

# CHATSHEET

The newsletter of the U3A Baw Baw

April 2024



Well, what a great photograph from our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, taken of course by our professional photographer, Nigel Beresford. From left to right, John, Bev, Holly deMaria (WGAC,) Vera, David, Councillor Tricia Jones, David, Donna, Janette, Lesley, Mary, Anne Griggs (U3A Network) and yours truly. A couple of more photographs are at the end of the Chatsheet. Enjoy!

## The Gathering

Booking is now open and is essential for the Gathering on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April** commencing at 12:30pm. Bookings are essential for catering purposes. You are able to book online by logging into [u3abawbaw.org.au](http://u3abawbaw.org.au) as you would for a course. If you prefer, you can email [courses@u3abawbaw.org.au](mailto:courses@u3abawbaw.org.au) or phone Lesley Anstee on mob 0408 226 254.

Bookings close on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April.**

## The President's Report

*David Ingham*

Following the Annual General Meeting, the Committee has been very busy in setting the future agenda for U3A Baw Baw. Henry Corcoran has been working on a grant application which would see the introduction of tablet computers and programs for people on how to use tablets more effectively. We hope Henry's hard work is rewarded!

A special thanks to John Parker for his amazing energy and service to our organisation. He has been an excellent custodian of U3A Baw Baw and, of course, we look forward to his continued service on the Committee and in his amazing support to speakers, which make getting set up for a lecture so very easy. John has finally convinced me that all I need is a stick with the presentation and use the new U3A computer, rather than carrying all the gear from the car. Thanks, John.

David Bayliss has hit the ground running as Secretary and conducted sterling work in preparing some of the required documentation. Thanks to all members of the Committee for your hard work and wisdom in keeping U3A Baw Baw vibrant and customer focussed.

We are offering a wide range of activities for next term, thanks to the Courses Committee. We are always looking for new ideas, so if you have a particular interest or skill, please do not hesitate to contact us. We have some exciting courses coming up in term 3 which should be of interest. Applications for term 2 courses are still open, so don't forget to enrol in a course of your choice. We hope that all members enjoy the courses offered in Term 2.

*David*



And a big welcome to our newest members –  
**Scilla Taylor & Libby Loane**  
**Graeme Marriott & Tony Taylor**

## An Indonesian Report

*Geoff Clynes*

Slowing down a bit on the crossword? That's normal for us retirees, but not necessary. We know growth in our brains needs new challenges, so here's a smart 3 (or 6, or 12) month option.

Starting this term, our Indonesian course is designed to meet a few different needs: for instance:

- 1) You'd like a look at a new language, with all its challenges: course Term 1 (Apr-Jun) is good. It's important for newcomers, and we look at politics, as well as,

history and geography. Members with prior experience might skip the first five or six weeks.

- 2) Might even have a Bali holiday in mind: just surviving the bookings, bit of shopping: Term 2 (Jul-Sep) will help. Culture matters now; as well as how when and where you go to solve problems.
- 3) Then in terms 3 and 4: it just depends what we want - is it lifelong learning?

Book your place on the website or for more information, phone me on - 0438 953 753.

*Geoff*

## **The Mystery History Report**

*Virginia Rowley*

Mystery History takes its 'time travellers' to many places and eras on earth and in Term 4, in 2023 we sojourned in the far off time of Kyoto when geisha were a dominant force in the cultural life of the city.

These colourful women were much in demand and their cultured ways were sought after by businessmen and others for the aesthetic quality they brought to a, perhaps, humdrum life. These women studied for up to six years to attain the equivalent of a master's degree in culture and were well paid for their effort.

However, with the advent of western culture a lack of understanding intruded on their way of life and from a peak of 8,000 women in this industry in the 1920s, the profession has plummeted to only 1,000 women today willing to take on the challenge of the study and physical discipline demanded by the mama-sans who run the learning establishments.

The worst enemies of this tradition however, have been the tourists who flock to see these beauties. So much so, that the historic Gion district has banned visitors from certain streets because of the harassment offered to these women. There are even reports of sightseers stubbing their cigarettes out on the performers. The pure silk costumes these women wear can take up to three years to weave and make and can also cost up to \$30,000 American and yet, some tourists have used them as an ashtray. It is beyond belief.

In our talk, we learned of the training and the examinations these women are expected to go through. We saw the celebrations attending the successful movement from one level of training to another; it is sad to know that after COVID closed the borders and peace ruled in the streets of the city, open borders have seen an American tourist throw \$10,000 in cash at a woman together with the key to his hotel room. What are people thinking of?



A quote from The Sunday Age, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 is “More commonly, tourists block the paths of the performers, who are sometimes mistaken for sex workers, demanding selfies. A lack of cultural awareness is a key factor in causing discord between tourists and locals in Kyoto”, according to James Mundy, of InsideJapan, a tour operator. “However, over-tourism is not just about big crowds, it is about lack of cultural awareness which is a big part of the issue here – big tourist groups and DIY travellers keen to get a picture of the iconic geisha in the traditional streets of Kyoto but with a lack of understanding around culture and etiquette.”

*Virginia*

## A Reflection on Learning Latin

*David Ingham*

I had the privilege of being part of Geoff Clynes Latin Course for 2 terms. As a person with absolutely no background in Latin, but who had felt that I had missed out when enrolled at Dandenong High School. I requested to study Latin, but as the previous High school had taught French, I was placed into a class that studied French instead of Latin.

Geoff’s class gave me the opportunity to fulfil a lifelong ambition to experience Latin as a language. Geoff’s background was ecclesiastical Latin, but he spent a vast amount of time and effort to make the change to classical Latin. Latin is both difficult and easy to learn. Its ease come from the number of English words derived from Latin. Its difficulty lies in the structural differences and the pronunciation which is very different from the way English treats its Latin pronunciation.

We all struggled at different times, but with Geoff’s expert help, we were able to make the necessary progress to engage productively with the language. Geoff watched how we were travelling and modified the course material and resources to ensure that the course moved at a pace his students could manage. As a person with a teaching background, I was most impressed with Geoff’s teaching ability and his capacity to structure the course for the benefit of his students.

After two terms, Geoff felt he had given us all he could and we wound up our studies with great sadness, but thankful for what we had learned and appreciative of Geoff’s herculean endeavours to bring a dormant language to life in such a meaningful way. Of all the courses I have undertaken in my U3A Baw Baw experience, I think that Latin is my favourite. This is despite the fact that I have enjoyed every course I have undertaken since joining U3A Baw Baw. I wish Geoff every success with his new Indonesian program.

*David*



## **U3A Baw Baw Celebrates 25 Years**

*Mary Howlett*

In March, 1999, six residents of Baw Baw Shire met to form a learning community for retired people in the Shire. Twenty-two attended the next meeting in April. In August the first Annual General Meeting of U3A Baw Baw took place. By then courses were running in Philosophy, Computers, Gardening, Health, Music, Psychology, and Australian History, all courses led by our own members. By October of that year there were fifty-three financial members, and a second round of courses had begun. U3A Baw Baw had got off to a flying start!

On Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, 2024, U3Abaw Baw celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday with a special celebration as a part of the Annual General Meeting. This was well attended by members at the Royal Hotel in Drouin and a highlight was when three founding members, Dr Jim Connelly, Anne Connelly and Olive Lyon cut the cake beautifully decorated by Aperloo Bakery. Special guests were Anne Griggs from U3A Network and Holly DeMaria from West Gippsland Arts Centre as well as guest speaker Cr Tricia Jones who acted as returning officer.

Outgoing President John Parker paid tribute to the 2023 committee and was duly acknowledged by the incoming president, David Ingham. U3A stands for University of the Third Age and is a university in the original sense of the word: a community of people devoted to learning. We are a volunteer co-operative of older people who share many educational, creative and leisure activities. Although it is called a "university," being in your Third Age is the only qualification needed to participate in our U3A.

All retired and semi-retired residents of Baw Baw are very welcome. More information about exciting courses offered is on the webpage U3A Baw Baw.

Phone: 0408 364 159  
Email for course enquiries:  
[courses@u3abawbaw.org.au](mailto:courses@u3abawbaw.org.au)

Email: [info@u3abawbaw.org.au](mailto:info@u3abawbaw.org.au)  
Email for membership enquiries:  
[membership@u3abawbaw.org.au](mailto:membership@u3abawbaw.org.au)

*Mary*

## **A Bit of Fun with a Pun**

*Virginia Rowley*

- 1) The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
- 2) I thought I saw an eye-doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
- 3) She was only a whiskey-maker, but he loved her still.

- 4) A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
- 5) No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
- 6) A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

### **And Some Puns from the Secretary**

*David Baylis*

- 1) I have a geography joke, but I don't know where it is.
- 2) I have a civil engineering joke, but it's still under construction.
- 3) I have an economics joke, but it's not in demand.
- 4) I have a statistics joke, but it's not significant
- 5) I had a History joke, but it was long ago.
- 6) I have a Corona virus joke, but there's a 96% chance you won't get it.

### **A View from the Bunker**

*Robert Dunlop*

**Well friends, our Treasurer, Ann Corcoran, wishes to remind us that some membership subscriptions are overdue. So, if you have not paid yet please do so. The annual subscription is \$40.00.**

On quite a different matter did you see the fantastic spread on page 22 of the Warragul and Drouin Gazette last Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March. It was a really good article on the Anniversary of our club. There were also good photographs of some of our members, including our original members, Ann and Jim Connelly and Olive Lyon cutting the cake. I have included a couple of those photographs at the end of this Chatsheet in case you missed them. You have to hand it to the Gazette; it gives us local folk good coverage and keeps us up to date in what is happening in our wonderful Shire.





**BAW BAW**  
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

**LIVE LEARN  
ENJOY**



And it is another good photograph from the Gazette, thanks to Nigel. This one Shows your faithful committee from left to right – John, Vera, David, Bev, David, Donna, Janette, Lesley, Mary and me.



Anne Connelly, Jim Connelly and Olive Lyon, the original members of U3A Baw Baw, 25 Years ago, cutting the cake

And finally, just to remind you of the wonderful mosaics that were presented to us at a recent class on that subject by Jackie Coyle, a couple of photographs by our intrepid photographer Donna D'Arcy.



## *The Chatsheet Quiz*

Well members,. This is an incident that made news recently. What do you think occurred that night?



**This man was seen lying on a footpath in Canberra. What statement do you think best describes this situation?**

- A) He hates sitting on planter boxes
- B) He is looking at and phoning the International Space Station
- C) He is a member of the Australian Parliament phoning his wife
- D) He is an Uber driver who has lost his way
- E) He is doing stretching exercises

*If you think you know the answer treat yourself to an M & M or a Tim Tam*