

Staying in Touch

5 December 2020

From the President

Hi All,

Here we are in December 2020 and so thankful that we can now start to see family and friends more easily and hopefully have a more normal Christmas. What a year!

U3A SurfCoast has managed to continue in a modified format thanks to Zoom and the innovative ideas of some of our amazing tutors. Others have found it more difficult due to the nature and content of their courses, but are enthusiastic and positive about 2021 as we all are.

We have had a wonderful response from tutors, both current and new who have organised a terrific program for Term 1 and later in 2021. There are already two Occasional Lectures planned for Term 1.

A big welcome to Maria Pheiler and Edward Aquilina who are starting their *Italian For Beginners* on Tuesday afternoons. The course looks like a lot of fun given the personalities of these two lovely people. Also welcome to Helen Modra whose course *Introduction to the Literature of Nature* already has a group of people interested, but will be limited in size, so please sign up as soon as enrolments open.

Lastly, I would like to thank our amazing U3A Committee who have worked tirelessly and enthusiastically this year. I was told by Network U3A that I had to be supportive of our committee, tutors and support team during this difficult year, but I feel it worked the other way round. A fantastic group of volunteers with our community constantly at the core of all decisions.

Wishing you all a safe and happy summer break and see you in 2021,

Sue Crowe, President

FEES 2021

Annual Subscription	\$60.00
Associate (belong to another U3A)	\$30.00
Active 2020 Member	\$40.00

Are you interested in promoting U3A?

In March 2021 our current Media & Promotions Officer will be stepping down and we are looking for one or two people to take over this role. We are especially looking for new ideas and ways of promoting our U3A. If you would like to discuss what is involved further, please contact current Officer, John Bartlett at johnbartlett179@gmail.com

Enrolments!!

Our 2021 timetable will be available to view online from Wednesday 9 December ready for enrolments commencing on Friday 11th December.

We encourage people to enrol online if possible. If you wish to enrol online but pay cash, please bring your money in a named envelope so we can process your payment. If you were an Active Member in 2020, you will receive a \$20 discount on your 2021 annual subscription to compensate for program disruptions during our COVID year.

On Friday 11 December we will be taking enrolments at a trestle outside the Bendigo Bank in Gilbert Street Torquay from 9.30 until 12 noon. Our digital enrolment capacity may be limited, but we will have enrolment forms, timetables and information for you so that you can complete an application form and hand it in for processing. We are only allowed a couple of people there at a time and if you sit at the trestle please wear your mask.

Please enrol in just one Yoga or Tai Chi class as our numbers have been severely limited by COVID regulations and we wish to accommodate as many as possible. You may enrol in both one Yoga and one Tai Chi class if you wish.

Our class sizes and venues will be affected by the current COVID-19 rules requiring all participants to wear masks; no access to kitchens; sanitising and wiping of chairs; and recording of all class attendees. The rules vary slightly between venues. These regulations are constantly being updated, and you will be kept informed. Each Tutor will have a COVIDSafe Pack supplied by U3A SurfCoast.

Please be patient if you have any issues while we endeavour to enrol everyone. You are welcome to contact us (preferably by email) if you have a problem because we are allowed no more than three people in the U3A Office at the moment.

Gala Trivia Event

Thanks to a grant from the Good Things Foundation and Tim Robinson's fantastic quiz preparation, about 30 U3A SurfCoast trivia enthusiasts came together via Zoom in October for a Gala Trivia Event to celebrate National Get Online Week. Congratulations to Gala Trivia champion Bernie Little who won a 2021 subscription to U3A SurfCoast.

This annual event is usually celebrated with a special program enhanced by a beautiful afternoon tea. Because we couldn't meet in person this year, Sue Crowe and her hard-working committee prepared gift bags of 'goodies' that were delivered to all registered participants prior to the event. Tucked into each goodie bag was a little Gala Quiz book prepared by Jennie Deneefe, incorporating fun puzzles and information from the Be Connected program.

Well done to all involved. It was a great day.



Final Occasional Lecture for 2020

On 20 November around 20 members attended a Zoom lecture by local historian Cheryl Baulch, entitled *The Hidden Stories of Torquay*. Cheryl is well-known to Torquay residents as a convenor of Torquay Museum without Walls (TMWW) a local historical society dedicated to researching and publishing local history online.

(<https://www.torquayhistory.com/>)

Cheryl guided us through the various areas of the website to demonstrate the many stories and local identities of whom local residents may never have heard. The information available on this site is extensive for such a

small group of dedicated history buffs. Cheryl was also able to demonstrate the range of information of the TMWW App, which links local stories with particular map locations making such an App an essential companion for a walking historical tour of the streets of Torquay.

As well as editing a quarterly magazine *History Matters*, Cheryl is the author of *Together They Served*, an exceptional ground-breaking book, published in 2019, featuring stories of 700 shire residents who enlisted in World War I. Cheryl was certainly a fitting presenter for our final Lecture for 2020.

Non Fiction Book Readers

Sounds interesting doesn't it? Not your usual Book Group! That's what caught my eye when I first read it on the U3A SurfCoast list of courses.

Our group of about twelve members meets once a month – the last Friday of each month at 2.00 pm. A topic, by mutual consent, is decided for the following month. Each of us chooses a non-fiction book, reads it and prepares a brief synopsis.

At our meeting we each share the information we have gleaned from our book of choice. It is always amazing to experience the variety of books and subjects pertaining to the topic chosen. Occasionally a couple of people will have selected the same aspect but rarely the same book!!

Non-Fiction Book Readers was the first U3A Surf Coat group to switch to Zoom during the COVID pandemic and whilst we all agree that 'face to face' meetings to share and 'feel' our chosen books is preferable, Zoom has enabled us to continue and enjoy!

Come join us!

Jennifer Aquilina, Tutor

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

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