell Mozart's story thanks to his many letters home and to friends, most of which were retained by his father and his widow. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died on 6 December 1791, aged 35 and was buried in a pauper's grave.

He's probably the best-known and best-loved composer in history and one of the greatest composers of the Classical era of music which lasted for approximately 100 years. The best-known composers during this period were Joseph Haydn, Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Schubert and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Together they conceived and perfected the Classical forms of symphony, opera, string ensemble, and concerto. Today Mozart is best known for his operas although this was just a part of the extensive range of his musical masterpieces. Beethoven is best known for his symphonies.

In those days the aristocrats in the city-states like Salzburg, Vienna, and Prague would commission artists and musicians to amuse, inspire, and entertain. Each state employed its own orchestra.

Artists and musicians were heavily dependent on the favour, the patronage and the taste of court and aristocratic circles. The position of the musician in this society was basically that of a servant, a second-class citizen.

A musician who wanted to be socially recognized as a serious artist, and at the same time to feed himself and his family had to find a permanent position at court, preferably a rich and splendid court. He had no choice.

Although born just 15 years apart, the lives of Mozart and Beethoven couldn't have been more different. Mozart struggled to escape from his social position all his life. He wished to take his place as an equal with the aristocracy while Beethoven's position was not a problem to him. Beethoven was handicapped by a gradual loss of hearing. Although Mozart is now considered to be a genius, during his lifetime he was relatively unknown compared with Haydn and Beethoven.

He worked basically as a freelance composer as did Beethoven. He had no skill in handling negotiations, accountancy and other management aspects. His inability to hold onto money was incurable.

Beethoven earned income from the publication of his works and from public performances. He also depended on the generosity of patrons for income. He gave them private performances and copies of works they commissioned for an exclusive period prior to their publication.

The development of the musical concert happened in three stages; first, concerts for an invited audience, then by subscription and finally for an unknown paying public. At Mozart's time the last stage hadn't been reached. He had to bear the financial risk for his concerts himself and so he became the world's first freelancer. Music was still being composed for the church and the court. Public concerts were yet to become an important part of the musical scene.

U3A BRAND VALUES

Sharing

Growing

Socialising

Passion

ANNETTE SALT member Upper North Region has provided this photo of the U3A Upper North Advanced/Medium recorder group whose members have been meeting via Zoom. Annette says "we have worked out methods to stay in touch musically and socially during this period through the good offices of one of our members, Gerry Foley. Not all our members were present when this was taken, and we do have one visitor." Thanks Annette.



WELCOME TO NEW SYDNEY U3A SECRETARY

Welcome aboard to **Pamela Frai** Pamela is from the Northern Beaches Region and has volunteered to fill the Secretary role vacated by Paula Poon. Pamela's extensive administration experience will be an asset to Sydney U3A.

Thank you Paula for your contribution and every best wish for your future endeavours.

LYNDA CRONSHAW
ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

What to expect when the President asks
That you just help her out with a few little tasks.
The first one is easy, she says with a smile
Your life in a nutshell, for the U3A file.

I pondered the best way for this to be done,
'Cos I'm Jill of all trades and mistress of none
My Uni was Life. My degree common sense
I'm sure not a genius, but again I'm not dense

I've done many things in my journey through life
As a daughter, a mother, grandmother and wife
I've sold houses and lollies, cleaned houses too
To make sure that I earned a dollar or two

I learned to do shorthand - my typing was quicker
And I've worked in a bar serving beer and hard liquor
I once was a hostess, on the ground, not the air
And worked in school libraries with kids in my care

A waitress, researcher, I'm sure that there's more
But I think that's enough - I don't want to bore.
I've served on committees in many a way
I think that's because I could never say nay

I liked being active and really liked sport
I was quite an achiever around the squash court
Played netball and hockey, tried others as well
And arranged the team dinners in the local hotel!

However, my background is Administration
Where I organise papers and people with patience
So I offered some hours to help U3A's
Well, that's how it started, but it's now more like days!

I enjoy what I'm doing, don't do things by half.
I've a strange sense of humour, but I make people laugh
I'll always give of my best, not my worst
And I can assure you I put members first



LYNDA

AKA

SYDNEY U3A

"JILL OF ALL TRADES"



FROM JUDITH KENNEDY Member No 14065

Everyone,

Just wanted to thank all those involved in organising and presenting these marvellous lectures.

Not very good with technology, so am confirming my attendance at all the Zooms I booked into ... even though I may not be visible or heard on screen!!

Very many thanks to Ken Jeffrey (introduced by Michael Suckling) on the Bali Bombings, extremely clever & interesting forensics; and today, Noel Phelan (introduced by Rosemarie Einstein) on the Sinking & Salvage of the Costa Concordia .. fascinating detail and absorbing trail of how things can go wrong!!

Have also watched other lectures at my sister's.

Very many thanks indeed and shall continue to "book in"!!

Cheers,
Judith

On-line courses and talks have been made possible by the dedication of our enterprising and dedicated leaders and the "Zoom Team"

Their combined efforts have enabled many of our members to *Stay Connected* during lockdown

The BOM echo Judith's thanks

NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS WEEK MAY 18 - 24. 2020 NATIONAL THEME IS "CHANGING COMMUNITIES CHANGING LIVES"

National Volunteer Week (NVW) is the annual celebration to acknowledge the generous contribution of our nation's volunteers. In these uncertain times we feel that it is more important than ever to acknowledge Sydney U3A volunteers. Our volunteers represent about 5% of membership.

When you take into consideration that the organisation is 100% volunteer based - there are no paid employees and there are normally more than 600 courses talks and events offered across seven regions - the volunteers are a remarkable group of individuals. They combine their skills, knowledge and expertise for the benefit of the Sydney U3A community specifically and the broader community generally. Sydney U3A changes lives in that it provides the opportunity of low-cost lifelong learning in a relaxed environment that also facilitates social identity and community interaction. Learning and socialisation positively contribute to wellness of the mind and body as we age thereby saving the government in health costs. Our volunteers combine their skills to ensure that the 3rd Age is truly the age of reinvention, rejuvenation, renewal and redirection.

Leaders, regional course and venue coordinators, regional presidents, secretaries and treasurers and other committee members and helpers, editors and proof-readers, Web editor and IT coordinator and phone, computer, peripherals and internet teams, central office volunteers and the executive team members all give freely of their time and energy. Sydney U3A colour band values - **Sharing, Growing, Socialising** and **Passion** - are the tenet of their existence.

On behalf of all members - a mega thank you to our volunteers. Please take a bow for giving so much.

Sydney U3A Inc

ABN 32 251 810 797

Suite 10.2, St Martin's Tower, 31 Market St, Sydney, 2000

mail@sydneyu3a.org sydneyu3a.org 9267 9056

CENTRAL OFFICE IS CURRENTLY CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19

STAY CONNECTED Volume 7 Issued May 24 2020

Produced by Dianne Ekert, Published by Stuart Cummings

Feedback welcome to **vppr.sydneyu3a@gmail.com**