

From the President

Welcome to Spring after an icy and wet winter; I am looking forward to having a lot more sunshine to encourage me to deal with the weeds in my garden.

I want to start by thanking our recently retired newsletter editor Robyn O'Sullivan. Robyn has probably edited U3AW's newsletter for longer than anyone. The committee is very grateful for Robyn's sustained and outstanding work and her cheerful messages spanning six years. I have assembled this edition; however, we will seek a new editor for 2023. [Is anyone out there interested in taking on the newsletter?](#)

Our bocce sessions will resume at Cape Paterson in term 4 – the tutors will be in touch with class members to clarify arrangements. Hopefully, the proposed bocce court in front of the Garden Room will dry out soon so the final stages of construction can commence. Vice President Glenn Cant has done some prep work and built seating. Beautifying the grounds around our buildings will continue along with the new surface installation. [Glenn is always happy to receive advice about what to plant in the garden!](#)

Speaking of plants, the gardening class did some fresh planting at White Road for Spring and went shopping at Townsend's Nursery, where the generous people donated the selected plants to U3A. So, if you are thinking of brightening your garden with new plants, please consider going to Townsends. And, thanks to our gardeners for helping to keep our U3A environment fresh and attractive.

Even at this time of the year, our membership continues to expand. Unfortunately, we have only a few course vacancies to offer to new or ongoing members looking for something new. More information is provided inside. Or you can email program manager Maureen at talktous@u3awonthaggi.org.au.

Our singers have met for many years in Inverloch at the Anglican Church; however, they are returning to home base at White Road in term 4. We thank the Inverloch Anglican parish for hosting our choir for many years. The move is due in part to the reduced number of singers. Fortunately, we can set up for them at White Road, and the singers will be well-supported when they return to the Garden Room on Friday afternoons. I dare not write about the choir without encouraging some of our men or even new men to join for a couple of hours singing each week. We are short of male voices. It will be helpful if you can carry a tune! If you are interested, contact convenor Jackie at sergiomalamute2000@gmail.com.

As you may know, our trivia fundraising event at Wonthaggi Workmen's Club was a financial success and an enjoyable way to spend a cold winter's afternoon. Thanks to all who came along. The Club was generous, making the room available at no charge, and thank you to all of the members who helped out on the day. If you have ideas for other ways to fundraise or are interested in volunteering to show us how it's done, please contact us via Mary at secretary@u3awonthaggi.org.au.

Early in October, we will ask members to help us with some research. U3AW has been operating for 26 years, and we think it's time to give you a say about how we communicate with you. We have a short questionnaire we will ask you to complete to help us to understand what is working well and what isn't. I will be visiting all course and activity groups early in term four.

Finally, we will open enrolments for 2023 courses next November – see inside for more information.

Best wishes to everyone; keep well and enjoy the term break.

Lynn Kirk, President

2022 Seniors Festival Event

Imagining A World Without War

"When imagining a world without war, we need to devise an approach that even soldiers will sign up to", Kevin Walsh, Major, Royal Australian Infantry Corps (Ret'd) and U3AW member.

As part of the Victorian Seniors Festival, U3A Wonthaggi is sponsoring an exceptional event: a panel discussion led by Kevin that will explore the changing nature of warfare and power and historical attempts to end war.

Imagining a World Without War

Convened by Kevin Walsh, U3A Wonthaggi

Monday, 10 October 2022

2.00 pm to 3.30 pm at Inverloch Community Hub

Tea & Coffee Provided

No charge, but we would appreciate a small donation to help cover costs.

All members and others are welcome.

Please book if you can, as it will help with catering arrangements.

To book, go to Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/353372124537>.

Eucalypts of the Strzelecki Ranges & Gippsland Plains. An Identification Kit

Members interested in native trees, gardening, bushwalking, conservation etc., may want to know about a book published last month by Collins and authored by member Aletta Dogterom's daughter Jenny Wolswinkel. The book is beautifully illustrated and designed for anyone wanting to improve their knowledge of indigenous eucalypts, regardless of their current plant identification knowledge. Our congratulations to Jenny on this achievement. The book is available via Aletta, who can be contacted on 0407 170 441.

Fitness, Fun & Occasionally Food

Under Graeme Charles's leadership, this group has been walking on alternate Wednesdays for several years. The walks usually take 90 to 120 mins starting from various locations around Wonthaggi, Inverloch, Cape Paterson, Phillip Island, Corinella, and occasionally at more distant locations like Wilson's Prom. Finishing with coffee and cake has become almost compulsory.

This October, the group will be venturing further from home to visit the wonderful Grampians region for the first time. The visit will see the group travel to Halls Gap, staying for two nights and tackling various walks on offer.

Over time a solid core of members who enrol annually has built to around a dozen regulars. But for this adventure, we have nearly 30 members and partners participating. We will all stay at the same venue in Halls Gap, and no doubt the food (and wine) element, as well as our legs, will get a good workout.

Including a few more members and partners in the Grampians trip may be possible. If you are interested, email Graeme Charles at graemejcharles@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Art Class Excursion

For our end-of-term activity, the art class met at **Meeniyin Art Gallery**, where we looked at the work of four artists: four different approaches to self-expression and four different mediums.

There were brilliantly coloured inks demonstrating free-flowing colours that, in a graphic sense, can be interpreted in various organic landscapes. Mixed media in oils and wax crayon describing abstract colours and shapes that depicted quantum physics, a series of acrylics in bold designs and colours. The fourth artist created organic shapes in gold and pearls as she had repurposed plastic bottles. These little sculptures displayed on their own plinths were very decadent and tactile.

We discussed techniques and the display of works, including the importance of framing; how do you visualise a work on its own that isn't surrounded by other "like pieces" in a body of work on exhibition? We asked ourselves why we liked what we were looking at or why we didn't. What first attracted us to what we saw —colour, subject or composition?

These questions brought about a different appreciation of the artists' works as we discussed them. It was a very useful exercise as many of us had not considered these how and why questions. But I think we all came away enlightened.

We finished our visit to Meeniyin with a cup of good coffee at Moos, and we all wondered, "what can we explore next term".

Jenny McDonald, Art Tutor



Meeniyin Art Gallery

Works by Rebecca Power,
Suellen Lee, Sue Hoare,
& Irene McConville
Until 26 September 2022

Enrolling for 2023 Classes

The committee has begun to shift its focus to 2023. Enrolments will open on **Monday, 28 November 2023**. Members will be asked to enrol online via the website with support via a telephone helpline. There will also be a short time when members or new members without home internet can come to U3AW to enrol in person. However, anyone can enrol from home by calling the helpline, as committee members will do the data entry for members who are not comfortable online. All members will receive a special purpose email in November with information about courses and enrolment, **so please watch out for it.**

We are aware that many of our longer-term members miss the opportunity to mix and chat together on what we used to be known as Registration Day – usually held late in January. As an alternative, the committee will organise a social event at the start of 2023 for all who want to come along.

Volunteers Needed

All not-for-profit organisations need volunteers to help keep their organisations flourishing, and U3AW is no exception. Do you have skills in **IT, website management, marketing, administration, building & site maintenance, or fundraising?** Almost anything is valuable. Or, you might want to **have a go at offering a course or activity – we would love to have new courses.** Please consider joining our volunteer team and contact the secretary, program manager or president to arrange a chat.



3 October	Term 4 starts
10 October	Seniors Festival: "Imagining a World Without War" @ 2.00 pm
25 November	Term 4 ends
28 November	Enrolments open for 2023 @ 9.00 am

U3A Courses with Vacancies for Term 4 of 2022

GARDEN CLUB Tues 9.30 – 11.00 With Lorraine Carroll Garden Room @ White Rd	After gardening at home, it is great to sit and chat with others about it. There is always something happening in our gardens to share and new and old gardening tips to pass around. Our group watches DVDs to see how it's done and swaps plants and produce. We occasionally visit gardens.
FITNESS FUN & FOOD Wed 9.00 – 13.00 With Graeme Charles External Locations	This group is for active walkers wishing to explore South Gippsland. Walking time is usually about two hours, followed by lunch when possible. Some walks may require driving for 30 minutes to access the start point; we carpool for these journeys. Routes will be negotiated with members; the convenor will advise meeting point
WALKING GROUP Thur 9.30 – 10.45 With Robert Butler From U3AW's carpark	Want to trek the local byways? Our friendly band of walkers enjoys good fellowship plus the benefit of regular gentle exercise. A range of walks plus the occasional cup of coffee or tea. Meet at U3A car park
TAI CHI Fri 9.30 – 10.30 With Mary Schooneveldt Goat Island Gallery 18 Boundary Rd Wonthaggi	Tai chi is a gentle and therapeutic exercise based on Chinese traditions. It has many physical and emotional benefits involving slow movements and deep breaths. <i>"Today, it's principally a tranquil, gentle & pleasurable way of attaining and maintaining health and harmony in mind, body, mobility, suppleness and mental alertness," Mr Han Jin Song, founder of Tai Chi Australia.</i>
BOCCE Fortnightly, Thur 9.30 – 11.00 Cape Paterson Reserve	Enjoy this popular European outdoor activity at the courts near Cape Paterson Hall. Note that this class is resuming after the winter break.
CURRENT AFFAIRS Fridays, 9.30 – 11.00 With Stephen Ward & Glenn Cant Garden Room @ White Road	An open forum where members are free to listen or to express personal opinions on topics selected from local, national and international news media.
LEISURELY LUNCHESES Monthly, Sat 12.00 – 2.00 With Gary & Cathy Beard External & various locations	Join us on a gastronomic adventure across Sth Gippsland, where we experience a wide variety of local produce, wines & desserts. This 'pay as you go' activity visits a wide array of restaurants, cafes and wineries across our region, and we get to enjoy the company and conversation of other members.
SHAKESPEARE Fri 11.15 – 13.30 with Lyn Street Garden Room @ White Rd	We read the plays aloud, discuss them and watch video screenings.
SATURDAY BOOK CLUB Third Sat 14.00 – 16.00 With Helen Cole Mawson Hut @ White Rd	Discuss books selected by the group. The public library supplies the books.
SINGING GROUP Fri 2.00 – 3.30 Garden Room @ White Rd Convenor Jackie Brennan	We are a friendly group who love to sing! We don't audition. It is an advantage to read music but not essential. If you want to join us, we would love to see you, especially if you are male!

Electricity Class & Their Big Day Out to Loy Yang B

This class started with eight members and is now up to fourteen. And, what an amazing time to be looking at the history, present-day and future of electricity in our lives. We usually start with a sort of lesson plan structure, which quite often becomes something altogether different, which is why our course structure notes are up to revision 16 after 19 weeks.

We arranged a group excursion to Loy Yang B Power Station for 16 June, and what a great trip it was. The security people warmly greeted us at the main gate, and we could drive onto the site, where we were welcomed by two workmates from three years ago when I was employed there.

After an introductory session on what not to do, we donned hi-viz jackets, helmets and safety glasses. We were off to the control room for an informative Q&A with the Shift Supervisor before fitting earplugs and walking along the noisy Turbine Floor.

Then a walk through the Boiler House and a lift trip to the 20th floor, where the weather broke long enough for us to see the huge open cut mine with some glimpses of the Latrobe Valley. That handrail definitely doesn't feel high enough, and the grid matting doesn't help, either!



Then onto the 3rd floor, where everyone got to see inside the furnace to appreciate the size and intensity of the fire within the combustion chamber. Each of the two units is capable of generating 580 MW & consumes around 600 tonnes of coal per hour.

Next, down to the ground floor to appreciate the size of the Main Pulverising Fuel Mills & beater wheels.

As the inclement weather made it necessary to remain under cover, we went to the cafeteria for some light refreshments before setting off on our return journey.

The people of Loy Yang B were truly amazing and warmly welcomed our group of senior citizens to their plant. We couldn't get over how clean and well-maintained the nearly 30-year-old plant is being kept; it is a credit to all the employees of Alinta's Loy Yang B Power Station employees.



Werner Theinert, Electricity Tutor