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**NEWSLETTER: TERM 1, 2024**

**Editor:** Daphne Sands



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Nanette Tunncliffe



The start of the year has been challenging in so many ways however things are starting to fall into place. Initial hiccups with venues, tutors and so on should be ironed out (for term 1 at least) and I am now starting to look at Term 2. The updated Course Booklet will be available in the next couple of days.

Planning for more short courses as well as lectures will continue, these are an important part of our timetable. Thank you to people who have sent through ideas and contacts.

With five weeks before the Annual General Meeting, I encourage members to seriously consider their intentions to nominate for Committee. Having seen how things can easily go pear-shaped, U3A Geelong needs a strong and active committee who will work together for the benefit of our organisation. Future development is essential and it is clear that we must evolve to cater for what members want. These things just 'don't happen'. It takes not only a lot of hard work but also the interest and motivation of Committee members to bring new ideas to the table.

Life Membership – the process for the nomination of members for Life Membership will come with the official notification of the AGM. There is a form to complete and submit to the Committee for consideration. More on this closer to the time.

Nanette Tunncliffe  
President/Course Manager

# INTRODUCING MEMBERS OF U3A GEELONG

## DAPHNE SANDS

### TUTOR AND U3A NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I was born and schooled in England and married to a British army officer, so moved house continuously from England to Germany and back, and once to Australia, as my husband's job required. However, I have now achieved the record of living in Geelong longer than anywhere else so far!

Since I first came to Australia in 1972 I have lived at Queenscliff, Kalamunda, near Perth, and Adelaide and moved to Geelong in 2006. I have 3 children, now in Melbourne, Sydney and Paris, and 7 grandchildren, all also spread around the world.

I completed my undergraduate degree at Deakin and Curtin Universities in my 40s and gained a PhD in Applied Physics aged 59 at Curtin University in WA (so it is never too late to learn!).

I joined U3A Geelong in 2006 and started teaching my class 'Our Solar System' in 2007 and still am, except for a one-year break in 2010. I cover different content each year and try to keep up with the multitude of new discoveries as the technology improves. In 2024 we are looking at the discovery of over 5,000 planets around other stars, all different from our planets.

In 2014 I introduced the 'Big History' course to U3A Geelong. The ideas for Big History came from the historian David Christian who developed the ideas while teaching at Macquarie University in Queensland. It examines history from the Big Bang to the present mostly from a scientific point of view. Big History has been expanded to make it available to any country in the world and is now also free online. At U3A Geelong 9 tutors taught the course, each teaching their own area of expertise for about 4 weeks. Big History ran for 3 years, 2014 to 2016.

From 2018 to 2020 I ran a class called Movie Time. Each year we looked at films from Australian directors, or actors (Baz Luhrman, Australian films from 1940s to 1960s, Gillian Armstrong), then foreign language films (Italy with Visconti and Fellini, Ingmar Bergman from Sweden and Iranian films), ending each year with something different, for example Tim Burton's slightly strange films, early silent films, Japanese animations from Miyazaki.

In 2017 I taught one year of Geology, in Queenscliff.

When I can no longer keep up with the walks with the Geelong Bushwalking Club I plan to lead a mix of shorter walks at U3A. I already have the list ready!

## HOW TO JOIN A ZOOM CLASS, (FOR BEGINNERS)

### Step 1: Setup:

1. Make sure you have a computer, tablet, or smartphone with a camera and internet connection.
2. Ask someone to help you install the Zoom app. Your local library will help with this. Write down what they do in case you need to do it yourself in the future.

Or do it yourself:

- a) For smartphones/tablets find Zoom in the app store (for Apple find "App Store", for Android find "Play Store"). It will probably be called "Zoom – One Platform to Connect". When it has downloaded click on "Open".
3. For computers type in "download Zoom", then find "Zoom Desktop Client" and click on "Download". You will then find it on your computer in the Download area. Double click on it (use the front left button on your mouse to "click". Open the Zoom app after it's installed, it might look like this:



### Step 2: Joining a Meeting:

1. Your tutor or friend will share a "Meeting ID" or a link with you before the meeting. It's like a special code.
2. In the Zoom app, you might see a button that says "Join a Meeting" or "Join." Click on that.
3. Type in the Meeting ID you got from your tutor or friend.

If you have been sent a link, you can click on it (in an email it is CTRL then click), and it will open the app with the meeting ready.

### Step 3: Camera and Microphone:

1. After you join, the app might ask if it can access your camera and microphone. Click "Allow" so others can see and hear you.
2. If you can't see yourself, find the camera icon (a picture of a video camera) and tap or click on it to turn it on. It's usually at the bottom left.
3. And the same with the microphone.
4. If either icon has a line through it, it is off, click it to turn it on. With the microphone it might use the words "muted" or "not muted", you will need "not muted".

### Step 4: During the Meeting:

1. You'll see the people in the meeting on your screen. The person speaking will have a bigger picture.

2. If you want to talk, wait for a pause, then start talking. Everyone will hear you.
3. If you need to see more people, you might need to swipe or scroll your screen, depending on your device.
4. To leave the meeting, there might be a red "Leave" or "End" button. Click that when you're ready to exit.

#### Step 5: Troubleshooting:

1. If you're having trouble, don't worry. Ask someone you trust for help. They can guide you through the steps.
2. If your audio or video isn't working, look for icons like a microphone or camera on the screen. Tap or click them to fix the issue. Computers sometimes have a camera that needs opening, perhaps at the top of the screen.

Remember, it's okay to take your time and ask for help if you need it. Zoom can be a great way to connect with others even if you're new to the technology.

If you can't get into a meeting, it is not necessarily what you are doing, it could just be a problem with the system.

If you continue to have problems your local library will be able to help (or your children or grandchildren!).

Modified from ChatGPT

### French by Immersion, tutor Eeon Macaulay

I had a first with my Zoom class (French by Immersion).

For the last 3 weeks of term 3 one of my students fully participated in the class via Zoom.

The first week on the ferry from Portsmouth to France

The second week from Bordeaux in France

The last week of the term from Provence in France

Earlier in the term another student joined the class from Western Australia!

From Eeon Macaulay

## Community and Open Universities Australia (OUA)

Our Community membership allows community members to borrow books and access selected electronic resources for free. Students and staff from overseas institutions are also eligible for this membership.

### Join

To join the Library, complete a library membership application at:  
<https://apps.deakin.edu.au/library/join/>

- Once you have submitted the application you will receive an email with your borrower details, so it is important that you enter your correct email address, so that you can start to access library services and resources.
- If you do not receive an email or if you have questions about the process or membership, please contact the Library (13 DEAKIN (13 3325)).
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Membership is free and lasts 12 months.

To renew your membership, contact the Library.  
Deakin Library's phone number is 96244 6200. Waurm Ponds library can be reached on that number and its own number is 5227 6200

### 9244 6200

For more information, please see the Deakin University Library website (<https://www.deakin.edu.au/library>, phone 9244 6200) and OUA (<https://www.open.edu.au/>).

## REMEMBER! Lost and found at U3A

These are some of the lost and found items that are now at Cobbin Farm entrance hall, I think under the hallway table.

## Cryptic Crosswords – a Cure for Cancer?

Well, not quite, but here's how they helped me through a tough time.

Just before turning 60, I underwent several rounds of abdominal surgery, as well as enduring bouts of radiotherapy and chemotherapy. On many occasions I was too weak to hold a book, and too drowsy to watch television. On top of this, I was so full of painkillers and other medications that I could not sleep properly. My mind would wander incessantly, compounding my physical discomfort. I was exhausted, and feeling weaker by the day.

That's when I remembered the newspapers that appeared at my bedside each morning. I had dabbled in cryptic crossword puzzles over the years, so I knew how they work. Each cryptic clue is its own mini-puzzle, so I would pick a clue at random, memorise it, lie down again, and close my eyes. Concentrating on this clue would stop my mind from wandering, and if I fell asleep before solving it, so much the better. If I did manage to solve a clue, I would raise myself, write in the answer, pick another clue, and lie down again. I rarely consumed more than two clues before falling asleep. If I woke again during the night, I would repeat the process. In this fashion it would take me almost a week to complete one puzzle, but that didn't worry me at all. I was getting the sleep that I needed for my recovery.

I returned to cryptic crosswords after moving from Fremantle to Geelong, this time to find some social activities via U3A. Not long after I joined, Katrina Henshall suggested that I should try co-tutoring a new class. So here I am, happy to be contributing to the community of cryptic crossword solvers.

Brian Davies (aka 5594) Tutor: Cryptic Crosswords 50:50, 17 February 2024

## Some helpful thoughts from Jennifer McKean!

My grandpa started walking five miles a day when he was 60.

Now he's 97 years old and we don't know where he is.

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I joined a health club last year, spent about 400 bucks.

Haven't lost a pound. Apparently you have to go there.

## From Derek Wallace

Don't blame me for this article's content instead blame the Swedes.

Artist Margareta Magnusson is the author of *The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning* and believes 'death cleaning', or *dostadning* in Swedish, is the correct way to say tata to your household collection of furnishings and memorabilia. Unfortunately when you pass away your family members may not be interested in that antique table that was handed down for many generations. In fact if your house is full of antiques your family are going to be concerned about how to sell, dispose and yes, donate your possessions.

What to do ? Live with less.

How to death clean ? Start with old furniture in the garage or storage sheds. These are bulky items so best attended to first. The smaller items like jewellery can be carried to shops easily to get good prices, or as gifts. The market has moved on some items. Pianos are difficult to sell but not impossible if you get lucky on Facebook Marketplace. Silverware is not as desirable as you might think. Some old watches are worth good money. Old fountain pens, boxes of Lego are collectable.

If you are selling on Facebook Marketplace be prepared for no-shows and nuisance requests. To solve the waiting game and personal stress you can leave low value goods in a safe place near your front door with a place to put the cash. The buyers don't usually ring doorbells either but prefer to send a text message saying "I'm here now".

Dr Ian Warren received a small CCH research grant in 2023 to undertake a joint research initiative with the Geelong Chapter of University of the Third Age (U3A). Members of U3A globally are retirees picking up study on a voluntary basis, often covering areas they were unable or had no time to pursue during their adult lives. Ian and several other members of CCH have had a long history in sharing their knowledge on a range of topics with the Geelong Chapter.



The starting point for the 2023 initiative was a 3.5 hour induction session (held 31 Aug 2023) attended by 19 U3A members interested in examining local history via the first digitised edition of the Victoria Police Gazette, originally published in 1855. The recorded induction with U3A went through various online and text sources that might be useful for members to spark their interest either in a specific area of family or personal history, or more general cases involving homicide, child destruction, and various minor offences.



Screen shot of zoom session covering the Police Gazettes as a primary source.

sessions.

*I started looking at the Eureka Stockade and the high rate of desertions by police officers. I then wondered why none of the Chinese miners became embroiled in the ongoing unrest at Eureka, along with childhood memories of living in Bendigo near Chinatown. This personal experience became the driver for me to try to understand how and why the old Chinese men were still there in the Bendigo region.*

*Lower order offences, often involving stealing and assault, were commonly pursued against Chinese in the early goldrush days. Through this window I have been able to piece together a more detailed understanding of the history of Chinese experience in Bendigo despite the widespread legal and social discrimination against the largely male Chinese community.*



Loretta pictured (somewhere in the throng of school children) with the first Chinese primary school principal in Bendigo, Mr Tongway, circa 1956. This photograph is taken from an original at the Golden Dragon Museum, Bendigo.

A follow up session in December 2023 checked in on the progress of six members who had varying interests, including a homicide that affected a family member, to various cases of missing or suspiciously deceased children in the Geelong region.

Loretta Winstanley documented her thoughts about these



Screen shot of zoom session covering secondary sources.

*This became the start of exploring the patterns of importing Chinese "coolies" as pastoral workers from the Shanghai Amoy port and the linguistically and culturally different Cantonese immigrants heading for the Goldfields.*

*The structural racial discrimination of Victoria's restrictive immigration policies, the Protectorates that restricted physical movement and an opium import tax appeared to subtly reinforce the miners' resentment and animosity towards the Chinese, who were extremely well organised along familial and Secret Society lines that allocated tasks for their teams of workers. Chinese work practices, such as paddocking and their seemingly wasteful use of scarce natural water exacerbated this ill feeling, and was reinforced by conversations with staff at the Bendigo Golden Dragon Museum.*



Another U3A attendee, Mary Paul, has also offered her thoughts:

*When U3A Geelong became a part of this project back in August 2023 it caught my attention.*

*As a family historian I was already fascinated with history and chose, out of the over 20 possible research subjects, a couple of areas to look at and quickly got side-tracked on the question of "how did they deal with Indigenous people charged with murder".*

*I began the search through old newspapers, police gazettes, criminal trial briefs, handwritten criminal record books, the Register of male prisoners, and Minutes of the executive council, which also led to looking further into the background of Victoria's British/European laws versus Tribal law. I also looked into records of presiding Magistrates and Guardians of the Aborigines.*

*Some of the interesting things I came across were:*

- *Many Aboriginal people were known by a single or common first name (often given them by others (which is evidenced by the many Billys, Tommys, Johnny or John, Jemmys or Jimmys)*
- *A lot of Aboriginal witnesses, and in some cases the accused, could not be found so were not present in court. They were also considered unable to give 'reliable' evidence, either because they did not understand the oath or they were deemed to be 'heathens'*
- *With the variety of different 'languages' there was difficulty in finding interpreters*
- *Most crimes were committed against other Aboriginals, and according to their laws were punishable by death inflicted by the family, or nearest 'kin' of the victim*
- *One case in particular stood out when a verdict of not guilty was returned. One of the Aboriginal witnesses came "to see the prisoner hanged, and if he were not hanged he would be killed when he got home".*
- *In another case when two Aboriginal men were transported from Portland to Melbourne, and were later released due to insufficient evidence, they were reluctant to leave the gaol as they had to cross the territory of several hostile tribes, one of which was the tribe of the victim.*

These vignettes reveal much about what criminal law meant in the colony in the immediate years after Victoria Police was established in 1853. The individual Police Gazette records offer a very brief initial insight into specific crimes, while various digitised primary and related secondary sources are giving life to these cases, and the learning about colonial statehood we are developing.

The broader aim of this initiative is to create a workbook for future U3A members interested in understanding more about local history. This will also be distributed elsewhere as we build our relationships with local museums, organisations with similar archives and the Office for Public Records Victoria. As we work through more cases in the Gazettes, which report about 8000 crime and missing persons incidents per year, this project will build a deeper understanding of how to utilise digitised and hard copy records to create meaningful stories about the people, places and governmental practices that make up our local policing and criminal histories in Victoria.

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Ian Warren

Research outcomes

Victoria Police

From: **Examining local history via the Victoria Police Gazette**

