



## CITY & INNER WEST REGION NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2021

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

Hello everyone and welcome to 2021 with Sydney U3A. I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year - it was so disappointing when there was a fresh Covid outbreak so close to Christmas, spoiling plans for many of us, but fortunately things have quickly come under control and with vaccines on the horizon, we are ready to embrace this year with renewed optimism.

By now you would have received your Course Book, either by mail or online, depending on which method you selected. Because of this irritant called Covid, we are constantly needing to make changes to what has been published in the book. The reasons for this are well known to us by now - some venues not reopening yet, or not at all, causing classes to be cancelled or moved to another venue. If this has happened to a course you wish to join, you will be advised by the booking person. In addition the Course Book on the website is being amended regularly to reflect these changes.

Last year was an extraordinary year requiring us to adapt to many changes, many of us surprising ourselves at our ability to do so. I should like to thank our leaders who are proving to be very flexible when arrangements and venues have to be changed at short notice. Below is an item notifying members of a change to arrangements for our City & Inner West AGM, which will now be conducted via Zoom. This was a hard decision to make as it is fun for members to catch up outside classes and there was always time for coffee and a chat after the formal business was over.

We are going to miss that this year, but we do need to get the formalities of an AGM out of the way, so I hope that many of you will join us via Zoom. We will still have our guest speaker at the end of the meeting.

This year's speaker is Laurie Wilson, Post Retirement Fellow at CSIRO, Adjunct Professor at both the University of Technology and Western Sydney University. He founded the Australasian Telehealth Society in 2008. His topic is *Symmetry* - which underlies many aspects of human creativity ranging from mathematics through to art and architecture, crystallography, biology and the latest developments in particle physics. There will be an opportunity for questions after Laurie's talk, so please do Zoom in with us.

We are all looking forward to a better year in 2021 !

**Jennifer Waldron**  
President, Sydney U3A City & Inner West Region

### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS CITY & INNER WEST REGION OF SYDNEY U3A

Will be held via Zoom on Wednesday 10 February at 1.30 pm.

All members of the City & Inner West are invited to attend.

**Guest Speaker:** Laurie Wilson, Post Retirement Fellow at CSIRO, Adjunct Professor at the University of Technology and Western Sydney University will be speaking on the topic of *Symmetry*.

At the meeting all committee positions are open for re-election and a nomination form is attached to this newsletter.

To join the meeting please send your email details to [u3a.innerwest@gmail.com](mailto:u3a.innerwest@gmail.com) before 5pm on Monday February 8, 2021 stating that you will be attending the AGM. You will receive a link to the AGM Zoom session prior to the meeting.

### COURSE BOOK 2021 - A SPECIAL NOTICE

Due to the changes caused by COVID rules, and dealing with the changing requirements of our venues, there will be a lot of changes to the Course Book. To keep abreast, you must call and book for each class. The booking officer or Leader will then let you know of any changes and then you will not turn up at a venue and be disappointed.



At the time of booking, you will be told of what you have to do to meet the COVID rules for the venue. Some venues have restrictions on the number of people in the room and this may change. There is a new attendance form which you will need to complete and you must wear your membership badge. Unfortunately many of us, including me, have got out of the habit of doing this. I would recommend that you wear a mask even if/when the restriction is removed. Please always take your sanitizer/wet wipes and use your own pen. Do not attend class if you are unwell.

The Course Book on the website will be updated and our Regional space on the website will list all changes. I know it is difficult and frustrating, but try to be patient during this constantly changing time.

**Anne Hall**  
Regional Venue Coordinator

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## 'AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVES' SESSIONS IN 1<sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER - Joy Pegler

Because of the continuing uncertainty about Covid-19 social restrictions, I decided that it would be prudent to run all sessions of 'Australian Perspectives' on Zoom in this 1<sup>st</sup> semester. I think I might say that most of us are getting quite practised by now at using this technology.

So here is the program of speakers this semester. All sessions will be on the third Thursday of the month (excluding school holidays) and will run from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### 18<sup>th</sup> February

The guest speaker will be Professor Stephen Hill AM. His talk to us this time will be rather philosophical - '**Impermanence and Living for Life**'. He plans to talk for around 30 minutes and then open up for questions. So we will be challenged!

### 18<sup>th</sup> March

Ian Thompson will again be speaking to us, not about insects and the various problems associated with them, but about **Light Houses around Sydney**.

### 20<sup>th</sup> May

Geoff Davidson appears to have an inexhaustible interest in Australian history. This time he will be talking about **Banjo Patterson** who not only was a poet but was also a journalist.

### 17<sup>th</sup> June

As a young Irish man Patrick Brennan joined many of his compatriots **Working as Stewards on the Cunard line**. He crossed the Atlantic numerous times and in between sailed down from New York to the Caribbean. This is the 'inside story' of that type of employment.

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

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## LEICHHARDT - JANUARY 2021 FRIDAY MORNING ZOOM SESSIONS ARE BACK!



Well, you've all had a little break...lots of naughty food and drink...friends and family keeping in touch ...some very pleasant weather... until recently perhaps, but now it is time for corralling the brain cells to start another year of staying active with Sydney U3A.

While you have all been enjoying your holiday, I have been chasing up those generous people who have offered to present topics that vary according to their passions. Many of these speakers have devoted, either, all their lives, or in some cases their retirement to studying all there is to know about their specific topic. Whether they be new to us or 'old friends', we cannot thank them enough! So, here is the program for our first month of talks.

**5 February: PRESENTER: Glennise West TOPIC: Ancient Egypt: Ancient Egyptian Burial Customs with emphasis on the nobles.**

This will include a map of the sites; the development of burial customs along with the significance of burial to the ancient Egyptians. We shall also see examples of nobles' burials.

*Following a period of around 30 years away from study, Glennise returned to study and completed her Master of Arts degree at Macquarie University, plus a post graduate research certificate, awarded in 2009. A PhD followed in 2018, her thesis topic being 'The Tekenu and Ancient Egyptian Funerary Ritual'. This thesis was published in 2019 by Archaeopress.*

**12 February: PRESENTER: Michael Adams TOPIC: Bushrangers and Major Sir Thomas Mitchell.**

In the 1820s at least nine bushrangers operated out of Stanwell Park, doing immense damage across a wide radius. Why don't we hear about them? Because their activities were hushed up in those days when the vast majority of European residents were convicts or ex-convicts. **Major Sir Thomas Mitchell** built the first house in Stanwell Park: Why? What did it show about the character of this enigmatic, but famous, man?

*Michael has been a regular member of the Friday Morning Zoom group, previously speaking on other aspects of the history of Stanwell Park. Michael holds an Hons degree in History from Sydney University, along with a Masters in Education from Macquarie University. Michael's writing covers the early history of the Stanwell Park area and the Lawrence Hargrave story, as well as the Northern Illawarra area. His interest in Vietnam brought about 'Scales of the Dragon': The Vietnam Experience which was published in 2011.*

**19 February: PRESENTER: Garry Lowder TOPIC: A Brief History of Gold**

They say gold is where you find it, but how did it get there? And anyway, how DO you find it? And how much is there left to find? In this talk, geologist Garry Lowder goes back to the beginning - how gold is formed and looks at the yellow metal's role in human history and particularly in the population and development of Australia. He then goes on to give away a few trade secrets as he explains: "How to Find a Gold Mine".

*Garry Lowder is a geologist with over 50 years wide ranging experience in the Australian and international mining industry, including more than 30 years at senior management, chief executive, and board level. Garry has a passion for the natural world and enjoys communicating that passion through public speaking.*

**26 February: PRESENTER: Jim Murray TOPIC: ALEXANDER HAMILTON**

All the Founding Fathers, including the first four US presidents, at one point considered themselves British subjects, but they revolted against the restrictive rule of King George III, outlining their grievances in the Declaration of Independence, a powerful call for freedom and equality.

*Jim Murray has been giving talks on wide-ranging topics throughout Sydney USA since he joined in 2011. His education was gained in his native Yorkshire where he also taught science at secondary school level before becoming a computer programmer and migrating to Australia.*

**Watch for your first invitation which will be sent via email from [u3a.innerwest@gmail.com](mailto:u3a.innerwest@gmail.com) by Thursday 4 February. NO BOOKINGS ARE REQUIRED FOR ZOOM SESSIONS**

## **HANNAFORD CENTRE**

Courses noted in the published program for this Centre will commence during the first week in February albeit with limited numbers of attendees and with strict adherence to COVID-19 rules. Thanks to those Leaders who have willingly volunteered to return to these face-to-face sessions.

## LEICHHARDT MARKET PLACE

This is a new venue for us. We have transferred the Discussion Group Social Issues, formerly domiciled at Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre, to this venue. We are permitted a limit of 5 persons only under the COVID-SAFE plan.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON - ITALIAN LANGUAGE

Pia Ottavian's Italian Language Group commences on Friday 5 February 2021 from 1:30pm at the Library.

## LEICHHARDT LIBRARY

Friday Mornings at Leichhardt Library will not commence until, at the earliest, after the Easter break. More on this in next month's Newsletter.

**Please note:** It is acknowledged that changes to our programmes without much notice could occur, so we ask that every member take the time to understand what will be required of them, and to assist their Leader to achieve the very best outcome for each group. **Numbers are strictly limited in all these venues.**

Barbara Burton - Coordinator

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**STOP PRESS - CORRECTION TO COURSEBOOK ENTRY:** Please note change of start time: **ADVANCED FRENCH CONVERSATION** (covidmax 10) Each Tuesday from 2 Feb 11:15-12:45  
Leader and Booking Sue Tronser 0418 673 670 [suetronser@gmail.com](mailto:suetronser@gmail.com)

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## REFLECTIONS on 2020 by Anne Hall

This will certainly be a year to remember - no overseas trips or visits to family interstate. Helping to home school my granddaughter and realising the way Math and English is taught now is entirely different. How did those parents who did not have support from an extended family, cope with kids and working from home?

It was terrific that some of our classes could return to face-to-face at Club Burwood RSL in the second semester. How fantastic it was that we learnt to Zoom and take advantage of the speakers who zoomed for us also.

So I learnt to cope with the effect of COVID and I hold onto the hope that our world will return to normal one day.

I am glad I joined U3A when I retired because I have met some great people and kept active in mind and body. Best wishes to our U3A family for 2021.



**WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR! from Beatrice Scheepers**



Beatrice Scheepers and her group of brunchers kicked off the new year with a lovely outing to a leafy café in Summer Hill. The outdoor setting meant that everyone could remain Covid-safe.

**VISITING REGIONAL GALLERIES - THE ROCHFORT GALLERY at North Sydney**  
from Robyn Gordon



**NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

**SYDNEY U3A INC. CITY & INNER WEST REGION (2021) AGM**

**Form for nomination for office bearers**

Nominations for the positions of President ,Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Committee Members

We the undersigned financial members of Sydney U3A Inc, City & Inner West Region, hereby nominate

\_\_\_\_\_ for the position of \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposer** \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Secunder** \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number

**I agree to stand for the position as nominated**

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number