

Dear Members,



Although Australia is in the process of easing some restrictions, international travel could be a long way off. As you know most of our lecturers come from UK or Europe so there is little hope for resumption of lectures till Spring at the earliest. We will of course give you updates as they come to hand. At this stage, our venue has been cancelled until the end of June although it is expected this may need to be extended.

There has been a trial lecture on video and it has not been well received. Sitting and watching a video on your laptop at an extra cost, (\$4 per lecture or \$400 for all), lacks a large part of what ADFAS is about. No discussions, no question and answer sessions and no sharing of information and ideas over an enjoyable supper. You can however try one that Susannah Fullerton put on her website <https://susannahfullerton.com.au> – at the above cost.

Consequently, our committee has decided not to go ahead with video lectures. Meantime we will stay in touch via our newsletter. Below you can read a little about some of our 2020 Committee members in the “Who’s Who” and suggested TV programs. By separate email today we will be also sending you the ADFAS@home email from the ADFAS Executive Committee with suggestions of documentaries on youtube.com.

The Committee - “Who’s Who”

Judy Midgley - Chairman

It was while sitting in the Japanese Gardens in 2009 waiting for my son Warren, that I had a “light bulb moment”- I think I would like to make Toowoomba my future home, a decision I have never regretted. At the time I transferred my Toastmaster membership here and it was here I met the current chairman of ADFAS Toowoomba, Liz Hudson. At her invitation I went to the next ADFAS meeting, an interesting lecture about plants and their medicinal uses. Liz asked me to join the committee at the next AGM and I took on the membership role for 3 years, followed by chairman for 3 years. The only lectures I have missed was when I was on chemo and will always be grateful for the support from nearly a quarter of our members during that time. Whilst I will always remain an ADFAS member this is my last year on the committee, as I am finding it far more challenging as I get older!

Bea Kraessig – Vice Chairman

It was one of my High school teachers who introduced the class to art, in the way of taking us to a local gallery, that I discovered a new world filled with endless joy and surprises. Forward a view decades and Judy Midgley introduced me to ADFAS, a well-kept secret in Toowoomba, reopening my joy in art by attending monthly lectures. Thank you, Judy and to ADFAS, my joy continues to be enlightened and my hunger to know more keeps growing.

Deb Holt – Treasurer

Most of my life has been spent on cattle and farming properties in Central Queensland and in the Kimberley of Western Australia where my husband and I owned a cattle property for a time. I have always been interested in art and while in the Kimberley was fortunate enough to find myself in the

biggest gallery of Aboriginal rock art imaginable. Although we were remote and the workload was exacting there was still time to cultivate my interest in art and culture through visiting archaeologists & anthropologists, tourists and artists. On coming to Toowoomba I had the opportunity to study at USQ and remotely at UNE to complete a Research Masters in Archaeology focused on Kimberley Rock Art.

On hearing an interview on the ABC announcing a presentation to be given by Dr Bryce Barker in early 2019 I decided to attend. Bryce had been my Anthropology lecturer at USQ. As a mature aged student I had enjoyed his lectures and was interested in finding out where his research in the Cape and New Guinea was heading. The talk was stimulating and after perusing the yearly programme on that night I decided to become a member of ADFAS. After spending many years in places where such pursuits were not available it was a broadening experience to attend the presentations with regards to the arts and a lovely social gathering place to meet people with similar interests. Having enjoyed the program last year I have remained a member and am now honorary treasurer.

Susan Powne – Secretary

I attended my first ADFAS lecture with my Mother back in the 90's and it was such a dry, boring, force your eyes open hour that I wasn't keen to return. But return I did with my friend Bernadette 8 years ago and I have not had to force my eyes open during a lecture since. I have recently become retired after 43 years in education and am loving isolation and calling the days my own.

Mike Ford

Born in London and living mostly in south-east England, I left the UK in 1966, and spent 18 years in East Africa, working for a local Construction Company, mainly in the Industrial sector. I met and married my wife Deb in Kenya, and we moved to Brisbane with our two daughters in 1984. After a year in Moranbah we came back to Brisbane and have lived in SE Qld since. I have spent all my working life in Construction Management, and in 1992 started my own small Construction company, specialising in the Medical sector.

In 2015 having both retired, we relocated to Toowoomba, where in 2016, we joined ADFAS. A year later I was persuaded to join the Committee as Honorary Treasurer and served in that position for 3 years. I am currently still a Committee Member. I have always had a strong awareness of the 'World around me' with Travel, Ornithology, Astronomy and Photography being foremost in my interests. Music of the Baroque Period is my particular favourite, with the immortal Johann Sebastian Bach reigning in my mind as King of All Composers. My sporting interest, (more a religion, in fact) was Target Rifle Shooting, which I commenced in 1954 as a young schoolboy, continuing almost uninterrupted, until my retirement in 2004.

Gemma Taylor

I arrived in Toowoomba 8 years ago with my husband and two children but it was only until my mother came to stay from England that she mentioned she had found ADFAS in Toowoomba. She has been a member of NADFAS for 25 years in York (UK). She took me to my first ADFAS lecture - Children in Art in 2018 – highly recommended. It has taken me quite a few years to realise that being dragged around museums, art galleries and English Country Houses as a young child was a wonderful education and ADFAS reignited my interest. My birthday present from my mother thus was money for a membership. I then promptly got too busy with work (teaching English as a Foreign Language to Japanese High School/Uni Students at USQ) and my children and only joined this year 2020.

My parents went to the last ADFAS talk and had a wonderful time - they are still here and unable to return to the UK so hopefully will be attending our next one in the near future!

What's on Television?

If you have some time on your hands and want to watch the TV, SBS on Demand or ABC Iview, here are some suggestions:-

Britain's Cathedrals with Tony Robinson (SBS – Wednesdays at 19.35 or SBS on demand) – Actor and history enthusiast Tony Robinson examines six monumental British Cathedrals, their history and the treasures that they house.

The Great House Revival (SBS - Thursdays 14.30 or SBS on demand) - Hugh Wallace meets people transforming derelict Irish properties into modern homes.

The First Australians (SBS on demand)– First Australians chronicles the birth of contemporary Australia as never told before, from the perspectives of its first people.

Handel's Messiah: Live from Sydney Opera House (ABC Iview) – with Celeste Lazarenko, Nicholas Tolputt, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs and Orchestra

Finally....

Please stay safe and, like everyone tells us, “we can get through this together”.

Judy Midgley, Chairman



For additional information about your society and activities in the **Art World** of Toowoomba. Like us and make a comment please.

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