

CHATSHEET

May 2023

The Gathering

Booking is now open and is essential for the next Gathering on **Friday 12 May** commencing at 12.30pm. Bookings are essential for catering purposes. You are able to book online by logging into u3abawbaw.org.au as you would for a course. If you prefer, you can email courses@u3abawbaw.org.au or phone Lesley Anstee on mob 0408 226 254

Bookings close on Wednesday **10 May**.

President's Report

John Parker



Have you ever thought how U3A first came about? So, I thought this month I would look back at the history of U3A. We now have two basic models – the French model and the British model. U3A was first established in France. This was facilitated by the French Government passing legislation in 1968 requiring universities to provide more community education. In 1973 a highly rated gerontology course, run by Toulouse University of Social Sciences exclusively for local retired people, led to the formation of the first U3A.

By 1975 the idea had spread to other French universities and to universities in many European countries and North America. This model still applies in many European countries, in some cases with modification. In the United States, organisations similar to U3A are called lifelong learning institutes.

However, when the idea reached Cambridge in England in 1981 it underwent a substantial change. Rather than relying on university goodwill the founders of the British model adopted an approach in which there was no distinction between the teachers and the taught. Members would be teachers as well as learners and where possible, members should engage in research activities. The self-help approach has been highly successful in Britain as well as other countries such as Australia and New Zealand. In 2020 there were over 1,000 U3As in the UK with a total membership in excess of 450,000.

The first U3A was established in Melbourne in 1984. By the end of 1984 there were 4 U3As in Victoria (City which is now Melbourne City, Hawthorn, Bairnsdale and Monash which became U3A Waverley). U3A Baw Baw was established in 1999. On our website under "About Us" is the early history of our U3A. There are now 250 U3As in Australia (104 are in Victoria) with approximately 100,000 members.

Courses Report

Mary Howlett



Term Two has commenced with a very positive response to the Courses offered. Vera Hartelt chaired the first meeting of *What's the Matter* for the term in her capacity as the co-ordinator. Vera is taking the reins from Jim Connelly who commenced this popular discussion group fifteen years ago. We pay tribute to Jim and congratulate and thank Vera for ensuring that it continues.

Music Through the Decades started with a mixture of beautiful Operatic and Symphonic music as well as toe tapping Ragtime and Brass Band melodies.

Latin has resumed, and this course is entertaining as well as challenging. David Ingham's presentation of the *Industrial Revolution* is fascinating and *Scrabble* challenges and provides enjoyment for the participants. It is not too late to enrol in most of these courses, you are welcome to attend one or two sessions to see if you enjoy them. Looking forward to seeing you at the Gathering

Our guest speaker for the Gathering on Friday, the 12th of May is Rob Hutchinson. Rob is the manager of the Drouin and District Community Bank and has an interesting story to tell about the contribution that the bank makes to our local community. U3ABawBaw has been a beneficiary of the community grants and are grateful for the support of the bank.



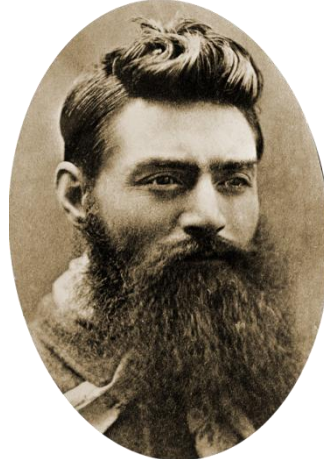
And a big welcome to our newest member –

Joan McColl

The U3A Quiz

It is time for a historical challenge folks. Are you up to it? The following person had a considerable reputation and gained a lot of fame in Australia. See if you can recognize the person. Was it:—

- A) Governor William Bligh
- B) Dame Nellie Melba
- C) Captain James Cook
- D) Ned Kelly
- E) Joh Bjelke - Petersen
- F) Bob Hawke
- G) Peter Dutton
- H) None of the above



The first correct answer will go into the draw for a Vegemite sandwich. The answer is at the bottom of page 4.

Cartoon & Comical Corner

Nigel Beresford

DOES ANYONE
ELSE PUT THINGS
IN A SAFE PLACE
AND THEN
FORGET WHERE
THAT SAFE PLACE
IS??



I've reached the age where my train of thought often leaves the station without me.

If you're happy and you know it, it's probably your medications.

At my age life is too short to waste time matching socks.

A View from the Bunker

the Editor

On 25 April, we were once again reminded of the sacrifice of many of our citizens in major conflicts of the twentieth century. My wife and I attended the morning service at the cenotaph, together with many local citizens. Representatives from the local schools and the Emergency Services took part in the march to the cenotaph where they laid wreaths. The local Gazette had great coverage of the event.

As you are well aware the Chatsheet is a sort of newsletter that tries to keep U3A members up to date on matters that may be of interest to them. If you, as a member, feel that you have an article, comment or information, that might be of interest to other members, please feel free to submit the article to me, the secretary

or another committee member for consideration. We can certainly consider including it in future Chatsheets.

Members will be interested to know that committee member, Cristina Isaac, has now set up a page on Facebook under the title **U3A Baw Baw Official**. Cristina is the Administrator, but she would also like to add one or two more people so that other people can have access. While Cristina can manage it at this stage, she feels it would be better to have more than one to access it. If you have a Facebook account and would like to help Cristina, please don't hesitate to volunteer.

Cristina also wrote a good article about our club that appeared in the local Warragul Gazette on Tuesday 2nd May.

We have been notified of the Boroondara Literary Awards Open Short Story Competition for 2023. This Open Short Story Competition is open to **all Victorian residents**. Entries close at **11:59pm, Friday 30 June 2023**. A maximum of one entry may be submitted per person. A copy of the poster is attached at the end of the Chatsheet. The Boroondara Literary Awards aim to encourage creative writing in schools and the general community.

For further details, please visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/literary-awards, contact Boroondara Library Service on (03) 9278 4666, or email bla@boroondara.vic.gov.au.



And you seriously want to be the Chatsheet Editor?

The answer to the U3A quiz question is: D) Ned Kelly

U3A Baw Baw is grateful to Russell Broadbent MP and his office staff for printing this Chat Sheet. You may visit our website at www.u3abawbaw.org.au



Open Short Story Competition

**Do you have a story
to tell?**

The Open Short Story competition includes the Keith Carroll Award for the best entry submitted by a Boroondara resident. As well as cash prizes, winners will have their work published in the Boroondara Literary Awards anthology.



FREE TO ENTER

Entry is open from Monday 3 April
to Friday 30 June, 2023

A maximum of one entry may be submitted.
Open to all Victorian residents.

For more information, scan the QR code,
visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/literary-awards
or call 9278 4036