

Coffs Harbour Newsletter



May 2020

Greetings U3A Friends, it is hoped you are all well and weathering this crisis in our lives. Who would have thought that we would witness an event such as the Covid 19 Virus, which has claimed so many lives throughout the world, and of course, at home here in our own country? We are all faced with the surreal fact that our lives for the time being, have changed dramatically.

At least, as from 1 June, our travel within NSW is unrestricted, we are able to eat out in small numbers, visit friends in their homes, meet up in the park, though we are still bound to observe social distancing.

Some tutors have continued to conduct a modification of their course, online, which must be gratifying to their students. One such person is Jill Declercq who has outlined below how she is facilitating her course, "Movies and the Arts".

"While U3A has been on hiatus during the Covid 19 lockdown, my wonderful movie group has managed to keep our members together virtually by downloading "SBS on Demand", which has a large variety of free movies, and is the source of the movies we review.

I choose three movies and email members. They then return their chosen movie to me. I then email all members, the favourite movie to view and to score. They then email their score to me, which I aggregate and distribute to all members, along with a new selection of three films for them to nominate their first choice.

This system involves a bit of toing and froing but a movie is viewed and scored every two weeks, as if we have been going to the cinema and meeting at Birch Carroll and Coyle. Whilst the social contact has been missed, we are able to keep things bubbling along."

Jill Declercq

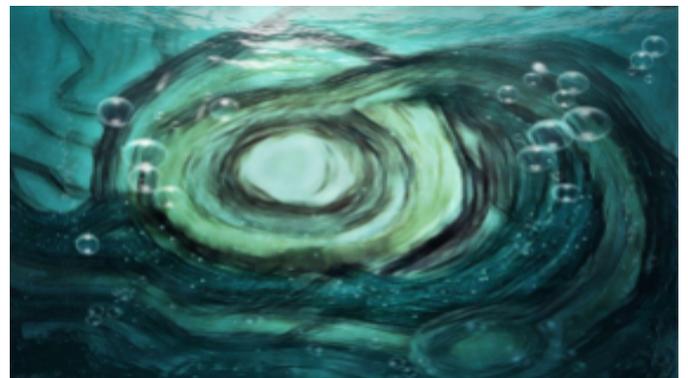
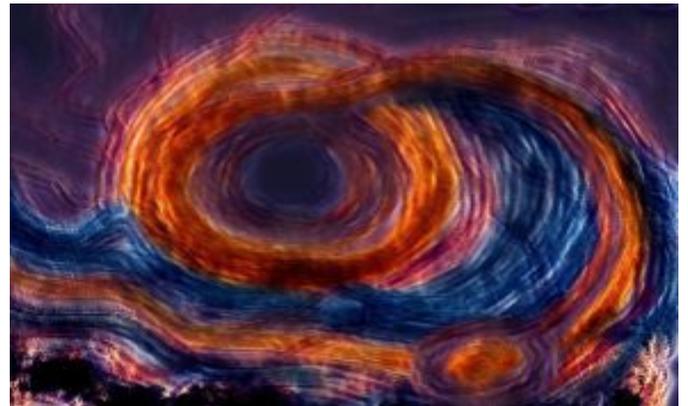
A Creative Covid 19 Activity

This Covid 19 is never going to stop my life of creativity. I miss activities with my U3A friends and look forward to us all returning in whatever whichway, change is always inevitable no matter what. I'm going to share, what I have been doing, using 3 apps on my iPad: Photos, Drawing Pad and Photo Lab. (available from the App store).

1: Doodle on Drawing Pad, using options on app then take a photo.

2: Then open Photo Lab, choose from many applications and styled effects, (it allows you to go into Photos,) take another photo to store in albums and you have your creation, many creations are obtainable.

Margaret Schaar If anyone wants further explanation or help, pls sms me on: 0467 581 382



My First 'Senior's' Holiday

I'm still adjusting to retirement but I'm very pleased that I decided to venture out on my first seniors holiday – a 6 day, 5 night trip from Sydney to Jindabyne, to tour the Snowy Mountains region. To learn about Snowy 2.0 and building on my memories of the original Snowy scheme were my goals and they were met. Our hotel has one of the best positions on Lake Jindabyne, and the weather was perfect. It was a nice change not to have to cook or clean for a week!

The countryside looked amazing after the recent rain, and although we did see some evidence of the bushfires, it was mostly from a distance. My last visit to the region was 30 years ago. I could easily spend more time in the National Park in summer, it is really beautiful.

The original vision of the Snowy Scheme was to offset the effects of drought by diverting water westward for irrigation and harnessing the potential for generating hydro-electricity. The scheme took 25 years to build (1949-1974) and was rated one of the civil engineering wonders of the modern world

Over 100,000 men and women from more than 30 countries worked on the Scheme. The engineering expertise from European countries was amazing. Tunnelling records were set during construction and the project came in on-time and within budget.

The project led to much innovation and in 1959, a decade before the rest of the country, Commissioner Sir William Hudson made wearing seatbelts compulsory for all the workers. Australia's first transistorised computer and one of the first dozen computers in the world was used by engineers for complex design calculations from 1960-67. Other innovations were developed around rock drill designs and drilling techniques, which have influenced design of the modern masonry drill bit. These details were new to me.

I didn't really want to visit the Cooma Gaol, but as the Art Gallery didn't open till 10.30am, I had no choice. The museum is also a place where the prisoners transition from gaol to the community. Our tour guide was a prisoner, with the manager quietly following at the back of the group. This man was really funny. I told

him afterwards that he should go into stand-up comedy when he gets out. He had a dry sense of humour which I appreciated and it made the history of NSW goals and prisoners interesting and amusing.

Anne McLennan, Facilitator, Writing Life Stories

Did You Know?

The Hercules Moth is found in New Guinea and northern Australia, it is the largest moth in the world.

The adult Hercules Moth survives on food stores from when it was a caterpillar. These magnificent giant moths only live for 10 to 14 days and have the main goal of finding a mate and reproducing.

Interestingly, female Hercules Moths emit a pheromone that can attract male suitors from over 2km away. Humans are unable to smell this pheromone, however male moths certainly can. .

The caterpillar stage is the longest part of the Hercules Moth's life. It will live for about 3 months in this stage before retreating into a cocoon. Incredibly, these caterpillars grow up to 12cm in length and are dotted with yellow spikes. Such a huge caterpillar makes sense when we consider how large the moth itself is. The largest ever Hercules Moth had a wingspan of 36cm!

source: <https://australianbutterflies.com/hercules-moth>



Hercules Moth

Man needs for his happiness,
not only the enjoyment of this or that,
but hope and enterprise and change.

Bertrand Russell

Our Trip to Tassie

In late February this year, we innocently set out for Tasmania, with little knowing how this year would pan out. The Apple Isle - named because it looks like an apple? We traveled clockwise around the island, never realising how hard it would be, to book ahead and plan an itinerary. Without a good map it was difficult to judge distances and terrain, so got a big surprise, at how tortuous some roads were and the poor condition some were in.

So, a fascinating discovery of an incredible place. We chased up nature and weren't disappointed with the rivers, forests, walking tracks, waterfalls and history. Its all there and stunningly beautiful.

Favourites -

* MONA (Museum of Old and New Art) the trip up river, ending with an exhibition of a man/statue whose tattooed skin, will be sold when he dies.

* Cradle Mountain, even in pouring rain.

* Stanley-The Nut, where we had a Unit overlooking a magnificent vista, and then we walked around the top of an incredible piece of rock. I'm sure we could see Melbourne!

* River cruises- Gordon River and Sarah Island for convict history/early loggers and their stories, then Arthur River for characters and pioneers of the area.

* Over to the East Coast for St Helens, Bay of Fires, Wineglass Bay from Freycinet National Park- the 20 mins walking uphill did us in.

Did I mention pies? Tassie has from worst (1) to best (all the rest), the scallop pies were the best ever.

It was bucketing rain for 2 days at Swansea, which gave us a great rest. Conscious of the Covid 19, we managed to get hand sanitiser, though availability was running out even then. So, no trip to Maria Island as it was still raining. Then we stayed at an old cabin in Park near Port Arthur with bush, birds and animals. We bought beanies and gloves for our long trip on a jet boat out at sea, along the coast - wonderful scenery and wildlife. There was another couple there from Coffs that we knew!

Final days were spent in Hobart. We are glad we went up to Mt Wellington when it was fine, -fantastic vista! Had to chase up Bonorong Wildlife Park as we were dying to see live Tassie Devils, they didn't disappoint. Coronavirus was getting going and impacting. So very glad to hop on a plane and come home-but we'll go back!
Peter and Michele Dombroski



Peter, Mt Field National Park Falls



Bay of Fires

Tutors, if you are conducting online courses for your students, please share the details via the Newsletter. Members, this is your newsletter, please forward photos, stories, artwork of interest for the Newsletter. Thank you, Karen Baff Editor - info@coffsu3a.net.au