

# Newsletter No 6 September 2020

One of the inspiring community organisations in the North East

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## Management Committee Members

President: Rollo Kiek (0419814240) Vice-president: Tien Meakin (0408802665)  
Secretary: Judith Falle (0428755701) Courses: Vacant  
Speakers: Christina Callinan (0447761110) Treasurer: Henry Ziemnicki (0407931129)  
Assist. Treas.: Karin Ziemnicki (0407615808) Web Site: Linda Parkinson (0407091742)  
Committee: Luise Mock, Christel Willems, Sandy Sutherland  
Newsletter: (co-opted): David Wood (0419514399)  
Contact the Secretary: [secretary@alpineu3a.org.au](mailto:secretary@alpineu3a.org.au)

## Editorial Comments **David Wood**

In the last Newsletter I commented that Elene Wood has offered to write about her “Iso” activities for this issue and indeed she has written about her cake plans carefully prepared before the onset of the COVID pandemic. As you can see her plans were full of excitement which have now been put on hold. Webinars and Zoom classes have absorbed much of her time with birthday and other celebration cakes occupying the rest of her time.

I have two other articles which will be published in future newsletters.

The scientist who really knows his stuff and writes and talks in a most informative manner is Professor Peter Doherty, Nobel Prize-winner and firmly based in the Doherty Institute in Melbourne. Peter is often in the



news media but his daily articles (blog) from the Doherty Institute are highly informative and well worth reading and enjoying. The Web site for these is <https://www.doherty.edu.au/news-events/setting-it-straight> and as you can see he titles his blog “Setting it Straight”. Peter’s work on T cells led to the Nobel Prize and you might remember that he came to Mt Beauty a few years ago to give us a talk. I recommend that you log on to the above web site and commencing in April you will be able to see his articles which are very readable, informative and of course far better informed than my material.

## From the Secretary – Judith Falle

The Committee of Management of Alpine U3A met on Monday 21 September by *Zoom*. It was agreed to hold the 2020 AGM via *Zoom* on Friday 16 October, 2020. An email letter with further details and agenda will be sent to all members, together with a copy of the nomination form should anyone wish to nominate for a position on the committee. This can be completed electronically.

To join the *Zoom* meeting you need to register with David Wood ([dgwood4@bigpond.com](mailto:dgwood4@bigpond.com)) who has agreed to host the meeting, and/or the secretary ([secretary@alpineu3a.org.au](mailto:secretary@alpineu3a.org.au)).

David will provide further information about joining a *Zoom* meeting.

For those members not connected to the internet, a hard copy of the letter will be posted with the Newsletter. Prior to the AGM (about 12 October) emails will be sent to members and include a copy of the 2019 minutes, the Annual Report, the Treasurer’s Report, and a list of those nominating for the various committee positions.

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## What have I been doing during “Iso”? – Elene Wood – Studio E Cakes

### March 2020 – Lockdown Stage One:

My Wedding Cake orders were cancelled due to new restrictions. I had already purchased the ingredients for making the cakes and many were perishable therefore could not be frozen, so I used them to bake cakes for the Front-Line Workers in our town and were greatly appreciated.

### April 2020:

We were hit hard by Covid-19, as my Aunty fell victim to this terrible disease. Sadly, she was gone in less than 24 hours of being diagnosed. The tragedy was that she hated being alone since her husband died a few years ago, yet once her sons took her to hospital, they were not allowed to stay with her. It has been a terrible shock for my family.

### May 2020:

This was to be a very **special month** for me!

For my birthday, I was going to spend 5 days in Hollywood with 15 Aussie Cake Decorators attending my first ever “US Cake Crawl” that was organised by the Australian Cake Decorating Network (ACDN)! I had booked and paid for flights to Sydney & LA, accommodation in Sydney & LA and I had also paid for all of the extras that come with such an event.

It was to be a trip made in Cake Heaven where we would be taught to create some incredible “show-stopping” and “jaw-dropping” modern and textured designs on cakes. Some of our teachers were being especially flown in to teach us their crafts and some were local.

Topics included cakes with concrete/stone finish designs (these are the latest “hip” designs for cakes), plus we would learn how to create the ultimate Vintage Roses in sugar paste and various flowers in wafer paper. Did I mention chocolate? We were to be taken on a Chocolate Experience where we learned how these exquisite chocolate works of art are created. We would have to sample them for Quality Control!

We were going to learn from Natalie Sideserf, one of the World’s top portrait cake designers, how to create a bust in cake complete with all the fine facial details. As Natalie was being flown in from Texas, the class was being held at Duff’s Cakemix Studio, famous on Cake Wars TV. I actually learned more about his techniques when I stood next to his gentle and loyal offsider, in a very long lunch queue in Melbourne many years ago when I attended Duff’s Masterclass in creating the Mad Max Thunderbolt Car.

At last we could remove our aprons and have a couple of classes where we would just enjoy watching the mastery of exquisite fine painting on cookies with cocoa butter – just too good to eat. Then we would watch how Isomalt (diabetic lollies) would be melted then recreated into delicate colourful balloon creatures.

Don’t eat too many of these as I have been warned that they can give you diahorrea!

These artists really do take their craft to a new level and I must admit I was a little anxious about going on this trip because I did not feel I had the expertise to match some of my fellow highly experienced cake artists, but I decided to go anyway to learn and have fun!

Our teachers were four amazing Cake Artists and Decorators in the USA. I had no idea just how important this profession is in the States. They even have Universities for Cake Decorating, let alone all the massive exhibitions and cake decorating competitions. It was enough to send a girl for a drink!

On that note, I was impressed with the wonderful social itinerary planned for us that included:

- Welcome Party at the Hollywood Hotel to meet and greet fellow ‘Cakers’ and receive welcome packs, T-Shirts, Aprons etc.



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- All Aboard for our Adventure Tour of LA, stopping at the iconic sights, including having our portrait photo taken in front of the famous Hollywood Sign; Venice Beach, visiting Rodeo Drive for Window Shopping; Santa Monica; Strolling down The Walk of Fame looking for our own names, then driving back to the hotel via the stunning Sunset Boulevard!



- Visit Universal Studios and meet and greet all the famous stars and 'wanna be' stars
- A visit to the famous Michael's Art and Craft Store (the biggest DFO for all things related to Craft and Cake Decorating) – I wasn't sure how I was supposed to bring my cakes, flowers and purchases home in one piece on the plane!
- On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May after our morning tutorial session, we were to be driven back to our hotel to change into our Glam Gear as we were to be driven to Beverley Hills to have the full High Tea experience in the luxurious Peninsula Hotel with French Champagne to the magical live tunes of a Harpist playing for us!
- It just happened to be my birthday, so I had been working hard to lose weight so I could wear an elegant frock on the day.
- I was doubly excited as I received permission to invite a dear friend living in LA, who was also a former Kindergarten Teacher except that she taught the gifted children of Hollywood, including children of the famous movie and celebrity stars.
- Jeannie is a gorgeous lady who is quietly confident and we miss her and her beautiful beloved gentle husband, Lou (who used to be the Base Player for Barry Manilow and many other Motown artists). We would be entranced for hours listening to all their amazing stories of people they met but they never bragged or put down anyone they encountered – they were a different breed of folk compared to today's 5- minute 'wannabee' celebrities!
- That evening, I had to change into 'Active Wear' to attend my first ever Baseball Match between the LA Dodgers vs the Chicago Bulls! But not before stopping at the famous Donut Friend where one can choose from over a thousand combinations of flavourings/toppings for their donuts! Luckily, it was only around the corner from the famous stadium.
- To complete the adventure, we would say farewell at one of LA's famous Roof top Bars to celebrate the end of the LA Cake Crawl.



After *getting home and* recovering from Jetlag, I planned a week to catch up with washing etc., before heading off to Brisbane for the Australian Cake Artists and Decorators Association's (ACADA) International Cake Exhibition and Competition (different group of decorators).

This is where some of Australia's best decorators compete against the World's best decorators in a team effort to create a massive edible masterpiece.

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I attended this Expo last year and loved watching and listening to the healthy and humorous banter between the teams which was entertaining and educational. They revealed so many skills as they built their fascinating creations.

I actually loved watching the Wedding Cake Competitions as the theme was ‘The Gatsby Era’. The mind boggles when you see what these artists created with mostly edible ingredients then transformed them into exquisite beading, shimmering feathers and lacework etc.

The Gala Cake Awards Night is held at one of the top hotels and is a Black-Tie affair with live entertainment and dancing after the lavish dinner and award presentations.

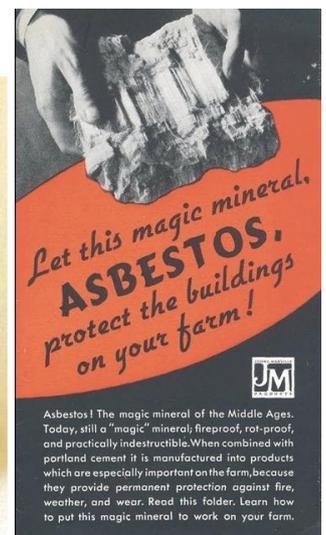
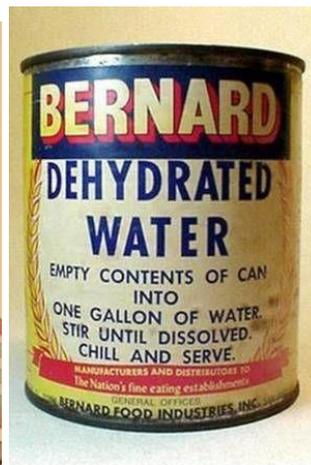
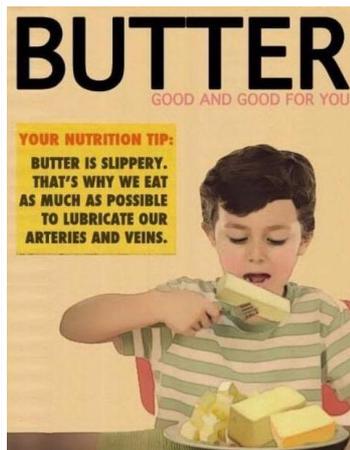
**Then along came COVID19 and all international and domestic travel was cancelled.** Good refunds have been obtained for travel and accommodation but we are very cross as we have not been able to secure a refund for our very expensive Baseball tickets. They have instead, given us a voucher valid to the end of the year, but they do not seem to understand that we are not allowed to fly back to the States until next year!

The Brisbane event was postponed until November but due to Covid restrictions it has now been postponed until May next year. C’est la Vie!

- What have I done in isolation or “Iso” which has replaced my carefully planned and exciting trips?
- This will be presented in a future Alpine U3A newsletter.

Elene Wood 20-9-20

## Some Humour – Adverts from past times!



David Wood (Newsletter editor)