

U3A FLINDERS NEWSLETTER -NOVEMBER 2023



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Message from our President

This year has gone by so quickly, perhaps it's because we only meet once a week now. We have enjoyed so many marvellous speakers, so a special Thank You to Max Gordon for all he has done for our U3A Flinders group as Program Coordinator. Also, to Liz for always helping him and phoning members when speakers cancelled at the last minute. Bob Mills and I hope to meet Susan Visser, Flinders University Manager, Commercial Property, Facilities and Development in the next month regarding the ongoing use of the office. It is most important for the administration of U3A that we keep this office space, so we look forward to meeting Susan to discuss the future of our Sponsorship and Facilities Agreement with Flinders University.

I encourage all our members to think about what they can do to help our U3A continue and also to grow in the years ahead.

In the last few months, we have sadly farewelled former long-time members, Audrey Greenway, Joost Daalder, Merner Mueller and Dorothy Hatwell.

Audrey Greenway was a valued Committee member for many years and was Program Coordinator for a number of years before Max Gordon assumed the role.

Professor Joost Daalder and his wife Truus were valued members.

Merner Mueller was a doctor based in Ceduna and gave us an interesting insight into the life of a flying doctor.

Merner's sister **Dorothy Hatwell** was also a member of U3A Flinders. Dorothy and her late husband Neville audited the U3A financial books for many years and were avid attendees, remaining participants even after they moved away from the area.

Our thoughts are with their families.

With our last program for 2023 coming to an end, I look forward to seeing you at the Active Elders Hall on Thursday December 7 for our Christmas Event. After a shared lunch we will be entertained by a band of musical maestros. I hope you enjoy them.

Best wishes

President, Chris Bennett

Thank You

On behalf of all U3A members, a huge and sincere thank you to Max Gordon who has recently retired as Program Coordinator after 10 years. Some of his duties have included Program planner and collator, MC roster organiser, coordinating outside visits, liaising with speakers and outside visit venues, organising the printing of programs, sending thank you letters to speakers, overseeing the ordering and repair of technology, liaising with Flinders University and anything else that was necessary for a free running program.

During his time as Program Coordinator, Max has been loyally supported by his wife Liz and a small, reliable group of helpers who have aided Max in producing a very interesting and successful program.

Best wishes to Max and Liz as they now settle back to just enjoy U3A Flinders.

U3A FLINDERS NEWSLETTER –NOVEMBER 2023

What is happening with the Program Coordinator role?

Ray Bown and Bob Mills

With Max Gordon's well-deserved retirement from the Program Coordinator position, and the absence of someone prepared to take on this pivotal role, a sub-committee was tasked to explore ways in which the position could be divided amongst a number of people.

Following a call for volunteers prepared to contribute to this role, we are now trialling a new approach for 2024. This has only been possible because many of our members have offered their time and expertise.

Thanks to those members who have already responded to our call to suggest ideas about topics, speakers and visits. These have already helped kickstart our planning for programs in 2024.

These ideas, along with ideas from past programs and research, are being used by our four Speaker Planners to recruit speakers. Thanks go to experienced speaker recruiters Janet Newman and Sheila Dickinson who are sharing this workload with new starters Di Vivian and Carol Dorrington.

We are also grateful for those who have volunteered as Visit Planners (Sheila Dickinson, Carol Dorrington and John Bartlett).

Ray Bown, as Program Planner, has offered to bring all this information together to create the Program document. He will liaise with Speaker Planners, Visit Planners, and other groups to gather the necessary information to compile the Program. He will prepare the Program and associated Enrolment Form, including compiling, editing, and formatting the material provided and ensuring that it is proof-read, before emailing it to the Office for distribution. His role ends at this point.

The Office will manage the printing and distribution of the Program and associated material by post and email.

The Speaker Planners will now be the primary (and usually only) contact point with the guest speakers, and will be responsible for contacting them closer to the day of their presentations. They will also be responsible for preparation of 'thank you' letters to the speakers after their presentations.

Compilation of the Newsletter will continue in the very capable hands of Judy Milford and Nola Byass and be forwarded to the Office for inclusion in the Program mail-out.

Jacqui Brinkman and Di Rennie will coordinate the MCs for each session and they have already co-opted a number of members for that role.

Access to the AEA Hall property requires using keys to firstly open the carpark gates and then to open the Hall via a security system (the procedure is reversed at the end of the session). Currently, only two volunteers are available for this critical task and others will need to be trained to spread the load. A step-by-step procedure will be available to assist other volunteers to learn the process. **See President Chris for details.**

Setting-up of the electronic equipment – projector, computer and microphones- currently only has two volunteers available and others will need to be trained to spread the load. A step-by-step procedure will be available to assist to learn the process. **See Dean Carver for details.**

The setting-up of chairs prior to the session and preparing the kitchen will be continued by Committee members.

In the event of a cancellation by a speaker, the Speaker Planners will advise the Office.

With more volunteers to help with the AEA Hall security and setting-up the electronic equipment, we are confident that the 2024 system will provide continued enjoyment to members.

A brief history of U3A

Pat Davies/Judy Milford

The University of the Third Age (U3A) was established at the University of Toulouse in France in 1972.

The aim was to improve the quality of life for older people by maintaining their contact with information and educational programs.

U3A FLINDERS NEWSLETTER –NOVEMBER 2023

When the concept spread to the United Kingdom in the early 1980s, its nature became one of a more self-help organisation.

Australia's first University of the Third Age (U3A) began in Melbourne in 1984. There are now groups Australia wide, based in metropolitan, regional and rural areas. The model followed is to learn over a wide range of subject areas.

Sister Deirdre Jordan AC MBE, the Life Patron of U3A Flinders, was Chancellor of Flinders University during the years 1988-2002. In late 1988 she instigated the idea of a U3A to be attached to the University. Her encouragement in the early days along with that of the late Dr Suzanne Brugger steered the course for the formation of U3A Flinders. (Dr Brugger's efforts were acknowledged in 2010 being awarded the first Life Membership of U3A Flinders.)

So many boxes needed to be ticked: Planning, Publicity, Programing and Participation!

The original logo (designed by the late Dr Brugger) to be used on the pamphlets etc. reflected U3A Flinders' link with the University.

Support and help were generously given from staff attached to various units of the University to enable U3A Flinders to get under way.

The University assisted not only with printing and postage of the early programs but the use of an office which is still ongoing.

U3As are run entirely by volunteers and, in the main, draw on the knowledge, experience and skills of their members to share such attributes in a relaxed and social environment. Teamwork divides the task.

The management of U3A Flinders is vested in the General Committee but of course there are many other unsung helpers who:

- take on the role of MC or Assistant MC
- assist with the planning of the program
- help with the setting up and closing down of the sessions
- coordinate the various sub-groups
- volunteer in the office

East End Discovery Trail

Heather Fels

You can easily walk around the East End and never see the quirky interesting bits.

The East End precinct was a village in the 1860s containing fruit and vegetable markets; there were 294 other occupations carried out in this precinct including umbrella making, taxidermy, and midwifery. Unlike other cities of Australia, the produce markets were privately owned. In 1860 Richard Vaughan established the East End Market.

In 1903 William Charlick opened the Adelaide Fruit and Produce Exchange. Its facade spans four city streets; East Terrace, Rundle, Grenfell, and Union Streets. There's an excellent view of the market buildings on the parklands side of East Terrace.

We found that the Synagogue building and shops, designed in the Art Deco style by Chris Smith who designed the Chelsea and Kensington Theatres, thus explaining the Synagogue's façade's similarity to a picture theatre.

The mural on Frome Street is a fine example of the controversial Daubist movement which originated here in South Australia. The idea was to use existing landscapes to create a new artistic vision. Driller Jet Armstrong was a leading exponent; however, when he daubed Charles Bannion's landscape, Bannion took him to the Federal Court of Australia. This resulted in an amendment to the Copyright Amendments (Moral Rights) act in 2000. Just off Vardon Avenue there's a mural honouring Frank Vaiana, a Sicilian migrant who



U3A FLINDERS NEWSLETTER –NOVEMBER 2023

arrived in 1957 and set up a barber's shop. He was a fixture in the East End for over sixty years and in 2016 they named the adjacent lane Frank's Lane after him.



The Sym Choon shops are well known and the stories associated with this pioneering Chinese-Australian family are fascinating, including various family members selling peanuts, fireworks and luxury imports from all over the world, being an agent for Wrigley's chewing gum and offering SP betting on the side.

I can highly recommend downloading the Adelaide City Explorer App. It is an easy access mobile guide to the architecture and heritage of the City of Adelaide.

Photos courtesy of Judy Modra-Smith

Outside Visit to Haigh's Chocolates

Judy Milford / Nola Byass

It was May 1st 1915, when Alfred E Haigh opened the doors of the very first Haigh's Chocolates store in the Beehive Building at 34 King William Street, Adelaide.

Alfred began adding his own flavour to the industry and in 1917 he started producing chocolate-covered fruit centres. Business was booming and it was time to expand. Alfred bought the family home and land in Parkside where he built a small two roomed factory and moved all manufacturing to the site in 1919, which is now home of the factory and Visitor Centre.

In 1923, he moved shops to the Beehive Corner – still our Adelaide flagship store. Sadly, in 1933, Alfred passed away suddenly. His son Claude took over the running of the business, which had by then grown to six stores.

During the war years, supplies were difficult. Yet despite the sugar rationing Haigh's managed to keep on trading, making boiled sweets and wrapped toffees for the armed forces.

Alfred's grandson, John Haigh, joined the business in 1946 with a vision to take Haigh's chocolate making to new heights. He trained in Switzerland with Lindt & Sprüngli and visited the US to look at production, shop styles and marketing. John revolutionised the way Haigh's manufactured chocolate and in 1959 became Managing Director until 1990.

John is responsible for transforming Haigh's into a manufacturer of premium quality chocolate that is internationally acclaimed and recognised among the world's best. He also refined the exclusivity of the Haigh's in-store experience and the way in which Haigh's is marketed to this day.

During the 1950s and 60s, Haigh's chocolates were also sold at the movies. In those days, movie-goers bought their treats from the Haigh's counters and the Haigh's 'tray boys' and 'tray girls' who stood at the front of the screen during interval.

In the 1960s John looked elsewhere to grow the business. In 1965 Haigh's opened their first store outside South Australia, in Collins Street Melbourne, building the foundation for the business to expand and trade strongly around Australia.

Haigh's are very proud to be the oldest family-owned chocolate maker in Australia. Today the company is run by fourth generation Haigh's, Alister and Simon, who joined the business in the 1970s. They've been joint Managing Directors since 1990.

We were fortunate to join a small group of U3A members on a very informative tour of the Haigh's factory in October. And yes, samples were provided and we took time to explore the shop afterwards to ensure we didn't leave empty handed!

In Memorium

Professor Joost Daalder Audrey Greenway Dr Merna Mueller Dorothy Hatwell
Our thoughts are with their families

U3A FLINDERS NEWSLETTER –NOVEMBER 2023

With thanks to

Pat Davies for the use of her summary in her booklet "University of the Third Age-Flinders-Incorporated"

Heather Fels for researching, leading and providing a summary of the U3A Walking Group's East End 'discovery tour' in August.

Please submit articles for the next newsletter to
Judy Milford at milfords4@bigpond.com and Nola Byass at littleeroo@optusnet.com.au
by the end of February 2024