



**CITY & INNER WEST REGION
NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2020**

Sydney U3A Incorporated ABN: 32252 810896
Suite 10.2, 31 Market Street, Sydney 2000
Phone: 02 9262 2702 **OFFICE CLOSED TEMPORARILY**
Email: mail@sydneyu3a.org
Web: www.sydneyu3a.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Missing your regular U3A Sessions? You are not alone as I think we all feel the same. We are very fortunate to be living in Australia right now, one of the safest places to be. Many of us have cancelled trips to other parts of the world, myself included. I was very disappointed not to be able to visit family in the UK but when I hear their statistics, I count my blessings - so what if the days have turned into the same daily routine, my dog has never been happier.

We could see at the weekend that Sydney had opened up again and some people fully entered into the spirit with shopping centres filled with customers. This does present some danger however, as we don't yet know if there will be a spike in transmission.

At U3A we have to be very careful in managing our return to face to face classes as we are all in the high risk group. You can rest assured though, that as soon as it is considered safe to do so, we will get back to normal. In the meantime we have arranged a series of talks by ZOOM.

We have been able to schedule Zoom sessions "Fridays at Leichhardt Library" to replace the face to face sessions that used to be held each week. A few days ago we sent out an email to C&IW members asking if they might be interested. Thanks to all members who answered "YES" to that email, these sessions are now fully booked. Some of our language classes and discussion groups have successfully moved to online sessions via Zoom, Skype or similar. In addition, other U3A regions are presenting Zoom talks so check the U3A website for details.

Our City office may be closed, but Sydney U3A isn't - there's plenty of work going on behind the scenes.

Jennifer Waldron
President, Sydney U3A City & Inner West Region

ZOOMING - FRIDAY MORNINGS AT LEICHHARDT

Another month has gone by and I am delighted to report that our ZOOM sessions each Friday morning are being enjoyed by our members who simply love to greet old friends, while having their minds extended by listening to one of our fabulous speakers. We all look just a little different, mainly because we are relaxing in our home environments with no need to 'dress up' for the occasion, although that is optional!

Our Speakers so far have been Stuart Read, Dick Whittaker, Greg Organ and Jim Murray. Many thanks to each. We are all indebted to them for their generosity in sharing their knowledge and interests.

If you've missed out up until now, why not dip a toe into this great new technology and ask John Hepworth to put you onto his Invitation List for these sessions, which take place **each Friday morning from 10:30am**. The next Friday Morning Talk at Leichhardt is on **29th May - A Gleam of Gold** - tales from the northern goldfields of NSW with speaker **Trish Skehan**.

COMING UP IN JUNE:

Nora Hinchey and John Flint return with three sessions:

- **The Heel and Toe of the Italian Boot - Parts 1 & 2 (details in program)**
- **The Italian Veneto** (The towns, country villas, art and culture of the region which extends from them Venetian lagoon to the foothills of the Alps) and

Lyn Lockrey tells the story of his *Great Grandfather*, the first Australian World Champion in Sport.

- **The Life and Times of Edward Trickett**



You can contact John on u3a.leichhardt@gmail.com. He will add your name to his list for invitations which are sent out on the day prior to each talk. **The invitation contains a link to the meeting that starts with https://**

Just download the Zoom App from the Internet and install it on your device. Zoom has versions for computers (Windows or Mac), tablets (iPad or Android), and phones (iPhone or Android). Computers are best, while tablets are almost as good. Phones do work, but the screens are a bit small when presenters share a PowerPoint presentation.

On Friday Mornings at around 10:20am, click on the App to open Zoom. Then double click on the link in the invitation email that starts with <https://> to join the meeting. Feedback is always welcome.

I wish you all another very safe month ahead and look forward to catching you on Zoom each Friday.

Barbara Burton - Friday Mornings Leichhardt Group

NOT ALL GLOOM AND DOOM DURING ISOLATION

Joy Pegler

My principal hobby throughout adult life has been birdwatching. So during this period of social isolation it has sometimes been quite an advantage to be spending more time in my own backyard.

Birdwatching is an activity which results in one becoming habitually tuned to the sights and sounds of the birds around you, no matter where you are. Of course in the city we tend to forget that there have been two disasters in 2020: firstly the bushfires and secondly COVID 19 with the former destroying not only the bush creatures but also the habitats on which they depend for food, protection from predators, and for birds, a place to nest.

In the autumn months of the year birdwatchers in this part of the country expect some species to leave for warmer parts. So one sees flocks of Yellow-faced Honeyeaters flying north and the Tasmanian version of the Silvereye moving in. At home I expect to see, and especially hear, the Musk Lorikeets feeding in the Grey Ironbark growing in the yard of neighbours up the road.

And all this has happened! Of course nature is impervious to the present perils of suffering humanity, but for this particular birdwatcher it was so uplifting that some of these birds are still following their usual routine. I am remembering the French saying (in translation) that "the more things change, the more they stay the same". So that is a wonderful consolation for me in my present risk adverse state.



The photos of the three species mentioned are from the Birdlife Australia website.
The brown flanks of the Silvereye indicate that it is a Tasmanian.

Thank you Joy. Having a garden or a nearby park is a real tonic these covid-days! I have been inspired to spend a little more time just sitting in my garden watching the skinks sunning themselves! Ed.

'FOR THE LOVE OF DANCE' - KEEPING IN TOUCH

After speaking with my class members in "For the Love of Dance" by phone, it was lovely to hear how creative and innovative they have been and so positive during the lockdown.

These are just some of the innovations keeping our members occupied - learning a language, teaching oneself a musical instrument, social discussion with friends using zoom, gardening, jigsaw puzzles, yoga, tai chi, cooking, qigong, oil painting, reading, drawing, creative writing, decluttering, family history, quilting, card making, not to mention crochet and knitting beanies for premature babies in hospital.

If anyone would like the pattern for knitting the baby beanies, please email me at - bobbiekersten@gmail.com
or Phone: 0410 873 605

Maternity hospitals would be most grateful to receive them when this pandemic is over.



Keep on doing these self-creations ladies, stay positive, stay safe and keep well.

Bobbie Kersten

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

A friend shared this gem with me recently:



When her grandson was picked up after the first day of school after being home-schooled during the covid lockdown, his mother asked, "How was school today?" The reply from her eight year old son was: "Authentic!"

Congratulations to all those wonderful grandparents (and parents) who have done such a tremendous job with homeschooling! It is now time to **ZOOM!**

Please send articles or "snippets" for the Newsletter to u3a.innerwest@gmail.com
Thank you everyone for your contributions this month - Ed.



WE WILL BE BACK SOON
IN **SHARING** - **GROWING** - **SOCIALISING**
& WITH RENEWED **PASSION!**

