

## U3A Cygnet Term 3, 2025

### A Smorgasbord of Talks

What	A series of interesting, stimulating talks on a wide variety of topics, with plenty of opportunity to discuss and ask questions, and a tea-break for socialising.
When	10.00 – 12.15 Wednesdays, weekly
Where	<a href="#">Enjoy.Church</a> , 8 Mary St, next to the Port Hole Cafe (carpark at rear)
Leader	Elaine Reeves, 0427 172 179
Note	<b>Please book online or use the form at the back of this program if you are wishing to attend <u>any</u> sessions</b> - it helps with our administration and communications. You don't need to attend every week, and you don't need to tell us in advance before you come to any session.
17 Sept	<b>How Tasmanians using a videotape recorder solved a Jovian mystery – Mike Groth</b> Jupiter has the strongest magnetic field in the solar system. During the planet's 1973 apparition, Mike Groth was the PhD student who built and operated the New Zealand station at Dunedin, which, with one in Hobart, revealed insights into the interaction of the planet's magnetic field with Jovian moon Io. Mike will speak of the research that led to this point, and his own subsequent career before retirement to Margate in 2014.
24 Sept	<b>The Whisky Widow - Karen Brooks</b> One of Australia's most popular historical fiction writers will tell us about the research for her latest novel – from the illegal whisky making, which is both an act of rebellion and survival, and “finger talking”, an early version of sign language. In the 1780s, recently widowed Greer and her deaf daughter Fen go to the Highlands to collect money she is owed. The excise men are on the prowl and a stranger is not welcome. Bill Lark was Karen's first reader to check the whisky facts.
1 Oct	<b>Thinking with my hands – Ian Johnston</b> Ian Johnston has had great success in ocean racing and is one of three founders of the Wooden Boat Festival. Recently, he had a need for something that could not be bought that he would have to make himself. Everybody said it could not be done, but he persevered, made many mistakes – and it worked, making something out of high-quality timber used in a hi-tech way. Ian will bring The Thing with him.
8 Oct	<b>Dying to Learn – Bec Lloyd</b> In this world of information being seemingly at our fingertips, there are still far too many people who don't know their options and possibilities when they are dying. Bec will tell us about the role of end of life doulas, home funerals and options such as natural burial and water cremations. In the past few years, the range of options in Tasmania has opened up considerably. Learn what is possible before you find yourself suddenly needing to organise a funeral, and/or leave some informed decisions about what you want for yourself.
15 Oct	<b>Why are we importing food when we grow and produce it here? – Leah Galvin</b> Why don't we eat more food from our island? Why, when we grow broccoli here are we eating broccoli from Queensland? If we want to change this and keep more food in Tasmania to be eaten by Tasmanians we need to pull on the levers of some big food systems –institutions such as hospitals, aged care and schools. As a Churchill fellow Leah studied how this was achieved in the USA, Canada, Norway, Denmark and Sweden.
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22 Oct	<b>Himalayan Traverse: trekking in Kashmir and Ladakh - June Cunningham</b> June shares her experiences from a 21-day remote high-altitude trek traversing the Himalaya from Kashmir into Ladakh ("Little Tibet"). This area has a rich and troubled history which continues today. The trek covered three very contrasting landscapes, each with spectacular scenery, and three very different cultures - Hindu, Moslem and Buddhist - with different nomadic and shepherd groups. The experience changed her life.
29 Oct	<b>Managing Antarctic historical sites - Sherrie-lee Evans</b> Enthusiasts, heritage professionals and scientists of different persuasions have contested management of Mawson's Huts in Antarctica. Archaeologist Sherrie-lee is currently undertaking a PhD on the history of management of the site, which combines archival research and oral history interviews with key players in cultural resource management for the bits not recorded in the archives.
5 Nov	<b>Fire behaviour – Dr Wendy Anderson</b> On what basis can we predict whether a bushfire is likely to happen, and if it does how far will it travel? Wendy, who worked in this area for fifty years, will talk about the design and analysis of the experimental fires that form a basis for the bushfire prediction system. In particular, she will discuss the experimental fires in grassland, shrubland and Tasmanian button grass moorland with which she was heavily involved.
12 Nov	<b>Adventures under the Nullarbor Plain - Stefan and Bronwen Eberhard</b> Stefan, a scientist, explorer, and photographer, first visited the world's largest arid limestone karst system under the Nullarbor Plain, in 1983. Now he and Bronwen devote themselves to a campaign to save this cave system from the destruction a proposed colossal industrial hydrogen-ammonia export development above it would cause. Stunning images and stories.
19 Nov	<b>Caretaking on Maatsuyker – Nick Weetman</b> In 2005, Nick Weetman was the volunteer caretaker on Maatsuyker Island for a short but memorable time. Extensive training and assessments preceded the placement, for which Nick took leave from his usual work. He found he was well suited to the position, and it gave rise to attempts to better understand the "island mystique", which he guesses may be something associated with primitive and universal human drives.