

U3A FLINDERS NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2022



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Message from our President



Dear Members

It is almost the end of another eventful year, with initial planning for 2023 completed.

We have enjoyed another year of varied and stimulating lectures; thanks to Max and his small team of planners. Please contact Max if you can provide details of potential speakers.

While Covid restrictions have eased, the virus has not disappeared and the Committee will remain vigilant on your behalf.

Our Sponsorship & Facilities Agreements with Flinders University was due for renewal in April. Regrettably, the University has decided not to continue providing the yearly financial contribution of \$3,000 which has been received regularly since the inception of U3A Flinders. However, under the Facilities Agreement, the provision of office space will stand. We are currently in discussions with the University to clarify the form of our agreements, as this underpins our connection with the University.

In the last few months, we have sadly farewelled Alan Brokenshire and Margaret Nietz, both long-term, much respected members. Alan was a well-travelled and an accomplished pianist; a true gentle gentleman. Margaret provided regular speaker programs over 15+ years, and was also a committee member and an Office Volunteer. Our thoughts are with their families.

Finally, but importantly, the survival of U3A Flinders relies on the ongoing commitment of our dedicated and dependable volunteers and I thank all the members who have played their part once again. Details and position descriptions will be circulated in the new year, calling for members to volunteer for roles that are being vacated. I urge everyone to give consideration to what they can do to contribute to ensure our U3A continues.

I look forward to meeting many of you at our Christmas Event at the Active Elders Hall on Tuesday December 13 at 12noon.

Season's greetings to everyone, and may we all enjoy a healthy, peaceful 2023.

Best wishes

Chris Bennett

Thanks to those who have contributed to this newsletter.
We value your contributions, both text and photos.
Please submit to Judy Milford at milfords4@bigpond.com and
Nola Byass at littleroo@optusnet.com.au
by early February 2023

Beach Management Review

Bev Bennet

On Tuesday 11th October, Chris Newby gave a presentation on his work in the Department of Environment and Water, overseeing the upkeep of Adelaide beaches.

Management of the beaches has been in place for the last 50 years. In the 1950s there were many severe storms that caused havoc along our coastline. Rocks were exposed so it was thought that action was needed. The plan was to move sand from where it builds up, to where it has been eroded. It was found that coasts can move up to 100m over a period of time.

We saw a photo of Seacliff in 1900 that showed just how different the coastline was then. Sand was also being removed in the early days for concrete and glass making.

It became apparent that it was better to move sand than have an exposed rock wall which exacerbated the strength of the tides. Now about 100,000 cubic metres of sand moves north-west each year. This is known as the littoral drift.

Over the years there have been many reviews of coastal management. In 2005 *The Adelaide Living Beaches Strategy* was developed. A pipeline was built from West Beach to Glenelg then Glenelg to Kingston Park. Sand is collected during winter; rocks are removed and then it is mixed with seawater to form a slurry which is released on to the beach.

There is also a section of pipeline between the Torrens River outlet and West Beach but that is currently not in use.

Initially it was thought to continue the pipeline to Taperoo but residents were not happy and funding wasn't available.

So, trucks are used to shift sand north of West Beach. But the sand grains gradually become finer as they are deposited further north so the sand from these beaches is not always a good substitute for the sand that is lost further south.



Sand shifting

The sand from a quarry near Mt Compass is the best source available as a substitute. The system for shifting the sand is not closed so it is inevitable that some sand is lost. This is best kept to a minimum as sand is expensive - \$60 to \$70 a cubic metre.

So, what are the plans for the future considering the impacts of climate change?

The current Beach Management Review, headed by Chris, is looking at a number of ways to keep our beaches in the best possible condition.

Suggestions have been made about using groins, which are shore perpendicular structures, to maintain updrift beaches or to restrict longshore sediment transport. Other suggestions are to build offshore reefs to dissipate wave energy or do more to encourage seagrass restoration. Consultation with the community is continuing.

These are two websites that show how our coast has changed:

<https://maps.dea.ga.gov.au/story/DEACoastlines>
www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts

It is reassuring to know there are plans afoot to keep our beaches in good shape for our future enjoyment.

John's Back Garden and the Birds

John Bartlett

I know that there are several other bird lovers in our U3A group, so they will be able to relate to my thoughts and observations, and perhaps other members may decide to take more interest in our feathered friends.

My back garden at Brighton is strictly for the birds but not in the slang sense – it is far from worthless. It is full of birds which are attracted to my small garden by several native shrubs, all nectar bearing, which appeal to some of our native birds. More particularly, it is the large gum tree, just over my back fence, that great numbers of birds are attracted to.



John's Backyard

When the gum tree is in flower, the lorikeets arrive in their hundreds. They are fast and noisy and, compared with us humans, birds' senses of sight, hearing and communication are amazing. An example of this relates to my bird bath or when the sprinkler is on. In no time, at least a dozen honeyeaters will zoom in for a bath and a chat. I'm always filled with joy by the antics of these lovable little birds. But one species makes me cross at times, that is the blackbirds that scatter my garden mulch all over the place.

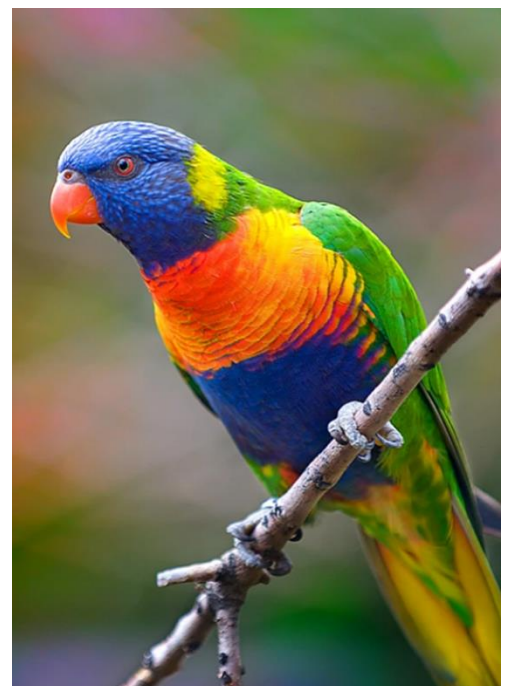
The speed, aerial agility and acute sight and hearing of birds have always astounded humankind. No wonder we have always wanted to "fly like the birds".

During nesting time blackbirds, honeyeaters, doves and crows have all nested in my garden or the gum tree. Last year a pair of 'yellow wings' (New Holland honeyeaters) reared one youngster in a hanging basket of tiny tradescantia only inches from the back wall of my small courtyard.

Birds come and go each day by the hundreds, and I can either lie in bed or sit in the back garden and watch and listen to them.

As I write this, it is Birdlife Australia's 'Aussie Bird Count Week', and I anticipate I will be able to contribute by listing twelve bird species, namely magpies, New Holland honeyeaters, silver eyes, and eastern spinebill, Australian ravens (aka crows), Murray magpies, wattlebirds, noisy miners, rainbow lorikeets, sparrows, blackbirds and Indian turtledoves; the latter three being introduced species.

Radio Station ABC Classic is also holding its Bird Week, featuring music inspired by birds, and interestingly the station announced that in last year's annual bird count, the most numerous species of bird counted around the country was the rainbow lorikeet. Like so many of our native birds, they have thrived under settlement.



Rainbow Lorikeet

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Who was Jimmy Melrose?

Judy Milford

This question was raised as the Walking Group came upon a bronze bust being installed by SA artist Ken Martin, at the Glenelg seafront Jimmy Melrose Park. It was to be officially unveiled that afternoon.



Charles James (Jimmy) Melrose, of a well-known South Australian pastoral family, was born in 1913 at Burnside, spending his early years in the family home in Aldgate but later he was largely raised by his widowed mother at the Glenelg Esplanade Glenwood Mansions (now Melrose apartments). He was educated at St Peters College and at age 19 gained his pilot's licence at Parafield Airport.

He set several Australian and World flying records, all within three short years.

In August 1934, Jimmy flew his DH Puss Moth, (affectionately named My Hildegarde) 8,000 miles or 12,875 km around Australia, slashing the previous record by 2 days, to 5 days, 10 hours and 57 minutes.

In October 1934 he set a South Australian altitude record over St Vincent Gulf, then two months later, successfully completed the first non-stop flight to Tasmania.

Following this he set yet another record time flying between Launceston and Sydney.

Just after his 21st birthday, he flew "My Hildegarde" solo from Parafield to Croydon, England in a record 8 days, 9 hours. He then joined the England to Melbourne air race reaching Melbourne in 8 days, 9 hours; the youngest flyer and only solo pilot to finish. He was in 6th place and third on handicap.

Jimmy also owned a faster Leopard Moth, but it was not prepared in time for this race. Uncle Noel Billing, an adventurous aviator, was of tremendous assistance to Jimmy.

In 1935 when flying his new Percival Gull back from England, Jimmy Melrose was the last to see Sir Charles Kingsford Smith's Lockheed Altair in the night air above the Bay of Bengal and was involved in the unsuccessful search when it disappeared.

In 1936 he flew his new five-seater Heston Phoenix home from England as a goodwill flight to publicise the South Australian Centenary. Using his new larger aircraft Jimmy established an air taxi, a service which was almost non-existent in Australia at that time.

On 5th July 1936, aged just 22 Jimmy died when his Heston Phoenix broke up in turbulent conditions over South Melton, Victoria. Mining Engineer, Alexander George Campbell DSO, also killed, had hired Jimmy to fly him to several possible mining project sites in outback Australia. Jimmy's death sent shock waves around the world.

There is a monument at the crash site and at the Stirling Oval, not far from the family home in Aldgate. James Melrose Road beside Adelaide Airport is named after him.

References: *Helen Jones in 'Australian Dictionary of Biography', Wikipedia and Family member*

In Memorium

We are sad to announce the death of members Margaret Nietz and Alan Brokenshire
Our thoughts are with their families