

All U3A members and friends are warmly invited to

U3A NEWS & VIEWS

Wednesday, April 27, 2 pm. at GPlace.

Ballarat's East Timor Connections

Speaker: Brian Harrison



Many Ballarat residents and organisations have been active in maintaining contact with people in East Timor. Brian is active in the Ballarat Friends of Aihero Community Committee and has visited East Timor on several occasions and undertaken various roles. His roles have included, for example, teaching, establishing sports programs and acting as an official observer for elections. His enthusiasm for his work will be evident during his 'News and Views' talk.



BALLARAT

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

the BULLETIN

APRIL 2016

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GPLACE, 102 ENGLISH ST, BALLARAT,
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BALLARAT NORTH CAMPUS, BNCC

702 WALKER ST, BALLARAT NTH.

OFFICE HOURS –

1ST WED 10.30 -11.30 - BNCC

4TH WED 1.00 - 2.00 - GPLACE

Public Officer: Ros McArthur 11 Hamlet St,
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MEETING DATES

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

monthly on the 3rd Wednesday
9.30 am; Feb to Nov. BNCC

NEWS and VIEWS

monthly on the 4th Wednesday
2.00 pm. GPlace

DIARY DATES 2016

Mon Mar 21	Grampians regions U3A Meeting at Ballarat (Hepburn host) 09.30 am - 3.00 pm
Wed Mar 23	News and Views
Thurs Mar 24	School Holidays start – will your classes run?
Wed Apr 6	New members' morning tea and tour, Bingo Room, Ballarat North Community Centre, 10.30 - 11.30 am, Office open at North 10.30 – 11.30 am
Mon Apr 11	School Term 2 commences
Wed Apr 20	U3A Committee Meeting. Ballarat North CC 9.30 am – 12.00 pm
Wed Apr 20	Deadline for April Bulletin articles (to Phill Grant – and indeed before the third glass of red has been consumed - grantphillip@hotmail.com)
Wed Apr 27	News & Views, 2 pm, GPlace. Office open 1 – 2 pm
Wed May 4	New members' morning tea and tour, Bingo Room, Ballarat North Community Centre, 10.30 - 11.30 am, Office open at North 10.30 – 11.30 am

Quick Reference - what's in this Bulletin?

- * Have you seen the new webpage? www.u3aballarat.org.au
- * What's on the Web? page 4
- * Class Vacancies, page 6
- * **U3A** by Davy Johnston, page 8
- * Car Boot Sale, page 8
- * Ballarat National Theatre Season 2016, page 16
- * Ballarat National Theatre **Honourable Mentions**, page 19

Phill Grant (grantphillip@hotmail.com)

Changes to the format of the Bulletin

For the first time in recent years, fewer than half of the U3A Ballarat membership received a 'hard copy' of the Bulletin. Now that a (slight) majority of members get their Bulletin from the website it is appropriate to try Bulletin formats that may be more suitable for reading 'on-screen'.

Please tell me your opinion of the new format.

Phill Grant

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

New Members Galore!

With 185 new members joining U3A Ballarat since November, our Membership Secretary Nina has done a full year's work in four months! It has prompted the committee to investigate how we can more efficiently deal with the mechanics of advertising, attracting, informing, registering and enrolling these keen new recruits – without forgetting our 'welded on' members! It has been a time-consuming balancing act for all that have helped Nina, but we are looking forward and will be making some changes that should take some of the workload off this dedicated group. Our membership – 833 at present - seem to be well involved in over ninety classes and activities. The spirit around the venues has been electric.

Rectification at Ballarat North Community Center

Fences went up last week and the demolition work has commenced on the ceiling near the soon-to-be-removed stage. Just look in the door – but do not enter the hall as a matter of safety for all. Plans for audio-visual equipment to cater for data projection to large groups, speakers for sound and voice projection, and a simple plug-in link for computers and microphones are in the final stage of approval so that the wires go in as the new walls go up! A new office for the three resident groups is rapidly taking shape with furniture (from CoB) arriving last Friday so that we can better cope with our growing membership on a one-to-one basis in a light, bright comfortable surroundings.

Regional Meeting at Ballarat

On Monday March 21 we hosted the bi-yearly meeting of U3A's from our Grampians region. Planned by the Hepburn U3A, the day focused on communication and innovation within the nine U3A's in our region. Our input centered on the new U3A webpage (Mary) and our growing working relationship with City of Ballarat – specifically inexpensive accommodation for our growing chapter (Blake).

Comings and Goings

After a short six-month term, BJ Johnson has had to resign from the committee due to a six-month opportunity to do volunteer work in Sri Lanka. We will miss her input, but wish her well in this new overseas challenge. She will be giving a talk at the March 'News and Views' on her 2015 volunteer role in the Maldives. The committee welcomed Lidia Aitken (star-maker superior) to our March meeting and she impressed the committee by getting right down to work with catering and promotion. Thank goodness for volunteers – where would we be without them!

Plans for Mid-Year Celebration

U3A Committee decided that rather than have an end-of-year dinner in 2016 we'd try out a more inclusive (more people = more fun) function in July. Jack and Lidia are putting the final touches on a not-to-be-missed celebration of all the good things that U3A brings to our lives in the depths of winter. The venue will depend on how quickly the Ballarat North Community Centre comes together – watch this space!

Blake Gordon, President

INTERNATIONAL U3A NEWSLETTER

U3A SIGNPOST can be found online at:

<http://worldu3a.us6.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=4591b7dedb80e8dc4ca93c1af&id=df90a16210&e=a1f77c0935>

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership is now over 833! This is terrific and I hope everyone has found classes and is enjoying them! Sixty eight new members were admitted during the past month.

The 'Welcome' morning teas at North Campus, 10.30 – 11.30 on the first Wednesday of the month have been well attended and enjoyed. Any new – or even old – member who would like to join us at this morning tea would be welcome.

Associate members who have their main membership at another U3A must submit evidence of payment for 2016 for that U3A to enable them to be eligible for the Associate fee of \$10 at Ballarat.

Nina Netherway, Membership Secretary: 5334 4836, ninan06@bigpond.com

WHAT'S ON THE WEB?

Hope you have tried our new website?

Here are some tips on using the **Course Page**



To access the **Course Page** login to our website by using this address

www.u3aballarat.org.au .

You can access the course page by clicking on **Courses** at the top of the home page or by using the **quick links** on the lower right hand side of the page.

On the Course Page:

- You can get fast access to the timetable for each day by clicking on the small arrow to the right of the day
- You can access the **Course Guide** by clicking on the **blue** button.
- You can access the **list of class vacancies** by clicking on the **green** button.

Remember that these pages are for public access and do not have contact details of tutors and reps. If you want access to full versions of the timetable, course booklet you need to look at the Members Area.

More hints next issue of the bulletin. If you need help in using the website, please contact me,

Mary Maloney; Web Manager. moomoo@southernphone.com.au

CLASS COORDINATOR'S NOTES

CHANGES TO CLASSES

New Classes

Two new classes have been added to the Class Information booklet for later in the year.

Cooking when you are not sure how

This class is for people who have cooked a little or not at all. We will be starting in Third Term. Roll up, roll up with your chopping board and sharp knife. You will also be asked to make a small contribution to the purchase of ingredients.

Thursdays, Weekly, Term 3, 10.00 – 1.00, Ballarat North Community Centre Kitchen

Please contact Gail if you are interested in doing this course.

Tutor: Gail Desnoy windydolphin@gmail.com

Dutch

Ingrid Parker will be taking this class and it will begin as soon as we get sufficient people registered. The class will be on Wednesdays, Weekly, 9.00 – 10.30 in Room 1 at GPlace.

‘This class is aimed at anyone interested in learning Dutch, or anyone with a limited knowledge of Dutch who wants to brush up. The aim of this class is to acquire skills in understanding, speaking, reading and writing Dutch. I am fluent in Dutch as I lived in The Netherlands until almost 18. I keep up with the language by returning there every year for extended periods.’

Please contact Ingrid if you want to join the class.

Tutor: Ingrid Parker; 0407014610

Introduction to iPads

A new class will begin after Easter. Contact Greta Dekker if you are interested

Tutor: Greta Dekker. happysocks51@gmail.com

COMPLETED CLASSES

Book Folding finished on the 11 March.

Sudoku will end after Easter.

COMPUTER CLASS; REQUEST FOR HELPERS

Fran Hanrahan and Kerry Daniell would really like someone who has a good knowledge of how to use computers to join them as a helper/tutor for their class on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, 3.45 – 5.15 at GPlace in Room 2. The class is very popular and they need someone to assist them in helping people on a one-to-one basis.

If you feel that you can help out, please contact

Kerry: *kdaniell7@bigpond.com* or

Fran: *fhanrah@vic.chariot.net.au*

CLASS LISTS

A big thank you to all class reps and tutors who submitted their class lists to Denise Grant to be entered onto the database. We know that this was sometimes a very difficult job, and appreciate your efforts. We have received all the 90+ classes and they have all been entered onto the database, and after entering the class lists to the database we were able to generate your new printed class lists and attendance rolls. By now you should have all received these. Also a big thank you to Nina Netherway, Anne Ottrey and Mary Maloney who spent hours helping Denise to do all of that work. Congratulations to everyone for a great job. Teamwork!

SUBJECT VACANCIES

There are still some vacancies in classes. Please let Denise Grant know when you have no more vacancies, or you suddenly find that you now have vacancies. We have a constant stream of new members joining us, and they need to know what classes are available.

The only way to avoid being miserable [in retirement] is not to have enough leisure to wonder whether you are happy or not.

– George Bernard Shaw <http://www.retirement-quotes.com>

CLASS VACANCIES: as at 19 March 2016

If the class is not on this list, it has no vacancies, but you may be able go onto a waiting list. The classes listed below still have vacancies so ring the class rep to enrol. If there is no class rep, ring the tutor.

CLASS		
Ballarat Botanical Gardens (short course)		yes
Ballarat History		yes
Canasta		yes
Community Gardening		yes
Cooking when not sure how – Term 3		yes
Current Affairs		yes
Cycle Touring Group		yes
Dancercise Monday		yes
Dancercise Wednesday		yes
Dining Out Group		yes
Dutch		yes
Film Musicals		yes
History (Australian) through Film and Fiction		yes
History of the Spread of the English Language		yes
Introduction to iPads (Short Course)	Yes for term 2. No for term 1	
Latin 1 Beginners		yes
Latin 2		yes
Latin 3 and 4		yes
Latin 5 and 6		yes
Nordic Walking		yes
Poetry		yes
Preserve your Memories		yes
RAPT in Singing		yes
Recorder Ensemble	yes, if you can play	
Roman History		yes
Scottish Dancing		yes
Scrabble		yes
Strollers and Coffee		yes
(The) Sublime (Short Course) 2 nd Semester		yes
The Fall of the Roman Republic		yes
The Stuarts		yes
Weave your own Stars		yes
Yoga (Buninyong)		contact Lori
Yoga for Absolute Beginners and Less Agile, Buninyong		contasct Lori

Temporary vacancies

Classes may even have a space available when one of the class members goes away for a long holiday or is out of action for a while with health issues. People on the class waiting list could temporarily step into those vacancies, so long as they realise that when the class member returns, they must leave the class, and go back onto the waiting list. This would have to be clearly stated as a condition before starting the class as a temporary member otherwise you could find that the class has grown unexpectedly in numbers.

CLASSES DURING THE EASTER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Please check with your class rep or tutor to see whether or not your class is running during the school holidays, from Good Friday, 25 March to when schools resume on Monday 11 April. There are quite a few classes which are still running as usual. Others are taking a complete break.

Denise Grant –Class coordinator
email DeniseU3A@hotmail.com

I advise you to go on living solely to enrage those who are paying your annuities. It is the only pleasure I have left.
 – Voltaire (in retirement) <http://www.retirement-quotes.com>

ODDS AND SODS FROM THE COMMITTEE AND OTHERS

- * Is discretion the better part of valour? Who knows? The statement might make a good essay question – but can we be bothered? Regardless of the answers, discretion when telling others the entrance codes for GPlace is definitely needed.
- * Another fabulous opportunity has arisen – U3A Ballarat is looking for a Coordinator for **News and Views**. The usual skills are needed, you know, be able to leap tall buildings in a single bound and a belief that, to fly, all one has to do is throw oneself towards the ground, but miss.
- * Christmas is so great that we will be organizing a Christmas in July. Cool, eh? (And, everyone knows that Christmas lights look really fantastic when eyeglasses are removed and one or two mulled wines are enjoyed.)
- * Nina is always pleased when members wear their badges, with the completed medical contact details, to class.
- * Ros McArthur hasn't received any letters of complaint about the kitchen at GPlace being kept spic and span. Of course, she is pleased about that.
- * One of the endearing features of U3A is that it is all voluntary and consequently everything is done collaboratively.
- * Did you know that 'News & Views' always has interesting guest speakers, frequently has musical entertainment, is open to all members and provides a chat-time over a cuppa and cakes?
- * Did you know that the new U3A Ballarat website has 'trended'? (Cool, eh?!) The web address is on the second page of this Bulletin.

THE DIVERSION FOR APRIL

Congratulations to Blake Gordon, Andrew Parker and Ali Lanigen, all who correctly identified the place as, in Ali's words, 'La Belle Seine, looking towards Notre Dame'. Blake admitted to not having been at the site since his student days, which must have been just a few years after Notre Dame was built. While it would have been nice to offer the winners a trip to Paris, they will instead have to make do with the promise of a café au lait at a French Café in Sturt Street.



Similar prizes are offered to those who can answer April's diversion; **where in the world is?:**



Answers to Phill Grant (grantphillip@hotmail.com)

I'm retired – I'm not dead! – Unknown wise person
<http://www.retirement-quotes.com>

U3A

We have made our way to the classrooms,
to the venues, some new and some old.
Now more topics than ever to choose from,
and growth in the membership roll.

There are whiteboards, photos and printouts
to stimulate science and arts;
books to dissect and odes to read out.
Go hear trees tell stories in parks.

There are crafters who work on a project;
some like fancy places to dine.
You can dance or shuffle a card deck,
embrace yoga to help you unwind.

Tight joints can respond to some bustle:
walk the bush, cross the creek in a hike.
Tone up what's left of the muscle:
go wheel with a group on a bike.

You can sit and imbibe erudition.
You can learn to parle foreign tongues.
There's a chance to speak up a discussion,
or join others to sing or to strum.

It's physical, cerebral or chatty.
A nod to all who open the way:
tutors, co-ordinates, and committee
with Blake, El Pres-i-den-te

Davy Johnston



John, Craig and Roger at Jubilee Mine

CAR BOOT SALE

The North Ballarat Senior Citizens have
organised another car boot sale.

Saturday April 2, 8.30 am start
(set up from 7.00 am)
Ballarat North Community Centre
(702 Walker Street, North Ballarat)

U3A will be setting up a table. If you have
'stuff to sell', this might be the opportunity.

'Stuff to sell' might include arts, crafts, bric-a-
brac, or old and new 'stuff'.

There will also be a sausage sizzel,
Devonshire Teas, coffee and refreshments.

You may also want to set up an independent
table – in which case there is a \$10 fee. For
inquiries, ring Michael on 0415820911, or
Margaret on 0409166615.

THE BALLARAT NATIONAL THEATRE

The Ballarat National Theatre have released
the program for the 2016 season.

The first production is **Honourable Mentions**
2 April – 9 April

Written by

Mary-Rose McLaren and Peter Nethercote

Directed by

Mary-Rose McLaren with Peter Nethercote

See pages 16 – 19 for more information.

Robyn Ashmore

Corporate Systems Administrator



The Celtic Band

CLASS NOTES

The next Bulletin deadline;
Wednesday 20 April 2016
to Phill Grant, PO Box 2058,
Bakery Hill, 3354 or
grantphillip@hotmail.com

ART

2000 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN ART

2000 Years of Christian Art is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, at 2.00 pm, in Room 2, GPlace.

April 20, 2016.

It surely must be very rare for any work of Art to become known and familiar all over the world, and even to the most inartistic persons. But that is just what happened to not just one but two of the master works of Leonardo da Vinci. Very few would not be able to identify either the 'Mona Lisa' or that most famous and iconic fresco called 'The Last Supper'. The latter even became famous in literature due to the graphic storytelling capabilities of one Dan Brown. Sadly many of the stories of the painting whose details graced the pages of *The Da Vinci Code* were not altogether accurate. This is not to say that there are no possible secrets and fancy codes in *The Last Supper*. Anyway about the Last Supper itself - in this session we will be looking at that important men-only gathering, and many of the ways that it was depicted in Art from the time of the Roman Catacombs up to the middle of the 20th century. Leonardo's concepts of the topic will be dissected, as well as the possible history of such gatherings along with the Gospel descriptions. I look forward to seeing you.

Ron Hedgcock, Tutor.

PAINTING and DRAWING

Barbara Preston, Tutor

BOOK FOLDING

This short course has now finished for the year. It has been a pleasure to work with such an enthusiastic group who have taken the ideas presented and added their own creative touches. The photo shows some of the class members with completed projects. I hope to catch up with class members over the year to

share good ideas and work through challenging tasks.



*Anne Ottrey, Tutor, 0422 963 985 or
ottrey@ncable.net.au*

BUSHWALKERS

Walks for April

April 14; Ballan. A gentle walk around the Ballan township, discovering the history and looking at the historic buildings that remain. It will be an easy walk, with the exception of one steep hill (A- B Grade). Lunch break will be at Mill Park, after a walk along the river (depending on whether it is in flood or not) at Caledonian Park. Distance 9 km. B.L Car Pool \$8

April 28; Trentham to Lyonville. Led by Ray this walk starts at Trentham railway station, to Lyonville (6 km) where there is a park with a playground for lunch. Slightly different route back another 6 km. The walk is flat-ish through trees etc. Code A-B. Car Pool \$8. B.L

For walk details and photos from past walks please go to our Blog at:
<http://bushwalkersu3aballarat.blogspot.com.au>

KEY. A – easy, B – undulating, C – hilly, longer, D – strenuous. BL – bring lunch. NOTE. Meeting place is GPlace at 9.20 am to leave at 9.30 am

*Laraine Gunning, Class Rep. and
Lynne Fenton*

CANASTA

On the first Friday of each month our group will meet for lunch at 12.00. We have room for a few more players.

Ros McArthur, Tutor 5332 5714

CELTIC MUSIC BAND

In February, the Band played for residents at Meadow Gardens in Delacombe. Malcolm was leader of the Band and the audience responded enthusiastically to the music always a 'feel good' factor for the Band, along with the purchase of lots of CDs!

More recently the Band performed at the Golf Club House in Buninyong, for a Probus Group. Corrie introduced and played along with the Band, as well as conducting. Again the audience responded enthusiastically and were keen to hear more tunes.

Meanwhile, we are preparing for a performance at Rosalind Lawson's Studio in Napoleons as part of the Golden Plains Arts Trail. Later in the evening we plan to play for the Blaze Aid Group in Garibaldi. With more Gigs on the horizon and fabulous new tunes being introduced by Corrie at the Monday Sessions, as well as welcoming a Harmonica player to the Band, everyone is practising diligently.



Ros Cole, Class Rep.

CHOIR

This year we have been a bit slow getting our act together. However, now it is full steam ahead. We hear on the grapevine that next year Eurovision is inviting choirs and chorales to enter the competition. WE, that is the U3A chorus, have declined the opportunity to enter, rather we will concentrate on fulfilling our obligations at home. So with Ken's knowhow we will endeavour to bring you some delightful Madrigals. Unaccompanied of course.

Liz Bailey, Class Rep.

CLASSIC CINEMA

March 29; *Rome Open City* (Italy, 1945, 103 mins, subtitles) is a landmark in cinema history, and Anna Magnani stands out in a cast otherwise dominated by non-professional actors. (Film only screening.)

April 12; Alec Guinness is well loved for his many comic roles. We can admire his craftsmanship in *Kind Hearts and Coronets* (Britain, 1949, 104 mins), where he portrays eight members of a family caught up in crime.

Please be seated by **1.30 pm** ready for a prompt start.

Shirley Faull, Tutor
Marion Dick, Class Rep.,
5332 4831, or mobile: 0429 691 470

COMMUNITY GARDENING

We farewelled Katja Fiedler from BRMC at our last gardening session. Katja's leadership and enthusiasm has kept the three consortium groups working together in the garden.

Summer crops are still being harvested – tomatoes, zucchini, basil, eggplants, radish, beans, strawberries, rhubarb and herbs. At our next session on Thursday 7 April we will start planting crops for autumn and winter, and plan our harvest lunch which will be held a month later on 5 May.

Anne Ottrey, 0422 963 985 or
ottrey@ncable.net.au

COMPUTER CLASS

This class is now full and a waiting list has commenced.

If anyone is interested in helping, for an hour, with this class please contact Kerry.

Kerry Daniell, Tutor
0412 700 986 or 5332 6087.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS

The class continues to meet every Thursday and our thoughts are becoming more attuned to lateral thinking thanks to our tutor.

Those wary of, but curious about, cryptic crosswords sometimes fear that the puzzle, larger than the quick crossword, with its longer and baffling clues, are only solvable by those of gargantuan erudition. Without a solid grounding in Mesopotamian gods and minor Lake Poets, they worry, not a single clue will yield. Of course, you don't really need to know much at all; you just need to get the knack of seeing how the setter has disguised a little recipe for, typically, a bunch of utterly everyday words. In fact, the quick crossword is more likely to throw up some proper names you've never heard of.

Mary Chappell, Class Rep. 5330 1633

CULTURAL CAPITAL

This small group will soon be recommencing its day-long trips to Melbourne to visit unusual, obscure and sometimes challenging museums, galleries and other cultural sites.

Shirley Faull will be leading these tours on May 5, June 2 and July 7 – leaving from Ballarat on the 8.21 train to Melbourne and returning on the 3.17 train to Wendouree (arriving Ballarat at 4.41 and Wendouree at 4.48).

There are just four vacancies. You'll need to be able to attend all three sessions, be fit enough for a full day on your feet, and 'open' to various new experiences.

Please contact class rep., Denise Wilson (5341 3416), if you'd like to come along - but **only after 8.30 am on April 1**. Your 2016 receipt

number will be needed at that time. Please leave a message if necessary as places will be filled strictly in the order received.

Denise Wilson, Class Rep., 5341 3416

The CYCLING GROUP

It might be said that we are having to work for our cappuccinos. After a cancellation due to hot weather, the ride from Beaufort to Ballarat via Waubra and Learmonth took place a week later than scheduled. The cake and cappuccinos at Learmonth were well-earned.

By way of variation from road and touring bike routes, a group braved unsealed roads to visit the Jubilee Mine and Nimmon's Bridge, later enjoying pizza and cappuccino at Smythesdale.

Planning for a multi-day trip is underway.

Phill Grant, Convener

DINING OUT

Our April Dining Out lunch is to be held at the Park Hotel Bistro at 12.30 on Sunday, 17 April. You will find the venue on Sturt Street, Alfredton, opposite Ballarat High School. There is plenty of kerbside parking.

Would you be good enough to let me know if you are coming by Thursday, 14 April, so I can give our numbers to the venue on the Friday.

Ann Reynolds, Class Rep. 5309 1718
Annreynolds@hemsleypark.com.au

ESSAYS AND IDEAS

The essays to be read for **April** are as follows:

April 11; from *Better than Fiction*, *A Tohunga with a Promise to Keep*, and on **April 25**; *Death Trip*
From *Personal Essays*, *My Father* and *William Zinsser* respectively.

We will meet on Anzac Day if the class so wishes. Venue to be decided.

Mary Chappell, Class Rep. 5330 1633

FILM MUSICALS

The films for term two will be *Brigadoon* on 22 April, *The Five Pennies* on 29 April, *Umbrellas of Cherbourg* on 13 May, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* on 27 May, *White Nights* on 10 June and *Sweet Charity* on 24 June. If anyone is interested in joining the class please contact Bob Whitten

Bob Whitten, Class Coordinator
53418189 or ibobdown@hotmail.com

HISTORY

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

The Australian History Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, 1.00 – 3.00 pm at GPlace Room 1.

On an extremely hot Tuesday our class visited the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum where Major Neil Leckie RFD (Ret'd) told us of the history of the various Battalions based in Ballarat. Once inside he then gave a very succinct and clear explanation of how the Word War 1 began and the forces at play at the time. We then had time to view the large collection of war memorabilia in the Museum and ask questions of Major Leckie.

The title of our class on **Tuesday 22 March** is 'On the Home Front' in which we find out the social impact on a nation at war.

April 12; we will be hearing from Ted Lovett, Aboriginal Elder and former North Ballarat and Fitzroy footballer. He will speak to us on the Stolen Generation.

April 26; we will be researching the Jazz Era, (also the 'Flappers') and finding out about the new products of this decade, such as *Vegemite* and *Aspro!* It is also the time when C. J. Dennis published *The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke* and Norman Lindsay wrote *The Magic Pudding*.

Joan Macmillan, Class Rep.
Nina Netherway and Zelda Martin, Tutors

BALLARAT HISTORY

Both classes in April will concentrate on gold, Poverty Point, Clunes and Buninyong. Doug Bradby and G Braybrook are the speakers;

both have extensive knowledge and experience of the subjects and many of you will know Doug's interesting books for children. Take a look in the M.A.D.E. bookshop if you are not familiar with them.

By then the class will have had a thorough grounding in the early history of the area from Dr. Fred Cahir, Dr. Joan Hunt and Dr. Glen Lake.

Remember the class meets at 10.30 in the lecture theatre at M.A.D.E. where the coffee shop offers a wide variety of choice. Any queries please contact Margaret, especially if you will be an apology for a class.

Margaret Eedle, Class Rep.
telephone 5339 4465 or
email margaret@eedle.com

LANGUAGES

FRENCH C

This month – as well as our regular vocabulary and grammar – we have been looking at the 'dark arts' . . . our horoscopes. Each character of the zodiac is represented in class, apart from *Gemeaux* (Gemini) and *Sagittaire* (Sagittarius). The most popular sign appears to be *Balance* (Libra), so it's good to know we have a well-balanced class.

We have also been on the arts trail with a voyage of discovery to Saint-Remy-de-Provence and the former asylum, *Saint-Paul-de-Mausole*, where artist Vincent van Gogh lived during 1889. We were astounded to learn that during his year in the asylum, he painted 143 oil paintings and completed almost one hundred drawings. It was the most productive time of his life. Fortunately he was allowed to leave the asylum to paint in the surrounding countryside and was also given a separate room to use as a studio within the asylum.

We spent some time afterwards discussing his tragic life, which nevertheless produced some of the world's greatest artworks.

Jan Leishman, Class Rep 0427 531 333

FRENCH E

We commenced our year with a French film *The Belier Family*. A small group took the train to Melbourne to view this excellent comedy. The French make such good movies - n'est-ce pas?

The annual French Film Festival is being held during March so hopefully more of us will have partaken by the time the latest bulletin is produced!

Our devoirs and class work have increased this year as many of us are in our fourth year with J-J but there is still time to have a little fun!

We are using our French 'ears' more this year by listening to *Radio Service Compris* on C.D. J-J assures us that through repetition we will become more au fait with French speakers in a natural environment.

There are plans to host a 'petanque' session in the coming months as we not only work hard in class but we enjoy the extra curricular activities.

A warm welcome to our new class members - Jacqueline et Simon

Peter Jones, Class Rep
5339 6170 Email tljones80@bigpond.com

GERMAN

The beginners' class have been talking about what they were and what they are now (the verb 'to be') and what they had and what they now have (the verb 'to have'). Colloquial uses of those verbs have also been used – and if we use 'ich bin heiss' we know what we might be getting ourselves involved in.

The advanced class have revised ways of expressing ownership and spent time listening to and formulating sentences 'at short notice'. Listening to a story on a CD has enhanced listening comprehension skills.

Ken Gittins, Class Rep

Retirement: World's longest coffee break. Author Unknown
<http://www.quote garden.com/retirement.html>

LITERATURE

Our class will be reading *The Tennant of Wildenhall* by Anne Bronte, with tutor Helen Boshier.

Please note that there are no vacancies in this class for 2016.

Robyn McKnight, Class Rep

MEDITATION

Second term starts on Tuesday 12 April at 9.30 am. There are places available for new students.

Cynthia Richards, Class Rep., 5331 1679

MUSIC APPRECIATION

Our next class on April 1 is in the hands of Ron Hedgcock who has prepared another of his special programs using extracts of music from various movies.

Then on May 6 members are invited to bring along any vinyl records they still have and would like to hear again on the special player that Doug Rutherford will bring along.

Janice Cook, Class Rep.

MYTHS AND MYTHMAKING

After the public holiday breaks we will resume on **April 11** with the Egyptian gods *Isis and Osiris*. To search online Alice has advised us to enter 'Osiris' first, for the obvious reason.

The Iliad will be next on **April 25**.

Marion Dick, Class Rep., 5332 4831

NORDIC (POLE) WALKING:

We will continue walking along the Yarrowee trail (east side) during April. Meet just before 10.00 am Tuesdays, in Springs Road at the Yarrowee Creek crossing.

Mike Maloney Class Rep
5330 1334 or 0413 971 951
<maloney28@southernphone.com.au>
Pat McCarthy Tutor, 5331 6219

PHILOSOPHY

John Poliness, Class Rep.

POETRY

Please see the poem by Davy Johnston, featured on page 8.

Millicent Reed, Class Rep.

RECORDER ENSEMBLE

At the time of writing, we have had **5** recorder sessions for 2016. These have been well-attended and very enjoyable.

Members were also able to explore **5** centuries of dance music by taking part in a workshop at Mt Waverley. Ruth Wilkinson presented her interpretations for the Victorian Recorder Guild.

A **5** pm Sunday afternoon concert at the Recital Centre, featuring guest recorder virtuoso, Maurice Steger, with the Brandenburg Orchestra, showed us a musical standard few players achieve.

The best of our **5**s would be our **5** new members! You are all very welcome.

Jacqueline Cleverley, Class Rep.

SCIENCE

After studying survival 'camouflage' techniques in animal evolution, Brenda posed the question 'why have humans not only survived but have overpopulated the world?' When early man began expansion throughout the world he had few tools, no fire for food preparation, fragile bodies, average eyesight, average hearing (comparatively), poor smell, few weapons and no natural camouflage. Reproduction was (is) comparatively slow and babies the most helpless of all offspring for the longest time. Beyond the power of thinking brains – why did we survive? How long will we continue to survive? What do you think?

We have continued our study of Plate Tectonics and the Avoca Fault in preparation for our field trip to Clare's Sanctuary and the Devil's Kitchen on 19 April. Our next class

will be on 5 April, when we will discuss food and transport and what to bring for the excursion.

Last Tuesday night Catalyst on the ABC aired a programme on plate tectonics and the geology of Tasmania. Very topical and worth looking up on Iview.

Heather Bice, Class Rep.

SCOTTISH DANCING

Some photos of a happy and active group engaged in learning some Scottish country dances.



Helen Reavey, Tutor

SILVER JEWELLERY MAKING

Tuesdays at 9.30 am until 12.30 and 1.00 pm until 3.30, in the Community Shed, GPlace

As I was away for a few weeks I do not have much to report but I notice everyone is moving on with their projects.

Classes please note:

Steve will be away from 28 March and will resume classes again on Tuesday 5 May.

During the time Steve is away the morning class members have been in discussion among themselves re sharing a particular skill they have developed over the last few years and feel they could share with other members of the class. We all look forward to learning these new skills.

We hope Steve has a really good trip into the remote areas up north, where he will be working with the local indigenous people, teaching them some jewellery skills using local materials, I suspect however that Steve will be the one to learn new skills from these people. Hope you have an enlightening trip Steve and look forward to hearing all you have learnt.

Wendy Chandler, 5331 8904, Class Rep. (am)
Anne King, 5341 8002, Class Rep. (pm)

SIT AND STITCH

The classes are on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 9.30 am - 3.30 pm at Ballarat North Community Centre.

Bring your lunch if staying all day and your sewing machine, embroidery, patchwork, knitting, crochet or any other sewing project you do. At times there will be demonstrations otherwise we work on our projects and share ideas with class members.

Margaret Copping, Class Rep., 5334 1191, or 04 0902 1949

STROLLERS AND COFFEE

Walks start at 10 am
on the 1st and 4th Wednesdays

6 April; Gong Gong Reservoir, on Daylesford Road, Morning tea at Provedore Western Highway,

27 April; Ballarat Special School, Norman Street, Ballarat North.

4 May; Eclipse Ford, Albert Street Sebastopol; meet on the side road.

25 May; Meet at the 'Krooze In Café', corner of Boak Avenue and Geelong Road.

1 June; Meet at 'I Made it Café', 113 Albert Street, Sebastopol.

22 June; Lake View Hotel, Wendouree Parade. Lake Wendouree.

For further Information on these walks contact John 0421341288.

Chris Cullen, Leader and Class Rep., 5332 3721

YOGA AT NORTH

Second term starts on Tuesday 12 April at the new time of 11 am -12.30 pm (Please arrive by 10.50 am so classes may commence on time)
No new enrolments as we are now at capacity.

The venue for both classes is St. Peter's Church Hall. Park behind the Hall in Church Street and walk through the gate.

Cynthia Richards, Class Rep. 53311679

TIME OUT

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.

— Mark Twain

<http://www.retirement-quotes.com>



2016 Season

2 April – 9 April

Honourable Mentions

Written by Mary-Rose McLaren and Peter Nethercote

Directed by Mary-Rose McLaren with Peter Nethercote

Ballarat National Theatre celebrates 125 years of the Royal South Street Society with singing, dancing, comedy and drama. Come and join us on a wild ride through the past and into the future, as we uncover the quirky, the inspiring and the tragic which underlie 'The Comps'.



A tribute to 125 years of Royal South Street. Further information will be published shortly.

2 July – 9 July

Lost in Yonkers

Written by Neil Simon

Directed by Hedley Thomson



It's the middle of World War II, although not directly for several generations of the Kurnitz family in their cramped flat over the candy store in Yonkers, New York. That's not to say there isn't a war on.... The battles in this household arise across and between the generations, the conflicts arising from a background of this Jewish family growing up in Nazi-occupied Poland. Neil Simon is well

known for his comedies but this drama strikingly accentuates the strains that impact on individuals in such circumstances and how these strains affect their relationships in that most intimate of situations – within a family unit. It couldn't be a Simon play without humour, and certainly not one about a Jewish family. Through the two stars of this play, two teenage brothers, the stresses are relieved by observations that only adolescents can provide. A gripping and poignant piece.

24 September - 1 October

The Best Man

Written by Gore Vidal

Directed by Peter Nethercote



William Russell, the ex-Secretary of State, is a wit and scholar with high liberal principles, beloved of the eggheads and suspected by practical politicians. Joseph Cantwell is a ruthless and hard-driving young man, a dirty fighter who will let no scruples stand in the way of his ambitions. And Arthur Hockstader is an ex-President, who loves politics for their own sake, admires a rough-and-tumble battler more than a chivalrous one, and is determined to have the final say in the selection of his party's candidate ... The ruthless young man has got hold of papers indicating that his rival once suffered

from a mental crack-up, which he is all set to use. Then his scrupulous antagonist comes across some incriminating evidence about Cantwell, which he is loath to produce. The scruples don't appeal to the ex-President, who enjoys seeing the boys fight. All of this provides the framework for some vivid and interesting scenes, in which Mr. Vidal contrasts the minds, emotions and fighting spirits of the two candidates to good dramatic effect ...

3 December - 10 December

Don't Dress for Dinner

Written by Marc Camoletti

Directed by Alex Meerbach



This crazy farce takes off at a million miles an hour. No point in trying to explain the plot here, suffice to say that in the best tradition of farce it involves couples getting into various compromising, misunderstood and confused situations, all explained with the most unlikely explanations in an effort, of course, to get the various characters 'off the hook' on various occasions during a planned dinner party whose main purpose to allow for a bit of 'rummy pumpy' between various attendees in various combinations..... Hope your stomach muscles are in good order and your brain is alert for this one!

BNT @ The Gallery

Ballarat Heritage Weekend Ignite Your Curiosity 7-8 May at 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm

<http://www.ballaratheritageweekend.com/>

In line with previous years, we'll be presenting a relevant, live, radio-based production designed to make you laugh. Further information will be released soon.

July 24 at 2.30 pm

Entry by Donation to the Gallery's Adopt an Artwork conservation scheme.

'A Bit About Shearing': if people especially like a bit of Henry Lawson's humour - his prose & his poetry - and Aussie bush folk songs they'll enjoy this event.

Become a BNT Member

Become a Ballarat National Theatre member today and support live theatre in Ballarat.

As a member of BNT you will:

Be eligible for the BNT member's ticket discount price of \$16 for all BNT productions.

Be eligible to stand and vote for the BNT board.

Membership Fees

Single Annual \$25	Single 5 years \$125	Concession Annual \$20
Family Annual \$40	Family 5 years \$200	

Private Performances

Each production offers up to two private performances to organisations and community groups for corporate or fund-raising purposes. The venue seats up to 120 people.

The organisation or community group:

- Purchases the performance for a flat fee of \$450
- Sets its ticket prices the same as or above BNT prices.
- Advertises, produces and sells tickets in whatever manner they choose.

For further information contact Sally on 0401 609 335 or email bltnat.theatre@gmail.com

Contact

Phone 0401 609 335

Email:

bltnat.theatre@gmail.com

PO Box 324

Ballarat VIC 3353



Don't underestimate the value of Doing Nothing, of just going along, listening to all the things you can't hear, and not bothering. *Pook's Little Instruction Book*, inspired by A.A. Milne <http://www.quotegarden.com/retirement.html>



It is by riding a bicycle that you learn the contours of a country best, since you have to sweat up the hills and coast down them. Thus you remember them as they actually are, while in a motor car only a high hill impresses you, and you have no such accurate remembrance of country you have driven through as you gain by riding a bicycle. Ernest Hemingway
<http://www.quote garden.com/bicycling.html>

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