

CHATSHEET

The newsletter of the U3A Baw Baw

October 2023

This month we will start off with some good advice from your committee, who are concerned for your welfare. The following two advertisements have been prepared by Virginia Rowley.

Oh no! Just don't go



If you have a cold or a sniffle, even a temperature (or two), please stay at home.

Please don't put others members at risk by braving the elements

It is not fair to others around you; some symptoms, although starting out mild, have put some of our members in hospital for weeks and left others isolated at home, sick for weeks after

If you are sick please stay at home

Mask Anyone?

The Shire of Baw Baw has donated boxes of single use masks and also boxes of RATs (not the furry vermin kind but Rapid Antigen Testing kits).

If you would like any of these, please ask your tutor at the next session you attend.

Please note that RATs have a use-by date. Check your supplies at home.

The President's Report

John Parker

Thank you to David Ingham, our Vice President, for providing the last 2 reports to the Chatsheet, while I was absent. During this period an extension of our lease of the RSL Hall with the Baw Baw Shire was signed for another 9 years.

There has been great demand for our Literary Lunch and there is now a waiting list. If you have registered for the lunch and you now find you cannot attend on October 13, could you please advise courses@u3abawbaw.org.au so somebody on the wait list can attend? It is also pleasing to note our membership for this year has reached 100.

At our last committee meeting, it was agreed that approaches be made to the Shire regarding more disabled parking spaces for use by our members.

In the last month our U3A has hosted the Gippsland Region U3A meeting. The Gippsland Region covers U3As in East, West and South Gippsland. Discussions included, the information that is available on U3A Network's website for U3As, and the relationship our local U3As have with their local municipality.

For those attending the Literary Lunch, enjoy.

John



And a big welcome to our newest members –

Michael Bishop, Sally Pardew & Ruth Green

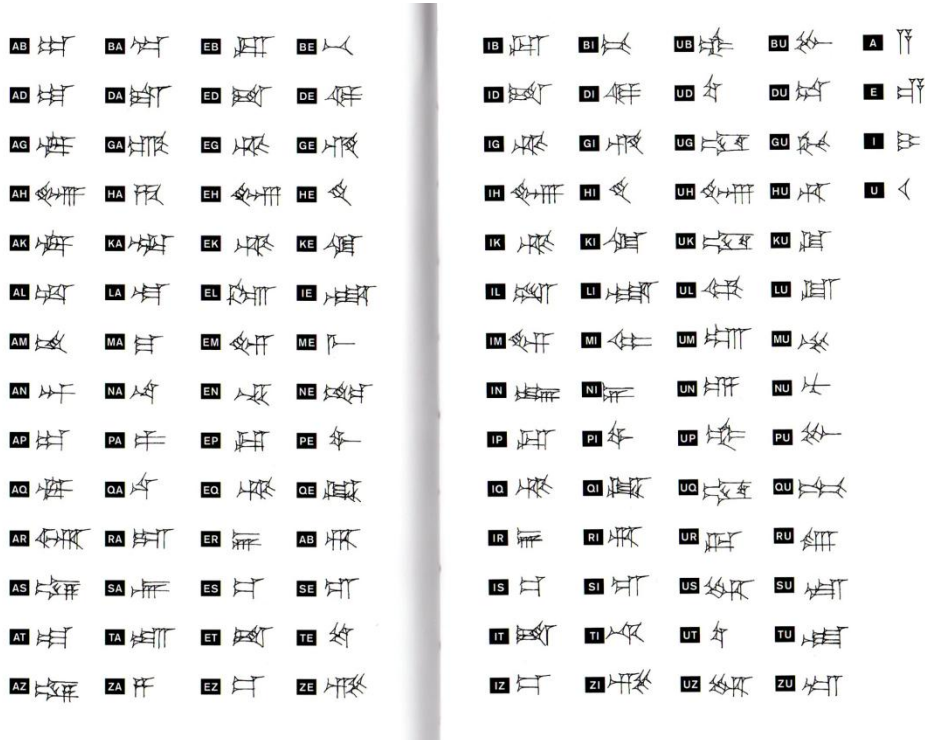
Treasures Roadshow Snippets

Virginia Rowley

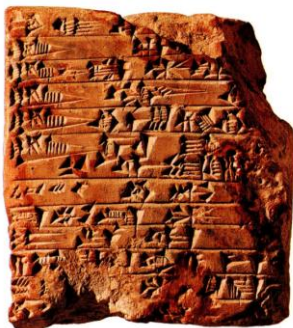
In term 4, 2018, my first year of speaking with Baw Baw U3A, I talked about cuneiform and the wonder of this 'other worldly' written language.

Written with a stylus, cut from river reeds, onto small blocks of river clay, these were baked when the city of Uruk was burned to the ground. In 1929, the German archaeologist Julian Jordan unearthed a truly vast library of these clay tablets, which were 5,000 years old. These were far older than the samples of writing found in China and Egypt and Meso-America and they were written in an abstract script that became known as **cuneiform**. The tablets came from Uruk (pronounced uurr-ook) in Mesopotamia, a settlement on the banks of the Euphrates in what is now Iraq. Uruk was small by today's standards, with a few thousand inhabitants, it would be a large village or small town to us, but by the standards of 5,000 years ago, Uruk was huge. One of the world's true cities.

The clay tablets proved to be an accounting system for trade – not poetry or stories of heroes – just how many sheaves of wheat and how many sheep were passing through the city's gates.



The truly amazing thing is that an even older 'checks and balances' system has been found. The **Ishango Bone**, found near one of the sources of the Nile in the Democratic Republic of Congo seems to use matched tally marks on the thigh bone of a baboon for correspondence counting. It is 20,000 years old. *Virginia*



We have been asked by a candidate at Federation University Australia, Chloe Waddell, if any members would like to take part in a survey on ageing well in our society.

Her advert is attached to the Chatsheet on page 7.

The following articles were also received by Bev de Gooyer, our secretary.

The Library at both Warragul and Drouin are running free Senior Digital Literacy Sessions between 23rd of October and the 4th November covering a variety of topics including emailing, health apps such as hotdoc, online shopping and apps helping with brain fitness for example.

To find out more and to book for the free workshops phone 5622 2848 or go to myli.org.au and under Experience -> Events at Myli -> Digital Skills Workshop you can read all the information and book on eventbrite. You can also contact Laura Campbell at the library.

After further discussion with Myli staff we were told that the sessions are filling fast as the "classes" are small. So, if you could tell U3A when you have enrolled and there is a group of 5 or 6 U3A members wanting to attend, the library staff will run a special U3A group.

Also if you are having difficulty enrolling let U3A know via secretary@u3abawbaw.org.au and we will put your name forward.

Our club has been approached by an organisation called the Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme (ACVVS), which is reaching out to all U3A clubs asking members to consider becoming a volunteer with Elder Rights Advocacy in the ACVVS. It is considered that this might be a rewarding opportunity for members to connect with our vulnerable and elderly members of the community, and which might make a difference in reducing social isolation and loneliness.

The person contacting us is Tanya Holmes, Volunteer Visitor Program Officer. Tanya has sent a Media kit and a copy of the Position Description for members to read and a Volunteer Application form for members to complete should any of you be interested in this role. The recruitment process includes:-

1) An interview (this can be done via Zoom); 2) Reference Check; 3) Police Check (Elder Rights Advocacy pay for this); 4) Online Training

Secretary Bev de Gooyer has a copy of all the information including the original email, so if you might like to consider volunteering, contact Bev on 0438 221 209 or secretary@u3abawbaw.org.au

A View from the Bunker

The Editor

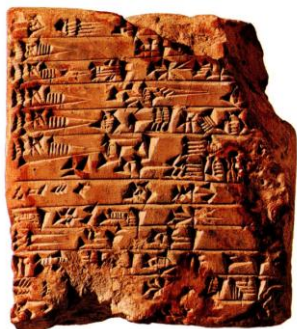
Our member, Ruth Renouf, was busy with her camera at the History of Ireland final meeting at which the tasty delights of Ireland were presented together with music and entertainment from the club's aficionados. A great time was had by all.

The photo, second from left, shows Margaret reciting some words of wisdom from the ancient land. Then to finish off the course some tasty titbits from the Emerald Isle as seen on the photo immediately left.



Jenny leads the choir in a rousing chorus! Not sure what they were singing — Was it 'When Irish Eyes are Smiling' or 'Molly Malone'?

Reading Virginia's article above on the cuneiform style of writing got me thinking on how difficult it might have been to impart the information prescribed on the clay tablets to other people. I thought of two examples that I have attached as follows:-



Can you imagine lugging the above tablet to the chemist for a 'script?'

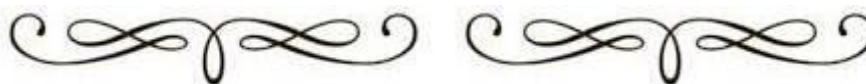


Can you imagine reading the above tablet and saying to the writer – "I think you put the comma in the wrong place."

The Chatsheet Quiz

Well members, time once more to check the old brain cells again with the quiz that has everyone at the United Nations talking! Well, maybe not everyone, but you never know. As you are aware recently our Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews has stepped down and his place has been taken by a woman, Jacinta Allan. Now this is not the first time this has happened, in fact, Jacinta is the second female Premier of Victoria. Now, can you remember who was the first female Premier of Victoria? Treat yourself to a sticky date pudding if you know the answer [at bottom of page.] Was it:—

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| A) Julia Gillard | B) Margaret Whitlam |
| C) Sonia McMahon | D) Coco Chanel |
| E) Joan Kirner | F) Gladys Berejiklian |
| G) Annastacia Palaszczuk | H) Greta Garbo |



The answer of course is: E) Joan Kirner

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

**Win
one of four
\$50 e-gift
cards**

Are you aged 65 years or older?

This anonymous survey is investigating
what is involved in ageing well.



**Scan the
code, or type
in this link to
learn more:**

<https://bit.ly/ageingwellsurvey>

This research has received ethics approval (reference number: 2022-154,) and is being conducted by researchers at Federation University Australia as part of a PhD Psychology program.

The flyer on the following page was supplied by Cristina Isaac



Guest Speaker

Nigel Beresford

**AWARD WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER
WILL PRESENT**

**MOBILE PHONE PHOTOGRAPHY
AND EDITING**



- Learn how to improve your skills when using your mobile phone to take photos.
- Discover the hidden features in your phone
- Learn a few tips and tricks to improve your ability
- Take in some tips on how to edit your photos
- Understand the benefits of using a free app to edit photos
- Hands on exercises (bring your phone)
- Info will cover iPhone and Android phones
-

Date: Tuesday October 17

Time: 9am for 9.30am start

Place: RSL hall, Drouin.

