

CHATSHEET

The newsletter of the U3A Baw Baw

December 2023

~ **MERRY CHRISTMAS** ~



The Christmas Gathering/Lunch

Well folks, it is that time of year when we gather round the log fire to enjoy Christmas with family and friends and to have a great time, including meeting that old guy with the white beard and red outfit, and who, so far, is the only man who can descend a chimney without getting covered in soot.

Booking is now open and is essential for the Christmas Gathering/Lunch on **Friday 8th December** 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 6th December**.

The President's Report

John Parker

The end of the year is rapidly approaching with only a couple of weeks left of classes for 2023. Thank you to all our members who have supported our U3A during the year, in particular our tutors, leaders of events and those who have kept all our systems operational.

Without all this support we would not have a U3A to enjoy all that it has to offer as well as helping us to stay active; mentally, physically, and socially.

Early in the New Year we have our Annual General Meeting where we elect our committee for the coming year. One of the positions we will be looking for is a member to take on the role of Secretary for a year or two. Bev, our current Secretary, will be available to assist and support the incoming Secretary. If you are interested, please feel free to discuss it with Bev or myself.

Our last committee meeting had a very full agenda. Items discussed included:

1. A progress report on what has been achieved is one of our goals in our Strategic Plan.
2. The Treasurers Report which included changing the format of our budget for next year.
3. Security at the RSL Hall including the installation of a bell for those who may be running a little late.
4. The Shire has advised they are investigating options to provide more suitable parking arrangements for our members who are less mobile.
5. The AGM 2024.
6. Membership has now reached 108 members.
7. Courses for next year – an exciting range of courses are planned, and the courses booklet will be available early in the New Year and you will be able to register your choices at the same time.
8. A comprehensive report was considered from the Co-ordinator of the IT subcommittee including an upgrade to our internet connection.
9. The Marketing/Promotion report and the plans for 2024. We now have 44 followers on our U3A Baw Baw Facebook page.

Finally, my best wishes to you all for a safe, joyful festive and holiday season.

John

Science Course

David Ingham

Term four has seen an experiment in terms of the normal Thursday programs. Hitherto these have been based around a two-hour face to face lecture with some audio-visual additions such as excerpts from YouTube, or pictures from books shown using the Elmo. The participants generally remain static, but sometimes are able to participate by reading excerpts or singing songs that illustrate the topic.

Science has continued this format, but in every second session has included activities in which participants work in groups to complete experiments or problem-solving tasks as a means of enhancing their understanding of and participation in the process of a conceptual understanding of the topic presented. An example of this was the topic on Materials where cardboard was used to create shapes that were stronger than the cardboard sheet. Participants manipulated shapes to explore lamination, corrugation, triangular shapes and circular shapes which have been used since antiquity in structures such as bridges, basilicas and aqueducts.

In the few remaining sessions, these experiments will hopefully lead to a greater understanding of how these shapes are used in modern bridge building and stressed concrete skyscrapers.

There are a number of our participants who have unique skills in this regard and their contribution has been essential in making fairly dry topics come to life. Whilst John Parker and I have substantively run the sessions, practical sessions have been greatly enhanced by contributions from Roy Wilson, Alan Woollard, Nigel Beresford and Robbie Dunlop to name a few.

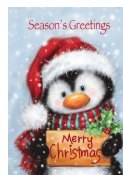
We hope that the practical aspects of the program have enhanced participants' understanding of the material presented. Other outstanding contributions have been made by Lesley Anstee and Susan Ingham. At the conclusion of the program an assessment of the program will be conducted to see if this style of presentation has a role to play in future programs. Thanks to Ruth Renouf for her great photographs and Nigel Beresford for his amazing bridge pictures. *David*



Roy shows the class how to hold a piece of timber !



It looks like David is admiring John's sneakers?





It looks like Lesley is receiving instructions from the Hand of God in how to hold a battery?



Was this an example of a structure or how to store a battery?

Courses Report

Mary Howlett

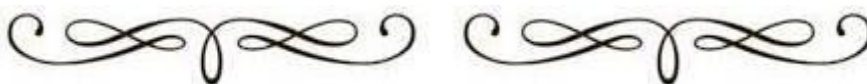


A popular course at U3ABawBaw over many years has been the Soapbox Presentation. This course is an opportunity for members to present a forty five minute talk/presentation/ demonstration. Examples of topics being presented in Term One 2024 are Lost Melbourne, Tales of English Royalty, Embroidery, India and Building your Own Home as an "Oldie."

There are slots available for anyone who would like to present. The screen, etc are available and help will be given in accessing this if required. But the presentation can be "show and tell" – I suspect the embroidery topic will be this. Enrolment at the course will be available for all members, as it is another great learning opportunity for all.

If you would like to present, please put your name on the roster on the notice board at the RSL or ring me on 0499221993

Mary



Mystery History Teaser*Virginia Rowley*

Early on in my time of speaking for U3A Baw Baw, I gave a couple of talks on the history of some sayings – where they came from, their country of origin or the trade that gave them life: Here is one of them.

Rule of Thumb: Two professions claim this one –

1) Bakers said that they judged the fine quality of the flour by rubbing it between their thumb and forefinger and testing the elasticity or ‘bounce back’ of the kneaded dough.

2) Builders claim it by saying that the master builder would leave his hand and thumb size in a fired clay block and in plaster piece, so that each individual site could use the measurements from his hand. That way regardless of who was doing what work on the castle, etc., they used the same measurement. Also, if the master builder was overseeing several sites (castle, chapel, military areas) and was moving around the complex, for example, then those others trades who moved also would have the same measurements to use.

*Virginia***Art History titbit**

Susan Johnson took members of the Art History group on an artistic journey across the United States from Wisconsin to Mexico, when she presented the work of Georgia O’Keefe, and told of her interesting life as a strong feminist painter in the late 19th and throughout the 20th century.

We learnt of her marriage to the famous photographer Alfred Stieglitz and were treated to the variety of her work ranging from flowers, bones and landscapes.

Art History will continue in Term One 2024 on the third Monday of each month at 2 pm.

Mary Howlett

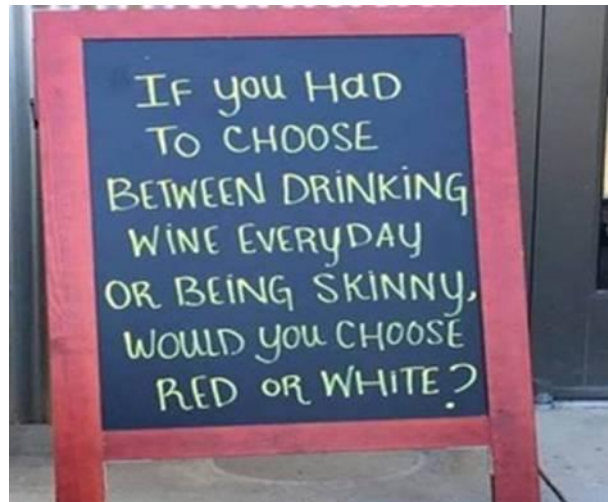


And a big welcome to our newest members –

John Molligodde and Ron Mether

And once more, some humorous titbits from Vera Hartelt:—

**My doctor has
given me three
days to give up
drinking.
I've picked the 5th
of June, July 17th
and October 9th!!**



If you can smile when things go wrong, you must have someone else in mind to blame.

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example, I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

And a couple from Nigel Beresford:—

A man was driving home one evening and realized that it was his daughter's birthday and he hadn't bought her a present.

He drove to the mall and ran to the toy store and he asked the store manager, "How much is that new Barbie in the window?" The Manager replied, "Which one? We have 'Barbie goes to the gym' for \$19.95, 'Barbie goes to the Ball' for \$19.95, 'Barbie goes shopping' for \$19.95, 'Barbie goes to the beach' for \$19.95, 'Barbie goes to the Nightclub' for \$19.95 and 'Divorced Barbie' for \$375.00."

"Why is the 'Divorced Barbie' \$375.00 when all the others are \$19.95?!?" the Dad asked surprised. "

"'Divorced Barbie' comes with Ken's car, Ken's House, Ken's boat, Ken's dog, Ken's cat and Ken's furniture."



The Chatsheet Quiz

Well folks, time to test the old mind again and try the quiz that has everyone in Parliament House talking, including Peter Dutton and Anthony Albanese. This time see if you can recognize the woman in the photograph. She was an important leader in the advancement of women's rights and freedoms. The answer is at the bottom of this page. Is the lady —

- A) Georgie Crozier
- B) Julia Gillard
- C) Sussan Ley
- D) Bridget McKenzie
- E) Emmeline Pankhurst
- F) Gladys Berejiklian
- G) Doris Day
- H) Margaret Rutherford
- I) Anna Bligh



The answer is E) Emmeline Pankhurst

A View from the Bunker

Robert Dunlop

Well folks, another fabulous end to a great year at our group and organisation. Haven't we just enjoyed coming along to our meetings and classes and mixing with all our friends and companions. The courses continue to excite us with their depth of information, articulate tutors and speakers, and there is always the good cup of tea and/or coffee to keep us nourished. And of course there are the monthly Gatherings and Literary Lunch to keep us enthused.

And let's not forget the pleasant surprise this year, when one of our members received the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM.) Yes, our own Past President Mary Howlett, received the OAM for service to the country.

I am always reminded of how lucky we are to live in Warragul, with the West Gippsland Art Centre (WGAC) on our doorstep. My wife and I recently watched a very entertaining duo on Friday night (1/12). It was a delightful presentation of modern and classical music by Teddy Tahu Rhodes and Guy Noble. Merry Xmas.

And finally, another snippet from Vera

I wonder how this marriage turned out



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