

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

October 2022

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(Entries close on 21st of each month)



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello to U3A members.

With the days getting longer and warmer we are encouraging you to seek out new activities and U3A provides opportunities to gather friends together to participate in a course or develop new ones. Remember people come into your lives for a Reason, a Season or a lifetime. Thank you to all members who shop at IGA, your community contribution has been donated to U3A of \$800.00.

Our speaker for September was Rex Booth from Angel Flight, thank you to all member who donated over \$650 to the organization.

It has been a very sombre time as the world mourns the death of Queen Elizabeth II, many of you will reflect on occasions when you have seen Royals visited Australia shores over the years under the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

October brings daylight savings and many outdoor functions; your very own Art /Craft and photography groups will be displaying their talents on the weekend of 22/23 October at our hall. Please save the date to come along hear some music from our Uke group, enjoy a scrumptious morning and afternoon tea provided by our catering committee as well as supporting other U3A members. Look forward to seeing you there.

To keep Goulburn Valley U3A up-to-date and looking for new courses, John Canty. Liz Lee and myself will be attending the U3A conference in Bendigo in early October.

The October Social morning on the 4th will be a **SURPRISE** so come along and join in the fun and catch up with many friends.

Stay safe and enjoy every day.

Rita Bloomfield

All underlined text is a link to either a course page on our website or to an internet website

Uke3A

Our regular Uke3A Program will be delivered for Members weekly on all Mondays in October 2022 (but not the 26th Sept).

The Uke3A group is currently rehearsing after 'week 4's' sessions for the St. Georges Rd. Food Festival and our Art, Craft and Photography Exhibition performances during October, Senior's month. Also, individual bands are getting organized for our "Battle of the Bands" play off.

Beginners are supported and welcome. Venue: GVU3A, ESSON Street Hall Shepparton, Time: 12:15pm - 1:15pm

John Canty email : j.canty@hotmail.com M: 0407264504 (text preferred please).

WRITING FOR PLEASURE

The next meeting for the Writing Group will be on Thursday 20 th October, at the G.V. Library. ROBYN will be our Leader. Topics chosen for this meeting are:

1. CAMEO or 2. OH! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING

WORD - PHENOMENAL

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH: "Ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them and pretty soon you have a dozen". John Steinbeck.

Lyn Austin - 0468 312 602

BIRD WATCHING

The October 19th outing will be a morning at the Lower Goulburn National Park - Reedy Swamp Shepparton. Please meet for 9am departure at the U3A car park.



We had a wonderful day on the 21st September in the Rushworth Forest. The plants were a magnificent splash of colour throughout the forest. It is the best I have seen since 2010.

The birds were good. We observed 35 species; the best being: Square-tailed Kite; four species of Cuckoo:- Fan-tailed, Horsfield's, Shining Bronze and Black-eared; Eastern Yellow Robin; Brown and White-throated Treecreepers; Rufous Whistlers; Mistletoebird; Fuscous, Brown-headed, Black-chinned, and White-eared Honeyeaters; Weebill; Striated and Spotted

Pardalotes; Jacky Winter and Crested Bellbird.



Don Roberts - 0448889224 or Marg Clarke – 0429350875

WALK AND TALK

Our next walk will be at the Benalla Lake and Street Art on October 12th. We will meet at 8.45am at the U3A carpark for a 9.00am start. We will share cars to Benalla, meeting at the Rose Garden for morning tea. After the Lake Walk we will return to the Rose garden for a barbecue. I will be the cook and I will bring some bread and snags etc., but feel free to bring your own meat. After lunch we will walk around the streets to view the Street Art. On returning to the Rose Garden some may have a coffee at the Art Museum before returning home.

Our last walk was to Kinnairds Wet Lands in September. The weather was cool, but the 6km walk kept our group of 8 warm. Marg assisted with her knowledge of the birds in the wet lands and we also had plenty of wattle to view along the tracks. There were also sightings of hares.

David Taylor – 0412 802 427

PHOTOGRAPHY

All photographers are invited to enter your selection of images in the upcoming GVU3A ART, CRAFT & PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION to be held on Saturday the 22nd and Sunday 23rd October in the U3A hall. As entries close on the 10th October. NOW is the time to consider your own.

Allan Parker 0418 144 131

HISTORICAL STUDIES

On Monday 10th October at 10.00 am Greg Barnes will be giving a very brief history of the Vikings. These blond-haired blue-eyed people were around from 8th to the late 11th centuries and they raided, pirated, traded and settled throughout parts of Europe. They also voyaged as far as the Mediterranean, North Africa, Volga River, Bulgaria, the Middle East, and North America (well before Columbus). The Vikings had a profound impact on the early medieval history of Scandinavia, the British Isles, France, Estonia, and the land around Kiev. It is one of the more blood thirsty exciting times in history. Come along and find out more.

John Dainton

COMMUNICATING WITH TECHNOLOGY

Greetings from hot, (mostly) dry central Queensland. All things being equal, Sonja and I will be back in Shepparton sometime in the second week in October. I will probably be recommencing Technology Classes as of Monday 17th October. Having had a couple of phone calls whilst our trip I know there will be a couple of new attendees. Classes will run from 12:30 - 2:00, 2:00 - 3:30 and 3:30 - 5:00. Those wishing to attend, please contact me (preferably by text as we'll still be doing a bit of driving until then - don't forget your name and time preference) and I'll get back to you and let you know the exact date I will be starting.

David Muir
0414881369

SOCRATES CAFÉ

Socrates Café is held on the 4th Monday of each month at U3A hall commencing at 10 am. A different topic is discussed each month, led by either Tina Hanigan or one of the group. Discussion is interesting and topics are varied. You can say as much or as little as you like. Come along and join the group. The October topic is still being developed but, I am sure, it will be interesting!!

STRENGTH & BALANCE

Come along and get fit for spring and summer. Class every Monday at 8.45 in the U3A hall. The benefits of exercise for older adults are well known and most reasonably mobile seniors can benefit from the program offered.

If you would like more information please ring Lyn Davidson on 0402019552.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no class on Monday 17th October.

CREATIVE CRAFTS

Members have been sharing the projects and enjoying chats each Tuesday afternoon. Hopefully, there will be plenty of completed projects for our exhibition in October. We always welcome new members to our group and look forward to seeing what they are creating. Every Tuesday, 1 pm – 4 pm.
Contact: Gael Thompson 0458 215 794

ASTRONOMY

The astronomy group has made significant progress. Our achievements include:

- Formed a group of 30 ASV and U3A members interested in astronomy and star gazing
- Presented at Shepparton art museum (SAM) star gazing night
- Collaborated with Goulburn Murray Land Care in a star gazing night at Ardmona
- Acquired 3 new telescopes through a Council Grant and donations which are available for loan to ASV members. We also have 2 used telescopes available for loan.
- Established 3 Global Meteor Network (GMN) cameras, and currently exploring sites for two Desert Fireball Network (DFN) cameras.

It's a great start – we are seeking your continued support so that the work load of running the group can be shared across our members. If we are looking to run public stargazing events we will need volunteers that know how to use a telescope and find objects in the night sky.

We are planning a meeting on zoom on Sunday 2 October 7pm – 8pm. ASV president Mark Iscaro will join the meeting to provide guidance for ASV Shepparton, loan telescope program and planned updates for the ASV web site. Further details and zoom link will be provided closer to the meeting date.

On Sunday 16 October we are planning a star gazing night for Shepparton members. Bring along your telescope and we can share experience and knowledge. This is not a public event. It is open to the 30 ASV/U3A members. If you are thinking about loaning a telescope, and need advice on set up and use we can show you the ropes. Please contact Derek if you would like to attend this event.

Derek Poulton 0418 559 263 (text preferred)

MONDAY LUNCH GROUP

There are 5 Mondays in the month of October. Every Monday - the 3rd, the 10th, the 17th, the 24th and the 31st, the group will gather at the RSL Club for lunch at 12 noon. All U3A members are welcome to join the group - as a once off or on a regular basis. Please phone your attendance intentions to Gail by the Friday before the lunch group meet. Her phone number is 0400 531 856

NATURAL RESOURCES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Friday October 7 at 10am. Mr Danny Thomas

In recent years there have been some major changes in the way large tracts of rural land are owned and operated. The last time changes in land utilization of such significant note occurred was when government organized closer settlement districts like Invergordon and Bamawn, that were established in the early 1960s.

The changes happening today dwarf earlier closer settlement schemes. Corporate farms, using both overseas and local investors, now own former districts. Sometimes land use becomes less intensive and other aggregations undergo major developments. Big shifts in population density, redundancy of community infrastructure and the nature of roads and channels can change, along with all those local committees that make a district.

Go-Farm, Ulupna Pastoral, Ace Farms, and the Victorian State Superannuation Fund are some of the entities involved. It is not unusual for such operations to exceed values of \$250 million.

Agents play an important role in bringing owners of contiguous land together, plus engaging the interests of buyers in a process that involves providing assurances to gain enormous financial facilities. The sale of farm land no longer involves a few locals bidding against one another at a local hall. It now attracts international interest.

Danny Thomas qualified as a valuer at RMIT, then worked for the State government. Later he became a senior person in the CBRE agency leading their agribusiness group. In December 2020 he decided to step back, but could not suppress his interest in this work as he became part of a new organization; Land Agriculture Water Development (LAWD). Check internet entries about him.

He has been asked to lead a discussion on rural land valuations, locally and overseas, plus talk about the changing nature of rural districts. Your questions on how he manages to bring changes together that transform districts should provide a top session that extends our notions of Regional Development. There will be room for more than the usual two dozen U3A members who normally attend, so please come for rarely discussed inside information that will hopefully help you analyze what is happening in our midst.

Friday October 14 10am Mr Andrew Shields, River/Stream Management, Goulburn Murray Water

Andrew will lead discussion on river management issues. The initial part of the talk will explain how GMW and MDB staff go about satisfying the complex set of demands for water while working within constraints in the rivers, channels and storage systems.

U3a members will have plenty of opportunity to talk about how droughts and floods, and everything in between, shape the decisions that have to be made.

With the current state of storages, rivers and Barmah Choke, this promises to be a pertinent and interesting session.

Barry Croke 0488 058 231

BRIDGE NEWS

Numbers at bridge have been steadily increasing through 2022. We are seeing 4 or 5 tables at our Monday night and Saturday afternoon sessions. A few less for Wednesday social bridge.

While most people who play bridge at GUV3A just enjoy a game of cards and social interaction, the club continues to do well in national and regional competitions. Nick Walsh won the restricted pairs at Coffs Harbour Congress. Nick and Derek were second in the teams at Yarrawonga playing with Chris Turner and Bryan Fuller from the Echuca Club.

Shepparton hosted the GNOT (Grand National Teams) at the end of August. Seven teams competed representing clubs in Northern Victoria. The Hackett team from Yarrawonga won the event and will now go on to compete against teams from across Australia in Brisbane in October.

We are always keen to show U3A members the game of bridge. We are a friendly social lot and always seeking to encourage new players. We normally run bridge classes in September, but this year we have decided to delay further classes until 2023. If you would like to learn to learn to play bridge please contact Llew Sandford 0409252065.

SCIENCE MATTERS

Our next science matters talk is on Monday 17 October at 1.30 pm. It will be on the topic: **It's OK to be called a bird brain.** You might think birds are quite simple creatures, that most of what they did is innate, but a crow with the unlikely name of Betty impressed scientists with her humanlike ability to invent and use tools. She bent a straight piece of wire into a hook and retrieved the food. Scientists knew crows are accomplished toolmakers, but Betty appeared to take things to the next level. Not only did she fashion a hook from wire, a material she'd never previously encountered, she seemed to know she needed this specific shape to solve her particular puzzle.

Birds have very small brains, but many species can do very smart things. Come along and listen to Greg Barnes talk about how smart birds are.

Last month 23 of our group travelled to the Murchison Museum to view a piece of the Murchison Meteorite that is housed there, on loan from Chicago. Kay Ball gave us a talk on the circumstances surrounding the fall of this object from the sky over the town in 1969, the collection of nearly 100kg of pieces and their high significance to science.



WINE TASTING AT FOWLES WINERY AVENEL

THURSDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2022, 11 AM-4PM

Join us at the lovely Fowles winery for a wine tasting of ten wines with shared platters. Booking has been made for 40 people so hurry to put your name down! A bus has been organised based on forty people, pick up and drop off in Shepparton to be finalised. Cost \$35 covers wine, platters and bus.

Full payment by 7 November to U3A Trip Account. BSB 633-000 Acc. 129896049
No refunds after 10 November.

If you would like to go, contact Anne White- mobile 0438 202 799.
Email- anne.shane@westnet.com.au

ART, CRAFT & PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION (ACPE)

Saturday Oct 22 and Sunday Oct 23 at U3A Hall

10am to 4pm each day

Entry: Gold coin

Morning and Afternoon tea available

Raffle drawn at 3pm on Sunday

To assist in making the Exhibition a success, the ACPE Committee is inviting you to put in entries (an entry form is attached to the email) and to assist with the running of the two days. Assistance from members, regardless of the group/s you belong to, would be greatly appreciated. We need assistance with the setting up and taking down of the exhibition and managing the door entry on each of the two days.

If you can help, please add your name to the roster for which you can help.
Enquiries can be made to: Gael Thompson – contact 0458 215 794.

U3A Melbourne Cup Day

Chicken and Champagne Lunch Tuesday 1st November



The U3A Committee is calling for volunteers to form a working party to plan a fun day out. If you are able to help, please call Julie Dainton on 0438218050. A sign-up sheet and more details will be available at the next Social Morning.



SCRIBBLERS

What a colourful day at Scribblers last month. Thanks to our newest Scribbler Penny Hamilton, who shared both her knowledge of watercolour pencil techniques and her beautiful set of Derwent watercolour pencils. We all learnt new drawing techniques and had lots of fun. It is always so interesting to see, that although we were all drawing/painting the same set of vases, all our pictures were quite different from each other. This foray into the world of colour appealed to some while others will continue with their graphite pencil drawings. This is what the Scribblers group is all about.... Being open to new challenges and deciding if it's the right path to go down at this time.

If you like to scribble, come and join us at 10 o'clock each Thursday morning.



Carer's Forum

GV Hospice are running a Forum: ***Caring for someone who is dying and yourself***, at GV Hospice, 102 Balaclava Rd, on Thursday Oct 27, 10.30-12. Call Molly Stephens at Family Care on 0477 714 926 if you are interested.

(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