

**August, 2020**

Greetings Members and Friends, I hope you are all well and surviving the various restrictions caused by the Pandemic. At least, at the moment in the Coffs Harbour Region, we are virus free.

Some of our U3A classes have resumed 'on line' and a few classes have resumed 'face to face', with members observing the social distancing and cleaning procedures required for protection against contracting or spreading Covid 19.

Two such classes are the art classes. Herewith, a description of how this is being managed by one of the tutors. Karen Baff Editor

### **Arty Class – Mixed Media and The Art Group**

Covid 19 caused a close of classes earlier this year. Our safety is paramount but the two art classes have managed to resume face to face classes, ensuring strict social distancing and cleaning regimes were in place. In fact, some have said it has become second nature now that they have adapted to the necessary Covid 19 changes.

All participants made the choice as to whether to return to classes. Of course, the classes had to be reduced to enable social distancing.

These art classes provide a creative learning outlet whilst also being a great social activity. Many missed the social interaction with other members, as did both the teachers who share their skills and do their best to entertain.

Both venues provide space enough for vital distancing,

social discourse and demonstrations to enhance the learning experience.

Participants realise they play a part in being aware about procedures to keep them safe. They are more than happy to comply as they are able to continue with the creative happenings of the class.

As teachers, we like to focus on the processes, as we learn new skills, share ideas, give support, explore, and always have a laugh and our classes produce work that delights. In the end, we love what we do and it is a wonderful shared experience.

Penny Halford Tutor



Arty Class - Mixed Media 1 Th Art Group 2



## The Road to Colegonzi

Traveling by carriage out of the city walls of Florence the warmth of the day flushed Lisa's cheeks. Her destination was the summer house of husband Francesco, a wealthy silk merchant. She was to sit for her portrait he had commissioned.

Their servants awaited her arrival and on entering the Villa she saw Leonardo had already arrived. He swept his hat off to her, bowing deeply murmuring 'Signora'. He extended his hand leading her to the ornate window looking over the rolling hills dotted with dark green cypress trees. The fragrant smell of resin wafted in to freshen the room dank from the aroma of last night's fire. An ewer of cool water and a red ceramic bowl of ripe figs were laid out for their refreshment.

Wearing black Lisa was mourning another of her babies, a son and heir. She looked older than her 24 years but then with 8 pregnancies and 2 live children the life of a rich merchant's wife was not easy. Responsible for producing heirs, running a large household and organizing a collection of servants she was kept in subjugation to her husband and his family like the other women of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

With a strong intelligence she had secretly read many of the classical scholars but was not allowed any independence or freedom of thought or movement. Now beyond the city walls in the company of Leonardo she felt liberated.

Lisa's family, Gherardini were close friends of Leonardo; she had recently seen him again in the palace of Lorenzo Medici, the influential patron of the arts and culture.

Leonardo had extensive knowledge and skills in art, anatomy, geology, paleontology mathematics engineering and physical geography

On an easel surrounded by oil paints and brushes, stood an unusual landscape painted on wood, that instantly captured the attention of Lisa. Within the landscape, a road curled around granite topography to a river. It turned out to be a road of enlightenment for her.

Lisa questioned Leonardo about the landscape to be her background. He identified the Gorge of Coligonzi, the river Arno flowed through it. He had been commissioned to investigate engineering solutions for flood control works buaftet had lingered there fascinated by rock formations.

There he discovered seashell fossils far from the Adriatic Sea. He hypothesized that they could not have come from the great flood depicted in the Bible but were part of a great

sea from eons ago laid down under layers of sediments and the geology of the ages.

Lisa was fascinated by this story and as she posed whilst being appraised, she imagined herself walking down that road, uncluttered by servants on the arm of Leonardo in search of the delicate seashells.

She had no fear of Leonardo or her honor, she had heard he preferred young men to ladies.

She was in awe of his vast intelligence and the way in which he explained the mysteries of a world billions of years old as he worked on the portrait. From this interaction the relationship of mutual respect, the transfer of knowledge and friendship blossomed

Lisa asked Leonardo what the Pope Leo would think of his scientific theory, compared to biblical depictions of creation. He answered, that direct scientific evidence would trump the Garden of Eden'.

Turning her head three quarters way, Leonardo asked Lisa to gaze over his left shoulder and think of her husband.

Her enigmatic smile did not arise from thoughts of Francesco but about finding seashells on the tops of mountains accompanied by the unorthodox genius she so admired, Leonardo da Vinci.

Patty Delaney Creative Writing



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### 75 YEARS

This month, it is 75 years since the surrender of Japan. Some members may remember, many of us certainly remember our parents talking about the Second World War for a few years after the war ended.

[The Japanese Emperor Hirohito](#) announced the surrender of Imperial Japan on 15 August and formally signed on 2 September, 1945.

On 6 August, 1945 the USA [detonated](#) an [atomic bomb](#) over the Japanese city of [Hiroshima](#). When Japan failed to

surrender, a second Japanese city, Nagasaki was bombed. The role of the atomic bombings in Japan's unconditional surrender, and the ethics of the two attacks, is still debated.

Interestingly on 8 August, 1945, in accordance with the Yalta agreements, but in violation of the Soviet–Japanese Neutrality Pact, the Soviet Union declared war on Japan, and soon after midnight on August 9, 1945, the Soviet Union invaded the Imperial Japanese puppet state of Manchukuo. In 1956, Japan and the Soviet Union signed the Soviet–Japanese Joint Declaration, which formally brought an end to their state of war.

Despite Japan's surrender, isolated soldiers and personnel from Japan's far-flung forces throughout Asia and the Pacific refused to surrender for months and years afterwards, some even refusing into the 1970s  
Karen Baff  
source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surrender\\_of\\_Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surrender_of_Japan)

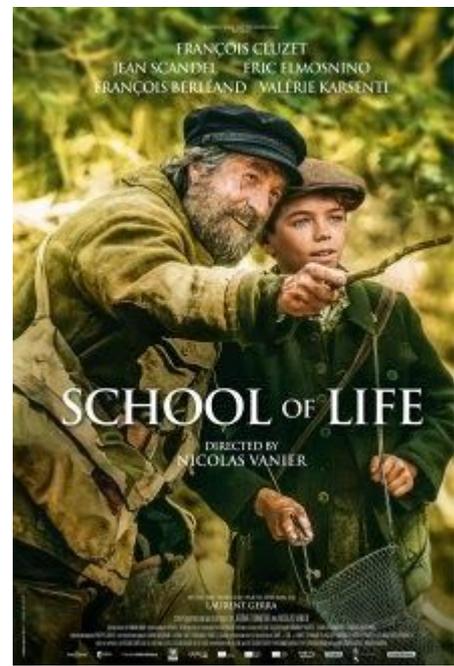
**FILM REVIEW** ' School of Life' (L'école buissonnière) is a 2017 French adventure film, directed by Nicolas Vanier and available on SBS.

I found the storyline predictable....the dialogue, sparse and also predictable.... but the cinematography is wonderful. The aerial shots of the forest and grounds of the estate and the fast moving shots of animals as they roam or flee through the undergrowth are visually spectacular.

The film with both its cinematography and its music score, pays homage to the creatures of the forest, be it birds or the monarch of the forest, the great stag, the poacher, the gamekeeper, the Count who finds redemption, or the child who finds solace there. It also gives us a glimpse of life for the villagers, the servants and the aristocracy in rural France after the Great War.

An enjoyable film, made by those with respect for animal life, although it distinguishes between domestic animals, those raised for food and those of the wild. My score 7/10

Gail Dixon Movies and the Arts



## Preventing Dementia

Free Online Course

Enrol now for Oct 2020

We have been contacted by the University of Tasmania who are offering the above online course. Details are listed below.

Course opens: 6th October 2020. Duration 4 weeks  
Estimated effort: 2 hours per week

Course access: Day or night, on your smart phone, tablet or computer

Course closes: 20th November 2020 (content is accessible across 6 weeks) Certificate issued on completion.

<https://mooc.utas.edu.au/index.php> More info on course

<https://mooc.utas.edu.au/course/22> Enrolment

