

CHATSHEET

The newsletter of the U3A Baw Baw

June 2024

The Gathering

Booking is now open and is essential for the Gathering on **Friday 14th June** 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 12th June**.

The President's Report

David Ingham

Our courses continue to be successful with some recording upward of 30 participants. As we approach the end of the term our minds turn to our new courses for Term 3. I am looking forward to the Victorian Justice System, as I have always had an interest in law. This will be a little bit different from our usual offering, so hopefully people will enjoy the new program.

We are also eagerly anticipating the Thursday course on Germany. This promises to be fascinating and will teach us much about a country which has contributed so much to the world.

The Committee has been working with the Baw Baw Shire regarding the use of the building which we share with the RSL. From time-to-time other organisations request to use the rooms, so the Shire is working with us to ensure that our programs and equipment are protected.

On the subject of equipment, we are working on a Borrowing Policy as we have had people requesting to use our data projector. Henry Corcoran has also applied for funding for computers which people may need to borrow. Thanks to Henry, John and Robert for their work on this exacting task. Planning for the Literary Lunch is well underway with the Courses Committee finalising the details. The Literary Lunch promises to be spectacular, so do book early.

David

Courses Report*Mary Howlett*

The Victorian Justice System encompasses a wide range of activities aimed at maintaining law and order, ensuring fair outcomes, and protecting the rights of individuals. It includes policymaking and law reform, policing, courts and tribunals, dispute resolution, penalties and fines, prisons, corrections and parole, legal assistance, and victim support.

This course will run each Tuesday, commencing at 10am in the RSL Club Rooms in Drouin, during Term 3, [18/07/2024 – 19/09/2024 Weekly.] Enrolments for this course need to be done via the U3A Baw Baw website. Contact Course Tutor, Peter Brasier, on 0433 298 057 if you have any queries about the Course. Contact Lesley Anstee at courses@u3abawbaw.org.au or 0408 226 254 if you require assistance with enrolment.

The History of Germany will cover Germany from its earliest known history to modern day Germany. The course will cover the development of Germany including the highs and lows throughout the ages. Topics will include politics, literature, the Arts, inventors, wars, industry and more.

This course will run each Thursday, commencing at 10am in the RSL Club Rooms in Drouin, during Term 3, 2024. Enrolments for this course need to be done via the U3A Baw Baw website. Contact Course Tutor, Vera Hartelt, on 0438 754 544 if you have any queries about the Course. Contact Lesley Anstee at courses@u3abawbaw.org.au or 0408 226 254 if you require assistance with enrolment.

*Mary***Mystery History***Virginia Rowley*

Let's talk about the economy in terms we all understand. The Lipstick Indicator is an idea that, in a down-turn of the economy, a sign of people's shrinking budgets arises in certain goods. According to the Lipstick Indicator, women no longer go out and buy lots of shoes, but they can still afford certain small pick-me-ups, such as lipstick. So, when the economy goes bust, sales of makeup, especially lipstick, go up, because it is a quick pick me up and relatively inexpensive to many women, me included, lipstick is a 'must have'. Many women won't even leave the house without lipstick on! I don't, and come to think of it, my mother didn't either.

The history of lipstick seems to start with Cleopatra VII, the famed last pharaoh of Ancient Egypt. Depending on what you read, she was either a renowned beauty or somewhat ugly. Her head is on a coin, and it doesn't look too good but that is not something to really guide us. She certainly had something that attracted strong men such as Julius Caesar and Marc Antony. She wore lipstick made of crushed ants and carmine in a base of bee's wax. And that is a commitment to lipstick.

Women as far back as 3,000 BC were wearing lipstick; mixing ingredients such as sea weed, bromine magnate (a flaming red liquid at room temperature) but very toxic because it was basically red clay and rust. Upper-class women were mixing all of the natural elements they could find that had a red colour and painting it on their lips. The person who is credited with creating the first lipstick that was actually in a stick, was a man. He was a Muslim who lived in Andalusia (Spain) and in around 900 AD he created the *first stick* lipstick containing a wax base, pigment and perfume which was then pressed into a mould.

Lipstick was popular right through the Middle Ages, but then its reputation began to wane when it became associated with prostitutes and lower-class women. It is another one of those fashion trends that the upper classes pioneered and was hijacked by the lower classes, even slaves! Queen Elizabeth I was a lady with a very pale face (many thanks to white lead makeup) and she liked to set her image off with very bright lips. Her lipstick was made from beeswax and crushed, dried flowers, such as rose petals or geraniums, which sounds nice, doesn't it?

In the 1770s, there was an American law that said women who wore makeup were witches. And not *just* witches, but witches who attempted to lure men into marriage, because obviously men can't make those decisions for themselves without witchcraft being used against them. Believe it or not, they could be burned at the stake for it. How dare they lure men into marriage? In Queen Victoria's reign, (1837-1901) women who wanted to colour their lips would rub them against dyed crepe paper or ribbon and (back in England) some would have concoctions sneaked in from France or Spain. They had to sneak it in because there was still a weird attitude about women and lipstick and their association with sex!

The tide began to turn in the late 1890s when Seers and Roebuck (in America) offered a rouge for cheeks and lips for the first time in their catalogue and then of course in the rise of the movies. Film stars would have to wear lipstick because in black and white film their lips didn't stand out unless they wore a strong colour, the male actors included. Of course, I should mention that for black and white movies the lipstick of choice was blue, because that stood out the best!

Celebrities were really the ones who fixed the place of the 'push-up' lipstick. It was common by 1915 and then it never went out of style. Max Factor invented Lip Gloss in the 1930s and during WWII, unsurprisingly, a lot of lipstick ingredients, such as petroleum weren't available, so there was a drop in lipstick sales because the ingredients weren't accessible. But by the 1950s, stars like Marilyn Monroe and Elizabeth Taylor, those most glamorous of actresses, were all wearing lipstick in movies and magazines and on billboards! Red has always been the most popular colour and it wasn't until the 1960s that trends in clothes and other types of makeup changed with flower power and the psychedelic age.

But what exactly are we putting on our lips? Crushed beetles, cow brains, fish scales and petroleum. Have no fear, these are not dangerous. Lipstick is a compressed tube of waxes, oils, additives and pigments that not only give you colour but also moisturize your lips. Obviously, no one wants dry, cracked lips – they make

kissing difficult to say nothing of drinking or speaking. We want plump, moist lips. So how do we get them?

The wax stabilizes the stick and moulds it into shape. The oil comes from cow brains. However, since Mad Cow Disease they don't use certain breeds of cows anymore. The oils and fats in the lipstick keep it just the right texture; soft enough to apply but firm enough to keep it from melting, unless you leave it in the car and it melts into the upholstery fabric. There are also emollients that make the lipstick even more moisturizing for your lips and that might include stuff like Vitamin E and Aloe Vera.

But of course, women are not buying lipstick for the wax! They are buying it for the colour. That comes from a combination of plant, animal, mineral and / or synthetic ingredients. I mentioned crushed beetles earlier; those beetles are the source of colour often listed as carmine or cochineal extract. The extract part of this refers to insects that are killed by steam and then dried, powdered and processed to create a bright crimson dye. It is nontoxic and non-cancerous, unlike some red dyes used in the past such as rust.

There are also preservatives such as alcohol and other ingredients like fragrance and sun screen. Manufacturers add all sorts of things to lipstick in an effort to sell more than their competitors. It is all mixed and heated, making sure the colour is consistent and the texture is smooth when it is pressed into a tube - a bit like making crayons. Then it is chilled until it is firm – you can make it yourself – just go online! After all of that, you get to wear it – and eat it! Women inevitably eat a lot of lipstick. It is eaten in small amounts and there is a claim that women who use lipstick all the time consume between 2-3kg of lipstick a year. Now, I don't see how that is possible, because the tubes only weigh a few grams and that is about 118 tubes to 2-3 kg. I certainly don't buy 118 tubes a year. That is nearly one every three days.

Perhaps that is why the Lipstick Indicator is so strong, because we are using them for food? But if that is the reason I keep putting on weight, perhaps I will stop wearing lipstick. Of course, from a different perspective, if I keep on eating lipstick that takes up space in my stomach so I don't eat chocolate. Now that is something to weigh up – chocolate or lipstick?

Virginia

A Reminder of the Gathering

Donna D'Arcy

The following article appeared in the Gazette on 14 May, and it is repeated here for those who do not read the Gazette.

For our first Gathering after Anzac Day, we heard from Joy Derham who spoke about her long-standing involvement with the Ex-Prisoners of War Association in Melbourne, and her recent trip to Japan. Joy's father and two uncles enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in May 1940, and were shipped out to Singapore in 1941. They were involved in many battles and were forced to escape into the jungle

only to be caught at the fall of Singapore. They were imprisoned in various camps, including Changi, and marched 316 kilometres to help build the infamous Burma-Thailand Railway. Tragically, Joy's uncles did not survive the brutal treatment but her father, Jack Lonsdale, returned and settled in Moe, although his experiences of war remained with him for the rest of his life

Joy has spent many years researching war history and this year she went to Japan as a guest of the Japan-Australian Grassroots Exchange Program, which aims to deepen the mutual understanding of Japan and Australia by inviting descendants of former POWs to Japan through the RSL network. Joy and one other Australian were "treated like royalty" throughout their trip and she returned with some sense of closure and the knowledge that the true story of Japan's Imperial history is now being taught in schools. All who heard Joy speak were moved by her story and very aware of the sacrifices that so many Australians made in WW2 to ensure our safety.

Donna





And a big welcome to our newest members –

Pamela Joy and Lily McDowell

A Visit to Q + A *Photographs by Ruth Renouf*

As most of you may remember, some of our members, together with some members from Drouin Probus and Warragul Rotary, went down to Melbourne to watch a recent production of Q + A at the Melbourne studios of the ABC. Our intrepid photographers, Ruth Renouf, and David Baylis took several photographs to remind us of the good time that they had. Thanks Ruth and David.

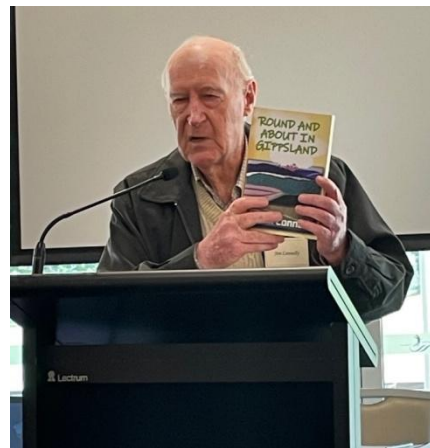




Our esteemed member Jim Connelly discusses his book about Gippsland to the members of the local Probus Club.

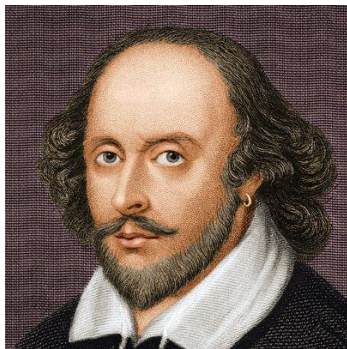


Photograph by David Baylis



The Chatsheet Quiz

And finally folks, recently on our fabulous Whimsical Literature class we learned about the person photographed below. Who do you think he is? Look familiar? Treat yourself to a Violet Crumble if you know the answer. Is it: —



- A) Banjo Paterson
- B) Henry Lawson
- C) Gough Whitlam
- D) Peter Dutton
- E) William Shakespeare
- F) Boris Johnson
- G) Joe Biden

The answer of course is Joe Biden. Oops sorry I meant William Shakespeare.