


U3A Sapphire Coast

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 /U3ASapphireCoast/

August 2023 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



I recently went to the first session of our latest new course: Philosophy for Fun.

Now that's what I could use some more of: "fun". So along I went. And it was fun, or at least as much fun as anything can be that also has the word philosophy in it!

It was run by Jane Thompson, who also runs our Writing Group.

If you define philosophy as just discussing things, then it was refreshingly devoid of any textbook philosophy, at least the sort where you have to throw Pluto's name around all the time (whoever he is).

Our discussion was about the growth of artificial intelligence. Quite a few people were concerned about its impact, especially on employment—and especially if it gets away from us, as many are now warning—although some also thought that fear might be a bit overblown.

The point is that the session wasn't about what you would normally think of as philosophy—Socrates and Pluto and all the rest. So, if you're thinking of coming along, don't be scared off by the philosophy part of the title.

Jane set the scene well at the beginning and kept things trundling along quite expertly. She also distributed a great set of questions in advance to get the cogs turning.

She doesn't have an academic background in philosophy; she's just interested in it and wanted to share her enthusiasm with others. It's something any of us can do if we have a passion in life: stand up in front of others and let it all out. You potential U3A presenters of the future will find your enthusiasm can take you a very long way.

One of the attendees was Michael Quinlan, who ran our previous philosophy course for some time. It has also just been a passion of his, not a vocation. He must have been good because people kept turning up year after year. So, thank you Michael for your ongoing contributions to our little band. And thank you Jane for picking up the baton.

Next time we meet, it's going to be about "truth". I'm going along just to see if anyone has ever come across any. I'm not sure I have.

First, though, I need to do some reading up on it. Maybe I'll start with that Pluto guy.

Paul Strutynski



**Welcome
New Members:**

Claude Monzo

Alice McPherson

Lyn Matthews

Maggie Burns

SCRABBLE BE SOCIABLE

We are always looking for new members with a working knowledge of scrabble; two games plus afternoon tea. Great social group meeting on WED @ 1.30 pm in Merimbula private home.

Phone Jennie Smith on 0407 928 404 if interested.



TAIKO DRUMMING WORKSHOP

ONE-OFF EVENT 1:30pm Sunday August 20

Taiko, being one of Japan's traditional percussion instruments, is easily played whilst being supported within a fun loving group.

Reiko Healy's teaching experience and her infectious enthusiasm will have you beating in metrical unison and experiencing the energetic sounds of the taiko.

All equipment is supplied: bachi, taiko and other traditional percussion instruments.

Cost \$10 is for Gym and equipment hire.
CASH on the day
Wear comfortable clothes and bring water to drink.

Workshop is 1:30 to 2:45pm Sunday August 20
Gymnasium
Sapphire Coast Anglican College
Max Slater Drive, BEGA

BOOK online or phone/message Sandy Coates
(Programs) 0416 228 211
Minimum class number of 6 is needed.
Guests of U3A members are welcome to be part of this One-Off Event.



Save the date ... Tuesday September 12 at 9am.

ONE-OFF EVENT: DISCOVER FARM ON THE GREEN, cultivating community produce.

Come along to Club Sapphire, Merimbula and see how Farm on the Green has evolved with a dedicated group of "green fingers". Started in 2017 on a couple of disused bowling greens, this group has battled the challenges of the Black Summer bushfires and Covid, which highlighted the importance of communities like ours, not only to connect and support each other, but also to work toward safeguarding and growing our local food economy.

Following an interactive guided tour of Farm on the Green, a morning tea/coffee at Club Sapphire will round off our visit.

More details are on our U3A website or contact Sandy Coates (Program Team) u3asoffice9@gmail.com or Message Mobile 0416228211

TRIVIA QUIZ by BRIDGET O'HANLON

1. What does the word dinosaur actually mean - terrible lizard, big beast, or giant insect eater ?
2. In which sport would you find a 'puck'?
3. Which scientist developed the theory of evolution by natural selection?
4. Which city is known as 'The Eternal City' - Athens, Rome, or Paris?
5. Who painted the famous artwork 'The Last Supper'?
6. What is another name for courgette?
7. What is the chemical element of lead - Le, Pb or K?
8. Which man is officially the fastest runner in recorded history - Jesse Owens or Usain Bolt?
9. Who wrote the Harry Potter series of books?
10. Prime Minister Albanese has recently returned from a NATO summit in Vilnius. Vilnius is the capital of which European country?



NEW

ARABIC INTRODUCTION

This course is designed to introduce people with no previous knowledge of Arabic to some of the basics, and to, hopefully, inspire them to pursue further knowledge of this beautiful language by enrolling in the Beginners Course in 2024.

Over ten weeks we'll be covering:

- polite greetings
- polite requests and thank yous
- exchanging names, addresses and ethnicity (my name is Joe Bloggs, I live in Merimbula and my family originally came from Outer Mongolia)
- asking for directions
- the alphabet
- simple sentences
- word structure
- and whatever else we think of.

Course leader: John Fuary jefuary@gmail.com

Program Team Contact: Sue O'Loughlin 0439809237 or programs.u3asc1@gmail.com

When and Where: Thursdays 12.00 - 1.00 pm at the Tura Beach Centre beginning October 12 and for 10 weeks

Cost: \$3

ONE OFF REVIEW - ICE AGE AUSTRALIA

It occurred to me, looking at the slides that Bruce Leaver used to illustrate his talk on the Ice Age in Australia, that being a geologist must be a wonderful thing. Every walk you do, in any landscape, would be like reading a story about the origins of the planet and the effects of time on it.



Last Friday's talk, as always, took us on a fascinating walk through time. We started with the wiping out of the dinosaurs, checked out several ice ages (they happen every 125,000 years or so and there have been 17 of them so far) then wandered up to the latest (about 60,000 years ago) via much information about changing climates and habitats and evolutions of

species, ending up with its effects on Australia (or, as it was then, that funny shaped continent that was almost joined up with PNG and Indonesia, and that had Tasmania clinging to its hem like a shy child).

If you noticed the date (60,000 years ago) you might have put that together with the known arrival of the first Aboriginals in a single party that had meandered its way from Africa, adding a few other genes to its pool along the way. It was no coincidence that this happened at a time when a lot of the earth's water was locked up in ice and you had to walk a lot further to get to the beach. As a result, the geological evidence for early Aboriginal occupation of this continent, is currently very deep under the sea.

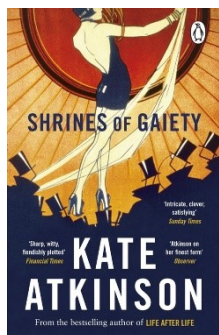
The scary bit was at the end, when it was brought home to us very graphically, that, after millions of years of being able to fairly reliably predict the next Ice Age, and temperatures and CO2 levels in the inter glacial periods, the speed of current global warming means all bets are off and the future really is an uncertain, scary place.

If any of this whets your appetite for more, Bruce will be visiting us again on October 27 at 1.30 pm at the TBC, when he'll give a talk called Nomadic Continents, which, Bruce says is, 'the crazy idea that explained the planet'. The idea that continents were adrift was once ridiculed, but science delivered; it showed that a whole lot of inexplicable things were actually easily explained - volcanos, earthquakes, mountain ranges, distant species affinities, why the TV remote can never be found and how the Toblerone in the fridge shrank overnight ...

Don't miss it!

Sue O'Loughlin,
Program Team Leader.

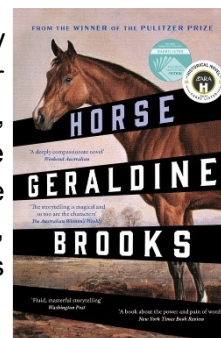
FOURTH WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP



Our last two novels are recent publications of favourite authors and as usual these inspired lively discussions in our group. *Shrines of Gaiety* is written by Kate Atkinson who has written earlier award winning historical novels, *Life After Life* and *A God in Ruins*, among her ten previous novels. This book is inspired by real life characters and events and tells the story of Nellie Coker who has established a nightclub empire in post World War 1 London and oversees their operation by several of her six children. Nellie's clubs offer a lively club scene with jazz and dancing built on vices of alcohol, drugs and young women and which stay above the law by corruption of some of the local police. A police inspector, John Frobisher, is intent on solving the police corruption as well as the deaths of several young women who may have worked at Nellie's clubs. He involves Gwendolyn Kelling, who has served as a nurse at the front during the war before becoming a librarian and who is now searching for two young country girls who have come to London to attempt to find fame and jobs. Atkinson weaves a fast moving story about these many interesting characters with her usual warmth and humour and tells a long tale that eventually brings all these aspects of the plot together.

Some of our group found it hard to enjoy the author's humorous descriptions of what were at times such bleak and tawdry sides to the world of the novel but others of us who enjoy Atkinson's clever wit throughout her novels thought this book lived up to her usual entertaining style.

Our most recent discussion was about the latest published novel, *Horse*, by another well known award winning novelist, Geraldine Brooks. Brooks is a former Australian journalist whose early novel, *March*, won a Pulitzer Prize and this book, like most of her novels, is based on a well researched historical period. This time she also interweaves a fictional story set in current times about the search for the provenance and story behind a real painting of a thoroughbred race horse, Lexington, who in pre-Civil War United States of America had been the country's fastest race horse.



As a group we mostly found this a rewarding read with its many themes of slavery, 19th Century horse raising and racing, the tensions leading up to and during the Civil War, equine art and scientific projects of the Washington based Smithsonian Institute. Throughout, this is an interweaving romantic story between Jess, an Australian scientist and Theo, a Nigerian-American art-historian doctoral student in current times. The two young Black men, Jarret, the slave who raises Lexington and Theo, the doctoral student, also focus the theme of the Black experience of past and present America through the alternating narratives of the novel.

Elizabeth Stacey,
Course Leader.

ONE OFF

Taiko Drumming - Sunday August 20
Farm on the Green - Tuesday September 12

To enrol in a one-off course go to Member Login on our website:

<https://www.sapphirecoastu3a.org/>

Please Note: The One-Off "Mythology, History, Religion..." has been CANCELLED

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Stay up to date with the latest updates and local news events.

We would also love you to share your experience and photos with us on our FB page:

www.facebook.com/U3ASapphireCoast



WALKING - ADVENTURE WALKING.

A group of eight walkers gathered on a cold morning at the Pambula Mines Trail and headed off on a vigorous walk and a history lesson. We walked the track, through two creek crossings and came upon the signs warning of old mine workings, with risks including “serious injury or death”. Undeterred, we walked on and saw fences protecting the public from stepping into a hole. We came upon a timber headframe but saw it was close to the creek, so realised it was a well for water supply. Galvanised corrugated iron tanks had cement linings on the inside. A big flywheel still stood on a concrete plinth and below it the remains of a stamping mill. We thought it might have been steam powered but there was no boiler in the area.



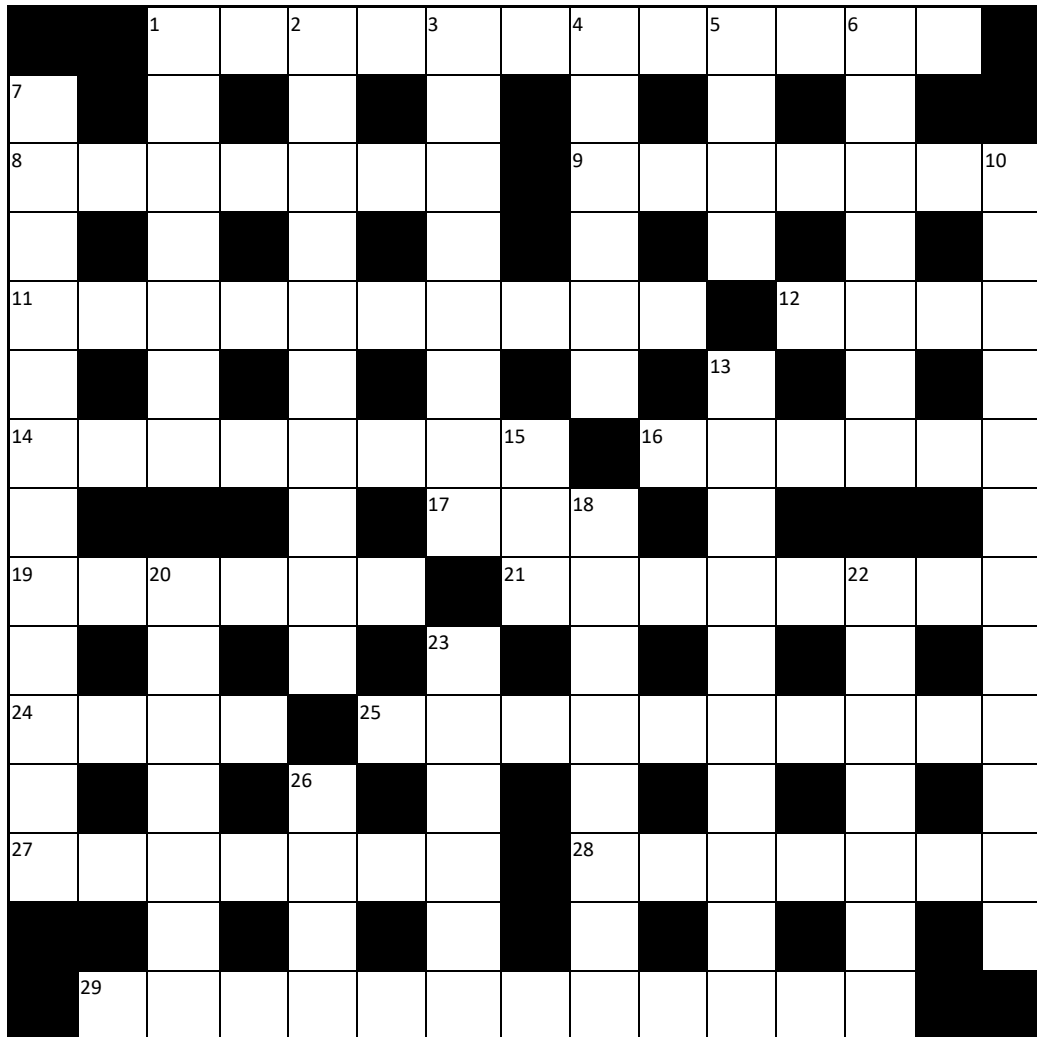
Adventure walking group members standing by the remains of the timber headframe above the original well.

All of these artifacts were over 100 years old and from the Pambula Goldfield which was discovered in 1889 by Mr Gahan and his partner who received a government bonus of \$1,000 for discovering the field. The area grew to have hundreds of people working up to 150 leases. The gold was very unusual because it wasn't in a “usual” quartz seam and it wasn't coarse enough to form nuggets. The fine gold was in a kaolin (a clay mineral) which filled the shear zones between large rock masses. As a result, the first efforts at treating the rock only recovered part of the gold. Much money was spent trying different processes or shipping the untreated gold ore to as far as Germany and the UK. A successful cyanide leach process gave good results, so that is why the tanks had a lining, to stop the cyanide from dissolving the galvanised tank. By 1900 official records showed total gold production of 44,000 troy ounces but unofficial estimates are that over 100,000 ounces has been produced. Most of the gold mines were closed by about 1920 but a kaolin mine was operated by the High family from 1940 to 1942.

Mike Warren
Group member



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD 2031 by JOHN SCRIVENER



CROSSWORD 2031 CLUES

ACROSS

1. Surrender tail up cation perhaps (12)
8. Poor person but hot holding broken vane (4-3)
9. Promote in hours (7)
11. Was it a wild prickle that caused the leap to Darwin, for example? (10)
12. Hence out of bed for dish (4)
14. Eat paper and stop (8)
16. Oil slide with emulsion beginning (6)
17. Consume the middle of bread, fat and water (3)
19. Ask a person to depart (6)
21. Starts doing every second chore, finishes and sinks (8)
24. Stone and abrade yourself first (4)
25. Strife, cheat, camp and decapitate animal (10)
27. Least in-conspicuous! (7)
28. Fools die from indiscreet characters (7)
29. Unpleasantly sharp stress perhaps softly (12)

DOWN

1. Conceal cricket balls inside vessel (5-2)
2. Dazed from tippie right in dip (5-5)
3. Chickadee of another bird and animal (8)
4. Fish ingested in layer (6)
5. In hill you said trip (4)
6. Leave out without T. Common sense threatening (7)
7. Children love to inflict these foreign conflagrations on each other (7,5)
10. Expectation with 50 and 7 directions are unlikely to cure this (12)
13. Ruffle James' return performance (10)
15. An odd stand is the result of 10 Down maybe (3)
18. Strange Northern Territory treacle not right feeler (8)
20. Talks rapidly while winds envelop pellet (7)
22. Number is beheaded, wily and loudly (7)
23. Understand with on substance (6)

Check out next month's Newsletter for the answers to this Crossword

ONE-OFF REVIEW

MEET JO, "THE NEW AGE KELP LADY" held Friday July 21 at Tura Beach Centre.



Jo Lane, thank you for sharing your vision, passion and knowledge of kelp farming which is a means of sustainably increasing our food source and also providing key ingredients for producing many other products. Kelp farming is a ZERO input crop, using no land, no fresh water nor pesticides. Kelp is not a plant as it has no roots and absorbs nutrients from sea water. With 70% of our Earth being ocean, kelp farming is a viable means of sustainably meeting some of our growing needs. Accepting a Churchill Scholarship meant Jo could visit 7 countries to investigate appropriate technologies to introduce kelp farming aquaculture to Australia. Since returning, she and her team have built a laboratory and successfully bred a native Australian kelp species, *Ecklonia radiata*.

Using zoospores scraped from mature seaweed, male & female gametophytes develop and grow under red light. The use of blue light promotes reproduction and further growth. These seedlings are attached to string and are grown in tanks. After being wound around rope, the baby kelp can be placed in the ocean with a network of anchors, ropes and floating buoys. Jo and her team have achieved successful ocean growth trials in the waters off South Australia.

Australia, with approximately 30,000 km of coastline is well placed to embrace kelp farming. However state licensing issues, social acceptance of this practice and the visual impact from the floating buoys will mean proposed kelp farming sites will need to be carefully and respectfully chosen. Currently Jo is researching two sites for her proposed development of kelp farming on the southern NSW coast, these being Haycock Point, Pambula and a beach north of Bermagui with 16m water depth.

Question & Answer time provided further insights into the world of aquaculture. Thanks everyone for your considered questions and respectful attitudes which Jo did appreciate.

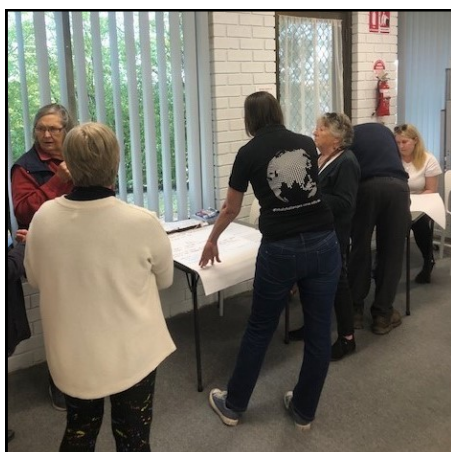
Consultation was formally managed by Dr. Michelle Voyer and her team from Wollongong University who invited attendees to participate in a research workshop to investigate "the social dimensions of emerging offshore industries in the Illawarra and South Coast" with a specific focus on seaweed and mussel farming on the South Coast.

This report can be accessed via hyperlink. Thank you Michelle for giving us a voice.

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:c74e0270-d007-3d96-a9ab-6da2418fc4ae>

Wonderful to experience this One Off with 30 attendees.

Sandy Coates, co ordinator of Meet Jo, the "New Age Kelp Lady"

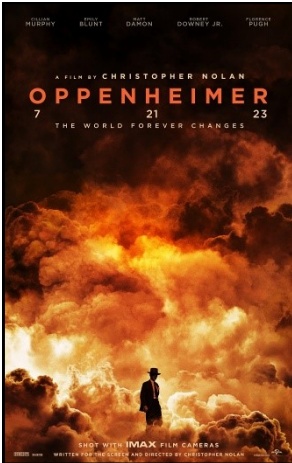


Newsletter

Chief Editor: Michele Patten
Editors: Trish Dive, Kaye Separovic, Elizabeth Stacey

Contributions & Feedback
to the Newsletter can be sent to the Newsletter Team by the 1st Friday of every month. Send by email to:
Trish: u3ascoffice8@gmail.com AND
Kaye: kayeseparovic@gmail.com

FILM REVIEW : OPPENHEIMER



This is a terrible and beautiful film currently showing at The Picture Showman in Merimbula and well worth trying to control your bladder for three hours. The film is about so many things, not just about the amazing Dr Robert Oppenheimer, who was an extraordinary genius in the field of theoretical physics, but about power, paranoia, revenge, public humiliation and ethics or lack thereof in American politics. It is also about love, friendship, betrayal and loyalty. There are many videos on YouTube about this film with actors talking about the process of making it and Christopher Nolan's motivation for making the film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhR5XOIRTuM>

The film begs the questions of how we judge a person through what they may research and create; whether it be the atomic bomb, cigarettes, a cure for cancer, a film, poetry or a novel – how do we evaluate the moral character of a person who creates a bomb that could destroy the world, or an organisation that promotes smoking as an international passport to smoking pleasure?

Where do we draw the line, and who has the power to decide where that line is drawn? Who has the moral obligation of how such discoveries will be implemented; is it the author/researchers or the powers that be or are we all collectively responsible? Just see this film, it's brilliant.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GB3e9YDOTUq> - a behind the scenes look at making the film.

Kaye Separovic.
Course Leader, Film Group.

JULY CROSSWORD 2030 ANSWERS

ACROSS

1. Achieve 5. Pirate 9. Hipbath 10. Oilwell 11. Ely
12. Microscopic 13. Essen 14. Spiralled 16. Bisection
17. Stoop 19. Penultimate 22. Moe 23. Ambrose
24. Precede 26. Myosis 27. Nearest

DOWN

1. Athlete 2. Happy as a sandboy 3. Era 4. Ethic
5. Promotion 6. Relic 7. The apple of my eye 8. Placid
12. Manic 14. Shininess 15. Aisle 16. Byplay
18. Pretext 20. Loons 21. Aspen 25. Eta

TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Terrible lizard
2. Ice Hockey
3. Charles Darwin
4. Rome
5. Leonardo Da Vinci
6. Zucchini
7. Pb
8. Usain Bolt
9. J K Rowling
10. Lithuania

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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