



# CITY & INNER WEST REGION NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

As Christmas is fast approaching and we are near the end of 2020, I am sure we all feel very lucky to be living in Australia right now - one of the few places in the world today where we can safely celebrate Christmas with our friends and loved ones. It is also a relief that there are vaccines on the horizon.

We will be putting out the 2021 Course Book in early January and have fingers crossed that most of our courses will be up and running.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Inner West Committee and members for all their hard work this year, and for all those leaders and speakers who have found innovative ways to conduct courses, sometimes meeting in parks, cafes or email and by Zoom. It has been much appreciated by our members.

It is with great joy and happiness that we wish all our U3A members a wonderful Christmas and festive season. We look forward to seeing you in 2021.

Jennifer Waldron  
President City & Inner West Region



## HONOURING LIFE MEMBERS - BETTY HALL AND LIONEL ANET by BARBARA BURTON

When I first joined U3A, many years ago, I had little idea of what the organisation was all about. I had seen a reference to it on television while I was still working, but by the time I retired and needed to find interesting things to do to fill the long hours and days ahead I could find no trace. These days Sydney U3A is very much 'Out There' in the consciousness of retirement organisations, universities, among teachers and of course **on the Web!** We are no longer just a small entry in a phone book.

Like many who join U3A I had no notion at the time of becoming a Volunteer, much less, still doing this, 20 years on! But this is what has happened and with my current Committee role of 'Membership' it is still an endlessly fascinating part of my life.

It was during a check of our Honorary Life Members that I contacted **Betty Hall**, formerly a member of the Endeavour region but after moving to Drummoyne a few years ago she became one of us here in the Inner West. Betty received her HLM through Endeavour where she had been proactive throughout her membership of U3A until she ceased leading her group in English Literature in 2007 at age 88. Betty is now 101!

A still vibrant Betty told me she had been born in London where her Mother and Grandmother were florists. Betty's one aim as a young person was to leave school, which she did at age 15, to join the family Florist business. When WWII began and young women were being recruited to the war effort, Betty joined the WRENS. This eventually brought her to Australia. Her life here included raising a family after which, not one to waste a minute, Betty undertook a Literature degree at Sydney University and received her PhD at age 75. Subsequently, she volunteered as a leader for the Endeavour region where she ran her Literature group for around seven years. Now, finally retired, Betty is learning to play the piano.

The other Honorary Life Member I was able to contact is **Lionel Anet**. Many older members will recall Lionel's courses which he ran at Woodstock. He was also extremely involved as a Committee member during the early years of our region's activities. Lionel and wife, Norma, are still living in their own home in Burwood.

Every one of our leaders is a volunteer! These wonderful people provide the spine of U3A and without them the organisation would collapse. We say 'thank you' to each one and wish all our membership a happy and healthy Festive Season with, we hope, many more activities in 2021.

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### LEICHHARDT ZOOM MEETINGS - DECEMBER 2020

We plan to recommence our talks in the New Year with our first session to be held **on Friday 5 February**. Until then, we wish you all the very best for the holidays and look forward to meeting up again in the New Year.

From John and Barbara.

**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*



**LEICHHARDT ZOOM - STOP PRESS!**

In last month's Newsletter we provided what we thought would be the remainder of our program for our Zoom Sessions. Since then, we have been offered one last talk for the year to take place on:

**Friday 18 December. DAVID MALONE has offered us A FESTIVE SEASON TALK to take us closer to the two big days.**

This will cover the story of how we come to celebrate 25 December as Christmas Day; the early festivals; the ceremonies; the food; the tree; the yule log...It goes on through to the New Year, right up to the Twelfth Night.

Thank you, David. We look forward to this.

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



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**RETURN OF TAI CHI TO REVESBY COMMUNITY HALL** Joy Pegler Venue Coordinator for Bankstown Area.

The Tai Chi group that runs each Thursday morning at the Revesby Community Hall was finally able, in these COVID times, to return on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

This SU3A session has been running in the hall for more than ten years: firstly under the stewardship of Tim Yan, and following the latter's illness and death, with Patrick Brennan. Some of the present group have been there from the start and so the session was sorely missed.

The hall is owned by Canterbury Bankstown City Council, so in order to start the sessions again it was not just a question of unlocking the door and turning on the music. Our COVID Safety Plan had to be approved by council. This of course included all the criteria that we all have become so used to: maximum number of twenty practitioners; 1.5 metre separation between individuals; everyone with their own hand sanitiser; disinfecting of surfaces; attendance sheet in to council within 24 hours.

It will all seem like a bad dream in the not-too-distant future (we hope!).

So many thanks to the group for their compliance with "the Plan", to Patrick Brennan for continuing to soldier on, and to Jeanette Sutton for delivering the attendance sheet to me so that I can promptly send it on to council. Contact: [peglerjm@bigpond.com](mailto:peglerjm@bigpond.com) or 9771 6185 to be included in the Zoom invitation list.

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## A TASTE OF CROQUET

I took the opportunity to enrol in this course which I thoroughly enjoyed as did six other U3A members. The Strathfield Croquet Club ran the course over three consecutive Friday mornings in November. It was fun as well as being challenging. We were given a taste of three types of croquet: golf, ricochet and gateball.

There are different strokes to master with the mallet, rules to learn and the strategy required to win the game is ever changing. Croquet definitely provides exercise as well as mental stimulation which I personally was not expecting. It takes place outdoors in pleasant surroundings allowing social distancing which was a nice antidote to the restrictions covid-19 has placed on us.

A warm thank you to the Strathfield Croquet members (some also U3A members) who provided the coaching, encouragement and friendship. Some of us who attended are going to join the Club and are looking forward to next year! If you would like further information about croquet, please give me a call 0419 017 364 or Bob Phillips 9736 3746

Wishing you all a restful holiday and a busy U3A in 2021.

**Anne Hall**

Regional Course Coordinator

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## FROM THE EDITOR:

Thank you to Jenny and the U3A C&IW Committee, to all contributors and members for all your support of the Newsletter

Season's Greetings & Best Wishes For A Very Happy New Year

Ronda Gaffey



*"Ahh....this sure beats zoomin' mate!"*