

U3A FLINDERS NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2024



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President's Message

It's hard to believe 2024 is drawing to a close. The Committee has had many challenges during the year. While our membership is growing, we are still without an Office Coordinator and we are always keen for new volunteers in the office and also on the Committee.

The Facility Access Agreement, for the use of Room 340 in the Information Science and Technology Building on the Flinders University, Bedford Park campus, has been extended for a further year, March 27, 2025 to March 26, 2026. The Extension of Agreement was signed on September 16, 2024, but Secretary Bob Mills and I will have to start discussions again in May or June next year regarding the future lease of this office space.

A big Thank You to our Committee members who turn up early every Thursday to place the chairs, fill the urns, check the sound system and lots of other things necessary to keep everything running smoothly. Thank you to Raelene and Owen who bring sweet treats for afternoon tea; a very thoughtful gesture which we all love.

Our condolences go to long time member, former Secretary, Committee member and Office volunteer Patricia Davies whose husband and soulmate Robert passed away recently. Our thoughts are also with their family.

Our Christmas Lunch will be held on Thursday December 5 in the Active Elders Hall, beginning at 12 noon. Please bring sweet or savoury food to share. Also, I hope you will stay a little longer as the Molfettese Singing Group will be coming to entertain us.

Best wishes,

Chris Bennett, President

Snap Send Solve

This is a FREE Australia-wide App, that can be downloaded onto your mobile phone, to fast track solving an issue.

Its role is to connect communities to the appropriate problem-solving authorities.

1. You spot an issue

From uneven footpaths, potholes and dumped rubbish, to power outages and abandoned shopping trolleys, e-bikes and e-scooters, if you see it, you can snap it and send it.

2. The responsible Solver is notified

The GPS coordinates of the photo and the nature of the issue are used to determine that the details are sent to the right people.

With a 90%+ solve rate your issue is well on its way to getting resolved.

I have first-hand experience that this works and works well. Within a few days of using the Snap Send Solve app, the local council commenced work to fix several raised footpath pavers which presented a trip hazard.

Nola Byass

Matthew Flinders' Legacy

The legacy left in South Australia by Captain Matthew Flinders is enormous.

Not only the many places he named around the coast, but many other establishments, memorials and organisations, such as our own, commemorate him.

Matthew Flinders is revered for being the first man to circumnavigate the continent and the first person to use the name 'Australia' in his book, *Voyage to Terra Australis*, published on July 18, 1814 the day before he died.

His rival in our waters was the French captain Nicholas Baudin in *LA GEOGRAPHE* whom he famously met in April 1802 in a bay off our south coast which he appropriately named Encounter Bay. Baudin never made it home to France, dying on Mauritius (previously known as Ile de France).

It was also on that island near Madagascar that, on his way home in 1803, Flinders, unaware that England and France were now at war, was arrested as a spy and held in captivity for over six years by the French. His new wife Ann, who he had left behind (forcibly), patiently waited at home in England for 10 years.

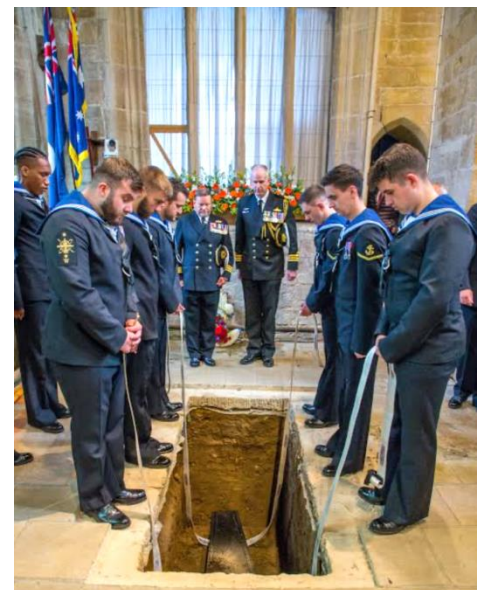
There are also French place names around our coast thanks to Baudin and his officers.

Apart from coastal place names by Flinders here in SA, there are memorials to him, including:

Flinders Park Flinders Ranges, Mount Lofty
Flinders Column Mount Brown
Flinders Highway, Eyre Peninsula
Flinders Street Flinders University
Stamford Hill (near Port Lincoln)
Flinders Medical Centre Flinders Private Hospital
Operation Flinders Flinders Chase National Park
University of the Third Age Flinders
Flinders Railway Station at FMC

Statues on North Terrace, Flinders Railway Station and Port Lincoln (which include Trim, his beloved cat).

In recent times, Matthew Flinders remains were found five years ago near Euston Railway Station, London in what had been a church graveyard. These remains were re-buried with great ceremony on July 13, 2024 in the church of his birthplace, Donington, Lincolnshire.



John Bartlett

Baby Boomers – are you one of these?

Much has been written by social researchers about this group of people.

Born in the years between 1946-61, they were considered a hard-to-ignore cohort.

Demographers tend to use a 15-year span to define a generation, like Gen X, Gen Y and so on.

'We're not here for a long time, we're here for a good time' became the Boomers' catch cry. But as time went on, they realised they were here for a long time after all.

The future may have initially seemed rosy but there was the post war influence – the Cold War. Boomers lived in the shadow of atomic bombs, nuclear weapons and exposure to espionage novels and films.

Try not to think about the Boomer Prime Ministers – Kevin Rudd, Julia Gillard, Tony Abbott and Malcolm Turnbull.

U3A FLINDERS NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2024

Boomers have been known as the ‘denim’ generation – forever young, though the denim is slightly stretched these days.

In later years they have set new records for the use of tranquilisers and having to contend with the information technology revolution as well as caring for elderly parents and grandchildren – at the same time.

C’est la vie.

Patricia Davies

With acknowledgement to Hugh Mackay (Australian psychologist)

Did you know?

Adelaide Award

Influential century-old American magazine Architectural Digest, with 17 million followers, has named Adelaide as the world’s most beautiful city.

The magazine praised Adelaide’s picturesque location and blend of architectural styles, when placing it at the top of a list of 20 cities which included Tallinn in Estonia, Singapore, Paris, New York and Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Beyond the Art Deco and Victorian architecture, beaches

provide surf and sand dunes, lush rolling hills where nature-lovers can spot koalas and kangaroos, and an abundance of high-quality wineries in Australia’s best wine region.

Source: Glam Adelaide



Adelaide’s Own Cistern

A well-known site in the Turkish city of Istanbul is the underground water storage cistern, with its elaborate columns and arches. This is open to the public.



However, did you know that beneath the North Adelaide parklands, at the corner of O’Connell Street and Barton Terrace, lies the North Adelaide Service reservoir or cistern, an incredible underground marvel of architecture which has been supporting the city water supply since 1879.

This lesser-known site was built by the state government’s hydraulic engineers department

to provide a crucial need of a reliable water supply to Port Adelaide and the Western suburbs. The stunning red brick infrastructure with cathedral-like piers and arches, spanning approximately 33.5 metres square, with a capacity of 4.7 million litres, which is still operating 145 years later, guarantees a safe, healthy underground water supply for 100,000 residents.

U3A FLINDERS NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2024

A report from the South Australian Heritage Council praises the intricate design and construction of the reservoir, particularly as it was never meant to be accessed by the general public and mostly operates out of sight. A small green building beside the mound hiding the underground reservoir, is an indicator of the site of "Adelaide's own cistern".

Source: Glam Adelaide

Do You Remember?

West Cliffs, Hallett Cove Estate

West Cliffs was planned as one of the dream houses of a millionaire, Dr Hermann Schneider, a member of a distinguished Munich family. His father was personal physician to Kaiser Wilhelm II. Hermann graduated as a chemist and entered the commercial pharmaceutical field, in which he developed and patented a number of important drugs. In the course of his profession, he travelled extensively, but since he hated hotel life, he built houses wherever, for commercial or aesthetic reasons, he wished to stay. He maintained mansions overlooking Sydney and in St Moritz, a tropical house in Bora Bora and a castle in Morocco.

Dr Schneider accompanied his geologist son to Hallett Cove on a scientific expedition and was much taken with the beaches and the cliffs overlooking St Vincent Gulf. He bought 19 acres of virgin land south of Brighton and built a massive two-storey house of 14 rooms, including a 54 ft long, glass fronted living room lined with Swiss Serpentino marble. Schneider brought with him furniture of great beauty and antiquity; his china cabinet was adorned by a dinner set made for Napoleon Bonaparte; even the toilet silver had been designed for the Empress Elizabeth of Austria.

He kept a complete wardrobe of clothes at each house so that he could arrive at any time carrying only a brief case. At West Cliffs he also kept bicycles and, on his visit, he would trundle off to Brighton beach, lie in the sun and then sip a Pernod at the local, while the landlord rang the caretaker to bring the car round for the good doctor and his bike.

Dr Sneider was fascinated by the glorious sunsets, and would sit for long periods watching them. Unfortunately, he only lived long enough to spend a few weeks at the estate; he died in his early sixties of a heart attack.

West Cliffs lay abandoned for years and was eventually demolished.

Source: Southern Vales Sketchbook published 1977

In Memorium

Acknowledging the passing of past member

Myra Tunbridge

Our thoughts are with her family and friends.

Our thanks to those who have contributed to this newsletter.

Please submit your contributions to the U3A Newsletter, both text and photos, to Judy Milford at milfords4@bigpond.com and Nola Byass at littleroo@optusnet.com.au by early March 2025