

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2024 and in particular welcome to those who have joined Lakes Entrance U3A this year. Hope you are enjoying your classes and making new friends.

**Hint – there are vacancies on the Committee; which isn't too onerous.**

Earlier this month I attended via Zoom the Gippsland Regional Meeting. These meetings are held 6-monthly and members fill others in on what their particular group has been doing and exchange tips and ideas. The Gippsland region stretches from the Prom Coast, Wonthaggi and Yarram to Mallacoota and all places in between so it is interesting to hear news from afar.

Ongoing issues which affect most groups are accommodation and cost of venue hire. It was interesting to note that where there is no facilitator to run a class some groups are utilizing Smart TVs for things such as exercise. Now we have access to the Internet it is something we could look at for next year.

All will now be aware of the new keylock at the entrance to the Lodge. This is part of a security upgrade and a motion sensitive camera will shortly be installed. Access codes will be changed soon and members will be advised via their facilitator what the new code will be.

**Are you on our Facebook page? I will be sharing the monthly Network News for members to browse through and get ideas for the on-line classes if away up north for several months.**

**Barb Decker President.**



## COURSE CO ORDINATOR:

Classes got off to a smooth start in February which was a nice change from the upheaval we have experienced in the past. Thanks to the Masons for ensuring that all work was done in time for us to start on schedule.

**U3a Network now have courses available for prospective tutors so if you or someone you know has an idea for a topic but not sure how to go about it contact me and I will steer you in the right direction (I hope).**

Thanks to all our loyal facilitators for continuing their work this year. We couldn't function without all of you.

**Barbar Decker – Course Co Ordinator**

### **U3A Lakes Entrance Inc**

#### **Acknowledgements:**

This newsletter is proudly printed as a free community service by the office of **Tim Bull MP.**

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 Berlingeri	0487 654 521
Librarian	Joy Wilmshurst	0427 323 910
Committee Member	Chris Gilbert	0408 083 350
Assistant Treasurer	Val Halliday	0419 600 625

**U3A Lakes Entrance Inc.**  
**Course Schedule for Term 2 2024**  
**15<sup>th</sup> April – 28<sup>th</sup> June**

<b>Monday:</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>Facilitator:</b>	<b>Contact Ph:</b>	<b>Venue/Room:</b>
History	10.00-12.00	Jennie Towan	0407 550 306	Room 2
Film Group (not 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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
Shibashi 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 (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues)	3.30-5.00	Sue Wilson	0409389658	Room 1
Celtic Plus (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues)	3.30-5.30	Barbie Roach	0402117540	Room 1

**Wednesday:**

Gardening	9.00-11.00	Ros Tabone	0407362137	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 <sup>th</sup> Thurs.)	Beth Harrison	0409012726	Room 1
Poetry	9.30-10.30 (Second Thurs.)	Gail Glasl	0413478752	LTB Angling Club
Play-a-long Music	3.30-5.30 1 <sup>st</sup> &3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs.	Carol McDonald	0429383909	Room 1
Free Dance (not 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thur)	2.00-3.00	Andrea Edwards	5155 4914	Room 1
Bird Watching	9.00-10.00	Sue Grima	0427281445	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 1st TERM 2024

### MAHJONG

What a great start to the new year. We have 9 people on the Mahjong list. I would like to welcome you all and hope you have a lot of fun playing the wonderful game of Mahjong. Everyone seems to be enjoying the game and the friendship.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me.  
[Rhonnimaree53@gmail.com](mailto:Rhonnimaree53@gmail.com)

Happy Mahjong  
**Rhonda Biddle**



This Photo by Unknown

### Celtic Plus report.

It was pleasing to see that all players from last year's sessions have signed up again.

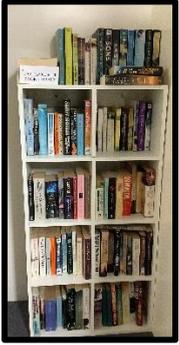
**Officially Celtic Plus is once a month on the second Tuesday**, but when I can I'm taking advantage of using the **fourth Tuesday** also. Last Tuesday we had an early St. Patrick's Day celebration, playing Irish tunes, with a little Scottish music also, followed by a selection of songs from The High Kings DVD.

When I can book the fourth Tuesday, the format will be Celtic Plus for the first hour or so, then the Session Tunes to finish the class.

**Barbie Roche.**



## LIBRARY



New Members: You will find our Favourite Book Library at the Lodge between the two classrooms. We have a wide range of novels and reference books. Members may borrow as many books as they like, no time limit but please remember that others may want to borrow the book you have.

Happy reading,  
**Joy Wilmshurst.**

## Ukelele

This year we have a very strong group of 16 very experienced members who have been playing together for several years. We now have a repertoire of over 80 musical pieces. We are continuing to increase our skills at playing melodies using TAB and believe me, it takes a lot of concentration! We also spend time polishing our performance pieces. It's not just all about the up/down strumming. We use uke percussion, changing rhythm styles within a song and adding dynamics, whilst we also enjoying playing our many favourite pieces.



We did have a few bookings at one of the Aged Care facilities, but lock downs meant cancellations. The much-awaited Briagolong Muster took place this month and 7 of our members participated in various workshops. Sally Carter, a professional player, took us through some new skills which we hope to master as the year progresses. Small group workshops, where we were randomly grouped with players from all over Victoria, resulted in some lovely performances. Our Lakes Entrance group also performed a few songs in the final concert and our increased skills really held us in good stead. Thank you to all our members who participated.

Our group has a lot of fun and laughter as we help each other to enjoy our playing. Thank you to everyone who contributes to our sessions. Wishing everyone a very Happy and restful Easter.

**Sue Wilson**

## The U3A birdwatching report

The birdwatching group got off and running on the 8th February so that we got two outings in for this very short term. Many of the regulars have returned to continue birdwatching with a couple of new faces joining us. Our two outings were to Lake Bunga and Eastern Beach with 29 species recorded at Lake Bunga and 32 at Eastern Beach. At Lake Bunga, we had a range of different duck species and other water birds out on the water treatment ponds, many new to several of the group.

Our bird recordings go to Birdlife Australia helping with the determination of what birds are where around Australia. So not only are we having a pleasant hour out in the bush looking for different birds, we are contributing to citizen science.

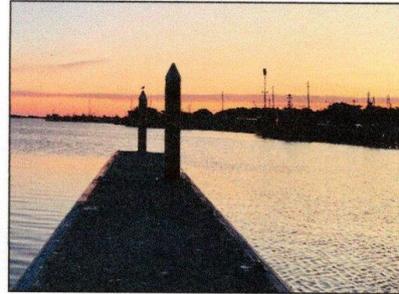
Cheers,  
**Sue Gima**

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# U3A Report, Term 1

## Getting Into Guitar Group

Facilitator: Johnny McMillan



### Term 1 Report

The year begins well, with a few new guitarists joining up for what will be a more progressive way of learning guitar. With the established members helping out the less experienced, we are providing a comprehensive and productive learning space.

The group volunteers songs to practice each week and are very keen to progress from “just playing chords” to getting to know the song and all its component parts; tempo, rhythm, melody and arrangements. We also have a project running in parallel, that combines multiple guitar techniques, with a goal to honing these skills for a performance at the end of the year. It’s a pity we only have one hour a week to get together, but audio aids and notes are provided for the guitarist to practice at home.

I look forward to seeing the group every week and I am still amazed at their enthusiasm and all the hard work they put into their passion!

Cheers, Johnny



## ROCK ON

Hard to believe Term 1 is nearly over. It was fantastic to see everyone back in `24 ready for another rockin` year. Great that the band played on while I took a three-week holiday.

Things will get serious when we tune up again after Easter; but it should be a lot of fun.

### Leigh Davies

doggydaddy@netspace.net.au



### Craft report,

We welcomed three new members to our Tuesday craft circle and these ladies have brought with them many new ideas on knitting, crochet and needle word. Also, many new stories to tell.

With what seemed to be a very short term not many projects made it to the finishing table but the works in progress are developing well.

We still have plenty of spare chairs and the kettle is always hot so with the cooler months approaching it would be a good time to gather with some new friends and create a masterpiece.



*Meredith Radford*

## SHIBASHI QIGONG

Welcome to our new members. We are at full capacity at the moment and I am pleased everyone is enjoying the class.

Thank you for your support.

Andrea Edwards.

## FREE DANCE

Once again, it has been a great term. Dancing is so good for the mind and body; we have such fun.

Thanks to Isobel for bringing some great discs along.

We have one gentleman who attends, so a few more men would be nice.

Please come and try.

Andrea Edwards.

## SCRABBLE

Ten members enrolled in our Scrabble Group this year and we have all enjoyed getting back together on Tuesday mornings from 10-12 at the Bowls Club, to enjoy a couple of games, a coffee and a chat. It's been a short term, and whilst some members haven't attended every week, we've had a pleasing number of regulars.

In February, one of our consistent high scorers Edwin, played an outstanding word, **squirted** that earned him **153** points!! Wow, what champion! The word covered two triple word tiles and the Q, worth 10 points also contributed to the high score. Needless to say, he was hard to beat!

The Scrabble Group have our friend, Cathie in our thoughts. Her husband John passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in late January. We will be extremely happy to welcome her back to Scrabble regularly next Term.

We have room for a couple of new players if anyone is interested in joining us.

Happy Easter! (Do you know what that is worth in Scrabble points?)

*Jude Everett*

**Answer:** It's a trick question!

happy 3+1+4+4+4 = 16



Easter is not a playable word because it is a proper noun!



ReplyForward

Add reaction

**Jude Everett**

## **BOOK CLUB**

This term, we have only had one meeting which I was unable to attend. We have such a great group of supportive members that there is always someone willing to take over in my absence. Anne Chapman did so for the discussion on Cold Coast by Robyn Mundy, a Tasmanian Author. This book is set in Norway and is the amazing story of the first female trapper in Norway. The tale describes the trials, challenges and essential skills of surviving the extreme environment of an Arctic winter in the 1930's. Added to that, Wanny, must prove herself in the male dominated world of the trappers.

This book was really well received by all our members.

It describes a frozen world, so different to what most Australians know and therefore so informative and fascinating.

Paraphrasing some of Anne Chapman's review of the meeting..."members mentioned the wonderful evocation of the polar landscape, the strong human characters and the wild non-human beings. Several remarked on the outstanding quality of the writing especially the descriptions of the remarkable setting"

Our present book is "Yellowface", a very different choice. We are yet to hear the group's thoughts.

It's always good to have some new blood in the group and we have welcomed Cynthia this year. Sadly, Cathie, one of our long time and valued members, lost her husband John, earlier this year.

**Beth Harrison**

## **Cryptic Crosswords**

Our seasoned regulars are getting a bit overconfident and we would benefit from some occasional visitors to vary the routine and challenge the oldies.

All the same, we enjoy the weekly collaboration and the fizz that comes with resolution of a duplicitous clue.

Term 2 beckons and we have a program for newcomers so feel free to call in if you'd like to have a look at us mid-year.

Join us on Wednesdays, 10 AM at the Lodge and learn the cryptic skills and drink tea and exercise the brain.

**Facilitator: Gary Chapman call 0438 501 023 or email [garychapman03@gmail.com](mailto:garychapman03@gmail.com)**

## **Current Affairs Group**

We offer pearls of wisdom, from some of U3A's finest analysts of contemporary events, at the picnic tables by the LTB Angling Club – and it's on every week.

With the dynamic changing due to the variation of attendees and absentees, the Wednesday afternoons are turning into verbally energetic get-togethers and the rants sometimes require a very strict hand to maintain order.

The great thing about Current Affairs is that the subject is forever unfinished and another great thing is that our participants are all so reasonable and open minded.

Newcomers can join us on a Wednesday afternoon.

Come and say "Hello". Gary Chapman 0438 501 023 [garychapman03@gmail.com](mailto:garychapman03@gmail.com)

# HISTORY

Remember the Dark Ages? No, not when we were young, I mean the real Dark Ages - after the fall of Rome, when the monks sat hunched over their manuscripts faithfully copying the Greek and Latin manuscripts, keeping learning and literacy alive while the barbarian hordes swept through the old Empire, raping, pillaging and burning. Well, we aren't allowed to call it the Dark Ages anymore, it might hurt the barbarian's feelings, so now we call it The Early Middle Ages and we are watching another great series of Yale University Open Courses lectures delivered by Professor Paul Freedman which covers the period 284-1000CE.

We welcomed new members Caroline and Karen at the start of the new term and the new year, and it was good to see our old friends again after the long summer break. A very short term one, and wishing everyone a happy Easter break, see you back here same time, same place on April 15. As always, new members most welcome.

**Jennie Towan**  
Facilitator



HAPPY EASTER ONE AND ALL.

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY

For the young at heart who enjoy colouring in.



