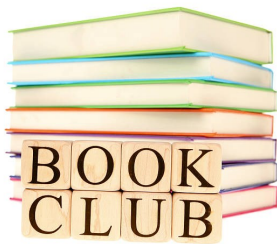


What Some Classes Have Done in Term 3

Book Club



This year, we have enjoyed a particularly diverse, interesting and entertaining collection of texts. We have read and discussed non-fiction books such as “The Radium Girls”, relating to the suffering of workers who painted dials on important instruments in the 20’s and “Tracks”, about a lone adventurer in the Australian desert. “Washington Black” and “The Chosen” also took us to different times, places and cultures, the former, slavery in USA, the latter Jewish communities in New York. Other novels involved interesting styles and characters in “Death in Brunswick”, “Circe” (Greek myth re-imagined), a re-telling of the Titanic disaster, and the results of children’s bullying in “Nineteen Minutes”.

It is enjoyable to share opinions and re-actions with others; often we agree and other times there are contrasting views --- and it is all stimulating for the “little grey cells”!

A vacancy in this class has recently become available. You can enrol online or let us know if you want to take up this vacancy by email or by phone.

Current Affairs



We have had a very productive Term for Current Affairs. The input/contribution from all members has been excellent and mutually rewarding and recently we have welcomed new members to our Class.

We keep across all major events – both national and international – accessing a very wide range of resources from all sides of the political spectrum.

Additionally, we communicate weekly with members, former members and interested parties on current matters of interest by way of weekly notes.

The feedback re these Notes is very good and enables us to widen our circle of engagement. As indicated, we ‘keep across’ a very wide range of current topics. By way of ‘small sample’ this would include:

- ‘The trials and travails of Donald John Trump’.

- The Voice referendum – discussing the ‘Yes’ and ‘No’ campaigns.
- Wide-ranging discussions regarding climate-change and locations in focus around the world – e.g. Lahaina in Maui – progress and areas of challenge – e.g. the Amazon basin;; discussions re energy alternatives etc;
- Areas of interest around the world – e.g. Sudan, Israel, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Myanmar, the United Kingdom, Ukraine and Russia – focussing on recent events in those and other countries.
- Diverse areas of Australian politics.

As always, we welcome future interested members and thank all of our current members and participants for their wonderful ongoing support.

Drawing and Sketching for Pleasure



The Drawing and Sketching for Pleasure class meets during term time of a Tuesday morning in the Kevin Pratt Pavilion, Mullum Mullum Reserve. The current group of ladies values this opportunity to deliberately spend time expressing themselves artistically. The media used is primarily pencils whether graphite, coloured or water-colour or a combination of these, while some members use pastels.

They also appreciate the camaraderie developed through a common interest, learning the value of suggestions as well as sharing aspects of life together. Each person has their own skill set and drawing preferences. On occasions we have a class to improve our skills: for learning new skills never goes astray. Sometimes we choose to visit a gallery.

The pictures shown here reflect the variety of skills the members bring, their individual interests as well as demonstrating the various media that are being used.



Poetry for Pleasure

Class Leader, Helen Kershaw asked class members to write four lines of a poem and most of the members completed a full Poem. Here is a couple of their poems to share.

Memories by Marie Kenney

Why do I remember now the things I used to do,
Thinking back to childhood and weekends that just flew.
The times of riding bikes and sailing on the lakes
And meeting up with friends that I once knew.
Why do good times fly and only some memories stay,
It was not all that long ago when we treasured every day.
The long summer days with daylight till ten
Short days in winter when
There was snow and ice and we were still outside after being
called in twice.
Those memories of trams, parks, boats and bikes
Swimming in the lake with friends, going on long hikes.
Where has time gone it's all so long ago,
There are places that I loved then, others I don't want to go.
Time has gone fast and we have moved on, Life has changed
and loved ones have gone.
I look back on those days and treasure today and am glad that
some of my dreams have not gone away.

Minjerribah 2023 by John Robertson

John says "After a wonderful stay on Stradbroke Island he tried to capture those aspects too easily lost since back in the big smoke".

Come stroll with me across the sand
To where the air is clear
Where rolling waves wash cares away
And troubles disappear

We'll leave behind our city ways
Our busy workday rush
Where time must be productive
And we're caught up in the crush

Let's leave that at the car park
With our wallet and our phone
Just bring a rug and picnic
So we can be alone

We'll find a place that's peaceful
In the shelter of a dune
To sit and watch the clouds drift by
Throughout the afternoon

Up above, eagles circle
Watching mullet run
While further out cruise passing whales
Arching in the sun

Toasty rays and balmy breeze
Gently warm our skin
Seeping deep into our soul
Contentment from within

At evening when the sky turns red
We'll find a special shell
To carry home in memory
Of this beach's magic spell.

Getting to know your leaders – Cathy Farrell

Editor's Note - This leader's qualifications and skills deserved a big WOW!



Personal Background

The outer east will always be the place I call 'home' and I cannot imagine living anywhere else. My maternal grandparents owned a dairy farm in the Yarra Valley on the site Domaine Chandon now occupies, while my paternal grandparents owned a taxi service in Lilydale during the late 1940s/early 1950s. Many of my family members across multiple generations have been involved with the Lilydale Show Society and other community groups and volunteering across the area.

I currently live in Mooroolbark with my lovely husband Tom and my beautiful adult daughter Olivia. My fabulous son, Todd has recently moved to the inner city and is enjoying the 'hipster' life. We also have a three-legged dog named Milo.

My love for very bright abstract painting knows no bounds and I produce at least one major work per week. Tom and Olivia have had to come to terms with the laundry being converted to an art studio, and they must be very careful to avoid being covered in paint when they (with great trepidation) need to enter the room to use the washing machine. Painting abstracts is a very messy hobby! I was born into a Collingwood-mad family ... my great grandfather attended the club's first game way back in 1892, so to say supporting the Pies is a strong family tradition is something of an understatement. It is rare for me to miss a game and I recently celebrated my 50th year of going to the footy every week (we are all indoctrinated at a very young age).

Professional Background

I enjoy learning and have a Bachelor of Social Science (Media and Sociology), an Honours Degree (Sociology), a Master of Arts (Writing), and a PhD. I will be graduating with a Master of Social Work at Melbourne University in November.

Teaching has always been a passion of mine. I was a Lecturer in Media and Communication for 20 years at Swinburne University, as well as Course Director of Media and Academic Director of Student Engagement. Some of the courses I developed and delivered, both face-to-face and online, include: Cinema Studies; Texts and Contexts; Popular Culture; Digital Communities; Australian Media Policy; Sport and Society; and Cultural Perspectives on Science and Technology.

I was also involved with establishing and delivering a Master of Arts Writing program face-to-face, online and to inmates at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre (a maximum security women's prison).

I left Swinburne in 2020 to pursue a career in social work and while I am enjoying a new professional life, I have

been missing my work as a lecturer. Teaching writing to an enthusiastic group of people (The Writing Gang) has filled a void and I'm loving it.

My approach to teaching is guided by the key principles of andragogy. Adult learners have significant life experiences and enter the class with intrinsic motivation. They usually respond well to a self-directed learning model, rather than following a strictly adhered-to-set curriculum and whole-class assignments. Some students prefer to work on one long term project (e.g., memoir, novel, a series of family vignettes) while others like the idea of writing multiple pieces across multiple genres. This can present some challenges when designing a curriculum, that needs to be engaging but also accommodates a diverse range of interests.

However, there are some common areas we explore such as key components of the writing process, structure, genre and audience.

We usually begin each class with a brief lecture on a genre or subgenre followed by some readings and exercise based on the weekly topic. We then turn our attention to personal writing time. This provides time and space for people to focus on their individual project. Towards the end of class, each member is encouraged to read their work out loud to the group (this is not compulsory, and privacy is always respected).

I think everyone has benefitted greatly from our group feedback sessions. I see my role at this point as a 'guide on the side' rather than a 'sage on the stage.' Receiving feedback from 'critical friends' in a supportive and safe environment is key for any writer looking to improve their writing skills and potentially develop a publishable piece of writing.

Please feel free to join us on a Monday at 12.30. New faces are always welcome.

“Resuscitate A Mate”



Andrew Campbell of Lifesaving Victoria made an excellent presentation on CPR and the use of the Defibrillator to around 40 U3A Ringwood members on Tuesday 22nd August 2023.

Andrew's presentation was most pertinent, as with U3A Ringwood members being 'mature aged', their likelihood of being involved in a situation where CPR or the use of a defibrillator may become an issue, is greater than in the general population.

We are fortunate in having a defibrillator at all our venues. They are located inside the entrance to the up-stairs room at KPP, outside Classroom 3 at Parkwood and at the 4th Ringwood Scout Hall. Members are encouraged to observe where the defibrillators are located when they next attend their classes.

We are hopeful that Life Saving Victoria will be able to provide another presentation during Term 4 for those members who were unable to attend the original presentation due to each presentation being capped at a maximum of 40 participants.

TERM 4 DATES

Term 3 ends on Friday 15th September 2023).

Term 4 starts 2nd October 2023 and ends on 8th December 2023