



## University of the Third Age - Capricorn Coast

**U3A Capricorn Coast Inc**  
(University of the Third Age)  
c/- Community Centre,  
80 John Street,  
Yeppoon, Qld 4703

**March 2023**

# NEWSLETTER

(printed courtesy of Community Development Centre, Yeppoon)

Web site: <http://sites.google.com/site/capcoastu3a/home>

(The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of U3A Capricorn Coast)

All emails to: [u3acapcoast@gmail.com](mailto:u3acapcoast@gmail.com)

## PRESIDENT'S POST

Dear Members,

All our classes have restarted and it is nice to see members returning to the sessions this year.

I still have a few new badges to hand out. If you have not got your badge, please see me at one of our activities or ask your tutor. I can put your badge in an envelope and leave it at CDC office if it is easier for you to collect from there.

Your committee is working hard to keep our U3A interesting and active. We are lucky to have a few new members with some new skills who have indicated that they would be prepared to tutor. At our next committee meeting we will be discussing the possibility of introducing some new sessions later in the year. We will keep you posted.

We are looking for a couple of new committee members, so if you would like to put your name forward, please let me know.

Regards  
Sylvia Ward  
President

## **Website Update - Melinda**

I would like to invite members to view short stories in the new Story Gallery linked from the Writing group page on the website. There is also a selection of art work on the Art group page.

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## **Music Appreciation - Peter**

Peter took our last session on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, and covered groups from the thirties onwards. Sylvia will be presenting the session on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. She will start with presenting some pieces using some unusual musical instruments. Then we will listen to some traditional music from across the world.

There will be no Music Appreciation in April because of Good Friday. In May, Peter will feature the music from 'Bert Bacharach'. Bert was a very prolific composer and over the years his works were recorded by a great number of well-known artists.

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## **Anything Goes - Valda**

At last week's count, Valda had 10 names on her list for the birdwatching session on 10<sup>th</sup> March, so there were only a few spots left. We will be meeting at Iwasaki resort near the Motel at 6.30 am, and car pool from there.

Please message or phone Valda to see if there are still spots, if you would like to go.

Sylvia

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## **Cultural Connections - Peter**

Our February session went off well. The numbers were small, but all enjoyed the ballet "Don Quixote".

Our next Cultural Evening is on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday bimonthly (28<sup>th</sup> April at 5.00 pm). We will be showing the 'The Misfits' movie starring Clark Gable, Marilyn Monroe and Montgomery Clift.

"The Misfits is a 'probing, exciting drama' of honesty, intensity and sheer poetic brilliance", as stated on the back of the disc!!

As usual we will take a break part way through for drinks and nibbles. Please bring a plate to share.

We look forward to seeing you there

Peter and Sylvia

## **Book Club - Carol**

Twelve people gathered in February to discuss *Clock Dance* by Anne Tyler, which was published in 2018. Generally, readers were disappointed with the book, particularly as the author is a prolific writer who has won several prestigious awards.

The book was divided into two parts and concentrated on a limited number of events in the life of the main character, Willa. Willa had been brought up in a dysfunctional family and seemed to be constantly searching for someone who “needed” her. Having been largely neglected by her own family, she turns to another dysfunctional family in the hope that she will find a purpose for her life.

Discussion centred mainly on the frustrations many felt, as the book left a number of themes only partly explored. We felt that this was disappointing as the novel could have been developed into an interesting and enjoyable book.

These sentiments were reflected in the rating given by readers. At 3.5 this was by far the lowest score given by the group since we started this informal poll.

We are currently reading *Past the Shallows* by Favel Parrett and we’ll meet on Monday 20 March (in Room B at 10.15 am), with the discussion on the book being led by Carol. New members are most welcome to join us.

*Helen P., Discussion Leader and Carol, Book Club Coordinator*  
Email: [capcoastbookclub@gmail.com](mailto:capcoastbookclub@gmail.com)

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## **Railway Technology – Mark**

Mark has advised that it is highly unlikely that he will be doing Railway Technology in March due to personal reasons. We will inform you if this session is being run.

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## **Gardening Group**

Meryl has withdrawn as coordinator for this group. We thank her for starting this group and for all her efforts running it last year. We always had good turnouts to these group activities through last year.

**We are looking for somebody to coordinate this activity**, which is held on the 3rd Thursday of the month. At present, the time the group meets is flexible depending on what the group is doing (e.g., visiting a member's garden; visiting a nursery; visiting a public garden/area; etc.). If you are interested in helping with this, or want further information of what is involved, then please get in touch.

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## **Coffee and Chat**

Peter would like to see more members turning up for these social gatherings. There are usually a couple of coffee and chat sessions on the calendar each month.

## Art Group - Annette

It's always so much fun coming together to share our creativity with brushes and paints and this month we have, again, enjoyed our time together.

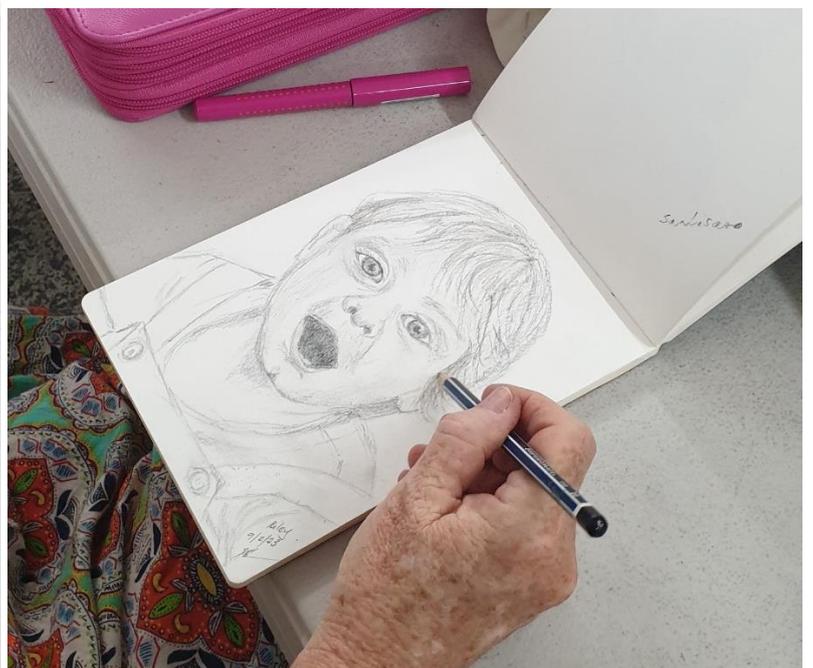
Firstly, we had a "Love" Theme for the week of St Valentine's Day. Each person interpreted this in their own unique way and produced a piece of art from the heart.

The following session, we worked on a range of art works, some finishing previously commenced pieces, others working on skills by practising sketching. We even had "Cat Eating a Pizza" (special request from a granddaughter).

Our next session will be held outdoors. We will be meeting on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March at Beaman Park in the heart of Yeppoon, sketching, inspired by our local community. There are many interesting features that will provide us inspiration. I will share these with you in our next Newsletter.

Cheers

Annette





# Astronomy and Space Science – Ken

## The Cost of Getting Things into Space

The 20th-century was marked by competition between the Soviet Union and the United States, to achieve superior spaceflight capability. The space race led to great technological advances, but these came at a high cost. For instance, during the 1960s, NASA spent US\$28 billion to land astronauts on the moon, about US\$288 billion in inflation-adjusted dollars.

In the last two decades, space startup companies have demonstrated they can compete against heavyweight aerospace contractors like Boeing, to build and launch rockets. Today, a SpaceX rocket launch can be 97% cheaper than a Russian Soyuz ride cost in the '60s.

The key to increasing cost efficiency is recovery and reuse. SpaceX rocket boosters usually return to Earth in good enough condition that they're able to be quickly refurbished, this saves money and keeps launch costs down.

The Saturn V rocket, which took Apollo Astronauts to the Moon, cost about US\$6,000 to lift one kilogram, ULA's Delta heavy rocket costs about US\$12,000 /kg and the Space Shuttle cost around US\$53,000 /kg, while the SpaceX Falcon 9 it is only US\$2,500 /kg. A significant drop in cost, and partly explains the huge increase in satellites being launched into low Earth Orbit.

However, SpaceX are not finished, they are currently building a huge new rocket, powered by 33 engines, they call it "Starship". It is designed to lift 100 ton into space at an estimated cost around US\$100 /kg.



Starship being stacked on its Booster

Although competition has brought prices down for cargo flights, human space transportation is still pricey. A seat on a suborbital trip in Blue Origin's New Shepard, costs over US\$250,000. Beyond that, to actual orbit is far more expensive; NASA paid Russia around US\$50 million per seat to get astronauts to the ISS at the end of the Shuttle program. SpaceX, Boeing and Sierra Nevada are offering considerable cheaper options to get people to the Space Station, but it is still expensive to put people into space.

So, what do we have in store for the March Astronomy and Space Science Group meeting?

The usual mixture of space and astronomy topics, followed by a look at some of the difficulties to be overcome before we send people to Mars.

*Come and join us, I promise not to be too technical (and we have lots of pictures).*

Ken

## **Writing Group – Valda and Cindi**

The Writing Group is booked for the first Thursday of each month at 10 am in room C.

So, the first meeting of the year was Thursday February 2nd. Libby ran the meeting and had asked members to write something with a surprise ending.

The next meeting is Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 10 am in room C. Elaine will be leading the session and has requested 500 words on emotion. Specifically, “that it should be a third person scene of confrontation between two people. We need to show the emotions of both people with actions, expressions and dialogue.”

Information about the Yeppoon Writers Festival in June to come.

Valda and Cindi

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## **Discussion Group - Alister**

The Discussion group discussed how each of us enjoyed the Christmas holidays. Many of us travelled and met up with friends and relatives. Some of us found the expensive air fares and went by bus and/or train. The opportunity for all us to find the freedom of not being confined by Covid restraints allowed us a more enjoyable time. Now, today and hopefully for the rest of the year, air fares will be more affordable. As a result, lower than normal travel packages are being advertised and I am one who is going to take the opportunity of these offerings. Happy travelling to everyone.

Look forward to seeing you at the next Discussion Group.

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## **Climate Awareness - Willy**

The first session of Climate Awareness was conducted by Peter MacGillivray and Willy Newman. The program for the March session is shown below.

### **CLIMATE AWARENESS PROGRAMME**

**March programme** Discussion – where to now for the Capricorn Coast?

How do we move into a carbon-less future?

This is where we want your thoughts. We – CCC (Capricorn Conservation Council) – wants to understand what people in the community are thinking so that we can develop our service of climate awareness information based on your experience and perception of pending challenges in your immediate local world.

Formal feedback and Evaluation

See you in March

Willy and Peter

# PROGRAMME NOTES

1. Please note our U3A email address: [u3acapcoast@gmail.com](mailto:u3acapcoast@gmail.com)

## COURSE ORGANISERS AND EVENTS

<b>Scrabble</b>	Mondays 1:00 pm CDC Garage
<b>Cards 500</b>	Mondays 3:00 pm CDC Room C
<b>Book Club</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday 10:15 am CDC Room B
<b>Cultural Connections</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday (bimonthly) 5:00 pm-8.00 pm
<b>Astronomy and Space Science</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 10:00 am CDC Room B
<b>Railway Technology</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 10:00 am CDC Room B
<b>Discussion Group</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday 10:00 am CDC Room B
<b>Coffee and Chat</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday 10:00 am Jolt, Salt Bldg
<b>Mah-Jong</b>	Wednesdays 9:00 am CDC Room C
<b>Recorder Group</b>	Wednesdays 12:00 pm CDC Room C
<b>Writing Workshop</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday 10:00 am CDC Room C
<b>Art Class</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays 9:30am CDC Garage
<b>Gardening Group</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday (flexible time)
<b>Music Appreciation</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday 10:15 am CDC Room B
<b>Anything Goes</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday 10:15 am CDC Room B
<b>Climate Awareness</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Friday (Feb, Mar 2023) 10:15 am CDC Room B

**Monthly General Meeting** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday CDC Rooms A & B John Street  
10:00 am – Association Business  
10:40 am to 11:00 am Break for tea and chat  
11:00 am to 12:00 pm - Guest Speaker

### 2022-2023 Committee

PRESIDENT: Sylvia  
VICE PRESIDENT: Cindi  
TREASURER: Frank  
SECRETARY: Carol

### **Committee Members**

GUEST SPEAKER COORDINATOR: Cindi  
SOCIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR:  
Rosco  
Valda

U3A Qld Network Representative – Sylvia  
Newsletter: Sylvia  
All emails to: [u3acapcoast@gmail.com](mailto:u3acapcoast@gmail.com)