

CHATSHEET

The newsletter of the U3A Baw Baw

September 2024

The Gathering

Booking is now open and is essential for the Gathering on **Friday 13th September** 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 11th September**.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

David Ingham

What a successful term we have had so far!! My conversations with members show that people are enjoying the variety of courses we are currently offering. The Victorian Justice System Course has been fascinating, whilst an exceptionally large group is thoroughly enjoying Vera's German Course. Congratulations to all presenters for the quality of their programs and our sincerest thanks for their hard work. I was speaking to one of our presenters who is working on a program for next term and discovered that it takes up to 12 hours to prepare each session. When you consider that each program consists of 10 weeks that comes to 120 hours of content!

Our presenters consider all the time worthwhile as the programs bring information and pleasure to our members who number over 100. I know that we are well prepared for programs to be run next term and first term in 2025. There are people who are thinking about Course proposals for term 2, 2025. This bodes well for our future as we depend on members being prepared to offer programs for our continued existence.

Our aim is to offer a range of interesting course content to our members to maintain interest and enthusiasm. Not all people are going to be interested in all subjects, so it is important that we offer a wide range of offerings. At the moment these include, Musicals, The History of Germany, The Victorian Justice System, What's The Matter, Scrabble, Cryptic Crosswords, Art and Book Club.

To maintain a range of interests for our members, it is important for people to express their ideas for new courses and also to volunteer to run courses. Our Courses Committee do a wonderful job under Mary Howlett's leadership and have a comprehensive system of identifying, vetting and selecting courses. The limiting factor is, of course, venue space. We have an excellent venue at the RSL Hall in Drouin and we are thankful to the RSL for sharing this great space with us. The nature of the hall does limit the number of courses we can run simultaneously, so we have to plan around this. Ultimately this means that we run large courses on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The venue limits us to one course at any given time. This is a matter we need to consider, particularly if we have a wider range of courses to offer. If you have any ideas or needs for courses, please let Mary know.

We have been most successful in gaining funding for the Literary Lunch which will be held on the 11th October. We will be presenting the work of Banjo Paterson, with a live production run by "Off the Leash Productions". They presented last year on Henry Lawson, which was a resounding success. Given the interest, people who are interested need to book as soon as possible. Do you have any interesting articles for the Chatsheet? Robert Dunlop never tires of adding new and interesting pieces to the Chatsheet which appears monthly and is an absolute work of art. Congratulations, Robbie, and I do apologise for the Dunlop tyres pun!

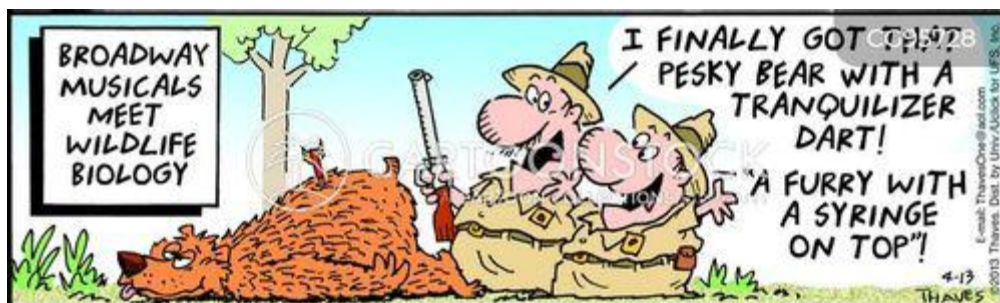
David

COURSES REPORT *Mary Howlett*

From Literature to the Stage

There are many Musicals that have drawn their story from a book or poem, in some cases written many years ago. It begins with Greek legends through to 20th century American novelists. Our course in Term 4 will look at the Literature behind the music and then entertain by presenting clips from our favourite stage productions.

Mary



Mystery History

Virginia Rowley

The Fall of the Monastery

The monks wrote down things that transformed ordinary lives. Farming methods; how to heal people, which was considered the magic of the day; what prayers to say to assist the farming and the healing.

As with every human who has ever breathed, the monks found ways to get around the strictures of their rule. They made up a sign language as a way of 'talking' at meal times, thus not breaking the just but just *stretching* it.

The desert monks of 1,000 years before had espoused a life of simplicity and poverty and the early monasteries on islands had offered a retreat from the world. By the 1,100s monks believed that ostentatious show for the veneration of God was okay, so, monasteries became more elaborate.

Many monasteries increasingly left the manual work to lay brothers and lived only for prayer and services, which they extended and elaborated until they consumed nearly all the daylight hours.

It was about this time that the idea of fleeing to remote areas came into favour once again. Hermitages were founded in mountain ranges as they had been in deserts over 1,000 years before.

Also around this time, new religious orders began to form on the continent. In 1132, the Cistercians arrived in England from France – they were as different from the Benedictines as it was possible. They wore white, ate only vegetables, owned nothing and slept where they could, often with people in the villages. The Cistercians buildings were beautiful but plain and stark when compared to other monasteries.

By the end of the 12th century, there were 1,200 communities affiliated with the Cistercian order throughout Europe. To regulate the order, rules or guidelines were set up: when they could eat, what they could eat and which days they could eat what on; when they prayed and to which saint on which day; who they could speak to. In fact, just the same as the Benedictines had decreed in the beginning of their order.

Success always has a price. The Cistercians too, eventually developed a reputation for greed. They were taken to court by local landowners for moving boundary markers and forging Charters so they could move their sheep onto more land. It was so bad that an expression grew about the Cistercians; they were said to be *fleeing their neighbours*. Their ideals had, like the Benedictines, become corrupted.

The religious grip on the British Isles tightened. By the year 1300, there were more than 5,000 religious houses and over 10,000 people living in them.

The monasteries evolved again, perhaps in view of public dissatisfaction or perhaps in defiance of it. Medicine evolved into a part of the monastic life. Hospitals were developed. Spiritual care, while in a clean warm bed, with food supplied provided all the elements of health. Increasingly, society depended on these places to care for the sick, homeless, aged and wayward of society.

The exemptions from feudal justice, obligations and taxes inevitably led to resentment of the monasteries by the feudal lords. Church institutions began to lend money to monarchs – usually to finance crusades and other holy wars but rarely for the good of the local populace. Rievaulx Abbey, the first Cistercian house in Britain, had overbuilt and not even their income from wool production was enough to keep them going. The king had to bail them out to prevent financial collapse. Decay had set in again and this time their morals came into question too.

Across the country, monastic morals were crumbling but they believed themselves invulnerable - they believed they were too big to fail or fall; they believed that the world couldn't live without them.

By 1530 Henry VIII had virtually run through his father's accumulated wealth through his love of showmanship and excess. He wanted to marry Anne Boleyn and a change of religion enabled him to close the monasteries. This closure was complicated and slow to start but once begun, like a steam train, it was difficult to stop. The Reformation brought money directly into his Exchequer.

Monks and nuns were offered a small income and if they accepted at once, they were able to move back into society and find a niche for themselves. If they did not accept the offer, which was only made once, then the monastery or nunnery was closed about their ears and they were turned out.

Monasteries and Nunneries had looked after the poor - in 1500, approximately 5% of the population (about 120,000 people) lived below the poverty line. By the end of Henry VIII reign in 1547 this had doubled to just over 10%.

Virginia

Learn Latin Now

Says Geoff Clynes

Further to our discussion at the last gathering, Geoff Clynes has more detail for those interested in a new Latin course next year. The Course Committee has confirmed a timeslot of Wednesday morning (10 to 12 midday), for Terms one and two – at least. There were some enthusiastic intending rejoinders from the 2023 course, though Geoff is keen to welcome complete newcomers.

As with any broad skill, learning a language relies on building a knowledge base, step by step. That means the first, say, half-dozen sessions must be basic – history, pronunciation, grammar and boring such likes – to build a foundation.

Somewhere in Term One, others more experienced will be welcome to join us to refresh their vocabulary and skills.

A Term One content outline will be available about New Year's Day to help with personal attendance plans. Meanwhile Geoff is available to answer other (Latin) puzzles.

Contact 0438 953 753 or pgclynes@bigpond.net.au

Geoff

Are you using 4G? The 3G shutdown could still affect you

Thousands of phones could be left unable to call triple zero. See if yours will be one of them.

Need to know

Australia's mobile network operators are shutting down their 3G services. Some phones revert to 3G when calling 000, meaning you could be left without connection in an emergency. Use one of the telco industry's free tools to see if your phone will be affected. Telstra and Optus have delayed the shutdowns of their 3G services from late August to October 28. After more than 20 years, one of Australia's legacy mobile networks is being shut down to make space for better and faster connections.

But with most of us relying on 4G or 5G for day-to-day phone needs, will you even notice your telco pulling the plug on 3G? Well, you might, and perhaps at the worst possible moment. A curious function, hidden within thousands of devices, means that without 3G, you'll have no service when you dial 000. Consumer advocates and the federal government say this could have "catastrophic" consequences for some and are urging Australians to check they won't be caught out. On this page:

What is the 3G network shutdown?

Australia's three mobile network operators, Telstra, Optus and Vodafone, have switched off, or are about to switch off, their 3G networks. As its name suggests, 3G was the third generation of mobile cellular technology and has been connecting Australians since Telstra set up the first service here back in 2002. 3G was the first generation of mobile service that allowed our phones to do many of the things we now take for granted, such as browsing the internet and social media. "[It] really provided us with the first network focused on providing not just voice, but also data," explains Mark Gregory, associate professor in the school of engineering at RMIT.

When is 3G being turned off?

Vodafone/TPG has already shut down its 3G service, with the network switched off in December last year. Telstra and Optus originally planned to turn off their 3G

services in late August but have delayed their shutdowns until October 28. The decision has been welcomed by the federal government and telco consumer advocates, with the companies saying the delay was made to give Australians more time to prepare for the change. 3G mobile networks are being turned off across Australia and some consumers will be affected.

How you could be affected

If your device only uses 3G, it will lose connection when the network is shut down. Anyone using an old phone that only connects to 3G will no longer be able to make or receive calls or SMS messages or use the internet once their service is turned off. Devices such as personal alarms and EFTPOS machines of a similar age that connect over a mobile network may also stop working. But even if your phone currently uses 4G, the shutdown of its predecessor could still affect you. This is because some older phones that support 4G, or models bought from overseas, default to 3G when the user dials 000.

"It's a really serious issue," says Bennett. "People might think that they will continue to have [triple zero] access that they won't have ... in an emergency situation, that can be catastrophic." Some older phones that support 4G or models bought from overseas default to 3G when the user dials 000.

The federal government is also sounding the alarm, estimating that over 100,000 handsets with the potentially fatal configuration could be circulating in Australia. "These devices will appear to work normally after the switchover, until Australians can least afford to realise there is an issue," said Communications Minister Michelle Rowland in a statement urging people to check if their phone will be affected.

Those on Telstra or Optus networks can use an SMS tool to see if their phone is affected.

How to check if your phone will be impacted

Telcos have been reaching out to people they believe will be affected by the 3G shutdowns, but there are steps you can take now to check your phone won't lose triple zero access.

The quickest way is to text '3' to '3498' and an automatic reply will tell you if your handset will keep working as normal after the shutdown. You can also visit www.3gclosure.com.au, click on "Check your mobile phone" and [enter your phone's 15-digit IMEI number](#) to get advice on your phone. Instructions on how to find your device's IMEI number are also on the page. If you've got a non-phone device that you believe may be affected, contact the manufacturer for advice.

What to do if you're losing service

If your device is going to be impacted by the 3G switch off, now's the time for an upgrade. Check out our [smartphone buying guide](#) for expert tips on choosing a new phone and our [latest review](#) to compare the best performing models.

We also have [reviews](#) and [advice](#) for phones for older Australians or people with cognitive difficulties. For guidance on replacing other devices, see our [other gadget reviews](#).

If you can't afford a new phone, contact your telco for help or look for second-hand options on sites such as [Reebelo](#). Telstra is providing 12,000 free devices to ensure customers in financial hardship or recovering from a natural disaster can stay connected. Meanwhile, Optus says customers who don't have the money for an upgrade should call its dedicated 3G team on 1300 219 070.

Henry Corcoran

Have We Learnt Anything Yet?

David Baylis

I recently had the pleasure of giving a talk on Germany 1914-45 in Vera's Germany Course. My research brought up some very curious stories not all included or relevant in the talk. Not all sweetness and light was on one side. (but of course the Holocaust was utterly evil.) An example was the German Uboat commander in WW1 who followed the Gentlemanly procedure in surfacing and giving time for sailors to get off before sinking the enemy ship, until the Allies mounted hidden guns on merchant ships. Further, who is to blame if a passenger liner has munitions loaded, is declared a legitimate target in newspapers before sailing, and is sunk by a Uboat causing 1200 deaths? Zeppelin crew in their 280 metre long air ships could hand drop little bombs and very effectively scare the civilian population of England but their airships were at the mercy of the weather and attack. The crew did not and never had any parachutes.

In World War 2 a German Submarine sank a freighter in the mid south Atlantic and put the survivors into life rafts. The Captain was instructed by Berlin to just move on but the law of the sea was to not abandon the men. So the Captain went against protocol and contacted the British in Africa (1000 km away) and asked them to pick up the men. The British refused thinking it was a trap. Later in the War, Uboat U461 was sunk by a Sunderland Flying Boat of 461 squadron and designated "U." The plane dropped life rafts and a lifetime later men from both sides met up in Germany.

These stories remind me of "The Railway Man" in which an English POW comes across his Japanese tormentor in Thailand and answers the rhetorical question of how long should you hate? Both were train nerds and were reconciled eventually as the book concludes with them and their wives enjoying the Bullet train in Japan.

Some 20,000 Jewish people found a safe haven in Shanghai without Visas until the Japanese arrived when they were confined but not systematically killed. The RAAF was flying a few, very ordinary, old stock, planes at the beginning of the War when the Germans and Japanese had very cutting edge fighters and bombers. We sent troops to New Guinea with World War One 303 rifles against Japanese machine guns. If you equip for war are you intending to use it? Both sides bombed cities

killing horrific numbers of civilians raising questions of ethics but the fire bombings and atomic bombings were even more problematic.

Of course only one side had Concentration Camps for systematic murder of civilians. So what did the Allies know about this? Could they have done anything? What did the Churches do? Was refusing to take refugees a part of the cause of the "Final Solution"? Lastly it was quite shocking for me to discover that the death toll from Japanese invasion in The Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia and what is now Bangla Desh, India and Pakistan was around 10 million lives before you counted China. We lost 40,500 lives. Realising and considering the issues raised by these sort of stories and issues is stimulating and will generate further discussion and perhaps further research, investigation and perhaps philosophical discussion. That is a key element of U3A. If you know the answers, you must be a better person than me.

David

A Letter to the Editor

James Angel

There was some lively discussion on Tuesday (20/8/24) regarding the "name and shame" approach of the revised Queensland Juvenile Justice System in its attempt to punish and rehabilitate young offenders.

I thought I would bring to your attention The BackTrak Boys, a coterie of young offenders on the road to rehabilitation through a dog training programme run by jackaroo Bernie Shakeshaft. It is unique in that it —

- (i) removes the young offender from their native habitat,
- (ii) it provides a highly structured daily routine,
- (iii) it uses dogs to deliver unconditional love, enabling the boys to form healthy attachments, to cultivate responsibility and to grow in understanding of their inner condition,
- (iv) provides a basic education in mathematics and literacy,
- (v) provides esteem building group activities.

I recommend watching the film about The BacktrakBoys.

See <https://www.flicks.com.au/movie/backtrack-boys/> for streaming services.

James



And a big welcome to our newest members —

**Daphne Prince, Monika Reimers
Roslyn Webb**

And finally some photographs from our last Gathering in which we were entertained by two members of the Warragul Municipal Band, Sarah Lucas and Timothy Armstrong.



Sarah Lucas shows a photograph of our own Glenys Marriott who has taken up tympany, which is the sound made by a drum.



Tim Armstrong and Sarah Lucas show the club how to play a musical instrument which I think might be a tuba.

And finally, for some light hearted humour from Virginia in the use of puns, which you know is a type of wordplay in which similar definitions or sounds of two words or phrases are deliberately confused.

Virginia Rowley PUNS

- 1) A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
- 2) Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
- 3) The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
- 4) The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
- 5) A backward poet writes inverse.
- 6) In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.

And finally, for all those members who love flyers, we attach two flyers: one for the Annual Literary Lunch and a reminder of the Order of Australia speaker lunch that was notified in last month's Chatsheet.

U3A Baw Baw presents their
**20th Annual
Literary Lunch**



**Banjo
Paterson**

Bringing his prose
and poetry to life

Presented by
Off the Leash
performers.



Friday 11th October 12pm for 12.30pm

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL for the lunch and only those who have pre-booked before
3rd October will be able to attend. Lunch and Drinks at bar prices.

(There is no additional attendance charge & Seniors Menu is available)

Please book for the Literary Lunch as early as possible to help us run the event smoothly.

Further details or to make a booking email
courses@u3abawbaw.org.au
or call Mary 0499 221993 or Lesley 0408 226254

The Royal Hotel
2/4 Main South
Road, Drouin

Pre booking is essential before 3rd October



Gippsland Regional Group

Chairman

Doug Caulfield, OAM, RFD
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Traralgon Vic. 3844
Tel: 0409 008 494
(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"