

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

April 2021

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(Entries close on 21st of each month)

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings to All.

What a wonderful time of the year Autumn is in the Goulburn Valley. Our gardens will be enjoying the drop of rain too. It is great to see so many of us out and about enjoying again the social connections with friends, families and of course back at U3A.

AGM. Our AGM was well attended with approximately 70 people attending, enjoying a talk from Carmel Johnson and her life up until now, before she commences a new gig at SAM. We welcomed 2 new committee members, Rita Bloomfield, and David Taylor. We sadly said farewell to Terry Butler, Sue Walmsley our catering manager, and Past President Allan Wilson. Carole Trotter resigned from the committee earlier this year. Alas, Sue was unable to be replaced so there will not be any special events with food until someone else can step up. The position of Vice President also remains unfilled.

SOCIAL MORNINGS are back. We have Veronica Jamieson, CEO of Shepparton Villages as your guest speaker for Tuesday, April 6th, just after Easter. Veronica took up her position as CEO in the middle of the COVID crisis in Aged Care last year and has been busy settling into Shepparton. Veronica will be talking about Aged Care in general, the Royal Commission findings and will answer any questions.

We will be serving tea, coffee, and biscuits.

NEW COURSES in Beginner's Italian, Yoga, Ecology, and Marie's Strollers (easy walks) have commenced. It is not too late to join them. More information later in this newsletter.

COMING UP a talk on Legal Matters on the first Monday, May 3rd at 10am for your diary.

Online courses: U3A Network is offering online courses to assist leaders with presentations. If any members are not feeling confident in presenting at your group, this will give you some guidance.

Try searching www.u3avictoria.com.au for more information on courses run from other U3A's online.

Happy Easter. See you soon.

Liz

ECOLOGY AND FARM CONSERVATION

Our talk on Wednesday March 24 (10.00am) will centre on energy and nutrients in natural ecosystems. Energy in nature flows up from plants through consumers (whether caterpillars or kangaroos), to all animal life. At the apex of the pyramid sit internal parasites, mistletoes and predators, which we often persecute with surprising unintended consequences. For instance, the elimination of the dingo is now known to have flow on negative consequences for other animals and plants further down the food chain.

On April 28 we continue into understanding how the interactions between organisms make biodiversity so important for conservation. This leads on, if we have time, to the concept of island biogeography. Remnants of natural vegetation on farms are ecologically similar to natural islands and should be managed in the same way.

Note that ecology is not running on the third Wednesday, as originally described in the U3A Course Descriptions.

SCIENCE MATTERS

The science talk for April 19th will be presented by Ray Pearson on '**Archimedes and the Plimsoll Line**'. Archimedes was a Greek mathematician, physicist, engineer, inventor, and astronomer. Although few details of his life are known, he is remembered for running through the streets of Syracuse naked, shouting 'Eureka'. This may well be a myth but he is regarded as one of the leading scientists in classical antiquity, to be the greatest mathematician of ancient history, and perhaps one of the greatest of all time.

His work on buoyancy and displacement led to the realisation that ships float differently in warm, cold, salty and fresh water, a fact that ruthless and greedy shipowners used to their advantage as recently as the 1880s. Samuel Plimsoll was the parliamentarian who fought for years against vested interests and is remembered by the Plimsoll line which is required to be painted on the sides of ships. And on the way through we will look at the test for egg freshness, ships of the American Civil War and our own HMVS Cerberus.

NATURAL RESOURCES & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Friday April 2, Good Friday, NO MEETING

Friday April 9, 10.00am U3A Hall

PRESENTER; Gaye Sutherland, Indigenous Natural Resource Management & Cultural Heritage Coordinator GBCMA

SUBJECT; Mending Mountains for Pigmy Possum+

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority in collaboration with the Taungurung Land & Waters Council and Mt Buller Alpine Resort are working on a project to protect the threatened and endangered Pigmy Possum.

Contacts John Dainton 0417 549 502 or Barry Croke 0488 058 231

HISTORICAL STUDIES

Monday April 12, 10.00am U3A Hall

PRESENTER; John Hetherington.

SUBJECT; Stories of two Australian Antarctic explorers.

Sir Hubert Wilkins MC & Bar; The last explorer. Australia's Unknown Hero. Ten lives in one.

John King Davis, Master Mariner especially of Antarctic Waters.

John Dainton 0417 549 402

WRITING4PLEASURE

This month's meeting was held on 18th March in the Shepparton Library Meeting Room. Nine members were in attendance and some great stories/poems were shared. Our end of year book *THE YEAR THAT WAS - 2020+* has been distributed and lived up to its expectations.

Our **APRIL** topics, provided by Pam, are:

- 1. ON THE VERANDAH**
- 2. SATISFACTION**
- 3. WORD – EXPOTENTIAL**

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH:

*“DON'T TELL ME THE MOON IS SHINING. SHOW ME THE GLINT OF LIGHT ON BROKEN GLASS.”
– ANTON CHEKHOV.*

CONTACT: Lyn Austin. (Phone : 0468 312 602)

LEGAL TALKS

Please note the change of date for legal talks.

It is now Monday the 3rd of May, from 10.00 -11.00am

Marshall Richards will present topics of a legal nature, for example

1. Wills, Financial and Medical Powers of Attorney, (General, Lmt & Co. Powers of Attorney).
2. Difference between Joint Ownership and Ownership in Common.
6. What is Negligence in law?
19. Probate and Probate Duty.
21. New Consumer Protection Laws.

Contact: Marshall Richards marsh.rich2018@gmail.com

LUNCH GROUP

Each Monday in April we are gathering at The Royal Mail Hotel in Mooroopna. There is a new chef so we are looking forward to sampling the menu items. All U3A members are welcome to come and share a meal with the regulars. Just let Gail know on 0400531856 so we can ensure the tables have been set up to accommodate us all.

500

Hello everyone. Welcome to %Bring a friend fortnight+ Tuesday 23th and 30th March

500 is up and running after a slow start out of the blocks 4 weeks ago.

We have had 4 tables [16-18 people] for the last 3 weeks.

I think there is a potential to reach 5 tables for a few weeks which might then stabilise the turnout at around 16-20 people.

We play from 4.00pm til 6.00 pm though some keen early birds are playing at 3.45 pm..

For those who do not know the game but are wanting to learn we have a couple of spare people to show you the ropes.

I am hoping to generate some extra attendance so I am issuing an open invitation for the next 2 weeks to bring a friend or mention it to a partner even if they are not U3A members at the moment.

If they want to continue then they might then even join U3A .

If not they will have learned a new skill and pastime for those holiday weekends away we are all going to start going on.

Harry 0400 770 972

CREATIVE CRAFTS

It is great to see so many returning to Creative Crafts and it is really good to see new faces joining us. Members are working on their own projects. However, on April 13 Jan Mellor will be showing us how to do Freeform Crocheting. If you want to have a go, please bring along 4mm or 4.5mm crochet hook and **8 ply yarn - any colour. Scraps of other ply yarns are okay.** May will see us having a go at English Paper piecing patchwork but more on this in the May newsletter.

Come along and have a go.

Gael Thompson 0458 215 794

Q3A QUIZ

It was great to return to our quiz morning in March, and 20 eager members participated in a variety of challenges from identifying song titles using the lyrics of the first line, names given to groups of animals, to knowing the location of shops and cafes in our local area, plus a random assortment of general knowledge. Any U3A member is welcome to join us on Monday 19th April 10am - 11.45am for some light-hearted fun and memory jogging.

Susan McCarten 0437 215 130

susanmccarten2013@gmail.com

WALK AND TALK

Our next Walk and Talk will be held on Wednesday April 14 at Tallarook, where we will be walking the Rail Trail for about 4km or 45 minutes before returning to our starting point.

Meet at U3A at 8.45am to leave by 9.00am. We will travel along the freeway, leave at the Tallarook exit and meet at the car park, where there are Rail Trail Maps, for morning tea. Lunch will also be there. Please bring morning tea, lunch and water. After lunch we will return to Shepparton.

March Walk and Talk to Rochester

Leaving from U3A, 9 walkers travelled to Rochester, meeting at Rotary Park for morning tea. Bobby then led us to Ron Iddles Lane, where a number of murals are painted along the lane wall by Artist Tim Bowtell, showcasing the Life and times of the Rochester-born former Homicide Detective. We continued our walk to the statue of Hubert Opperman, who was known to many as Oppy. He was a famous Australian cyclist who rode in events both in Australia and overseas including the Tour de France. Then on to the display of winning Murals painted by artists for the Rochester Festival over the years up until 2019. There was no exhibit for 2020 due to the Covid-19. It was then back to the Rotary park for lunch before heading home with some choosing to return via Colbinabbin to see the Silo Art.

David Taylor mobile 0412802427



YOGA

Our new Yoga class with Pauline on Thursdays has started well with positive comments such as 'my knee is feeling so much better', 'I can get off the floor now' and 'I haven't felt this good in years!' There is still space for more people in her class at 8.30am on Thursday mornings.

Please ring Pauline on 0407 840 702 for more information.

BEGINNERS ITALIAN

There is still the possibility that we will be able to holiday again in Italy, so Beginners Italian will give you a toehold in ordering pizza, spaghetti, or a train ticket when you go. It is a really fun language and exciting culture, and Meredith has lots of experience in teaching. Perhaps you have learnt Italian in the past but feel a bit rusty.

Beginners Italian will continue April 9 and April 16 after the Easter Weekend.

Phone Meredith 0437 313 840

WALKING GROUP - THE STROLLERS

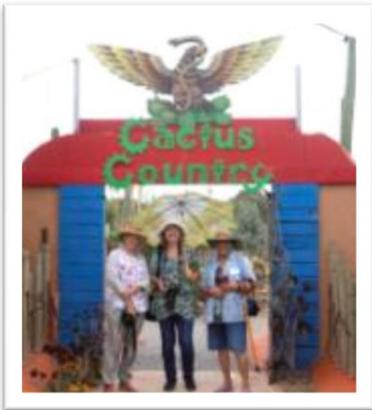
Marie has a few starters for a quiet, slow, and relaxed walking group on a Tuesday morning.

Last week they enjoyed a peaceful stroll around Victoria Park Lake. More strollers are welcome.

Phone Marie on 0427 317 721 for more information.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The small, but enthusiastic, photography group has had two outings recently. Firstly, minus our leader Lex, we all tramped off to the Shepparton lake. Here we attempted to put into practice Lex's lessons on basic photography. Actually we all went our own way, doing our own thing. Meeting up for afternoon tea, social distancing of course, we discussed many things other than photography. Where's the leader when you need him?. Off caravanning.



Our second excursion was to Cactus Country at Strathmerton. An even smaller group wandered, apparently aimless, around among the cactus, mostly unseen to each other for much of the time, catching up for coffee after an hour or two. It is presumed we took photos of some of the huge range of cactus and their flowers. All will be revealed this coming Thursday when we show the best, or worst, of images to each other. Lex should be back to offer his critic. The attached image is of the three amigos, Lorraine, Barb and Maria, at the entrance to Cactus Country.

Allan Parker.

BIRD WATCHING

Our April 14th outing will be at the Victoria Park Lake Shepparton. Please meet at the back of the lake beyond Aquamoves at the most southerly car park near the new shelter on the bank of the Goulburn River, starting time 9.00am. Please contact Don Roberts 58252404 0448889224 or Marg Clarke 0429350875.

Our last outing was at the Australian Botanic Garden Kialla where we observed 23 species some of which were Black-fronted Dotterel, Spotted and Striated Pardalotes, Weebill, Grey Fantail and White-faced Heron.

Chemistry in the Market Place and Current Affairs are on Easter Monday

If you are looking for something to do Easter Monday 5/04/21 Chemistry in the Market place with Nigel Liggins will be on at 1.30pm. and at 3.00 pm Current Affairs will be on. That should fill in the afternoon nicely.

Greg Barnes

MEDITATION

Meditation with Jill will commence April 29 at 4.15pm.

2021 COMMITTEE



Back row: Greg Barnes, Rita Bloomfield, Gael Thompson, Ray Watts, David Taylor
Front row: Kerrie Midgley, Elizabeth Lee, Anne White
Absent: John Bush

AGM MEETING 2021





“Gigi” Genevieve Whitton

Recently we learned of the passing of Gigi Genevieve Whitton who was a very prominent member of our U3A, having initiated led the Conversational French Group and the Mahjong group for several years. She passed away on March 1st at Merbein near Mildura.

Gigi had a very warm and bright personality and enjoyed working with all members of her classes. In 2009 she offered to take a group of U3A students to the south of France so that she was encouraging people to learn to speak French better and to explore France. This was a wonderful experience for eleven of us, staying in two adjoining houses in the village of Trausse which is not far from the ancient city of Carcassonne.

We tripped around in one hire car and a 9 seater bus, visiting Lourdes and Sete and Figueres in Spain. We did a canal boat trip one afternoon and enjoyed a particular restaurant in a nearby village that boasted great seafood dishes (Gigi's favourite) and delicious *les flottantes*, a thick custard with meringue floating on top.

For those members who remember Gigi, her funeral was telecast on Friday 12/3/2021 at 10.00 by North West Funerals. The link to this service is <https://youtu.be/wBl2r7J7HUY> and it can be watched at your convenience. (NB...after the capital B, the letter is a capital I as in India, and not a ONE.)

Gigi led an interesting life being born to a French mother and a Greek father in Ethiopia. So as well as speaking French, Greek and Arabic, she also grew up speaking Italian as her father's soap business was with Italian manufacturers. Aged 17 she went to England to become a nurse and it is there that she started to converse in English. She migrated to Australia as a ten pound migrant and certainly led a colourful life here and overseas.

We were very sad to hear this news and hoped to share it with you.

Gigi's grandson Donald, who travelled with us, has indicated he would like to have a reunion with the Trausse group some day, when he returns from overseas. If you would like to stay in touch for this please phone 0428549924.

Lyn and Mal Watts and Wendy Humphrey.

Subscriptions of \$40 a member are now due

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

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

General account: BSB 633 000 Account number 127742898