

## Staying in Touch

November 2021

### Words from Sue

Dear All,

As the U3A 2021 year draws to a close, despite Covid I feel our achievements have been extensive and should be applauded. This week I have attended a fascinating Occasional Lecture at the Surfing Museum with archivist Bob Smith; the inspirational U3A Art Exhibition at the MAC which considered the transition from Lockdown in Covid to Spring and "Liberty"; and the wonderful launch and reading of 3 poetry booklets by our very talented U3A Poetry Group. and followed by a delightful lunch with the U3A Cinema group. These are only some examples of how our talented tutors and members supported by a very hardworking committee have managed to persevere and work within the confines of Covid. Thank you so much to everyone.

The outstanding work is enabling us to move with enthusiasm into 2022. The timetable for Term 1 is receiving the finishing touches and will be published online on Friday 3 December. You will also receive the course schedule by email prior to enrolment day.

Enrolments will be available on line or at the Office at the Senior Citizens between 9.30 and 11.30 on Friday 3 December. Please remember that no enrolments will be carried over from 2021 and you must enrol as soon as possible, particularly for some classes that are oversubscribed. Face2Face classes will only be available to Fully Vaccinated members at this stage, but anyone is very welcome to join in our Zoom classes.

If you enrol in certain classes, for example most language classes, everyone will be placed on the waiting list as some classes have prerequisites of certain skill levels.

There are a number of NEW courses which we are very excited about and are explained on the website, or we can talk to you about these at the Office when you come in. Almost too many to mention. We are not running a newspaper campaign until late January to allow our loyal members the first opportunity to enrol. There will be another Newsletter in late January.

Finally, I wish you all a safe and happy holiday and festive time ahead. Hoping that many of you will have an opportunity to catch up with some family and friends, but know it will still be difficult for some. Thank you all for your support and contributions in 2021,

**Sue Crowe, President**

### Tribute to Kate McGregor



It was with great sadness that U3A Surf Coast faced the loss of Kate who was a co-tutor of our Cinema Studies group with her husband Brent and Nick Harvey. Those of us who met her were always struck by her smile, enthusiasm and wonderful warmth.

Nick Harvey, Rosemary Faris and Mary Taylor have each written some lovely words about this special lady who we knew for a short time only, but who made a great impact. We have included a part of each tribute to Kate and a lovely photo:

- 🍷 Kate and Brent McGregor joined U3A soon after their arrival in Torquay. Immediately they started contributing to our Cinema Studies course. When we had to go online, Kate really came into her own. It was such a joy to see her each Wednesday, animated, stylish and so knowledgeable. She helped in the selection of the movies and her thoughtful introductions added so much to the appreciation of each movie. Due largely to Kate's gift for putting people together, we now meet regularly for lunch or a coffee. She is missed so much but we've been enriched by knowing her.
- 🍷 For many of us in lockdown Wednesdays at 12.00 became a real highlight of our week. Kate brought a particular aura to these online sessions. Her knowledge of movies and her interest and love of costuming was something she willingly shared with us all and this in turn enhanced our understanding and enjoyment of the movies. She always had a wonderful twinkle in her eye and her smile brought a feeling of warmth to us all.
- 🍷 As co-Convenors Kate, Brent and I had to meet in order to decide upon the films, often at their home. I found Kate welcoming, funny, sensitive and caring. Despite knowing her for only a relatively short time, I felt that I had known Kate for far longer.

The review of Kate's life at her funeral service revealed just how special she was and what a loss Kate is obviously for those close to her, but also for our little Cinema Studies group.

## New Mask Restrictions

Mask restrictions were relaxed by the CHO last week, but we are asking our members and tutors to continue to wear masks when entering, leaving and settling into a venue. Once settled, masks may be removed unless you would prefer not to. Please continue to QR into venues and stay home if unwell.

## A U3A Course That Belies Its Title

One would hardly expect a poetry class titled 'I Just Don't Get Poetry' to have resulted in the publication of two chap books by Ginninderra Press, a collection of poems (self published) from the whole group and many poems being submitted and accepted by a variety of publications in Australia and abroad. This has largely been the result of the generous and steady encouragement of John Bartlett who has genuinely felt the joy of each poet's publication success. John has been an inspiration in sharing his knowledge of places to submit poetry while gently encouraging individuals to feel that their efforts are worthy of publication.

The fact that the poetry group has had to meet on Zoom throughout the uncertainty of repeated lockdowns has not been a disadvantage to the group's productivity. John's eclectic choice of poems to be discussed in each session has led to quite searching discussion about both subject matter and poetic style and it would be fair to say that this has been the stimulus for some of the most successful poems written by members of the group.

Thanks John, for your wit, wisdom and wonder.

**Helen Seymour**

## STOP PRESS

The Office will be open for enrolments on Friday 3 December from 9.30 to 11.30, the last day of term.

**Watch out for an email with the course schedule early next week!**

Your annual subscription for 2022 will remain at \$60 for Full Members and \$35 for Associates who are financial members of another U3A. Please bring cash if possible as payment by card can be quite a long process due to our system.

The Office will reopen prior to the commencement of Term 1 in 2022.

Please remember to pick up your badges (if you don't already have one) from the Office when it is open.

## End of Year Gathering.



Please come and join us to celebrate the end of our U3A year.

on

**Friday 3rd December from 1.30 to 3pm**

at

Rotary BBQ area on Torquay Common

between the river and the Torquay Caravan Park behind the Torquay Life Saving Club on Surf Beach Drive.

Perhaps bring a chair (some seats available)

We look forward to seeing your smiles and hearing bits of news as we catch up Face2Face and wish one another a happy festive season and celebrate our good times during 2021.

Some food available, but feel welcome to bring something to add.

Some drinks offered - no alcohol though, as it is a public place.

We are hoping to provide more next year in a venue!

IF the weather is unkind, we will send out an email to let everyone know that it is cancelled.

### U3A SurfCoast Committee 2020/21

**President:** Sue Crowe  
**Vice President:** John Bartlett  
**Treasurer:** Greg Brinsmead  
**Secretary:** Marg Parsons  
**Committee:** Barry Cock, Jennie Deneefe, Richard Drury, Richard Porter, Jo Turnbull, Jennifer Aquilina

Look us up on: [www.u3asurfcoast.org.au](http://www.u3asurfcoast.org.au)

Contact us on: [info@u3asurfcoast.org.au](mailto:info@u3asurfcoast.org.au)