

November 2022

Welcome!

On 10 October the theme was Literature and members shared favourite poems and recommended books.

Clive read a moving poem by Thomas Keneally's granddaughter.

MaryAnn spoke of the book by Erroll Seymour about his family, pioneers in the Dunsborough area.

Geoff read two poems *Think of me* and the *Revenge of Mad Karoo*.

Judith recommended a book she had just read, *Agent Sonya* by Ben McIntryre.

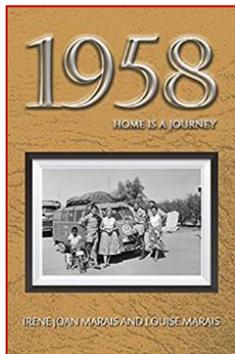
Faye's Book Club had been discussing Helen Gardner's *The Spare Room*.

Alison read three poems which have had an effect on her life – one by the ancient Greek poet, Sappho, *Cargoes* by John Mansfield, and *My Last Duchess* by Robert Browning.

Sue also chose *Cargoes* as one of her special poems.

Gabor brought the session to a close by sharing David Walker and Li Yau's book on autonomous regions in China.

Terry Harvey has been a regular presenter and at our meeting on 24 October his topic was *The Romani and Irish Travellers*. It proved to be fascinating as Terry told us much about this cultural group. They originated in Northern India about 1500 years ago and moved through Europe to England and Scandinavia. They are still a people without a country – but those who are descended from Romani are found in every country. They have often been viewed with suspicion. In the 1850s they were sold as slaves. Britain and Switzerland hanged them. Other countries enforced sterilisation. In England Queen Charlotte agreed to them camping in the New Forest but Victoria rescinded this order. Between 200,000 and 1 million were killed by Nazis 1935 - 1945. Valued as seasonal farm workers industrialisation affected them and still today discrimination continues in Europe. Charlie Chaplin and Bill Clinton both claim Romani blood. James Squire was the first in Australia. He arrived as a convict in 1788. He was the first to grow hops and became the first brewer in the colony.



Our second speaker, **Louise Marais**, had found a treasure trove of mementoes from when her 20-year-old mother, and four friends drove a VW Combi van from South Africa to London in the 1950's. She had the diary her mother had kept, a tin box of letter sent home, photographs, colour slides and

a collection of memorabilia to work with. It was a fascinating story of the four months the trip took, with no comforts of travel today. Most of the roads were unsealed, camping sites basic, and washing facilities non-existent. At times they were stuck in mud or deep sand. The trip was undertaken against all advice from their families and others who warned them of the dangers they faced - from people, animals, and political unrest in some countries. Five people traveling in one van meant weight and space constraints were essential. Pictures plus a few explanatory words told the story. The five friends needed tenacity and a sense of humour. Every challenge - and there were plenty - had to be seen as an adventure.



Vivien Stuart and Clive share a laugh.

Vivien Stuart introduced her book *Acacia House*. It is a novel based on her own experience as a palliative care nurse and her belief palliative care is misunderstood and needs to be discussed openly. Death is as much a part of life as birth and should be spoken about just as freely. Vivien believes attitudinal change can come about through books and movies. She chose three narrators to tell her story. Her aim was for it to be character driven while introducing a gentle wash of what is ethical palliative care. Vivien spoke about how she had come up with the backgrounds of her three narrators and the process of putting a book together. As well as being about good palliative care, it was about how to write a book.

NOVEMBER'S PROGRAMME

MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER

1.00pm Kay Rae, **George Fletcher Moore 1830-1840.**



George Fletcher Moore made a significant contribution to Western Australia's early colonial settlement as a lawyer and farmer. He recorded his daily life in the colony in a diary, which is regarded as an immensely

valuable social document. Moore believed the colony needed quiet, hard-working people with a knowledge of agriculture to be successful, and said it was no place for gentlemen farmers.

2.30pm. **Arnold van Rooijen, Protecting our coast from flooding: a story of plants, trees and animals.**

Coastal flooding is a worldwide threat to human safety and infrastructure and continues to increase due to sea level rise and the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme storm events. Arnold will discuss some of the latest findings in the emerging field of ecosystem-based coastal protection. He will go through a broad range of ecosystems, highlighting their functions from a coastal engineer's perspective and discussing their potential to become part of coastal protection strategies.

MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER

1.00pm Peter Flanigan, **From barter to bitcoin – the history of money**

Peter will try and answer questions such as What is money? Who invented it? Do we get enough of it? Why do we have inflation? Would deflation be a better idea? What do banks do? What about central banks? Are cash and bank notes on the way out? What is crypto currency? Is it real money? What is a digital wallet?

2.30pm Dr Alan Tapper, **What is philosophy? Why don't we teach it in schools?**

Alan has lectured philosophy at Curtin University, informed policy, and is an enthusiastic advocate for philosophy to be taught in schools.

MONDAY 5 DECEMBER

12 noon AGM followed by Christmas lunch at the Albion Hotel.

No meetings December, January

First meeting for 2023 **Monday 13 February**

Answers: giving, remainder, discard, parsing, evaporate, metabolism, diamond, landfall. Turkey is the answer to all 5 quiz questions.

ROUND TABLE

Round table discussion on a Geoffrey Robertson's 'Hypotheticals' model.

Mondays 3 & 17 October

Discussion group lead by **Roy Stall.**
Seniors Hub, Cambridge Community Centre,
40 Alexander Street, Wembley.
10am – 11.30am

There is plenty of parking on site.

Attendees choose the topics to be discussed. Basic 'ground rules' include time limits, mutual respect, no animated exchanges between individuals. It is an opportunity to contribute, to learn, to listen, and hopefully be 'better informed'.

CANASTA

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

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

Would-be players, rusty players, never played players, and those who just enjoy the game are welcome. It is very relaxed and non-competitive.

Contact Clive Funston clive_funston@yahoo.com.

Brain time

You've heard of Wordle where you try to guess a five-letter word in six tries. Thanks to Jean I'm now addicted to **WORLDLE**. Each day there is a blank map, and you have six tries to guess the country. After each guess you are told in what direction and how far you are away from the correct answer. Once you get the country then you can have a go at naming its capital and identifying its flag. Go to <https://wordleplay.com/worldle> and have a go.

Complete these words by adding the same letter at both ends.

- ivin - - emanider - - iscard -
- arsni - - vaporat - - etabolis -
- iamon - - indo - - andfal -

Quiz

- Where was the first ever Christian church located?
- Where was Santa Claus born?
- Where do 75% of the world's hazel nuts come from?
- In which country are over 30 languages spoken?
- Where is it officially illegal to wear a Fez?



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