

Goulburn Valley



GOULBURN VALLEY University of The Third Age
(For active semi-retired or retired persons of mature age)

GVU3A Hall: Esson Street, Shepparton. Postal: PO Box 14, Shepparton 3632 Phone: 58213333

WE'RE ON THE WEB - www.gvu3a.com.au

MAY 2020

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello to all members

Our U3A continues to function behind the scenes and many of you have already been adapting to a new way of doing things, using the technology that our ancestors in past pandemics were not fortunate enough to be able to use. Our modern means of communication, whether by old fashioned telephones or by the latest whizbang face-to-face electronic media, allow us to feel more connected with each other than thought possible 100 years ago.

Our Course Co-ordinator Greg Barnes has been encouraging all our course leaders to explore innovative ways of delivering classes, using some of the technology available to us. You will see in this newsletter some of the exciting examples we can become involved in.

Our newsletter team has also been developing some new entertainment for you in this newsletter. Keep reading!

Thank you to everyone who has paid their U3A fees for this year, not a normal year for classes by any means. We, the Committee, who is continuing to meet monthly via Zoom, appreciate your support. As you can understand some expenses for our U3A continue, no matter whether we are on site or not.

We are busy planning for our Art, Craft and Photography exhibition during Senior's month in October. Judi from the Art Group is coordinating this exciting weekend.

Please take a moment to explore our website that David Muir has been working hard to develop further.

www.gvu3a.com.au

Liz

2020 COMMITTEE



Left to right:

Allan Wilson, Gael Thompson, Ray Watt,
Kerrie Midgley (Treasurer), Greg Barnes,

John Bush (VP), Carole Trotter, Liz Lee (President),
Sue Walmsley, Anne White (Secretary),

Absent: Terry Butler

COMMUNICATING WITH COMPUTERS

Being restricted to home has caused a lot more computer use.

Whether it by via mobile phone, iPad/tablet, laptop or desktop, we are now all having to become a lot more computer-savvy to help us keep contact with friends and relations.

We are having to become more imaginative in how to fill in the day when we can't do the usual. The use of video programs/apps such as FaceTime, Messenger, Skype and the now popular Zoom, we are able to interact 'Face-to-Face' with those we are talking to. (I have included a couple of Zoom links on the Computers link on the U3A website – go to Courses > Computers). There do seem to be a few glitches with Zoom (I'm finding a problem with sound), so if anyone has already solved them, get in touch!

There are a number of U3A members who haven't had to deal so intensely with computer technology, and this will be causing some issues. Whilst I won't be able to solve all problems, I do have a bit of knowledge (or probably know where to find a solution) to help and hopefully avoid some of the distress – Plus, this year, Sonja and I are obviously not going anywhere! So, if you are having problems, please give me a call.

For those people with lots of photos, now could be a good time to have a go at creating a photobook. I have created a page on the GUVU3A website to help with this. Should anyone want to have a go, please contact me first so I can make it a bit easier to get started and avoid some frustration when learning something new.

Some courses are making use of the website to display work being done and UKE3A for example, has started up a page to provide links for tutorials and songs to ensure they are still all on the same page when everything returns to 'normal'. Contact me for any help.

David Muir 0414881369

SCRABBLE

Hello fellow Scrabblers. Until we can play Scrabble together again, why not download the free Scrabble app on your computer device and enjoy playing online. Also try jumble words and crosswords to increase your word power. I'm just now getting the hang of cryptic crosswords - it's taken a while! Take care and stay safe.

Sue Walmsley

WRITING4PLEASURE

WRITING4PLEASURE held our first ZOOM meeting on Thursday 16th April. Nine members participated, read their stories and it all seemed to go very well, thanks Allan's for your belief in us all. Other members have chosen to read their stories by phone and some will have a break, but keep writing on the given topics each month. For those in the group who like a challenge, (seeing you have all this spare time now!!!!), you may like to write on both topics, (provided by Lynda).

TOPICS FOR MAY

1. WILD THINGS

2. MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE. WORD – ESCULENT

*PLEASE E-MAIL YOUR STORIES TO -writingforpleasureu3a@gmail.com

Lynne Hume recently had one of her stories printed in the local Tatura paper. Well done Lynn!

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH:

"Tears are words that need to be written". Paul Coelho

CONTACT: Lyn Austin. Phone : 0468 312 602

NATURAL RESOURCES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Natural Resources & Regional Development is in hibernation for the present. Lovely early autumn rain, so we can sit back and watch the grass grow. Hope we can get back together soon.

John Dainton 58213881 or mob.0417 549 502

HISTORICAL STUDIES

Historical Studies will not be meeting this month.

I am currently researching William Le Souef who was Manager of the Murchison Aboriginal Protectorate and his son Albert Le Souef one time part occupier of Tallygaroopna Station. Both these gentlemen had interesting careers in the very early formation of Victoria. Some of their correspondence gives a good insight of the aboriginal and their culture around the Goulburn Valley through European eyes. This should be a good topic for discussion and debate at some future time.

John Dainton 58213881 or mob 0417 549 502

GOULBURN VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY

The Goulburn Valley Regional Library is still operating a basic service with computer or phone order, and pick up by arrangement.

Also all their eBooks, eAudiobooks, or eMagazines are available. Movies and documentaries can also be streamed via Kanopy streaming service.

<https://www.gvlibraries.com.au/newsletter>

or phone number 1300 374 765 or email gvrlc@gvrlc.vic.gov.au
or visit their website at GV Libraries.

ART GROUP

Members of our Art group are busier than ever. Not only are they all creating the most wonderful paintings and collages, but they are keeping in touch, offering encouragement and support to each other through their group email, Facebook page or by phone calls. Plenty of reading, jigsaws, sorting photos, gardening and walking the dog - all happening whilst "waiting for paint to dry". I know for a fact that there is some cooking going on too - shock horror!

Here are just a few examples of the beautiful work our artists have created recently, many of which will be exhibited in the next U3A Art, Craft, and Photography Exhibition I am certain. We hope you enjoy them.



OPERA APPRECIATION GROUP

While we have not been able to make our trips together to see the Met operas on the big screen in Wangaratta, we have been able to access performances from many of the world's top opera houses who are allowing their archived productions to be available by live streaming and/or videos on demand during the Covid 19 crisis. The link is below. There are also some beautiful performances of top singers on YouTube. If you want a big screen picture you can connect your computer to the TV screen by a long HDMI cable.

https://www.reddit.com/r/opera/comments/fig77j/list_offree_livestreams_andor_videos_on_demand/

You can also access Virtual Victorian Opera to see a range of music clips of parts of various performances. Just type that phrase into Google and follow the prompts. Andrew Lloyd Webber has put filmed versions of his various concerts on at different times and these can be seen on YouTube. So there are a range of musical fixes available to people who are looking for such. Thanks to Christine Wilson, her grandson and Anne White for their valuable contributions to this entry.

Madeline Dyer 0417580025

Q3A QUIZ GROUP

Our beloved Vale Peg Newman passed away on Monday 13th April 2020. Peg was a long-time member of Book Club 2, she reinstated the Scrabble competition, and in 2015 introduced a new quiz group which she named Q3A. Everyone who shared U3A classes with Peg, recognised she was a widely-educated lady, with great vision and compassion. She made us want to be a better version of ourselves. We will continue to run Q3A in her honour, following the successful format she established. Now it requires several quizmasters to present at each session, whereas the inimitable and talented Peg managed this single-handedly. We remember her with great love and respect, Susan McCarten and the Q3A group.

Until we can meet again in person, I will post 10 questions in each newsletter. Challenge yourself, then Google the answers. If you like, you can send me an SMS, Susan McCarten 0437 215 130

1. What is the name for a word or phrase that reads the same forwards or backwards?
2. Which country comprises a group of islands in the Persian Gulf between Saudi Arabia and Iran?
3. What does the acronym HIIT stand for?
4. Which president of the USSR encouraged the policy of Glasnost?
5. Mount Etna, the tallest volcano in Europe, stands on which island?
6. Which famous actor once finished in second place at the 24 Hours of Le Mans race?
7. Which 1970 book catapulted Germaine Greer to fame?
8. Which fuel is formed by the fossilisation of plants?
9. In which year did the Tupperware brand debut?
10. The avocado is also known as a "what" pear?

BOOK CLUB 2

We held a successful Zoom meeting on Tuesday 14th April. Our technophile Judy set up the meeting, after having a small practice session the previous week. We had seven members happily discussing 'Becoming' by Michelle Obama, with all agreeing it was an inspiring book, dealing with personal issues such as her father's death, infertility, campaigning, her initiatives while First Lady, and creating a relatively normal life for their daughters amid White House security. We hope that the members who didn't log in, can do so next month, when we will discuss 'The Last Pulse' by Anson Cameron

ITALIAN

Italian has continued on line, with written assignments. We have started translating some La Fontaine fables from Italian into English. The moral to each tale is poignant in any language. After Easter we started to use Zoom so we could have some conversations with each other in Italian and we hope to increase the number of people participating once a week.

Christine Wilson



When will hairdressers re – open?



WALK AND TALK



Hi all, I hope you are all safe and well in this time of lockdown. I joined U3A in January 2017 and in May of that year I went on my first walk with 15 other members to Woolshed Falls, Beechworth, then on to Mt Pilot and Chiltern. I have been on 30 walks and almost all have been a new location with Christine Wilson being the leader.

I put my hand up to be the leader of the Walk and Talk in January this year. Hopefully we might be able to go on the June walk around Tatura or July walk around Mooroopna. The photo shows our last month visit to Barmah which was led by Bobby.

David Taylor 0412802427



A few photos from my earlier walks.



SCIENCE MATTERS

In April the Science class held a Zoom discussion with 17 members on '**The Science Behind Government's Response to COVID19**'. It was based on a 7 page document distributed beforehand, which is available by email to any U3A member who contacts me.

For May (Monday 18th at 1.30) we will Zoom again on the topic: **The National Hydrogen Strategy**. This will be based on a large report prepared for the Government by Australia's Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel. A paper will be distributed beforehand to members on my class list (and anyone who wishes to join). The Zoom discussion will be 1½ hours, either as two 40 minute free sessions, or in a single paid session. If you are new to Zoom, please contact me beforehand for a test run.

Subsequent topics may include: Mathematics – What has it ever done for us, Our Atmosphere (love is in the air but there is also lots of Nitrogen and Oxygen), Tipping Points for Climate Change, The Lost Continent, and The Principles of Ecology and their Application to Farm Conservation.

Allan Wilson (0427 399 648 adwilson13@bigpond.com)

U3A GROUP ACTIVITIES

Below is a list of activities that some classes are doing in order to carry on during Covid 19. You may not be involved these courses but they may stimulate some members into doing something different during the lock down.

Art- Judi Gillum keeps in contact with the Art group via email, Facebook and phone.

Bird Watching leaders will be sending out an occasional email to group members with a photo or two and mention any interesting sightings and what birds to expect with the change of season.

Book Club 2 have been and will be zooming. Next month will be The Last Pulse by Anson Cameron.

Bridge Derek is sending out a weekly email to bridge players with suggestions on line play, news, and a bridge problem to solve with answers following week.

Current Affairs have not been and will be Zooming on the first and third Mondays of the month at 3.00 pm. If you are a controversial person and even if you are please join us.

Enjoying Literature will be zooming on the fourth Monday of June. We will be looking at the book "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles. It tells the story of Count Alexander Rostov, who is sentenced to live out the rest of his life on "house arrest" in the Metropol hotel, following his "conviction" by a Bolshevik tribunal. He was convicted of being an unrepentant aristocrat and is stripped of his wealth by the new Bolshevik regime.

French will be zooming soon or is it La classe de français commencera bientôt à zooming

Italian Christine Wilson and Lelia are using email and starting zoom shortly (see report in this newsletter).

Opera group- any interesting information on how to while away the isolated hours has been sent out to the group by email, usually helpful hints forwarded to me by members of the group. YouTube operas are being streamed for free during this time.

Q3A: Susan McCarten will put quiz questions in the newsletter so more members can be involved. SMS and email to our quiz group.

Science Matters zoomed the April class and will do it again in May. New class members need to email Allan Wilson to get on the mailing list. See the note in the newsletter to this effect.

Socrates Café Rob McLean said the gatherings are now Zoom meetings - that's every fourth Monday, at 10:00 am. April 27 discussion will be presented by Jan Maude about 'Would you rather be a big fish in a little pond or a little fish in a big pond?'

Strength and Balance: Lyn Davidson is about to start on emailing participants or texting where no email.

Writing4pleasure – Lyn Austin said the majority are using zoom meetings. For others it is phone contact and Email.

Uke3A have been doing their zoom classes every week. The GVU3A web site has, under course notes, lots of helpful links and lessons to help spend your free hours.

French Class have zoomed their first April meeting and will continue each Tuesday at 10:00 am.

CREATIVE ARTS

Our members have been, and will continue to be, very industrious in this time of isolation. We Crafty People can always find something to turn into a beautiful article. Many have been knitting, crocheting, doing tapestry, crystal art, embroidery, sewing and some of us have now found the time to do the UFOs (Un Finished Objects) that we have put aside for years. Take a look at the U3A Website and see some of our pieces of completed works. If you have just finished a piece, take a photo and send it to me (either via text or email) and I will send it onto the Website Manager - a great way to share. Take care. Stay safe.

Co-ordinator: Sonja Muir. 04 2150 9313
sonja.muir@optusnet.com.au

FRENCH

We had our first Zoom meeting on Tuesday and with only a few hiccups, managed a short conversation in French. I'm going to be a bit more ambitious next week (Tuesday 10.00am) and try to run a short lesson using the share screen function if I can work it out. I will email details of the meeting ID to class members closer to the time.

Sue Birrell

500

A short note for all 500 club members and U3A in general. There are some online options for anyone wanting to practice their skills. One site was Julianne's 500 club which was free and I am sure there are other sites. As with all material on line make sure you have a computer virus checker like Norton to make sure things are safe.

Cheers, Harry Lee



BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

If you want to pay your membership fees or trip fees through the internet please use the account numbers below and use your name as the reference.

General account: BSB 633 000 Account number 127742898

Trip account: BSB 633 000 Account Number 129896049