

August 2021

U3A Coffs Harbour

Course Coordinator News

We are now into Term 3 and hopefully enjoying spending time with fellow students as we learn new things, review some of the literature that we love and practice our skills . Overall I think we are all pleased to be able to spend time together after the experience of 2020. Hopefully, as the vaccination rollout continues throughout the community some more of the restrictions will be relaxed- although I fear we will be paying more and continuing attention to some issues over the coming years.

Most of the classes that commenced at the beginning of the year continue to be well attended and I'm delighted to advise that this list has been joined by 2 more classes in Term 3.

David Boyd's popular Understanding Poetry Class recommenced in July and a new class - Chinese for Beginners - joined our popular group of language classes. The new class will be taught by Mei Li a younger member of our community who is currently also a tutor at a Sydney university. Because of COVID she relocated to Coffs, does her Uni work through Zoom and social media and has offered to join the ranks of our generous tutors.

In Term 4 the practice of memoir or life story writing will return to our class list. Terry Tweedie, Successful local memoir writer will be offering a class in Memoir Writing. If successful, this class may well also be on the list for 2022.

So, check out the listing of these classes, even if they are not your particular interest you may know someone who would be interested. New members are always welcome!

Don't forget to consider joining the Committee and come along to the AGM on 13th August at Cavanbah Hall. – Bring your mask and membership badge.

Thank you to everyone for continuing your support

Regards from Joyce

WHAT'S NEW

NEW COURSES

Check out new courses in
Terms 3 & 4.

CENTENARY OF THE CHARGE AT BEERSHEBA

31st October 1917



IN PRAISE OF E-BIKES

A tale of adventure on two
wheels

CHARGE OF THE AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE

On 31st October, 2017 I was in the city of Beersheba (Be'er Sheva) Israel, for the Centenary Celebrations which marked 100 years since the amazing "Charge of the Australian Light Horse". This charge was considered "one of the most strategic and decisive Allied victories of the 1st World War."

I was particularly keen to attend this event, as my father Charles Doherty was one of the 12th Light Horse men who took part in this historic charge. Dad wrote an account which covered the lead up to, the charge and the end result ; after Beersheba had been captured and the precious water wells in the hands of the Allies. Several years ago, I gave his handwritten original copy to the Canberra War Memorial, along with other memorabilia. Since then, this account has appeared in full and excerpts by authors Jill Mather, Paul Daley, David W.Cameron et al. in war related publications.

It was an incredible day, starting with an early morning security screening prior to our entrance to the Beersheba War Cemetery, for the first official event...Here, along with entertainment, military displays (both Australian and New Zealand) and running of "The Light Horse" film, our then P.M. Malcolm Turnbull and the Israeli P.M. Benjamin Netanyahu spoke impressively. The programme was quite long, but there was ample time pre and post to wander among the rows of the fallen and speak with so many visitors.

Word got around that I was an immediate direct descendent of one in the Charge and I was interviewed by the ABC, Sky, Prime and a local channel. The Prime interviewer was Hugh Whitfeld and the event was seen here at home by my sister and several others.(**Hugh and I were both born and bred in Bingara, so we had time for a little chat as well.)

A street parade was enthusiastically cheered along with the contingent of Australians who were to take part in the Re-enactment during the afternoon. This was to be a major part of the celebrations, but because the grounds were so dry and dusty, the "Charge" was a walk,..disappointing, but understandable; as horses and riders would have been completely enveloped in clouds of dust had they galloped as would have been the case in 1917. Memorable; none the less !!!!

Dad's account is quite long and descriptive .I'd like to just leave his last paragraph with you.

"But the victory belongs to the horses. These Australian horses, after years of gruelling warfare – from Sinai and onwards, had; after days of reduced rations; carried an average of 18 stone in weight over 40 miles of steep and rugged country in one night. Then, following a burning day; after being without water for 27 hours; they carried off this gallant charge.....4 miles through flying lead and over ground interspersed with natural and artificial obstacles; any of which would be quite sufficient to make the finest horses quail."

(by Judith Estall (nee Doherty))



IN PRAISE OF ELECTRIC BIKES

I can't remember a time when I haven't owned a bicycle. But my love of bikes was expanded when my partner and I bought e-bikes about two years ago. Since then we have cycled a total of 5000km mostly in our local area apart from rides on rail trails in Victoria and South Australia.

With the e-bikes we can travel further, faster and with less pain while at the same time getting a good workout. We bought Trek mountain bikes in Coffs Harbour. We wanted bikes with a strong frame and enough "grunt" to get us safely up and down the dirt tracks near our home. We stay off the serious mountain bike tracks that fitter people ride.

Last week we rode from our home in Mylestom to Scotts Head then on to Bowraville and back home via the Bowraville to Bellingen Rd. There were four of us seniors in the group, three on bikes and one in the backup vehicle carrying boogie boards and wine. Dressed in hi-vis jackets and with lights front and rear, on day one we rode via Giinagay Way to Macksville and then along Scotts Head Rd to our AirBnB opposite the caravan park. Total ride 65km.

After a day in the sun enjoying the surf and the beach we took off for Bowraville via Macksville. This was a shorter ride; only 35 km. On our arrival Shane at the Bowraville pub made us very welcome. Our bikes were secured in the unused dining room downstairs. The bedrooms are comfortable, the verandahs sunny and the three women in the kitchen served a delicious evening meal.

The toughest but also the most scenic part of the trip was along Bellingen Rd. We worked hard to ride the mountainous part but enjoyed the speedy descent along the gravel and dirt road. The wide tyres on our bikes make them very stable on such a surface. We were pleased when we reached South Arm Rd and the tarmac knowing that we were on the homeward leg. The last day's ride was 50km making the total ride 150km.

So, we three riders, with an average age of 72, were weary and a bit leg sore the following days but already planning our next ride.

(by Margaret, Member of Hunter's U3A Surfing Group)



On the road



Scotts Head (photo supplied)



Bowraville Pub (photo supplied)

Foodie Corner

When I retired from professional life I followed a dream to exhibit at the local agricultural show. My mum was most impressed when I came away with a handful of ribbons for my first show entries. This year mum decided to have a go. She entered her lemons in the produce section and her family rum and cherry cake in the cooking section. Not only did mum win in both classes she entered but she won grand champion in both sections! The look on her face as she viewed her winning exhibits was priceless. Mum turned 94 this year and certainly lives up to her motto “you got to be in it to win it”. Her advice: everyone should have a go at entering something into their local agricultural show.

(by Sue Elks)



A Poem

I am older now.
It doesn't seem reversible

Oh! Those photos! Supposedly of me!
Why can't photos just go back to Kodak
And take ages to be developed?

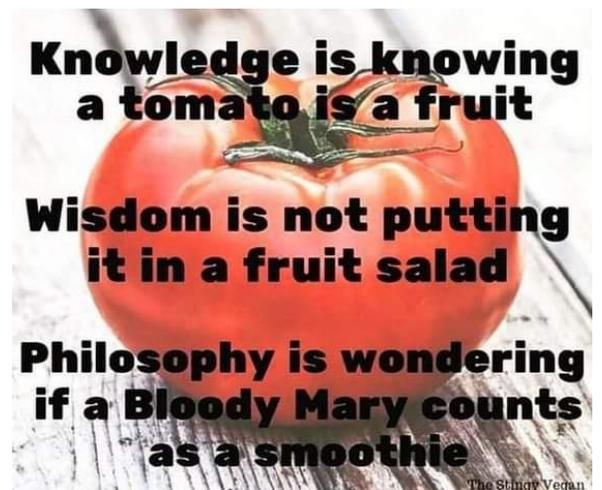
The truth?
I am better now than ever.
Better in ways important to me. More courageous. Humbler.

I like going on growing up. Loving my little corner of the world
Belonging with strangers.
Effortlessly. Interestingly.

All of us are safe enough.
Now we are older.

(by Laurette Gautherot)

Just for a laugh 😊



Book Nook

Within Sunshine and Shadow

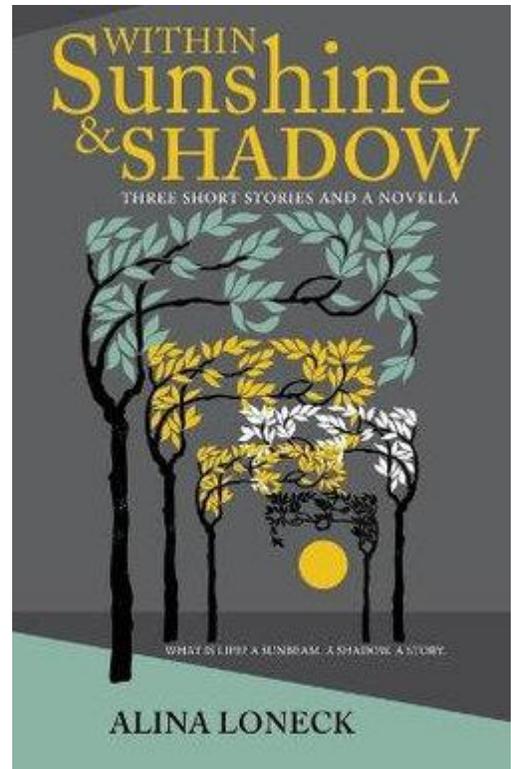
by Alina Loneck

Alina is a U3A member and I came across her as a participant in the Tai Chi course I run. I got to know this book from an article in the local paper "News of the Area". This is a book written by an author who cares about the details. From the choice of the book cover material (it has a velvety, tactile texture) to the descriptions that bring the people, events and settings in the book to life. The details are carefully crafted to create a consistent, insightful and entertaining book. The book has 3 short stories and a novella. For me, the stories all ring true to life and the characters feel like people I have met. The author has an exceptional talent for describing a scene and what drives people so you feel you are there; a silent participant to the story unfolding before you. These are all stories that will make you think and react. I found it hard to put the book down once I had started and a craving for more after I had read the novella. I can heartily recommend this book to you all. Fortunately, Alina has a new book out now called "Love is a Many Splendored things".

(by Michael Faulkner)

Next Edition

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all U3A members and tutors to write an article of any length on an experience within or outside our U3A which you think will be of interest to our members. We are aiming at one newsletter per term so please help out with your submissions.



Send your newsletter articles and images to The Editor, via info@coffs.u3anet.org.au