



## CITY & INNER WEST REGION NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2020

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Behind the scenes at U3A, many of us are beavering away, putting the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester 2021 Course Book together.

It feels very strange to be doing, so given the uncertainty we all face right now. However, after what seems like endless discussion, we decided to take a positive and optimistic approach on the basis that it is easier to cancel or amend courses than it would be to start from scratch. So all fingers crossed that we will be out and about enjoying ourselves, in the New Year.

Jennifer Waldron  
President City & Inner West Region



Members of the Deconstructing Contemporary Art group braved public transport to join Leader Wendy Fraser in celebrating her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Art Gallery of NSW café. Champagne flowed freely and a good time was had by all. Happy Birthday Wendy!

## LEICHHARDT ZOOM MEETINGS - NOVEMBER 2020

Zooming ever closer to the end of this extraordinary year, we are again looking forward to welcoming some excellent speakers into the midst of our always 'alert, listening and questioning' group. It has been a great privilege for me to be associated with U3A over these past 20 years, to see and participate in the many changes that have occurred, moving from typewriters to computers, snail mail to email and texting - all products of the fast-moving scientific minds and technological whiz-kids who rule the world of communications today. What would we do now without a mobile phone?

### HANNAFORD CENTRE

Our Hannaford groups all had to be suspended, firstly due to the closure of the Centre, and then because the room cannot accommodate more than around four people with Social Distancing, which is simply not feasible. However, resourceful leadership has meant that at least some of the groups have been able to continue some limited activities. The Discussion Group now has a new leader, Barry Bidwell, who is introducing his members to the world of Zoom. We wish you well Barry and hope we can get back to Hannaford in the future. The Advanced French Discussion group run jointly by Rhonda Stein and Sue Tronser has also been meeting on Zoom and Verity Bagot has plans to get back into Hannaford in the New Year as has Michael Georgeson...COVID permitting.

We thank all our Leaders and Speakers for their wonderful dedication, and a special thanks to John Hepworth from me. John not only hosts our Leichhardt Zoom sessions but sends out this Newsletter and any number of other communications on behalf of our CIW Committee.

If you are not already on John Hepworth's list of contacts for an 'Invitation to Join' our meeting which takes place each Friday Morning from 10:30am, please contact him direct on [u3a.innerwest@gmail.com](mailto:u3a.innerwest@gmail.com) to be placed on the list. And now...ZOOOOOOOM! Here is your program to the end of the year.

### 30 October: RICHARD COGSWELL: A JUDGE LOOKS BACK

A widely experienced retired judge talks about critical issues including scheduling individuals to mental health facilities, releasing patients into the community, and sentencing serious offenders.

*His Honour Richard Cogswell SC is a retired judge of the District Court of NSW, including 3 years as President of the NSW Mental Health Review Tribunal. He spent 26 years at the NSW Bar, was in private practice in Phillip Street, then a Crown Prosecutor and finally the State's Crown Advocate.*

### 6 November: EVAN SHAPIRO: SOCIAL MEDIA ESSENTIALS

An overview of social media and its leading platforms with a guide to free resources to enhance how you connect.

*Evan is a Graphic designer with experience in self-publishing, website design and use of media. He also has a wide and deep knowledge of movies.*

### 13 November: COLIN SMITH: AMERICAN WORKERS IN THE GULAG (PART 1)

In the Great Depression in the USA, thousands of workers fled poverty to find a new life in the workers' paradise of the USSR. At first, they did well, but then came Stalin's Great Terror - life then changed. (See November 27 for part 2).

*Colin has a background in Quality Assurance, but always nurtured a passion for history. This has become the foundation for all his U3A talks. For the past 3 years until his recent resignation, Colin held the position of President of our Greater West Region.*

**20 November: ADAM SHAPIRO: CORRUPT CONDUCT, ENSURING INTEGRITY AND THE ROLE OF THE ICAC**

**How is corruption defined and how can it be prevented? What can ICAC do and not do?**

*Adam Shapiro is the Senior Corruption Prevention Officer (Training), Corruption Prevention Division, NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption.*

**27 November: COLIN SMITH: AMERICAN WORKERS IN THE GULAG (PART 2)**

See 3 November Part 1, for further details.

**4 December: IAN THOMPSON: QUACKERY: A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WORST WAY TO CURE EVERYTHING**

**The golden age of quack salvers - an historical look at quackery from the middle ages to current time and the treatments that these medical-pedlars offered.**

*Ian Thompson is well known to our members having spoken on a number of topics, mainly relating to the insect world. Ian was formerly Vice President Education for Sydney U3A.*

**11 December: WENDY FRASER: SYDNEY'S ART SCENE: BEHIND THE SCREENS**

**The Sydney art scene is outstanding and there to be enjoyed. From the students' works of Artexpress to the International Biennale and the 15<sup>th</sup> century Lady and the Unicorn, galleries large and small welcome you all.**

*Wendy Fraser joined SU3A in 2000 and by 2004 was running the course, Deconstructing Contemporary Art which has recently returned to face-to-face classes at our Central Office venue during this COVID period. Wendy also volunteered as a Committee member for some time. She is a graduate of the Slade School of Fine Art, London, and we welcome her for this final Leichhardt Zoom session for 2020*

Barbara Burton - Coordinator [barb.e.bur@gmail.com](mailto:barb.e.bur@gmail.com)

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**'AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVES' DISCUSSION GROUP ON ZOOM**

'Australian Perspectives' in 2020: For November, the guest speaker at the 'Australian Perspectives' session on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month is:

**19<sup>th</sup> November Geoff Davidson is returning with more Australian history.**

This time he will be telling us about the early explorations around the Great South Land, Terra Australis. Aboriginal settlement of this continent is now known to have begun at least 65,000 years ago but subsequently explorers from many nations contributed to the present settlement in this land.

Members who wish to attend any of these 'Australian Perspectives' sessions should contact Joy Pegler on [pegler.jm@bigpond.com](mailto:pegler.jm@bigpond.com) or at 9771 6185 and they will then be included in the Zoom invitation list.



## OUT & ABOUT WITH BEATRICE SCHEEPERS

A jolly time was had recently when the Munch on Brunch group got together at a lovely café in downtown Leichhardt.

The menu had some very delicious savoury offerings, the cakes were highly persuasive and the coffee bravely stood up for itself.

As always, our discussion was lively and varied from whale watching adventures to US politics, from travel talks (remember those?) to NSW property developers, and from the joy of reading books to where to play croquet.



We chose the venue for the fact that their COVID Safe Plan worked well, our large table allowed ample physical distancing, and the sliding doors behind us ensured more than enough ventilation.

It was a most enjoyable day, and we look forward to another one in November and perhaps December too. Come and join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month - the next 'brunch' is **Thursday 19 Nov** and then, **Thursday 17 December**. And, there are more brunches to be had in 2021!

Beatrice Scheepers (Bookings only: [beatricescheepers@gmail.com](mailto:beatricescheepers@gmail.com) Enquiries only: 0402 969 004)



WE ARE **ZOOMING** ALONG

IN **SHARING** - **GROWING** - **SOCIALISING**

& WITH RENEWED **PASSION!**



## NOTICEBOARD

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CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE - <https://sydneyu3a.org/>

All current classes have been updated - this includes some face to face classes as well as zoom.