

**U3A Geelong Inc Reg. No. 12137 ABN: 55 284 853 825**

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**Office hours:** 9.30am – 12.30pm, Monday to Friday except school and public holidays.

**President:** Nanette Tunncliffe **Honorary Secretary:** Colleen Workman

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

**NEWSLETTER: TERM 4, 2023**

**Editor:** Daphne Sands



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Nanette Tunncliffe



Term 4 is upon us and I find Christmas drawing ever closer. I encourage all of you to really make this term count – join in as much as you can – before the extended Christmas break. We have various social activities, Open Day and of course the very important Membership Renewal and Enrolment Day.

Enrolment Day will be on:

THURSDAY THE 30th OF NOVEMBER, 9.30am – 2.00pm.

You can enrol in person at Cobbin Farm or online through the website. More details will follow in the Bulletin next Term.

## Lost and found at U3A

Walk'n'talk fast wall charger was found in the Sunroom 31/8/23 and has not been claimed

# INTRODUCING MEMBERS OF U3A GEELONG JACK CRESWICK U3A TUTOR, POLITICS MODERATOR



In the section marked “Where born” my birth certificate states “Born in a taxi in Swanston St Carlton”; that was late on a Friday night in September 1950. Now apart from the unusual circumstances of my birth two other issues have ensued. One, I am a lifelong Blues supporter and Two, I have been on the move for most of my life. For example, when I started grade four it was my sixth change of primary school and also the sixth house that I had lived in.

Similarly, by the time I found my “vocation” at age twenty, my work experience had encompassed some dozen or more jobs spread across the country from Sydney to Perth; mostly as an itinerant, semi-skilled labourer in the building industry. My “vocation” was finally revealed to me when talking my way into a temporary position in television at ABW2, Perth. The vacancy was in the Film Library, filling in while someone was on Long Service Leave. After their return I was shuffled through a few other positions that inspired a great interest in the medium and the media. After six months I left to travel overseas: the travel didn’t happen, instead I fell in love and it was eighteen months before I was able to finally get back into television. This time as a trainee News Film Editor at GTV9 Melbourne.

Film Editing is a very subtle yet powerful means of communicating through images, spoken words, sound and occasionally music. Having always been interested in people through my travels and various work experiences, the idea of story-telling through television really appealed to me – and still does to this day.

After a few years working in News I had the opportunity to work for A Current Affair in 1976 as the sole Melbourne editor, under Executive Producer Michael Schildberger. This lasted only until 1979 when ACA lost a ratings war to its original creator, Mike Willesee who was then at the Seven Network. Fortunately, Willesee offered me an afternoon gig as second editor; the only catch being that I had to establish a freelance business. Over the next decade my work was mainly in current affairs, some documentaries and a few years in children’s television – part time of course.

In the late 1980’s Michael Schildberger asked me to produce corporate training and information videos for his private company, Business Essentials, another part time arrangement that continued through to 2012. This was of course the time when home video was all the rage and many businesses wanted to use the new medium to promote, train and inform their staff, customers and shareholders. Michael was a great team leader and communicator with fantastic links into federal and state politics. He had developed a

part of the business into Media Training, teaching people - mainly politicians, how to handle a media interview so they could disarm the tricky questions and hopefully get their own agenda across. Through this and our normal communications business I met and filmed interviews with dozens of politicians from both sides, including a few Prime Ministers, State Premiers and a number of “also rans”.

While the experience of meeting many politicians was interesting, it was the many hundreds of “ordinary” people I met in many different walks of life that has driven my interest in Politics, because after all, politics is about people.

## A BRIEF, THREE-PART HISTORY OF U3A – PART 3

### U3A ARRIVES IN GEELONG

At 10:30 am on Friday 8th November 1985 in the Moorabool Street Campus of the Gordon Technical College, **Ken Williams**, the college’s Community Program Coordinator, chaired a meeting of 18 people to discuss the establishment of U3A in Geelong. An Interim Planning Group was formed.

On 26th November 1985, the Interim Planning Group, chaired by **Ross Synot OAM** made plans to hold a public meeting in the Geelong West Town Hall. The Gordon Technical College, Deakin University and Grace McKellar House were invited to become oversight bodies and to provide support with facilities and resources.



Above (L-R): Rev Pat Wood OBE, OAM, BA, Ross Synot OAM, Nanette Tunnickliffe

170 people were present at the Geelong West Town all on 17th March 1986 to witness the birth of U3A Geelong. U3A Geelong became a not for profit, volunteer-run community organisation ‘*where those eager to learn meet those eager to teach.*’ Its first president and patron was the **Reverend Gillam Albert McConnell (Pat) Wood OBE, OAM, BA<sup>1</sup>**.

In 2007, U3A Geelong approached the City of South Barwon looking for a venue. Cobbin Farm in Grovedale proved to be ideal as it had previously been vacated. The U3A program which operated during school terms allowed the venue to be hired out to the community in the evenings and during school holidays<sup>2</sup>.

Under the guidance of a long line of distinguished presidents, today's President Nanette Tunnicliffe, sees U3A Geelong with 937 members, 71 tutors and many volunteer contributors, and more than 111 different courses<sup>3</sup>. Add to that the number of dates these classes are held and the complexity of the organisation becomes obvious; and provides an insight into the hours of curricula work and meticulous class preparation by the tutors; which is why volunteers, often stretched, can (and will) use all the help they can get.

Classes are held at Cobbin Farm in Grovedale, the Grovedale Community Centre in Heyers Road and in 2022 classes once held at Vines Road were incorporated into the Cobbin Farm and Grovedale Community Centre campuses.

In 1988 U3A Geelong became a member of U3A Network-Victoria Inc., thanks to the untiring work of the many eminent people who have contributed to the strength and growth of U3A Geelong Inc. since its inauguration. To mention them all and their outstanding contributions to the organisation would require a tome larger than the Oxford English Dictionary.

In 1990 classes commenced on the Bellarine Peninsula in Portarlington, Queenscliff, Ocean Grove and Torquay (Surf Coast) and in March 2018, Surf Coast registered its 500th member.

Fast forward to 2023, membership of U3A Geelong is open to all adult age groups; and our members attend lectures and demonstrations, participate in discussions and practical activities; learn languages such as French, Italian, Spanish and German; master skills such as computing, painting, pottery, calligraphy; for the more cerebral, philosophy, history, politics, anthropology, Egyptology, our solar system, environmental studies; courses in the arts and humanities – music, dance, literature, poetry, creative writing and visual arts; along with games of skill such as mahjong and bridge.

U3A Geelong and its Bellarine Peninsula and Surf Coast satellites offer something for everyone who wishes to further their learning, change course in life or simply enjoy the companionship of fellow members. While for those so-minded, there are ample rewarding opportunities to volunteer. And on 8th November, 2025, U3A Geelong Inc will celebrate its 40th Anniversary, with plans to mark the occasion already underway at U3A Network Victoria – a tribute to those dedicated people who established U3A Geelong Inc and those committed to its ongoing success.

So that, dear readers concludes this somewhat brief, three-part history of the U3A. Thank you for taking the time to read it. It is this writer's hope that you are stimulated to further investigate this fascinating journey and join us. You just might learn something.

From Jon Haggar

[1] Birth of a Rainbow, Kenneth O. Williams

[2] [geelongaustralia.com.au/venuesandfacilities/halls](http://geelongaustralia.com.au/venuesandfacilities/halls)

[3] Special thanks to Nanette Tunnicliffe for "filling in the blanks".

## LIBRARY WORKSHOPS FOR OVER 50s, BUILDING DIGITAL SKILLS

Workshops will be held at Corio, Colac, Newcomb and Drysdale libraries

### BUILDING DIGITAL SKILLS

June – December  
Various dates & library locations

Are you over 50 and want to build your online skills?  
We are delivering free sessions across our library network from June to December to help you confidently use your smartphone, computer, or device. Join in and improve your ability to navigate the digital world.

Find out more on our website.



**Be Connected**  
Every Australian online.



Visit your local library for more information

OR

The dates for Building Digital Skills workshops from now to 31 December 2023  
can be found here:

<https://www.grlc.vic.gov.au/building-digital-skills-program>

OR call:

(03) 4201 0600

**Find a list of the interesting and varied events coming up  
at the library during the next year at:**

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/events?r=months&n=12>

## THE RISKS OF THUNDERSTORM ASTHMA IN VICTORIA DURING GRASS POLLEN SEASON (1 OCTOBER - 31 DECEMBER)

You can protect yourself and those in your care by following these simple steps:

- Monitor the epidemic thunderstorm asthma risk forecast on the VicEmergency app.
- Don't be outdoors in a storm, especially during the winds that precede them.
- Take your preventative medication as directed, even when you're symptom free.
- Carry your reliever and know how to manage an asthma attack.
- Follow your asthma action plan or use the [4 steps of asthma first aid](#).

Follow this link to find out more: [thunderstorm asthma public health campaign](#)  
(To follow the link – hold down your “ctrl” button and click on the front left button on your mouse.)

Here are some other useful links:

For current alerts: [Vic Emergency - alerts for Epidemic Thunderstorm Asthma](#)

Public information: [Better Health Channel - Epidemic Thunderstorm Asthma](#)

Health sector: [Health.vic.gov.au - Epidemic Thunderstorm Asthma](#)

**In Term 4, on Tuesdays 3 - 4 pm**

**Table Tennis with Jan Paolini at**

**The Geelong Table Tennis Centre, 84 Church St., North Geelong**

Come and have some fun and exercise playing Table Tennis. Whether you played last week or 20 years ago all abilities are welcome.

I am a Level 1 Accredited Coach and play at State Level. Basic rules and some Coaching will be available.

We will play Doubles and mix and match partners.

Great exercise for brain and body! Hoping to start in 4<sup>th</sup> Term.

Tutor Jan Paolini 0413 387 680



## Comments on a U3A Geelong visit to Q&A

On September 4th 10 of us from U3A took up the offer to attend a live broadcast of Q&A at the ABC Docklands studio. I hesitated because of the late hour but I am very happy that I went. It is amazing to see a live broadcast where everyone has to be at their best with no chance for a stop and reset. The professionalism of all involved was on display. Nobody missed a beat. The success of this show depends on the panellists as well as the audience. All who registered were given the option of submitting a question early in the week. The ABC choose which to ask ensuring a spread of questions for their panellists. The audience was encouraged to voice their approval and join in and we did enthusiastically. The hour went very fast as we were entertained and involved.

We were lucky with the panellists we had as they were articulate and passionate about their topic. Each was impressive and knowledgeable. We had a variety of issues to think about including the Voice referendum, Women's Health, Industrial relations reforms and the Qantas lawsuit. Ged Kearney and Andrew McKeller showed their experience with very knowledgeable, composed and clear opinions. The Voice debate showed Vanessa Turnbull-Roberts and Darcy McGauley-Bartlett feel very strongly for the issues involved. Vanessa was articulate and clearly showed why she would vote "No" and even convinced Darcy to rethink his view. Freya Leach showed herself to be a passionate and enthusiastic Liberal and didn't hesitate to express her view and call out others.

It is not often we get a chance to participate in something like this which gives us a chance to be entertained as well as involved in solid debate while enjoying the social aspect of meeting and spending time with a different group of our U3A friends. If you get a chance in future I encourage you to take up the opportunity.  
From Helene Humphreys

I didn't hesitate putting my name down. I've always watched Q&A, and figured I've never been before, and am probably not likely to go again. So, why not?

The ABC bussed us there and back gratis. (Our taxes at work?) Very convenient. Two fairly central pick up and drop off spots. A 7pm-ish departure, and home by midnight. (Lovely) secondary school students from Geelong High and Sacred Heart on board. No traffic worries. Straight to the ABC Southbank studios.

Q&A is a well-oiled machine. We were there in plenty of time, they welcomed us, screened us, seated us, relaxed us, warmed us up and discussed all the protocols of running a talk and discussion show in real time .... no room for error! Plenty of applause welcomed, but no heckling.

It was interesting seeing everything happen down to the wire - the impeccable team work - makeup for guests on the chairs, camera men knowing their positions for the questions they knew were to happen, questioners being advised, PK being made up as she stood getting the feel of her audience. and then it was "on air" - LIVE - and the anticipation in the audience was palpable.

Being there made us acutely aware of how only a small thing to go wrong could mess it up terribly, but with this human element and the (at times) passionate exchange of ideas and opinions, so much *could* go wrong. All it would need would be one unexpected idiot in the audience for instance! So, the smooth execution of a LIVE telecast was my main take home.

PK came across as a highly intelligent consummate professional, well worthy of this relatively new position, and there had I been, wondering if she had any "nerves" in the lead up, almost "nervous" for her. None were apparent. She was open, funny and clever, and handled the panel members, the questioners, and the timing expertly. Short questions totally on topic seemed to be her strength. The time zipped along and then it was over.

Clearly the guests had been primed on what they were to be asked, how much time would be allocated for whatever they were to discuss or respond to - it was all too smooth for the risk of anything too hit and miss but all that had been done behind the scenes. And even then, they still ran out of time for the last question that never aired - about "Barbie!"

There was a bit of a question-answer time between Patricia and the audience after the show too - again, interesting and efficient, focusing a bit more on the stories of a couple of the audience members, for ABC "online" purposes.

I'm sure none of this is ground breaking, particularly if you have been in any way involved in the industry, but for someone like myself to see the process happening and unfolding - was just great!

I recommend you take up the opportunity and the offer if and when it comes again.

It was a REALLY good experience.

From Bobbie McKinnon

**Q&A will be inviting U3A Geelong again next year, why not give it a go?**



**The Card Making class meets on the first Monday of each month  
at 1pm to 2.30 pm,  
with  
Margaret Gunning, and Jan Richmond**

See what we have made in the card making class this year!  
The class is currently full, but if you are interested you could join the  
waiting list.



## Our Solar System class takes a walk through the planets, St Kilda to Port Melbourne, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July, from Daphne Sands

We joined the train to Southern Cross from various stations around Geelong, then caught the 96 tram to St Kilda Beach, where we had a quick coffee before setting off on our expedition.

We walked down to the beach to find our first bit of the solar system, the Sun, with the star Proxima Centauri star nearby (this is the closest star to the Sun).



The Sun with Ray Calaby and Keith Bainbridge at left and star Proxima Centauri to the right.



The walk was about 5.9 km along the St Kilda foreshore to Station Pier, with the planets at the correct relative distances, and of the correct relative sizes,

so Earth (and the Moon), at the right here, were tiny little dots (the Earth 1.28 cm across) compared to the Sun, a massive 139 cm!



The website says 'Every metre you walk is 1,000,000 kilometres. So when you walk 5.9 kilometres from the Sun (Marina Reserve) to Pluto (Port Melbourne), you have travelled 5.9 billion kilometres, though I should point out that Pluto is no longer considered a planet!

Mercury, Venus, and Mars, all even smaller than the Earth, were the first to be visited (with the Earth). My son Duncan took over the introduction to each planet.





After passing massive Jupiter we had lunch at the Catani Gardens, near Saturn, a deserved break as we had already walked about 1.4 billion km.



A further 3.1 billion km took us past Uranus (at left), to Neptune, with my son Robin, granddaughter Tya, and Giselle, Daphne, son Duncan, and Geelong Bushwalking Club members Hilary and Maryla.



Our return tram to Southern Cross left from nearby, so the party split up, some on the tram, two walked a further 1.4 billion km to Pluto, while others had a rest and refreshments.



Luckily the day had been lovely, with no wind or rain and I didn't lose anyone!

Photos from Joyce Mole, Ray Calaby, Brian McIver and Robert Glue

### And On a Lighter Note...

It doesn't need to be War and Peace, just a couple hundred words of trivia that some or all of us may find wry or mildly amusing.

– Cheers, Jon Hagger

