



WESTERN SUBURBS Newsletter

October 2001

Welcome

Our first September meeting was one of our regular 'members' talks. This time the theme was Volunteering. **Jean Indermaur** spoke of her time with the *SES* in Broome. There was training every Monday night and at weekend camps. She learnt map reading, radio handling, and what to look for in air searches. It was imperative that everyone in a team was able to do everything. Real-life stuff but in a small town a good way to socialise and make friends.

Judith Amey volunteers as a reader on *Vision Australia Radio*. This is a service provided for people who are blind or unable to read. Readers read the newspaper, magazines and internet articles. Judith is rostered most Thursdays to read on National News Hour which is broadcast live to Victoria and on delay to Perth on 990AM at 5.00pm.

Kay Rae is a *Friend of Hollywood Reserve*. They meet each second Sunday of the month to plant, weed, and (in summer) water the remnant bush between Karrakatta and War Graves cemeteries off Karella Street. Historically this was woodland with Jarrah, Marri and Red Gum trees. At the moment the banksia and grevillea are flowering.

Gabor Bedo travels over to *Rottnest Island* – or to give it its Noongar name, *Wadjemup* - to volunteer as a guide. The guides lead walks and give talks on the history, the geology, the environment, and birdlife. Training is essential and guides must be able to adjust depending on the ages of the visitors and whether they are from interstate or overseas.

James Cooper's talk, entitled *Cloud Appreciation Society*, was surprisingly fascinating. He is a passionate glider pilot and a member of the Cunderdin Gliding Club. Clouds are extremely important for gliders giving them an enormous amount of information. James spoke about the science behind clouds and categories of clouds. He explained how different clouds indicate different conditions - essential knowledge for glider pilots. He then showed some incredible photos of different clouds and cloud formations. He finished with a plea for his favourite charity, PingPong-a-thon, run by the International Justice Mission fighting against child abuse in Thailand.



Our first speaker is always a U3A member, from our own Western Suburbs or another region. On 20 September, **Nigel Ridgway** from North Coast (Hamersley) shared with us the pleasures and challenges of owning and sailing a 70-year-old wooden boat. *Clare*, a 40 ft ketch, was made from all WA timbers and had been originally launched at the South of Perth Yacht Club in 1951. Nigel and his wife had it for seven very pleasurable years. Rather too big for sailing in the Swan River, most of the time they were using her to sail the Western Australian coast. Their big adventure was to sail around the Indian Ocean. They got as far as Christmas Island when damage from when she was nearly wrecked on a rock in 1984, meant expensive repairs. Sadly, she was sold to a very keen buyer who was happy to accept the cost of the necessary repairs.

Keeping to a travel theme, our second speaker was the aviation journalist, **Geoffrey Thomas**. He said COVID put air travel back 25 years and he predicted international air travel will not fully recover until 2025, although domestic travel in China and the US is already at pre-COVID levels. However long-haul flights will remain unpopular for a long time because people want to stay close to home.

It is not just passenger flights that have been affected by COVID. Previously passenger planes carried a lot of cargo in the belly of the plane – as much if not more than went on cargo planes. Short shelf-life produce (which needs to get to markets quickly) is especially impacted by so few passenger flights. Airline companies have taken out the seats and used the space for 'lightweight' cargo eg: PPE equipment. Just like Australian states, each country has different restrictions and apps with information on COVID tests and vaccinations. This lack of digitalisation and uniformity is a big problem – it slows down the embarkation and immigration process considerably. A long-haul flight with multi-stops may require multiple COVID tests – at \$150 a pop. It is a very volatile situation but the earliest he sees much international travel is 2023. Unless you are prepared to put up with an enormous amount of

airport grief, he recommends not to travel for leisure anytime in the foreseeable future.

In response to a question from the floor he told how it is furry airlines are adding to global warming. Planes are extremely fuel efficient – trains are far worse polluters, as are Chinese cement factories.

Qantas lost so many of its experienced pilots, mechanics, maintenance crew, etc. so it will not be as strong as it was. He believes it should have accepted government financial assistance.

Geoffrey finished on a positive note. Prices of tickets will not rise – airlines will need to offer low prices to motivate people to fly again. Very competitive prices will be essential to offset the bullshit passengers are going to have to put up with. (His words!!)

ENDERSLEA FARM



Thanks to Ian Deany and the Men's Shed bus, 14 members travelled to Enderslea Farm in the Chittering Valley for another of Jenny Davis excellent plays with the narrative around Western

Australian historical tales. This year it was *The Blackwood River Gliding By*, the story of Georgiana Molloy, wife, mother and farmer turned botanist. Each of the three actors played multiple roles and their ability to switch from one accent to another was remarkable. And the famous lavish afternoon tea did not disappoint!

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAMME

Monday 4 October

1.00pm **Geoff Beyer** John Hawes; priest-architect. Life and work of John Hawes who designed and constructed churches in England, WA's mid-west and the Bahamas.

2.30pm **Vyonne Geneve** Art Deco & Modernist Society. Thanks to the hard work and perseverance of the Art Deco Society more than 300 buildings have been saved from demolition in Perth

Monday 18 October

1.00pm. **Peter Bifield**, Why things fail. A no nonsense talk on the generalities of failure and what went wrong in some well-known catastrophes.

2.30pm **Suzanne Brown** Drainage for Liveability. The challenges and opportunities of recognising the value of drainage assets beyond their functional role in flood mitigation.

CITY LECTURE

Sunday 24 October

2.00pm **Dr Pam Lynch** Walking through History: The Orkney Islands. Pam has a passionate fascination for the archaeology of Roman Britain. The Orkneys, a tiny cluster of islands 16kms off the north-east coast of Scotland, hold some of the world's best examples of Neolithic architecture.

Venue State Library auditorium

FREE but booking essential. Contact Christine 0468 781 857

CANASTA

Seniors Hub, Cambridge Community Centre, Alexander Road, Wembley.

Play begins at **2.00pm** and finishes at **4.00pm** every Friday.



SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER, 1.00- 3.15pm

Graebner Hall, St John's Lutheran Church

16 Aberdeen Street, Perth

\$10 includes afternoon tea.

Book with Christine 0468 781 857

BRAIN TIME

Replace the missing vowels to complete the names of 10 African countries.

1. SRR LN
2. MRTN
3. RTR
4. CMRN
5. THP
6. QTRL GN
7. LBR
8. LGR
9. TNS
10. SML

And if they were too easy, try

11. SWTN



Newsletter compiled by Judith Amey

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ANSWERS: 1. Sierra Leone, 2. Mauritania, 3. Eritrea, 4. Cameroon, 5. Ethiopia, 6. Equatorial Guinea, 7. Liberia, 8. Algeria, 9. Tunisia, 10. Somalia. 11. eSwatini (the former Swaziland!)