



BANYULE
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Office: First floor, 275 Upper Heidelberg Rd, Ivanhoe

Mail: PO Box 454, Rosanna, Victoria, 3084

Email: info@u3abanyule.org.au

Website: www.u3abanyule.org.au

U3A Banyule Inc.

ABN 76 751 606 570

Mobile: 0418 749 228

In the spirit of reconciliation, U3A Banyule acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging. The U3A movement is a welcoming place for all.



Quarterly Newsletter September 2023

In this edition ...

There is no time like spring! The days get longer, the gardens lush, the sunshine brighter, and we throw open the windows to the warmth. There has definitely been a spring in the steps of our members throughout winter as you can see from this edition.

Our lecture program has been full steam ahead. We've had music performances, excursions and lots of lunches.

In this edition we shine the spotlight on the Tuesday Morning Walking Group led by Lois Lee.

To top it off, we have a new revitalised website.

Enjoy!

Don't forget to contact the office if you have any stories or pics from your classes that you'd like to share in the newsletter.

The newsletter team



President's report

Our new website is now live, after what seemed the longest time of inactivity as it was being redeveloped behind the scenes. While there will still be continuing tweaks, it is up and running in time for our upcoming AGM on the 21 September. This project began in January after we received a Community Grant (Technology Support) from the Banyule City Council to redevelop our site as a valuable publicity and communication tool. The Website Review Team has worked hard and long on this project to make sure our website is aesthetically pleasing, easy to navigate and welcoming to both potential members and our existing users. I commend the efforts of the team.

I also commend all those who had to work around a website that was not functioning. We had hoped to have it ready in time for the Semester 2 course selections but it was not to be. Those working on selections put in a stunning effort to create another way of offering our classes. What impressed me was that, in the face of difficulties, there was such wonderful problem solving and team efforts to ensure our processes would stand up.

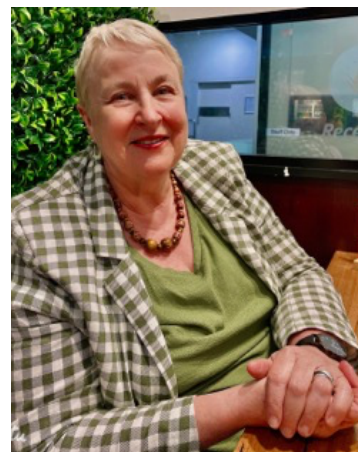
Despite the lack of our website, another team embarked on trialling TryBooking to implement a far more efficient booking system for activities and social functions. We've had wonderful feedback from our members and this implementation is a credit to the vision and energy of the team.

When it comes to the broad program on offer, we have had a feast of quality public speakers, on top of a huge range of classes. The social events – the lingering lunches, the Annual Lunch and all the morning or afternoon teas that bring our people together. These do not just happen. Our volunteers deliver quality events and ensure that people matter.

Our Governance Sub Committee is currently working on preparing for the AGM, which takes hours of effort so all is constitutionally in order and the processes democratic. We hope our members continue to be involved and supportive of these efforts.

Over this term, what I am so impressed with is the fact that we have people who are creative, committed and who go that bit extra to improve outcomes for our members. I say Bravo!

Judith Craze



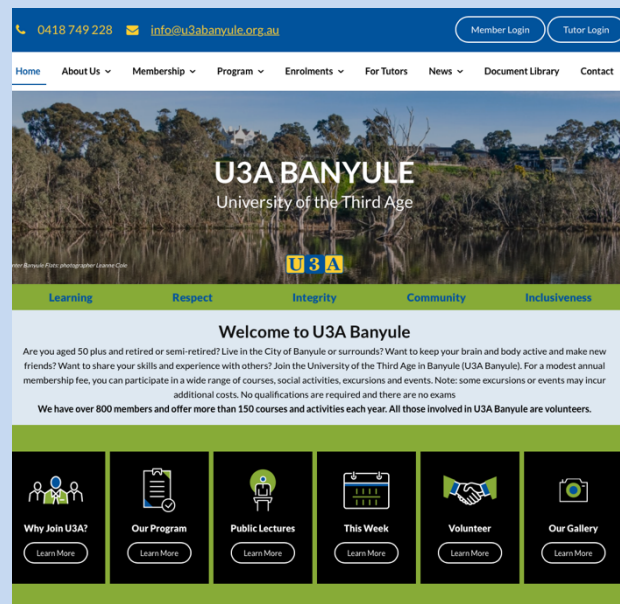
Thank you

A big shout out to the members of the hardworking Website Review Team: Penny Braybrook, Mary Wilson, Heather Stephens, Barbara Sekules and Judith Craze.

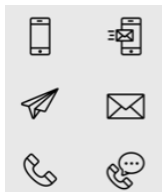
The revamped website has current content, a fresh design and is easy to navigate. The website reflects the vibrancy and variety of our program and is a vital resource for us all.

This is another example of the hard-working teams that operate behind the scenes to make this organisation successful and up to date.

If you haven't seen it yet – do yourself a favour and check it out!



Can we contact you?



Now that the website is up and running, please take a moment to check that your contact details are correct.

This is our main communication tool so please update your home address, phone number and email address on the website.

[Member Login / Membership Status 2023 /](#)

[Update Profile](#)

Age in Focus in Age-friendly Banyule

Banyule Council is developing the new Older Adults Framework 2030. Some of you may have contributed to the survey on Shaping Banyule or were involved in the community consultation.

Did you know that Banyule Council publishes an 'Age in Focus' newsletter that lists activities and services for older adults to help them stay active in the community?

To receive your copy of the newsletter visit banyule.vic.gov.au/ageinfocus and register your details.

One such service is a free Banyule Community Bus, which is on a 12-month trial.

The service operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, following a regular timetabled route three times each day between 9am and 3.30pm.

The service is free for all Banyule residents and is particularly targeted towards older adults, residents with a disability, those with limited access to transport and people experiencing financial hardship.

Banyule Community Bus route



COVID-19 May 2023

Laureate Professor Peter Doherty is an immunologist and pathologist. He won a Nobel Prize for Physiology/Medicine in 1996 for the discovery of how the body's immune system distinguishes virus infected cells from normal cells.

Currently Peter is well-known for his work with the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, a joint venture between the University of Melbourne and Royal Melbourne Hospital. He has been fundamental in helping Australia battle through Coronavirus.

Peter was able to explain, in reasonably 'layman' terms what Coronavirus was, the problems scientists had to tackle with the epidemic and the reality of the virus for most of the population. Peter was very approachable and prepared to answer questions. He was able to provide us with expert knowledge as to how the virus was able to become a world epidemic and what scientists had been able to do at the forefront of Coronavirus research, and the likelihood of another epidemic.



Australia has lost 70% of its forests and what remains is not in good shape July–Aug 2023

Over two talks in July and August, Joe Landsberg discussed our forests in Australia and the major issues that are impacting them.

Joe was the head of the forestry research department at CSIRO and was a co-devisor of a tool for predicting forest growth – a tool that is now used around the world to guide forest management. For this he was awarded the highest honour in world forestry – the Marcus Wallenberg Prize for Forest Science, which was presented in Sweden.

In the first week he noted that 70% of our forests present in 1788 have now been destroyed. He covered the topic of timber harvesting in forests and the widespread disregard of this industry for its ecological effects on the forest and its animal inhabitants. Many of these animals have been severely affected – some to the point of becoming endangered species.



In the second talk he concentrated on bushfires, which will become more frequent and intense in the future with climate change. He argued that our current fuel reduction burn strategy is failing and gave examples that made fire situations worse – such as when the control burn escaped control lines. These burns are quite large resulting in significant damage to the forests.

He argued that a return to the “cultural burning” strategies of Indigenous Australians would be a much more effective approach. This would require small nimble teams of people with good knowledge of a local area who could light small fires in the best location with flexibility of timing to fit in with prevailing weather. Both of Joe's talks initiated great discussion with the audience who clearly were very engaged with the topics.

The very good news is that both Peter and Joe have accepted invitations to speak again.

Peter Doherty will speak in March 2024 in another guise: as author of *Empire, War, Tennis and Me* – a journey through his family history and parts of the 20th Century. As we learnt in May, Peter is a captivating storyteller and raconteur.

Joe Landsberg will also return with topics related to forests in 2024.

Thank you to those who attend the talks because your interest and intelligent questions mean that presenters are very happy to return.

Sue & Andrew Lees – Wednesday afternoon talks

Annual Lunch

The Annual Lunch was held on 16 August at Melbourne Polytechnic in Preston, with 71 members in attendance. The guest speaker, Wendy Drowley OAM, Vice President of Heidelberg Theatre Company, spoke of the history of the HTC and how it came to be housed in its current place in Rosanna, a former bus depot. It began in the Ivanhoe Methodist Church, as it was known then, and later at the Rechabites' Hall in Ivanhoe. The HTC has been at the cultural core of the Banyule District for 71 years staging just on 500 productions and many other events.

Wendy started with the HTC when she was just 14 years old and it has been a lifetime commitment and certainly her passion. She brought along a number of costumes that she wore over the years, and they created much interest.

A donation of \$100 was made to St Mary's House of Welcome in Fitzroy in Wendy's name and we also presented her with a bottle of champagne. We were most grateful for her time and her interesting presentation.

Thank you to Maria Axarlis-Coulter for her work in sourcing our speaker and also, all those who helped on the day. Our members certainly appeared to enjoy their day out and I thank them for supporting this annual event.

Judith Craze

Photos Coralie Leins and Milena Maranville



Heidelberg Theatre Company (HTC) is a non-professional theatre company based in Melbourne Australia. It is dedicated to quality productions. In 2023 they celebrate 71 years.

HTC's fourth 2023 production is a classic Australian comedy-drama by Louis Nowra.
"A terrific play about theatre, madness, illusion, sanity, life – a big, splendidly Australian epic."



Tickets online at
<https://www.htc.org.au>
or call 9455 3039

Memories of Heidelberg Theatre Company

Listening to Wendy Drowley's interesting talk about Heidelberg Theatre Company at the Annual Lunch brought back happy memories of my involvement with HTC over the past 30 years.

My first hands-on participation was helping with the set building – obviously previous experience was not a requirement! My first assignment was painting the apron of the stage a basic black – tick – I can do that I've done a lot of painting at home. Success at that job led me to offer my services for further involvement for other plays so, I took on the job of using my skills to do the same for HTC. Well, matching a pattern while perched on a very high ladder against a very high wall proved to be too much of a challenge, so my set building days were over! I must add that the sets at Heidelberg are always wonderful and enhance the whole experience of each play.

Doing *Front of House* is now my involvement and always a lot of fun. The complimentary sherries before the show are always a hit and serving teas, coffees and wine at interval can sometimes get a bit hectic in the limited time but we haven't had a failure yet! *Front of House* also involves meeting and greeting the patrons and it's always interesting – sometimes enlightening – hearing their opinions of the play.

HTC has an excellent reputation with all the other amateur companies and there are many times when our "amateurs" outshine professional theatre productions.

During COVID (following all the rules), three of us had a happy morning doing a photo shoot. So clad in a gorgeous gown and accessories from the massive wardrobe department, there was I sitting in an empty theatre waiting for the return of an audience. Great idea Toni Tyers! Can't imagine where the years have gone but it's been great and here's to making more happy memories. *June Sharp*



Heidelberg Choral Society

The World Premiere Performance of *Origins* by the Heidelberg Choral Society was held at the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Recital Centre on 18 July 2023. *Origins* is a new and original oratorio on the scientific version of the story of creation "ex nihilo", from Big Bang and the first atoms, through the evolution of the solar system, the Earth, its plant and animal kingdoms, to human beings.

Several members of U3A Banyule are in the Heidelberg Choral Society and others attended the sold-out performance. Spotted in the choir were members Maxine Marks, Julian Mercer, Patricia Tyler, Rose Vaughan, Ruth Villaini, Helen Walker, Kevin Whiting and Mary Wilkie.

Also attending were "Living National Treasure" Barry Jones and Robin Williams, presenter of ABC Radio National's *The Science Show*. It was a wonderful evening, especially for music lovers and the scientifically (and non-religiously) inclined.

The libretto, by evolutionary geneticist Jenny Graves and poet Leigh Hay, and music, by Australian composer Nicholas Buc, were both superb, and the orchestration was very impressive, with the percussionists working overtime with atmospheric clacks, cymbals and triangles.

Peter Bandy, well known to U3A Banyule, did an excellent job of conducting. The performance was accompanied by impressive overhead graphics, explaining in spectacularly visual fashion the various processes involved in the appearance and evolution of life on earth. This audience member was particularly impressed by video footage of the elaborate courting behaviour of our own Australian lyrebird. The male was desperate to get the girl, using all the tricks in his mating manual to convince her that he was a handsome catch, and would give her beautiful offspring. In summary, it was a moving and uplifting experience for all involved, performers and audience alike.

Rosemary Sceats



Tuesday Morning Short Walks Group

The Tuesday Morning Short Walks group aims to give members an enjoyable and sociable period of exercise once weekly. The walks vary from 5 to 6.5 kilometres along well-formed paths, mostly through parkland and along the many waterways in Banyule and just beyond.

Group members are encouraged to walk at their own pace, keeping other members in sight so as not to get left too far behind if they are a little slower than some others. At the conclusion of walks members are offered refreshments and the opportunity to chat with others they might not have been walking with.

Margaret Miller



The walk on Tuesday 15 August, organised by Lois Lee, started at Swilk Reserve in Templestowe, then followed the Ruffey Creek Trail to Wombat Bend, then circled Finns Reserve before crossing the suspension bridge over the Yarra River.



Having joined the Main Yarra Trail on the other side of the bridge the group headed towards Westerfolds Park then skirted the grounds of Odyssey House before completing the loop and returning to the carpark for refreshments.



Photos Anne Wallace

Excursion to Overnewton Castle

Overnewton Castle in Keilor was a great place to visit!

Emma, the daughter of the present owner took us on a most informative tour through the lower and upper floors of the castle. She was able to tell us numerous tales of her upbringing in the castle and relate many stories recalling the history of this magnificent old building. It now doubles as both a home and a venue for weddings and functions.

Elaine Rees



Stunning Stained Glass of Christian Waller

Fifty members enjoyed the July public lecture by art historian and writer Dr Caroline Miley about her study of the eminent stained glass artist Christian Waller (1894–1954).

Dr Miley's engaging illustrated presentation beautifully highlighted the fine work of the artist. Attendees were impressed to hear about Christian Waller's life, beliefs and creative techniques with stained glass.



Waller's works adorn over 20 churches in Victoria and NSW as well as prominent buildings in Melbourne and major galleries. Of note is the stained glass in St James Church Ivanhoe – worth a visit!

Waller with her husband, famous fellow artist Napier Waller, were Ivanhoe locals residing in their impressive 'arts and crafts' style house and studio now left intact by the National Trust as the 'Waller House' memorial.

Dr Miley had copies of her book available and promoted the website for more details.

The lecture concluded with an informal chat and delicious afternoon tea from Joan Learmont and helpers.

<https://www.christianwallerstainedglass.com/>

Maria Axarlis-Coulter

Dr Caroline Miley signing her impressive book for Anita Bourke

Shakespeare's Hamlet

Audrey Davies' Shakespeare class will present a rehearsed reading of a shortened version of *Hamlet* in the ILCH Theatrette, at a date soon to be announced. The photo shows the class's very well received 2022 presentation of *Richard III*.

The show will be Audrey's "swan song" as she will be retiring at the end of 2023, after 6 years as a popular Tutor.



Afternoon tea with music 28 August

A blend of harmonious singing, fine recorder playing and a delicious sit-down afternoon tea made for a thoroughly enjoyable U3A musical event in the last week of August. Over sixty attendees appreciated the talent and enthusiasm exhibited by the Banyule U3A Audacity Choir and Recorder Group.

Banyule U3A's commitment to performing arts and promoting the benefit of music for well-being was clearly evident. Following the performance, the joyful and energised connections across the tables had the room buzzing with animated conversations.

Sincere thanks to Joan Learmont for suggesting the session. Special thanks to Nancy Cornwallis, Ian Lowe, Margaret Martyr with members of the Audacity Choir, Elizabeth Ward with members of the Recorder Group, Fiona Wilson and the catering team.

Maria Axarlis-Coulter

Photos Milena Maranville





Caterer and MC



Choir



Recorder group



Relaxing with friends at the afternoon tea

Seniors festival events

The Victorian Seniors Festival, now in its 41st year, returns this October. This major state-wide festival for Victorians over 60 focuses on providing free or low-cost events and activities, designed to bring seniors together to enjoy themselves, learn new skills and make friends.

There will be live events across the state, delivered by local councils, community groups and clubs and free public transport for Victorian Seniors Card holders from 1 to 8 October 2023.

Look out for these free events. Bookings are essential. All ages welcome!

Audacity (U3A Singing for Pleasure) singalong

This is a singalong with the choir to piano accompaniment. Books with songs familiar to those aged 65+ will be provided.

Tuesday 3 October 1– 3pm

Rosanna Uniting Church Hall, 21 Arden Crescent, Rosanna

Click on link or cut and paste link or scan QR code or email:

Kevinwhiting@bigpond.com or ring 0419 310 307

<https://www.trybooking.com/CJUMF>



The Man Who Never Was

Jane Davies will present the amazing World War II story of how German intelligence was fooled by a non-existent man.

Thursday 5 October 3:15–4:45pm

Community Rooms 1&2, Ivanhoe Library & Community Hub

Click on link below or scan QR code or email:

smkarasmanis@gmail.com or ring 0418 749 228

<https://www.trybooking.com/CJUMU>



Creative Knitting Come and Try

U3A knitters will teach new participants. Needles, wool, patterns and a delicious morning tea will be supplied.

Wednesday 11 October 11am–1pm

Community Rooms 1&2, Ivanhoe Library & Community Hub

Click on link or scan the QR code or email:

smkarasmanis@gmail.com or ring 0418 749 228

<https://www.trybooking.com/CJUOC>



Dates for your diary

Thurs 21 Sept 10–11.30am	Annual General Meeting – Zoom Webinar
18–29 Sept	School holidays – No classes at ILCH U3A Banyule office will be open
Mon 30 Oct	Membership renewals open
Tues 7 Nov	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday – No classes at ILCH
Mon 20 Nov	Annual Forum, Heidelberg Golf Club [Bookings close Wed 15 Nov]
Fri 24 Nov	Semester 2, 2023 classes conclude
Mon 27 Nov 3–5pm	Awards presentation & Tutor and Volunteer Thank You East Ivanhoe Bowling Club
Mon 27 Nov	2024 Course Program available for viewing
Mon 4 Dec	Semester 1, 2024 Course Enrolments commence