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**Honorary Secretary:** Ros Gibson

**Office Managers:** Mary Paul and Office Volunteers

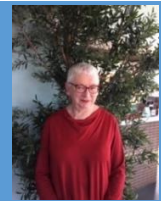
## **NEWSLETTER: TERM 1, 2023**

**Editor:** Daphne Sands



### **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN**

**Nanette Tunncliffe**



Last year, the Committee of Management commenced work on reviewing the existing Strategic Plan with the final rewrite to occur early this year. To enable us to be in a position to make decisions about the future development of U3A Geelong, we commenced gathering feedback from members, volunteers and Committee members themselves.

We began with a questionnaire specifically designed for Committee members to consider the bigger picture rather than just the here and now. Thank you to those of you who returned the questionnaire for consideration.

All members were invited to complete the Members' Questionnaire so that we can also address issues that are important to members and tutors. (see report below)

Currently a review of office procedures is taking place.

The AGM for 2023 will take place on Wednesday the 5th of April. All official documentation and forms will be sent later this week.

Each year Life Membership is presented to members who have given exceptional service to U3A Geelong. This year, the Committee of Management is asking members to nominate someone they believe to be worthy of Life Membership. The criteria for Life Membership and Nomination forms will also be distributed to members this week. I encourage you to think seriously about this opportunity to highlight and reward a worthy recipient.

Nanette Tunncliffe President

## U3A Geelong Member Questionnaire 2022 Report

The following report is necessarily confined to relaying to the Committee of Management the data contained in the returned Member Questionnaires; its interpretation, and consideration of its implications for the future of U3A Geelong.

### Introduction:

- Of approximately 800 questionnaires made available to members through classes and the Office, 180 were returned.
- Of those 180, fewer than 15% were completed; either whole sections (i.e: categories such as 'Courses' and 'Venues'), or parts of sections, were left blank.
- In the (final) 'Other' section inviting comments or suggestions as to any other aspect of U3A Geelong not previously addressed in the questionnaire, member response was minimal

### 1. MEMBER INFORMATION:

Most respondents listed the following benefits derived from U3A Geelong membership:

- opportunities for ongoing learning
- mental stimulation/well-being
- opportunities via its social context: fun, relaxation, the sharing of common interests, and the widening of friendship networks.

### 2. COMMUNICATION:

Very little feedback was provided in this section.

- Almost all who reported awareness of any U3A Geelong community promotion, identified cinema advertising at The Pivotonian.

### 3. COMMUNITY PROFILE:

- Most respondents were prepared to complete at least part of this table (with ticks as required).
- \*Newsletter and Bulletin emerged as the sources of information/communication most frequently consulted by members.
- Next most highly ranked was Website, followed by Facebook, then U3A Geelong Office.

### 4. COURSES

- Most questionnaires (approx. 70%) included at least one suggestion for future courses/classes: Woodcarving - Art History - Investors Group - Leadlighting - Genealogy - Botany - World Religions - Chess - Film Study/Discussion Group - Dressmaking - Psychology - Horticulture - Architecture
- Zoom classes: 37 respondents (to this question) are willing to attend zoom classes; 25 members are interested in Zoom training.

### 5. VENUES:

- All who responded in this section indicated satisfaction with their current venues.
- Preparedness to attend classes at Leopold: 53 members; Bell Post Hill: 30 members.

- Suggested future venues: “more on The Bellarine”, Newtown/Chilwell and Bannockburn.

#### 6. LECTURES:

- 33 members said YES- they have attended at least one lecture, and 90 members said NO- they have not.  
Reasons for NO: Unaware lecture was being held 24, Lack of interest in the subject/s 27, Other commitments 35.
- Suggested topics for future lectures: Medical Research - The Law (eg: Wills) - Local Indigenous History - DNA/Genetics - First Aid/CPR - Basic Mechanics - Consumer Affairs - History of Geelong - Forensic Science - Criminology - Community Health Issues - Refugee presentations.

#### 7. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:

- 30 members said YES- they have participated in at least one social activity, and 60 members said NO- they have not.
- Reasons for NO: Unaware activity was being held 20, Lack of interest in the activities offered 6, Other commitments 17.
- Suggestions for future social activities:

Film Nights - Wine/cheese tastings - Trivia Quiz Nights - Table Tennis tournaments - Melbourne trips: Theatre, Stage Shows - Card Nights: 500, Poker.

One respondent requested a repeat visit to Deakin University-Waurn Ponds campus, to visit the Robotics Section. Also suggested was a visit to its Space Industry Section and to its 'Manufactures' Manufacturing Hub - both at Waurn Ponds.

#### 8. VOLUNTEERING:

- 13 members expressed their willingness to become Office Volunteers.
- 20 members indicated their willingness to assist with Newsletter collation and/or distribution of promotional material.

#### 9. OTHER:

- With an increasing move to online/hybrid presentations, it is important to have solid cyber- security audit/ checkups and updates, twice yearly, for tutor, student and U3A Admin. Computer systems.
- The Course Booklet could be made “brighter, more inspirational... a few pictures?”
- Cobbin Farm Carpark could do with increased safety signage re the bike path.
- Beneficial to all U3A Geelong members would be a Book Exchange at Cobbin Farm.

Carol Hobbs, U3A Geelong Communications Manager

# INTRODUCING MEMBERS OF U3A GEELONG

**WENDY GALLOWAY**  
**U3A Geelong Long-Term  
Member**



Another year of U3A classes and much to enjoy. We are fortunate in Geelong to have so many fine and willing tutors offering classes on a wide range of topics and covering many interests.

U3A historically has a distinguished past exemplified by “Lifelong Learning” and it fills an important role in the lives of many people world wide. Lifelong Learning is such a noble and attractive goal and has wide appeal for many people in their retirement years. What better time to immerse yourself and discover more about subjects that have always interested you but been impossible to study during the busy working years? Offering your knowledge and expertise as a tutor is even more noble and also satisfying. Teaching interested adults is a breeze compared to teaching children and young students!

I have enjoyed a number of classes since 2010 when I was a member of Garry Kinnane’s fine literature class. Since then there has been the opportunity to learn and study a number of areas of interest. I feel I can become immersed with extra reading and research, but there is no pressure - no final TEST at the end to separate the workers from the slackers! And a golden opportunity to make congenial new friends.

My professional background has always been classical music - as a professional violinist, teacher, examiner, adjudicator, and advocate for community music. My working life was busy with music performances as well as working in schools and maintaining a private practice.

David and I have had the opportunity to travel and that has enhanced my knowledge of the world and different cultures. David’s background was science - veterinary science in particular, so our professional worlds were very different. There was always interest and support for each other. I have visited a lot of veterinary schools and David has attended a lot of concerts!

As with most women with families, professional life must also revolve around children and their activities. We have a daughter and two sons and between them they have produced a fine crop of grandchildren now well established in their own fields of interest and expertise.

We came to live in Geelong in 1975 and that was a significant move for the family. Born and educated in Sydney, I had never lived in a country town and Geelong was a revelation after living for some years in Melbourne. I felt welcomed and found new friends. I was encouraged to find opportunities to play and teach and even to do some further study at Deakin University.

I found some gaps in the opportunities for music students and also for professional players. Why not set up some of these enhancements to the cultural life of Geelong?

Bay City Strings and the Geelong Youth Orchestra were first on the agenda, followed by the first Geelong Summer Music Camp. I was part of the set up of the Chamber Orchestra of Geelong and a Series of Chamber Music Concerts at Geelong College's Music Centre. I was a foundation member of the Friends of the MSO and helped to retain the concerts in Geelong when the MSO's touring program to regional areas was severely cut back. I worked in partnership with other enterprising and innovative people and between us I think we added to the cultural possibilities for people who live in Geelong and the lovely Bellarine Peninsular.

Now my main obsession is with the Geelong Symphony Orchestra. A distinguished orchestra that performs 3 concerts per year in Costa Hall offering some of the finest symphonic music available. Come to our next splendid performance on Saturday February 25th at the family friendly time of 5 pm and be "blown away" by Mendelssohn, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky.

Geelong has been our home for many years now and I am delighted with the opportunities available to its people. The beauty of the surroundings with river, bay, beaches and forested woodlands. The cultural life is now rich and varied offering much choice. I would not want to go back to live in a big city.

## More about U3A courses

### Ron Hedgcock tutor for Singers of Renown on video Friday 11 am to 1 pm, all year



Caruso

This is a course that should delight any music lover. Projected digitally onto a big screen, are individual segments taken from Musical films, Concerts and Operas that show many of the great singers of the last 100 years actually performing their most famous songs and arias. Each performance piece is introduced with some background and explanation.

The pieces are selected essentially for their enjoyment value, as well as their historical significance. So you may hear performers like Paul Robeson, Joseph Schmidt, Howard Keel, Katherine Grayson, Jeanette Macdonald, Deanna Durbin delivering the greatest of their repertoire. Many wonderful memories will be stirred as we look at scenes out of movies many of us perhaps saw in our younger days.

No Rock, or heavy pop music is featured; and in the case of Opera, none of the complex and highbrow kind of thing is included. A big emphasis on melody and emotional appeal. Occasionally an item that is non vocal is introduced for its visual interest, like delightful scenes of ballet and dance, or enjoyable pieces of orchestral music. The items are selected out of the many hundreds of DVDs and Video tapes in Ron's library. Ron comes from a musical family where his father played piano and Pipe Organ, and was a sometime Composer and Choir Master. His mother was trained in piano and in singing.

This course was well attended and much loved during Ron's time with U3A in Ballarat prior to his shift to Geelong some four years ago.



Nelson Eddy and  
Jeanette Macdonald  
in Rose Marie



## Ron Hedgcock tutor for 2000 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN ART Tuesday 11 am to 1 pm, all year



Leonardo da Vinci

This is not a programme in sequential historical form. Each session deals with some specific topic within Christian doctrine and tradition. Each is complete in itself, and is illustrated with over 70 art works that illustrate and amplify the subject of the day. These art works are digitally projected onto a large screen in glowing colour for the most part. They are not of the 'pretty-pretty' Madonna types of painting, but embrace a wide variety of styles. They range from the beautiful to the dramatic, the bizarre and in some cases even the comic. The greater part of them will almost certainly be unknown to most people.

The Christian religion has a surprising history of History, Art, Legend and teaching, and even the most devout of followers know little about these cultural expressions within the tradition. Some of the most surprising and interesting material surrounds legendary and non-Biblical stories and concepts that are almost totally forgotten in our day. Perhaps the richest source of legendary data is in the lore about the Virgin Mary. Much of this is even classed as heretical today, and rejected by scholarship among all denominations.

The material presented is based on many years of study, and backed up by the hundreds of books in my own personal library. Though academic in essence, the presentations are fascinating and entertaining. Examples of the topics are ADAM AND EVE AND THE GARDEN, ART AND THE AFTERLIFE, THE BEGINNINGS OF CHRISTIAN ART, THE HOLY TRINITY, DEVILS AND DEMONS IN CHRISTIAN TRADITION. No significant knowledge about Christianity is needed to enjoy this course, but naturally some general familiarity with its teachings is an advantage.



Pieta by Michelangelo

Ron is an experienced lecturer, with a solid background in the Christian Church. There is absolutely no religious motivation behind the presentation of the course, and persons of any or no denomination will find it interesting and stimulating. Printed handouts can be provided. This course was originally designed for and presented in the U3A of Ballarat.

## **Bruce Watson** tutor for "Yes" to relevant, positive religion!

Held on Wednesday 1.30 to 3.30 pm in Term 3

My course, "Yes" to relevant, positive religion!" will take you on a journey that I experienced by attending a Church in Melbourne where the Minister was Dr. Francis A. Macnab – an accomplished minister, theologian, and psychoanalyst who brought modern day meaning to religion and what it could be. Many people would probably argue that it is almost impossible to have the words "relevant", "positive" and "religion" in the same sentence. It is true that many people tell me of their experiences of religion that are less than encouraging. We need to separate the dogma from the organised Church from the good themes that make for an enriched individual life and strong supportive communities; not get bogged down in outdated theological and tortuous religious arguments that miss the point for most of us in our daily lives.

This encapsulated the work of Dr. Francis A. Macnab. He is a retired Australian Christian minister. He was the executive minister of St Michael's Uniting Church, a congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia in Collins Street, Melbourne, until December 2016. He is a fellow of the Jesus Seminar. In 1961, Dr. Macnab opened the Cairnmillar Institute, a clinical psychological centre, the largest in Australia, which was for some time the largest training body for psychologists and counsellors in the country.

Please join my course to hear a 20-minute address from Dr. Macnab each week and then discussion. He said in an interview with Stateline Victoria (2008), that he agreed with others inside Christianity who "are asking the traditional church to re-examine and renew their basic thinking about what Faith can be, because millions of people do not find the old Faith meaningful to their lives. And, "not to take the scriptures too literally".

Bruce Watson, Tutor



**Dorothy Parkes** tutor for Know Your Body  
held on 10 am to 12 pm Tuesdays in Terms 1 and 2

Our body is a wonderful machine where all the different parts work harmoniously with each other.

Have you ever wondered how your body systems work and how they are interrelated. Did you know that there are 12 major systems in the body. All of these systems work together to keep our bodies functioning properly. Do you know how the respiratory system is related to the circulatory system? What roles do the liver and pancreas have in digestion? How is the nervous system related to the muscular system and other systems in the body? What happens when something goes wrong with our body systems?

Come and join this class to answer some of these questions.

Dorothy Parkes was a medical scientist before she moved into education as a science and biology teacher.

## TALKING ABOUT HALLOWEEN

From Derek Wallace

According to Wikipedia **Halloween** or **Hallowe'en** (a contraction of "All Hallows' evening"), less commonly known as **Allhalloween**, **All Hallows' Eve**, or **All Saints' Eve**, is a celebration observed in many countries on 31 October, the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. It begins the observance of Allhallowtide, the time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs, and all the departed.

Turns out Halloween has been celebrated in Ireland and Scotland for centuries. Irish and Scottish immigrants took many Halloween customs to North America in the 19th century, and then through American influence Halloween had spread to other countries by the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Is Halloween one of the USA that should be battle if there was one Think Kentucky Fried McDonalds, maybe



those new imports from opposed? Maybe the has already been lost. Chicken (KFC), even Valentine's day.

I live in Mt. Duneed, a relatively new estate and Halloween has made its mark. It seems there is a code of operation that exists I didn't know about. If you want to get involved then on the night of 31<sup>st</sup> October you leave your light on for the trick or treaters, or you leave some orange string on your letterbox. Even decorate your house with cobwebs and a witch upside down in the garden. This shows you are participating in Halloween. Even a parent accompanies the children when they venture out. Our letterbox even received reminders the Halloween was 30 days away, then another reminder saying 7 days to go. Some religions don't believe in it or it clashes with other events in their religious calendars. The kids love Halloween and look forward to it, so the event is probably here to stay. Expect this event to grow bigger each year.

You better stay tuned because the next push for Australia to celebrate is Thanksgiving Day.

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ADFAS has around 6500 members in 38 Societies across regional and metropolitan Australia.

ADFAS still enjoys close ties with its UK counterpart, now known as The Arts Society, and draws many of its overseas lecturers from the Arts Society Register.



Members are kept up-to-date with regular electronic newsletters and have the opportunities to contribute to Young Arts programs and other local groups.

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To learn more about the arts in a friendly welcoming environment.

To enjoy cultural and social opportunities with a chat over morning tea and sandwiches following the morning lecture at 10.30 am or a glass of wine and sandwiches following the evening lecture at 6 pm.

**Please join us. We look forward to seeing you soon!**



**Venue: Newcomb Hall, 82 Wilsons Road, Newcomb.**

<https://www.adfas.org.au/societies/geelong/>

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# Geelong

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## CONCERT 1

**Saturday 25 February 5pm**

From the rugged isle of Staffa off the coast of Scotland to the deceiving charm of Vienna, to the darkness of Russia - each work in our first concert has a connection to "**fate and destiny**" ... join us to discover the connections. The mysteries of Fingal's Cave, the inner angst of Beethoven's penultimate piano concerto and Tchaikovsky's musical declaration that "fate will always prevent one from achieving true happiness". Pianist **Hoang Pham** returns and the GSO will shine under the baton of Richard Davis.

Conductor **Richard Davis**      Piano **Hoang Pham**

**Mendelssohn** Overture 'The Hebrides' Op.26

**Beethoven** Piano Concerto No.4 in G major Op.58

**Tchaikovsky** Symphony No.4 in F minor Op.36



## CONCERT 2

**Saturday 13 May 3pm**

Conductor **Mario Dobernig** leads the GSO as it dances from classical ballet to flirt with the a Spanish gypsy and even an encounter with Death himself. This selection of lush music is a deviation from the orchestra's usually programming, offering works seldom, if ever, heard in Geelong. **Lily Bryant** won the Australian Youth Classical Music Competition in 2022 and joins the orchestra in a thrilling arrangement of melodies from Bizet's *Carmen*.

Conductor **Mario Dobernig**

Flute **Lily Bryant**

**Debussy** Prélude à l'après midi d'un faune

**Saint-Saëns** Danse Macabre

**Bizet / arr. Borne** Carmen Fantasy

**Tchaikovsky** Waltz from Eugene Onegin

**Tchaikovsky** Balletsuite from Swan Lake





CONCERT 3

**Saturday 21 October 5pm**

It's never been solved and continues to evoke mystery with the thrill of hidden themes and motifs. Elgar dedicated the work "to my friends pictured within". All mystery aside, Elgar's *Enigma Variations* is simply beautiful music. Add the famous Cello Concerto and the concert overture *Cockaigne*, and you have a sumptuous all Elgar afternoon conducted by **Richard Davis** showcasing the Geelong Symphony Orchestra.

Conductor **Richard Davis**

Cello **TBA**

**Elgar** Cockaigne (In London Town) Overture Op.40

**Elgar** Cello Concerto in E minor Op.85

**Elgar** Variations on an Original Theme Op.36 'Enigma Variations'

**Elgar** Pomp and Circumstance March No.4 Op.39

**Elgar** Pomp and Circumstance March No.1 Op.39

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