

Goulburn Valley U3A



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

THE THIRD DECADE

2008 - 2018



30th Anniversary Cake at the 2018 Christmas Luncheon

From left Gail Jelliff (Past President 2012/13)

Greg Barnes (Past President) 2015/16)

Barbara Brown (President 2017/2018)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“With eager, enthusiastic and strong leadership the Goulburn Valley U3A will continue successfully well into the future.” This was President Jim Douglass's conclusion in his foreword in “The Score of Our Years” and it has proved to be prophetic.

As you read you will see things have changed – new courses have been added, interests have changed, technology has changed. But what hasn't changed is the vitality of GVU3A. Our enthusiasm continues and we have grown to more than 300 members.

Some have questioned the idea of writing this history so soon after printing “The Score of Our Years” but I believe that milestones such as 10 years are important to celebrate and I imagine that most people in their third age of life would agree.

I have great pleasure in presenting the third decade of the Goulburn Valley U3A's history to add to our story.

Barbara Brown

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GVU3A TEN YEAR REVIEW

Thirty years ago, a group of determined, innovative people set up GVU3A to provide an outlet for continual learning and social connection for people living the third age of their life. Their inspiring story is recorded in the book "The Score of Our Years" tells of their wonderful journey to lead us to where we are today. Our task is to continue the story with the highlights and challenges from the past decade.

Our building today has been significantly upgraded over the past 10 years. We now have a room to house our library and DVD collection and it can also be used for small groups. Computer courses are held in the previously pokey office area. Walls were knocked down and new cupboards and benches were added to become the bright, airy kitchen we know today.

Over the years, successive hard-working committees have been adding items for your comfort and wellbeing, including reverse cycle units in the hall, ceiling fans, the data projection system, the new carpet, upgraded sound system, the defibrillator (which thankfully we haven't had to use yet), interior and exterior blinds, new fridge, urn and coffee mugs, the new lighter tables and the "table movers" to move them around easily, the postal boxes where some members collect their newsletters, strength and balance equipment, books for our language courses and updated computers.

The Committee conducted a review of our constitution in 2013 and in 2015 approved the design and installation of the GVU3A website.

The garden group and "volunteers" have worked very hard to recently improve our garden areas and the general appearance of the hall area.

In 2008 we had 199 members. Today, we have 336 members.

We'd like to acknowledge the continuous contribution of the executive and staff at COGS which enabled all of this extension/upgrading work to go ahead. Their support was also evident more recently when they added gravel to the car park area and put down discs to guide members to park safely.

We've added an extensive range of new courses: e.g., John Hammond's "Under the Bonnet", mosaics, sailability, getting to know SAM, dance quiz and the dog walking group. Some courses have been dropped: e.g. stamp collecting, wine appreciation, film group, collectibles and antiques, astronomy. A few started that haven't continued jazz, riding the bike trails, theatre works, men's strength, yoga and Toastmasters.

Shepparton Bridge Club, which originally hired the hall for their use, decided to become part of U3A, increasing our membership considerably. They also run a comprehensive schedule for learners and competition players.

The social mornings continue with an array of interesting speakers. These speakers have covered a range of topics, some directly relating to ageing, while others are about life experiences, changes in our local landscape, or the chance to interact with our local government representatives.

The Annual Trip is a highlight each year and is consistently well supported by members. Destinations over the past decade include Mount Gambier, Phillip Island, Southern Highlands, Merimbula, Sydney, a cruise on the coast of Tasmania, Kangaroo Island, Broken Hill and the Snowy Mountains.

We also produce many events. We have been represented at the carnival of Learning in Federation Square. During Seniors Week we mount a promotional display in the

Goulburn Valley Library and the annual Art, Craft and Photography which is a highlight of our calendar.

In 2017 our Writing for Pleasure group produced and published a book of their works, which was very well received.

Melbourne Cup Day at U3A and our trivia night are always well attended by members.

We do have representatives who attend the U3A Network Victoria headquarter meetings regularly where ideas are shared, initiatives are explained and grants are introduced. Our thanks are extended to

Our members who keep the flag flying for us in this area. On a regional basis and in conjunction with Network Victoria we have presented and hosted workshops on both Digital Literacy and Course Leaders' techniques.

Our U3A group is in a good position financially. We are also fortunate to have the support of City of Greater Shepparton in generally maintaining our Esson Street premises. The membership fee is good value for money. Where else can you sit in comfort, enjoy your activities and socialise for a small daily fee? Perhaps our treasurer can advise the government in this matter?

We continue to grow. This couldn't happen without generous people being willing to contribute their time and energy, to lead, to be innovative, to occasionally crop criticism, to grin and bear it and move forward.

In the future we sincerely hope you will respond willingly if someone taps you on the shoulder and asks you to help and get involved. You will find a small commitment on your part rewarding both personally and for the benefit of the organisation.

Words are inadequate to thank everyone for their contribution over the last 10 years. But we say a very sincere thank you on behalf of all our members to the hardworking, generous past and present committee members.

These improvements don't happen overnight. We have been very lucky to have generous people willing to contribute their time and energy to enable these additions and improvements to go ahead.

Well done everyone. Good luck for the future.

GAIL JELLIFF AND JAN MAUDE

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NEWSLETTER TEAM HISTORY



In January 2011, U3A had a problem. Sue Vandebosch who had done a fantastic job as editor and distributor of the newsletter prior to 2011, resigned. A few of us got together at Jim Carr's house to work out how the newsletter production would continue. We all realised that the newsletter was vitally important to U3A. It is how we communicate with members.

So the show had to continue. But Sue left big shoes to fill. What was agreed at that meeting was to shape the future of the newsletter to this day. We agreed to form a newsletter team. The team included Jim Carr (president), Jenny Kneebone, David Muir, Elaine Wilson and Derek Poulton.

Jim Carr put together a template for the newsletter and suggested how the newsletter could be put together. Derek put together a consolidated U3A member list that could be used both for mail out of the newsletter and as a record of current members. Newsletter contributions from course leaders were sent to gvu3anewsletter@gmail.com by the 18th of the month. Each team member would take turns to access the contributions and produce the newsletter.

Emailed newsletters (then about half the members) were relatively easy, but we needed to make sure that file size was not too large as many members were still on dial up internet access in 2011. Newsletters that were mailed out presented a greater challenge. Elaine Wilson had a process for printing onto labels. Newsletters were printed by the team at Jeanette Powell's office. Anne Blashki made sure all newsletters were stuffed into the right envelopes and Gail Jelliff made sure envelopes that had not been collected were posted. Newsletters were also displayed on notice boards in district libraries.

Over the years members of the newsletter team have changed. The production continues to be streamlined. The current team includes Derek Poulton, David Muir, Christine Wilson and Allan Wilson as well as Anne Blashki and Gail Jelliff who handle the printed newsletters. The staff at Wendy Lovell's office now print the newsletter.

So when you next get your newsletter, whether by email or snail mail, think of time and effort from 'THE TEAM'.

ART GROUP

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Previously known as the Oil Painting Group, which had been established by Jean Vistarini, the current Art group has expanded to include other forms of art including drawing, pastels, acrylic and woodturning.

This group meets each Wednesday at 10am putting in a full day's work until we pack up at 3pm.

Direct teaching is offered by our tutor along with other members sharing their expertise and ideas. This seems to work very well and has developed into a cohesive, supportive and friendly group.

As our skills have developed we have successfully entered our work in several local art exhibitions including Tatura, Numurkah Nathalia and have had our own exhibition at Kyabram.

Our Art, Craft and Photography Show held at our hall gives us a chance to display to our local community and to our fellow U3A members. This is now held on a biannual basis during Senior's week and is supported by our local council

Throughout the past 5 years we have made an annual trip to Swanpool to attend the Bald Arch Awards making this a major social occasion as well as appreciating the skills of other artists.

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Our group has expanded considerably with at least 18 members now on our books.

CAROLE TROTTER



ART APPRECIATION GROUP AT U3A

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Nola Hutchins, Louise Doddrell, Jim Carr and others at Strathbogie church.

Over the years an interesting Art Appreciation Group formed. The group was made up mostly of people who had a love and appreciation of art but were not artists.

They visited the local gallery plus Albury, Wangaratta and Bendigo over the time, to view interesting exhibitions. One local exhibition was that of Mark Cain -a well known name at the Shepparton gallery for many years and he kept them entertained with his journey through the art world.

After Jim Carr (U3A president at the time) introduced Frances to the world of Leadlighting and Stained Glass she decided to share her interest in Stained Glass Windows with the U3A group. Philip Handel from Sydney had designed and installed some windows for a group Frances belongs to in a church in Sandakan. These are the Friendship Windows and Windows of Remembrance in St Michael of All Angels Church, there; remembering relatives who died during World War Two. After speaking with Philip she discovered he had installed windows in a church at Strathbogie and Alexandra.

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The trip to Strathbogie and Alexandra in Feb. 2010 was a wonderful day and over lunch they were able to catch up with Marilyn Gourley who was the Bushfire Arts Recovery Officer in Murrindindi Shire.

They had two trips to Melbourne; one to meet up with Bruce Hutton at his studio in South Melbourne, after seeing some of his work in a nursing home in Yarrawonga depicting the drowned forest of Lake Mulwala. Further works were seen at St Mark's Church in Camberwell. Then a trip to see the works of Christian Waller which were saved from the fire at Wilson Hall, Melbourne University and now housed at Ian Potter Gallery there.

The list of interested people in February 2010 consists of quite a few who are still U3A members today; Louise Doddrell, Maria Hartel, Gail Jelliff, Olwyn Graham, Eileen Torney, Nola Sutherland, Bev Palma, Jim Carr, Ann Magee, Clare Quinn, Pat Levakis, Merle Hosie, Beth Chamberlain, Keith Smith, Doreen Smith, Nola Hutchins.

FRANCES NEWBOUND

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ASTRONOMY GROUP

In 2008 there were 12-15 members. Monthly meetings were mostly held at Ron Thompson's residence. Ron was the wonderful tutor, with great internet programs and views of the night skies and eclipses, sun and moon, through his telescope. There was even one sleepover at the Dookie home of Louise Doddrell. The group folded after the untimely death of Ron and others, plus ageing, although a few members are still involved in GVU3A.

BIRD WATCHING 2009-2018

The group was reactivated in 2009 after a break of a few years, with Don Roberts as course leader. Our first outing was at Walters Park (Jordan's Bend) Shepparton on the 16th April. The outings are held monthly March to November, mostly morning with a few spring day trips.

On each outing a group of usually about ten people have enjoyed not only the birds but also the plants and mammals in many varied habitats.

We had a break from May 2010 to March 2013 as I (Don) contracted Ross River Virus. Marg Clarke volunteered to help Don and became joint leader at the March 2013 outing.

The morning outings have been close to Shepparton. Some of the places visited have been Lower Goulburn National Park, two locations Reedy Swamp and Bunbartha, Cussen Park Tatura, Ern Miles Reserve and Fauna Park in Kyabram, Victoria Park Lake and Goulburn River walking paths west of the lake in Shepparton, Loch Garry Bunbartha, Girgarre Evaporation Lagoons, Doctors Swamp Murchison and Wunghnu Common.

Day outings have required longer travelling. Places visited have been Rushworth Forest, Strathbogie bridge to bridge walk, Warby-Ovens National Park, Wahgunyah Forest NSW and Wyuna River Reserve on the Goulburn River.

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Birds are recorded on each outing with the data entered into eBird Australia, a Cornell University USA administered site, this data is available to the general public worldwide, more recently the data has been entered into Birdlife Australia, Birdata site as well.



We average 40 species per outing, a wonderful variety to observe and learn about.



It is always good to share the moment when someone sees, for the first time, a new species of bird.

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BOLIVIA

Bolivia originally began as Canasta with a small group of 4-6 card players led by Esme Mellington 15 years ago.

In the early stages the game was changed to Bolivia and around 10 years ago Pat Commons took over the leadership. Today we have grown to 24 avid players who meet each Thursday afternoon at 1.p.m. Esme Mellington, now in her 90's continues to be a regular player.

PAT COMMONS

BOOK CLUB 1

The group started in 1990, and since then there have been three leaders, with Gail Jelliff taking over in 2009. Members can meet on every Thursday with the final discussion of the current book on the last Thursday. For many years the CAE provided the books, but in 2011 the Goulburn Valley Library became the supplier. Members have the opportunity to suggest books for each year from about 130 books currently available.

Reading a book a month and sharing in the discussion of it with the group has established firm friendships with other members, and an extended appreciation of a wide range of contemporary English literature.

GAIL JELLIFF



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BOOK CLUB 2

The first meeting of this U3A group was held in September 2011. We only had three members but we have quickly grown to full capacity of ten. We are a happy group now and we meet on the second Tuesday of the month from 11.00 to discuss the last book we have read, and then we choose a local cafe or restaurant to share friendships over a meal.

So far we have read 81 books since 2011. We usually meet at the U3A rooms, and sometimes we have ventured out to Tatura and Euroa because we have members from these towns, who come to Shepparton all the time. In the past two years we have held one meeting at Tallis Winery near Dookie. We have our meeting and then have a most pleasant lunch afterwards.

We are in the process of selecting our books from the Shepparton Library. The person responsible for this, Jan, is a very pleasant lady and she has been very helpful and well organised over the years. We look forward to 2019 and sharing our love of reading.

WENDY HUMPHREY



BRIDGE

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In 2009 when Derek Poulton retired he joined U3A and responded to a request for suggestions for new courses. He offered to run a course in soil science, and also suggested a course in the card game bridge. Soon he was teaching bridge at U3A. At the end of the classes a social bridge group met every Wednesday.

The Shepparton Bridge Club had been meeting at the RSL on Monday nights, but conditions were not ideal, so a move to U3A provided a home and somewhere to store equipment and play on Monday nights. U3A gained new members and bridge had a home, extra members and funds by 2011. Bridge at U3A has continued to grow with the purchase of a dealing machine and scoring equipment. Further developments include teaching bridge in schools and a new competition on Saturday afternoons. The Northern Region Bridge Association decided Shepparton was the centre of the region and hires the hall twice a year hall for pairs and teams events. This small group



compared to the large regional and metro bridge clubs, punches well above its weight at U3A.



CANINE CAPERS

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What can we say?

A gorgeous pair of shih-tzus

COMMUNICATING WITH COMPUTERS

Harold Dixon began taking computer classes in the early days of GVU3A. He instigated having a screen and projector to make it easier for members to learn about the use of computers around 2008.

A grant was successfully applied for which gave us five computers and training for instructors. Classes were held twice a week dealing with Microsoft Office, in particular, instruction in using Word, Excel and Publisher.

Sue Vandebosch and Mary Heneghan joined Harold in delivering lessons with many members finishing the year off with a personalised calendar produced and printed as part of their final lessons.

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David Muir joined the team and members were also encouraged to bring along their own laptops to become more familiar with their own equipment and programs. This has meant that we have been using a variety of computers and operating systems, both Windows and Apple based.

Kiki Passenheim joined Sue and David as classes continued twice a week covering a wide range of learning sessions.

From around 2013 classes have been run in three 1 ½ hour sessions, once a week, covering a wide range of topics depending on what was required by each class member. Topics covered many topics: becoming familiar with a new computer, how to organize everything on a computer, updating operating systems, emailing, creating spreadsheets in Microsoft Excel, creating labels, scanning/printing documents, making our own birthday and Christmas cards, making newsletters, using ebooks with computers, creating family trees and family histories, buying and selling things on eBay and Gumtree, transferring information from a phone to a computer and working with photographs. Everyone (often also including the instructors) has left each session learning something new and having achieved something they needed.

Extra sessions have been taken for short times in creating photobooks to display many of the photos taken on trips and family activities. A Pop Up course on Buying and Selling on the internet using eBay, Gumtree and PayPal has been conducted in 2019. Also, with the spread of social media, Facebook sessions have also been run to ensure the safety of personal information on the web in 2018/19.

Kiki and others have also taken sessions on becoming familiar with and learning more about using iPads and other tablet computers.

With us now facing so much of our daily lives being put online, computers and smart phones are becoming more important. Who knows where we will end up in future sessions!

DAVID MUIR



David Muir, Sue Vandenbosch and Kiki Passenheim.

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CRAFT

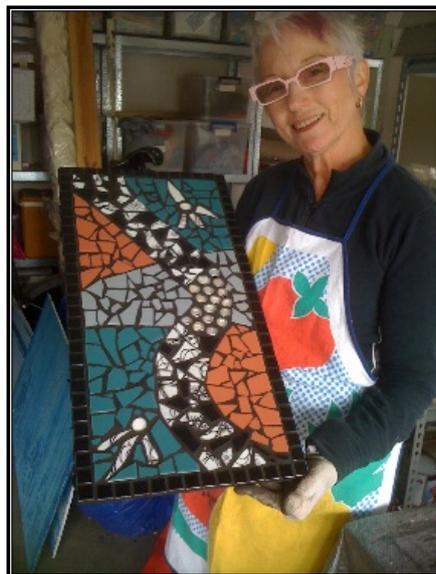
The Craft group started in 1995 and meets every Tuesday afternoon with Sonja Muir as leader. Thirty-nine members are engaged in beading, making scarves, socks, jumpers, and blankets; knitting and crocheting in the cold weather, and embroidery, knitting with cotton thread, and pastel and pencil drawing in the warm weather.



Special classes have been held in Kaiser craft, silk and pure wool scarves, candle wicking, smocking and Sashiko. There is a give-away table, and recipes are swapped. There is a lot of laughter and good friendship.

Mosaic Workshop for beginners 2018

Mosaic workshops were hosted by Claire Blake in her garage during the week and a few weekend workshops were also arranged. The group learnt new skills and techniques while making wall plaques for the garden, covering terracotta pots or bird baths and street number plaques for their houses. The group supplied their own tiles and bits and pieces for their work. Tile adhesive and grout was donated by Prestige tiles. Everyone took away something they could be proud to display.



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CURRENT AFFAIRS

Current affairs and learning to understand the news cycle both locally and internationally was expertly delivered by Colin James in 2017. However, due to work commitments Colin has had to relinquish his position as course leader. The enthusiastic group which formed on Colin's watch decided there was much to be gained by simply sharing the differing points of view on the daily news cycle. This has become a very successful self-determining group, meeting twice a month, to confront the news of the day.

JAN MAUDE

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DANCE AND LEARN



Classes commenced in October, 2017 when we welcomed the offer of Linda Grima, a fully qualified ballroom dance instructor, to commence a beginner's class. The response has been a little disappointing to date, but those who have attended

have acquired the confidence to become involved in the social dancing scene in this region over the past year, opening up a whole new form of mental and physical exercise as well as increased social interaction.

JAN MAUDE

FRENCH

We are an enthusiastic group who meet weekly to learn and speak the French language.

We also enjoy sharing our experiences of France, it's culture, food and wine.

Each year we celebrate Bastille Day with a morning tea of French food and wine. It is a great social time, with the singing of La Marseillaise



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Melbourne hosts a French Film Festival each year, so we take the opportunity to take the train to Melbourne, dine at a French restaurant and watch a French film.

We have been fortunate to have had some very passionate leaders over the last ten years.

Gigi Whitten, who had developed the group earlier continued until she moved away from the area.



Simone Somers continued to lead our group. With her wonderful singing, she taught us French songs which we sang enthusiastically. Under her guidance, we sang at the Christmas luncheon. Due to Family issues, she reluctantly left and we were again left without a leader. Jan Maude stepped up to lead our group, she did a marvellous job increasing our understanding of grammar. This was also a time when other members of our group shared in the leadership of classes as well.

During this time, Maurice Lesire began alternating with Jan, to lead us fortnightly. A true Frenchman, he brought with him his 'French' sense of humour, his knowledge and joviality.

The class put on a French play to entertain at the Christmas luncheon which proved a great success, demonstrating the talents of the group.

Sue Birrell took on the leadership of our group, while Maurice continued and together they made a great team with their complementary teaching styles.



Sadly, Maurice passed away in 2017.

Sue, an ex school teacher of French, is encouraging us to speak up and take risks. She blends singing, technology and grammar into our learning.

We have been very fortunate as a group, to develop a great bond of friendship. Each week we conclude our session by enjoying lunch together at a cafe, "speaking French of Course!"

DENISE LEFFLER

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GARDEN GROUP

During 2009 and 2010 the gardeners visited, enjoyed and appreciated 17 creative Victorian gardens, many of which highlighted the need and our ability to adapt our gardens to the changing environment.

What a busy time they had in 2015-2016. Trips away were the order of the day with a small but jolly group of ladies; and the occasional gentleman; keen to see an array of beautiful gardens, some small and lovingly tendered while others were magnificent in their acreage. Their diary best describes what they saw and how far they travelled in pursuit of their interests.

It was about 12 months ago when I was asked by some garden group members to get the garden group going again. We re-started in January 2018, with a fun morning painting plastic and terra cotta pots and planning the next meeting.



A good start to the year for our gardeners, we had a couple of hours in Jan's backyard getting to know each member and their horticultural interests, while painting terra cotta and plastic pots.



March 21st: Fords Bus trip to Melbourne International Flower Show. Seats are still available. March 28th: Echuca/Moama gardens visit commences at U3A car park at 9:30 am for car-sharing as required.

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We have enjoyed trips to Botanical gardens and private gardens, a talk and demonstration on orchids and assisting with the clean-up of our own U3A hall garden.

The development of the garden involved a big clean out of 30cm deep of rubbish, from the carpark garden, which had accumulated over the past 10 years. Just when we needed a large council skip for the removal of this

debris, along came a member with his ute and trailer. The trailer was filled to capacity half a dozen times, and it was with the help of the garden group folk who raked and lifted the bark, sticks and gum nuts into the trailer, that we were able to put a spade in later to dig a hole!

We chose to leave the Arbutus (Strawberry Tree) and the Adenanthos (Woolly bush) as they were still doing well. Some severe pruning to others in the car park area, like the Callistemons, Acacia, Agonis and Leucadendron has proven worthwhile.

We now had some gaps to fill in both the hall garden and the car park garden. My preference was for native plants



as they are so interesting and after getting established they will manage with less watering in the long term. A much improved watering system was the next stage, along with the placement of new native plants. Smaller ones for the borders, medium sized for the centres and a few taller specimen shrubs. Shade lovers, sun lovers, there was so much to consider. How many, and the cost of it all too.

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I was lucky to secure 18 tube stock at \$3 each and to have a garden group member collect them from a nurseryman in Lakes Entrance! These are the white flowering bottlebrush, Anzac. Low growing, weeping habit. To add to that we were given a cash donation and some more tube stock. So, we purchased two Banksias Menziesii to go alongside the Grevillea Soopa Doopa. Other specimen trees are two Kings Park Special Bottle brushes. All the plants were started with Osmocote Native Garden fertiliser and watered in with Seasol, a tonic suitable for natives. To prevent the uptake of phosphates I have raked in iron sulphates to the areas surrounding most of the native plants.



The back garden was needing attention, I was often asked to tidy that too. So far we have only done the far corner and the plants have been in since early November. I think they will be a nice variety to enjoy when in flower, all natives. Now for the rest of the back yard, another big clean up is needed, we have a few too many geraniums and ferns, the one lovely red rose is a hero to survive and flower with all that competition! The crowded garden beds will be reduced slowly over the summer and in February when we meet again. I will be asking for ideas.

JAN VIBERT.

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HISTORICAL STUDIES 2008 – 2018

In 2008 the Historical Studies group continued to explore the nature of historical studies and the Goulburn Valley in the broader context of the history of Australia and the wider world, and in topics specifically related to the Goulburn Valley.

By 2010 three years had been devoted to the history of the Goulburn Valley with topics including Squatting, Land Laws, Selectors and the development of agriculture, Village and Closer Settlement Schemes, the Shepparton=Dookie Railway by John Dainton and other contributions, the Tallygaroopna Run by Bruce Lloyd, Italian migration by Mario Bettanin, and Dutch migration to the Goulburn Valley by Gerrit van Zeist, and local industrial buildings. Wendy Gannon shared her study of houses in Orr Street. Bruce Wilson presented his visual production "Shepparton Buildings Old and New" and spoke about aspects of local history. At the last session Jim Douglas, David Manning, Bruce Lloyd, Gerrit van Zeist, John Hammond, John Dainton, and Bob Galt added personal comments on various topics.

2011 Topics included Pacific Exploration and Settlement, and various English and French explorers by sea of the Pacific.

2012 All topics were on Inland exploration and the early settlement of Australia.

2013 The early discovery and permanent settlement of the Port Phillip District; Family Histories by Beth Chamberlain, Elgin Dougherty, Kevin Chapman, John Lawry, and Bob Galt; Gold in Victoria and Caniambo by Doug Stone; Early settlement and squatting laws; Visit to Savernake Station and talk by John Dainton.

2014 A series of papers on The History of Medicine from pre-history to the present by Bill O'Hare, and The History of Agriculture by Greg Barnes. Family Histories were presented by John Hammond, John Dainton, Wendy Gannon, Kevin Chapman, Walter Lee, and Gerrit van Zeist. John Dainton arranged a history tour which included visits to Day's Mill, the Aboriginal Protectorate Station, and World War 2 Camps.

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2015 Pre-history of Australia by Greg Barnes, the Mahogany Ship, Australian Gold rushes, Early exploration by sea of the Australian coastline, the archaeology of Kow Swamp and Lake Mungo. 19th Century Australian Identity.

2016 Medicine over the last 80 years by John Hetherington, More on Evidence by John Lawry, A family history by Bill O'Hare, Some Aspects of Australian Aboriginal History by Greg Barnes, completed the 2016 programme.

2017 The History of Wireless by Kevin Smith, The Pine Lodge Bungle and Cashel by John Dainton, John McEwen by Bruce Lloyd, Darraweit Guim by Allan Wilson, History of Religion and Science, and Historical Works of Interest and Historical Studies and Evidence by John Lawry.

2018 Program is Indigenous History Issues by John Lawry, Pine Lodge by John Dainton, Local History Tour arranged by John Dainton, European History by Gerrit van Zeist, Antarctica by John Hetherington, and India by Greg Barnes.

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INDUSTRY TOURS



We commenced in March 2016 so there is not a lot of material to contribute to a ten year history. Perhaps our existence does suggest that we are an organization which is evolving and maintaining its relevance.

In 2015 Keith Smith realized that much of what happens in and around Shepparton to create the wealth which we enjoy and care for our social needs happens behind closed doors. He suggested that it may be possible to arrange for “factory tours” in which a small group of members could be shown around and have explained what is being done and why.

Our first tour was in March 2016 when we visited the Tatura Horticultural Research Centre. The presentation was excellent, the material we were shown was interesting and we all learned a lot. Our visit nearly provoked disaster! Because we were out in paddocks and orchards we needed to wear closed shoes but several of the ladies were unknowingly wearing sandals etc. That wouldn't have mattered much except that our visit coincided with an inspection by OH&S staff! There was much muttering behind the scenes before it was decided that our tour could continue and the Institute be allowed to remain open.

Since then we have worn closed shoes and visited some commercial premises as well as providers of service. The Equine Hospital, Shepparton Waterworks, “Neatline Homes”, Dhurringile Prison, (the same number were present for the return journey as went outwards!) “Rubicon Water” and La Trobe University are some of the venues which spring to mind.

We make a trip about every two months and most of those who have attended have been pleased to spend their morning that way. Usually it has been easy to find encouragement and an enthusiastic welcome from our hosts but I am making a secret black list of those whose response is either negative or even non-existent! There is still a long list of premises, industries, trades and organizations we would like to visit.

JOHN HETHERINGTON

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IPAD CLASSES



Kiki Passenheim started Ipad classes at GUV3A in 2013 and continued on until 2015 when Carmel Norton took over for a year. Kiki returned to us in 2017 and finished in September 2018. Kiki thought she may return to us should Apple make changes to their equipment.

Kiki Passenheim

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ITALIAN

After a search for a teacher of Italian during 2009, classes started on 3 March 2010 with Connie O'Dea. Nearly all the class members were new to the Italian language, and Connie soon had them reading, reciting and singing. Everyone remembers the U3A Christmas party that year at the Woolshed when the class sang *10 Little Indians* in Italian with bright feathers for decoration. Meredith Chillman filled in until another qualified teacher Lelia Amadei started and shared week about with Ignazio Fantone who had also taught many students in Shepparton. He encouraged the class to make *conversation* in Italian. A lesson would seem to emerge from a single word and soon all the class had relaxed and spoken some Italian sentences and along the way had learned some real Italian customs. Lelia was able to return to the class in 2018.

Every year the Italian class was joined by new people who had not done a language before but might want to speak Italian while on tour. So, in 2017, after not finding an Italian teacher to take a Beginners' class, Christine Wilson offered to help new people



2016 12 Italian Class end of year lunch. Don Brisbane, Helen West, Ignazio Fantone, Zvezda Tavcar, Lyn Watts, Christine Wilson, Helen Hetherington, Glenys Rokhar, Dianne Ferguson, Lucy Ciancio. Front: Lelia Amadei, Lorraine McPherson.

to get the basics of the Italian language and then proceed to Lelia's class. Italian classes in 2018 run once a week at 9am for beginners and at 10am for more advanced lessons, with incidental conversation about the real Italy.

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LITERATURE

The main focus of the Literature group many years ago was Shakespeare. More recently under the guidance of Pam Wells the field of interest has expanded to include tragedies, comedies, history plays and sonnets. DVDs have helped to an understanding of the works and to enjoy performances by some of the world's leading actors. However, after a couple of years interest in the group was waning and that things were getting rather stale, and the program was opened up to appeal to a wider audience. Since then the group has enjoyed play readings with discussions to follow of Ibsen, George Bernard Shaw, Ray Lawler and Tennessee Williams. Children's books, our favourite authors, poetry, Australian works, non-fiction, classics and many other genres have all come up for discussion. Although the numbers of members attending are not large we always have an enjoyable time putting forward our very diverse views on the particular subject; we often discover aspects of a work which had never occurred to us, but which emerge from other members' interpretations of the author's ideas.



In 2017 Helen West became convenor of the group and under her guidance members continue to have very enjoyable and interesting afternoons on the fourth Monday of each month, and members attended The Bell Shakespeare Company's performance of 'Julius Caesar' at Westside on 2nd August 2018.

HELEN WEST

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LUNCH GROUP

The lunch group started when a young U3A used to meet the first Monday of the month at Deakin Reserve. A few of us that lived on our own decided to go for lunch afterwards. Our Social Mornings went to Tuesday but we didn't and we have been meeting ever since, visiting different cafes and food places each week.

Lunch group 2018



Lunch group 2015



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MAHJONG

When Mah-jong was established in the mid-2000's Gigi Whitton was the course leader. Her tuition was based on an extensive knowledge of one version of Mahjong which she shared generously. Her tuition has stood Mahjong players in good stead over the years. A highlight for the group was when U3A Melbourne head office invited a team of four to play during Seniors Week at Federation Square.

Membership numbers have dwindled over recent years due to deaths, ill health and the relocation of members, but new members are welcomed with open arms, and support in learning the game – remember “You are never too old to learn!”



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NATURAL RESOURCES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT



JOHN DAINTON

This course has been meeting twice a month since 2006 and during that time has been led by John Dainton former director and chairperson of Bonlac Foods Ltd, Goulburn Murray Water Authority and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority.

Subjects covered are Climate Change, Murray Darling Basin Plan, Irrigation Issues, Environmental Watering, Agriculture, the Food Processing Industries, and Biodiversity, local Government, etc. The course attracts large numbers because in most cases the discussion is centred on the Goulburn Broken Region. The sessions are run as a forum and attendees have the opportunity to ask questions of a speaker that normally would not have been possible. Over the ten

years we have had 178 speakers, 21 day trips and 2 x two-day trips and 1 x five-day trip.

Some notable speakers over the decade were Professor David Karoly who spoke on climate change and attracted over 70 attendees, Prof. Snow Barlow, climate change and Prof Barry Hart, Murray Darling Basin Authority, Steve Wilson GBCMA and the white rhino. Two locals who are always popular speakers are Barry Croke and Russell Pell. Pat Feehan, Geoff Earl and Derek Poulton who have been past speakers to the group are now GVU3A members.

Of all bus trips the most notable being the 5 day trip along the Murray River to its mouth in South Australia in 2012. During this period we had two 2 day trips in the Gunbower Kerang lakes area. Some of the one day trips that stood out were the Yea North South Pipeline in 2010, Goulburn Weir Mt Camel Range in 2008, Dargile Forest and Greens Lake in 2016, Miepoll and Ruffy in 2011, Whroo Goldfields in 2014, the Kingfisher Barmah in 2014, Pyramid Salt, Pyramid Hill in 2014, and the Dookie College, Killawarra in 2013.



A trip to somewhere green and shady.

On September 2014 the Nillumbik U3A visited us and sat through one of our normal Friday sessions, then had lunch with us before travelling out to a local dairy farm and the Chocolate Apple factory at Shepparton East. The highlight of the day was viewing a calf being born on the dairy farm.

Arranging speakers has got easier over the years because the local Government Authorities see GVU3A as a vital cog in communicating their message to the community and conversely, they can tap into a wealth of knowledge. More people attend the Natural Resources and Regional Development meeting than any of their public meetings.

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ON THE TRAIN

This enthusiastic group has continued taking day trips to Melbourne throughout the decade, visiting Art Galleries, Museums, modern and Historic Buildings and other places of interest and attending Block Buster Exhibitions, art events and tours.

On one trip we visited the newly opened Melbourne Recital Centre and toured the Historic Block Arcade building, opened 1892. "Our Day at Pompeii" at the Exhibition Buildings and with 3D glasses the catastrophe came vividly alive. Later we enjoyed High Tea at the Windsor Hotel.

We undertook a trip to the National Gallery Victoria Exhibition to see "The European Masters". Frances Newbound also led a group to Federation Square and the Rupert Bunny Exhibition while others continued to the Melbourne Museum for an amazing adventure "On the Titanic".

After a couple of years off we returned to visit the "Arcades of Melbourne 1840-1940" where we explored the alleyways and stepped into the Diamond Shop before a tour of St Pauls Cathedral and a new perspective on the facades through the ages as viewed from Spencer St. Station Young & Jackson's.

We attended a tour of Melbourne Town Hall, which took us through all the working areas including the Royal Suite for the visit of Princess Elizabeth and HRH Prince Philip. We were able to go behind the Town Hall Organ, to see and play the pipes, follow the workings and wind switches which start down in the basement. Later we also popped into the Oldest Continuing Bookshop in Melbourne.

"On the Train" went to Ripponlea with a walk to Ripponlea Mansion for the Phryne Fisher Gowns and memorabilia exhibition then lovely garden walks, before returning to the National Gallery of Victoria to view "The Hermitage Exhibition," a wonderful display of Napoleon's and Josephine's priceless treasures. Another trip was to the University of Melbourne Art Galleries where we viewed the Rothschild Prayer Book Illuminated Manuscript C14th-15th valued today at \$15m.

For a new perspective we went by V/Line Bus to Bendigo Railway Station and walked to the Marilyn Exhibition, passing by 'Marilyn', a huge concrete statue with full flouncing skirt. Later on to the Chinese historic Museum and China Town tour which proved a long and very interesting day.

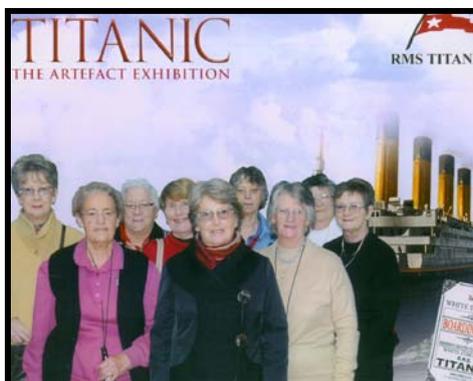
Visiting the NGV for the "Van Gogh and The Seasons" Exhibitions we contended with very large crowds.

Another day we returned to the NGV for the "Dior High Couturiere Exhibition" highlighting the years of creative exquisite glamour in all items of high fashion and the changes over the years.



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In 2018 there were no On the Train trips. I will not be continuing in 2019 and so, after many great trips and lots of truly enjoyable experiences, I thank each and every one and trust you enjoyed The Train days as much as I have.



BERIS MCKEMMISH

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OPERA APPRECIATION

This small group was started in 2017 when Allan and Christine Wilson generously extended their love of opera, and frequent trips to Wangaratta, to the interested members of U3A. The Wilsons have also shown their hospitality by opening their home for screenings of some operas on several occasions. The Wangaratta regularly shows the latest excellent opera production from the Metropolitan Opera House in New York.



In 2018 Madeline Dyer took over the co-ordination of these excursions and this year an excursion to see the travelling Australian Opera production of Madame Butterfly in Bendigo at Ulumbarra Theatre was also undertaken, as well as the monthly outings. The group is small but often 8 or 9 people travel to Wangaratta on a Sunday afternoon.

MADELINE DYER

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography has continued with around 5 to 10 participants, which allows the group to be more hands on, and one on one when required. Members have been very keen and enthusiastic, and a number of different genres have been tried. In good weather we are out and about doing photo shoots, and when it is too cool or too hot we catch up with theory, techniques, hints and tips in the classroom. Everyone has had that wonderful attitude of sharing knowledge, and this has been an important driver of the steady improvement members have achieved. Although it surprises some that although all members go to the same place at the same time they return with such different photographs – thus proving the adage “No one sees it like you!”



POP UP COURSE

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In 2017 it was thought there might be interest from members in a course about multiculturalism in Shepparton. A Pop-up Course was chosen as a taster for members interested in refugees and migrants who settled in Shepparton over the past three decades. The six sessions aimed to increase awareness and understanding of these communities. Sessions were conducted using a combination of speakers, short videos and discussions identifying elements of history, education, culture, food, religion, economic impact and personal experiences of settlement. The final session was to be a visit to the Islamic Museum, Melbourne. As the numbers were insufficient interested GUV3A members were invited to join the Friends of SAM who needed additional numbers at a later date. Informative and illuminating the Islamic Museum more than fulfilled members expectations.

A Pop-Up Course cannot cover the range of topics in such a large subject but hopefully it stimulated interest in Shepparton's multicultural population.



Peta McKenzie, Joy Campbell, Wendy Gannon, Barbara Brown,
Madeline Dyer visiting the Islamic Museum 2018

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Display at Islamic Museum

BARBARA BROWN

RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD

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In 2013 GUV3A had joined the U3A online project. Course materials were offered on a range of subjects including 'Religions of the World'. The course materials were readily available, and to access it would be a great way for U3A to engage with the rich multicultural community of Shepparton. The following article was published in the July 2013 newsletter.

Are you interested in a unique opportunity to understand world religions and engage with the many cultures in the Shepparton community? Read on!! This new course will start on Monday 8 July, and then meet every second Monday of the month. We will also visit places of worship as described below. Information on the 'religion of the month' (available from u3a online) will be sent out to the group to read and consider before each meeting. We will come together as a study group and formulate key questions and issues relevant to the religion. Later in the month we will visit the place of worship for the religion. We will meet with a religious leader and obtain a perspective on the beliefs and customs of the religion. The first religion to be considered on 8 July will be Islam. After that the group will collectively decide the 'religion of month'.

It was planned as short course running over 6 months in 2013. There were 24 members who attended one or more of the sessions. The idea was to first learn about a religion and then talk to members of the religion in the Shepparton community. The course commenced with Islam and after learning a bit about Islam, three members from different sections of the Islamic community were involved in a very frank and open discussion.

The next religion was Sikhism. Members were to visit the Gurdwara, the Sikh temple, and talk with the worship leader. Importance was placed upon the 'Guru Granth Sahib' the book of scriptures and songs that was bequeathed to the Sikh community by the 5th and last guru in the 17th century. Members were impressed by the reverence associated with the Guru Granth Sahib and enjoyed the hospitality afforded by the hosts at the Gurdwara.

It was a surprise that there were two practicing Buddhists in the U3A membership and part of our group, who gave firsthand accounts of their perspectives of Buddhist beliefs

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and practices. A visit was made to Great Stupa in Eaglehawk, which was then in an advanced stage of construction, and talked to the monks.

A study was made of Hinduism and how practices differed in different cultures. Finally, the Jewish religion was explored and a TED talk ‘the whole Jewish history in one hour’ provided a succinct and very entertaining account of the complete ‘big history’ of the Jewish people and persecution.

This course was a truly great experience for members who were all much better informed, (even enlightened) at the end of the course.

SAILING

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In 2013 several U3A members were involved in the sailability program on Lake Victoria. The idea of sailability is to encourage abled and disabled people to enjoy learning to sail. The program was running two days a week, and more volunteers were needed to help keep the program running. The course ran over four weeks and included rigging and derigging the boats, basic terms and practices, sailing under guidance, sailing solo, sail racing. Quite likely GVU3A is the only U3A to ever offer sailing as course for seniors – another first!



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SCIENCE MATTERS



Science classes began in 2010 with the aim of informing members of the science behind some of the big issues of the day, and led by Alan Wilson. The first two topics in “Big Issues in Science”, as the group was then named, were Genetically Modified Organisms and Climate Change. It was thought that this would be a better way to present science than to try to teach Chemistry or Biology, given that our members ranged widely in their science backgrounds, from having left school at 14 with no science to having a science degree.

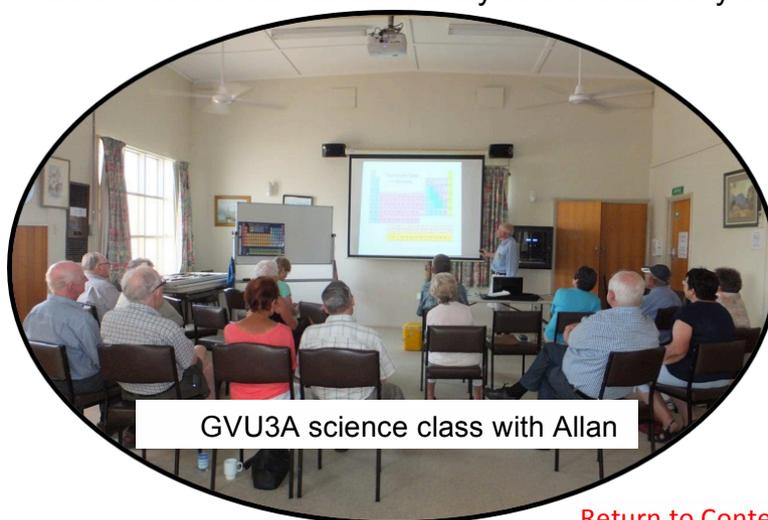
To commence the GM topic, which was more widely debated than it is now, some details were presented about the structure of DNA and its discovery by Watson and Crick, which showed the common connection between all life on earth. A lecture by Dr Carl Ramage from the DPI's Bioscience lab in Bundoora, was followed by a class visit to that lab. Understanding has created acceptance to the point that it is no longer a big issue in the community.

Likewise, climate change, which continues with dissenters, most of whom would not have read the extensive science involved. Presentations were made easier by the accessibility of an enormous body of information on the web from the International Panel on Climate Change. In the intervening years the emission of carbon dioxide has continued to grow, and the world has continued to get measurably warmer. In 2017 the topic was returned to aided by a lecture from Professor David Karoly from Melbourne University. It was found that a diminished number of vocal dissenters maintain their indignation and refusal to believe the science.

In following years the topics were less controversial. The first of these was on the Evolution of Life on Earth, beginning with "The Origin of the Species" by Charles Darwin. This book is one of the epic stories in science, with his long line of reasoning from the variation in nature, through to the slow selection of those variants that reproduce better because they are more adapted to changing environments. It is interesting that evolutionary science is still one of the hottest research topics of our day, now conducted less through the unearthing of fossils, and more through the analysis of DNA sequences in living organisms that contain many fragments of life past and from which evolutionary trees can be re-constructed.

What about other big names in the history of science, such as Albert Einstein on relativity, and the Russian chemist Dmitri Mendeleev on the Periodic Table of the Elements? Help came from two sources. The first was a talk on particle physics from Dr Kristian McDonald, a theoretical physicist from Sydney University, who had gone to school in Shepparton. He was in Shepparton just as the science world became excited by the discovery of the Higg's Boson. Relativity, which is important in understanding the big wide world of the universe, is where time slows down as velocity approaches the speed of light. The concept is hard to grasp. Quantum physics, which is important in knowing about the very small, was largely beyond our understanding of reality. The second was the discovery of a treasure trove of science video clips on the internet. Professor Sir Martyn Poliakoff could be watched in his laboratory in the University of Nottingham on video from the GUV3A classroom. He is a great communicator and able to bring a complex topic to life. Somewhere in between these topics we had a few talks on the ageing brain, which attracted a few extra anxious participants!

By 2016 we were ready for the Big History Project



GVU3A science class with Allan

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material on the internet that explores the scientific origins of everything. This project presents a big overview of what is known about our history from the Big Bang some 13.8 billion years ago to the present. It was developed by Professor David Christian from Macquarie University. His thesis is that history began much further back than that recorded in writing. He presents it as a number of major thresholds. After the big bang there is cosmic evolution where suns light up, supernovae explode and elements are made. Later our own solar system comes into being, our earth is formed and life evolves. Mankind follows, agriculture is discovered and civilisations develop. The last great threshold is our discovery of stored energy in the form of coal and oil that allowed mankind to escape the limits of our own muscle power. It is a grand sweep of history.

Since the group was rebranded as 'Science Matters', many topics have been touched on. Dr Laura McKemmish explored the chances of other life somewhere out in the universe. Other speakers covered the DNA of cancer, preventive medicine, the science of music, the importance of our apex predators the dingo and the Tassie devil in controlling lesser wildlife, and whether there is any truth in the health claims of A2 Milk. In 2018 topics involved the psychology of decision making, numbers and ciphers, and the science of mankind's future attempts to colonize Mars.

It has been a grand journey, with contributions from group members including Derek Poulton, Graham Watson, Elgin Dougherty, Harry Lee and Ray Pearson, and it has been appreciated by an audience of 30 or more older but still inquisitive people.

ALLAN WILSON

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SINGING FOR PLEASURE



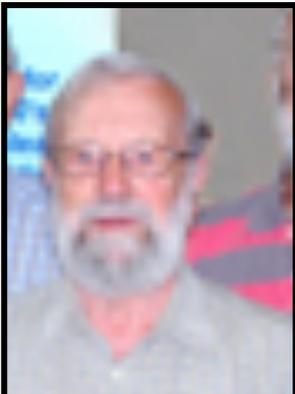
Singing for pleasure was held Wednesday morning from 9-10. Our teacher Elva Ridden had many accolades to her name. Her husband Brian was an author and also attended. Between 10-16 joined both male and female. We sang at the Peppermill one Christmas for U3A. Elva printed a song out each week for us to try. Sadly they moved to Queensland and we miss her and our class.

JANETTE COUTTS

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SOCRATES CAFE 2012-2018

The Socrates Café was initiated by John Lawry, Pat Crudden and Robert McLean following talk about establishing an open discussion group, operating under the



Chatham House Rule, within the GUV3A program. The thinking behind Socrates Café was that the unexamined life is not worth living, and that open discussion on topics of general significance can deepen the understanding of participant and lead to wisdom.

During 2012 GUV3A members met in a supportive and secure environment conducive to the open discussion of issues of importance to them and the Goulburn Valley environment. The nine topics included “How fulfilling is life in Australia today?”, “How well is democracy working in Australia today?”, “Are we dealing effectively with environmental issues?” and “What are the values that concern the whole human race?”

In 2013 Pat Crudden continued to provide an introductory paper to promote discussion on each topic, which included Our Political Structures, Role of Media, Changes in Employment, Equality and Inequality, Globalization, Population Growth, Climate Change, Prosperity, Socrates and the status quo.

The topics in 2014 were: Personal Integrity and Civic Responsibility, Self-help Organisations Knowledge, Insight and Experience, Role of Women in Social Democracy, Understanding the interaction between Urban and Rural Living, Getting the balance of Law and Order right, Political Analysis, Productivity Inclusion Security, Resilience, Individual Well-being and Harmony in Society.

The topics in 2015 were: Life in the Goulburn Valley, Regional Identity, Dealing with Global Change on the Goulburn Valley, Current Employment Patterns, Contribution of Education to Community Well-being, Let’s Fix Federation, Australia’s Migrant Intake, Role of Sport in Australian Life, Trends in Maintaining Personal and Social Health, Getting the Balance Right between Productivity and Lifestyle.

The topics in 2016 were: The Way Australian Speak, Reconciling our Materialist Ambitions with the Constraints Imposed by the Natural Environment, Our Common Humanity, The Search for positives in Australian Life, The Making of a Nation, There goes the Neighbourhood: Australia and the Rise of Asia, Defining and Achieving Well-being, New Trends in Mental Health Care, The Role of Volunteers in Modern Life, To What Extent do Marker Forces Determine our Choices?

In concluding this last topic Pat Crudden reflected on his involvement with Socrates Café, of which he had been “the voice” since its inception and expressed “with gratitude to Socrates and with thanks to all of you(for)... the indispensable role of open-mindedness, generosity and practical goodwill towards achieving well-being at every level of society both in Shepparton and beyond”.

The topics in 2017 were: Consensus, Re-thinking democracy, Motivation, Ethics, Violence, Equity, Safeguarding the environment, Complacency, Well Being, and A Problem Free Life.

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The topics for 2018 are: Community, Marriage, Meaning of Life, Free Will, Art and Non-Art, Is there a justification for taking a human life, The influence of a person's name, The influence of birth, The impact of religion on behaviour, Will religion ever become obsolete? How governments should be run.

The average attendance since inception is estimated to be 25 members. It is a general observation from the open discussion that the Chatham House rule enables members to feel able to share personal details with confidence that they remain within the group.

JOHN LAWRY

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STRENGTH AND BALANCE

Strength and Balance classes started about 2005 years ago with a few participants. There are now 25 people who regularly exercise and enjoy the benefits of this on their health. The participants vary in age and fitness, but all are improving balance, strength, co-ordination, flexibility, mobility and increasing their aerobic performance. Yoga and tai chi with beautiful music give a nice cool down to the sessions.

A reasonable level of fitness is required but we cater for most age-related problems that may affect exercising. One of the main factors, that is well documented, is participants, especially older adults are more likely to continue to exercise in groups than individually. The social component is most important, and our group has regular lunch outings which makes for fun and friendship.

Classes are Mondays at 9.00am and all are welcome.



LYN DAVIDSON

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Art, craft and photography exhibition

Who could have guessed the talents and skills amongst the U3A members who attend the courses in art, craft and photography? The Exhibition brought together a wonderful display of paintings, drawings and mixed media artistry; extraordinary photographs of high quality; and a display of colourful quilts, exquisite knitting, finest beaded jewellery, soft toys and more for the enjoyment of visitors.



Melbourne Cup Luncheon 2018

The Melbourne Cup Luncheon is a highlight of the calendar and 2018 was no exception. The ladies dressed in their finery and the men demonstrated a variety of hats and fashion from the grazier to the business man. Winners of the Fashion stakes were Jill Myers and Lew Sandford.



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TRIPS AND TOURS



Murrav Bus trip 2012

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[U3A Trip to Broken Hill 11-16 April 2016](#)

Our destination is 800 km north west of the green Goulburn Valley, what will it be like? The thoughts of the 46 people were full of excitement as Ford's driver Malcolm Moore drove the bus out of the depot at 8am on Monday 11th April. Past patches of irrigation we went until Mildura and Wentworth where the Murray and Darling rivers seemed to be flowing freely until it was explained to us that the levels were held up with a weir. Richard Brown had good information to share with us about the water situation. But what a wonderful experience then followed- cruising on both these rivers while the sun set and as darkness came, seeing the white trunks of the gums lit up as we passed by, barely disturbing the sleeping birds at the water's edge.

Tuesday, further from home and a look at the true state of the Darling river, way, way below the level of the heights experienced in floods and the little water there was, was that sickly green we had heard about. A long unsealed road was starting to give us the feeling of remoteness and isolation with lunchtime sandwiches in the small Menindee town. How about the Menindee Lakes, are they really dry?

Past where Burke and Wills had stopped under a tree long ago, we continued by several totally dry lakes until a surprise at Copy Hollow Lake where by some forethought, the available water had been collected in this small deeper lake. After all, Broken Hill needs some water so maybe we can still have a shower when we get there! Soon we saw what Broken Hill was all about - mining! A small mountain of rock - the Line of Lode we learnt to call it, some poppet heads, and a City - the only heritage listed city in the world with wide streets, and lovely old buildings holding historical and artistic information for us to peruse in the next three days and collectables to tempt us.

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Wednesday. A taste of Broken Hill art at Pro Hart's gallery and what better place to buy silver jewellery than a jewellery shop in Broken Hill where silver lead and zinc have been mined since 1883. Then at White's, we heard what mining was really like then and now, and what the difference is between the heavy galena ore (lead) and the much lighter zinc ore.

Thursday, where was the silver first found? Better go to Silverton to find out. The brave and fit went down an old silver mine to get the feel of the back-breaking job those old Cornish miners did in cramped conditions. It was hard for us to believe how thriving their nearby town of Silverton had been in its hey day. Great for painters like Ross who travelled with us, and great for Mel Gibson and his mates who starred in Mad Max 2 right there in that isolated place.

Friday, past more feral goats, emus and kangaroos, the bus took us to see the sculptures by

international experts placed on a rocky hill top where eagles once made their home. But we mustn't miss anything back in Broken Hill! There were still visits to see more history in art, railway and migrant museums, and geology displays. We were feeling isolated by now but perhaps our greatest delight was our visit to the Flying Doctor Service. We felt so proud of the "mantle of safety" that the wonderful men and women and their flying machines give to the very remote areas of our vast country, all started by Flynn of the Inland and his determination to make it happen. Credit cards got a good airing there in the shop as we found quality goods and souvenirs to buy to help a very good cause.



Margaret Adamson on the U3A
Broken Hill trip 2015

Saturday, a long trip home. By now we knew a lot about this mining town which is running out of the precious ore, and we were back in the bus to retrace our steps through the bluebush, saltbush and Mallee country that Allan Wilson had been educating us on our way through. Don Brisbane won the Australiana quiz that Allan had prepared to help pass the time while we gradually came back to familiar country - still waiting for rain like everywhere we had been. We have lots of good memories of places and people we shared the trip with and give our sincere thanks to Kevin Jordan and Marie O'Hare for being the organisers of a totally successful trip into this very different and historical part of Australia.

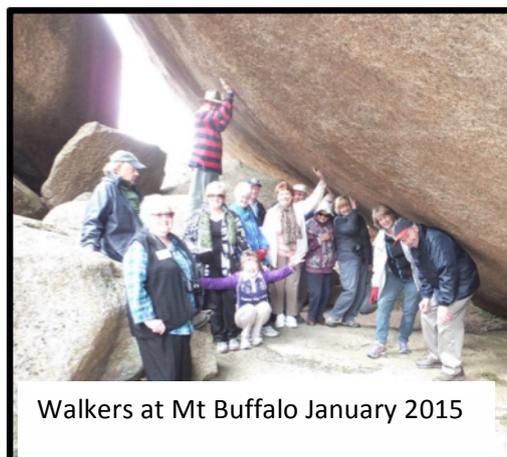
CHRISTINE WILSON

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WALK AND TALK

The tradition of a U3A walking group has continued steadily through the years. Walks have been in scenic places distant from Shepparton, waterways and woodland areas in nearby towns and around the local Goulburn River. In August 2012 the walks were planned and led by Christine and Allan Wilson. The name was changed to **Walk and Talk** as that was what actually happens in the group while walking and discovering places of scenic beauty and wildlife of many forms. Attendance remained at an average of about 12 with 15 on a good day. Marg Clarke is a valuable member of the group as she shares her knowledge of birds and wildflowers.

One memorable day trip and walk was led by Ted Stephens in 2015 to Mount Buffalo and Bright. It was a surprisingly cold January day with 15 members enjoying that beautiful area. Another memorable day was led by Frances Newbound to Mount Pilot and Chiltern. Both these leaders were taking the group back to their childhood areas and walkers were privileged to be given insights into these special areas.



Walkers at Mt Buffalo January 2015

CHRISTINE WILSON

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WRITING FOR PLEASURE

WRITING4PLEASURE began in 2011 with Joan Giuliani as course leader. Since then it has proved to be popular and has engendered a lot of enthusiasm. Joan handed over the reins, in 2014, to Moya Turnbull who led the group for two years until 2015 when Mary Heneghan took over.

There really is something about doing an activity in a group; even though we do the actual writing in our own time, at home, the enjoyment of sharing it is a very important part of this exercise.

Memories of the first couple of meetings in 2011 are of a fairly timorous group of people, some of whom had never written anything since leaving school. There were a few, but not many who had read their work to a group of people but most were uncomfortable with the reading part and even though it wasn't (and isn't) mandatory, they did it. Joan encouraged us and it paid off in the end.

Apart from their own shared year book, at least two people have published their own books and there are definitely more in the pipeline. They have learned, probably more than they realise. Some have even learned to put books together; edit, layout and front-page design included.



WRITING 4PLEASURE is a pleasure and will be with us for many more year.

MARY HENEGHAN

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2018 COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Back: Anne White, Greg Barnes, Ray Watt

Front: Carole Trotter, Barbara Brown, Kerrie Midgley, Sally Parker, Sue Walmsley

Absent: Mary Heneghan, Jan Maude

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OFFICE BEARERS

2008	Chair:	Jim Douglas	2009	Chair:	Jim Douglas
	Sec:	Elaine Wilson		Sec:	Elaine Wilson
	Treas:	Carole Trotter		Treas:	Carole Trotter
	Co-ord:	Beris McKemmish		Co-ord:	John Lawry
2010	Chair:	Jim Carr	2011	Chair:	Gail Jelliff
	Sec:	Elaine Wilson / Francis Newbound		Sec:	Alan Wilson
	Treas:	Carole Trotter		Treas:	Carole Trotter
	Co-ord:	John Lawry		Co-ord:	John Lawry
2012	Chair:	Gail Jelliff	2013	Chair:	John Hammond
	Sec:	Alan Wilson		Sec:	Thurlie Pearce
	Treas:	Carole Trotter		Treas:	Carole Trotter
	Co-ord:	Jan Maude		Co-ord:	Jan Maude
2014	Chair:	John Hammond	2015	Chair:	Greg Barnes
	Sec:	Candy Carter		Sec:	Candy Carter
	Treas:	Carole Trotter		Treas:	Carole Trotter
	Co-ord:	Jan Maude		Co-ord:	Jan Maude
2016	Chair:	Greg Barnes	2017	Chair:	Barbara Brown
	Sec:	Madeline Dyer		Sec:	Madeline Dyer
	Treas:	Carole Trotter		Treas:	Carole Trotter
	Co-ord:	Barbara Brown		Co-ord:	Greg Barnes
	2018	Chair:			Barbara Brown
		Sec:			Anne White
		Treas:			Kerrie Midgley
		Co-ord:			Greg Barnes

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Wendy Lovell MP – the monthly newsletter is our major communication to members and we thank Wendy's office for their continued support with its printing.

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