

Coffs Harbour Newsletter



June 2020



Dreams Really Do Come True

“We are never too old to follow our dreams“ is what one of our members believes.

Fran Kerkhoff (above) has competed annually in the Toastmasters international Speech Contest for many years. Her dream has been to reach the finals in Sydney. After competing for 27 years without success, this year at the age of 82, her dream came true

She didn't perform on stage in an auditorium in Sydney in front of an audience of 450 people, which was also a part of that dream. Instead, she stood in the back room of her house, with no audience, speaking to a blank Ipad screen 18 c.m. wide.

Fran didn't win. However, she is thrilled that she didn't forget the words of her 7 minute speech, she didn't have a coughing fit in the middle of it, she didn't fall down in a big heap, and she didn't burst into flames.

Fran attributes her level of confidence to the help and opportunities presented to her by Coffs Harbour

Toastmasters, but believes that the dedicated U3A tutors have helped enormously to keep her grey matter activated.

As Fran said, "What would we do without U3A?".

INTRODUCING BEAMAFILM

We have all been busy catching up on movies over the isolation period, Netflix, Stan, SBS on Demand and IView. Do you know about BEAMAFILM? It's great, a really good selection of movies and documentaries. This service is available free to all residents and ratepayers of CHCC who are members of CHCC Libraries.

If you aren't a Library Member you can join online. <http://libraries.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au/About-Us/membership/Pages/Join-Online.aspx>

Beamafilm is Australia's premium movie streaming channel for true stories and independent voices, featuring a carefully curated and unique collection.

Hint: use your library membership number and click on 'Verify' to access this fantastic service. <https://beamafilm.com/loginLib>

FILM REVIEW

I highly recommend “**JoJo Rabbit**” directed by New Zealander, Taika Waititi who also took the lead role of an imaginary Hitler and won an Academy Award for best screenplay in 2019. Australian actress Rebel Wilson played a smallish role, as did Scarlet Johansson. Jojo Rabbit takes an irreverent look at Hitler and the Nazi Party. Waititi has a fairly wicked sense of humour, given the subject matter, but I love his brilliant one liners and way of showing things from a different perspective.(available on SBS ON Demand) **Jillian Declercq** Movies and the Arts

Anzac Day

The alarm went off at 5.15am, a bit earlier than what we would normally rise as this was a special day, this was the 25th April 2020.

Anzac Day has always been important to us, my Grandfather was an Anzac and fought at Gallipoli and in Northern France. We had been fortunate to visit the battlefields in France and Belgium on trips to Europe and had attended services at Villiers Breteux and the nightly memorial service at Menin Gate whilst staying in Ypres.

We have attended the Anzac Day March and Memorial Service in various towns and cities over the years, but this year was going to be different. This was 2020 and Covid 19 had us in lockdown.

We live in a small neighbourhood with 12 houses around a cul-de-sac and not far to the beach. We moved in just over 12 months ago and whilst this was a friendly area we really had not got to know our neighbours as well as we would have liked.

A morning hello with our friends across the street lead us to Anzac Day and the idea of a driveway dawn service was born. An invitation was sent out to everyone in the Street and the response was fantastic.

Ann would make some poppies to go on every gate or letterbox, Simone would read the Anzac Ode, and Erin offered to play the Last Post. It looked as though we would have 10 or even more people at our little memorial service.

We set up a small memorial on our driveway, and others had done the same. Jim's father served in World War 2 and he had a lovely photo of his Dad with his medals on display. Everyone was invited to bring a cup of tea or coffee and Ann made some Anzac biscuits to be enjoyed after the service.

As the sun was rising above the Pacific Ocean there were nearly 20 people in our little cul-de-sac. The Ode was beautifully read in total silence, followed by the Last Post and then Reveille, played perfectly by Erin on her Bugle.

Her parents had also joined us, and the 3 little kids in the street just loved it.

Everyone enjoyed their cuppa and Anzac biscuits whilst sharing stories of personal attachments to the Anzacs. Everyone had a story, and they were proud to reflect on it.

By 7.00am we were back in our homes, but our little neighbourhood had changed since sharing this morning together. Anzac Day 2020 was different, I liked it.

Bruce Worboys

Writing Life Stories 3A



This service is free for U3A members, until the end of June. Contact info@youngster.co to register.

Youngster.co has requested U3A members who have used the service, or are interested in the service to fill out a survey form on the web page listed below. <https://airtable.com/shrRec5G6slQsBGBU>

Experiencing Rajasthan

My small group tour of Rajasthan, India, focussed on textiles, arts and crafts. We enjoyed visiting homes, villages and small workshops where locals took great pride in creating refined objects, despite the basic conditions in which they worked. It felt so much better to buy from them at the source, than from a large impersonal warehouse accompanied by busloads of other tourists.

Studio artists explained that Indian miniature art is so called, not just because the paintings are small and detailed, but because they are done with very fine brushes made from camels' eyelashes. I wouldn't like the job of collecting the eyelashes!

We had a go at block printing using organic indigo dye and spread our strips of printed cotton out on the dusty ground to dry. To our surprise the village goats were allowed to walk all over them but it was explained that it didn't really matter as the sheets were washed at least three times during the production process before being turned into lovely tablecloths.

In Jaisalmer, I unsuccessfully bargained for a hand made silver box with an intricately enamelled lid. A long time after I left his shop, the seller learnt that I regretted not buying the box. Somehow, he found me in a crowded narrow alleyway, he was armed with a portable credit card machine! Still no bargaining. He knew I wanted it, I bought it for his original asking price.

But artistic expression does not only happen in factory settings. It is abundant in the built and the natural environment. In aesthetically arranged market stalls, in the marigold garlands woven by sari clad women, in the peacocks' display of patterned feathers, and in the huge red sun setting on pink sandstone. As a keen photographer, I was in my element.

In Jaipur, water buffalo hauling ancient water wheels had horns painted for Ramadan and elephants had traditional patterns painted on faces and trunks. The palace at the fort overlooking historic Jaipur is a triumph of Mughal architecture, ornate mirrored ceilings and planned gardens. Jaipur's architecture is a fusion of Persian and Indian style. The honeycomb of lattice work in the Palace

of the Winds, the Mughal arches and the old mansions (havelis) with carved facades are all artworks in their own right.

When international travel is back on the map, I'll definitely return to India for more inspiration and visual stimulation

Joy Hilton Spanish U3A



Village goats walking across our block printing



Mughal Arches