



U3A Werribee Region Inc.

# Tri – Cycle Newsletter

P.O. Box 1264, Werribee Plaza, 3030

EMAIL: [sec.u3awbee@hotmail.com](mailto:sec.u3awbee@hotmail.com)

WEBSITE: <http://www.u3awbee.net.au>

PLEASE NOTE: We have no office. For all inquiries refer to our website.

AUTUMN EDITION: No. 128

MARCH - MAY 2021

FOUNDED 1992



## U3A WERRIBEE OFFICE BEARERS AND CONTACTS

**Patron:** Mr Tim Pallas MP Member for Werribee

**Life Members:** Mrs Barbara Knowles Mr Brian Beck Mrs Libby Pearson

### Committee:

**President:** Brian Kilfoyle Email: [president.u3awbee@gmail.com](mailto:president.u3awbee@gmail.com) (note: it's **gmail**, not hotmail)

**Vice President:** Vacant

**Treasurer:** Jannette Allen Email: [treas.u3awbee@hotmail.com](mailto:treas.u3awbee@hotmail.com)

**Secretary:** Jan Phelan Email: [sec.u3awbee@hotmail.com](mailto:sec.u3awbee@hotmail.com)

**Membership Coordinator:** Jannette Allen Phone: 9395 1606 Email: [membership.u3awbee@hotmail.com](mailto:membership.u3awbee@hotmail.com)

**Course Co-ordinator:** Vacant Email: [courses.u3awbee@hotmail.com](mailto:courses.u3awbee@hotmail.com)

**Committee Members:** Dave Callan (Past President), Merle Deslandes, Jill Squires, Libby Pearson, Nicky Hodgman, Lia Albergo, Adrian Cloonan and Don Lee.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2021 Term Dates

[Term 2: 19 Apr -11 June 2021](#) [Term 3: 12 Jul - 3 Sept 2021](#) [Term 4: 4 Oct-26 Nov 2021](#)

### Social Activities

Various social activities and outings are organised for members and details are made available through email messages, notices given during classes and included on our website. These activities may also be affected by any Covid 19 restrictions.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Greetings everyone from your co-editors Don and Cecilia. Is anyone still sane out there in Covid-Land? Or should we not talk like that? Most of us could be very thankful that we are still well, having been obedient-to-the-letter to our rules of isolation and social distancing. But there are limits and we may be feeling we have just about reached them by now.



At the time of writing, the Covid vaccines are just rolling out in Victoria. I, personally, will be only too glad to get mine when my turn comes. Of course our great desire is for our U3A members to meet again in the groups and to enjoy our unique gifts with each other. I am sure this will happen just as soon as the law allows and as soon as our committee can figure out meeting venues and which Course is recommencing. Each one of us has our work cut out to pull it all together again. This will happen....so 'watch this space'.

Wishing you all the very best during autumn, have a happy Easter and do take care.

Please send your pieces to [newsletter.u3awbee@hotmail.com](mailto:newsletter.u3awbee@hotmail.com) and the next newsletter deadline is 14 May 2021.

## FROM OUR U3A WERRIBEE PRESIDENT

Thankfully the covid saga appears to be on the improve. U3A Werribee will essentially be back to some semblance of normal for the second term. Some residual covid restrictions may still be necessary and where applicable you will be updated just before the term starts.

The jab is now imminent. So now there will be the flu jab, the covid jab and every five years the pneumonia jab. For our demographic these jabs are essential. So do get in early when these are available.

We need tutors and group leaders. And we need more members. So spread the word and invite a friend along to your favourite course. In particular we need younger members, as most of us seem to be around the 80 mark, not unlike the rather antiquated, but not yet obsolete person that keeps staring back at me in the mirror!

Keep punching ...!

Brian Kilfoyle.



## DON'T YOU KNOW ...?

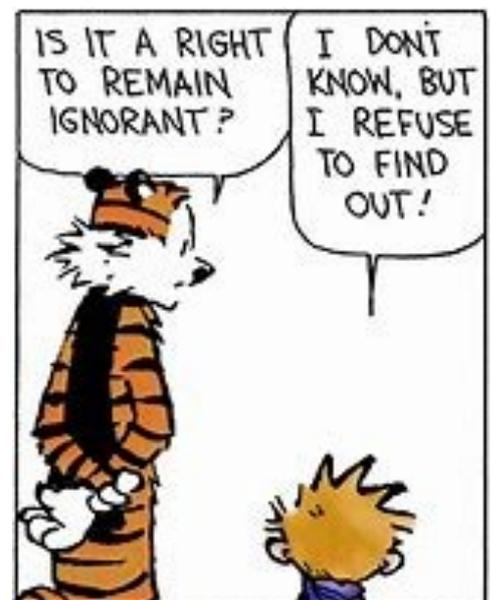
During my school teaching days I worked with a colleague who held her head high and seemed to dwell with the gods of Olympus. I do believe her personal motto was *Turpe Nescire* – “Shame to be Ignorant”. The rest of us bumbled along in our attempts to educate the young but this teacher NEVER said that she was ignorant of anything. She taught the music subjects as I did and so I was closer to her than most of the others and I began to analyse her Rule For Life. She NEVER said “I don’t know”.

When asked anything obscure she had an endless variety of answers. Clever .... She would say “You have a point and I will look it up”; or “I will get back to you on that”; or “Give me a moment ...” ; or “It’s debateable”; or “There’s help on that one”; or “Opinions vary”; or “Worth looking into”; or “Now this is interesting ...”; or “The answer will be somewhere”; or “Why do you ask?”; or “There will be another time for this”; or “This is neither the time or the place”: or “Ask me tomorrow”; or “Don’t you know????”.

And other comments or else a frozen look that scared off any further questions. She was not greatly liked, I might add.

A gifted musician, as I remember ... but she left me with plenty to think about !

Cecilia Conway-Wright



## MAHJONG

Mahjong is not the matching of tile pairs that many people may think it is, the confusion being due to the popular computer game of the same name. Rather, it is more akin to a challenging version of the card game Rummy.

Mahjong is a tile based game that originated in China, during the Qing dynasty around 500BC and apparently endorsed by Confucius, although some historians believe it is more likely that the game was invented by the Chinese military during the 1800s. Nevertheless, when the People's Republic of China came to power in 1949, all gambling was forbidden, which included mahjong, which was banned until 1985. Thereafter it has since rapidly gained popularity.

It is a game of tactical skill and strategy, although also relying on a degree of chance, making it both fun and exciting.

A classic game of mahjong uses a total of 144 tiles, with symbols including bamboo and circles, the numbers 1-9, and special tiles for seasons, wind, dragons and flowers. Each player receives a set of 13 tiles and then take turns to draw and return tiles to build a complete hand. To win the game, a player must complete the hand, while also trying not to discard tiles that may be of advantage to other players.

There is some conjecture about the origin of the name mahjong. One suggestion is that the name has to do with Chinese words related to the 'clacking' of tiles during shuffling that resembles the twittering of sparrows. However it has also been suggested that the name came from the evolution of an earlier Chinese card game called *madiao* from which mahjong tiles were adapted.

So if this brief outline of mahjong has attracted your interest and you are looking to join with others to play an enjoyable and sociable game, why not consider joining our mahjong group where we can help explain the rules of the game? We meet on Thursday afternoons at the Hoppers Crossing Sporting Club and further contact details are available on our website and in our newsletter.

Nicky Hodgman



## BALLET MATINEE

While still not having met yet, we hope we are still mentally flexible to look forward to class again.

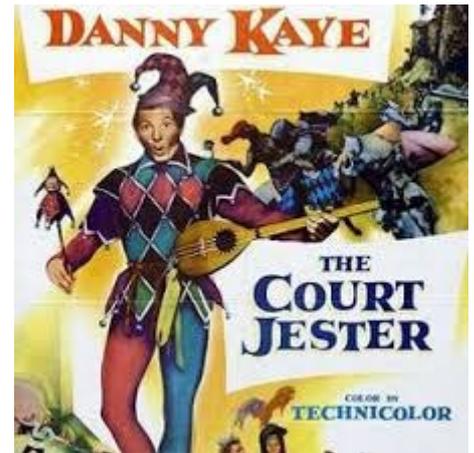
It is essential to stay broad minded about our Ballet enjoyment. Many, many innovations have happened over the couple of centuries of classical dance. It is no longer just the pretty sights of such as Swan Lake and Sleeping Beauty since new balletic movements have been choreographed to broaden the spectrum of human



## BALLET MATINEE (cont.)

expression. I know that some 'modern' ballets take a bit of stomaching until one is in the right mind-set. It does not mean that we have to embrace everything and pretend to like it or lump it. In the new terms I will be playing the DVDs of such as the film 'Strictly Ballroom' and 'White Christmas' and maybe a Fred Astaire musical. All of those are carefully choreographed and many if not all the dancers would have been classically trained. In a number of our well loved classical ballets there are scenes of fun and comedy; there is a pricelessly funny dance in 'White Christmas' performed by Danny Kaye and Bing Crosby who dress up as girls and dance their version of the old song "Sisters". But that is to come !

Cecilia Conway-Wright

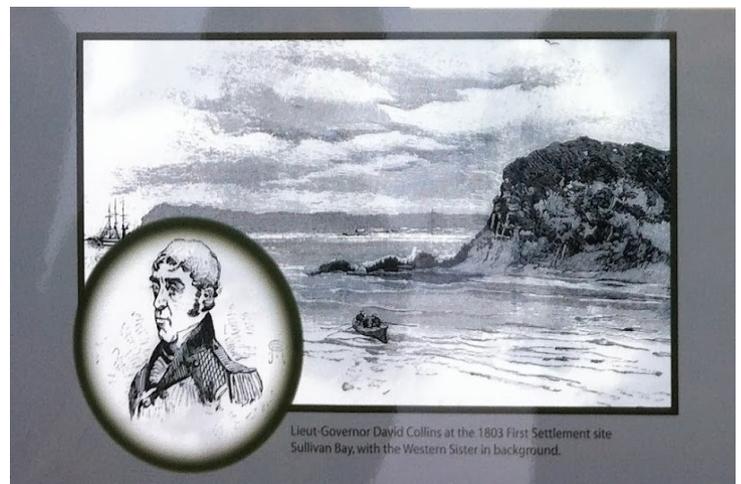


## A LAYMAN'S INTRODUCTION TO MARVELOUS MELBOURNE

On the 9<sup>th</sup> October 1803 a settlement under the command of Lieut. Col David Collins entered Port Philip Bay and landed at what is today the suburb of Sorrento on the picturesque Mornington Peninsular. The new settlement included 315 convicts, a few children, 50 officers and civilian staff as well as 18 free settlers and their families. Sadly it transpired that right from the outset this settlement was doomed to failure despite the fact that they were initially well equipped with plenty of supplies.

The main problem was the inability to find an adequate source of fresh water, as well as elements of unrest amongst prisoners and sporadic threats from the local aboriginal inhabitants. Consequently Collins obtained permission to relocate to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) which they duly did in May 1804.

What is interesting is that within this settlement was an 11 year old boy by name of John Fawkner (originally spelt Faulkiner) the son of a convict and after becoming a successful businessman living in Launceston, many years later in 1835, bought a schooner and returned to Port Philip Bay. Here he learned that John Batman, also from Launceston, had a couple of months earlier in 1835 also sailed into Port Philip Bay and discovered what we now call the Yarra River. It turned out that Batman had then negotiated a treaty with local Aboriginals and set up



## LAYMAN'S INTRODUCTION TO MARVELOUS MELBOURNE (cont.)

a new settlement which he named Batmania. Batman's treaty was however annulled by the New South Wales government, however Batman and Fawkner's people were, after some dispute, allowed to remain on their claimed land, mostly living in tents along the Yarra River. Soon the government of NSW established the Port Philip District as part of the NSW colony and finally on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1837 they officially named the settlement Melbourne after the then British Prime Minister William Lamb who lived in the village of Melbourne in the UK and was known as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Viscount of Melbourne.

Around 1837, the population was about 50,000, but thereafter what really transformed Melbourne was the discovery of gold in Ballarat and Bendigo during the 1850's. The population of Melbourne then grew very rapidly to around 500,000 by 1857 so it doesn't take much imagination to envisage the many challenges that arose with such an enormous flood of people into the area. Thankfully the wealth flowing from the goldmining produced many successful innovations, such as the sewerage pump station and other cityscapes so that by the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Melbourne was regarded as one of the richest and most successful cities in the world. It is ironic that almost a hundred years later, Melbourne 'won' the prestigious designation as the world's most liveable city.



So what makes Melbourne so special? The climate? Probably not, although it is arguably not too bad. Let's rather think of Melbourne as like a fine wine that has to be carefully and slowly savoured to appreciate its true worth. Enjoying marvellous Melbourne involves discovering its lovely parks, gardens, rivers and forests; reconnoitring its impressive buildings and delightful laneways; exploring various places containing fascinating cultural places that represent different ethnic communities living in any of the 31 cities that make up the Melbourne Metro. Oh and don't forget the numerous coffee shops, clubs, museums and theatres. Well it's now up to you dear reader, to search out and make a list of the many delectable Melbourne places of interest and uncover their remarkable secrets for yourself.

Don Lee

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Members who paid their membership subscription during 2020, please note that you do not need to pay any further subscription fee for 2021. In order to keep in regular contact with our members, can you please provide us with an email address to keep in touch with you.

For all U3A Werribee membership enquiries, please contact our membership co-ordinator, Jannette Allen on Tel 9395 1606 or you can email to: [membership.u3awbee@hotmail.com](mailto:membership.u3awbee@hotmail.com)

As part of your U3A Werribee membership you are entitled to discounts at the Hoppers Crossing Sports Club (HCSC). You just need to provide proof of U3A Werribee membership (ie your membership badge).

We are planning to hold our Annual General Meeting in May 2021. Details will be available closer to the time on our website or via an email message.

## THAT HIDDEN STRATA

Australia is an egalitarian society...or striving to be. "I am; You are; We are..." etc., but there is a hidden strata and this is how I came across it. Some years ago my old school in England entered a new category of 'Public School' but I had been very much a working class scholarship girl there. Quite suddenly this qualified me to membership of Australian Private Grammar Schools so I thought that was OK and joined. (Newly widowed...my friend said to me "You might meet somebody with a bob or two..."). First social outing was to the Arts Centre Theatre and I took my seat along with other Society members.



"Hello" came the first greeting. "We haven't met; you are?"

We swapped names.

"Have you come far?" The same posh voice.

"Hoppers Crossing". Stunned silence for a moment and I added – Werribee – to the mix.

"Oh well ... never mind ... ", the voice was full of sympathy for my obvious misfortune. The show was a horribly boring performance by one artist for a full two hours but all the shadowy elite around me laughed heartily. At the end they were all swapping their news – poor Judge So-and-So was not in court ... , Sir Somebody was at the Races ... , The Right Honourable was here somewhere ... or else sailing the Aegean again.

Completely out of my depth I caught my humble train home to this unfortunate mistake which was some God-forsaken-place called Hoppers Crossing. Within days I wrote to cancel my membership; getting a very courteous, regretful reply but my friend was cross with me and said I had given up too soon.



But believe me all this "I am; You are; We are ..." is possibly very true but there is another hidden strata. Of course a great deal has changed over the years and today Wyndham, of which Hoppers Crossing and Werribee are only two of 17 suburbs has become an increasingly liveable, well serviced and popular location. Well may it continue!

Cecilia Conway-Wright

## DID YOU HEAR ABOUT ... .. ?

..... the guy who got shot by a starter pistol and now the police think it may be race related.

..... the actor who fell through the floor and it turned out he was just going through a stage.

..... a house built by Microsoft and what it Excels in is the Outlook from its Windows.

..... the musician who was arrested and got into awful treble.

..... the new electric car from Germany that is called a Voltswagen.

..... the constipated mathematician who worked it out with a pencil.



## PROGRAM OF U3A WERRIBEE COURSES FOR TERM 2 OF 2021

**Monday 19 April 2021 - Friday 11 June 2021 (subject to confirmation - see our website)**

Day/Time	Activity	Group Leader/Tutor		Venue
<b>MONDAY</b>				
10.00 - 12.00	Exploring History	Brian Beck	9741 5460	HRV
10.00 - 01.00	Lunch & Movies <sup>(1)</sup>	Lia Albergo	9749 7594	SY
01.00 - 02.00	Tai Chi	Bonnie Holmes	0408360537	HCSC
<b>TUESDAY</b>				
09.30 - 10.30	Senior Men in Light Exercises	Tony Bradford	0447139202	HCSC
09.45 - 11.45	Needlecraft	Faye Weston	8754 1003	HCSC
10.00 - 12.00	Beginners Computer Course	Don Lee	0402330314	TCC
11.00 - 01.00	Book Club <sup>(2)</sup>	Cynthia Boddington	0408389937	BPC
12.45 - 02.30	A History of Popular Music	John Funnell	9296 1036	HCSC
01.00 - 03.00	Intermediate Computer Course	Don Lee	0402330314	TCC
02.30 - 03.30	Photography	Bernie Flaherty	0412814610	HCSC
04.00 - 05.30	Line Dancing	Jenny Pratt	9742 9038	HRV
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>				
09.45 - 12.00	Mosaics	Helen Galea	9749 1207	WCC
01.00 - 04.00	Cards — 500	Kay Dwyer	9731 6976	SD
01.30 - 03.00	Book Club <sup>(3)</sup>	Libby Pearson		PH
<b>THURSDAY</b>				
10.00 - 12.00	Current Affairs	Campbell Cowie	9741 3928	HRV
01.15 - 02.30	Yoga for Older People	Trevor Walsh	0438 304 638	UC
01.00 - 04.00	Mahjong	TBA		HCSC
<b>FRIDAY</b>				
10.00 - 12.00	Ballet Matinee	Cecilia Conwaye-Wright	0407558825	PH
12.30 - 02.00	Let's do Lunch <sup>(4)</sup>	Suzanne Luder	0404131052	TBA
01.00 - 03.00	Music You Like To Hear	John Funnell	9296 1036	HCSC

- Notes:**
- (1) The Lunch & Movie Group meet on the second Monday of the month at the Sun Theatre, Yarraville.
  - (2) This Book Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at The Brook, Point Cook.
  - (3) This Book Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at members' houses.
  - (4) The Lunch Group will run on the third Friday of the month.

**FOR ALL COURSE INQUIRIES: EMAIL: [courses.u3awbee@hotmail.com](mailto:courses.u3awbee@hotmail.com)  
OR CONTACT ONE OF THE GROUP LEADER/TUTORS**

## COURSE VENUES

BPC	The Brook, 215 Sneydes Road, Point Cook.
GAC	Glendale Aged Care, Werribee, 265 Heaths Rd Werribee.
HRV	Heathglen Retirement Village, Glendale Crt (just off Heath Road), Werribee
HCSC	Hoppers Crossing Sports Club, Hogans Road, Hoppers Crossing.
PH	Private Home: For details please contact the tutor.
SD	Lifestyle Seasons, 13 Sundial Boulevard Tarneit (at the Clubhouse).
SY	Sun Theatre, Yarraville.
TBA	To Be Advised. For further details please contact the tutor or course coordinator.
TCC	Tarneit Community Centre, c/r Leakes Rd & Sunset Views Boulevard, Tarneit.
UC	Crossroads Uniting Church, Synott St., Werribee.
WCC	Wyndham Park Community Centre, 57 Kookaburra Ave, Werribee.

## FINALLY, MORE WORDS OF WISDOM ABOUT HOPE

“We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.” Martin Luther King Jr.  
(1929-1968) USA church minister and activist.

“It is often in the darkest skies that we see the brightest stars.” Richard Evans (b.1947) British  
historian and author.

“Remember, hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies.”  
Stephen King (b 1947) USA author.

“There is nothing like a dream to create the future.” Victor Hugo (1802-1885) French author.

“To live without hope is to cease to live”. Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1821-1881) Russian novelist,  
philosopher and journalist.

“Hope itself is like a star - often not seen in the sunshine of prosperity, and only to be  
discovered in the night of adversity.” Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892) British preacher & author.

“Rules for happiness: something to do, someone to love, something to hope for.” Immanuel Kant  
(1724-1804) German philosopher.

“In the midst of winter, I find within me the invisible summer ...” Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910) Russian  
author.

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop  
questioning”. Albert Einstein (1879-1955) German-born theoretical physicist.

“Courage is like love; it must have hope for nourishment”. Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821)  
French military and political leader.

**THIS TRI - CYCLE NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED FOR U3A WERRIBEE BY COURTESY OF  
TIM PALLAS, MEMBER OF THE VICTORIAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR WERRIBEE.**

DISCLAIMER: This newsletter is for information purposes only and views expressed here are not necessarily those of U3A Werribee Region Inc. While efforts have been taken to ensure that the material contained in this newsletter is accurate, U3A Werribee Region Inc does not guarantee the accuracy or the completeness of the material. Readers are advised not to rely solely on this information when making any decision and should seek independent advice before making any decisions.