

CHATSHEET

The newsletter of the U3A Baw Baw

August 2024

The Gathering

Booking is now open and is essential for the Gathering on **Friday 9th August** 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 7th August**.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

David Ingham

Our courses are well underway. The current course on Victorian law is shaping up to be of particular interest. As a participant, I have found the course to be both engaging, and challenging. We are all discovering how criminal law works and the criteria applied by judges when sentencing prisoners. This is an area that is new to U3A BawBaw. It is really good for us to be challenged with new and exciting material which gives us a view of life and the way our society works which is new to us, even though we thought we had a good grasp of the topic.

To me, this sums up the value of being a member of U3A. It gives me an opportunity to gain experience about topics that stimulate a new interest or fill in gaps in my learning. I am very thankful to our presenters for their time and effort in preparing such interesting and challenging courses. Special thanks go to the Courses Committee for their capacity to keep coming up with different courses which engage of a wide variety of people. One of the most important roles that our organisation plays is to meet the needs of senior Australians. We do this by providing stimulating courses and also opportunities for people to interact with each other in positive ways and to share their expertise which has been gained over a lifetime. Given the fact that the majority of our members are retired, from time to time, some of our participants go missing from the courses. Sometimes this is due to travel, family commitments or occasionally, due to illness. We like to believe that our U3A provides opportunities for a wide range of people to engage in useful and challenging activities. In effect, we also form relationships based around our common and varied interests. This invariably leads to people being concerned when

some of our members get sick or end up in the hospital with procedures. Over time, the committee has developed a programme for attempting to keep track of people who might have any kind of special need. This may be that people need to be transported to our sessions, or that they are unable to attend our sessions due to illness. Please do keep Vera informed if, for any reason, you need assistance or are unable to attend our courses due to illness or infirmity. Many of our members are more than happy to assist you in any way they can, so that you can participate as fully as possible within our core structure.

We see this as one of our key activities and responsibilities to our members. Please do let Vera know if we can assist you. Mary Howlett also plays a role in keeping track of our community and helping to provide appropriate assistance if possible. Between Mary and Vera, we are equipped to find someone who might be help you. Please be aware that we also have technology that can assist you should you be experiencing issues with hearing the lectures that you are attending. This technology allows you to plug into our smart sound system and gain full access to what is being said. We are always looking for suggestions as to how we can improve the services we offer to our members. Please do not hesitate to speak to a committee member if you have any suggestions as to how we can improve the U3A experience for you. We want to be an organisation that grows along with our members and that challenges what we do, in order to continually improve.

Our Literary Lunch is coming up soon and we would ask you to be aware that our focus on Banjo Paterson will be fun and a celebration of Australian culture. I am sure this will be special to everyone, but as a person who came to Australia as a child, I am eagerly looking forward to celebrating the wonderful culture that has provided me with the most amazing life I could possibly have wanted.

I hope you enjoy the Gathering this month and we look forward to relishing all of our courses for the rest of the term. Emma and Sarah from the Warragul Municipal Band will be our guest speakers at the August Gathering.

I have particularly enjoyed the session I attended of Vera's course on Germany, and I'm excited about the possibilities of learning more about this wonderful and fascinating country. This is Vera's first course, and she is doing an amazing job.

Our Courses Committee is conducting a survey which is in this Chatsheet. We hope all members can respond. Warmest regards,

David

Mystery History

Virginia Rowley

The Rise of the Monastery

The word 'monk' comes from the Greek *monos* meaning alone or solitary and it was not used until the middle of the fourth century because until the middle of the third century Christian monks were unknown.

Christ's admonition to 'Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor', found its earliest subscribers in Upper Egypt – a boy of 15 who decided to live in a cave close to a palm tree and natural spring. He remained there for the next 60 years without human company until he was found by another hermit. This second hermit was then sought out by some admirers who joined him and he eventually founded two monasteries for which he drew up a Rule of Life.

The canon of saints from the beginning of the church has many virgins and martyrs, but no monks or nuns – not for another couple of centuries. It was after the conversion of Emperor Constantine that the religion was safe enough to allow the liberty of open worship.

Benedict was the most significant figure in the establishment of monasticism in Western Europe. He was born around the year 480 into a family of minor gentry living south of Rome. His rule appreciated the realities of living in a closed community and set rules for virtually everything. What clothes could be worn: black habits, but the materials could vary according to the discretion of the abbot and the climate. The diet was meagre: Benedict insisted upon a perpetual abstinence from meat and he set periods of rigorous fasting. They sang the divine offices at specific moments of the day and night and when not in prayer, bed or table, they studied, taught or worked in some manual capacity.

Pope Gregory, in the early 7th century, was so captivated by the sight of blond pagan Angles being sold as slaves in Rome, that he dispatched Augustine and a band of forty Benedictine monks to preach the Gospel in their country, Angle-land, today's England. They went to Ethelbert, the pagan King of Kent. (Mind you the story of the blond pagans is almost certainly apocryphal...)

The monasteries became the pioneers of financial and social reform.

Then on the 8th June 793 the Vikings visited Lindisfarne off the north east coast of England. The Vikings were victors on every front. Monks had a habit of hiding, running away and not fighting.

Within 50 years the Vikings has settled almost 1/3 of Britain and as the monks were killed or harried across the seas, the Saxon church was left in the hands of local priests who were sworn neither to chastity or poverty.

From here on the monks and nuns lived inside a religious community – walled away from everyday life and temptation.

Every aspect of their lives was organised by 'The Rule': social organisation; the food they could eat; the clothes they could wear; when they could speak; and to whom they could speak. All this then defined the amount of time they could spend in prayer and formal worship.

All monastic houses followed the same rule and worshipped at the same time of day in the same way with the same prayers because they were *all* Benedictines.

People from noble houses flocked to this way of life. Mothers wanted their more fragile sons to go into a monastery rather than go to battle which at the time was the only other profession available for sons of great families.

All this set monasteries to become the powerhouses of the Middle Ages – groups of dedicated men and women with time on their hands, could learn to read and write and by the 10th and 11th centuries they were doing so in amazing numbers.

As monasteries spread across the land, their power and prestige flourished.

To join a monastery, of which there were anywhere between 5 - 100 members, a recruit *had* to make a financial or estate contribution *or* they needed to be exceptionally gifted in some way – drawing, singing etc and as they came from wealthy families this tied the families ever more strongly to the monasteries.

William the Conqueror in 1066 and his Norman followers changed the architecture of the church forever. They didn't just build churches, they built Cities of God. Castles, abbeys, churches and cathedrals sprouted from the ground

This was the beginning of the 'noble' or Norman ruling class and with them came the lifestyle of actively protecting the church. When you look at the Norman monasteries and Cities of God, all the buildings have arrow slits in the stone work.

Virginia



And a big welcome to our newest members –

**Paul Banney, Iris Ludwig, Mari Lara-Laghow,
Donald Jaffrey, Bernadette Cherry & David Hassall**

Vive la France

Donna Darcy

There is a high level of interest in France at the moment due to Bastille Day, the Olympics in Paris and the Tour de France, so U3A Baw Baw decided to celebrate all things French during our recent monthly Gathering at the Royal Hotel in Drouin. We had some entertaining French related activities, familiar French songs and a spirited rendition of La Marseillaise! It was very clear that the spirit of France is alive and well in our little corner of the world! Vive la France!!

Donna



Donna leads us in a rendition of La Marseillaise, which we managed to sing in French, to the surprise of the hotel staff.



Who better to accompany the singing than our own pianist extraordinaire, Mary



Leslie, David and Pauline tease and tempt the members at the Gathering with their interpretations of Joan of Arc (Leslie,) Victor Hugo (David,) and Napoleon (Pauline.)

Photographs by Nigel Beresford

Courses Committee

Mary Howlett

The Committee of U3A BawBaw has suggested that we survey our members to find out what courses we may be able to consider presenting in the second half of 2025 or in 2026. Determination of courses is completely dependent on availability of Tutors from within our membership.

The popular Soapbox series has given a chance for many members to “try their hand” at presenting. You might like to consider sharing your knowledge and interests via a 45 minute talk at Soapbox in Term One in 2025. This might be a starting point for running a course! We would appreciate a response to this survey to be returned to [courses @u3abawbaw.org.au](mailto:courses@u3abawbaw.org.au) by August the 20th 2024

1. Courses I have enjoyed at U3ABawBaw

What elements of these courses have appealed to you?

2. A new course that I would suggest subject to availability of a presenter/tutor

3. I am interested in presenting / or assisting in running a course

NAME:

TOPIC:

Thanks for your interest
The Course Committee

Are you a crafty person?

U3A Baw Baw is considering reforming a Craft Group on Wednesday mornings. You are invited to a Morning Tea on Wednesday the 14th of August at 10 am to consider ways of participating and the format of this group.

Please RSVP for catering courses@u3abawbaw.org.au by 12th August

Mary



The Chatsheet Quiz

You may remember last month's edition of the Chatsheet had a quiz by David, our secretary, asking you to decide if the words of a song were from a 1940's musical, a country and western song or an opera. The opening line of the song was – "Oh my dear Papa." Did anyone guess the answer? The words were from the opera **O mio babbino caro** by Puccini. If you got the answer treat yourself to a nice Ferrero Rocher. In fact, make that two.

And now for another quiz, but this one is really difficult. If you can correctly identify the musical piece treat yourself to a nice piece of cheesecake. The answer is at the bottom of the page.



The following is a painting of the famous Russian composer, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Do you know the name of his most famous composition? Was it —

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| A) I'm Singing in the Rain | B) She Loves You |
| C) Some Enchanted Evening | D) The 1812 Overture |
| E) We'll Meet Again | F) Howzat |

A VIEW FROM THE BUNKER

Robert Dunlop

Our group has received an invitation from the Gippsland Regional Group of the Order of Australia Association inviting members to attend a spring luncheon at the Black Tie Function Room on Alfred Street, Warragul. The guest speaker is our very own Rev. Dr Jim Connolly. I have attached the invitation and the covering letter in the following pages. If you wish to attend the particulars are on the invitation.

The answer to the question is of course D) The 1812 Overture



Gippsland Regional Group

Chairman

Doug Caulfield, OAM, RFD
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(e) orderofaustraliagippsland.org

25-7-2024

President and Members,
U3A,
RSL Hall,
136A Princes Highway,
Drouin,
Vic.

Dear President and Members,

The Order of Australia, Gippsland group, is holding for the first time in Warragul, its guest speaker lunch, and we warmly invite you, members and partners to the event, at the Black Tie Restaurant, on Sunday, September 22, at midday.

Speaker is the Rev. Dr. Jim Connolly, Warragul.

This early invitation is in expectation that your and members diary might be free on that day.

Attached is the attendance indication, closing date being September 7.

We do hope your organisation can be represented.

Yours faithfully,

David Tulloch OAM



THE
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
ASSOCIATION LTD
VICTORIA BRANCH

GIPPSLAND REGIONAL GROUP

You are cordially invited to attend our Spring Luncheon

at

The Black Tie Function Room

90 Alfred Street, Warragul

on

Sunday 22nd September 2024

1200 for 1230

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr Jim Connolly

‘Gippsland’s outstanding citizens’

Cost: \$45 per person

A two course meal served on an alternate drop basis

(Please advise of any special dietary requirements)

Drinks at bar prices

If you wish to attend, complete the following and mail to OAA, Post Office Box 906, Traralgon 3844 or email to David Tulloch OAM, at dajudy@bigpond.net.au

Member’s name.....Post Nominal.....

Guests’ name:.....Post Nominal.....

.....Post Nominal.....

RSVP: Friday 13 September 2024

Full Size Decorations may be worn.

Please bring some cash with you to participate in our ‘light hearted’ entertainment activity and we look forward to catching up with you for some great fellowship.

Photos taken at this event may be used for promotional material.

Please advise the event photographer if you do not wish to be photographed

“To celebrate and promote outstanding Australian Citizenship”