



LAKES ENTRANCE
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
U3A Lakes Entrance Inc.
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2023 News Letter - Summer Edition

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

As the year 2023 comes to an end it is good to look back on the past year which by all accounts has been successful. Despite some unease at the beginning of the year, Lakes Entrance u3a remains in a sound condition financially.

All classes have continued throughout the year successfully although we had the usual drop off during the winter months with the migration north, though this Term numbers have picked up again.

Two long standing Committee members have retired and I thank them for their support and hard work over the years. Judy Davies (publicity) and Margaret Sawyers (newsletter) will be missed. However, we have been fortunate that new Committee member Fran Atkinson has agreed to take on the job of newsletter – no mean feat.

It seems that the current year is ending with the same turmoil of last year with flooding at the Lodge. It had been anticipated that further renovation work would be carried out during the summer holidays, but seems that all work will be done on the roof once again.

Term 4 will officially end on 20th December, although some groups may decide to finish up earlier. **Term 1 2024 will begin on 5th February.**

Enrolment day will be on 18th January and as in the past two years enrolment will be available online as well as by attendance at the Lodge. So that no one has an unfair advantage online enrolments will be available on the same day.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish all members a happy Christmas and a safe holiday break. See you all back next year.

Barbara Decker

COURSE CO ORDINATOR:

Once again, we have completed a successful year and look forward to more of the same next year. During the year two facilitators resigned for personal reasons. Gwenda Bland had been the enthusiastic of the Garden group for many years and has been ably replaced by Helen Saxton. Margo Short has resigned as facilitator of the Craft group due to Bowls commitments and been replaced by Meredith Radford. At this stage all classes will continue next year with just a couple of minor changes.

Thanks to all facilitators for their continued enthusiasm. We couldn't function without you.

Barb Decker

U3A Lakes Entrance Inc

Acknowledgements:

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143 Main St, Bairnsdale Vic 3875. Tel. 5152 3491 Fax. 5152 2032

We would also like to acknowledge the assistance of *REG FM*, Lakes Post and the Lakes Entrance Library for their continued support of U3A Lakes Entrance

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2024

President	Barbara Decker	0414 739 617
Vice President	Peter Sindrey	0418 117 998
Secretary	Val Halliday	0419 600 625
Treasurer	Di Dixon	0412 020 611
Membership Officer	Di Dixon	0412 020 611
Course Co-Ordinator	Barbara Decker	0414 739 617
Publicity		
Newsletter	Fran Atkinson	0401 262 005
Almoner	Jenny Visser	0405 730 853
Social	Margaret Berlinger	0487 654 521
Lodge Liaison		
Committee Member	Chris Gilbert	0408 083 350
Assistant Treasurer	Val Halliday	0419 600 625

Librarian: Joy Wilmshurst 0427 323 910

U3A Lakes Entrance Inc.
Course Schedule for Term 1 2024
5th February – 28th March

Monday:	Time:	Facilitator:	Contact Ph:	Venue/Room:
History	10.00-12.00	Jennie Towan	0407 550 306	Room 2
Film Group (not 3 rd Mon.)	1.00-3.30	Anna Carter-Pearse	0429 978 587	Room 1
Folk Guitar	1.30-4.00	Bruce Wilmshurst	0456 611 416	LTB Angling Club

Tuesday:

Walking Group	9:00	Val Ryan	5155 5870	Outside
Shibachi Qigong	8.30-9.00	Andrea Edwards	5155 4914	Room 1
Criminology	9.00-10.00	Judy Pillinger	0427323667	Room 1
Craft and Sewing	10.15-12.00	Meredith Radford	0414 463 556	Room 1
Scrabble	10.00-12.00	Jude Everett	0409528070	Bowls Club
Mahjong	1.00-3.00	Rhonda Biddle	0416035564	Room 1
Ukelele (1st&3 rd Tues)	3.30-5.00	Sue Wilson	0409389658	Room 1
Celtic Plus (2 nd Tues)	3.30-5.30	Barbie Roach	0402117540	Room 1

Wednesday:

Gardening	9.00-11.00	Helen Saxton	0419 119 562	Baptist Church
Cryptic Crosswords	10.00-12.00	Gary Chapman	0438501023	Room 1
Current Affairs	1.00-3.00	Gary Chapman	0438501023	LTB Angling Club
Getting into Guitar	12.00-1.00	John McMillan	0428546094	Room 1
Rock On	1.00-4.00	Leigh Davies	0457317993	Room 1

Thursday:

French for Beginners	10.00-12.00	Irene/Sandy Yeats	0417547944	Room 1
Book Club	11.00 -1.00 (4 th Thurs.)	Beth Harrison	0409012726	Room 1
Play-a-long Music	3.30-5.30 1 st &3 rd Thurs.	Carol McDonald	0429383909	Room 1
Free Dance(not 2 nd Thur)	2.00-3.00	Andrea Edwards	5155 4914	Room 1
Bird Watching	9.00-10.00	Sue Grima	0427281445	LTB Outside

Friday:

Walking Group	9:00	Val Ryan	5155 5870	Outside
Line Dancing	9:30 - 12:00	Judy Collins	0418 677560	Senior Citizens
Photography	10.00-12.00	Bruce Wilmshurst	0456611416	Room 1
Canasta	1.30-4.00	Joy Wilmshurst	0427323910	Room 1

All classes at Masonic Lodge 10 Rowe Street Lakes Entrance unless otherwise specified.

FACILITATOR REPORTS FOR 4TH TERM 2023

HISTORY:

We've had another great term, loving the little room - just perfect for our small group. We always start with a catchup and I honestly think this is an important part of any U3A Group - social interaction is often limited as we get older, and we love to hear everyone's news, views and opinions. You can do that easily in a small group, not so easily in a larger one. We've been intensely interested in the wars going on at the moment, and have been busy looking at the history of first Ukraine and now the background to the Jewish-Hamas war. We watched a movie called West Beirut, about two young people, a Muslim boy and a Christian girl. It is available on YouTube if anyone is interested. We do indeed live in a lucky country. We've also watched various documentaries, and listened to arguments pro and con. It is never going to end well.

We got so depressed we thought we'd finish up the year with something that happened a couple of thousand years ago, so we know how it ended & don't have to watch it every night on the television as it unfolds - we went back to the podcast series The Fall of Civilisations, and this time it is the sad end of Carthage. We had already studied the Punic Wars early in our U3A History classes, well, some of us had, so we had a fair idea of the 100 year saga, but we are truly impressed by the depth and detail that the producer of this podcast goes to - and we thank him sincerely.

Wishing our fellow U3A members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and we hope with all our might we don't have to tackle the background of any more outbreaks of violence in the world next year!

Jennie Towan

PLAYALONG:

Reflecting over the year, Playalong is all about sharing our love of playing our instruments and singing along together. We have a wonderful mix of instruments and a wide variety of easy to play music.

Each song has the ukulele/guitar chords as well as the music notes so whatever style you play it's all there!

We play mid arvo twice a month and we know that so many of us travel and are away so we are very accepting of how often or rarely you turn up. How about you make a New Years resolution to dust off that instrument and join us in 2024!

Carol Mc Donald

UKELELE REPORT TERM 4. 2023:

The Uke Muster which was to take place in October was unfortunately cancelled due to the bushfires in and around Briagolong. It will now be held next March. Our Lakes Entrance ukulele group is always well represented at this event and our skills are very well received. We did visit the Aged Care facilities this term and we will continue to provide entertainment to the residents in the future.

As we finish the U3A year I am grateful to all the members who come to my sessions. It's always lots of fun and so rewarding watching everyone's skills improve. Most of us have been playing together since we started back in 2018. Yes, 6 years of playing the ukulele together. Thank you to all of you for your encouragement and enthusiasm and for being supportive of me as a facilitator. **The sessions will again be offered on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month in 2024.** Wishing you all a safe and peaceful Merry Christmas.

Sue Wilson

CRIMINOLOGY:

Another year of Criminology has gone and, though we have the same faithful faces turn up every week, we have seen a few members come and go, mainly due to health issues. We wish those members a speedy recovery and hope they can return to our group in the near future.

At the beginning of the year, we explored the three major theories of criminal behaviour then examined the role of the three arms of the criminal justice system – police, courts and corrections. In the second half of the year, we first looked at some very interesting Victorian/Australian crimes and criminal profiles. We finished the year off with a critical overview of misconduct and corruption in the criminal justice system.

In 2024, we will branch out a little and consider some other Australian states/territories and the UK criminal justice system. We also need to take a look at Human Rights and some of the invasive research experiments conducted in the name of justice. I would like to thank all my class participants for their dedication, enthusiasm and lively class discussion. Merry Christmas to all and look forward to seeing you back again next year.

Judy Pillinger

SHIBACHI QUIGONG:

It has been a very good term with nearly a full attendance each time. We welcome Ruth and Gray to our group. This is a very calming sort of exercise and a great way to start your day.

Hope you have a safe and Happy New Year.

Andrea Edwards

FREE DANCE:

We have had some great music this term and everyone seems to enjoy it. It's really great exercise and before you know it the hour has finished. Do come and give it a go; there is room for a few more.

Merry Christmas and a good 2024 to all

Andrea Edwards

GETTING INTO GUITAR

This term was mainly spent learning new techniques on guitar by using a collection of songs to which the group were familiar. We concentrated on basic song structure and touched on vocal technique, with emphasis on the elements of how a song comes together.

The group uses those basic techniques in preparation for performing at the end of the year U3A Party.

I continue to provide group members with home practice aids they can use during the week so it may be easier to find time and space and it is also perhaps less stressful than at group.

The group seem to enjoy the weekly sessions, which is reflected in the high attendance the group enjoys.

The group has evolved whereby the more advanced members help out the new guitarists; it's very heartening to sit back and see the work they do as individuals, as well as playing music as a whole. I'm very lucky to be with such a supportive, inquisitive and progressive group of people.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in the group in the New Year. Best Wishes

Johnny McMillan

ROCK ON

It's that time of year again when everything spirals up. We have been working on our song list for our end of year / Christmas get together at the Lake Tyres Angling Club. We've also been working on a short list of songs to perform at the U3A Christmas lunch: which is a bit more difficult because we like to be inclusive so we have endeavoured to choose songs which include multiple vocalists.

It should all go well and be a great finale to a good year of rockin` on.

Happy Christmas to all.

Leigh Davies.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The year took the usual twists and turns as the group revisited some old ideas along with trying out some new ones.

Members picked topics they felt they would like to work on as well as deciding to revisit sites we had visited in the past to take a fresh approach.

One of the group asked if I thought there had been an improvement over the years which made me wish I had saved earlier work so they could see the improvement for themselves. Anyone wishing to take part is welcome to use one of the two DSLR cameras that have been donated to U3A if they wish to learn the basics of photography.

Bruce Wilmshurst

CELTIC PLUS & SESSION

This year has seen smaller classes with so many of us travelling again. It was lovely to welcome Pam and Lorna to Celtic Plus. I'd like to thank Bruce for leading the class for me when I was absent.

The session has been cancelled for some time now and next year:

Celtic Plus will move to the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 3:30pm to 5.30pm.

On Thursday 14th, Celtic Plus will combine with Carol's Playalong group for our last session of 2023.

I'd like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year.

Barbie Roach.

FILM GROUP

We are an enthusiastic group meeting on Monday at 1pm.

There have not been many new releases in 2023. We have seen some repeats from our years of viewing; Calendar Girls, Ryan's Daughter, The Piano, Indecent Proposal (Robert Redford / Demi Moore). Walk in the Woods (Robert Redford), A Million Miles away (about an astronaut). The Way Back (a true story about Prison camp escape). Come and enjoy a pleasant afternoon.

Have a safe and Happy Holiday. Thank You.

Anna Carter Pearse

The Bookbinder of Jericho was our first book for Term 4. It was very popular with the entire group. As this is a rare occurrence, it's easy to recommend it. It is a work of historical fiction by the Australian author Pip Williams who also wrote the Dictionary of Lost Words. This is a story woven around the life of a working-class, self-educated woman. It is set around the time of the second world war and explores the horrors and aftermath of war, the fight for universal suffrage and the ownership of knowledge and therefore, power. A constant theme throughout the book is the history and workings of the Oxford University Press and life on the narrowboats and canals of England at that time. We learnt so much about many things but discovering the skills involved in the bookbinding process was a highlight. From precise paper folding to final gold leaf work on the cover, each stage required dedicated skill and care. We all brought along our favourite old books to our meeting. Each one had a wonderful story attached to it and often beautiful workmanship to enjoy.

Our November book took us out of our comfort zone. Science fiction has not been a genre of choice for this group. Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir centres on a junior high school teacher. It is up to him and a select group of international scientists to puzzle out a scientific mystery and conquer a threat which is leading to the extinction of our species. Ryland Grace is the sole survivor on a last chance mission into space. This story is creative and imagination but stays within the realms of possibility. Weir has done amazing and extensive research to back up every event with scientific theory and fact. The author introduced many amusing situations and wonderfully humorous and touching moments between the main characters. Those of us who tackled and finished the book, really liked it and appreciated the opportunity to read something that we may not have chosen for ourselves. Give it a go, it's worth it.

We have not yet had a meeting to discuss this month's book so I have no sense of the general feeling of the group. I think most Australians would have heard of Ahn Do and know of his incredible talents and attitude to life. We find out just how many challenges he and his family have had to overcome, certainly many more than I had imagined. The Happiest Refugee is an easy read and inspirational book written with great wit and I found it quite humbling and very worthwhile.

Beth Harrison

BIRD WATCHING

Spring is always an exciting time to be bird watching and so it was with some anticipation that term 4 got underway, only to be thwarted by very strong winds and rain for our first outing. Instead, we were lucky to have Peter Johnstone, better known as "Skipper Pete", come along to the Lake Tyres Angling Club and talk to us about the Pelicans in the lake system and the banding program being undertaken by Birdlife Australia under the supervision of Deb Sullivan.

We did manage outings to Red Bluff, Kalimna Jetty and Lake Bunga. We averaged 25 species per site, the lowest overall number being 14 and our biggest count 39. In total, we detected 974 birds of 70 different species. This is a good incentive for us to do even better next year.

People in the group are recognising the different calls, improving their skills at spotting the different species and improving their skills with binoculars.

Bird watching has gone well this year and will return again in the new year. We will visit the same sites but at different times of the year, which should lead to some interesting results.

Sue Gima

GARDEN CLUB

We had a relatively slow term in the garden due to the cold Spring weather and various members (at times) being ill, away or busy with other life commitments and happenings.

Our Summer harvest veggies have appreciated the recent decent rainfall and a subsequent growth spurt is evident.

We wish Di a speedy and full recovery from her recent illness and welcome our new member Gaylene, who has already done a lot of work on her new beds and cleaning up around the compost bins.

I would like to thank Gwenda Bland who has retired from facilitating the group. Gwenda did a fabulous job setting up the garden originally (13 years ago, I think) and has worked tirelessly to establish and maintain our beautiful garden.

Helen Saxton

FOLK GUITAR

We are small in numbers but having fun. Although called folk it is better described as acoustic guitar doing an eclectic mix.

Anyone with knowledge of the major chords (we keep away from F as much as we can) will find it fun to join in. We don't count mistakes. A good thing for me.

Bruce Wilmshurst

We have had a lot of fun this year, I hope you all return in February for our Friday afternoon card games. We have space for new players so come along even if you don't know how to play, lessons given and we are very forgiving. Merry Christmas to all.

Joy Wilmshurst

SCRABBLE

We've had a great last term of Scrabble with a 'full house' most weeks. The Bowls Club continues to be a welcoming and comfortable venue for our Tuesday gatherings.

Some fantastic games have been played and amazing word and game scores achieved. Well done everyone! Edwin took advantage of a double triple (where the word covers two triple word tiles) and scored well over 100 points for that move alone!! Fabulous!

Are you aware of the Oxford University Press' word of the year?

It is "**rizz**". Believed to be the shortened version of "charisma" it is used to describe someone's ability to attract another person through style or charm. It can also be used as a verb, as in to "rizz up", meaning to attract or chat up another person.

Do you think you will add it to your vocabulary this festive season!



Season's Greetings
Happy Scrabbling

Jude Everett



Line Dancing Ladies Hootin` it up.



Members enjoying the performance



The Ukelele Girls performing.



Irene leading her group in a French song.



The Rock On Rebels



Santa made an incognito visit.



Rock On got those feet tappin`



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