



CHATSHEET

The newsletter of the U3A Baw Baw

March 2024

The Gathering / Annual General Meeting

Booking is now open and is essential for the Gathering and Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Friday 8th March** 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. This is an exciting event in the U3A Baw Baw calendar, as we review the year past, thank the previous committee and vote in the new committee. We look forward to seeing you there.

Bookings close on **Wednesday 6th March**.

The President's Report

John Parker

My term as President will come to an end at our Annual General Meeting on March 8. I would like to thank all members who have supported our U3A Baw Baw in a wide variety of ways. This includes tutors, committee members, class attendees and in several other ways.

U3A Baw Baw was formed in 1999, as part of a worldwide organisation, to provide for retired or semi-retired members of the Baw Baw Shire community to share many educational, creative, social and leisure activities. This year is our 25th anniversary, which will be recognised with a special cake at our AGM with some of our foundation members cutting it. Jim Connelly will give us a brief history of our U3A.

We are fortunate to have at our AGM as guest speaker our Baw Baw Shire Deputy Mayor, Councillor Tricia Jones. Cr Jones will also act as Returning Officer for the election of our new committee. Please note, only those members who have paid their 2024 subscription are eligible to vote at the AGM. It is very pleasing to see the response we have had from our membership nominating for positions on the committee. Thank you to all those who have nominated, which indicates a positive future for our U3A.

Several issues from the current committee will be carried forward into the new committee, including ongoing discussions with the Shire regarding more parking spaces for those with limited mobility.

It has been a pleasure serving as your President and I wish the incoming committee a successful U3A year.

John



And a big welcome to our newest members –
Rhonda Hawkins, Suze Darley, Sandra Seymour & Peter Brasier

Wish to Learn a Language?

Geoff Clynes

Next term I intend to offer a new and unique course on the Indonesian language. The course will be presented for members, and could be especially beneficial for those aspiring tourists and visitors who would like to better understand one of our nearest neighbours. The language is less difficult than most, but still needs a new way of thinking that is a challenge.

As one of our nearest neighbours, Indonesia is coming out of an isolated internal growth period and we are likely to deal a lot more with those 250 – odd million people this decade. Language courses are not common and we are keen to offer more chances of such important learning experiences. So, get a seat now because they must be limited.

The course will be scheduled weekly on a Wednesday, from 10:00am until 12 noon and starting on 17th April.

Contact me on 0438 953 753 or courses@u3abawbaw.org.au

Geoff

A Whimsical Look at World Literature

David Ingham

The world of literature is huge. It contains a great deal of wisdom, warmth, silliness and cruelty. Engaging with literature will hopefully engage and delight. This course covers a broad range of literature from many different cultures. This literature gives us a view into the lives and minds of all those cultures and hopefully there is enough in these stories to entertain us and challenge how we think of people in other times and places and with different cultures. Here are some fun literature facts:

What has 4 legs in the morning, two legs in the afternoon and three legs in the evening? This is a riddle from Oedipus Rex by Sophocles.

The Battle of Maldon took place on 11 August, 991AD near Maldon beside the River Blackwater in Essex, England, during the reign of Æthelred the Unready. Earl Byrhtnoth and his Thegns, [also known as Thaness,] led the English against a Viking invasion. The battle ended in an Anglo-Saxon defeat. *Three Anglo-Saxon warriors, Wulfstan, Ælfhere and Maccus blocked the bridge, successfully engaging any*

Vikings who pressed forward (lines 72–83). The Viking commander requested that Byrhtnoth allow his troops onto the shore for formal battle. Byrhtnoth agreed and as a result was thoroughly defeated by the Vikings. What was he thinking?!!

Franz Kafka in his novella, *Metamorphosis* tells the story of salesman Gregor Samsa, who wakes one morning to find himself inexplicably transformed into a huge insect (German: *ungeheueres Ungeziefer*, literally "monstrous vermin") and subsequently struggles to adjust to this new condition. Now that would surprise you. Thank heavens the story was written in the pre Mortein era!

Daniel Defoe wrote Robinson Crusoe. *Crusoe joins an expedition to purchase slaves from Africa but is shipwrecked in a storm about forty miles out to sea on an island off the Venezuelan coast (which he calls the Island of Despair) near the mouth of the Orinoco River on 30 September 1659. Finally another person is washed up and Crusoe makes him his servant and calls him Friday. In so doing Crusoe created history, being the only person to ever have all their work completed by Friday!*

Some literature is not necessarily what it seems. The Pied Piper of Hamelin tells of the Pied Piper who rids Hamelin of rats for an agreed fee, which the authorities refuse to pay. So the Pied Piper comes back and takes their children. A gruesome tale, but one that might have other connotations? A number of theories suggest that the children died of some natural causes such as disease or starvation, and that the Piper was a symbolic figure of Death.

Speculation on the emigration theory is based on the idea that, by the 13th century, overpopulation of the area resulted in the oldest son owning all the land and power (majorat), leaving the rest as serfs. It has also been suggested that one reason the emigration of the children was never documented was that the children were sold to a recruiter from the Baltic region of Eastern Europe, a practice that was not uncommon at the time. Despite all of this, the story remains compelling.

These are just snippets of the material we will cover in this unit. It is not aimed to be highly intellectual, but rather to pique our interest and perhaps help us to reflect on the nature of human beings.

Finally, a little story about Jonathon Swift, author of *Gulliver's Travels*. Swift was so frightened of prosecution due to the contents of the book which was a satire about British political life, that he hired a cab and threw the manuscript onto the porch of his publisher! As it turned out the book was published, and everyone loved the story, totally missing the point he was writing about! More to come.....

- *Italics taken from Wikipedia*

David

Comedy Snippet

Nigel Beresford

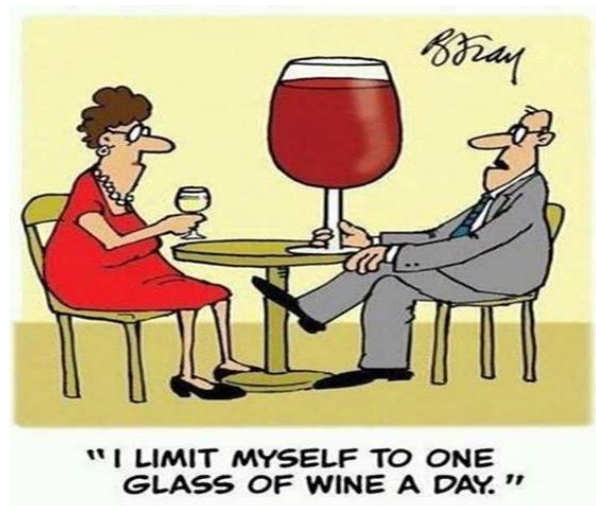
Early one morning, a mother went in to wake up her son. "Wake up, son. It's time to go to school!" she said. "But why, Mum?" he replied. "I don't want to

go.” “Give me two reasons why you don’t want to go,” his mother fired back. “Well,” he said. “The kids hate me for one, and the teachers hate me too!” Oh, that’s no reason not to go to school,” his mum said. “Come on now and get ready.” “Give me two reasons why I should go to school,” the son quipped. “Well for one, you’re 45 years old, and for another you’re the Principal,” she said.

Cartoon Corner

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!!**



The U3A Quiz

Well members, time to get the old brain cells working again. Time to test your knowledge of the things that are happening in the world today: Things that are in the news. Things that Donald Trump feels you should know. See if you know the answer to this question: —



This politician kept five secrets from his colleagues, which caused a bit of a kerfuffle. Do you know what the secrets were?

Was it one of the following? —

- A) He took five secret holidays to Hawaii but did not tell his wife
- B) He gave himself five secret ministries but did not tell his party members

- C) He made himself five ministers of the Hillsong Church but did not tell Brian Houston
- D) He sold the USA five nuclear subs but did not tell the Americans

If you know the correct answer, treat yourself to a Ferrero Rocher.

And finally from our friends at the Off the Leash Theatre: —



The Heartbreak Choir

by Aidan Fennessy

Fri 19 - Sun 21 April

Friday 19 April 7:30pm

Saturday 20 April 1:30pm & 7:30pm

Sunday 21 April 1:30pm

Off The Leash Theatre proudly presents The Heartbreak Choir by Aidan Fennessy.

"There's been a bit of drama in the local choir." The Heartbreak Choir is a warm-hearted hug of a play with some singing in it. Hilarity, Heartbreak & Harmonies.... A play about a Small Town with Big Voices.

Duration: 2 hours and 30 minutes including intermission

Members: \$35

Full: \$39

Concession: \$35