

# Coffs Harbour Newsletter



**July 2020**

Greetings to all members,

I hope you have all remained well, and the current cold weather hasn't got you wrapped up in too many layers! I've certainly had to add a couple.

You have all now received the Omail advising, that we have not been able to reopen the 2020 program for Term 3. This has been because of the social distancing and cleaning requirements, that the Venues have had to put in place, makes it not possible for the majority of our classes to recommence.

It is true that a small number of classes with enrollment numbers that could be accommodated within the revised limits of their rooms, and students who were willing to restart their attendance, have been able to go ahead. The Tutors of these classes have already been in contact with their students, outlining the changed arrangements which will be necessary.

In addition to this, some Tutors and students have been maintaining contact through emails, sets of lessons and other exchanges of information. For the rest of us.....hang in there...things will be better and our new normal will emerge.

Kind Regards

Joyce Lillyin , President

**FILM REVIEW** "Boy" is a 2010 New Zealand comedy-drama film. Boy was a perfect coming of age film both written and directed by New Zealander Taika Waititi, who also stars as the lead character's childish father. The film is set in the same isolated Maori village where Waititi grew up.

Their mother dead and father jailed, 11-year-old Boy and his younger 6 year old brother, Rocky, live with an unexplained horde of other children in the house of a grandmother. Boy lives with fantastic fantasies about his superheroic father - being a warrior, riding dolphins, dancing like Michael Jackson - Boys other hero.

When Boy's father eventually appears, his dreams are inevitably dashed. Waititi is fabulous playing the father, Alamein, as an irredeemable clown, wannabe gangster, wheedler and fool, but not a cruel man. Incidents abound in the meantime, incipient tragedy giving way to charming comedy. A balance that I feel Taika got just right.

I loved the brilliant splashes of animation that bring Rocky's first drawings to life. Drawn and animated by Waikiki himself. Totally enjoyed the acting of the BOY star, James Rollerston.

There were so many things to enjoy about this movie and as always I feel Taika Waititi has a way of telling a strong story through the eyes of children and with humour. Scoring a 9 from me.

Donna Taylor U3A Movie Group - available on SBS On Demand

**The Intruder** It was a warm summer evening in Cornwall and as usual, the front and back doors were open to allow the breeze through the house. I had given my three boys their dinner and it was time to wash away the day's grime. As so often, their Dad was away for the night, working in the local hospital.

I'd filled the bath with water and the boys were stripped and ready to climb in. First was Sean, aged 6, followed by 3-year-old David and finally I lifted in Jamie, the baby of the family, who needed constant supervision. A small bath well-filled!

Suddenly, I felt a presence behind me. I turned with trepidation, imagining a fierce and threatening character. Instead there was a woman of indeterminate age in the doorway. "Nasty, nasty" she mumbled, "they're nasty to me" she repeated again and again. I relaxed as I realised that our intruder posed no danger, except perhaps to herself. What should I do with her? I was reluctant to turn my back on my children but also wanted to avoid our visitor wandering out onto the nearby main road. I realised that she was a resident of the nearby home for the disabled.

There were no close neighbours to call on for help and in those pre-mobile days, the phone was firmly fixed in the hall. Putting my trust in Sean to look after his brothers and also guessing that the bath was well enough filled by the boys to avoid any accidents I quickly found the number and asked for help with the escapee. Duty done, I sent our intruder on her way, hopefully up the hill from whence she'd come, rather than towards the main road and returned to give the boys a thorough soaping.

You may ask whether we closed our front door from then on? Well I would have to say no, as I continued to feel very safe in our rural home.

Sue Kennedy Writing Life Stories

## **French Conversation Class** (adapting to Covid 19 Restrictions)

The class members have been writing a story every week based on one word sent to them via the internet. Subjects covered have been , - my favourite painting, rainbows, cubby houses, island, a joke, light, tree, travel, favourite city, egg.

The word "light" produced stories about lighthouses, a painting by Vincent Van Gogh, and a novel. The word "garden" produced stories of gardens around the world, - Monet's garden, the gardens at Versailles, members' own gardens. The word "egg" produced stories about - - chickens, spiders, Easter, conception, Faberge and a plea to buy only free range eggs.

Many people included a picture or photo to add interest to their story.

Stefan, one of the class members, is a sculptor. I particularly enjoyed Stefan's egg story. He had some friends who were desperate to have a child. It is a fact, that positive thinking will always help. It is further helped if there is something tactile to concentrate on. So Stefan made a wooden egg for this couple, t worked. It has also worked for another couple. Amazing!

It is quite difficult to choose a "word" each week, but I am constantly amazed at the stories our group comes up with. Our usual gathering is at the Chill/n/ Chat cafe where we can sit informally around one of the big tables , read our little stories, discuss them and enjoy a coffee and a bite to eat. It makes for a very friendly and enjoyable get-to-gether. Unfortunately, we are all in the vulnerable age group and the necessity to sit together (most of us have hearing problems these days) has ruled out further gatherings until the lockdown is over.

Coral Johnson, Facilitator, French Conversation Group

## North to Alaska – Expedition Cruise

It was the end of the 2019 Northern Summer. when Derek and I arrived in Vancouver via Tokyo and Seattle. Eighteen months previously, we'd booked to sail from Nome, Alaska back to Vancouver on the Hurtigruten Line.

MS Roald Amundsen was to be the first hybrid electric powered expedition cruise ship in the world. Having travelled the Norwegian coast with Hurtigruten, we liked the product and the fact there was only 500 passengers.

We flew 4 hours to Nome, arriving in howling gales and driving rain, with no idea what the town looked like. It is known for gold & the Iditarod Dog Sled Race from Anchorage. Sitting at the top of the Bering Sea and close to Russia, it was still exciting.

The rain and swell kept up for 3 days as we sailed past our first 2 stops (uninhabited St Matthews Island & ornithologists heaven St Pauls Island).

Unalaska on the Aleutian Peninsula was our first successful stop with a sunny day and a chill wind. First settled by the Aleuts, and 10,000 years ago it now has a large fishing & crab industry. TV series Deadliest Catch was filmed with the crews from here.

We continued up the coast with unscheduled stops at small communities & viewing many whales, sea otters, bears & eagles along the way.

Our ship was able to silently get close to bears playing in the water in a remote bay in Katmai National Park. The ship could run just on battery power for up to an hour at a time.

Next stop was Kodiak, home to the largest bear. It was our first stop with shops and the Walmart courtesy bus was busy all day. There is lots of fish canning industry and evidence of Russian occupation, as with many places in Alaska. As we were walking back to the ship, we spotted a Sea Otter in the harbour only metres

away. They are normally elusive, so it was exciting to have him pose for photos.

Heading across the Gulf of Alaska, we hit 8 metre swells and 55 knot winds. The ship handled it well. We arrived next day at Hubbard Glacier which roared like a violent thunder storm. The glacier is 14 kms across the face, it's a stunning icy blue, with layers of ground dirt creating designs.

Next, we travelled south to Vancouver, stopping at Icy Strait Point, Sitka & Ketchikan on the way.. We then flew to sunny Arizona to soak up the sunshine. A trip of a lifetime.

Andrea Clark The Art Group



Andrea with Genuine Kodiak Bear in Walmart

