

Staying in Touch

29 September 2020

From the President

Hi All,

Term 4 2020!! Difficult to believe that we are here already and yet it has been such a long year.

Unfortunately, we will still not be able to meet face to face. When things change for us we will certainly be in touch. However, we can still offer an excellent program thanks to our wonderful tutors and the enthusiasm and support of members. If you have not joined a Zoom session yet, but are considering joining a class or the Occasional Lecture please be in touch via email: info@u3asurfcoast.org.au or telephone 0435374139 and leave a message.

After a very successful class in Term 3, Kevin James has agreed to run another Cryptic Crosswords beginner course in Term 4, and a few of us are keen to attend again! Lots of fun and laughs!

John Bartlett is going to teach a new poetry course where he will also welcome newcomers to join. He has titled this: 'But I Don't Know Anything About Poetry'. Very intriguing!

There are a few spots left in some of the ongoing courses so please have a look at the new Timetable and let us know if you need any help. Stay safe!

Sue Crowe, President
0418 357 484

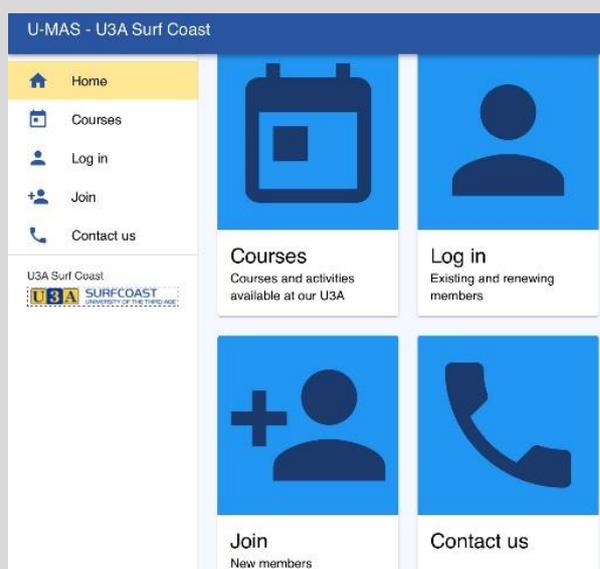
U3A SurfCoast Committee 2020/21

President: Sue Crowe
Vice President: John Bartlett
Treasurer: Greg Brinsmead
Secretary: Marg Parsons
Committee: Barry Cock, Jennie Deneefe, John McDonald, Judith Meagher, Richard Porter, Mary Taylor

Login for Term 4 Courses

Our Term 4 online program is now ready for your attention on our website. Many classes are continuing on from Term 3 and may not have vacancies, but take a few moments to check out what's available, and join us on Zoom.

You will find a few changes when you go to our U3A website (www.u3asurfcoast.org.au). We have a new setup, and we hope you find it easier to negotiate. When you click on the Member Login tab you will find a page that looks like this:



There is a different layout for Course information, and it's a bit like buying online where your chosen courses go into a 'Cart' and you finalise your selections at Checkout. Let us know what you think, so we can pass feedback on to the U3A Network.

Special Trivia Event

In addition to his monthly Trivia Teasers, our resident Quizmaster, Tim Robinson will be running a special trivia program on 22 October to celebrate Get Online Week. This event will be funded by the Be Connected program, with prizes and 'goodie bags' for registered participants. Even if you have never tried a Trivia quiz before, sign up and get online for this fun event. You can enter individually or with someone else from your household.



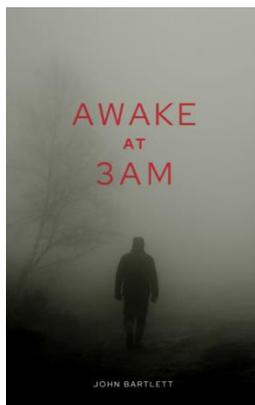
Reading Nature Writing

Welcome to a new SurfCoast tutor, Helen Modra who is going to teach a four week course called 'Reading Nature Writing' and it looks extremely interesting. Helen has an academic background and has taught and studied in this field for more than 25 years. We are very excited that Helen plans to spend some time at our U3A.

Helen says, 'In this short course we will read and discuss work from some of the world's leading nature writers. Nature writing is 'writing for the earth, inspired by the earth and all her creatures'. Writing in this genre is predominantly non-fiction and poetry, and that's what we will be reading. As Australia's leading contemporary nature write, Mark Tredinnick, has observed, "It is not so much literature about nature as a literature written from nature's point of view." In other words, not merely a human-centred view of the world. The best nature writing is also splendidly well-written, and I think you will enjoy it very much.

Awake at 3am

We are proud to announce the publication of John Bartlett's eighth book and first full poetry collection. *Awake at 3am*. This publication follows the release of John's second poetry Chapbook in June which included the poem entitled *Survival* which won the 2020 Ada Cambridge Poetry Prize.



Local bookstores will have the book in stock or you can order through John's website

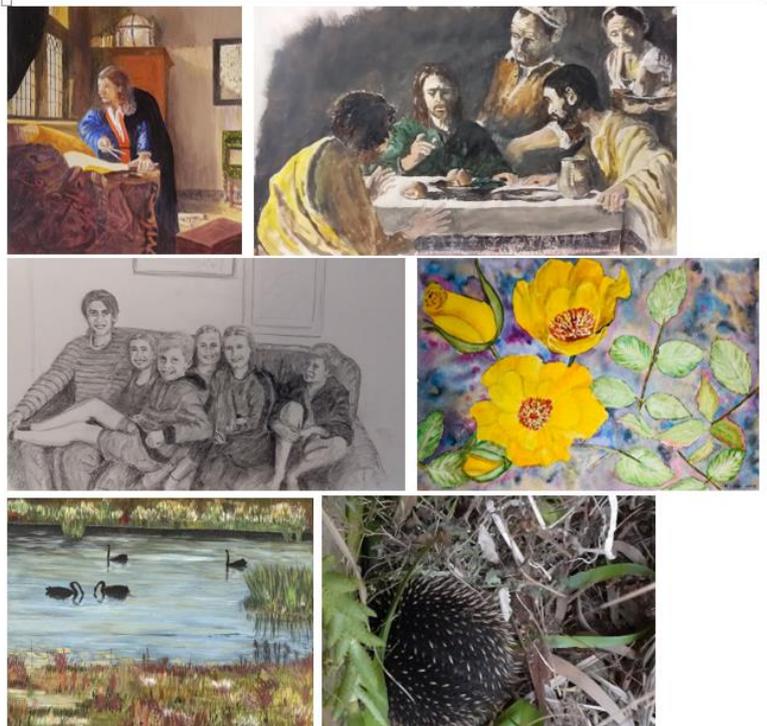
<https://beyondtheestuary.com/shop/awake-at-3am/>

Occasional Lecture: Walking through history

Cheryl Baulch from Torquay Museum Without Walls will be our guest speaker via Zoom on Friday 20 November at 1.30 pm. Cheryl will reveal places and hidden stories that you might otherwise miss on your walks around Torquay or as you surf through websites. Torquay's rich history is embedded in the stories shared and published on the Museum Without Walls website, in *History Matters* magazine and on a free Torquay History App.

U3A Surf Coast Art Group.

"From transcriptions of Masters to photography, our members have managed to keep up their practice in various forms." says tutor June Marks. We've been sharing on our closed Facebook page and, in the process, honing our skills of more valid critique. A work is "beautiful"? In what way? Line, spatial elements, colour, fall of light? Here is a small sample. You'll see them complete with artist names, titles and media in our next exhibition. Works below from George Carman, Mike Jolley, Bernadette Little, Helen Seymour and Di Porter.



Ikebana Artists

The U3A Ikebana class continued through Term 3. Each week students completed a different set exercise at home, then sent a photo to me. I critiqued the photo by email exchange or telephone and, if necessary, the student sent a second photo of the revised work. All the final photos were then sent by global email to all the students so that they could see and be inspired by each other's work.

The exercise for these photos was: "Create an Ikebana arrangement incorporating Australian indigenous and exotic materials."

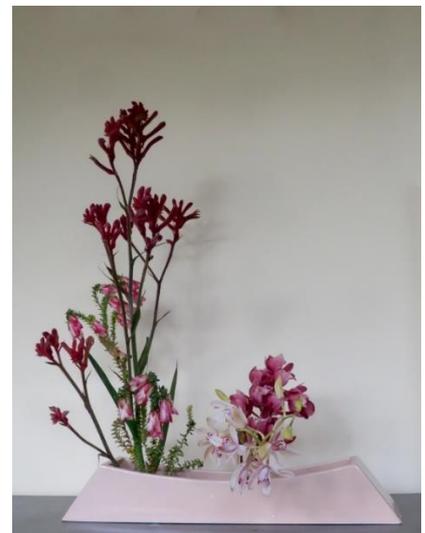
I set this exercise as it goes to the heart of the thinking of Sofu Teshigahara, who founded the Sogetsu school in 1927. Up to the late 19th century there were many rules constraining what was acceptable in Ikebana. The first text book in English about Ikebana, "The flowers of Japan and the art of Ikebana" by Josiah Condor was published in 1891.

One of the interesting listings in the book was under the two headings of "Appropriate Combinations and Objectionable Combinations" of flowers (pages 75 & 76). It was against just such strictures that Sofu sought to free Ikebana. There certainly are combinations of materials that do not sit naturally well together. However, Sofu considered that any combination is possible. But it is up to the skills of the Ikebanist to make the materials work together to make successful Ikebana. It is not an easy exercise. Congratulations to my students for doing it so well.

Christopher James
Riji Certificate
Director, Victorian Branch,
Sogetsu School of Ikebana.



Roza



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Helen T.