



# u3a Endeavour (Southern) Region Newsletter

*Updates and news from Committee Members, Course Leaders and Members*



## A Full and Fabulous Year

March is upon us and Semester 1 is well and truly up and running.

We have welcomed many new members this year and it's great to have several new courses on offer for Semester 1. Perhaps you have already tried one. There has been lots of positive feedback from members already. Two Monthly Talks have taken place and the March talk is just around the corner. Keep an eye out for the remaining Monthly Talks for Semester 1.

Our Publicity Co-ordinator for the Shire, Carol Cook, has already presented to a group at Engadine Library for Seniors Week. You can see the story inside the newsletter. Clare Cagney, Publicity Co-ordinator for Georges River and Bayside Councils will share future plans for these areas in the April newsletter.

Two of our SUMMIT Champions have had to pull out due to other commitments. However, Kay Knight has joined the team as an Endeavour Champion for the new on-line booking system and website and will help with the transition over to the new system.

Let's continue to make 2025 a full and fabulous year.

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### Endeavour (Southern) Region Facebook Group

[www.facebook.com/groups/U3AEndeavourSouthernRegion/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/U3AEndeavourSouthernRegion/)

### SYDNEY u3a Facebook Page

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

### SYDNEY u3a Website

<https://sydneyu3a.org>

## Course and Venue Updates

~*Judy Breen, Regional Course Co-ordinator and Venue Co-ordinator*

Welcome to Kay Knight who has volunteered to assist and be an Endeavour Champion for the new on-line booking system. Kay has started training.

Margaret Durie's course, *Appreciation of Classical Music* continues to be popular with members who are enjoying the variety of the program that Margaret has compiled.

The month of March is shaping up to be very busy with 81 classes and presentations on offer. Did you know the busiest day of the month for classes is the first Wednesday of the month with seven classes on offer spread all over the Sutherland Shire? There is always something for everyone.

The Cronulla School of Arts has generously installed a large Smart TV in the Activity Room compatible with our mobile WiFi to further enhance class presentations.

Endeavour recently purchased two microphones for classes and presentations for use at the Cronulla School of Arts. With the larger classes and popular talks held there, the microphones are being put to good use and allow the audience to hear other members questions more clearly when participating in the Q&A sessions.

### Do you have an idea for a new course?

The committee is 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: [breenju3a@gmail.com](mailto:breenju3a@gmail.com)

## Appreciation of Classical Music

~*Margaret Durie, Leader*

The *Appreciation of Classical Music* course, held the second Wednesday of the month at the Cronulla School of Arts, got off to a flying start in January when the group learned about the origins of the concerts that we know today, starting with the composers Hayden, Mozart and Beethoven.

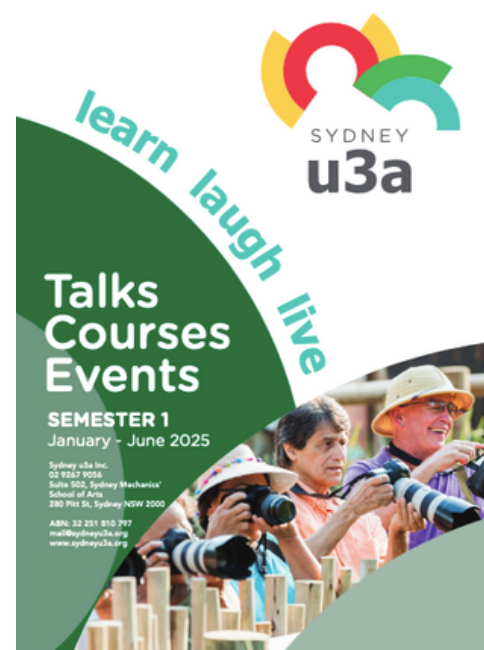
In the coming months we will continue with the venues featuring the Sydney Opera House and Vienna, the conductors and the musicians, ending in a grand finale in the final session of the first semester.

A relaxing, and enjoyable day full of beautiful music while learning about that music and the people that make it happen.

**Leader: Margaret**

**Bookings: Cherie**  
[cherie167@hotmail.com](mailto:cherie167@hotmail.com)

**Bookings: Judy**  
[breenju3a@gmail.com](mailto:breenju3a@gmail.com)





## SUMMIT Update

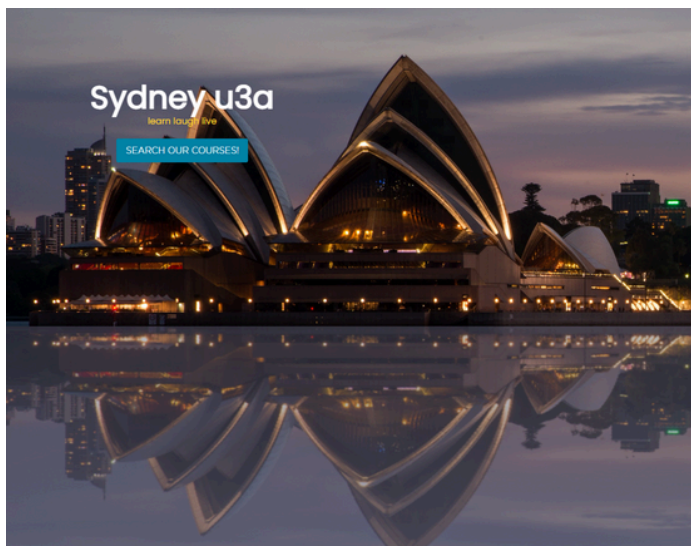
Following on from our President's message to announce the upcoming launch of our new online system called SUMMIT, this is an update of progress for February 2025. And we'll be providing updates to you regularly.

Leading up to the launch date, our volunteers are very fortunate to be able to get hands on time on the new system. Training has commenced for our Champions, who will be the "go to" people in your area. Their feedback has been very positive, but we're also identifying areas where improvements can be made. We are very fortunate to have a vendor who is responsive to our needs, and who has been able to incorporate many of our suggestions into SUMMIT.

Training for all our volunteers will be scheduled before the launch, so don't worry, if you are a volunteer you will be advised soon about your training options.

So what's happening to our "bread and butter" courses and events that we run for our members? Currently all courses for this semester have been included in SUMMIT. And for live running we will be adding the courses for the second semester of 2025 into SUMMIT. The final details of how we'll do that are being confirmed and will be available when we kick off the compilation of the course book as usual around early March. The excitement is building. If you haven't been already, soon you will be part of it.

Keith Crowe  
For the SUMMIT Core Team



## Publicity Report

~Carol Cook, *Publicity Co-ordinator*  
*Sutherland Shire*

Welcome back everyone!

We know that personal recommendation is the most successful kind of publicity, and I'm delighted to find that many members are prepared to help spread the word. Thank you to all those who have volunteered to deliver our Trifold brochure to sites in their local area.

Our region covers a large area, over an hour to drive from one end to the other. To help overcome the problem of spreading our publicity more evenly across the region Clare Cagney has volunteered to concentrate on St. George and Bayside publicity and I will concentrate on the southern end of the region. Thanks Clare.

Cherie, Denis Paulin and I recently had the opportunity to give a presentation introducing u3a, plus a taster class on *Brain Games*, at Engadine Library. This is in response to an invitation from the library and is related to Seniors Week. There were about 30 people attending and we had a great time. There is always lots of fun with *Brain Games*. We have had some new members recently from the Engadine area and would love some more!

More next month.



# Maps to Memories

~Judy Breen, Regional Course  
Co-ordinator

## Leader Jeff Madsen first of two presentations

Endeavour members recently attended and enjoyed the *Maps to Memories* presentation by Jeff Madsen as he brought to life the history behind the development and growth of suburban Sutherland Shire, originally known as Southerland, with maps, photos and anecdotes. Jeff provided information links to a number of resources freely available to research the growth of the Sutherland Shire from a popular holiday destination for graziers to the heavily populated suburbs we now live in.

These include HLRV - Historical Land Records Viewer, which holds Parish Maps, Torrens Purchasers; Shire Maps with extensive Aerial Photography 1930 to 2024 showcasing the growth of the Shire; State Library of NSW which has Subdivision Plans and Maps and Trove Research which provides a bounty of copies of magazines, photos, maps, images, diaries and the key to finding family history and people of interest.

Sutherland Library also has an extensive online Local History Timeline full of photos capturing the rapid changes brought about, as an example, with the building of Tom Uglys Bridge and the rail line to Cronulla.

## Member comments on the presentation:

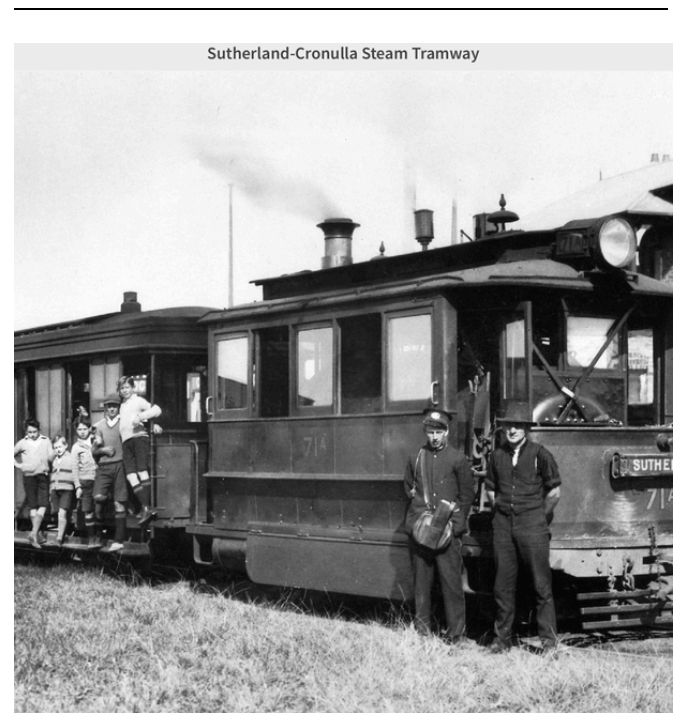
*"I thought the most interesting part of the last talk was the information about sources for finding out relevant information re blocks of land and housing developments. I was unaware of the names of the developers and interested in where and why they bought where they did. The early maps and photos were fascinating. Surprising to learn also that so many blocks were bought by rural buyers. A very good talk, thoroughly researched. Another facet of the talk was the reference to the tram service that ran in Sutherland Shire, very efficiently, for quite a while. I had never heard of it before. Thanks, Janet."*

*"I found this talk really interesting. I'm not a family historian, but the story of how the Shire was carved up in those early years is relevant to my understanding of how my parents came to be living in Miranda in the very early 1950s."*

*"I was most surprised to learn that the land was not sub-divided by the Government, but essentially by private individuals. Thank you, Clare."*

Jeff's second presentation *Using Maps in Family History* will show how an easily sourced simple map can be researched to add life and colour to your family story. The presentation will be held on **Monday March 31, at 10am - 12 noon** at the Cronulla School of Arts, upstairs (lift available) in the Lecture room.

**For bookings email: Judy Breen**  
[breenju3a@gmail.com](mailto:breenju3a@gmail.com)





# So Many Classes So Little Time



For the first walk of the year, 13 people from the *Walking in Sydney and Surrounds* group walked around the peninsular at Hawkesbury River (it used to be known as Brooklyn).

**Leader and Bookings: Teresa and John**  
[teresalamberton@hotmail.com](mailto:teresalamberton@hotmail.com)



A happy, friendly group of *Flavour of the Month* members lunched at *Sri Arun Thai* at Mortdale. Some new members and two visitors joined, plus members returning from holidays. This added to the chatter and laughter. Let's see where March will take us. Thank you Barbara for organising a great lunch.

**Leader: Cherie** [cheriel67@hotmail.com](mailto:cheriel67@hotmail.com)  
**Bookings: Carol** [cook44271@gmail.com.au](mailto:cook44271@gmail.com.au)



Members of the *Art History* course enjoyed a fascinating presentation on Salvador Dali. There was plenty of discussion during morning tea as well.

The group meets the second and fourth Tuesdays from 10am to 12 noon at the Cronulla School of Arts.

**Leader: Margaret** [m.kingston1@bigpond.com](mailto:m.kingston1@bigpond.com)  
**Bookings: Teresa**  
[teresalamberton@hotmail.com](mailto:teresalamberton@hotmail.com) or  
 Carol [cook44271@gmail.com.au](mailto:cook44271@gmail.com.au)



*Endeavour Campus Walkers* on one of their walks followed by lunch at Hunters Hill. During lunch members reminisced about their many walks. All members enjoyed the walk and lunch. There are some members not pictured.

**Leader:** **Christine**  
[Christine.anne7@outlook.com](mailto:Christine.anne7@outlook.com)  
**Bookings: June** [jsymes6@gmail.com](mailto:jsymes6@gmail.com)



# So Many Classes So Little Time

## *Ancient and Medieval History*

If you love ancient history, these are the topics that will be covered in Semester 1. We would love to see you here and we welcome new members.

Alexander the Great (356 BC- 323 BC) King of Macedonia and Persia who established the largest empire the ancient world had ever seen in a remarkably short time.

The Story of the Levant and its people (from approx. 3500BC), from Gaza to Lebanon, focusing on the collapse of the Bronze Age which changed the course of history suddenly and dramatically.

Hannibal the Great (247BC – 182BC), The life of a Carthaginian general and one of the greatest military leaders of antiquity.

First and third Tuesday each month  
10:00 to 12:00 at the Cronulla School of Arts  
(excluding school holidays).

**Leader:** Olga [olgab@ozemail.com.au](mailto:olgab@ozemail.com.au)

**Bookings:** Carmen [marycarmeniz@hotmail.com](mailto:marycarmeniz@hotmail.com)



*Drawing with Colour* returned from the Christmas New Year break with Ivan Noacco running our first two lessons on the Geisha.

*Drawing with Colour* welcomed three new members to our happy throng, namely Denise Van Vorst, Judy Kerr and Thelma Pimm. We hope you will continue to enjoy our art. Already I can see improvements.

**Leader:** Christine

[Christine.anne7@outlook.com](mailto:Christine.anne7@outlook.com)

**Bookings:** Kerrie [kerriegowen65@icloud.com](mailto:kerriegowen65@icloud.com)



13 members from *Shire Sketchers* recorded the morning in their sketch books at the Caringbah War Memorial which is in the small park next to the Caringbah Hotel.

**Leaders:** Peggy [peggy.annabel@bigpond.com](mailto:peggy.annabel@bigpond.com)

Carol [cook44271@gmail.com.au](mailto:cook44271@gmail.com.au)

**Bookings:** Anne [anneodonn@gmail.com](mailto:anneodonn@gmail.com)

# Sydney u3a 18th Literary Festival February 2025

~ Robert Englund, *At The Cinema*

The Greater West Region organised the recent Literary Festival. The theme was crime literature. I was invited to present a talk on *Crime at the Cinema*.

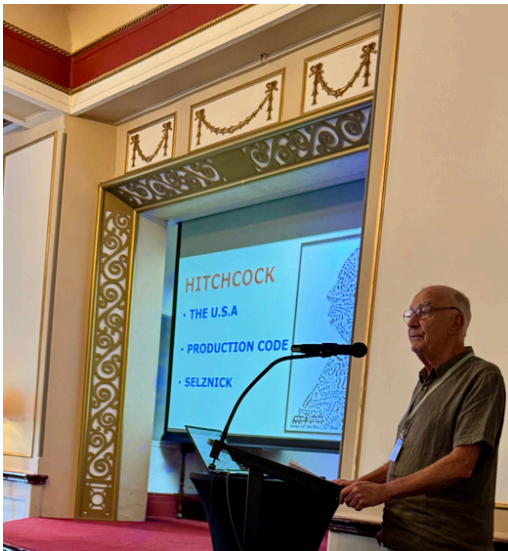
I was impressed by the organising committee's preparations. The Carrington Hotel, Katoomba, was an evocative location with good accommodation, friendly and efficient staff, excellent food and comfortable conference facilities.

The various speakers covered crime writing across several countries. Several Australian authors participated and I learnt much about the challenges of crime fiction.

Alfred Hitchcock's films were the basis of the approach to my talk. I introduced the screening of his film *North by Northwest* on the first night and participated in the final session, a panel discussion, on aspects of crime writing and cinema.

Several Endeavour members attended and it was delightful to share the experience with them.

My thanks to the organising committee and the presenters for an excellent literary experience. I look forward to hearing of the plans for the 19th Festival in 2026.



# Another Fabulous Literary Event

~ Anne Williams, *Endeavour Attendee*

It was a fab time. *The Carrington* looked after us and provided excellent accommodation and wonderful food. The afternoon teas were to die for. Warm scones with jam galore and cr eam.

The lunches were amazing and the dinners absolutely delicious with wine included.

Movie night was with Robert Englund showing *North by Northwest*, starring Cary Grant and Eva Marie Saint.

Crime throughout the world was the topic. Authors from the Blue Mountains and everywhere else; from u3a speakers on Korea, Japan, Italy and the UK.

I hope I can attend next year as it's such a great time. A few from Endeavour attended and I shuttled home some from the Blue Mountains as the trains were not running Friday morning.

An excellent time, great weather, great u3a folk and an excellent venue and accommodation. I hope to go again next year.



# What's Happening

~ *Committee News*

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

- Kate Dobinson
- Jennifer Carroll
- Heather Clark
- Susan Munro
- Pauline Dellow
- Janet Davies
- Eurydice Kathestides
- Jennifer Wilson
- Gerard Reynolds
- Helen D'Arcy
- Janene Eagleton

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## u3a Endeavour (Southern) Region AGM

You are invited to attend our annual Endeavour AGM on:

Thursday, March 20, 2025  
10am - 10.45am

Cronulla School of Arts (Arts Theatre), Surf Road,  
Cronulla

Followed by coffee at a local cafe

The AGM will take on the same format as 2024 -  
*short, sharp and simple.*

### Vacant Positions

We have two committee positions that will become available following the AGM. They are the roles of Treasurer and Venue Co-ordinator. Both positions are critical in ensuring that the region continues to run smoothly.

- Ray Smith our Treasurer will stay on for another year and help the new Treasurer transition into the role for 2026.
- Judy Breen our Venue Co-ordinator who is also our Regional Course Co-ordinator, will assist and support the new person in the handover of this role.

Thank you and if you have any questions regarding the AGM or either of the roles, please let me know  
[cherie167@hotmail.com](mailto:cherie167@hotmail.com)

## Sydney u3a AGM

Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Time: 10am

Where: Henry Carmichael Theatre, Sydney  
Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney

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## RECENT FUN FACT

55% of people used a desktop to access the website; 38% used a mobile phone and surprisingly only 7% used tablets.

### Pages searched:

Top pages proved predictable, but it is pleasing to see that the Flip Book is popular, justifying its annual subscription.

### Top Posts/Pages:

1. Sydney u3a – Courses, activities for seniors
2. Flip Course Book - Courses, activities for seniors
3. Membership
4. Regions
5. Inner West
6. Northern Beaches
7. About our Courses
8. Upper North
9. Harbourside North
10. **Endeavour**

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*Walking in Sydney and Surrounds* featured on the cover.