
2023 JUNE NEWSLETTER

From the President's Desk

Our U3A Latin tutor, John Weretka, has been awarded a prestigious Andrew W Mellon scholarship, for research into the production, decoration and history of Medieval Latin manuscripts, at the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas (the 'Angelicum') in Rome. Congratulations, John!

We have a special session of Hot Topics planned for Tuesday 8 August at 1.30pm in the Oaks Room at the Racecourse, to which all U3A members are invited. A light afternoon tea will be provided. Our guest speaker, Dr Heather Wearne, is a volunteer educator with the From the Heart Group and the Yes Alliance. She has been presenting to other U3As to provide an opportunity for us all to find out about the issues involved before we need to vote at the Referendum on creating an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. Heather (born and bred locally) will present some information and will welcome questions and provide the opportunity for us to have a discussion around any concerns we may have. The sign-up sheet will be in our rooms after the King River Café lunch.

Vale Jenny Shearer

Sadly Jenny lost her battle with cancer today (Tuesday 30th May). Jenny has been a member of U3A for some years and a good friend to many of us. A very active member of the Arts Council and Uniting Church, Jenny will be sadly missed for the interest and support she gave to friends and the community. In recent years she contributed to a range of U3A classes, including Philosophy, More than Music and Smorgasbord. I'm sure many of you have your own special memories of Jenny and our thoughts are with her family: Stephen, Rosalie and Andrew and grandchildren Jasmine and Moss.

It's hard losing close friends – I have known Jenny for over 40 years and had known Dianne Glenister almost as long. Jenny was born and grew up here so there will be lots of people missing her.

Erica Pike

Committee Corner

Committee of Management, 2023

Erica Pike - President

Sandra Bishop - Vice-President, Events Organiser, Housekeeper

Guy Robertson - Treasurer

Helen Wrigley - Secretary

Yve Weinberg - Publicity Officer

Pauline Moncrieff - Newsletter Editor, Facebook

Ian Wilson - Webmaster, Facebook

Chris Duyverman - Technical Support, Membership Secretary

Jennifer Price - Course co-ordinator

(Contact details for Committee members are on display on the noticeboard in our room)

Social outings

Our first U3A lunch this year will be on **Friday 16 June from 12 noon at the King River Cafe**. It will be a 2-course lunch with tea or coffee. Cost \$37. Alcoholic drinks are at your own expense. All U3A members are welcome. Add your name to the list in our room. *****(The strict deadline for bookings is 9 June)*****,

Members are also encouraged to attend the **Seniors Lunch** at the Racecourse in Seniors Week. This is always an enjoyable social occasion, with entertainment provided, and no pressure to gamble.

There is now a permanent suggestion box on the table in our room.

Course Update

Note that our rooms will be unavailable for use on the following dates:

Friday 16 June (Writing)

and in second semester, Monday 17 July.

Tutors for these classes will email class members or inform them in class of the alternative venue.

(The closure is due to the reallocation of Seymour race days to Wangaratta, following flood damage at Seymour Racecourse).

All Tutors are invited to send Pauline any information about forthcoming sessions. This is an excellent way to boost numbers in your classes.

If any tutors feel the need for technical training in using the equipment in our room, contact our Technical Support person, Chris, on 5722 1303 and she will be pleased to assist.

Are you interested in facilitating a course? U3A Network has a program of courses put together using Powerpoint presentations, guides and mentoring sessions. These can be facilitated by people who don't necessarily have the relevant subject knowledge. We have already run two of these, Scribblers and First Nations. If you

want more details, contact Erica at u3awangaratta@gmail.com. Or if you have an idea for a possible new course, contact Erica or Jen (Class Co-ordinator)

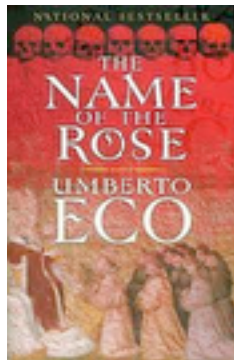
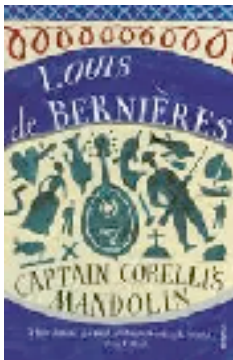
Garden Plot (fortnightly, Thursdays, 10.30 am to 12.30 pm)

Contact Lorraine for any further enquiries, on 0448 387180.

Literature (fortnightly, Thursday, 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm.

8 June Italian Literature

22 June Louis de Bernières



Economics - Monday 19 June, from 10.30am

Open invitation to U3A members

An expert in AI will give an informative presentation on the following topics:

- What AI is about. What it means
- The current state of AI and where it might go in the future
- Some useful applications of AI, including for the ordinary person, for economics and business, students and teaching, etc
- Current concerns about AI

This is a good opportunity for U3A Members to learn about something that we don't yet understand and which will have significant implications into the future.

Philosophy (fortnightly) Wednesday, 11am to 12.30 at the North Eastern Hotel.

Hot Topics

There will be a special session of Hot Topics on Tuesday 8 August, from 1.30pm, in the Oaks Room at the Racecourse. All U3A members are invited. Our guest speaker will be Dr Heather Wearne, who will answer your questions about the forthcoming Referendum on the Voice to Parliament. A light afternoon tea will be provided. The sign-ip sheet will be in our rooms after the King River Café lunch. (See further details in

From the President's Desk)

Book Circle

Thursday 15 June from 1.30pm, in the U3A rooms

Members bring books they have read and enjoyed recently, and take turns in talking about them to the group. We also discuss and recommend films or live performances we have seen. If you haven't read anything lately, come along anyway, and be inspired by others.

At the end of this session, I will give a short presentation on some of the best modernised versions and imaginative continuations of Jane Austen's novels. More members would be welcome, so if you'd like to join the group, email me at pauline.moncrieff@gmail.com .

History of First Nations

Members of the History of First Nations course and a couple of interested extras drove to Yundyaarra Sculpture Park in Albury for our session on Friday 12 May. There we met Wuradjeri Elder Auntie Liz Heta who was our guide for the day. We walked along the path by the river through dappled shade cast by magnificent old trees as Auntie Liz generously answered our questions, told us about the origin and making of the Sculpture park, and talked about her connection to country through story. Massacres and their aftermath, and The Voice were both mentioned. The stories continued over a shared picnic lunch at the Wonga Wetlands. The day was an emotional experience for me and gave me a lot to think about. I suspect that may be the same for each one of us who walked and talked along the river.

<https://www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/leisure/sport-and-recreation/walking-and-cycling-trails/yindyamarra-sculpture-walk>

Yindyamarra means Respect.

The History of First Nations course will continue into second semester and new members are welcome.

Anne Bittner

Refreshments

Tea and coffee are provided in our rooms for use by all classes, but biscuits or cakes are at the discretion of each individual group.

Community events

Wangaratta Library

Rural Women Online (Men are welcome, too). No bookings needed; just turn up.

Wednesdays 10am -12noon.

Free help in getting the most from your computer, iPad, tablet or phone.

Swanpool Cinema

Swanpool Environmental Film Festival. Saturday 17 June from 1pm. Three sessions \$30. Afternoon tea and dinner included. www.trybooking.com

Rural Australians for Refugees Film and Feast fundraiser. Saturday 1 July from 11.30am. Film: **When Pomegranates Howl.** (A nine-year-old boy from Kabul starts a business as a cart pusher, hoping to raise enough money to achieve his dreams). Afghan lunch, film, Q and A panel. www.trybooking.com

Save the date for the annual Literary Lunch.

This year's Literary Lunch, arranged by Wangaratta Arts Council, will be on Saturday 12 August at Quality Hotel Wangaratta Gateway. Further details will be in next month's newsletter.

Scam Watch

Romance scams

These are the most heartless and manipulative scams around. They play on people's deepest emotions and need for affection. A scammer will lead someone on for as long as 18 months and gain their complete trust before pouncing and giving a sob story such as needing a loan urgently, as their bank has frozen their multi-million dollar account and is shut over the weekend. Never be taken in by someone you have never met face-to-face, no matter how plausible they seem. Over 65s are the ones who lose the most money to these scammers, as they are often the ones with large superannuation accounts and savings at their disposal.

Financial scams

A scammer pretends to be your bank or internet provider. They may know some of your personal details, so their call or email seems genuine. But beware! Ring your bank on the number provided by the bank itself, and check.

Your internet provider will never call saying 'Your computer seems to be running slowly', and offer to help. This is a scam. Hang up immediately without disclosing any personal details.

'Dad, your son here. I've been in an accident and my phone is broken, so I'm using this number. Could you help me out until I can get to the bank on Monday?' This is a variation of the 'Mum' one, that tugs at every mother's heartstrings. Either ignore, ring your son on his actual mobile number or text a fake query: 'Is that you, Arthur?' (not your son's real name!)

Next time: Travel scams and how to avoid being caught.

Member Benefits

U3A Tuesday Lunchtime Forums (Zoom) from 12.30pm. Current affairs, including local events, politics, science, the environment and international events. Register via forums@u3acanberra.org.au. More details at www.u3acanberra.org.au

Book Exchange

All members are welcome to borrow books from the library in our room. Recent additions are books by Alexander McCall Smith and John Steinbeck. There are some gripping thrillers, also, for leisure reading.

The French Language class has started a LOTE shelf in our room. Donations of books or other materials in Italian, French or Latin would be most welcome.

Edgars Books and News offers U3A members a 20% discount on all books. Mention your U3A membership before making your purchase.

Find us on Facebook (Wangaratta U3A). All members are welcome to share any interesting and relevant posts.

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