



U3A Northern Illawarra Inc. A Bridge to Learning



Newsletter No. 66

Editor: Ainslie Lamb

Term 2 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have had a great start to the year with nearly 200 members renewing or seeking membership. All of our small groups are going well and we have been enjoying a great program of speakers on Wednesday mornings. We are always on the lookout for new speakers so if you have an interesting topic to speak about or can suggest a good speaker, please let Judy Gibbs or Graham Smith know (their contact details on the back of this newsletter).

Our trivia teams were successful in regaining the trophy that we have won on 2 previous occasions in the Shellharbour Seniors Trivia Challenge. Our Seniors' Festival debate with Bulli High School was very successful and we plan to hold another debate in Seniors' Festival next year. The annual State U3A Conference is coming up in April, to be held in Tamworth, and some of our committee members will be attending it.

Foundation member and long-serving Committee member Glad Doherty has moved to Nelson Bay. Glad was a member of the original Steering Committee which established our U3A, and in addition to serving in various committee roles continuously since then, co-ordinated a Creative Writing group for several years. We will miss her smiling face and wish her well in her new home,

To all our members, old and new, have a great term!

Judy Bull

Term 2 – commences Monday 29th April, concludes Friday 28th June.
[Note that Monday 10th June is Queen's Birthday Holiday – no classes.]

The Great Debate - Seniors Festival, 20th February 2019

Northern Illawarra U3A challenged students of Bulli High School to "The Great Debate", on the topic "That the Generation Gap is Widening". The debate was adjudicated by Cr Gordon Bradbery AM, Lord Mayor of Wollongong.

The students, labelled by one of the U3A speakers as 'the digital generation', argued the negative case, and won by a mile! Their preparation, arguments and oratorical skills were far superior to the 'organic generation' (as the U3A speaker referred to us). Here, Lani Taylor addresses the audience.



Photo: Adam McLean, Illawarra Mercury, 21 February 2019

The audience included grandparents, and students from local primary schools, as well as regular U3A members, and the so-called Generation Gap was clearly bridged by the event. The students were presented with certificates to commemorate the event, and the teams mingled together over lunch afterwards. There was mutual consensus that "we must do this again next year!"

Membership Subscriptions 2019

Membership fees are \$50 per year or \$25 per half year. New members and Renewals need to complete the membership form (available at the front desk, or download from the website) and either (a) paying in cash or cheque on a Wednesday, or (b) posting it to the Treasurer at PO Box 849 Thirroul 2515, or (c) you can make your payment online (details **Payee:** U3A NI Inc BSB: 641 800 Account No: 200420144). In the event of (c) email your form to the treasurer and advise when you made the payment.

Sue Rejske, Treasurer

Membership badges

Membership badges are prepared and available about a week after new members submit their applications, and can be collected from the front desk on Wednesdays. Please wear your membership badge to all sessions: this helps us all get to know each other. Also, the Committee suggests that Important Information should be readily available in case of emergency, and the most appropriate place for this is on the back of your membership badge where it can be quickly accessed. Please write on the back of your membership card: (a) ICE – a phone contact In Case of Emergency and (b) any special medical requirements or information (eg. allergies) or where that information can readily be found.

Morning tea

Wednesday is our regular meeting day, with morning tea provided between sessions in the foyer. It's a real 'buzz' as people chat together and meet new friends. But it doesn't happen without the effort of a band of volunteers to set up and clear away. Without them there would be no morning tea. Members (men and women) are asked to take turns on the roster for setting up and clearing away – just write your name into the date on the sign-on sheet when you can help out. Finally, members are reminded to contribute a gold coin for morning tea, to defray its cost.



Bookstall – The next dates for Dorn's "bring and buy" bookstall are *15th May* and *19th June*. Bring along 1 or 2 good books or magazines. Proceeds go towards U3A recurrent expenses.

Excursion to National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour Sydney

Thursday 23rd May 2019

Go Aboard Submarine HMAS *Onslow*
and Kay Cottee's *First Lady*



Wildlife Photo Of The Year Exhibition

Group Admission Fee \$16 Pay at Venue
Train Thirroul Dep 8.48am (Second Carriage From Front)
Further information -: Joan Fleming 0468 964 048

Thankyou to the staff at the office of Sharon Bird MHR, who print the newsletter for us.

WEDNESDAYS AT THE THIRROUL DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE

Term 2 Program – 9.30am to 12noon in the Excelsior Hall

With morning tea 10.30 – 11.00am

Speakers marked * are members of the Northern Illawarra U3A.

Week 1 - 1 May

9.30 am	The History and General Impact of the Bible	David Goss*
11.00am	Cycling Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos	Graham Smith*

David's talk examines what the Bible is, what it says, and who wrote it, from a non-theological viewpoint. Graham has recently returned from his cycling tour, but will focus on Cambodia after the American (aka Vietnam) War and the Khmer Rouge.

Week 2 - 8 May

9.30 am	The Family History Project	Dr Rie Natalenko
11.00am	A Vision for Wollongong	Cr Gordon Bradbery AM

Dr Natalenko is the director of The Family Memory Project, which helps people to gather, record and preserve their family stories. Cr Bradbery is the Lord Mayor of Wollongong.

Week 3 – 15 May

9.30 am	Desert Rose, Solar Houses, Energy Efficiency	Clayton McDowell
11.00am	Assimilation of Refugees in Wollongong	Rev Geoffrey Flynn

Clayton McDowell is a Ph.D Research student at the University of Wollongong, and Project Manager of the Desert Rose Project, which focuses on building homes that are sustainable and fit for all stages of life. Rev Geoffrey Flynn is the Minister of the Wesley Uniting Church on the Mall, Wollongong, which has been at the forefront of helping refugees settle in our community.

Week 4 – 22 May

9.30 am	The Importance of Caring for Your Feet	Paul Thompson
11.00am	Immigration Heritage Illawarra	

Paul Thompson is a local qualified podiatrist. Some very gentle exercise may be encouraged during his presentation. The Illawarra Migration Heritage Project Inc, formed in 2001 as a non-profit group, supports research, promotion and facilitation of a wider understanding of migrant cultural heritage in Wollongong and the region.

Week 5 - 29 May – Reconciliation Week

9.30 am	Aboriginal Spirituality	Stuart Traynor
11.00am	Who Shot Tutankhamen?	Greg Scott

Stuart Traynor has been a teacher, a National Parks officer, a historian and an author, working with Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory over many decades. This talk focuses on the Arrente people of Central Australia. He is a member of Wollongong U3A. Greg Scott is also a member of Wollongong U3A, and has made many presentations to our U3A.

Week 6 – 5 June

9.30 am	Wollongong's Nan Tien Temple	
11.00am	Pioneering Visions of an Australian Garden	Wendy Leatheam and Margaret Stillburn

A spokesperson for the Nan Tien Temple will explain Buddhism amid a Western culture. Wendy Leatheam and Margaret Stillburn are members of Kiama U3A. This talk showcases the work of Australian women pioneers of garden design.

Week 7 – 12 June

9.30 am	The Story of the C17th Swedish Warship <i>Vasa</i>	Patricia Henderson, historian
11.00am	'Old in Art School' – by Nell Painter	Graham Smith*

"Old in Art school" describes the hurdles faced by being African-American, female, facing mortality and becoming an artist.

Week 8 – 19 June

9.30 am	A Short History of New Zealand	Brian Loughlin *
11.00am	African Wildlife Safari (photography)	Colin Markham

Week 9 – 26 June

9.30 am	Australia's Endangered Species	Judy Gibbs*
11.00am	Sir Joseph Banks	Michael O'Connor

Michael O'Connor is the Wollongong Botanic Gardens Education Officer – his presentation may involve some audience imagination and participation!

Co-ordination of the Wednesday Talks Program – please read this!

The Term 2 program has been co-ordinated by Judy Gibbs and Graham Smith. They are currently working on organising the Term 3 program, but need more people to help with organising Terms 3 and 4 speakers. Member presentations and suggestions of speakers (with contact details) are welcome. Are YOU prepared to help with this, and spread the work load? If so, please talk with Judy about joining the co-ordinating team.

FUNDRAISING TRIVIA NIGHT

Thursday 12th September 2019, commencing at 7pm,
at Thirroul Bowling Club, Station Street, Thirroul.

Form a team of 6-8 people per table – family and friends welcome,
or we can make up a team for you.

Entry \$10 per person – snacks and drinks available at Club prices.
(No BYO liquid refreshments – snacks and lollies OK)

For further information, contact Joan 0468 964 048 or jonicat7@gmail.com

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS AND CLASSES DURING TERM 2

New members are welcome at all our groups – contact the co-ordinator for more information or just turn up on the day. Don't forget to wear your membership badge!

The following groups are held at the Thirroul Community Centre

Arts Hub - (Convenor - Ainslie Lamb, Ph: 4283 7818 email:ainslie2518@gmail.com) – 2nd and 4th Tuesdays 11 – 12.30pm, Ocean Breeze Room. The program utilises quality DVDs on subjects of art and artists, music and musicians, architecture and other genres of artistic endeavour.

Term 2 program:

14th May – *Getting Frank Gehry* (includes the Dr Chau Chak Wing Building, UTS Sydney)

28th May -*Art and Soul* – Contemporary Aboriginal Art

11th June – *Finding the Field* – Australia's First Abstract Art Exhibition 1967

25th June – *The Buena Vista Social Club*

Australian Studies (Convenor – Bill Barnetson,)

– 2nd and 4th Mondays, 1.30 – 3pm, Black Diamond Room.

An opportunity to analyse and discuss aspects of Australian history and culture, usually two topics per session, led by individual members. Topics for Term 2 are:

13th May – 1.30 – Diana Bernard: Seniors Rights Service

2.15 – Tamara Jero – Australian Birds

27th May - 1.30 – Ron Browne and Ainslie Lamb – Flynn of the Inland

2.15 – TBA

10th June – No class (public holiday)

24th June – 1.30 – Roy Tang: Italian Migrants in Australia

2.15 – Australian Navy Clearance Divers (DVD)

Balance'n'Bones (Co-ordinator - Helen Whelan).

Gentle aerobic, balancing and stretching exercises for both men and women, weekly during term, Mondays 9.30 – 10.30 commencing 29th April and concluding 24th June. NOTE: No class on 10th June due to public holiday..

Wear light clothing, flat shoes, bring weights if you have them, and water bottle.

Book Clubs (Co-ordinator – Bronwen Cole)

There are currently three book clubs meeting monthly in the library.

One concentrates on the classics from 1850 to 1950.

The other two have a wide range of general reading.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Bronwen at U3A on a Wednesday morning or ring on 4267 1837

Brain Games (Co-ordinator Ainslie Lamb) – 2nd and 4th Tuesdays , 9.30 – 11am, in the Ocean Breeze Room.

A variety of amusing activities and creative challenges to stimulate different parts of the brain. Bring paper, pencil and a sense of humour.

Term 2 dates – 14th and 28th May, 11th and 25th June



Drawing and Painting (Co-ordinator and tutor Jeannette Southam, Ph. 4285 1986) –
2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 11am-1pm Escarpment Room.

Unleash your creative talents for visual expression or just for the joy of it.
Term 2 dates – 14th and 28th May, 11th and 25th June

The **Current Affairs** group meets on the first and third Monday at 1.30 pm in the Black Diamond Room. A theme is discussed for the first 30 minutes and then 30 minutes is devoted first to domestic affairs and then to International Affairs, not necessarily in that order. They are set out below. All are invited to attend to listen participate or both. Theme topics this Term.

6th May - - General Discussion

20th May - Migration (Wolfgang)

3rd June - Our climate change future – (Ann Brown)

17th June - Brexit – (Bill Barnetson)

For further information contact the Convenor Wolfgang Kullik (wolfandtricia@gmail.com) or the deputy convenor Ann Brown (annbrown.bristol@gmail.com).

U3A Northern Illawarra Film Society – film appreciation group.

Weekly Wednesdays, 12.30 – 3.00pm in the Excelsior Hall, Leader Rick Thompson.

Commences 1st May and concludes 26th June - See p.8 for Term 2 program.

Italian Conversation (Convenor - Freda Turner, Tutors Pina MacPherson and Laura Honner) –
Venerdi (Fridays) during term, commencing 3 maggio and concluding 28 luglio
9.30 -11.00am in the Ocean Breeze Room. Open to anyone with some experience in Italian.

Reading Allowed/Aloud (Co-ordinator Ainslie Lamb) , 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 11am – 12.45pm, in the Ocean Breeze Room.

Term 2 dates – 7th and 21st May, 4th and 18th June

Reading aloud to others is a great way of sharing plays, books and short stories, and an opportunity to listen and reflect on other times, other viewpoints, other possibilities.

The convenor initiates the program (this term we will try to identify the 10 greatest C19th and C20th novels), but participants also have the opportunity to share a wide range of readings – humour, poetry, stories, philosophy, and whatever else takes our members’ fancy. Non-readers are warmly invited as listeners.

Philosophy Forum (Convenor Roy Tang: email – susiben@hotmail.com) 1st and 3rd Tuesdays ,
9.30-11.00am in the Ocean Breeze Room..

Term 2 dates – 7th and 21st May, 4th and 18th June: Topics to be determined at the first meeting.

In the meantime, for your consideration: A young monk reaches a swollen river. Eager to cross to the other bank, he can find no bridge, no stepping stones, no passing canoe. Eventually, he sees an older monk on the opposite bank. “Hey”, calls the younger man, “How do I get to the other side?

“You’re already there”, says the older monk.

Quick quiz (answers on p. 8)

1. What is the name of the residence of the New Zealand Head of State?
2. What was the name of the Prime Minister in 1974?

The following activities are held at different locations

Lawrence Hargrave U3A Stanwell Park

1A Railway Crescent, Stanwell Park, Hillcrest House, behind Kennett Home and Hillcrest Village. Mondays 9.30 am to 12.30pm. The first Session begins at 9.30am and the second Session begins at 11am after Morning Tea. The second session is usually Music Appreciation. For further information contact Jenny on 4294 3475 or 0406 350 025

29 April	Mustafa Kemal Ataturk	John Watson
6 May	Dunera Boys	Ainslie Lamb
13 May	Helen of Troy (DVD)	Penny Oerlemans
20 May	Current Affairs	Group Discussion
27 May	Pluto in Capricorn and its Ramifications	Jenny Lee-Robins
3 June	Reconciliation: Radio Interview with 2 young Indigenous Australians	
10 June	The Michaelangelo Code (cracking the secrets of the Sistene Chapel) DVD	<i>NOTE: subject to confirmation as this is a public holiday</i>
17 June	Mary Reibey – the woman on the \$20 note	John Ryan
24 June	The Sistene Chapel	Patrick de Gabriele

Table Tennis – (Convenor John Ryan) – weekly on Thursdays, 10 am – 12pm at the Senior Citizens Hall, 8 Hospital Road Bulli, *Commencing 2nd May concluding 27th June.* All gear (bats, table tennis balls etc) is provided, but players should wear appropriate footwear and bring a water bottle. Play for fun and fitness.

Illawarra U3A Choir (Convenor Margaret Stratton, Musical Director Yvonne McColl) - practices in Room 1-2 , close to the car park at the Wollongong Conservatorium of Music, Glenifer Brae, Murphy’s Avenue, Keiraville, from 1 – 3pm on Tuesdays during term, *commencing 1st May..*

New members very welcome – no auditions, just come along and enjoy singing together. It’s well documented that singing with a choir is good for your physical and mental health, and improves your sense of social cohesion and wellbeing. From time to time, the Choir gives recitals at each of the four Illawarra U3As whose members are in the choir, as well as at local Retirement Villages and Nursing Homes.

Heart Foundation Walking Group –The Sandpipers walking group Meet at Sandon Point carpark at the end of Point street Bulli on Thursdays .Walk from April to November 8.45 am for 9.00 am The walk takes approx 1 hour about 4km return walk to Bridge at Woonona where we attempt to spot any local wildlife. Walk so you can talk. The group go for coffee on the last Thursday walk of the month. There are occasional lunches through the year and a walk in another location. Dogs on leashes welcome. Wear comfortable clothes and walking shoes, wear a hat and bring a bottle of water. Please contact Lindsay Margaret 0404 339 508 for any further info.

Our U3A is a member of the U3A Network NSW. There are 68 U3As in the Network, plus 20 interstate U3As. The Network produces a quarterly newsletter *Newslink*, which regularly includes items from various U3As about events or classes that they conduct. *Newslink* is well worth reading to share the interesting range of activities, as well as other more general information of interest to individual U3A members. You can access *Newslink* under the Newsletters menu tab on the Northern Illawarra U3A website. www.northernillawarra.u3anet.org.au

U3A NORTHERN ILLAWARRA FILM SOCIETY - TERM 2, 2019

Venue – Excelsior Hall, Thirroul Library and Community Centre, 12.30 – 3.30 each Wednesday during term commencing 1 May and concluding 26 June

Co-ordinator: Rick Thompson. Visitors are welcome.

These sessions are about discussing the film(s), not simply watching them. A discussion follows each screening. Short films or excerpts may accompany some programs. Those films marked * will be screened with subtitles for the hard of hearing.

- May 1 *Rome Open City** (Italy, 1945, 105 mins.) Directed by Roberto Rossellini. With Anna Magnani. The masterpiece of Italian neorealist filmmaking. During the German occupation of Rome, resistance fighters face brutal challenges from the Nazis — and problems of betrayal.
- May 8 *They're A Weird Mob* (Australia, 1966, 107 mins.) Directed by Michael Powell. With Chips Rafferty, Walter Chiari, Claire Dunno. Great English director Powell came to Australia to make a film about an immigrant Italian trying to make his way in, well, weird Aussie culture of the time.
- May 15 *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* (USA, 1992, 125 mins.) Directed by Jon Anvet. With Kathy Bates, Jessica Tandy, Moving presentation of small-town life in rural Alabama, probing the developments of families and friendships across time.
- May 22 *Zero de Conduite** (France, 1933, 44 mins.) Directed by Jean Vigo.
*A Day In the Country ** (France, 1936, 40 mins.) Directed by Jean Renoir.
Double bill. Two classic short feature films by two of the greatest French directors of the century: Vigo's tale of a boarding school student rebellion, and Renoir's lyric presentation of a romantic rural outing.
- May 29 *Rancho Notorious** (USA, 1952, 85 mins.) With Marlene Dietrich, Arthur Kennedy, Mel Ferrer. In the 1950s, westerns became much more complex and modern than they had been. Here saloon star Dietrich is enmeshed in a murder and revenge story directed by Fritz Lang (*M*; *Metropolis*; *Fury*).
- June 5 *The Thin Man** (USA, 1934, 91 mins.) Directed by W. S. Van Dyke. With William Powell, Myrna Loy. The first in a series based on Dashiell Hammett's detective novel, the film turns hardboiled into comedy of wit as husband and wife private sleuths Powell and Loy banter their way through a murder case.
- June 12 Animation day - short films, to be announced; c. 100 mins. A look at examples of short animated films - many of them comedies - from midcentury specialists. What's up, Doc?
- June 19 *Russian Ark** (USSR, 2002, 96 mins). Directed by Alexander Sokurov. The filmmaker finds himself transported back in time and must make his cinematic way through three centuries of lavish Russian history. Sokurov also finds an unusual way of editing his complex subject matter.
- June 26 *Design For Living* (USA, 1933, 91 mins.) Directed by Ernst Lubitsch. With Gary Cooper, Miriam Hopkins, Fredric March. Lubitsch, the master of turning screwball comedy into sly, sophisticated wit, gives Hopkins the tricky choice between a painter and a playwright she meets on a train. Or must she choose?

Answers to Quiz questions on p.6. 1. Buckingham Palace 2. Scott Morrison (read the question!)

SENIORS CARD – FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS- SHORT STORY COMPETITION 2019 now open

The competition offers One Hundred writers the opportunity to have their story in Seniors Short Story Volume 5. FAW wants new writers ‘to have a go’ by coaxing NSW seniors in our communities to share their stories and invite the community to participate in this project.

The theme is “Love Your Life” Closing date is midnight 22nd May 2019. Maximum length 1000 words.

Entry submission is via the ONLINE ENTRY FORM (use the button above), although an extra opportunity is available this year because typewritten and handwritten entries will be accepted, for those unable to use the online form – see Terms and Conditions at <https://fawns.org.au/seniors-card-short-story-competition-2019/>

FAW will conduct **Workshops** to provide advice on writing: if help is required to write a short story, attendance at a workshop will be the pathway. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend the workshops, which include –

April 12, 1.30 – 3.30pm – Nowra Library meeting room, 10 Berry Street Nowra

May 3 – 10.30 -12.30 – NSW Library Macquarie Street Sydney.

To book for a Workshop, phone the Project Communications Manager, Maureen Kelly, on 0417 403 720.

THE STRANGE TIME TRAVELLING TALE OF THE SS WARRIMOO

The passenger steamer SS *Warrimoo* was quietly knifing its way through the waters of the mid Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia. The navigator had just finished working out a star fix and brought Captain John Phillips the result. The *Warrimoo*'s position was LAT 0°31'N and LONG 179°30'W. The date was 31st December 1899. “Know what this means?” First Mate Payton broke in, “We’re only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line.”

Captain Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak of a lifetime. He called his navigators to the bridge to check and double check the ship's position. He changed course slightly so as to bear directly on his mark. Then he adjusted the engine speed. The calm weather and clear night worked in his favour. At midnight, the SS *Warrimoo* lay on the equator exactly at point where it crossed the International Date Line! The consequences of this bizarre position were many: the forward part (bow) of the *Warimoo* was in the Southern Hemisphere and in the middle of summer. The stern was in the Northern Hemisphere and in the middle of winter. The date in the aft part of the ship was 31st December 1899 while in the forward part the date was 1st January 1900.

The *Warimoo* was therefore not only in two different days, but two different months, two different years, two different seasons, but most astonishing was that it occupied two different centuries - all at the same time.

(Source: Heron Flyer, 24:1, January 2019)

Q: What happens when you play Beethoven backwards? A: He decomposes

Q: What message did Bach have on his answering machine?

A: "This phone is baroque, please call Bach later."

Middle C, E-Flat and G walk into a bar. "Sorry," the barman said, "We don't serve minors."

Management Committee 2019 - Contact Details

President - Judy Bull Ph 4267 2417

Vice-President – Development: - Ainslie Lamb Ph: 4283 7818

Vice-President = Operations – Joan Fleming Ph 0468 964 048

Treasurer – Sue Rejske Ph: 4285 9002

Secretary – and Web administrator – Peter Gibbs Ph 4284 4705

Address correspondence to:

The Secretary, U3A Northern Illawarra, PO Box 849 Thirroul NSW 2515

Publicity Officer: Joan Fleming Ph 0468 964 048

Committee members

Judy Gibbs Ph 4284 4705

Tricia Kullik Ph 0405 768 642

Ainslie Lamb Ph 4283 7818

Graham Smith Ph 0431 558 614

Margaret Stratton Ph 0411 526 899

Wednesday Talks Co-ordination - Judy Gibbs and Graham Smith

Audio Visual facilities – Alan Taylor Tel: 4283 4587

Welfare Officer and Safety Officer : Margaret Stratton Ph: 0411 526 899

Newsletter Editor - Ainslie Lamb Tel: 4283 7818 Proofreader – Ron Browne

Public Officer -: Peter Gibbs, 141/201 Pioneer Road, Fairy Meadow NSW 2519

Website: www.northernillawarra.u3anet.org.au

The Newsletter of the U3A of the Northern Illawarra is produced five times a year, providing advance notice of courses, speakers and topics, and other activities for each Term. Each edition will be available for collection on the first day of Term 1, and on the final day of each term, to give advance notice of activities in the following term.

The Newsletter can also be accessed on www.northernillawarra.u3anet.org.au

If you prefer to have your Newsletter posted to you, hand or send a stamped self-addressed envelope marked "U3A Newsletter" to Ainslie Lamb, 12 Station Street, Corrimal 2518.

Deadline for contributions to Term 3 newsletter –Friday 14th June 2019