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Use your name as reference



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I think about writing this report all I can say is it's been an incredibly busy month after the AGM. I thought that things might just calm down a little bit, however, as you all know the smart board broke down. I think it's important to let you all know what has been done to rectify the problem. Thanks to Course Coordinator Carol on Thursday the 5th of

March;(i.e. that night) all course leaders were notified and asked to think about alternate arrangements for courses that used the smart board. On Friday 6th of March, we filled in a claim form and set up a temporary Data Projector for the Stockmarket group. Next Office Tech came and looked at the screen on Tuesday 10th of March. The Smartboard will need to be replaced, and the new smartboard (together with trolley) will hopefully arrive soon.

I'd like to thank Rita Bloomfield, David Muir and Greg Barnes who cleaned up all the glass and moved what was left of the board to its normal position in the hall. Ian Hatton for sending off the insurance claim so promptly and Liz Lee for all her work in ways that are too numerous to mention. I said in my introductory speech that I am lucky to have such a solid team behind me for a committee and this has certainly been borne out.

Thank you to all the course leaders who took this in their stride and continued to run classes despite the obstacles. (special mention to Gael Thompson who let us use her data projector - a godsend). It really bought home how much we depend on technology and how we are inconvenienced when it is not there. Lastly and by no means least, thank you to all the members for your patience and perseverance.

Now on to more pleasant things. I have visited a few different courses and introduced myself. Thank you for the warm welcome. I will try and visit more in the coming months

Thanks to Anne White's organisation, members had a great time at the Blue Lotus Water Gardens on the 19th of March. I know Anne is thinking about other trips so keep an eye out for these.

We have a few things coming up in April, don't forget the CPR and Defibrillator training on the 15th of April. You can still sign up, check the notice in the hall. The weather is finally calming down and will hopefully mean you can spend a relaxed Easter break with family and friends. Finally, I look forward to seeing you at the social morning to hear our guest speaker Ken Faulkner.

I'll conclude with this thought. Nothing is impossible, the word itself says "I'm possible" (Audrey Hepburn)

Livia Tiso (0467952159)

Membership Fee

The 2026 membership fee is two months overdue. If you haven't paid your membership fee of \$75, please arrange to pay it immediately.

After 31st March, any person that has not paid their membership will become inactive and will not be entitled to participate in any U3A activities. Course leaders will be provided a list of inactive members.

HISTORICAL STUDIES

A reduced number due to the Labour Day Holiday, looked at the history of Coffee from Ethiopia to harvesting, processing and the production of instant coffee. It takes a lot of effort to produce instant coffee!

Next month, Jan Gregory will be talking about her experience on the Camino Trail. Remember, if you would like to present a topic then let me know. Thanks to those who have already done this, the more the merrier and a greater variety of topics is looked at.

Livia

MONDAY LUNCH GROUP

The lunch group members have selected The Sherborne Hotel as the venue for each Monday during April. So, at 12 noon on the 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th people will gather for a meal and a chat. Please notify Gail if you would like to join the group. That way you will be assured of a seat.

Call Gail on 0400 531 856

AROUND THE WORLD FOODIES

We had a great start to our Foodies year, with Sabai Sabai treating us to many delicious dishes and warm hospitality. We're in for another treat on March 26, with Oh My Ceylon serving us at the U3A hall in Esson St. Raj will provide us with another new Foodies experience, serving us from his food truck with a 3-course meal. Our hall gives us space to optimise socialising with more members.

Reminder: Please bring your own glass and drinks, and text me your U3A receipt number if you haven't already.

Lyndal Lancaster 0429 808 602

INDUSTRY MATTERS

On 15 April meeting at 9 am at the U3A Hall a share drive to Deniliquin to visit the Purtell Car museum, lunch with the Cobram and Deniliquin U3A and a visit to the Lawson siphon.

The cost for the car museum and lunch is \$37.

The Car Museum is a unique collection that has been donated by a local family and date back almost 100 years.

The Lawson Siphon Is a magnificent structure for the time when it was constructed and carries the main Mulwala Canal under the Edwards River, it now plays a major part in diverting water around the choke in the Murray River preventing unseasonable flooding of the Barmah Forest, Please put your name down on the list at the U3A Hall by 10 April if you want to attend for catering and car sharing arrangements.

Contact John Padman 0428 745282

GVU3A Trip to the Blue LOTUS Water Gardens

21 members and guests had a thoroughly enjoyable day at the Water Gardens Even though the Lotus flowers were coming to an end, there were many magnificent displays throughout the gardens. I know many photographs were taken by all group members. We even had some water babies at the Giant Amazon water lily pond. (bonus points if you can identify them)

Many thanks to Anne White who organised the trip, we hope you are feeling better and can go on the next one.



BIRD WATCHING

The April 15th outing will be a morning outing to the Broken River shared path Broken River Drive Shepparton. Please meet at the car park in Archer Street which is just south of the Broken River Drive on the west side of Archer Street for a 9am departure, we will be walking from Archer Street to Wyndham Street and back.

Our March outing was at Seven Creeks Park Kialla where we walked along Seven Creeks and around the wetland which was 95% full. We observed 35 species some of those were White-faced Heron (pictured) Eastern Rosella, Crimson Rosella (Yellow), Little and Long-billed Corellas, Grey Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Little and Noisy Friarbirds, Pied Butcherbird, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Australasian Swamphen and Dusky Moorhen.



Please contact Don Roberts 0448 889 224 or Marg Clarke 0429 350 875

SOCRATES CAFÉ

On **Monday March 23rd at 10 am** the topic for discussion at Socrates Cafe will be "When does Freedom of speech become hate speech?"

Some questions that might be asked are:

When does free speech become hate speech? When does criticism of public figures or groups, cross the line into endangering a safe, functional society? Does freedom of speech truly help discover truth? Can speech be considered "free" if it carries no accountability, such as anonymous, harmful, or fraudulent speech? Is there a moral obligation to listen to opposing, even unpopular, views? If social media platforms and public opinion suppress speech, is this a violation of freedom of speech or a legitimate exercise of collective judgment? Is hate speech defined solely by the speaker's intent, or by the impact on the target? Must it be directed only at marginalized groups, or can it target dominant groups? Does hate speech cause harm by violating human dignity, or does it only become harmful when causing tangible harm, such as discrimination or violence?

On **Monday April 27th at 10 am** we will discuss: "In terms of human flourishing is the human tendency to create groups a positive or a negative overall? Will humanity ever be able to escape tribalism and the creation of in and out groups. Should it?"

Greg Barnes

QUIZ-Q3A

We continue to enjoy good attendance at our monthly quiz session, with 20 members in March. You are welcome to visit on the 3rd Monday of any month, ready to start at 10am until 11.45am.

March Quiz (answers on last page).

1. In which 1975 film is the famous line, "You're gonna need a bigger boat"?
2. In which US state is the headquarters of KFC?
3. What is a nibbling?
4. Whose autobiography is titled "Working Class Boy"?
5. What are the only 2 countries in the world which start with A but do not end with A?

Susan McCarten 0437 215 130 (SMS or voicemail)

UKE 3A

This month at Uke3A we have been focusing on learning Dire Strait's 'Walk of Life' and Status Quo's 'Rockin' All Over the World.' We have also been practising the tricky Bb chord. The group has now quite a repertoire of songs and is looking forward to performing publicly at festivals and markets. We have ordered shirts with the Uke3A logo for when we perform.

We had some visitors from Townsville Ukuleles join our Monday group and lead a couple of social sessions at Strawberry Jam at the Tacey's property. We also had a St Patrick's Day Evening Strawberry Jam, with Irish songs, dinner and a green theme.

Some of our members went to the Port Fairy Folk Festival and plan to get to the Melbourne Ukulele Festival at the end of March. Lots of opportunities for singing, strumming and picking.

CURIOSITY FOR LIFE ABOUNDS

Our meetings certainly are holding people's attention. A big thank you to Lorraine Noonan and Darns Tyack for sharing their story. Our purpose currently is to bring clarity, understanding, acceptance, and new skills to our members. Confidence and self-esteem are big winners when they share. Our listening skills are enhanced also. Our meetings are held every second and fourth Friday of the month at 1Pm at U3A. All welcome

John Padman john-n-padman@gmail.com

Robyn Glasson rlasson65@gmail.com

LINE DANCING

After a delayed start to the year, Line Dancing is now underway at 5:15 pm on Thursdays. We usually finish around 6:30 pm, but there is no compulsion to dance the whole time. Sometimes it's good to just sit and enjoy the music. There is a wide range of experience among the participants and there is room for more. If you are interested in joining the group please contact me on the number below.

- PLEASE NOTE: Due to the hall being used by another U3A group on Thursday, March 26th., there will be no Line Dancing session. However, sessions will resume on April 2nd. and continue through the School Holidays.

Sue Lowe. 0414631246

NEW HORIZONS

Fourth Thursday, March 20th 6:11 am at the Sherbourne Hotel Wyndham Street. Our first new horizons meeting was a great success when we voted to go to the DINER For our first community event.

Next month, we will go for a picnic somewhere on the Goulburn River. Come along, have some fun, meet new people and try things that we've never tried before you'll be surprised what a difference it'll make to your life.

Contact: John Padman 0428 745282

CURIOSITY TRAVEL

The meeting for April will not be going ahead. This is due to Easter. A big thank you to Iain Jeep for his presentation In March. There was a lot of interest in the presentation and many people interested in putting the trail in their bucket list.

John Padman john-n-padman@gmail.com

Robyn Glasson rlasson65@gmail.com

INTERMEDIATE ITALIAN

Intermediate Italian has started the year well and is now regularly challenging us all on Friday afternoons at 1.30.

We will have a short break over the Easter school holidays but back on 24th April, just before Anzac Day. Enjoy the holidays.

Ciao Liz 0409 703 868

WRITING FOR PLEASURE

Our March meeting was well attended, and the topics provided the opportunity for many laughs:

1. It was like water off a duck's back
2. Great Grandma's old diary

The 16 April meeting will be hosted by Lyn. Topics are:

1. Tell me a story
2. Every last drop

May's topics provided by Mary are:

1. Right here, right now
2. See what you made me do



Collection of Stories for 2025: *The Way We See Things*.

Every year the U3A Writing for Pleasure group publish the best of their stories in book form (80 pages). These short stories are sometimes from real life, sometimes fiction, but always interesting. Mostly prose, sometimes verse. The book is for our own enjoyment, but other U3A members may purchase a copy for only \$10.

Contact **Marion MacLennan on 0417 319 839** or **Allan Wilson on 0427 399 648**.

WALK AND TALK

The walk and talk group enjoyed a visit to Violet town on Wednesday 11 March, This trip was the idea of and organised by Mr Ross Johnston. The group enjoyed a short walk along the honeysuckle creek after morning tea was enjoyed in the Lions park . We then met up with Mr Bruce Cumming who is on the committee that maintain the memorial gardens and museum. Mr Cumming had arranged for the small museum to be opened for us, and he then gave a talk on the train crash in 1969 which caused the death of 8 people and injured 117.

A thank you note was sent to Mr Cumming and the man who opened the museum and gave us more information .

The next walk will be on Wednesday 01 April going to Nathalia, this walk will be organised by Tony and Bev Palmer phone number 0407306956 .

Meeting at the U3A hall at 08.45, please bring morning tea, lunch optional.



Iain d Jaap
0428218229
jaapid@bigpond.com

SCIENCE

Our next session – "**AI Made Easy: The History, Development, Uses, and Failures of AI – Why and Where to Know**" – Monday, 20th April at 1.30 pm., it will be truly interactive and relevant to all.

Please bring along **3 questions** you'd like to ask (or have Grok answer live). Write them down on paper or save them on your phone – no need to be fancy! We'll use as many as time allows during the talk, showing real Grok responses, videos, or suggestions on the spot.

This crowd-sourced approach lets us explore:

- **History** – How AI began decades ago and evolved into today's helpful tools.
- **Development** – From early experiments to modern assistants like Grok, Chatbot GP
- **Uses** – Everyday wins for independence, health, family, hobbies, travel, and fun.
- **Failures** – Honest talk about mistakes (like "hallucinations" or pulling in wrong info) and why we double-check important things.
- **Where to Know** – Simple rules for trusting (or questioning) AI answers.

Your 3 Suggested Questions (pick any mix – one from each category is ideal,

1. **One practical "how-to" or "to-do" question**

Something hands-on you'd like clear, step-by-step help with.

"How do I safely change the battery in my 2016 VW Golf key fob?"

"What's the best way to remove skirting board using my Ryobi oscillating multi-tool?"

"Easy one-pan chicken curry recipe with coconut milk – and why add it?"

"How can I check if this email/call is a scam?"

2. **One general or curiosity question**

- Why did the chicken cross the road
- What is electricity
- Cryptic crossword answers
- How far are the planets
- Does psychology work

3. **One fun, leisure, or lifestyle question**

Holidays, trips, eating out, local outings, or just having a good time.

- "Suggest a relaxing, senior-friendly day trip from [your town/suburb] with easy public transport and nice cafes."
- "Recommend a good restaurant for a family birthday meal – nothing too spicy!"
- "Plan a short, scenic holiday in Qld or Victoria that's comfortable for over-65s."

Other topics warmly welcome! Feel free to ask about:

- Genealogy ("Can AI help turn old family photos into stories or trace ancestors?")
- Medicine/vaccines ("Explain the latest on the shingles or flu vaccine in plain English")
- Current events/politics ("What are reliable ways to fact-check AI info about things like Trump or elections?")
- Hobbies, grandkids, gardening, scams, health reminders, book recommendations, or anything else on your mind.

Quick AI History Timeline (to give context – we'll cover this in the talk too):

- 1950: Alan Turing asks, "Can machines think?" (the famous Turing Test idea).
- 1956: Dartmouth Workshop – the official "birth" of AI as a field.
- 1966: First chatbot ELIZA – pretends to be a therapist (very basic!).
- 1997: IBM's Deep Blue beats chess champion Garry Kasparov.
- 2010s: Voice assistants like Siri/Alexa arrive in our homes.
- 2022–2026: Explosion of tools like ChatGPT and Grok – now free, conversational, and super-useful for everyday life (but still make mistakes sometimes!).

No pressure just come along to listen and join the discussion. The more questions we have, the more personal and fun the session becomes! See you soon – looking forward to your ideas!

Harry Lee – 0400 770 972

Quiz Answers

1. Jaws. 2. Kentucky.
3. Child of your sibling i.e. niece or nephew.
4. Jimmy Barnes.
5. Afghanistan & Azerbaijan

U3A NETWORK VICTORIA

Enjoy this month's Network News. [Click here.](#)

To see what GUVU3A has to offer and what other groups in GUVU3A are doing.

Scan the QR code here and go to [course pages](#).

