



u3a Endeavour (Southern) Region Newsletter

Updates and news from Committee Members, Course Leaders and Members



ROLL ON 2025

Welcome to all our new readers and welcome back to our long-time readers.

2024 was a busy year for Endeavour and it looks like 2025 is shaping up to be equally busy.

Our membership is on the rise each month, which is fabulous to see. This means that all the hard work that we have been conducting with presentations at Probus groups and expos is paying off.

Our social media presence is also proving to be successful in gaining new members to join the region. Seeing our posts on our activities appears to be enticing people to enquire and join. This goes the same for our Monthly Talks. The talks are open to non-members to attend, and we have had attendees join after coming to a talk and picking up the Endeavour Trifold brochure. And of course, word of mouth through family and friends continues to be the strongest way that people hear about us.

You know what this means. Keep spreading the word.

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Endeavour (Southern) Region Facebook Group

www.facebook.com/groups/U3AEndeavourSouthernRegion/

SYDNEY u3a Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/SydneyU3A>

SYDNEY u3a Website

<https://sydneyu3a.org>

Course Book Semester 1, 2025

By now you will have seen the Course Book for Semester 1. As always, there are lots of classes, activities and presentations to choose from. You will also see that there are new courses on offer.

- Appreciation of Classical Music
- From Maps to Memories
- Using Maps In Family History
- Photobooks for Absolute Beginners

NOTE

Appreciation of Classical Music

There was an error in the Course Book, where it showed that the classes were being held on Thursdays. This is incorrect. **They are on Wednesdays.** See dates below:

- January 15
- February 12
- March 12
- April 9
- May 14
- June 11

And remember, you can attend as many classes, activities and presentations as you want, across all seven regions of Sydney u3a.

Do you have an idea for a new course?

The committee are always on the look out for new courses (and Leaders). If you have an idea for a course and are happy to be a Leader, but you are unsure of what is involved or how to progress this idea, contact Judy, Regional Course Co-ordinator, who will be able to help.

Email: breenjju3a@gmail.com

Endeavour Campus Walkers 2024

Endeavour Campus Walkers has sourced walks north, south, east and west of Sydney over the two semesters of 2024.

Our members have led some 37 walks, all varying in length and graded as hard, medium or easy. Amongst those 37 walks, we had a walk and lunch at Bondi and an excursion to Dangar Island with lunch. We have learnt some history, about the wildlife and conservation along the way with lots of laughs and chatter.

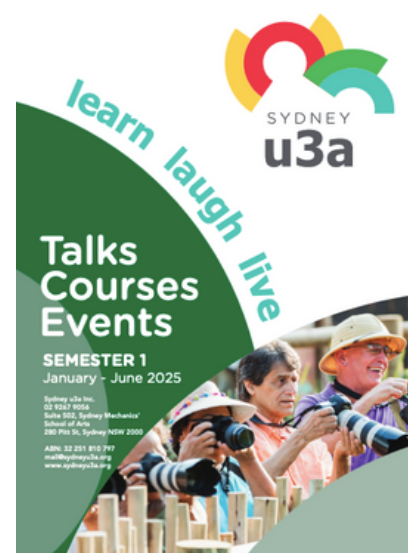


Leader: Christine Horrocks

christine.anne7@outlook.com

Bookings: June Symes

jsymes6@gmail.com



AN OVERVIEW OF THE ANCIENT HISTORY CLASS IN 2024

In 2024 we time travelled extensively through Ancient Mesopotamia from the Sumerians (5000-1750BC) to its conquest by the Persians in 539BC. Then we traversed to “The Younger Dryas” covering the ice-age, global climate, astronomy and its effect on early civilisations, finishing the year with the history of Japan from its Ancient to Modern periods.

In the first part of Semester 1, Peter Day took us to Ancient Mesopotamia, located between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers in current day Iraq and Syria and where Mesopotamia twice witnessed the rise and fall of various civilizations and empires over millennia (from around 5000 to 539BC).

Margaret Durie followed with a talk on the “Younger Dryas” (12,900 – 11,700BC), a severe climate change that drastically affected our planet and the life that existed then, wiping out mega fauna and severely reducing human populations.

In between we managed to slip in a slide presentation by Michael Darcy on archaeological sites he visited during his many travels to Italy, Egypt and Israel.

In the second semester of 2024, we briefly covered Japan’s journey through the Prehistoric and Ancient, Classical, Medieval and Modern periods in history. Interestingly, throughout history, Japan was never fully invaded nor colonised by foreigners. Japan only surrendered once after World War II.

2025 will be a very interesting year.

Leader: Olga Bondarenko olgab@ozemail.com.au
Bookings: Carmen Izquierdo marycarmeniz@hotmail.com



ARMCHAIR TRAVELLERS ~ Travel in Comfort

2025 is already shaping up to be a full year of travelling for *Armchair Travellers*.

Presentations like London to Glasgow, Mary’s Travel Memories, African Safaris, Mongolia ~ Land of the Eternal Blue Sky, and Iceland ~ Land of Fire and Volcanoes promise to be interesting.

Why not come along. You won’t even have to renew your passport.

When: The first and third Wednesday of each month, excluding school holidays.

Where: Cronulla School of Arts

Time: 10am - 12 noon

Bookings: Kate Churcher
kchurcher2@hotmail.com



Monthly Talk

DECEMBER 2024

**Understanding Australian Law ~
Parts 1 and Part 2**

Monday, December 2 and December 9

Presenter, David Hirsch

The last talk for 2024 was a two-part presentation and was well attended by around 60 members at each session. The presentations were a summary of the original six week course held earlier in the year. It was a fascinating insight into understanding Australian Law.

David talked about the constitution, legislation, common law, civil and criminal trials, the principles of the law of evidence and the problem of sentencing.

Everyone agreed that David did an outstanding job presenting to Endeavour.



Publicity

Seniors Week is here soon and this time we have been approached by Sutherland Council to run an event at Engadine Library. We are excited to be able to showcase u3a with an AV presentation and a taster class. Cherie Clover and Carol Cook will be presenting on u3a and Denis Paulin will present the taster class on *Brain Games*.

We already have some members from the Heathcote and Engadine area, so be sure to mention our event to any of your friends from that area. It would be a good way to find out about u3a.

As always, the best recommendation to join u3a is a personal one, so invite a friend to enjoy a class for FREE. Just let the Course Leader know.

~ Carol Cook, Publicity Co-ordinator, Sutherland Shire

You can support an Endeavour member

Helen Roberts an Endeavour member has an exhibition of her water colours at *Art Gallery Kurnell*, 6 Prince Charles Parade, Kurnell.

The gallery is a co-operative of local artists and is open on weekends from 10.00am - 3.00pm and during the holidays on Fridays

Browsing the gallery is a great addition to a drive to beautiful Kurnell.



MONTHLY TALKS

Semester 1, 2025

Something for everyone

Here is the complete list of our Monthly Talks for Semester 1. We hope to see you there and remember you can bring family and friends.

Pearls and Pearling in Australia (already presented)

Monday, January 20 10:30 to 12:00

Journey from a time before white settlement to the 'grab what you can' of the early settlers on the north coast of West Australia to the current sustainable pearling industry practices and hear about the mystique and glamour of some famous pearls.

Presenter: Gillian Lewis

How Musicals Are Made

Monday, February 3 10:30 to 12:00

How musicals are selected, cast, rehearsed, and staged and how it is now a big business.

Presenter: Tom Sweeney

Your Identity Is Important. Let's protect it!

Monday, March 10 10:30 to 12:00

ID Support NSW, the nation-leading identity support unit are working to minimise risks associated with identity theft. Learn how to: strengthen your cyber resilience to stay secure online, how to spot a scam, run credit checks, create and maintain strong passwords.

Presenter: Alicia Anderson

Tales From The Cemeteries

Tuesday, April 29 10.30 - 12.00

A grim title but a funny talk. The talk reveals the curious epitaphs written, unintentionally funny quotes and the outright lies told on memorials. There is an enormous amount of material to be found in cemeteries and nothing is more satisfying than to connect someone to an ancestor's grave.

Presenter: Judith Dunn

The Royal Flying Doctor Service

Monday, May 26 10.30 - 12.00

Learn about the history of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The primary and emergency medical care today for rural and remote Australia. How is it funded and what is the future?

Presenter: Greg Woodward

An Introduction to Forensic Science

Monday, June 16 10.30 - 12.30

We look at the history of Forensic Science across a number of disciplines, including Forensic Anthropology, together with a study of Forensic Entomology and the use of insects in the investigation of criminal matters.

Presenter: Ian Thompson



Cronulla School of Arts (Arts Theatre), Surf Road, Cronulla (just a short walk from the train station, or you can park for free for four hours on the top floor of the car park)

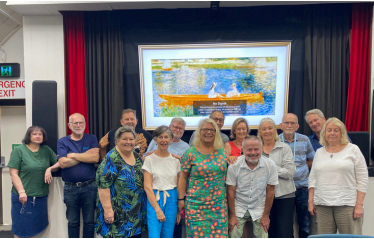
NO bookings required. Please bring a friend.

Entry: \$2.00 optional donation

Enquiries: cherie167@hotmail.com



A HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS



What's Happening

~ *Committee News*

Vacancy

Endeavour Treasurer

Dear Member,

We currently have a unique opportunity for someone to join our committee with a year of handover and support.

Our Treasurer, Ray Smith, will be leaving us and would like someone to work with him for the year before taking over the position.

The Treasurer's main duties are to pay the bills, claim reimbursements from Head Office, maintain the books, report monthly and contribute at the bi-monthly committee meetings. There is also the need to summarise the monthly membership report (in Excel), summarise attendance at the Cronulla School of Arts and prepare a budget at the end of the year.

Ray would be happy to explain the role further if you would like to email him raysmith020@gmail.com

My contact details are below if you would like to talk about the role.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you and your support.

Regards,

Cherie Clover

President u3a Endeavour (Southern) Region

Email: cherie167@hotmail.com

Vacancy

Endeavour Venue Co-ordinator

Dear Member,

Judy Breen, our Regional Course Co-ordinator and Venue Co-ordinator, has held both positions for over two years now and has done an outstanding job managing both roles.

Judy is stepping down from the Venue Co-ordinator's role and we are looking to fill the position as soon as possible.

The position will be fully supported by the Regional Course Co-ordinator and the members of the Endeavour committee.

Venue Co-ordinator's Role Description

- Maintain a relationship with existing and potential venue contacts.
- Source and inspect potential venues as required.
- Liase with course/class Leaders and Bookers.
- Maintain venue calendars.
- Work closely with Endeavour Treasurer, Regional Course Co-ordinator and Endeavour President.
- Attend bi-monthly committee meetings.

Judy would be happy to explain the role further if you would like to email her at breenju3a@gmail.com My contact details are also below if you would like to chat about the role.

Thank you.

Regards,

Cherie Clover

President u3a Endeavour (Southern) Region

Email: cherie167@hotmail.com

What's Happening

~ *Committee News*

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

- Janet Carberry and Patricia Ruell
- Lindsay Timewell and Margaret Selwood
- Diane Romberg and Denise van Voorst
- Kate Palmer and Susan Adams
- Kaye Rowe and Alison Chick
- Judith Kerr and Robert Spence
- Glenda Mestern and Steven Crouch

INTERESTING STATS ON NEW MEMBERS OF 2024

Based on a report received recently from Head Office, it is clear that word of mouth continues to be the main way we gain our new members. However, new members are now starting to come in via social media. From the initial concept of using social media in u3a a few years ago, new membership was then sitting at 2%. It is now at 8.7% for new members.

Another interesting fact provided is that the overall membership of males vs females is up. Now 27% males and 73% female, whereas it has been 25% males and 75% female for a long time. Not a huge increase, but definitely one in the right direction.

ENDEAVOUR FUN FACTS

What is the membership split?

- Males - 92
- Females - 384
- Total - 476

The average age of our members?

Excluding our 8 members who are allegedly 124 years old, the average age is 76.

What is the most common name in our region?

- Females are Margaret at 20, with Susan a distant second at 13.
- Males are Peter at 5, with John and Robert tying at 4.

AGM

u3a Endeavour (Southern) Region

Date: Thursday, March 20, 2025

Time: 10am

Where: Cronulla School of Arts (Arts Theatre), Surf Road.

SUMMIT UPDATE

Exciting News for 2025!

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming launch of our new online system, Summit, set to be available in April/May. This new system brings our capabilities and features up to date with current practices, ensuring an easy to use and secure experience for all our members.

With Summit, you will be able to:

- Easily find courses that you are interested in
- Book courses with a couple of mouse clicks
- Update your personal details
- Make secure payments

Summit will provide user-friendly screens for you, with clear directions to search for and book courses. Like modern websites, it will use photos and other images and be able to provide more information to you about our courses and events. Security of your data is a very high concern and is well catered for, which is especially important in this age of online scams.

Stay tuned for more updates as we approach the launch date!

Jennifer Waldron

President, Sydney u3a

DID YOU KNOW?

At the end of the year a comparison was done of the 2024 Sydney u3a membership figures to those at the end of 2023. As expected the overall number is down, but only by one! This means that we are holding steady.

From the seven regions, there are two regions who have increased their membership. Harbourside North and us, the Endeavour region.

Congratulations to Sydney u3a and in particular to Endeavour. Well done.