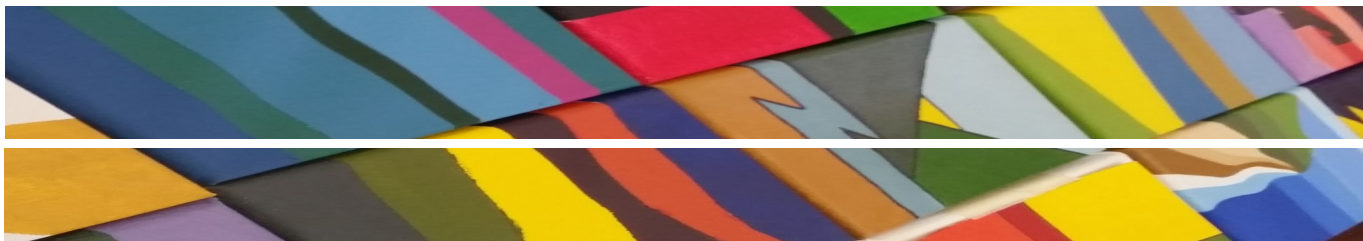


# LIFE IS FOR LEARNING



## FROM THE EDITOR

Diana March



It's been full-steam ahead for U3A Riverland this year with a host of activities designed to appeal to our members. "Start-ups" have included a music appreciation group aptly named "More than Mozart" and a float building activity incorporating flexible cane to create objects for use in local pageants. Meditation classes and a philosophy group have begun. An enthusiastic busload of people toured Hans Heysen's home and studio, "The Cedars", in Hahndorf and another group attended a concert at the Elder Conservatorium in Adelaide.

An art exhibition has been hung at the Chaffey Theatre and a collaborative effort by artists and creative writers saw works displayed in the SALA festival.

Of great excitement is the proposed 2017 "Riverland Rendezvous". This event will see U3A members from all over the state converge in the Riverland and will be a prime opportunity for us to show our visitors how special our region is. We know it—let's promote it!

If you would like to celebrate the end of another year with us, please respond to the invitation to attend our Christmas function at Ruston's Rose Garden on December 7.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Brent Morrell



U3A Riverland has continued to prosper in its second year, consolidating the rapid growth of year 1. Membership has grown ever so slightly to just under 150, and I believe the participation rate ie the numbers of members joining activities, has increased.

We have been fortunate to uncover some new and interesting tutors and so have been able to offer a good spread of activities. Not all of these have been well attended and I wonder if this is because members feel that they are unable to commit to a week in, week out, activity. U3A is not like that. We understand that many of our members are somewhat nomadic, or have child-minding duties ... or both. There is no U3A Truancy Officer, so sign up for an activity that interests you and join us whenever you can.

U3A Riverland continues to impress as the "new kid on the block" within U3A South Australia and as such we have been entrusted with conducting the first U3A SA regional gathering in May 2017. Your Committee is developing a great program and we are really looking to showcase the Riverland. We will be seeking your assistance in the lead up to, and during the event, so if you are willing to be involved please let me, or any other committee member, know. It will save us tapping you on the shoulder later on.

For those of you that I don't catch up with beforehand, may I wish you a happy, safe and blessed Christmas. I look forward to us actively sharing 2017.

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS

## JAN OWENS

### (ENTHUSIASM PERSONIFIED)

As a believer in lifelong learning and the provision of opportunities for older people to engage in learning activities, I am especially pleased to be associated with U3A Riverland.

I live in Moorook having come to the Riverland from Razorback, NSW, in 2013. I am a widow but have a large extended family to ensure that I am never idle.

My early work experience was as a Registered Nurse and Midwife in a variety of clinical settings. When nurse education moved into the tertiary sector it was the impetus for me to return to university and gain a Masters Degree in Education so that I could pursue a career in teaching. I subsequently worked in universities in NSW, Queensland, U.K. and Kathmandu, Nepal.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to travel extensively overseas as part of my work roles and gained much from these experiences working with students from diverse cultures and backgrounds. Likewise I enjoyed my visits to rural and remote hospitals and aged care facilities in country NSW and Queensland.

Since my retirement I have been dabbling in poetry and short story writing, a very different style of expression to that of my working life. In this transition I have found the U3A Creative Writing group a helpful and motivating source of ideas. My other great love is playing (I am a mediocre pianist) and listening to a wide variety of musical styles with classical music a daily companion.



*Over the past few issues you have been introduced to a number of our Committee Members. More are still to be profiled but I thought it was time to list all the current team who work tirelessly to make U3A as successful as it is. Some have specific roles while the others are important contributors to the functioning of the committee. We could not exist without the commitment of all of these people.*

**President:** Brent Morrell  
**Vice President:** Marian Woodberry  
**Secretary:** Daina Braddock  
**Treasurer:** Shirley Sims  
**Courses:** Anna Harper  
**Website:** Terry Marter

**Publicity:** Diana March  
**Grants:** Tony Guster  
 Jan Owens  
 Anne Chase  
 Judith Hennig

## TERRY MARTER

### (WEB MASTER)

After becoming obsessed with music at my English High School I joined the British Army as a bandsman (trumpet) and was only 17 when I was awarded a year at Kneller Hall, (London's Royal Military School of Music). I was then assigned to the "Cambrai" Band, 5th Royal Tank Regiment. This 6-year period included UK & European tours plus 2 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo appearances.

After moving to Australia in 1972 (as a professional freelance musician), I was regularly hired for gigs/tours with artists including John Farnham, Bev Harrell, Little River Band, The Supremes, Bo Diddley, Cilla Black, Shirley Bassey, The Platters, Roy Orbison, and others.

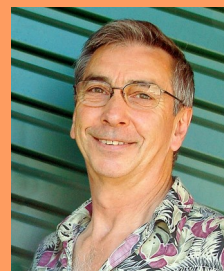
As it was impossible to be a full-time musician in SA, I also worked as a projectionist for Greater Union Cinemas in Adelaide before moving to the Riverland as Manager and Projectionist of the Barmera Drive-in Cinema. I then

worked as full-time Technical Manager at the Chaffey Theatre at Renmark for 28 years until I retired in 2012.

My other lifelong interest is Photography. I am an active member of the Riverland

Camera Club and have many State awards plus one National winning medallion to my credit. As recently as October 2016 one of my images was chosen by the SA Photographic Society as part of SA's entry in the Australian Interstate Photographic Competition.

Now that I am "officially" retired it's great to be able to share my knowledge and skills through U3A with anyone who wants to take their photography more seriously. As a committee member I am responsible for maintaining U3A Riverland's online presence via their website [www.u3ariverland.org](http://www.u3ariverland.org)



## MARIAN WOODBERRY

### (VICE PRESIDENT)

I am the proud mother of four children and eight grandchildren aged between four and twenty four years.

Learning has always been important to me and while my children were in senior school I studied at TAFE, gaining my Real Estate qualifications. After five years of working with a local company I opened my own business, independent of a franchise. I am the first and only female to date in the Riverland to follow this pathway.

My achievements were recognised by the Riverland Zonta Club when I was noted as a runner-up Riverland Business Woman of the Year for two consecutive years.

I am passionate about giving back to my community and am involved on many committees including U3A Riverland. I was on the organising committee of the SA Rural Women's Gathering held in

Renmark this year.

Other community involvement includes Women in Horticulture, acting as tour guide for "The Pines", Loxton's historical house and Loxton Ladies Proboscis Club. On retirement I managed the Rotary Opp Shop for five years and was recognised for my service by being awarded a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow - one of the highest club awards for service.

I enjoy singing at local events with the Loxton Community Choir and acting as Mother Christmas in the Magic cave when Loxton "lights up" for Christmas.. I also enjoy gardening, knitting and crocheting children's garments for charity. One of my personal indulgences is attending Strength for Life gym classes.





# CREATIVE WRITING

The U3A Riverland creative writers have had an interesting and productive year learning the technicalities of writing fiction, memoir and poetry. The core group of seven meet regularly at the Chaffey Community Centre in Renmark where they read and critique work, undertake writing exercises and have lively discussions.

Writers have been so interested in Haiku that they wrote a piece titled "Colour Revealed" to accompany a work by the U3A Riverland Art Group. These two works have been displayed and read at Gawler Poetry in the Pub with online publication. They were also

exhibited as part of SALA and currently hang at the Chaffey Theatre.

Since this initial effort group members have submitted a further collaborative haiku titled "Garden Transformations" to the New Shoots Poetry Prize in Sydney and have a third, titled "Generations", ready for printing.

Poetry by individual writers has been submitted to The Seniors newspaper, The Trentham Poetry Prize and the New Shoots Poetry Prize.

During Adult Learners Week several creative writers together with Daina Braddock from the U3A Art Group ran a workshop on writing childhood anecdotes at the Barmera Library. These were illustrated with an art form called Zen Tangles. This was an informative and fun activity that was well received by the participants.

We are now selecting fictional short stories, memoir excerpts and poetry for

an Anthology to be launched at the U3A Riverland Rendezvous in May 2017 where the publications will be for sale.

We welcome new members to the group. Feel free to contact either Brent Morrell or Jan Owens for further information (contact details are on the term schedule.)

## COMING SOON



***In the new year the group will be staging a poetry reading aboard the PS Industry. This event "Words on Water" will be open to the community to contribute their poetry, read their work and have it published in the Anthology. We hope many of the U3A membership will join us for a pleasant Sunday afternoon of steaming and reading.***



Nature's tapestry  
Stitches the land in colour  
Burgundy yellow and red  
Green reflections in the water  
Sunlit river sparkles

Wind sighs  
Golden waves roll  
Wheat ears whisper

Delicate wings hum  
Courting ritual dances  
Life begins anew  
Vibrations like stretched drums  
A chorus of calling frogs

The small boy plays  
In fallen red and yellow leaves  
Bare trunks face the wind

Blackened trees huddle  
Scorched landscape  
Dust clouds rising

The orange moon spills its light  
across the deserted paddocks  
A bird shrills a lonely cry  
Stars cluster brightly in the night sky  
The land is a patchwork of light and dark

## MORE THAN MOZART

(PROMOTING NOURISHMENT FOR THE MIND AND SOUL.)

This music appreciation group commenced in August 6 members (now 9) and much enthusiasm to explore the intricacies and beauty of a wide range of musical genres. In a relaxed, informal atmosphere, members choose their favourite composer, performer or style of music and present relevant information and examples of the music to the rest of the group.

Judy Kelly presented the introductory session using the Bohemian composer Smetana and his passionate and patriotic work Ma Vlast. This was followed by Josie Penna's morning of Debussy whose magical musical images conjured up the sea in all its moods. In September we celebrated a Last Night At The Proms with flag waving and Elgar's patriotic and romantic music including his engagement gift to Alice Roberts, Salut D'Armour, his beautiful cello concerto, the ever popular Nimrod from the Enigma Variations and of course Pomp and Circumstance with us singing Land of Hope and Glory. Sue Gore introduced the group to Scarlatti's music and the scintillating performances of the pianist Yevgeny Sudbin.

In addition to our morning meetings, four of our members attended a concert at Elder Conservatorium in Adelaide to hear Catherine Selby enchant us with the Mozart Piano Concerto No 27 and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra perform the Schubert Symphony

No 5 accompanied by loud bursts of thunder and rain from the stormy weather. More recently six members attended the film of Puccini's opera Turandot on Sydney Harbour screened at the Chaffey Theatre and heard an interesting account of the production details by Timothy Sexton.

Group members will be planning more concert attendances and a program of beautiful music for the new year. We welcome new members as well as occasional visitors. Meetings are held at the Len Mahoney Room, Berri/Barmera Council Building, Berri, every second Wednesday morning 10am-12noon. Contact Jan Owens by e-mail [janjowens@gmail.com](mailto:janjowens@gmail.com) or phone 0410 098 369 for further information.







## FLOAT MAKING

Half a dozen members, under the expert tutelage of Tim Baulderstone, have been working with cane, bamboo and paper to create entries for the Riverland Christmas pageants. About 10 pieces are nearing completion in the pavilion at the Riverland Field Days site.

Surprisingly little training has been required to make even the least “handy” of us reasonably proficient and we have had so much fun that we have already decided to continue into 2017 (subject to finding a suitable venue).

We would love to have more members join us, even for only a couple of sessions to complete these creations. Why don't you give it a go—come out and be creative in a very social atmosphere.

Most of our pieces are “walking floats” and we are very much in need of volunteers to walk the course of the pageant carrying one of our creations.

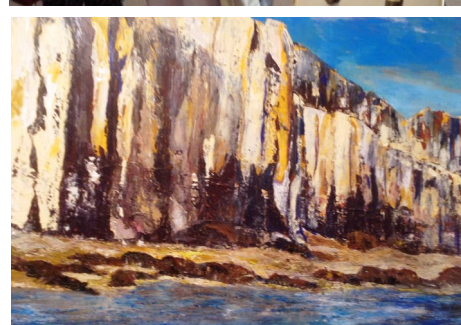


## PAGEANTS 2016

If you can help at Barmera on December 9<sup>th</sup> and/or Renmark on December 10<sup>th</sup>, please call Tony Guster on 0447781 820 or email [tonyguster@dodo.com.au](mailto:tonyguster@dodo.com.au).

U3A and Country Arts SA in the Riverland have had a great relationship for the past two years. Both organisations are dedicated to helping people in our community inject creativity and knowledge into their lives.

Sometimes we find we simply need to connect with others who are like-minded or we need to set ourselves a challenge and take up a new skill or activity. It's been fantastic to watch U3A's art classes work out of the River Lands Gallery eagerly taking up new information and challenges under the skilled tutelage of Daina.

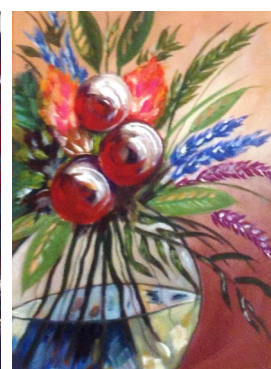
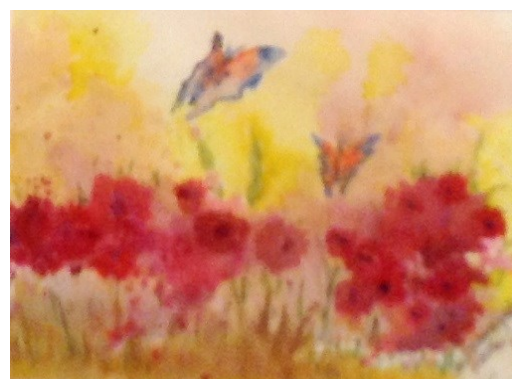
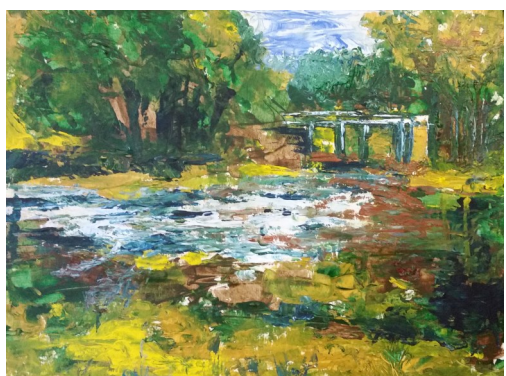


I love the energy and the encouragement that the participants offer each other. There have been days when I wished I could stop work and sit in on a few classes.

It's great that the class has been able to turn the last 12 months of fun and exploration into their second exhibition. Some people find it a challenge to put their work out there in the public realm but there is something rewarding and thrilling about being able to showcase how, as an individual and a group you have developed and grown

I wish U3A all the best with their 2016 exhibition. Congratulations to all of the artists for your spirit of adventure and your creativity.

*Rebecca Farrant,  
River Lands Gallery*

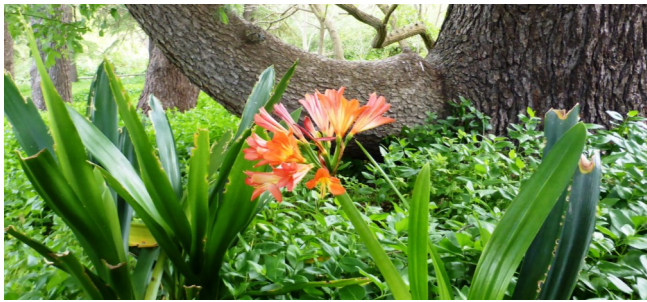
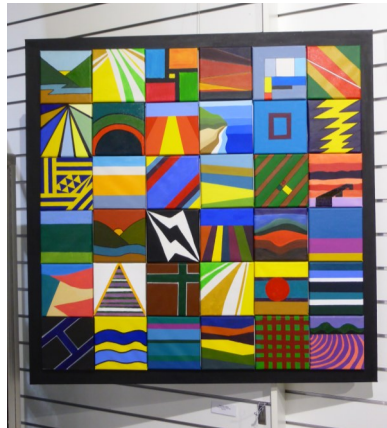




# Out & About



*Right: U3A creative writers Jenny Sanders, Jan Owens, Diana March & Anne Chase at the WordArt exhibition themed "Unravelling". A large piece of art together with Haiku poetry was exhibited by U3A members. Both these pieces were later hung at the Chaffey Theatre.*



## SIR HANS HEYSEN'S HOME & GALLERY "THE CEDARS"

Twenty U3A members travelled by mini-bus to the home and gallery of one of Australia's most noted landscape artists, Sir Hans Heyesen in Hahndorf. His studio, built in 1912 remains the nation's oldest purpose built artist's studio and contains furniture, art equipment and other artefacts, including the rugs on which he stood to paint his well-loved works. The Cedars is also home to daughter, Nora Heyesen's art. Nora became the first woman awarded the Archibald Prize for Portraiture, and in 1943 was honoured to be the first female commissioned as an Australian war artist.

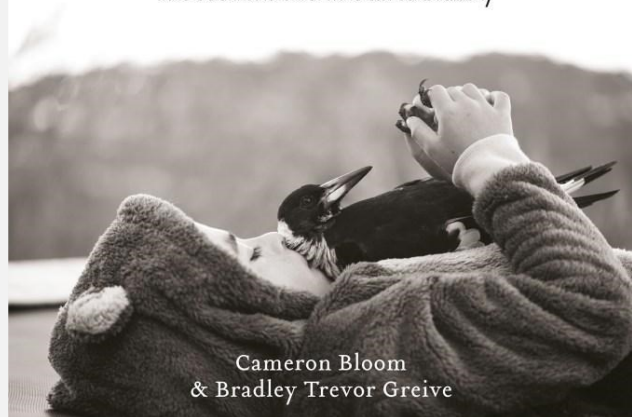
The rambling garden is planted with chiefly exotic species, the most significant being the massive Himalayan cedar trees which give the property its name. Large picture windows brought the outside into the house.

Of course no excursion to such a beautiful hillside "village" as Hahndorf is complete without some retail therapy and after a much-anticipated coffee, an impressive collection of "artworks" in the form of clothes, jewellery, shoes and handbags made its way back to the bus. Back in the carpark at Berri, the day was completed in a most welcome, yet unexpected manner when Mick Kelly, our driver, regaled us with his version of Nessun Dorma!. Beautiful and seemingly effortless.



# Penguin Bloom

The odd little bird who saved a family



Cameron Bloom  
& Bradley Trevor Greive

Members of the Art and Creative Writing Groups attended a discussion with Cameron Bloom and his wife Sam at the McCormick Centre, Renmark, about their best selling memoir "Penguin Bloom – The odd little bird who saved a family".

The story documents Sam's fall while on holiday with her family in Thailand and her subsequent paraplegia, depression and loss of her previous active life style. Parallel to Sam's story is that of Penguin Bloom, a tiny magpie fallen from its nest in a lofty Norfolk Pine tree and rescued by the Bloom children.

The narrative juxtaposes Sam's and Penguin's dependencies, frailties, vulnerabilities and courage against what seemed to be insurmountable odds. A close bond formed between Sam and Penguin while they both took steps to recover, Sam to become a Paralympic kayaker and

Penguin a free bird.

The book was authored by Bradley Trevor Greive AM of The Blue Day Book fame enhanced by the beautiful photographs of Cameron Bloom. In addition a very personal account of Sam's emotional turmoil and recovery, written by Sam, is included.

The book has garnered high praise here and overseas. Both Cameron and Sam were very generous with their time and the information they shared with us, answering personal and technical questions. It was a positive experience for all participants, providing us with insight into the collaborative nature of the book, difficulties with publishing requirements here and overseas and the ultimate triumph of the spirit over adversity.

Associated with the discussion was an exhibition of Cameron's photographs of Penguin's growth and place in the family as well as a collection of magpie slings. These were designed for injured magpies by Alex Randell and made by the craft group at the McCormick Centre.

The book is available from T H Books in Renmark and would make a wonderful Christmas gift (10% of royalties is donated to Spinal Cure Australia.) We are grateful to Alex Randell of the McCormick Centre for arranging this very interesting and heart warming event.



Sam and Cameron Bloom, with U3A member Jan Owens who led the discussion at Renmark's McCormick Centre

## GRANT APPLICATIONS

Gaining funding through grant applications is an important and ongoing task for the U3A Riverland committee to enable the organisation to remain innovative and relevant to the needs of its membership. Through successful applications it has received \$2024 in funding to be spent on specific projects.

**Words on Water**—poetry, bush ballad and short fiction readings of original work on the topic of "water" by community participants, while cruising on the PS Industry.

**Creative Writing Group's Anthology**—for professional printing of the Creative Writing Group's stories, memoir excerpts and poetry.

**Riverland Rendezvous**—to be staged in May of 2017. This is an important event on our calendar, being the first regional event of this nature to be attempted in South Australia.

**Resources for New Classes**—we sought funding for the "More Than Mozart" class to purchase equipment, CDs and a subscription to Pandora.

**Welcome to 2017 Workshop**—for our volunteer facilitators.

**Partnership Development**—to collaborate with the Chaffey Community Centre and the Berri Library to present a half day workshop on using technology in group presentations. This workshop will be made available to other community groups.

