

U3A Werribee Region Inc.

Tri – Cycle Newsletter

P.O. Box 1264, Werribee Plaza, 3030

EMAIL: sec.u3awbee@hotmail.com
WEBSITE: http://www.u3awbee.net.au

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

SUMMER EDITION: No. 139 DECEMBER 2023 - FEBRUARY 2024

FOUNDED 1992



U3A WERRIBEE OFFICE BEARERS AND CONTACTS

Patron: Mr Tim Pallas MP Member for Werribee

Life Members: Mrs Barbara Knowles Mrs Libby Pearson

Committee:

President: Rick Conn Email: president.u3awbee@gmail.com (note: gmail, not hotmail)

Vice President: Vacant

Treasurer: Christina Dennis Email: treas.u3awbee@hotmail.com

Secretary: Suzan Wise Email: sec.u3awbee@hotmail.com

Membership Coordinator: Carole Popham Tel: 0423 319 844 Email: membership.u3awbee@gmail.com **Courses Co-ordinator:** Rick Conn Email: courses.u3awbee@hotmail.com (note **gmail**, not hotmail)

Committee Members: Pat Gould, Cyril James and Don Lee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Term Dates for 2024

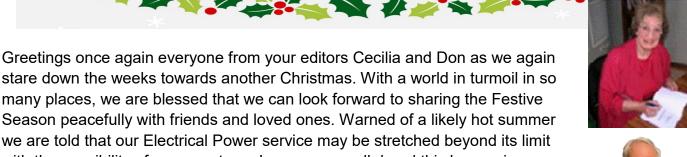
Term 1: 29 January - 28 March 2024 **Term 2**: 15 April - 28 June 2024

Term 3: 22 July - 20 September 2024 Term 4: 7 October - 29 November 2024

Social Activities

Various social activities and outings are organised for members and details are made available through email messages, notices given during classes and also included on our website which you can find on the internet at www.u3awbee.net.au

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Season peacefully with friends and loved ones. Warned of a likely hot summer we are told that our Electrical Power service may be stretched beyond its limit with the possibility of power outage. I am sure we all dread this happening on a very hot night. So let us be as prepared as we can with a good torch handy with a new battery in it; candles at the ready and a lighter or matches; a battery driven radio (such a blessing to hear a voice or music when the TV is off), and our mobile phone fully charged. When the air conditioner is off and the heat of



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK (cont.)

the night stifling, it is a relief to be able to have a wet flannel at the back of one's neck. Some of us may have battery driven fans. If possible suck an ice lolly. Putting your feet in cold water is also wonderful if you have the strength to get a bowl of cold water and sit down with it. You will each have your own recipes for keeping cool in the pitch dark. What a relief it is when the lights come on again. A Happy Festive Season to us all!

Send your news to: newsletter.u3awbee@hotmail.com

From Cecilia and Don

FROM OUR U3A WERRIBEE PRESIDENT

Hello and welcome to this edition of our Tri-Cycle Newsletter.

I am very happy to report that 2023 was a very successful year.

This success was due to the hard work and hours put in by our Committee of Management, Group Leaders, Group Coordinators, and volunteers. As always, we extend our thanks to the venue operators where our classes are held. Also, thank you to those Group Leaders who allow classes to be held in their private homes.

Highlights in 2023 consisted of:

- ♦ Our 31st Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at Wyndham Park Community Centre on 16 February 2023.
- ♦ Our 30th Anniversary Luncheon held at the Italian Social Club on 13 April. A milestone event for our organization.
- ♦ Presentations from Hearing Australia, Wyndham City
 Council Community Support and Community Connections
 team and Mercy Health on aged and disability support
 available to our members. For more information, please
 refer to the Aged and Disability Presentation Report that is included

refer to the Aged and Disability Presentation Report that is included in this edition of our Newsletter.

- ◆ A training session from Lifesaving Victoria on First Aid including CPR and how to operate an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Based on the overall positive feedback from members who attended we will look at holding this session again in 2024.
- Our Christmas luncheon held at the Hoppers Crossing Sports Club on 8 December to round off the year.

We achieved strong membership growth in 2023 (refer Membership Coordinators report). I am also very happy to report that we are in a sound financial position heading into 2024.



FROM OUR U3A WERRIBEE PRESIDENT (cont.)

This will allow us to offset any increases in hired venue fees and/or reduction in council subsidy rates. As a contingency we will continue to hold classes at HCSC in the event a venue becomes unavailable and/or increases in council fee becomes unsustainable.

On a sad note, we remember the passing of Brian Beck and Judith Buckner. Condolences to their families.

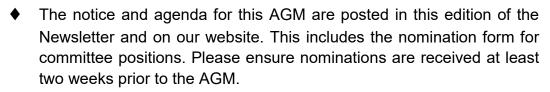
We commenced our membership renewal process in the beginning of November. This allowed members the flexibility of paying their membership renewal by cash or cheque at classes or EFT using our U3A BSB and Account Number.

For those that were unable to renew their membership prior to the end of term they have up to and including the Friday of the first week of Term 1 to renew their membership.

For your 2024 diaries:

Term 1 will commence on Monday 29 January 2024.

Our 32nd AGM is scheduled to be held on Thursday 29 February 2024 at the Wyndham Park Community Centre, Room 1 from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon. Key points are:





- ♦ Proxy. To nominate a proxy, you must be a full financial Member. This allows you to nominate a member (can be full of associate) at the AGM to vote in your place if you are unable to participate yourself.
- ♦ Please consider nominating as a committee member. We operate in a team environment ensuring we assist and help each other. Being on the committee also ensures you can influence the direction of our organization moving forward.
- ♦ A Special Resolution for acceptance to changes to the current Rules of Incorporation will be tabled at the AGM.

In closing, thank you for supporting our U3A and have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. I look forward to catching up with members in the 2024.

Rick Conn.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

When I last wrote the Membership Column we had 183 members. It is extremely pleasing to note that numbers continue to increase and, at the time of writing, we now have 198 Members.

Membership Renewal forms for 2024 were distributed at classes during November and are available on the website. To renew you will need to FULLY complete and SIGN the form and return it to me. I will check your details against the records to pick up any discrepancies that the gremlins have slipped in. Your signature on the form is a legal requirement so if you forget

MEMBERSHIP NEWS (Cont.)

to sign, I will be chasing you up because without It, technically, you're not a member. Not surprisingly I have already picked up changed contact details in the ones I have already processed. I guess after the Optus crash I can expect a few more changes.

We are pleased to welcome new members

Bubble Arora, Sukhi Arora, Brenda Craib,

Penny Densley, Zandi Sandra Falzon,

Geraldine Fraser, Gordon Frost,

Ingrid Hanrahan, Anne Heath, Isabel Kiely,

Julie Larkin, Maria Lee, Maria Maple,

Kitty Raditsi and Kate Todd



We hope you will enjoy your time with us and the welcome from your new friends.

With Summer coming and the Bushfire season started already interstate and here, if you haven't already done so it is time to get and complete a copy of *Are You Ready?* the Emergency Planning kit put out jointly by the Wyndham and Melton Councils. It is a really useful tool in planning what to do in any emergency and the most comprehensive I have seen. If you haven't already picked one up from a Community Centre or Library, just give me a call or email me and let me know what classes you attend and I will get one to you. Don't put it off thinking it couldn't happen to you. That is probably what the last victim thought!!!.



Just a reminder that if you attend classes held at the Hoppers

Crossing Sports Club, you must be a member of HCSC. This gives you access to the Pavilion building rooms and the use of the equipment and facilities owned by HCSC along with all the other member benefits and discounts.

By now U3A members who attend classes at HCSC should have been issued with a new HCSC Membership card. If you attend classes at HCSC and haven't received a new HCSC Membership card, please let Rick know. The Membership cards will be renewed automatically for all members renewing for 2024.

Remember to wear your Membership badge to classes and phone me on 0423 319 844 or email me at membership.u3awbee@gmail.com if you need a replacement. Please note that it is now gmail. We have had problems receiving mail on the hotmail address and have changed. If you sent me something and did not get an answer, I wasn't ignoring you, it probably got lost in the system.

Keep up the recruiting of new members. Word of mouth is still our best way of growing. Just tell them how much fun you have and how friendly we are, and the good times they will have.

Have a very happy and relaxing break over Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Until next time.

Carole Popham.

AGED AND DISABILITY PRESENTATION REPORT

In Late October 2023, 38 Members and friends gathered at Heathglen Retirement Village to hear from Amada Burns and her colleagues about the latest in Aged and Disability care developments.

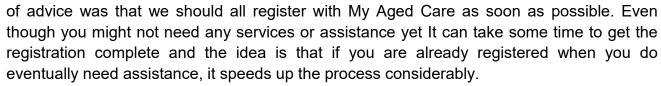
Firstly, we heard from Nav Sidhu who is with Mercy Health, telling about aged care in the Mercy Health run homes. The Werribee facility has 100 beds and caters for all types of needs both physical and psychological in an attractive environment. They organise all kinds of activities and entertainments.

Next we heard from Amanda Burns, Melissa Eley and Camilla Briggs who are with the Wyndham Council's Community Support and Community Connections Groups.

The Community Connectors are able to provide information about a range of services including:

- Services to connect people to social community groups and activities,
- · Information about Council services,
- Services to allow people to feel safe to take part in their community.

We also learned a lot about how to navigate the labyrinth that is the Australian Government's My Aged Care. One especially useful piece



Another point was that you can get help with little things like handrails to improve your mobility and safety around the home. Some of the other helps were with transport to appointments, trips to the library, gutter cleaning, window cleaning, and meals on wheels.

The major services are home cleaning and personal care such as showering.

It is all part of the Age in Place Strategy designed to keep people in the familiar surroundings of their home for as long as possible without compromising their wellbeing.

The team also told us about a number of agencies who can be called on for assistance such as the Council on the Ageing (COTA), the Older Person's Advocacy Network (OPAN), and IPC Health who concentrate on health support services for Melbourne's Western suburbs.



They also mentioned the Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) which is a Government human rights organisation which promotes the diversity and inclusion of all people. They are particularly good for guidance about the legal side of ageing and such essentials as wills, powers of Attorney. They also run information sessions on these topics.

The acclamation at session end spoke volumes and all in all, it was a morning well spent with a chance to catch up with friends over a delicious morning tea.

Carole Popham.

COURSES COORDINATOR CORNER - COURSE INFO

Exploring History.

We commenced Term 1 exploring Spain from its early beginnings on the Iberian Peninsula to its rise and fall of the Spanish Empire. We concluded this term exploring the French Revolution.

Term 2 had us taking a closer look at the American War of Independence in 1776 and loss of the 13 English Colonies. This was the main reason England sent her convicts to Australia in 1788. We concluded Term 2 and commenced Term 3 exploring the English Royals covering the Normans, the Plantagenets, the Tudors, the Reformation, the Hanoverians and the House of Saxe Coburg Gotha which led to the current house of Windsor and Charles III.

Term 4 had us looking at Australia, its geological origin, exploration and what has shaped us today as a country.







Senior Men in Light Exercise (SMILE)

As the name SMILE identifies, this is a light exercise walking group for seniors aimed at assisting with cardiovascular fitness, strengthen bones and boost endurance. We have been very fortunate with several venues becoming available for us to use in 2024. We also have access to Hoppers Crossing Sports Club Pavilion as a wet weather venue. So come along and join us. Photos of the venues are identified below.







Let's Do Lunch

We've had a fun year meeting and eating! Our goal was to try different eating destinations in Werribee and surrounding areas each month on the third Friday. Once a month we treated ourselves to meeting in middle range accessible venues at 12.30pm and generally stayed for 2 hours. During that time we shared what we had been doing, sympathised over difficulties endured, and lent an ear for life's little catastrophes. This week we talked about green bananas, mangosteens and other exotic fruit, the cost of living, travel and holidays, school canteen lunches, and processed food snacks that have changed or disappeared and how to make ritzy chocolate ripple cake. We laughed a lot. We don't seem to often solve any major world issues but we are a very friendly welcoming group. By the way, it's not a ladies only group, nor is it just singles. We are a very mixed group of happy people with other happy people. We also have vacancies if you want to try us out in 2024.

Suzanne Luder

COURSES COORDINATOR CORNER - COURSE INFO (Cont.)

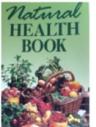
Health and Well-being

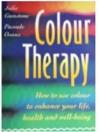
A very productive year where everyone contributing at discussion time and learning something new. Attached are extracts of books provided by Lyn Adler that you may be interested in and find beneficial.













Line Dancing

Another enjoyable year of Line dancing while keeping fit and enjoying the company of likeminded ladies and gentlemen.

We thank Karla for providing her expert guidance with a wonderful array of music and dance moves from a Waltz, Rumba, Cha Cha and a little bit faster, The Nut Bush and other great dances. We also thank Elizabeth, Dusha, Sylvia, Rhonda and Jeannie from U3A and Esther from the Village for remembering all the dance moves and assisting newcomers. A special thanks to Sylvia who looks after the administration behind the scenes.



Line dancing is conducted on Tuesday from 4.00pm to 5.30pm at Heathglen Village Community Centre and is open to Heathglen Village Residents and U3A Members.

All the best from Vittoria.

Mosaics

This year we have welcomed quite a few more ladies to our mosaic group. I'm pleased to say they are all enjoying the experience and are all moving along well with different projects. This is not a class as much as a sharing of knowledge. All of us are at different stages of experience with mosaics and are all happy to help any newcomers to enjoy the process of learning different techniques to complete their projects.

We look forward to the continued enthusiasm of our members and prospective new ones.

Examples of the excellent creative works that the group completed during 2023 are identified in the attached photos.

All the best from Eil.





COURSES COORDINATOR CORNER - COURSE INFO (cont.)

Current Affairs

2023 has been a bonanza year for Current Affairs. We discussed the continuing wars in Ukraine and Gaza, youth crime and the justice system, decline in CFA Volunteers, Government project cost over runs, cost of living pressures, hospital funding and surgery backlogs, aged care, the rise of Chinese influence in the Pacific, Commonwealth Games cancellation and of course THE VOICE which kept us busy for several sessions while we dissected the background documents.



To round off the year we had an interesting discussion about AI (Artificial Intelligence) with no less than an Al generated "person". Her answers were informative to say the least.

Whatever was an issue we gave it the works. We may not have agreed with each other but we had a respectful discussion with all having their say.

Pleasingly, the group grew in number and our baker extraordinaire, Tim, increased the number of cakes for morning tea accordingly.

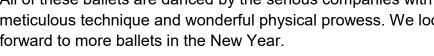
We are looking forward to an equally interesting 2024 so why not join us and keep up to date. Carole Popham.

Ballet Matinee

This Term we have been following a theme of humour in dance. Every dancer must be able to act as well as dance and this comes out very strongly in the ability to portray humour. We watched Elite Syncopations with the music of Scott Joplin; we have watched Beatrix Potter, a

costume extravaganza for adults as well as for children; we have watched A Midsummer Night's Dream based on Shakespeare's play and having a large chorus of children in the dance; and we have looked again at Cinderella with the fun of the ugly sisters.

All of these ballets are danced by the serious companies with meticulous technique and wonderful physical prowess. We look forward to more ballets in the New Year.





Cecilia Conwaye-Wright.

Music You Like To Hear

I've been out of action for Term 4, battling ill health, but I'm now on the road to recovery and I'll be raring to go next year.

For the first session of Term 1 we'll be listening to the handsome young tenor who sends many a lady's heart a-fluttering. Juan Diego Florez (see photo), all the way from Peru, gave a magnificent concert in Melbourne. The first on November 11 sold out so quickly that another was arranged for the 12th.

This is the man that Pavarotti named as his heir as "The King of the High Cs" and judging by his performance of "Nessun Dorma", that title is well-deserved. We'll start our session with a video of that aria. Come along and see him!



John Funnell

U3A NETWORK VICTORIA

Here is some of the latest news from U3A Network Victoria.



- ◆ Tutor recognition awards for 2023
- ♦ One of the Award recipients for 2023 was one of our life members, Barbara Knowles. Barbara lives in Torquay and her nomination for this award was submitted to U3A Network Victoria by U3A Surf Coast. We congratulate Barbara on winning this well-deserved award. The next submissions will be in February 2024 so if you would like to put a name forward and reason to your committee this would be appreciated.
- Network's Sustainability Working Group will be publishing in November its first two case studies of U3As maintaining a growth profile over the past five years.
- ◆ Tutors/Group Leaders put a lot of work into their courses and presentations, and some might like their hard work and expertise to have a second go around and be appreciated by a wider audience. If someone at your U3A would like to run a course or give a presentation at a U3A (other than their own) they can list their presentation on a website called: Find a Tutor database.

To offer a course or presentation, go to the website: https://forms.office.com/r/Hji1KjVgri
Rick Conn

BY THE DOZEN. WHY 12 AND NOT 10?

Buying our eggs by the dozen is so common place that we would probably be miffed if the supermarkets began to sell them in packs of ten, as is the case in some countries. Yet aren't we nowadays supposed to be 'metric' all over the place?

Metric ... counting up on our ten fingers ... might be a celebration of having two hands with five fingers each as well as measuring units based on 10mm in 1cm However it is awfully artificial in many ways and so I would rather champion twelve: so sweet in its own ways.



Firstly our planets go whizzing around doing their own thing which is certainly not metric and our moon has only eight phases per year. Our earthly year is divided into twelve calendar months; the musical tradition of twelve semitones in the major scale in Western music; the 'old' twelve pence in a shilling; the 'old' twelve inches in a foot; the Twelve Days of Christmas; the Twelve Apostles; twelve hours on a clock face; and the double sixes on dice and dominoes. All these are beautiful in their own special way. Twelve divides up into two halves of even numbers: six each which in turn is an even number; much more versatile than silly old ten which only divides up into two 'odd' numbered halves.

So give me 12 any day! And since two twelves are 24, your dancing class is cheering! You can form up dance sets of 3 eights; or 4 sets of six; or 6 sets of four or two circles of 12. And no one gets excluded.

And when you get served a Baker's Dozen as I did recently when I shopped at Coles and asked for a dozen chicken drumsticks, they served me with 13 for the same price, I was laughing all the way home.

Cecilia Conwaye-Wright.

U3A WERRIBEE REGION INC 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) of U3A Werribee Region Inc. will be held on Thursday, 29th February 2024 at the Wyndham Park Community Centre, Room 1, 55-57 Kookaburra Avenue, Werribee, commencing at 10.30 am.

Agenda

- 1. Welcome by the President.
- 2. Receive apologies.
- 3. Review actions from the previous AGM.
- 4. Confirm the minutes of the previous AGM held on 16 February 2023 at Wyndham Park Community Centre.



- 5. Receive the following Annual Reports and Financial statement of accounts for 2023:
 - a. Presidents Report
 - b. Treasurer's Report and Audited Financial Statement
 - c. Appointment of Auditor
 - d. Membership Report
 - e. Course Coordinators Report.
- 6. Special Resolution for acceptance to changes in full of the U3A Werribee Region Incorporated (Inc) Rules of Incorporation. This proposal will require 75% approval by members attending the AGM. This Special Resolution will be promulgated 21 days prior to the AGM on our U3A Website and mailed to those members who do not have email/ internet. Copies will also be made available at classes at the commencement of Term one 2024.
- 7. Set the annual subscription and joining fee for the 2024 financial year.
- 8. Decide on the number of ordinary members of the Committee. (See nomination form)
- 9. Election of Officers and Members to the Committee of Management consisting of:
 President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Course Co-ordinator, Membership Coordinator and other ordinary committee members for the ensuing year.
- 10. General Business.

U3A Werribee Region Inc Committee Nomination Form

Name:	
Position:	
Proposer:	
Seconder: _	
Acceptance	e of Nomination (please sign):

The nomination form may be handed in at classes to Group Leaders and collected by the President or sent to:

The Secretary, Committee Positions, PO Box 1264 Pacific Werribee Plaza, Vic 3030.Or emailed to the Secretary: sec.u3awbee@hotmail.com

PROGRAM OF U3A WERRIBEE COURSES FOR TERM 1 of 2024 Monday 29 January - Friday 28 March 2024

Day/Time	Activity	Group Leader/Tutor		Venue
MONDAY				
10.00 - 12.00	Exploring History	Rick Conn	0402 299 220	HRV
10.00 - 01.00	Movies and Lunch ⁽¹⁾	Judy Conn	0431 677 657	SY
10.30 - 11.30	Tai Chi	Bonnie Holmes	0408 360 537	TCC
01.00 - 02.00	Beginners Italian	Grazia Gismondi	0413 715 756	HCSC
TUESDAY				
09.30 - 10.30	Senior Men in Light Exercises	Tony Bradford	0447 139 202	HCSC
09.45 - 11.45	Needlecraft	Faye Weston	8754 1003	PH
10.00 - 12.00	Digital Device Applications	Don Lee	0402 330 314	HRV
01.00 - 02.00	French	Rick Conn	0402 299 220	HCSC
04.00- 05.30	Line Dancing	Vittoria Lucietto	0438 741 745	HRV
WEDNESDAY				
09.15 - 12.00	Bridge	Brian Kilfoyle	0409 073 869	PH
09.45 - 12.00	Mosaics	Eil Harrop	0419 546 796	WPCC
01.00 - 02.30	Health and Wellbeing	Lyn Alder	0459 449 916	WPCC
01.15 - 04.00	Cards — 500	Barb Kenny	0428 623 371	PH
THURSDAY				
10.00 - 12.00	Current Affairs	Carole Popham	0423 319 844	HRV
12.30 - 03.15	Mahjong	Judy Conn	0431 677 657	WPCC
01.15 - 02.30	Yoga For Older People	Samantha Sepulveda	0419 893 944	WPCC
FRIDAY				
09.45 - 11.45	Ballet Matinee	Cecilia Conwaye-Wright	0407 558 825	PH
12.30 - 02.00	Let's do Lunch ⁽²⁾	Suzanne Luder	0404 131 052	TBA
01.00 - 03.00	Music You Like to Hear	John Funnell	9296 1036	HCSC

Notes:

- (1) The Movies & Lunch Group meet on the second Monday of the month at the Sun Theatre, Yarraville.
- (2) The Lunch Group will run on the third Friday of the month.

FOR ALL COURSE INQUIRIES: EMAIL: courses.u3awbee@hotmail.com
OR CONTACT OUR COURSES COORDINATOR RICK CONN ON 0402 299 220

COURSE VENUES

HRV	Heathglen Retirement	Village. 2 Glendale Crt	(just off Heaths Road), Werribee.

HCSC Hoppers Crossing Sports Club, 56-84 Hogans Road, Hoppers Crossing.

PH Private Home: For details please contact the Group Leader.

SY Sun Theatre, Yarraville.

TBA To Be Advised. For details please contact the Group Leader or Course Coordinator.

TCC Tarneit Community Centre, c/r Leakes Road and Sunset Views Boulevard, Tarneit.

WP Wyndham Park, Werribee

WPCC Wyndham Park Community Centre, 57 Kookaburra Ave, Werribee.

WORDS OF WISDOM WORTH REMEMBERING

"Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it." Albert Einstein (1879-1955) German born theoretical physicist.

"The man who asks a question may be a fool for a minute; the man who does not ask is a fool for life." Confucius (551-479 BC) Chinese philosopher.

"A loving heart is the truest wisdom." Charles Dickens (1812 -1870) English novelist.

"If you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain." Dolly Parton (b1946) American singer-songwriter'.



"Remember, no one can make you feel inferior without your consent." Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962)

American political figure, diplomat, and wife of Pres. Franklin D Roosevelt.

"I attribute my success to this: I never gave or took any excuse." Florence Nightingale (1820 –1910)

English social reformer and the founder of modern nursing.

"Those who stand for nothing, fall for everything" Alexander Hamilton (1757-1894) American Military officer, statesman and Founding Father of the United States.

"How much better to get wisdom than gold; to get insight rather than silver. Bible, Proverbs 16:16

NIV version.

"All that glitters is not gold". William Shakespeare (1564-1616), The Merchant of Venice, act 2, scene 7.

"He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things which he has not, but rejoices for those which he has". Epictetus (50-135AD) Greek Stoic philosopher.

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 any material.