

U3A FLINDERS NEWSLETTER -MARCH 2024



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U3A Flinders Annual General Meeting - March 14, 2024



President's Report to the AGM

Welcome everyone to the AGM of U3A Flinders and thank you for coming Thursdays and keeping your curiosity open to our variety of inspiring speakers.

The last few months have been dominated with ongoing discussions with Flinders University and their legal department to keep the office for another year.

The second concern has been how to replace Max as Program Coordinator as he is retiring.

Our Secretary Bob Mills and Ray Bown together with a sub-committee have come up with a plan and many of our members have come on board to recruit speakers.

We still need your help as Jules, our Office Coordinator, has had to resign for health reasons so, if you have office skills, please think about this position.

Also, two of our committee members Jacqui and Di thought it nice to give each speaker a little thank you gift of Charlesworth Nuts. I am sure it will be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Jacqui and Di, for your thoughtful idea.

With our Christmas event I wanted to come up with something different so I hope those who attended enjoyed the Jazz Band.

I would like to thank the following members of the Committee:

Robert Heddle, Vice President

Bob Mills, Secretary

Michael Brooke, Treasurer

Max Gordon, Program Coordinator

Jules Hawke, Office Coordinator and also all the Office volunteers

Mary Bown, Jacqui Brinkman, Raquel Kneebone, Heather Williams and Di Rennie

also

Ray Bown, Auditor

John Bartlett, Public Officer

Judy Milford, Returning Officer

Chris Bennett, President

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Annual General Meeting Report

The following members were elected to Committee positions at the 2024 AGM:

President - Chris Bennett

Vice-President - Di Rennie

Treasurer - Robert Heddle

Secretary - Bob Mills

Members - Mary Bown, Heather Williams, Ray Bown and Jacqui Brinkman

Ray Bown is acting in the role as Program Planner.

The position of Office Coordinator is therefore vacant and we are urgently seeking a member to fill this position.

Also, there can be a maximum of six non-executive members of the committee, so there are two vacancies on the committee.

Presentations were made to:

Max Gordon – former President, retiring from the Program Coordinator role and the Committee after many years

Raquel Kneebone – former Office Coordinator, retiring from the Committee after many years

Michael Brooke - retiring from the role of Treasurer

Jules Hawkes - retiring from the role of Office Coordinator



*L to R
John Bartlett (Public Officer),
Kathy Haskard (Auditor),
Mary Bown (Committee),
Ray Bown (Committee),
Heather Williams (Committee),
Robert Heddle (Treasurer),
Chris Bennett (President),
Bob Mills (Secretary).*

*Absent:
Jacqui Brinkman (Committee),
Di Rennie (Vice President).*

Writers' Group Report 2023

The Writers' Group met at the Park Holme Library each Thursday 9.30-12.30, during school terms. Members read and critiqued extracts of writing. Novels, poems, speeches, blogs and historical research. By the end of 2023, three of our writers had self-published books. Two are continuing with completing and editing their work, hoping to be published this year. Our attendances have been affected by illness, doctor's appointments and the odd holiday away. Twice through the year we were visited by a writer from U3A in Hobart who shared stories with us. We appreciate the assistance of the friendly library staff at Park Holme and the support of U3A Flinders.

Ted Flaherty, Coordinator

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Art Gallery Visits Report 2023

Our Art Gallery group met at 1.20pm on the third Wednesday of the month from February to November.

Each guided session cost \$2 unless it was a special ticketed event. I had collected the money and paid the Gallery at the end of 2022 for the whole of 2023.

The tours lasted approximately one hour and were on a wide variety of topics depending on what the Gallery was featuring for that month.



We saw many works from First Nation artists like Vincent Namatjira which reflected their strong links to, and love of, country.

There were Milton Moon ceramics, the stunning glassworks of Liam Fleming and the works by the entrants for the Ramsay Art Prize.

A session was devoted to the huge collection of works from South-East Asia, donated by Michael Abbott, and the exhibition of Japanese art showing their deep reverence for the natural world.

There were two special events. The first, the Andy Warhol exhibition, was most enjoyable and quite a trip down memory lane for us as we looked at the images he had captured of famous people we had grown up with.

The second was Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, two of the most influential artists of the twentieth century. This exhibition was definitely the highlight of the year as the staff at the Gallery had created an amazing reproduction of murals and sets to showcase the works.

Throughout the year we were given much to think about. We have learnt new things and often had our ideas challenged. Most importantly we have enjoyed our time and look forward to more in 2024.

Bev Bennet, Group Organiser

Book Appreciation Group Report 2023

An average of seven enthusiastic members met on the third Friday of each month, from February to December at Park Holme Library at 1-30pm.

Books were chosen by members within the group, with each person then finding his/her own copy to read. Sources included libraries (hard copy and audio books), secondhand book shops, online (Libby or Borrowbox, both connected to the SA library system), Kindle etc.

Of the ten books chosen in 2023, five were nonfiction, two were historical fiction, two were memoirs and one a classic, *Watership Down*. Choices were as varied as the interests of each participant. Enthusiastic discussions ensued, particularly when some didn't enjoy the book.

Some readers were surprised at how readable and interesting the nonfiction books were. E.g *Toxic*, by Richard Flannigan made us decide to be wary of eating Tasmanian seafood. *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, had us in awe of the development of the human race. *Seven and a Half Lessons about the Brain* delved into frontline neuroscience which proved to be interesting but better read in small chunks. *Quiet City* traced the stories of the inhabitants (some well-known family names) of West Terrace Cemetery and *House of Grief* took us through the workings of the court system in a well-known murder case in the criminal court.

New members inject new ideas and book selections into the group and are always welcome.

Judy Milford, Coordinator

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Walking Group Report 2023

Twenty-two walks were programmed for 2023 with three cancelled due to heat or a forecast of lightning.

We are always looking for new areas to explore and several new walks were introduced; Adelaide's East End, Bonython Park, Sturt Gorge and the Woodland Loop trail at Happy Valley Reservoir.

Our second attempt to walk Bonython Park had to be changed a few days before when Moscow Circus took over the park. Instead, the group walked along West Beach.



Marion Historic Village walk (*pictured left*), finally proceeded, with thanks to Marion Moore, after two previously scheduled walks were cancelled due to the forecasted weather.

The final walk for 2023, around the picturesque suburb of Springfield, with lunch afterwards at the Torrens Arms Hotel, was well attended by 19 members – a lovely social day.

We welcomed new members and returning members. Membership numbers are still strong with 26 'on our list'.

Health issues and injuries, travel and other personal commitments mean the number of

walkers attending can be as high as 22 and drop down to 11; on average about 15.

After trialing a 10.00am start for the year, we surveyed members with options for the future. As a result, we have returned to a 9.30am start for the first and last programs of the year with the second program, incorporating May, June, July and August, remaining at a 10.00am start.

This is a cohesive friendly group who enjoy the walk but especially the coffee afterwards. Leading walks has been willingly shared and thanks to those who have researched interesting facts to share, especially about the historic walks.

Clean Up Australia Day was included in our walk along the Torrens Linear Park and it was pleasing that very little rubbish was found.

New members are always welcome.

Judy Milford & Nola Byass, Coordinators

IMPORTANT NOTE

To ensure U3A Flinders can continue to deliver the sessions and necessary administration that we all value, we need to fill these roles:

Office Coordinator

Committee Positions (2)

Members who are interested in finding out more information or nominating for these very important roles are encouraged to contact:

Bob Mills

0421 789 694 or rmmills@adam.com.au or at one of the sessions

BREAKING NEWS

The Facility Access Agreement has been signed by both Flinders University and U3A Flinders to provide us with continued use of the Office for another year until 26th March 2025.
