



# The Conveyor

April 2021

*Plucking  
the plum  
blossom  
from  
the  
roof*



This is one of the many poetic names for winning hands in Mah Jong. Gerry, our inscrutable guru will guide new players through the intricacies of this somewhat mysterious game that has been played in China for many hundreds of years. More to this story inside..

## Gerry Sleightholme

### WELCOMES YOU TO MAH JONG

I became Group Leader when the previous leader, Ron Power, was no longer able to run the class. Because there are many different ways of playing, with the help of some of the ladies in the class, we refined the various styles and produced one game book that everyone used. This made the game selection much easier.

Mah Jong is a game played with tiles and was developed during the Qing dynasty in China, it began to spread throughout the Western world in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Usually, it is played by either 3 or 4 players using: tactics, observation, memory and strategies.

Mah Jong, like all games, has a set of rules regarding how to set up and play. As far as winning is concerned, the idea is for players to complete a sequence from the same Games Sheet. This means that all players on that table are following from the same source.

The words Mah Jong mean Sparrow in Mandarin, because the tiles make a clicking sound. When the game starts one Player has 14 tiles the rest 13. A tile is discarded by the player with 14 and then in order round the table a tile can be taken from a made wall or the last discarded tile to make a valid winning hand of 14 tiles in all.

I feel sure that our group of players that attend Mah Jong, enjoy each other's company, and always welcome new people to the group.

**So, if you are interested there is room for you on Wednesday or Friday mornings. Please call Gerry on 0418 856 862.**



### Friday afternoon talks.

Following on from the very successful and entertaining talk by John Welford (pictured with our course coordinator, Luci Campestre) on his experiences of the Kokoda Track, we have two more one offs.

Friday afternoon **May 21** will be a discussion by David Kilner of Agatha Christie; her life, her writing, her favourite characters.

Friday afternoon **June 4**, hear Dr Jeff Nicholas on the remarkable stories of the people named in Adelaide's streets.



All of these volunteers were invaluable in the smooth running of Registration 2021, often going above the call of duty. Thank you so very much.

Barbara and Kevin could not have managed this process without you.

CAROLYN CLARKE  
MAUREEN O'DONNELL  
MOIRA SAYWELL  
SUE POLLETT  
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LINDA NEALE  
IMELDA TRAINOR

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JUDY DELSAR  
CATHY PERONACE  
SANDRA CAVENEY

**NEW COURSES**

### Beginner's Ballroom Dancing

Come and learn the basic steps of Cha Cha, Modern Waltz, Quick Step and Freestyle.

Nelson Carney has been teaching dancing for 40 years, and as well as ballroom will teach sequence dancing and square dancing if enough interest is shown by YOU.

So come along in **term 2 on Friday morning 10am-12 noon**, in room 8/9 it's an enjoyable way to exercise, a great way to keep physically fit and challenge the mind learning steps and having a good laugh!

### U3A Bike Riders Club

Tuesday mornings



Do you like riding bicycles along bike trails, gravel paths and fire trails around Adelaide?

(Road riding will be minimal and expected distances approx. 30km)

Would you like to join a fun, friendly, noncompetitive group to improve your fitness and skills?

Basic bike riding skills are a necessity but the pace will be your own. Fitness levels will be considered and shorter distance options given.

**For more information contact Kevin Campbell 0410 201 956**

# President's AGM Report .....

The President's report to the AGM is usually an opportunity to list a number of improvements over the previous year.

It's proving somewhat difficult to put a positive spin on 2020. We closed our doors in mid March and were able to reopen for the start of the third term in July. We've had a COVID safe plan since July and have had about 8 updates to this plan.

We have spent upwards of \$1500 on hand sanitisers and other cleaning products. There are automatic hand sanitisers at every entrance and outside the toilets, and hand gels and cleaning products in every classroom. To Group Leaders, please make sure you encourage your class to use this equipment as even without COVID it's a great help with keeping colds and flu at bay.

Thank you to Tony Mittiga our house services manager for setting all this up, constantly keeping the hand sanitisers filled, this isn't just a one off, he has to check them several times a week every week since he and Mike Prus installed them July last year. Fortunately, we've had only a couple of the room sanitisers walk out the door.

Thank you to the fifteen members who did the online training to become COVID marshals. This was a requirement of one of the COVID safe plan updates last year.

Again, it needs repeating that unless we have members who are prepared step up and volunteer to help, we simply will not be able to continue.

There have been several classes where the Group Leader has reluctantly due to health and other reasons had to stand down from running their class, and in several cases none of their class has been able to take over so the groups have ceased. This is unfortunate, but I do want to thank those members who over the years have been able to take over their groups and allow them to continue.

Well done to our Office Manager, Barbara Schumacher, for organizing the registration period so well. Despite the plug being pulled after only two days, she was able to continue in the new year, many thanks to Barbara and her band of merry helpers.

At time of speaking, we have 760 members registered, this is only 62 less than registered this time last year. So we haven't dropped as many members as we probably expected.

We are currently investigating a new computer system which will allow us online registrations. Mike Coleman, Committee member and our database manager is evaluating the system to see how it will fit with our current manual registration method. It will mean everyone will need to have access to a computer and email address, so at registration time we will need volunteers available to help

those who aren't able to register online. This system was written specifically for U3A and is in use by several Victorian U3As and one in SA.

I might point out to those who are resistant to the idea of having to use a computer to register, that at the moment it is impossible to travel over the border to Victoria without first going online to register your details. Everyone who wishes to travel has to do this. What we are doing is simply what everyone will have to face in the future.



**U3A Tea Tree Gully**  
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cttg.sa.gov.au

The TTG Council will be erecting a sign by the northern entrance, so that hopefully we will be seen from the street a little easier. This sign will follow the design constraints designated by the Council so we haven't been able to have much input as to its content. But it's also at no cost to us.

We are looking into the possibility of being able to put something up supplementary to this sign to explain what we do here.

## Term dates for 2021

Term 1 Ends Friday 9th April

Term 2 Tuesday 27th April — Friday 2nd July

Term 3 Monday 19th July — Friday 24th September

Term 4 Monday 11th October — Friday 3rd December



## Thanks to Netflix's "The Queen's Gambit" the game of chess is enjoying a surge in popularity.

The series has become one of their highest rating with 62 million tuning in during its debut. The success has seen suppliers of chess sets struggling to meet demand. Online retailer *thechessstore.com* sales have tripled over this time last year. One chess website recently reached 100,000 simultaneous players online.

Handmade chessboards which are featured in the series

are produced by a small company in Spain. Usually producing

20,000 boards annually, they had already received 40,000 orders by the end of February.

If you want to experience what all this fuss is about call **Joe Lamarca on 8264 7880**. He has an open invitation to learn and play, have some fun and participate in a game that has kept people interested for thousands of years.



## 6 stitches just kept rolling on during the year of the dreaded covid.

Well, "that was the year that was" to paraphrase a popular 60s TV show, but it didn't deter us.

No sooner has 6 stitches commenced their 2020



Quilt



Toiletries Packs



Soft Toys

programme making their usual craft contributions to the Women's and Children's Hospital and Anglicare, when we were interrupted by the covid pandemic. Despite this, we kept in touch via email regarding U3A changes; personal stories of our new restricted lives, sending jokes to keep up our sense of humour and progress of our craft projects.

Oh, what joy mid year brought, when we could all meet up again to continue our work and chatter. We enjoyed the change to our timetable albeit during the afternoon, which is to become permanent during the two Autumn/Winter terms, reverting to our evening sessions during the Spring and Summer terms.

Despite the changes and interruptions, our members still made and filled 11 Library bags and 2 Dolls in Bassinettes for Anglicare. For Women's and Children Hospital, we also made 14 Trauma Dolls, 4 Single Bed Quilts, 12 Soft Toys, 6 Finger Puppets, together with making and filling 33 Female Toiletries Packs, 11 Male Toiletries Packs and donated 28 Baby items. The Toiletry Packs are given to parents accompanying their child by emergency services when they arrive at the hospital. We thank the U3A members, Terry White Chemist and Priceline Chemist both in Norwood, the Chemist Warehouse at the Pelican Shopping Centre, for all their generous donations, which helped us fill so many packs. The hospital is delighted to receive these donations which help both the patients and parents.

Many of the 6 stitches members have been together for over 28 years. We are such a happy, friendly, productive and sometimes noisy group, and we are pleased to know our efforts are well received. We are looking forward to a New Year and continuing our work in 2021 and beyond. **Jennifer Holland**



A group of 15 from the Tuesday Acrylic Art class visited the David Roche Museum in Melbourne St, Adelaide ... even though the outside of the museum is stunning in itself, it doesn't prepare you for the flamboyance and opulence on the inside. The majority of the walls were decorated in brightly coloured silk and each room was furnished in rare and unusual furniture. The amount of artworks by various artists was so vast and extremely interesting. No money was spared to buy articles from all over the globe, and all the group found the tour of the house unbelievable and beautiful.

This museum and exhibitions are well worth visiting it will astound you.

**Sue Green – Group Leader**





Doug McAlpine has worked his magic again with this montage of the Wine Group's Australia Day celebration.

## KNITTING AND CROCHET CLASS

The Knitting and Crochet Class has been led from the beginning by Sue Green who is always welcoming and cheerful, offering encouragement and guidance when participants need help with colour selection, or other support.

Participants' skills range from beginner to accomplished. We help each other with techniques, colour selection and sources for supplies. There is a good supply of spare yarn and hooks/needles for those who want to 'come and try'.

Class members have been working on a range of projects, including personal garments, basic squares intended for Knit a Care Square charity, bedsocks to aid the RAH Research Fund, rugs in various designs, and knitted dolls with complete clothing outfits.

We would love to meet you.

Thursdays, 1 - 3 pm in room 6.

Remember to bring your own drink & snack to comply with Covid-19 regulations.

**Group Leader - Andrea Rutherford  
8349 5581**



Squares for charity



crochet for baby blanket

hand knitted jumper



Creating an 'elephant motif' border



### Beat the crush

I SEEM to remember that a few years ago there was talk of publicly crushing the cars of repeat-offending speedsters.

Whatever happened to that idea? The police need to stop pussyfooting around with people who endanger others.

With hoons, drug growers and drug dealers getting off with lettuce-leaf floggings, is it any wonder they laugh at the laws and continue undeterred?

**MICHAEL PRUS, Fairview Park**

### Who rules?

SO "Bunnings failed, so Aldi has a go" (The Advertiser, Tuesday). You really have to wonder who influences the boffins in our planning departments. I have never seen so many new petrol stations being built despite the fact that we are supposed to be moving towards electric vehicles.

More competition to drive down prices we are told.

If that is the logic, then the new Aldi store at Glynde should be able to sell alcohol so that there is more competition. Can anyone counter this?

**MICHAEL PRUS, Fairview Park**

### Didn't hurt him

WHEN my dad came here from Poland in 1950, he had to go where the government sent him for the first two years, to repay our fares.

He picked fruit, worked in a tannery, any work that the rest of the population felt was beneath them to do. It did not do him any harm.

Accommodation was very primitive. Workers slept in big open sheds. Beds were made with wheat bags stretched between two poles.

Because the shortage of overseas backpackers is likely to continue for some years, I suggest the fruit-growing communities build hostel-type accommodation that could be hired out to other people outside of the harvest period. If someone is healthy enough and has no other job prospects, they should give it a go.

Physical activity and making new friends and getting paid is better than sitting at home feeling sorry for oneself.

What happened to young people's sense of adventure?

**MICHAEL PRUS, Fairview Park**

## MICHAEL PRUS - FROM CHEERFUL MAINTENANCE MAESTRO TO INVETERATE ADVERTISER CORRESPONDENT

### Camper numbers to rise

THE inevitable recession which will come after the virus has run its course will cause people to look to cheaper forms of holidaying within Australia.

Normally, there are about 100,000 people travelling around Australia at any one time via campervan, motorhome or caravan.

This number will skyrocket as more baby boomers who do not go on overseas flights or cruises instead buy motorhomes and the like.

The current number of caravan parks around Australia is barely adequate at peak season, yet we have seen many sold for housing developments.

There is plenty of rural land in private and government ownership which is on the coast and suitable for caravan parks.

Hopefully, caravan park owners will not jack up their prices and gouge the travelling public just because there is a shortage of sites.

More flexible arrangements should be considered for coastal farmers to open up paddocks for camping.

**MICHAEL PRUS, Fairview Park**

### Give money back

FIRST question: How much money will be refunded to the taxpayer for the dodgy security guards?

Second question: Is there any connection to the dodgy security guards in Victoria?

Third question: How much were they paid?

Fourth question: How much was the agency paid which employed them?

It is time we were told what

all this is costing us.

I think we need to get the army in and stop accepting excuses for people breaking COVID confinement.

We were of the belief that RAH nurses and police would be in attendance at these hotels.

What happened?

**MICHAEL PRUS, Fairview Park**

### MAD AS HELL WITH ABC

Couldn't agree more with J.Fournier regarding Mad as Hell. The ABC generally has become disappointing for someone who has relied on the ABC for over 70 years to inform, educate and to entertain me objectively.

Lately, increasingly, I feel that we are all being lectured to and told what to do and what to think. Climate change, gender and race theory are subjects which I am capable of making my own mind up about thank you very much! Please stick to objective reporting.

We the taxpayers are not getting good value for money, and they have the cheek to ask for even more money for the little they provide.

**MICHAEL PRUS, Fairview Pk**

### Control pests

THE story "Foxes on the run in western suburbs" is the perfect example of a local council not doing the job it is there for (The Advertiser, Wednesday).

Foxes, roaming feral cats and rats should be a top priority because they cause damage and are health risk.

The Local Government association should have a plan for all councils to follow.

We are in 2020 now. How hard can it be to get their acts together and eliminate these pests? Take the focus off non-council issues like "Councillor in Burnside fur fight", gender and race (The Advertiser, Wednesday).

Stick to the basics.

**MICHAEL PRUS, Fairview Park**

### THE COFFIN CLUB

In 2010, Kate Williams, a former palliative care nurse and a member of the Rotorua U3A group was trying to think of things for her group to do and came up with the idea of getting together every week to build and decorate their own caskets with the aim of demystifying and breaking down taboos about death, whilst also providing mutual support and care.

It's an idea that's spread from New Zealand around the world with coffin clubs springing up across the UK, the US and other countries.

Members have a range of motivations from thumbing a nose at death, to warding off loneliness to reducing funeral costs.

If anyone is interested in following this up please contact Michael Prus on 8251 3586.



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## Warning, This Could be a Virus!

This could be a virus what to do now,  
My thoughts contort quickly the why and the how.  
I might be in danger from Delhi with no panacea,  
Or a notorious scam from the North of Korea.

My screen has gone blank and likewise my mind,  
Should my Apple die now, tis a frightening bind.  
I'm in need of great help and I'm needing it soon.  
To mount my defence 'gainst this menacing goon.

My brains in a scramble my stomach contracts,  
Who is behind, this, these malevolent acts.  
Towers of disks totter through annals I potter,  
Pamphlets pile higher, this e-scramming rotter.

My hand's on the phone to a reputable fixer,  
Who thinks me a fraud, a 'Dorothy Dixer'.  
My frustrations immense and BP is higher,  
The source of my pain this impertinent liar.

My jovial overweight Doctor's a likeable bloke,  
He gave me some pills and thought it a joke.  
Your BP is healthy, there's nothing to fear,  
Return to the keyboard, resume your career.

Punch some more keys; hit my virus detector,  
Up comes an icon the damage deflector.  
Screen's blue and white my tablets alive,  
The Apple is saved, and I think I'll survive!

**John Ragless**

**The office is open for enquiries and  
payments during U3A terms from  
12 noon to 1.15pm Monday to Wednesday  
Phone 8265 3079**

**U3A Tea Tree Gully thanks these sponsors for their continued support**



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**City of Tea Tree Gully**

## The Conveyor

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