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702 Walker St, Ballarat North 3350**EASTWOOD LEISURE COMPLEX**

20 Eastwood St, Ballarat 3350

HUT 48, AIRPORT**SELKIRK STADIUM**

989 Norman St, Wendouree 3350

OFFICE

BALLARAT NORTH CAMPUS, BNCC

Tuesday 9.30 – 11.30

Wednesday 10 – 12:00

Thursday 1.00 – 3.00

PUBLIC OFFICER

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Reg No13304 K ABN 3371 3445 856

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

BNCC 9:30 am

1st Wednesday, Feb to Nov**BULLETIN LEE ALBERT**u3aballaratbulletin@gmail.com

Next issue deadline:

Feb 2 2022

Diary Dates**January 18 and 20:** Enrolments at BNCC, 9:30 - 3:00**January 27:** Tutors and reps meet to view Selkirk Stadium rooms,
1:00, then go to BNCC**Word Diversion**

Welcome to a new year of diverting one's attention from bothersome realities by accepting the challenges laid down by Aunt Jessie and Warwick. Will it be another year in which we learn new letters of the Greek alphabet (by virtue of naming new variants of that virus)? Let's hope not – and there are undoubtedly more pleasant ways of learning Greek.

A flurry of word solvers graced the end of last year. Heaps of kudos and congratulations to Wendy Gottlieb, Tricia Elliott, John Elischer, Fiona Tonkin and Michelle Parker for their un-scrambling of Aunt Jessie's HONEYMOON and Warwick's ALLOTTING and TOTALLING.

Now, some wobbled words to start the year. Were Aunt Jessie and Warwick affected by a brandy-laden Christmas pudding when they concocted the following?

ETARETIER (from Aunt Jessie)
and from Warwick:



O	L	T
Y	A	I
L	P	C

OLTYAILPC

Solutions please to Phill at grantphillip@hotmail.com for the chance to win the usual princely prizes (you know, stacks of kudos and cosy amounts of self-satisfaction).

Those desiring an additional challenge might like to pour a good, hot cuppa and attempt to get the answers from 0 (zero) to 100, using just the digits in 2022 (once and once only, but in any combination and using any combination of arithmetic symbols). For example $2 \times 22 \times 0 = 0$ or $2/2 + 0/2 = 1$ (remember, $2/2$ is 'two divided by 2'), or $22 \times 0 + 2 = 2$ or $2/2 + 1 + 0 = 3$ or $2 \times 0 + 22 = 22$



Welcome back everyone. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and a good break.

Though things are not starting out well in 2022 in terms of Covid (the numbers are astounding) I still think we are in for a better year. The vaccine is working in terms of less severity of the disease and fewer hospitalizations. I think we are all going to get it at some point and just hope that it is not too severe.

After dealing with a few last minute U3A issues I settled down for a much-needed break. We had a lovely Christmas dinner with a group of friends at the local pub. Boxing Day was a fantastic day spent with Peter's kids. I especially loved spending time with the 3 ½ year old granddaughter. I am newly invigorated and ready to take on the new year.

Andrew Parker has decided to step down from the Committee. I would like to thank him for his contributions while on the Committee. The Committee has already had its first meeting of the year and we have scheduled a planning meeting in February. Hopefully we will be able to have some social events this year. Several new ideas are on the table as well as revising some past favourites.

We have enrolments again next week at BNCC on Tuesday, 18 January and Thursday, 20 January, from 9:30 to 3:00. If you haven't already renewed your membership now is the time and if you want to add or change or classes, you can do that as well. We also have a Tutors and Reps meeting on 27 January. If you have a class at BSEC (now renamed Selkirk Stadium) you will have the opportunity to see the new classrooms before the meeting. Tutors can also pick up the vaccination stickers which makes it much easier for everyone to know who is double vaxxed. This means that each person will only need to be checked once, and many members already have their stickers.

A question has come up concerning carpooling. There are not any regulations regarding carpooling, other than everyone must be wearing masks. Our best advice is to do what is comfortable for you. If you know another classmate, and feel comfortable driving with them, you may drive together. If you do not know the other members in your class, you may feel more comfortable driving separately. All I can say is, be safe.

I am looking forward to a great year and a more normal year.

Elena



Elena Tommasi
elena.u3a@gmail.com

Nina's Administration Report

"Life's not about expecting, hoping and wishing, it's about doing, being and becoming."

I think this sums up my feeling of anticipation for the coming year! There are new classes to participate in, and in my case, new music to learn and play/sing, and other new challenges which greet each new year.

It is therefore wonderful that 913 members must feel what I feel as there have been 1947 class enrolments so far! These are exceptional numbers for this time of the year – and more enrolments will take place in the next few weeks.

In fact, the Office will be open on the following days in January, so if you haven't enrolled or haven't chosen your classes, please come in and do so. It is good if the tutors know who many people are wanting to attend their class and whether they can fit in the room with social distancing. We have already found that several classes have had to so be split.

Office opening times:

Tuesday January 18th – 9.30am – 3.00pm

Thursday January 20th – 9.30am – 3.00pm

The next week normal office hours will begin:

Tuesday 9.30am – 11.30pm

Wednesday 10.00am – 12.00pm

Thursday 1.00pm – 3.00pm



New members who have not received their name badge and membership information please come to the office to collect these or send me an email requesting the new member kit. The morning tea for new members will be February 16 at 10:30.

It is most important that every member has a membership badge as the COVID sticker will be placed on it as proof of your vaccination. Your tutor will be checking this at your first class – so be prepared so you don't cause angst to your tutor and fellow members. **ONLY** fully vaccinated (or at least 2 vaccinations) members may attend face to face classes and masks **MUST** be worn.

Check the dates of your class carefully on our website – particularly your starting date as there have been a few changes. u3aballarat.org.au

If you do not wish to participate in a class because of time, clashes, changed circumstances etc please let your tutor know so your place can be given to someone else on the wait list. This is really important as some classes are in great demand. Whether you are accepted or not will depend on the Tutor and how many members they feel they can cope with in a class, depending on the type of class and also on the size of the room.

Have a great U3A year!

Nina Netherway
Admin/Membership
Ph: 0417371873
Email: ninan06@bigpond.com



Welcome to U3A for 2022

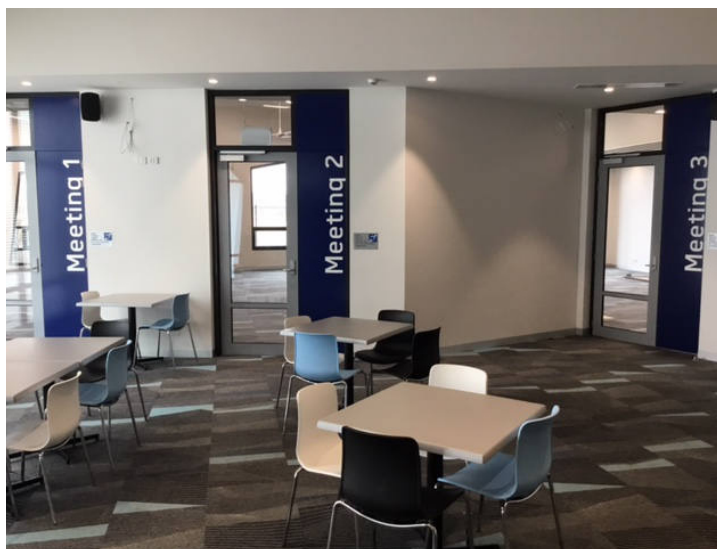
There are three new classes:

- Bryan Putt is now running a morning session (10:00 am) of his Five Fantastic Films – French Series, as well as his afternoon session.
- There is now a U3A book Club No.4, meeting at BNCC, Red Room, Thursday Week 1; from 1:30-3:00
- A group called “Patrick White Rediscovered” will meet at BNCC, Blue Room, Tuesday Week 2.

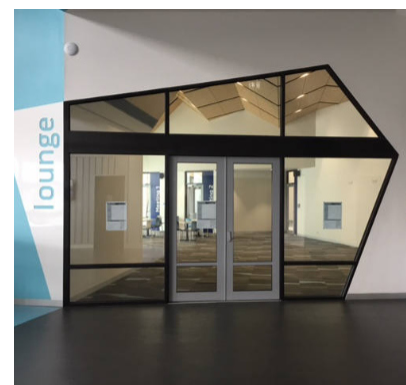
Recently Ballarat Sports and Entertainment Centre was renamed SELKIRK STADIUM.



The area in which our two rooms are located is called THE LOUNGE.
The rooms have also been renumbered.



Where you previously had a class in Room1 that is now called Room3.



Members who enrolled at BNCC in December will have been given a small sticker to place on their name badge. This sticker indicates you are double vaccinated.

For those who enrolled on-line your tutor or class rep will give you a sticker at your first class. You only require ONE sticker, not one for each course

in which you are enrolled. Please stick the sticker on the paper name tag, not on the plastic cover.

January enrolments will take place on Tuesday January 18th and Thursday January 20th 9:30-3:00 at BNCC Walker St. North Ballarat

Last but not least a reminder that MASKS MUST BE WORN IN CLASS unless you are communicating or doing a physical activity such as dancing, singing or playing a musical instrument. Masks can be removed for the activity but should be replaced during breaks and when entering and leaving the facility.

Thank you for your anticipated co-operation.

To All

Best wishes for an interesting, enjoyable and closure-free 2022 with U3A.

Helen Slater. Class Co-ordinator

Reflections 2021 Launch

11 December 2021

My great grandmother, in Australia, wrote a letter to her new daughter-in-law, in England. The letter began with 'Dear Girlie'. It turns out that her son had married in London without telling anyone in the family – it was only a chance meeting between her son and her sister that my great grandmother found out that she had a new daughter-in-law. Her son was in Europe because of the First World War. I have a copy of that letter. It's the only example of her handwriting and of her expressing her feelings, that seems to have survived. Apart from that, there is little evidence that gives a clue to the sort of person she was.

When Tricia Elliott collated contributions from U3A Ballarat members, and others, to publish the *Reflections* book in 2020, one of her aims was to provide a way for us to explain to future generations just how we felt about and survived the COVID-19 pandemic. Responding to suggestions from contributors, she collated another set of articles written by U3A Ballarat members and others, to be included in the book *Reflections 2021*. Both books have given us a way of 'talking to our future families' – indeed in a way that many of our ancestors were not able to do.

The launch of *Reflections 2021* was held on 11 December in a delightful setting in gardens surrounding Lake Wendouree, and was attended by many of the contributors from Ballarat, Melbourne and further afield. It was a great occasion to contemplate the messages we were sending 'to the future'. As it turned out, sending messages to the future was one of the ideas in Richard's article, 'The Reason We Write', in *Reflections 2021*.

Not only will descendants be able to get an insight into our own thoughts and feelings, they will also be able to read about some of our peers or our cohort. That will give future readers a much wider view of our life and times, particularly during the current pandemic. For example:

Dale gave us a detailed insight into her letter writing,

Jo, and Meredith, shared some of their poetry; writing poetry being a lockdown activity that gave us insights into their inner thoughts,

Brian wrote about getting around his isolation from friends by cycling long distances, often with one other person,

Mike, based on his experience in health, talked about how the pandemic affected many aspects of health and well-being,

Verity and an 'Anon' talked about their relationships with granddaughters,

Keisha and Madi gave us an insight into how teenagers felt about and were affected by the pandemic and lockdowns

...and many more.

Many thanks to all who contributed, and particularly to Tricia for her tremendous work in putting everything together, including her wonderful introductions and summaries. The two books, *Reflections* and *Reflections 2021* are certainly a 'good read', now and will be in the future as well.

Phill Grant



Congratulations to our Recorder leader, June Johnstone, who wears another hat as a Landcare project leader. June is the worthy recipient of an Urban Landcare Award.

Urban Landcare Award

June Johnstone

This award is made to a group, network, or individual who has delivered Landcare projects or initiatives that have inspired and involved an urban population.

June Johnstone lives in the gold rush town of Clunes. Her home and the B&B she ran were badly affected by floods in 2010 and 2011. June had always been interested in Landcare, but the flood events inspired June and six other residents to get together with the aim of rehabilitating the section of Creswick Creek that runs through the township. The creek was choked with poplars and elms and the floods had destroyed the walkways and footbridge.

The small group was overwhelmed by the scale of the task and complex issues around what to plant as many locals liked the look of the existing elms and poplars. A public meeting was called in 2013 to attract more people and more funding for the project and the Clunes Landcare & Waterways Group (CL&WG) began with 23 members.

June organised an early brainstorming session which identified that everyone in the town loved the creek's platypus.



June Johnstone at a working bee along the Creswick Creek at Clunes.

This led to a platypus weekend with the town's primary school children participating in a platypus art show and public walks and talks led by Geoff Williams from the Australian Platypus Conservancy. As soon as everyone understood how important indigenous plants are to platypus habitat objections to the choice of plants for revegetation works ceased.

The following year a frogember event was also well attended with locals learning about the value of frogs as indicators of waterway health. June and the group have put a lot of effort into educating the Clunes community about local biodiversity. There's now a strong sense of ownership of the creek and its surrounds. Thousands of plants have been established and people

“June organised an early brainstorming session which identified that everyone in the town loved the creek's platypus.”

who are not members of the group often remove rubbish and report any issues. A spotlight walk will be held once the weather is warmer so that the local community can learn more about the insects, birds and bats that live in the heart of their town.

June is described by her fellow group members as a canny operator. She has a strong sense of the strengths of others around her and likes to lead by encouraging. She has been the president of the group through most of this period and has honed her skills as an expert negotiator.

CL&WG has established positive working partnerships with many other community groups including the angling club, local bowling and football club, primary school, the Clunes campus of Wesley College, the neighbourhood house, and the arts community, which co-hosted a native grasslands project. She has also developed excellent relationships between the group and DELWP, Hepburn Shire and the North Central CMA.

The major challenge over the years has been dealing with a variety of land managers. With June's encouragement a local environmental planner mapped the site and outlined the strategies for revegetation works along the creek. This demonstrated to the various managers the dedication of the group to the project.

June says she is inspired by the changes to the landscape over the last eight years.

"I believe in little-by-little. I'm very persistent and I don't give up easily. If every person just does a small amount we can achieve a great deal. Keeping the creek healthy for flora and fauna is its own reward, as is seeing people inspired to plant native species in their gardens as well as the exotics," June said.

When visitors come to Clunes, they are likely to bump into a local keen to describe the endangered local growling grass frogs and take them to view the beloved platypus. Much of this is thanks to the vision, enthusiasm and dedication of June Johnstone.

A COVID Christmas: author unknown

'Twas the night before Christmas, but COVID was here, so we all had to stay extra cautious this year,
Our masks were all hung by the chimney with care, In case Santa forgot his and needed a spare.
With COVID, we couldn't leave cookies or cake, so we left Santa hand sanitiser to take.
The children were sleeping, the brave little tots. The ones over five had just had their first shots.
And Mum in her kerchief and me in my hat, had just settled in for a long winter's nap
But we tossed and we turned all night in our beds, as visions of variants danced in our heads.
Gamma and Delta and now Omicron, these COVID mutations that go on and on.
I thought to myself, "If this doesn't get better, I'll soon be familiar with every Greek letter."

Then just as I started to drift off and doze, a clatter of noise from the front lawn arose.
I leapt from my bed and straight down the stair. I opened the door and an old gent stood there.
His N95 made him look pretty weird, but I knew who he was by his red suit and beard.
I kept six feet away but blurted out quick, "What are you doing here, jolly St Nick?"
I said, "Where's your presents, your reindeer and sleigh? Don't you know that tomorrow is Christmas Day?"
And Santa stood there looking sad in the snow, as he started to tell me a long tale of woe.
He said he'd been stuck at the North Pole alone. All his white-collar elves had been working from home.
And most of the others said, "Santa, don't hire us! We can live off the CERB now, thanks to the virus!"

Those left in the toyshop had little to do. With supply chain disruptions, they could make nothing new.
And as for the reindeer, they'd all gone away. None of them left to pull on his sleigh.
He said Dasher and Dancer were in quarantine, Prancer and Vixen refused the vaccine,
Comet and Cupid were in ICU, so were Donner and Blitzen, they may not pull through.
And Rudolph's career can't be resurrected. With his shiny red nose, they all think he's infected.
Even with his old sleigh, Santa couldn't go far. Every border to cross needs a new PCR.
Santa sighed as he told me how nice it would be if children could once again sit on his knee.
He couldn't care less if they're naughty or nice, but they'd have to show proof they'd had their shot twice.

But then the old twinkle returned to his eyes. And he said that he'd brought me a Christmas surprise.
When I unwrapped the box and opened it wide, starlight and rainbows streamed out from inside.
Some letters whirled out and flew up to the sky. And they spelled out a word that was forty feet high.
There first was an H, then an O, then a P, then I saw it spelled HOPE when it added the E.
"Christmas magic," said Santa as he smiled through his beard.
Then suddenly all of the reindeer appeared. He jumped into his sleigh and he waved me goodbye
Then he soared o'er the rooftops and into the sky.
I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight, "Get your vaccines, my friends, Merry Christmas, goodnight!"
Then I went back to bed and a sweet Christmas dream, of a world where we'd finished with COVID 19.

