

U|3|A
online

U3A Online

A Virtual University of the Third Age

<https://www.u3aonline.org.au/>

23 Years of U3A Online

December 2022

Summer Edition



*You know it is Summer in Australia when hot water
comes out of both taps!*

President's Report

For December 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to our last Newsletter for this year. It seems like no time at all since I was writing the one for September!

Our Get Online presentation, funded by a grant from Be Connected, was very successful. We had three talks by some of our tutors available via our Face Book page – The History of Ireland, Family History, and Australian Poetry. The talks were seen by nearly 20,000, and 1,400 shared talks to their friends and there have been a number of messages asking if we are taking new members so I want to thank our Vice-President, Jean Duff, for another marvellous job of organising this event. We have left the talks on our FB page and they can still be accessed from there.

We held our AGM in November and welcomed two new Committee of Management members – **Colin Bull**, and **Eldon Sawyer**. We look forward to working with you and hope you find the role interesting and rewarding.

We would really like to see more participation in the **Member Forums** and **Course Discussion groups** as we feel this would bring members closer together and give people more connection with each other. The link is at the bottom of the Notice Board and will lead you to a wide range of discussions on many topics and you can always add your own topic! Our new Committee member, Colin Bull, has made an interesting post on Online Etiquette and has asked for some comments from members on his thoughts on this subject.

John, our Web Admin, has recently added World Radio to the Fun Things to Do and it is certainly worth a look. It's been checked out and is completely safe to open.

The Editor of the **GEMS e-magazine, Jillian Reid**, has let us know that she will be unable to continue in that role after the end of the year, and, very fortunately for us, she has found a replacement for her role, **Carol Williams**. We welcome you, Carol, and thank you for taking on this role. And many thanks to Jill who has done a sterling job since she took over from Rick Swindell, the founding Editor of GEMS.

Finally, a very Happy Christmas to all members and a sincere wish for a better New Year for the World.

Jean Walker

President



Course Co-ordinator's Report

New course being developed –

We are preparing a new course – **The Evolution of Modern Science**, a very extensive course written for us by Derek Robertson, B. Sc., Dip.Ed (UNE), B. Sc (Hons Adelaide).

Derek has written and published books on natural history (Flinders Ranges), ethnic conflict (Sulawesi) and human ethics along with a scary story for early primary children (“The Story of Iguana Don”). He has taught adult education in Adelaide for Adelaide Uni Continuing Education and for W.E.A. (Workers’ Education Association)

The Evolution of Modern Science is a very large subject which will be available in five parts. Derek has generously made his life’s work available to us.

Space, Time & Matter

This Planet, Weather, Climate, Water, Geology

Birth of Modern Science – Genetics

The Earliest People

Human Consciousness, Biology, Culture

Courses with a Leader have become rare as we find not many members enrol in those offered, and the people who enrol, do not participate in the discussions with the course leader. Sometimes this is due to a lack of confidence, but the course leader can feel it is a wasted effort trying to engage with the participants. *We are in danger of losing our course leader for Autobiography & Journalling due to the lack of participation.* The course will run in **March 2023** for the last time unless we can find some enthusiastic participants to encourage our wonderful course leader, **Mardi Sands**, that it is worthwhile leading this course.

U3A Online was founded for people who are isolated, and cannot go to a local U3A Group. **Discussion forums** were included in the courses and in the Members' Lounge so that isolated members could engage socially with other members in order to have some social connection even though they could not go to a venue to be with other people. **We have resurrected the Forums on the Members Lounge** to provide that opportunity. It is said to be a good thing for people to be active socially, physically and mentally. The forums and the courses are there to help.

We have been approached by the **Neuroscience Research Australia (Neura)** team at NSW University if interested

Volunteers wanted for research into reducing the risk of dementia

Contact Research Team NSW University mycoach@neura.edu.au

Phone 02 9399 1853 <https://www.neura.edu.au/project/mycoach/>

Bev Tapper
Course Coordinator



WORDS FROM OUR SECRETARY



Kerry Hamilton

December and summer! I got wet in the heavy rain on the first day of summer, and was sooo cold! The wind has been enough to blow you off the footpath, says my sister. Queensland summers aren't what they used to be! But I do think of those in Europe without power as they head into winter, and I know that my small discomforts don't compare.

Apart from the foibles of the weather, life with our kelpie pup continues to give me challenges too. He is big and strong now, and like some other two-year-olds, thinks the world revolves around him and that every stranger or friend wants a big sloppy lick... and if they're lucky they will probably get jumped on too! People continue to assure me that he'll get over it! Sigh!

But what joy animals and grandchildren can give. At the moment I'm on call awaiting the birth of my second grandchild, a boy with a name that is still a secret, even though his gender isn't. Did you use the wedding ring rotating to help you decide the sex of your unborn children? Or was it a surprise like it was for me and many other mums before the days of early scans?

What a lot has changed. I guess with Christmas and new year just around the corner, many of us wonder where this year has been disappearing to. What's changed for you? And do you reflect on the amazing changes you've seen in your lifetime?

Whatever changes have been going on for you, despite the unexpected storms of life, I hope you find rays of sunshine and happiness in your days ahead. Best wishes for the festive season.

Cheers

Kerry

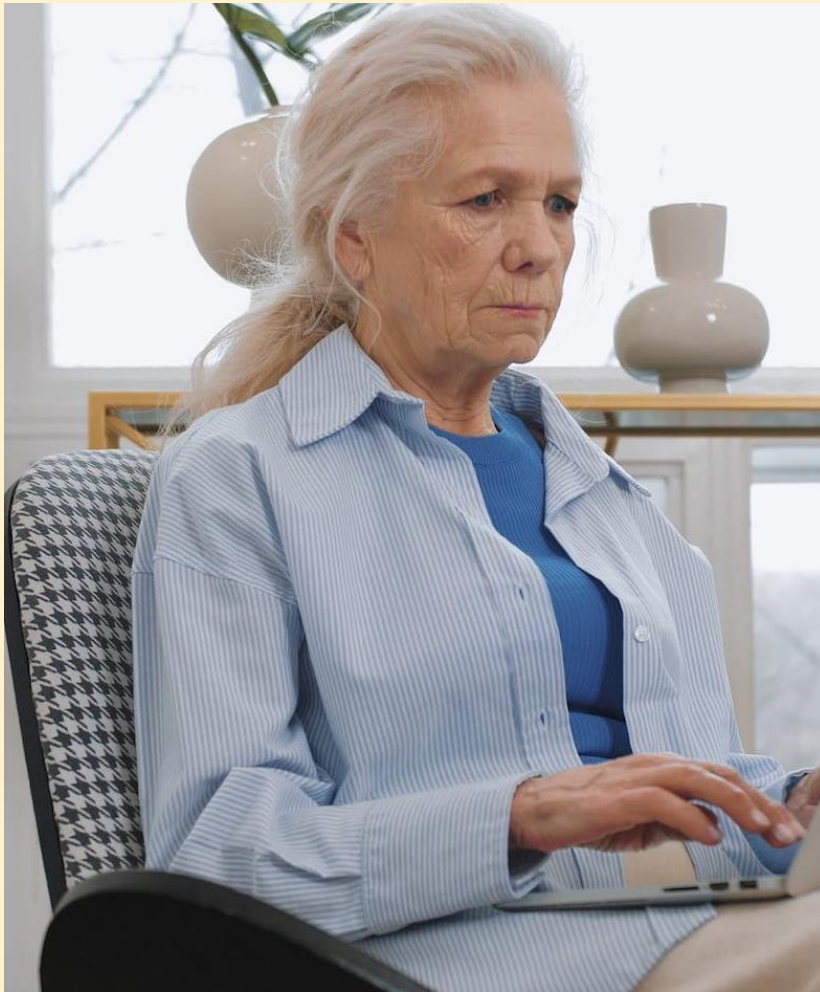
Member Profile

(Blank Space – no contribution this Issue!)

We want to hear from YOU!

Give us a glimpse of your life since your retirement or anecdotes from any part of your life that you would like to share with us.

Get those fingers tapping!



Jean Walker, Mardi Sands, Margaret Morris, Celestine Conroy, Kathy Slater, Colette Kinsella, Nigel Ridgway, Joan Carr, Margaret Matthews, Judy Ward and Donnell Wylie have set the scene for you already.

Members are interested to know what other members have been doing with their lives. *Please be generous and share.* PHOTOGRAPHS are very welcome too – e.g. photos of you doing what you do in retirement!

The perfect Christmas or Birthday gifts for Family and Friends!



Your friends and family will love you all the more when you give them the gift which keeps on giving – **the Gift Card which gives them U3A Online Membership.**

Then for a whole year they may choose to access as many of our wonderful online courses as tickle their fancy! **Just ask us!**



Coffee Break

QUIZ

From which books and by which authors are the following?

1. *“She is putting on her new bikini that she nicked from Grace Brothers last week. She is rubbing coconut oil onto her legs. She is smearing gloss on her lips”*
 2. *“It’s almost the end of February and instead of getting cooler the weather gets more humid as the days go by. Because of the heat, the only thing I was looking forward to at Nonna’s place was the swimming pool.”*
 3. *“It’s hot, but I like the way the heat makes my arms feel like they are full of warm oil, and sweat runs down them in sheets, soaking the sides of my singlets.”*
 4. *“Will you look at us by the river! The whole restless mob of us on spread blankets in the dreamy briny sunshine skylarking and chiacking about, for one day, one clear, clean, sweet day in a good world in the midst of our living.”*
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QIZ ANSWERS

1. Closed for Winter by Georgia Blain 1998
2. Looking for Alibrandi by Melina Marchetta 1992
3. All the birds singing by Evie Wykd 2013
4. Cloudstreet by Tim Winton 1991

Quiz Q&A courtesy of Karen Comer

To contact us about any relevant matters, please click on 'Contacts' on our website: www.u3aonline.org.au and share your thoughts with us.

Alternatively you could write to us at: enquiries@u3aonline.org.au

I am also quite happy for you to write direct to me if you would prefer that: colettekinsella@iprimus.com.au

Every good wish to you all for a happy Christmas, with a wonderful new year ahead!



(I've updated my photo!

Colette Kinsella. - Newsletter Editor