

# U3A FLINDERS NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2022



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## Message from our President



Dear Members

It's always lovely to see you coming along to our meetings rain or shine. Our membership is growing so I realise by joining U3A it's a great opportunity for learning and friendship. Also, I encourage you to think about being on the Committee or joining with a few friends to help plan the guest speakers for our programmes.

I am sad to report that two of our members have passed away recently, Monica Moyes and Vicki Good. Our thoughts are with their families.

Unfortunately, our Sponsorship & Facilities Agreement with Flinders University can no longer provide the \$3,000 a year financial contribution, so you can imagine our disappointment when we received their email.

A big thank you to our Committee; always there early to put the chairs in place, screen up, sound system on and heaters on. Also, to Max and Liz for their support and friendship in keeping our U3A going.

**Chris Bennett**

## In The News

“In The News”, which takes the form of a discussion of current affairs, has been a regular event on our programme since Terry King founded it in 2001.

In 2008, Terry handed the running of his popular group to Tony Van Kalken who carried on chairing it until August 2021. How well we remember Tony's comments on the amount of sugar in Coca-Cola, and his attitude to the noble game of cricket!

In November 2021 I chaired the session and have continued to conduct these thought provoking talks since. The items I throw open for discussion are mostly current issues, but not always. For instance, at the April 2022 meeting I was able to table a facsimile copy of *The Advertiser Volume 1, No. 1* dated July 12, 1858. A few items from that eminent journal made very interesting reading. Also, I was able to show the supplement from the *Tiser* featuring 96 photos of our Queen on her 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Assuming I will continue arranging these sessions, I plan to ask members to put forward topics for general discussion by the group. Therefore, I urge members to come along and join in; discussions can occasionally be quite lively and stimulating. If you plan on attending and have a matter you would like to raise, please contact me on 0419 806 128, to let me know in advance.

**John Bartlett**



Acknowledging the generous support of Flinders University

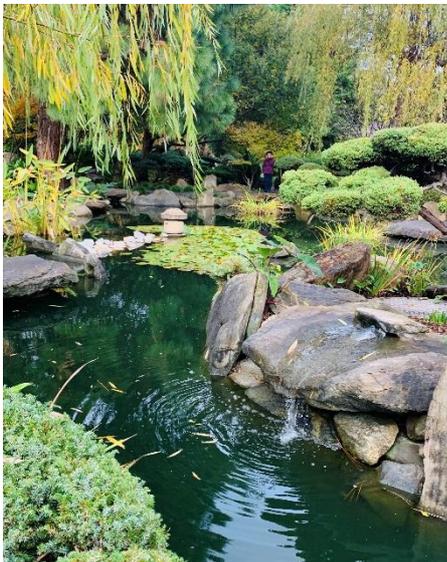


## Walking Group

*The Walking Group enjoying the great outdoors*

**Where are they?**

*Answers on Page 4*



Walks vary between beach, hills and urban areas or following creeks or rivers. They can be shorter historical walks or longer and more challenging treks.

Most are categorised as ‘Easy’ with an occasional ‘Moderate’ and we are fortunate that members are constantly suggesting new walks and offering to lead the group.

New members are always welcome.

For more information, contact:

Judy 0408 842 479 / Nola 0411 066 014

## Concept of Normal

A few words taken from an article by *Bernard Salt* in the *Weekend Australian*.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed everyday life. We have been reshaped by the experience of living with it. There is no real ‘getting back to normal’ because the concept of normal is being reimagined.

The use of the QR code became a fixture in our lives. This code was invented back in the 1990s to track the progress of vehicles in car factories and has found new applications not only in the necessary ‘checking in’ but for use in hospitality, being able to order from a menu via your smart phone.

Everyday life has been disrupted by infection, by supply chain stoppages, by nervous chatter about nuclear war. This triggers thinking about health, financial security, about the need for risk management. Maybe it widens the market for spirituality too.

We are reminded that we had ‘created a culture of unfettered consumerism’ based on the right and capacity to come and go as we pleased. But the pandemic has changed this way of thinking entirely. Finding solutions not only ensures survival, it inspires and encourages others. We need to remain upbeat and positive.

**Pat Davies**



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## Guided Art Gallery Visits

The Art Gallery of South Australia has one of the largest art museum collections in Australia, with approximately 47,000 works of Art from Australia, Europe, North America and Asia.

U3A Flinders members have been fortunate to commence monthly visits to the Art Gallery since February 2002, ably organised by Bev Bennett.

On the third Wednesday of the month, we meet at 1.20pm for a 1.30pm guided tour of a current exhibition, or another area of interest in the Gallery. We are split into two groups of ten people which enables a very personal tour, with the ability to interact with guide and ask questions. There are lightweight folding chairs available for individual use during the tour which is a welcome relief for tired legs!

The most recent exhibition we saw was the 2022 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Free /State. This exhibition encompasses a group of artists from every Australian state and territory who challenge history and art forms, offering “reflections of an era of multi-faceted global upheaval.”

The art is both diverse and eclectic, portrayed in the multi mediums of photography, painting, sculpture, installation and the moving image.

As curator Sebastian Goldspink states, “the exhibition is reflective of a nation still in the throes of grappling with its past and defining its future.”

I thoroughly enjoyed this tour even though I found it at times to be challenging, and confronting and, on occasion, suffered from sensory overload!

### Sally Gall

*Photos courtesy of the Art Gallery of South Australia*



*installation view: 2022 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Free/State, featuring The Wine Dark Sea by Stanislava Pinchuk, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, photo: Saul Steed.*



*installation view: 2022 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: Free/State, featuring Write Me by Julie Rrap, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, photo: Saul Steed.*

## English Oddities

English is the only language where:

- Your fingers have fingertips but your toes don't have toetips. Yet, you can tiptoe but not fingertip.
- The word QUEUE is just a Q followed by four silent letters.
- Jail and prison are synonyms, but jailer and prisoner are antonyms.
- When you transport something by car, it's called a shipment. But when you transport something by ship, it's called cargo.

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## **Book Review: *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles**

Amor Towles is an American author who has written short stories and essays but is best known for three novels, *Rules of Civility*, *The Lincoln Highway* and *A Gentleman in Moscow*. The latter was the Book Group choice for June.

*A Gentleman in Moscow* is the story of Count Alexander Rostov, who, in 1922, is arrested by the Bolsheviks as an unrepentant aristocrat with apparently little purpose in life except to amuse himself. He is facing death by firing squad but high-ranking friends intervene and save him. He is sentenced instead to a lifetime of confinement in the luxury Moscow hotel, the Metropol, where he has been resident for the past four years. He does not, however, continue to occupy the very comfortable rooms he had enjoyed up until that time but is assigned a small room in the attic of the hotel from where he is allowed to roam the hotel as long as he does not leave.

The novel then explores how Rostov adjusts to his new circumstances. Some of us will be able to sympathise with Rostov. Many who have experienced a serious curtailment of their movements at times during the last couple of years have also had to make some significant adjustments. Bereft of his previous social life, unmarried and without any family left in Russia, Rostov, over several decades, gradually builds a new life, friends and even family. He develops new insights and becomes a man of purpose aided and abetted by a number of peripheral characters.

There is plenty of light humour in this novel. The dialogue is often witty and the prose is elegant. Though there is a delightful absence of lengthy explanations of historic events to slow down the narrative, Towles does not ignore the difficult times in which it is set but prefers to use succinct understatement to provide some perspective. He begins one chapter with a simple invitation, ‘Let us concede that the early thirties in Russia were unkind’.

There is adventure, espionage and just a hint of romance in this book. A reviewer for CNN described it as ‘an old-fashioned novel in the best sense of the term’ and for me, a good choice for the grey, damp, uninspiring days of winter.

**Janet Newman**

## **Walking Group - Where are they?**

Top left: *Pat Davies enjoying the Himeji Gardens, South Terrace*  
Bottom left: *Himeji Gardens*  
Right: *Coromandel Valley*

### **In Memorium**

We are sad to announce the following deaths since our previous Newsletter:

**Monica Moyes and Vicki Good**

Our thoughts are with their families

This newsletter is compiled by co-editors Judy Milford and Nola Byass.

We value your contributions, both text and photos.

Please submit to

Judy Milford at [milfords4@bigpond.com](mailto:milfords4@bigpond.com) and

Nola Byass at [littleroo@optusnet.com.au](mailto:littleroo@optusnet.com.au)

by early October 2022.

Thanks to those who have contributed to this newsletter.



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