



CITY & INNER WEST REGION NEWSLETTER MARCH 2021

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - U3A CITY & INNER WEST REGION

How nice to be writing a newsletter that is filled with good news - many of our classes are starting up again and there is renewed confidence in travelling on public transport. Lucky us, we are in the group which will be receiving the vaccinations soon.

I am happy to report that the City & Inner West Annual General Meeting via Zoom worked very well. The business part of the meeting was dealt with quickly and was followed with a fascinating talk by guest speaker Dr. Laurie Wilson on the topic of Symmetry.

As well as the regions being required to conduct their own AGM, Sydney U3A Inc. is also required to do so. To be valid this meeting has a quorum requirement of 50 so we need members to attend. Details are:

Date: Wednesday, 24 March 2021

Time: 11am (tea and coffee available from 10.30am)

**Place: Mitchell Theatre, Sydney Mechanic's School of Arts
280 Pitt Street Sydney**

The guest speaker this year is Professor Susan Kurrle. Many of you would have seen the ABC documentary "Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds" - a unique experiment which brought together elderly people in a retirement community with a group of four year old children. Professor Kurrle was a participant in the making of this series which went on to win an international Emmy for Best Non Scripted Entertainment. Along with her many other achievements she holds the Curran chair in Health Care of Older People, University of Sydney, Faculty of Medicine and Health. She is a geriatrician working in both the hospital and community setting.

We need members to attend to meet quorum requirements, and I'm sure we will all learn from Professor Kurrle's talk, so if you can attend please RSVP secretaryu3a@gmail.com

FUN NEW COURSE - HOW TO ANALYSE HANDWRITING

The use of our Central Office facilities for classes in the afternoons is proving to be very popular and starting on 13 April we have a three week course on handwriting analysis.

Handwriting is a sophisticated form of communication employing dots, lines, space shapes and assembling these into symbols/words to communicate with others. For most of us handwriting has become a learned, then an unconscious activity and in general we develop our own style that others can recognise.

With computers, handwriting has become less visible but most of us still write a diary note or shopping list, admire the copperplate style of old and sometimes prefer a written letter to an email. These introductory sessions will teach you how to analyse your own handwriting.

Leader Robijn (Alex) Alexandra has been interested in graphology and handwriting analysis in relation to her work as an art historian.

Weekly course 13, 20, 27 April **For bookings** contact Maree Sarsfield 0408 025 260 (txt only).



STILL LOOKING FOR AN INTERESTING NEW COURSE TO JOIN?

There are places available for the course:

WHERE DID THE MODERN SCHOOL COME FROM?

see page 9 Course Book Semester 1 for details or check online



STOP PRESS!!

Please note the following change to advertised start date for this course:

The course runs weekly starting Tuesday 2 March, then every Tuesday until 6 April 2021

HANNAFORD CENTRE ROZELLE - UPDATE

Thanks to our leaders Michael Georgeson, Sue Tronser, Verity Bagot and Barry Bidwell our Hannaford groups are up and running. With the latest notifications regarding lifting of some restrictions, it is anticipated that we may soon be able to increase numbers in each group. Members wishing to join these groups may soon be able to do so.

DISCUSSION GROUP AT HANNAFORD CENTRE - COVID SAFE STYLE!



From L to R: Therese Rockendorfer, Theresa Mortimer, Ken Merten, Barbara Oates, Bill Harris, John Whitlam and Barry Bidwell

LEICHHARDT ZOOM SESSIONS FOR MARCH

For those of you who have been enjoying our Zoom talks each Friday morning I feel sure you will agree they have really stimulated our minds and got us all back into the world of interesting topics provided by our speakers. See below for details of our March program:

5 MARCH

FRONTLINE OF THE PANDEMIC: AUSTRALIA 1919

Sourced from those letters and private archives, the doctors, nurses, patients, chaplains, teachers and reporters of 1919 tell their stories as frontline workers in the Spanish 'Flu epidemic. Dedicated to the front-line workers of 2020, their remarkable stories mirror what is happening in our Australia-wide communities today.

PRESENTER: PATRICIA SKEHAN

Trish worked for the Commonwealth Departments of Health, and then Immigration and Ethnic Affairs for over 17 years, before leaving to raise 3 daughters. Trish now lives on the Central Coast, and since 1999, until Covid-19 restrictions, she has travelled extensively to give over 1000 Heritage talks, many relating to Yaralla and the Walker family of Concord.

12, 19 & 26 MARCH

EUROPEAN PRESENCE IN ASIA: THE LAST 5 CENTURIES (3 Sessions)

Ottoman conquest of Constantinople in 1453 forced the Europeans to search for alternative maritime routes to the Indies...the fabled source of spices and silk. The Portuguese, Dutch, English, French: Five centuries of European presence in Asia saw the Dutch consolidate their power base in the East Indies, the British in India, Burma and Malaya and the French in Indo China. Japanese military aggression against the Chinese republic as well as the European colonies in Asia had a devastating impact on the European presence. All these events brought in profound changes and helped shape the world we live in today.

PRESENTER: HIMANSHU JHALA

The irrepressible Himanshu has been giving talks throughout USA for several years on a variety of topics relating to the movement of humanity over the ages so needs little introduction. We welcome him back for these sessions.

LEICHHARDT GROUPS POST-EASTER

LEICHHARDT ZOOM GROUP: There will be no session on 9 April, but a full program of zoom talks will recommence on 16 April and continue until 25 June. More details will be notified in next month's Newsletter and on the Website.

AT LEICHHARDT LIBRARY POST-EASTER

Commencing 9 April, we will be resuming our Friday Morning talks at the Library. Janice Millard has kindly agreed to convene these sessions. Thank you, Janice! Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, at the time of writing, this venue is still severely limited in the number of people allowed in the room, but we hope that by Easter the number could be doubled...so we will keep you posted on this. Here is the program for April:

FRIDAY MORNINGS AT LEICHHARDT LIBRARY

23 Norton Street (Italian Forum Piazza Level). Parking available. Wheelchair accessible

Venue Coordinator: Barbara Burton 9798 5620; 0429 090 332 barb.e.bur@gmail.com

Convenor and Bookings: Janice Millard rjmillard5@icloud.com 0419203 361

Bookings Essential.

Limited numbers permitted due to COVID restrictions.

9 April: CONVICT BONNET PROJECT: This talk tells the story of Doctor Christine Henri's (Hobart Museum) quest to discover and document the stories of female convicts sent to Hobart in the early years. She used the theme of people researching a particular story, and making a bonnet for that person, embroidering that name, and the ship and year sent to Australia on the brim. 'Bonnet Project' exhibits were mounted on the 'Tall Ships', the replicas of the old sailing ships that brought these women to Australia.

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16 April: Speaker: MUSEUM OF APPLIED ARTS AND SCIENCES/POWERHOUSE: The museum states that it is one of the few covering design, arts, technology and science. This covers its history, buildings, collection and important events.

PRESENTER: STEWART REED

Stewart has a diverse background involving many occupations and locations. He has run courses and presented at conferences in Australia, UK, Europe and the USA. An independent scholar, he now carries out research into art history, museum collections, museum management and associated areas. He has two Masters in museum studies.

23 & 30 April: FIJI: AN INSIDER'S PERSPECTIVE (PARTS 1 & 2): Fiji in the 1800's: tribal warfare, cannibalism, Cession, early Colonial era, arrival of the Indians. Independence: political adolescence, the coups, and the rebuilding ... as experienced personally by a local Fiji European.

PRESENTER: ANDREW DRYSDALE

Educated in Fiji, Andrew has spent many years in the Airline and Tourism industries in Fiji and returned to Australia as CEO of Hazelton Airlines (now REX) , then back to Singapore as Regional Director Asia Pacific for the International Air Transport Association (IATA). In 2007 he returned to Australia to lecture on aviation management at UNSW and consult to the aviation and tourism industries. He privately mentors young executives in those industries.

EVENTS FOR ALL

GUIDED TOUR OF CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION max 10

Tuesday 23 March (with possible repeat on Tuesday 13 April)

Leader: Beatrice Scheepers

Central Station is one of Sydney's grandest public buildings. Its construction was a huge undertaking, requiring the relocation of several cemeteries and the demolition of a large number of historic buildings. Come and explore the many stories associated with this site.

Meet at front entrance of Mercure Hotel, Railway Square at 9:30. Comfortable shoes, water and sunscreen are required.

Bookings essential: from 9:00 Monday 15 March to 5:00 Friday 19 March. Leader is unable to process bookings outside that period.

Email bookings only: beatricescheepers@gmail.com; 0402 969 004 (enquiries only).

Please provide telephone number, membership number and expiry date when booking.

PICNIC ON THE HAWKESBURY max 10

Friday 23 April

Leader: Beatrice Scheepers

This waterside walk is the ideal setting for appreciating the bush environment and having a look at the trees, shrubs and flowers that create this magical setting right on Sydney's doorstep. Along the way we'll discover the beauty of the banks, beaches, and sandstone landforms plus the spot where Australia's Constitution was drafted. BYO picnic lunch to enjoy in one of the prettiest settings in Sydney. This is a leisurely outing dictated by the eccentric public transport timetables.

Total distance: 6km. Requirements: Sturdy walking shoes, sun and rain protection, water and a reasonable level of fitness. Cameras recommended. Swim at own risk.

Train 8:45 from Central, CCN Line. Arrive Hawkesbury River 9:48, then ferry to Little Wobby. Return train 3:26 arriving Sydney 4:29.

Bookings essential: from 9:00 Tuesday 13 April to 5:00 Monday 19 April. Leader is unable to process bookings outside that period.

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PADDINGTON ART CRAWL max 10

Tuesday 4 May

Leader: Beatrice Scheepers

Paddington is a lively arts precinct, showcasing a wide range of creative talents. Come and enjoy some of the many studios and galleries, as well as Sydney's most beautiful butchery. Wear sun protection, walking shoes and carry water. Optional coffee/lunch afterwards at café at own cost.

Meet 10:00 at bus stop near corner of Oxford and William Streets Paddington. Bus routes 333, 352, 440.

Bookings essential: from 9:00 Monday 26 April to 5:00 Friday 30 April. Leader is unable to process bookings outside that period.

Email bookings only: beatricescheepers@gmail.com; 0402 969 004 (enquiries only).

Please provide telephone number, membership number and expiry date when booking.

THE OLD PIANO FACTORY max 10

Thursday 27 May

Leader: Beatrice Scheepers

Prior to World War 2, Beale's Piano Factory in Annandale was renowned as the largest piano factory in the British Empire. Even Queen Mary had one for her personal use at Buckingham Palace. Come and discover the unusual story of this building, including its unique wartime use. Coffee beforehand.

Meet at Annandale Post Office corner Johnston and Booth Streets at 9:30

Booking essential: from 9:00 Wednesday 19 May to 5:00 Monday 24 May. Leader is unable to process bookings outside that period.

Email bookings only: beatricescheepers@gmail.com; 0402 969 004 (enquiries only).

Please provide telephone number, membership number and expiry date when booking.

HOW COVID IS CHANGING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

from the editor Ronda Gaffey

*It is intriguing how many new words have crept into common usage in these covid times - we have been in **iso** or **self-isolated**, we are **elbow bumping** rather than shaking hands, there are **covidiots**, **anti-vaxxers**, the coronavirus is **corona** or **rona**, we have survived **lockdown**, applauded **frontline workers**, survived **hotel quarantine** and then there is **Hydroxychloroquine** and **PPEs**!*



WE ARE BACK

IN SHARING - GROWING - SOCIALISING

& WITH RENEWED PASSION!

