

U3A Sapphire Coast Newsletter October 2021



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Welcome to warmer weather and hairdresser appointments.

As we make the most of getting out and about again, catching up with friends at U3ASC and supporting our local businesses, we must still continue to operate under Covid regulations to ensure the safety of all in our community. Masks are still required to be worn while you are in the Tura Beach Centre. You are not, at present, required to show proof of double vaccination. However, we believe that after the 11th October, this will be the case.

We are asking for members to look out for one another, for our course leaders to reach out to some of our more vulnerable members. As the pandemic continues mental health is becoming a problem within our community. We all need to support one another and to come out the other side of Covid healthy. Remember there are many mental health support groups available to all of us:

Beyond Blue, open 24/7 1300224636
Beyond Blue chat line is open from 3pm to midnight 7 days a week.
Lifeline, open 24/7 131114
NSW Mental Health Line, open 24/7 1800 011 511
A mental health worker will answer your call about any mental health concerns for you or someone you are concerned about.

JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS

80 plus days to Christmas, are you getting excited? I am looking forward to the prospect of catching up with friends and family.

We are feeling positive that we can all experience a "normal" Christmas this year.

Celebration plans are commencing, with hope that we will be able to hold our Christmas Party this year.

It will be a special time to reflect on the past year and to discuss the things to look forward to in 2022 with your friends at U3ASC.

For our Christmas Party to go ahead we are still looking for someone to organise the event. The organiser will have the full support of the Management Team and our Covid Officer, Barbara, who will make sure all current Covid restrictions are adhered to.

For your information we are providing contact details of our current Management Team.

President	Sue Fowler	suepfowler1@gmail.com
Vice President	Garry Clear	garrypcug@gmail.com
Secretary	Carolyn Smith	U3ascsec@gmail.com
Treasurer	Chris Bembrick	U3ascstreas@gmail.com
Asst Treasurer	Judy Brand	judy3brand@gmail.com
Office Team Leader	Marg Nicoll	U3ascoffice4@gmail.com
Program Team Leader	Sue O'Loughlin	programs3asc1@gmail.com
Member	Paul Strutynski	paulstrutynski@gmail.com

STOP PRESS

We have just held an urgent management team meeting.

COVID UPDATE

Once NSW reaches 70% double vaccination everyone will need to provide proof of their vaccination before entering the Tura Beach Centre. Exemptions will need to be presented for viewing.

Our Management team will keep all members informed.

REMINDER

Please be aware that if you join U3ASC in October this will make you financial for 2021-2022

Regards, Sue Fowler

OCTOBER ZOOM FEATURE

Course Leaders tell us how they managed during lockdown.

THE WRITING GROUP'S ZOOM EXPERIENCE



In some ways, it should be easy to run a writing course over Zoom. We write, we email it around, then we read it to each other as we sit in front of our various devices. Well, yes and no. One of the things we love most about meeting up (in the flesh) to share our writing is the banter, the laughter, the off-topic excursions, the tea and cake in the middle - and Zoom doesn't really cater to all that.

On Zoom, you can't really make a face, be witty, jump into a moment. On a very practical level, some of us (me) have satellite internet that isn't really quite up to the task of video meetings, and others find the technology too difficult. There are always glitches like the time somebody's tablet overheated because they were sitting on their verandah in the sun, or the time I had to run across my paddocks, phone in hand, to find a charging lead. Still, it's a lot better than nothing.

Jane Thomson Course Leader, the Writing Group

ARABIC

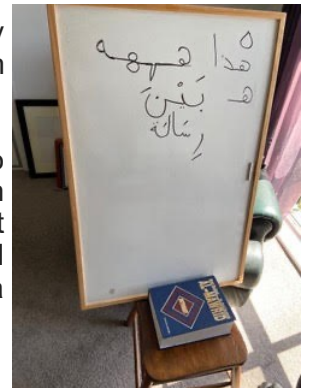
To begin, I have to declare that I prefer face to face teaching. However as my dear old grannie used to say: *"Needs must when the devil drives"*.

We began using Zoom when the lockdowns commenced. I'm not terribly computer literate, but with a bit of help from Teresa Hamer, I have been able to work out how to run a pretty basic Zoom session. I'm sure there are dozens of Zoom tricks I haven't yet discovered, but as an emergency fill-in it has been a God-send.

When the first lockdown occurred I was inclined to cancel my face-to-face classes and look at re-starting early in 2022. However, on reflection, I realised that ceasing lessons for 6 months or more might cause some of my students to lose their enthusiasm. I didn't want that to happen, so Zoom it was.

When I first suggested we use Zoom, there was a problem convincing some to try using it, but the U3A set-up was so simple to use that reservations about Zoom were overcome.

There is a whiteboard on the Zoom screen, but so far I haven't worked out how to use it. I purchased a stylus which I was told would allow me to write on the Zoom whiteboard, but apparently I need another device on my desk to actually make it work. So many mysteries to solve, so little time!! I have a small whiteboard (50cm x 100cm) which I prop up on a chair behind me and hold in place with a very large dictionary. (I knew that dictionary would be useful one day.) Not terribly satisfactory, but as an emergency.....



Noise has been the main problem. The racket made by papers shuffling, books dropping, tea-cups/wine glasses clinking, dogs barking and class members talking over one another come through to everyone if we don't mute ourselves when we are not actually asking or answering questions. We are working on getting everyone to mute themselves and inshalla, this will sort that problem out.

I have lost one student who found it impossible to concentrate, but who will rejoin us when we get back to normal next year.

Anyway, in summary:

Zoom is great as an emergency tool, but to my mind nothing beats face-to-face teaching.

Noise is a problem if people don't mute themselves after speaking.

I could do with an in-depth tutorial on more effective use of Zoom.

John Fuary

الكبير الجبن (The Big Cheese)

U3ASC NEWSLETTER TEAM ZOOM MEETING



Elizabeth, Michele, Sue and Trish – hard at work during our ZOOM meeting to plan the October Newsletter.

MIDWEEK MONTHLY FILM GROUP

Our film for September was *The Painter and the Thief* a fascinating Norwegian film based on a true story of how a relationship develops between an artist and the thief who stole two of her paintings. It's a beautiful story exploring how two vulnerable and intuitive people come to trust each other over time. Barбора, the artist knows how easily a will to live can be lost having survived an abusive relationship. She values how the perception of someone can change the way you see yourself, and as she paints the thief, she hopes her paintings may help him to see himself differently and restore his self-respect. Group members enjoyed the film and a lively in-depth discussion followed.

Next month the Group will meet in the Tura Beach Centre at the new time of 3.00pm. Zoom will still be available for those who can't attend the Centre. As usual, a film will be selected and members will have the opportunity to watch at their leisure prior to the discussion. Members may bring their own afternoon tea etc., and the cost of \$3.00 will be reinstated.

Kaye, Wal and Sylvie
U3ASC Monthly Film Group.



GUITAR AND UKULELE GROUPS



In addition to recording online lessons and playalongs during lockdown, Paul Daynes is going way above and beyond to give one-hour private lessons online to any of us in the ukelele and guitar groups who request it. It's fantastic, as it gives us the chance to work on our individual problems (which tend to just get covered up when playing in the group). We also get the benefit of his knowhow when working on songs of our own.

He says he's doing it to keep the group together and momentum going, but I think fundamentally he enjoys doing it. And how lucky for us all that he does! A huge thank you from all of us, Paul.

Sue O'Loughlin, Program Team Leader

LINE DANCING

Some of us resorted to YouTube to keep in practice during lockdown. Thought you might like to see one of our dances (NB this dancer is not one of us!)

GOD'S COUNTRY – Blake Shelton

https://youtu.be/LL885_G3Vg8



COURSE LEADER PROFILE – TERESA HAMER - ITALIAN

My name is Teresa Hamer and I moved to Tura Beach with my husband Peter, in August 2009. Peter always wanted to live near the ocean and I always dreamt of living opposite a park. So, when we found a house on the 11th fairway of the Tura Beach golf course, both our dreams were realised.

I was born in Venezuela of Italian parents (my parents are from Belluno, situated approximately 100km north of Venice) and at the age of 6 months, our family moved back to Clermont-Ferrand in France. My father worked for a French construction firm, Citra. In May 1951, we moved to Launceston in Tasmania with the company. Once the work there was completed, dad worked for 12 months on the power station at Wangi Wangi on Lake Macquarie and in 1956 he was invited to work on the construction of Scrivener Dam in Canberra, an opportunity too good to miss.

I attended St Christopher's in Manuka and Catholic Girls' High (now Merici College) in Braddon; completed an Arts degree at ANU and my Dip. Ed. at Sydney University. I taught English at Oaklands Central School and Ashfield Boys' High, Sydney before returning to Canberra in 1975 with Peter and our first born, Sean.

I had studied Maths in my degree and from 1975 until my retirement in 2011, my main teaching subject was Maths. I had a break from teaching between 2000 – 2003 and became a funeral consultant, a career change which I thoroughly embraced.

I have been a member of U3A for approximately 8 years and after Franco Svampa decided not to return to teaching Italian, I volunteered my time to lead a class of beginners. I have never lived in Italy but am very passionate about the country of my heritage. I speak Italian with an Aussie accent, which causes a lot of mirth amongst my cousins - and taxi drivers - in Italy.

The members of both groups I lead are also very enthusiastic about learning Italian and the progress they have made in the past 12-18 months has been amazing. During the recent lockdown they baked Italian cakes, cooked a delicious Italian meal and made limoncello; played Bananagrams using only Italian words; watched the Italian News on SBS at 7:30am; binged on Manu's and Katie & Matteo's You Tube tutorials and became a pen pal with the gorgeous Giorgia (the daughter of one of my many cousins). We are hoping to go to Italy as a group once we can travel OS. My cousins are ready for us!

Due to the pandemic and the fact that my husband Peter was so ill, most of my lessons in the past 18 months have been on Zoom. Luckily our three sons are all familiar with Zoom and were able to show me how to use the whiteboard, show videos and share Word documents. I find Zoom to be an excellent teaching tool.

I am hoping to begin another class of Italian for Beginners in 2022.



SEARCHING FOR YOUR ANCESTORS



During lockdown I was able to put together a family tree for one of our U3A members, just by talking over the phone. She gave me her parents' and some grandparents' particulars and I was able to put together a tree. We found out some amazing facts and I can't wait to show her now that we are out of lockdown.

I will now be accepting people into my home. If anyone is uncomfortable with that because of Covid, I can do it over the phone. But really face to face is better so I can show interested U3A members how to navigate around the site.

Caryl Kennedy

LEARN LAWN BOWLS

On a fine, sunny day seven enthusiastic members of U3A commenced Learn Lawn Bowls at the Tura Beach Country Club (with a bit of whale-watching on the side). The first lesson was spent learning about greens, rinks, how to place a mat and how to bowl the jack. All of the bowlers had no problem with the jack. Next week the bowlers graduate to the bowl which has a bias, that won't be as easy! Over the remainder of the course the bowlers will be introduced to different exercises which make bowling fun and will improve their skill levels.

The next Learn Lawn Bowls will be held in Mar 2022, so think about participating next year.

Ray Redman, Course Leader



FRIDAY CRAFT GROUP UPDATE



The craft group can meet again now that the Tura Beach Country Club has opened again. We are meeting each Friday at 10am and usually meet through term breaks as well. If the club is open we are there. Masks and social distancing didn't stop Chris, Judy and Cheryl enjoying coffee and a chat last Friday. We all kept busy with our various projects during lockdown and Beverly managed to finish an entire piece.

We are looking forward to seeing everybody back for our regular Friday Craft meeting and new members are welcome. There is plenty of room as the club is fairly empty on Friday mornings and the club's covid marshals keep us safely within current NSW Guidelines.

Monica Eddleston, Course leader.

THE AUSTRALIAN NOVEL BOOKCLUB

This bookclub has been going since 2018. The focus on Australian novels was an attempt to pay attention to our own home-grown stories, which it seems are often neglected by bookclubs in favour of latest international prize winners or best sellers.

Our discussions cover the usual things that bookclubs talk about, but also include discussion of the ways in which the author has contributed, or not, to our broader Australian consciousness, identity, sense of place, national pride or shame and challenges on how to move forward, politically, socially or morally.

Some people may think it too limiting to confine ourselves to Australian novels (defined as written by an Australian author, or by a non-Australian but set in Australia). There are so many great books out there begging to be read and new ones being published all the time. But we're all fairly serious readers so get to read far more widely than our one Australian novel a month and we often chat about what other books we're reading and share recommendations (or the opposite).

And what a wealth of great authors and books we have to choose from!

While members of the group take it in turns to nominate a book (and then lead the discussion of their choice) we do try, as a group, to include books that represent both the history of Australian writing, and the diversity of Australian writers.

So we've read books ranging from Christina Stead's "Seven Poor Men of Sydney" (not a popular read but an important book for its time) through Patrick White (Voss – much enjoyed and admired), through established 'names' like Richard Flanagan, Tim Winton, Peter Goldsworthy, Elliot Perlman, David Malouf, Peter Carey, Gail Jones and Alex Miller. We've also read more recently emerged and emerging writers like Trent Dalton, Anna Goldsworthy, Rosalie Ham, Marcus Zuzak, Leah Purcell, Heather Rose, Lucy Treloar, Gillian Meares, Laura Jean McKay, Tara June Winch and Jane Harper.

In choosing books that reflect the cultural diversity and experience of Australians we have so far read books by Indigenous writers like Alexis Wright's "Carpentaria" (a big and wonderful read), Nardi Simpson's "Song of the Crocodile" (verdict's in on this one at our next meeting) and Tara June Winch's "The Yield". Also we have included books about the migrant/refugee experience such as "Cafe Scheherazade" by Arnold Zable, "Black Rock White City" by A S Patric, and "No Friend but the Mountains" by Behrouz Boochani.

In short, we've found nothing limiting at all about choosing to buy and read Australian.

We'd love to welcome new members to add to our loyal core group, either as committed come-every-month members or occasional visitors who come when a particular book appeals. We currently meet on the fourth Monday of the month at 11.00 at the Tathra pub.

If you're interested, please contact our wonderful course leader, Karen Gillespie, at karenanngillespie@gmail.com.

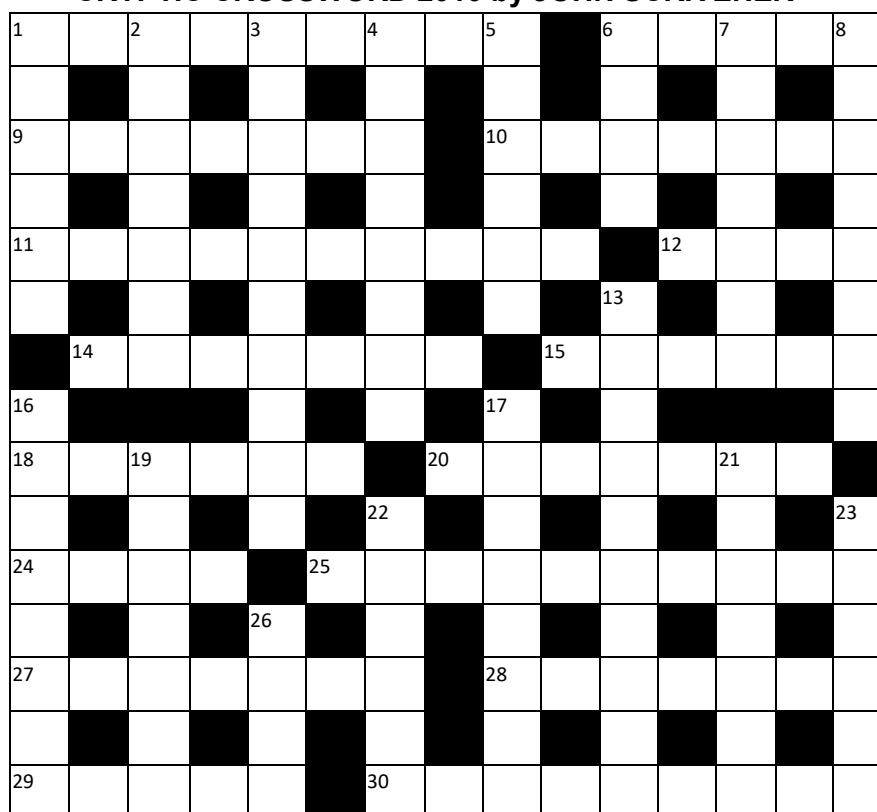
Sue O'Loughlin



Link to information about the easing of COVID restrictions on the official
NSW Government website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/easing-covid-19-restrictions>

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD 2010 by JOHN SCRIVENER



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

CROSSWORD 2010 CLUES

ACROSS

1. Unusually plays airs resulting in a loss of power (9)
6. Clean surface of Australian fish (5)
9. Backward game controller and fish propellants in airport dog (7)
10. Implore first course less energy at! (7)
11. Loosely made sheep fastener (10)
12. Pure and simple pond (4)
14. Silly but I travelled with grandmother to a cathedral (7)
15. Broken-in stop motor part (6)
18. Destroy badly without front of mollusc (6)
20. Position of cut-off lad as a medical bluff (7)
24. Discharge bag (4)
25. Strife! Cheat temporary home I occasion (10)
27. Sustain with food medley of number one rush (7)
28. Simone for queen? What we wish we were! (7)
29. Live coal is one off an arm (5)
30. Of habit animate beings! (9)

DOWN

1. Dad's attempt at crust (6)
2. A cable hand who ran mail another way (7)
3. Ambiguous, perhaps. Went side of Ayres or Sullivan (4-6)
4. Small gentle stream is a straightedge to sweep off grain (8)
5. Merciless metal with last of Mercury (6)
6. Glut of teas (4)
7. A component and he is very content when he is in his! (7)
8. Gently stroke birds for examples (8)
13. Wrong behaviour of young lady almost against canal (10)
16. Absurdity of 7 directions around nothing (8)
17. Misplaced flattery will get the motorist nowhere! (4,4)
19. Said to apply mouth to move towards and yield (7)
21. He is the first boy of the success in the horseshoe game and transporter of good times (7)
22. Elaborate pointed characters of European style (6)
23. Traps decapitated and broken harness (6)
26. Better to have the liquid sounding one than the burial frame! (4)

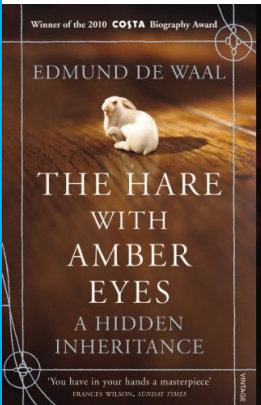


TRIVIA QUIZ by BRIDGET O'HANLON

1. The hibiscus is the national flower of which country?
2. What is vexillology?
3. Which company made the first mobile phone?
4. Which is the only even Prime Number?
5. Which is larger - lion, tiger, panther or leopard?
6. There are only two words in the English language that have all five vowels in the correct order. Do you know what they are?
7. What was Spike Milligan's actual first name?
8. North America has only one marsupial. What is it?
9. What happened to Anna Karenina at the end of the novel?
10. Melbourne is closer to Antarctica than it is to Darwin. True or False?
11. What is petrichor?
12. The German parliament is sometimes known as the Reichstag. By what name is it better known?

THIRD THURSDAY BOOK GROUP RECOMMENDATION

The Hare with Amber Eyes by Edmund de Waal



Edmund de Waal is a contemporary English artist, master potter and author. He was born in Nottingham, England the son of Esther Aline Lowndes-Moir, a renowned historian and expert in Celtic mythology and Victor de Waal, a chaplain of the University of Nottingham who later became the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral.

How did this family which is so much part of English intellectual society come to be living and working in England?

In *The Hare with Amber Eyes* de Waal uses a collection of 264 Japanese netsuke to trace the history of his family Ephrussi, a once very wealthy European Jewish banking dynasty. The collection has been passed down through five generations providing a common thread for the telling of the family fortunes from 1871 to 2009.

We travel from Odessa to Paris to Vienna and its occupation by Nazi Germany. Then to Japan and England. *The Hare with Amber Eyes* is an elegantly written fascinating family history.

Below is a link to a YouTube clip of Edmund de Waal talking about his book.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyUtRMgZLNI&authuser=0>

Judy Brand

You might find this ABC article helpful in the coming weeks:

'Are you double dosed?' How to ask friends and family if they're vaccinated, and how to handle it if they say no

With some states now allowing people who are fully vaccinated to gather for picnics, how do you find out who's vaccinated, and what do you do with that information? [Read the full story](#)

Shared from [ABC app](#)

OCTOBER TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Malaysia (also symbol of Haiti and Solomon Islands)
2. The study of flags
3. Motorola
4. 2
5. Tiger
6. Abstemious and facetious
7. Terence Alan
8. Opossum
9. Suicide
10. True
11. The scent of rain on dry earth
12. The Bundestag

SEPTEMBER CROSSWORD 209 ANSWERS

ACROSS

1. Steward 5. Beater 8. Prick up your ears 10. Resonated
11. Climb 12. Nearer 14. Best part 16. Unhinged
18. Baleen 21. Treat 22. Spaghetti 24. Dead as a doornail 25. Eyelet 26. Dynasty

DOWN

1. Superannuated 2. Edits 3. Askance 4. Deputy
5. Bloodied 6. Apricot 7. Eradicate 9. Substantially
13. Ashkenazy 15. Persuant 17. Netball 19. Acheron
20. Harold 23. Traps



Contributions & Feedback to the Newsletter can be sent to the Newsletter Team by the 1st week of every month. Send by email to either:
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Elizabeth: eastacey@bigpond.net.au



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