

# CHAT SHEET

December 2022

~ MERRY CHRISTMAS ~

## The Gathering

Booking is now open and is essential for the next Gathering on **Friday 9 December** commencing at 12.30pm. Please contact Lesley Anstee on mob 0408 226 254 or [Courses@u3abawbaw.org.au](mailto:Courses@u3abawbaw.org.au) if you wish to attend. Bookings close on Wednesday 7 December.

## President's Report

*John Parker*



The end of another successful year is approaching. Numbers in our classes have grown throughout the year with some fascinating courses. It amazes me the wisdom and knowledge we have in our U3A. There will be opportunities to showcase some more of that in an exciting year ahead.

Mary and I recently attended a presentation evening at the Baw Baw Shire where we were formally presented with the certificate for our digital piano.

We also had the opportunity to meet with Councillors and the CEO. We are looking forward to seeing and hearing our new digital piano at our Christmas Gathering on the 9th of December.

At our November Committee meeting a motion of appreciation was moved and unanimously passed for the amazing work and commitment Steph and Rod Wellard have given to U3A Baw Baw. We wish them all the best in their new life on the Bellarine Peninsula.

Hopefully a little more sunshine is around the corner and a little less rain. Enjoy the summer break.

Wishing all our members and their families a very happy and safe festive season and a healthy New Year.

## **Courses Report**

*Mary Howlett*

Congratulations to all who organised courses this Term, your contributions are the raison d'être of U3A and provided learning opportunities as well as much enjoyment for members.

The Course Committee have met and are preparing the Course Booklet for Term One 2023. It will be available on the Webpage. The Soapbox series is returning as well as a basic Latin course. They will add to the choices that follow on from 2022. We are encouraging members to enrol on line, but if you need help to do so, there are phone numbers of both tutors and Lesley Anstee to help you.



The Course Committee would like to pay tribute to Steph for all she has done to ensure that the programs are well co-ordinated, for instigating the Book Club and Art History, and, that members are assisted to enrol and take part. Thank you, Steph! Lesley Anstee and I, along with John Parker, Sue Ingham, Virginia Rowley and Jenny Hall will try to continue her excellent efforts. Looking forward to an exciting year in 2023

Best Wishes

## **Accessible Science**

*David Ingham*

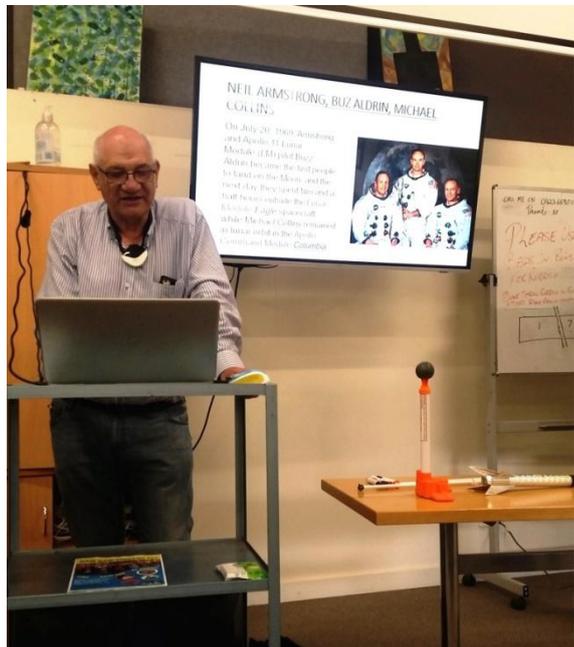
Term 4 has seen the development of a Science based program which is designed to be accessible to a wide range of people.

This program draws on the expertise of U3A members who have spent a lifetime working in science related fields and have been able to share their expertise in such a way as to include participants who have a wide range of interests and experience in Science, ranging from very little to high school level to formal qualifications. Our presenters have been able to engage this wide audience with amazing facts and examples relating to a particular topic.

We have learned about the differences between direct and alternating electrical current, watch footage of the bridge called Galloping Gerty fall down and learn all about resonance and vibration of bridges. We now have a clearer understanding of modern surveying and global positioning, and our understanding of Geology has grown immensely. Mary provided fascinating insights into Sound and Gerhard stretched our understanding of polymers and plastics. We learned about plastic recycling and many other interesting facts relating to plastic.

In addition, the course looked at topics such as Flight, Space, Rocketry and STEM. The secret of the program’s success has been the presenters’ skill in conveying quite advanced science concepts in an interesting and engaging manner to the audience.

Special thanks to the presenters, Allan Woolard, John Parker, Roy Wilson, Rod Wellard, Mary Howlett, Gerhard Thiele and Susan Ingham for their wonderful preparation and interesting presentations. Each session has been interesting and challenging. Reactions from the participants has been generally positive. Hopefully we can look forward to more science-based courses in the future.



Sue shows the class how a Saturn rocket takes off from Cape Canaveral, while David discusses the moon landing against a background of the three famous astronauts. Thanks to Ruth Renouf for the photographs.

**Congratulations to U3A Baw Baw's Favourite Author**

Members who have read any of Jim Connelly’s books won’t be surprised to read that he gained **second** prize in the Bass Coast Literary Short Story competition. The judges applauded Jim for writing “a charming memoir” of a bus trip to school during WW11. This painted a picture of the countryside between Garfield and Warragul, the vagaries of a bus full of teenagers and “the dream of creating a perfect society beneath our southern stars.”

Congratulations, Jim and enjoy spending the \$500 prize money! *Mary Howlett*

**A View from the Bunker** *The Editor*

I am reliably informed by our science whizz, David Ingham that next week's final class on Accessible Science will be accompanied, at the tea break, by some delicious nibbles, courtesy of the science tutor himself and his dear wife.

Our publicity expert Ruth has submitted an article to our local newspaper which will hopefully be in next week's Gazette and give us some good publicity.

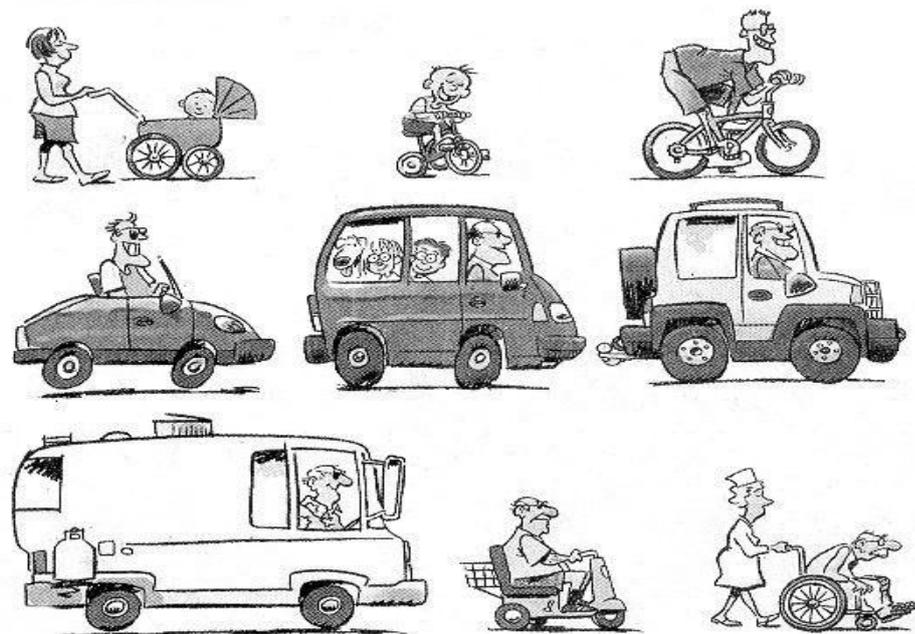
**Cartoon & Comical Corner** Nigel Beresford & Ruth Renouf

I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes... so she hugged me.

Scientists say the universe is made up of protons, neutrons and electrons. They forgot to mention morons.

Wi-fi went down for an hour, so I had to talk to my family. They seem like nice people.

*The Wheels of Life*



**U3A Baw Baw is grateful to Russell Broadbent MP and his office staff for printing this Chatsheet. You may visit our website at [www.u3abawbaw.org.au](http://www.u3abawbaw.org.au)**