

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

As Term 1 nears an end we are settling in well to our new premises and so far, everyone is happy. The Committee had three priorities on the list of things to do – namely comfortable chairs, signage and publicity. The chairs are here, and we can now have a comfortable seat.

Caroline Kondys has taken to the job of publicity with gusto and has so far had two items in the Lakes Post together with photos of members. If she hasn't already visited your group, she soon will as she intends to visit each group and take photos for the local paper (with members permission of course).

Number three on the list is signage and Winning Edge is currently working on several signs for our site so we will no longer have people driving past and ringing for directions.

Of course, with the pleasure of having our own home comes the responsibility of looking after it. To that end, the roof and gutters have been cleaned and a pest controller has been through to deal with spiders and other creepy crawlies. The outside was also sprayed.

Our membership is down as expected with several groups not now running but it's pleasing to note that there are still enquiries about joining coming in.

Welcome to those who have just joined this year, we hope you are enjoying the experience.

Barbara Decker. President.



COURSE CO ORDINATOR:

Classes have settled into the new premises and things are running smoothly.

Cryptic Crosswords and Current Affairs have relocated to the Bowls Club meeting room and are enjoying the pleasant surrounds.

A short course has been offered for Term 2 – Yoga Meditation to be run over three weeks with 10 sessions of 1.5 hours each. We are fortunate to have a tutor from the metropolitan area who has been running this course at several U3As

By the time Term 2 starts many will be preparing for their annual escape from the winter weather and classes will be somewhat reduced but we will look forward to seeing all back for Term 3.

Barbar Decker – Course Co Ordinator.

Playalong:

We are going to give Playalong a start in the second term. The time will be 3:30 on the last Thursday of each month.

If there is interest, we could add a second date each month. We may also add a few new tunes to the present list.

This has always been a fun session so go for it.

Lorna Tiziani 04 0756 4 380

Bruce Wilmshurst 04 5661 1416

U3A Committee Members

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	Carolyn Kondys	0414 455 929
Almoner	Jenny Visser	0405 730 853
Social	Margaret Berlingeri	0487 654 521
Committee Member	Chris Gilbert	0408 083 350
Assistant Treasurer	Val Halliday	0419 600 625

Librarian	Joy Wilmshurst	0427 323 910
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Newsletter	Fran Atkinson	0401 262 005
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**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**

U3A Lakes Entrance Inc.
Course Schedule for Term 2 2025
22nd April – 4th July

Monday:	Time:	Facilitator:	Contact Ph:	Venue/Room:
History	10.00-12.00	Jennie Towan	0407 550 306	The Hub LTB
Film Group	1.30-3.30	Anna Carter-Pearse	0429 978 587	The Hub LTB

Tuesday:

Walking Group	9:00	Val Ryan	5155 5870	Outside
Craft and Sewing	10.00-12.00	Meredith Radford	0414 463 556	The Hub LTB
Scrabble	10.00-12.00	Jude Everett	0409528070	Bowls Club
Mahjong	1.00-3.00			The Hub LTB
Ukulele	3.30-5.00	Sue Wilson	0409389658	The Hub LTB

Wednesday:

Gardening	9.00-11.00	Ros Young	0429 408 895	Baptist Church
Cryptic Crosswords	10.00-12.00	Gary Chapman	0438501023	Bowls Club
Current Affairs	1.00-3.00	Gary Chapman	0438501023	Bowls Club
Getting into Guitar and Rock On	1.00 –2.00 2.30 to 5.00	Fran Atkinson	0401262005	The Hub LTB

Thursday:

French for Beginners	10.00-12.00	Irene/Sandy Yeats	0417547944	The Hub LTB
Book Club	11.00 -1.00 (4 th Thurs.)	Alex Lexnius		The Hub LTB
Bird Watching	8.45-9.45 (1 st Thurs)	Sue Grima	0427281445	Outside
Celtic Plus (1 st Thur)	3.30-5.30	Barbie Roche	0402117540	The Hub LTB

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	The Hub LTB
Canasta	1.30-4.00	Joy Wilmshurst	0427323910	The Hub LTB

Yoga Meditation – Kirti Bax – Wednesday 30th April – Monday 19th May – various times

FACILITATOR REPORTS for 1st TERM 2025

ROCK ON 2025.

A new year, a new venue and a new evolution for ROCK ON. **This year we start our sessions at 1pm with Acoustic guitars, song sheets & music stands.** Thanks to Carmel Stevens we have been working on simplifying chord changes and strumming techniques. Carmel is a music teacher with many years of experience who is also a member of Rock On and plays electric guitar / vocals.

The more experienced musos arrive around 2pm and set up guitars, amps and microphones for a serious session of rock, ballad, blues and country music. We play until 5pm.

We work from Ultimate Guitar online and have a song collection that reflects the changing performers and their individual preferences.

WE ARE IN NEED OF A BASS PLAYER AND DRUMMER.

Fran Atkinson: msfrannica@gmail.com

0401 262 005



*Peter Tong Playing Lead
Guitar*



Bird Watching:



We have had three new members join us this term keen to go birdwatching. So far, we have had two outings.

Our first was to **Fisherman's Landing** and we increased the number of species seen there to a total of 35. Mind you, last year the birdwatching occurred in June with some species left by then for warmer climates.

Our second outing was to **Stirling Drive Reserve**. This time our count was slightly down on the previous outing which had been held in spring when there are more birds calling. We, still, managed a total of 24 birds detected (seen or heard)

. All our surveys get entered into the **Birdlife database**, so we are contributing to **citizen science** on each outing. At the Stirling Drive reserve, we were very lucky to get a really close look at a **Rufous Whistler** and quite a few glimpses of the **elusive Eastern Whipbird**. We, also, saw the beautiful little **Red Browed Finches** and came across quite a few small flocks of the Tasmanian subspecies of **Silvereye**. **This subspecies is characterised by the rich brown flanks which can be seen in the attached photo, courtesy of John Hutchison, a keen photographer with Birdlife East Gippsland.**

Sue Grima

Current Affairs Group:

Getting together these days at the **Bowls Club Meeting Room** and the venue is pretty good. Lots of room, good seating, fresh air and well away from people that might be disturbed by any displays of passion.

Great to have contributing newcomers with a range of interests and viewpoints and best of all, a range of life experiences to bring to the table.

And it has been a tumultuous first term – coinciding with a new US President and a number of world rocking actions. Ukraine, Gaza, tariffs and changes to the leadership personnel in many countries and possibly our own with a federal election due by May 2025. But nothing is beyond resolution for the Lakes Entrance U3A Current Affairs Group and it's high time that the rest of the world knew!



We can accommodate a few new members; you are welcome to join us to rant or vent or listen, next term from 30th April 2025 at 1PM.

Facilitator Gary Chapman

0438 501 023,
garychapman03@gmail.com

Cryptic Crossworders:



Gary, Cynthia, Caroline, Ros & Sue

New members have caught on fast and been a great addition to our team of human battle ships and cruisers (or in Spooner speak, “cattle ships and bruisers”).

Collectively, we are improving and having fun with our co-solvers as we come to better understand the thinking of our regular crossword setter and to a great extent, the baffling thought processes of our co-puzzlers.

The new venue at the Bowls Club Meeting Room is popular; spacious, accessible, breezy and has a window to the greens.

We have access to the bistro, and we have become members of the club, making us eligible for discounts on food and drinks.

Thank you to the Bowls Club for hosting us.

An Easter holiday break is coming up and we return to The Bowls Club Meeting Room at 10 AM on Wednesday 30th April 2025 to again take up the cudgels for crypticism.

The Cryptic Crosswords Group can run parallel training for cryptic newcomers.

Bring your word power_and good humour so that you can participate in our weekly challenge.

Or, if you prefer, we can email our 4 Training Sessions to anyone interested so that you can work privately on learning the cryptic mystery.

Facilitator: Gary Chapman

call 0438 501 023

garychapman03@gmail.com

U3A LAKES Recycle.

LIONS Recycle SPECTACLE BOX:
available at the entrance to our Hub.
Please support.



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Photography

The Photography class have started the year working and refining some of the old and newer techniques from the past. As evident here we have made a visit to black and white photography, The critics view of this will be interesting. Welcome to Lyn Miles who will help facilitate the class and bring a range of ideas she has used to produce her excellent photographs.



Although, we look for new ideas the tried and true is always in the works. Often a picture that looks good has demanded skill. Our discussions after a day out therefore becomes a learning curve for all.

Composition is a big part of photography. The members of the class are developing their own style as they pursue subject matter that interests them. Capturing the subject in the best light is the objective.



Anyone wanting to try out digital photography is welcome. We have a spare camera for you to use. You will find the class is happy to help you find your way through the cameras settings and discuss composition,

Happy second term Bruce

UKULELE:

This year we have a very strong group of 12 very experienced members plus a few new players, which is always a good indication that uke playing is a fun thing to try. **Classes are now held weekly**, and I think this has increased our confidence with many of the trickier chord figurations. We fit quite comfortably in our new U3A premises, and the new chairs are very welcome and add to our comfort during our 90-minute sessions.

We now have a repertoire of 90 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. There is certainly a lot of laughter as we help each other to improve our playing. **If you are interested in having a try at uke just let me know.**

In March, nine of us attended **the Briegalong Muster** where we were introduced to some new skills by two very experienced professional players. It will certainly take some time to integrate these new tricky styles into our favourite songs. We also performed in the community concert there and were well received.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to our sessions.

Sue Wilson



CELTIC PLUS:

There were three of us from U3A at the Tav, Yvonne, myself and Sandy Yeats, the others were friends we regularly play music with. The U3A session, were of course Yvonne, Pam Hare and Sue Wilson. I did mean to get photos of Sandy and myself, but it got a bit busy.



It's hard to believe term one is nearly over. We've had two sessions this term and the March one was devoted to St. Patrick's Day. There is still an April session before the holidays. I forgot to take photos in class but have included a couple of photos with class members celebrating St. Patrick's Day in our room and playing at the Waterwheel Tavern.

Barbie



LIBRARY:

Our favourite book library is smaller but there are still lots of good books and I will keep refreshing it.

For new members info you are welcome to borrow books,

No time limit.

Joy



CANASTA:

The keen card players in our Canasta Group are enjoying our new home as well as the socialising and lots of laughs.

Good to see most back plus three new players.

Joy



HISTORY:

We were very excited to check out our new premises on the first Monday of Term 1, 2025 and found the big TV from the main room at the Lodge installed on the wall and ready for use. We welcomed several new members, and there was lots of chatting and getting to know each other.

I plugged the HDMI cable that had been provided into my phone, and all went smoothly as usual, and how delighted we were.

Sadly, that was the first and last time we had a smooth run this term, the HDMI cable and my phone were not on speaking terms after that one day, and no one knows why. We have had to resort to hotspotting to my phone for the internet connection and relying on the smart TV's YouTube app.

I really have to thank Caroline for her expertise in getting us connected as I fear the smart TV and I are not the best of friends. We have managed to watch most of the **French Revolution episodes put out by "And the Rest is History" podcast**, finding the conversational format interesting and entertaining.

Next term, on request of one of the members, I have found a series on the **Spanish Civil War 1936-1939** which should prove interesting.

Fingers crossed for a smoother run next term, I am looking into ways of using U3A's dongle for an internet connection, evidently it will need to work through a laptop, but I am leaving that to Caroline to sort out with the committee.

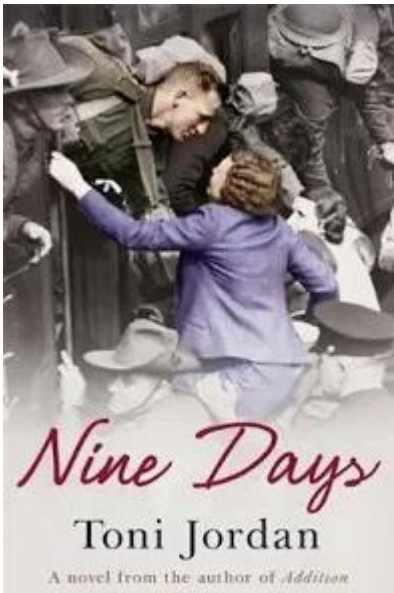


Hoping other classes had a smoother transition, but certainly no regrets - this sweet little hall was a godsend, and as far as I'm concerned, our only option to remain viable.

Thank you, office bearers and committee, and all the willing workers who somehow managed to get all our belongings out of the Lodge before the deadline, we are indebted to you all.

Jennie Towan

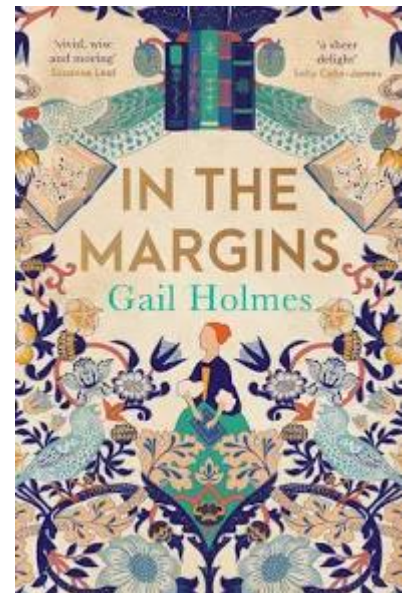
BOOK CLUB:



'Nine Days' by Toni Jordan was our first book for the year, and what a great start that was. The opening chapter of the book finds us in Richmond in 1939. The book is written in quite an unusual way which did make it a little challenging to keep track of the characters. However, we felt that it was a really clever and innovative way of managing the timeline. Through the lives of 9 members of the one family, we follow the generations spanning 70 years. The harsh reality of the hard living conditions for those who were just scraping through was very raw and realistic. Many topics were woven through the story... tragic abortion tales, social inequality, ridiculous societal norms, a country at war, post war trauma and the usual family conflicts and tensions. It was surprising how many of us had memories and experiences of Richmond in its early days and/or of more recent times. The character of the suburb is undeniable and a wonderful setting. There are sub themes too which add intrigue and poignancy....a stolen pendant which reappears over

time and a shilling coin, given in secret but holding great meaning for descendants who inherit these items. It really is a very skillfully written work and as a bonus, there are a few really "laugh out loud" moments. A very popular choice.

Staffordshire, England in 1647 is the setting for "In the Margins" by Gail Holmes. Puritanism rules the populace and the main protagonist is charged with enforcing religious compliance and informing on miscreants. She finds this an agonizing situation and puts her at odds, not only with her husband who is the village rector but with powerful members of society. The main character, Frances, is a lover of books and a book collector. This behavior also arouses suspicion in a time when very few women are even literate. Frances and her mother are physically separated but remain connected through a mutual love of Shakespeare. This love of literature puts her in touch with like-minded individuals. The book is apparently inspired by a real person but is essentially a work of fiction, highlighting how ordinary people can do extraordinary things for others. It is beautifully written, very moving and has great character development. It is interesting from a historical point of view also, perhaps not an era we are so familiar with.... fear of witches and witchcraft is rife. We have not had a meeting to discuss this book so these are mainly my thoughts, but I have heard incidental feedback and it seems that others are loving this debut novel.



This is the last Book Club report from me as we are relocating. After 50+ years in East Gippsland it is of course sad to be leaving such a wonderful environment and especially friends from various groups and locations. Lakes Entrance U3A has been a large part of that, and I wish the committee and members all the best and thanks for the memories and friendship.

Beth Harrison

Craft Report:

A small dedicated chatty group have enjoyed the new "Hub".

More projects were completed and more were commenced.

Knitting, Weaving, Needlework and embroidery, are our main activities but we have room for others if you are interested to educate us or you can come, and we will share our vast years of knowledge over a cuppa.

Meredith Radford



