



the BULLETIN

August 2023

PRESIDENT

NINA NETHERWAY 0417371873

VICE PRESIDENT**TREASURER**

JEFF LANGDON 0411 552 862

SECRETARY

ROS McARTHUR 0409241115

CLASS CO-ORDINATOR HELEN SLATERClassCoordinator@u3aballarat.org.au**MEMBERSHIP/MY U3A**

MARY MALONEY 0411 260 047

WEBSITE MANAGER

MARY MALONEY 0411 260 047

EQUIPMENT

CHRIS HINDHAUGH 0438701322

U3A BALLARAT ADDRESSPO BOX 2058, BAKERY HILL, BALLARAT,
VICTORIA 3350**U3A PHONE NUMBER**

0431 859 315

EMAIL info@u3aballarat.org.au**WEB** www.u3aballarat.org.au**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/U3ABallarat>**CLASSROOMS**

BALLARAT NORTH CAMPUS, BNCC

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

ROS McARTHUR 0409241115

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

BNCC 9:00 am

1st Wednesday, Feb to Nov**BULLETIN** LEE ALBERTu3aballaratbulletin@gmail.com

Next issue deadline: Sept 8 2023

What's on in August.....?

Thurs August 10: BNCC 2:00 pm Glen Lake speaks on the lives of Celia Scott, Katherine Kirkland and Frances McGill. Afternoon tea to follow.

Thurs August 17: Cappuccino and chat with New members' morning tea at Selkirk Stadium, 10:00-11:00 with Phill and Nina



Thurs August 24: U3A Ballarat AGM

BNCC 2:00-3:30 with U3A Chorale

Afternoon tea to follow

Secretary Ros says:

I know you are thinking "boring" but this time it is really important that you are there and have your say. We sometimes think that all the hard work and endless delays we seem to face flash past the members eyes but NOW that the end is in sight for the Manual Arts Shed at the Specialist School Farm we know that it has all been worthwhile and want you to share this too.

The Committee has experienced an unprecedented changing of the guard in the last eighteen months and our new members need to meet you and understand what you want us to work on for 2024. We need **at least 120 members to attend** to achieve a quorum, so please put the date in your diary and celebrate with us.

And coming in September:

Thurs Sept 7: Trivia Night, BNCC 4:00-6:00 pm

Tues Sept 12: U3A Chorale Concert, 10:45-12:30 pm, BNCC with morning tea in the interval



It was with much anticipation that I entered our new Manual Arts Shed on the grounds of Ballarat Specialist School Farm Campus. The Shed is huge and should cater very well for our current groups as well as new groups wanting to do manual arts type classes!



Applications for tutors wishing to conduct classes in 2024 will be coming out soon. As U3A would not survive without our tutors, if you are able and willing to have a go and have something you would like to share with others – here is your chance. You don't have to be an expert as long as you have a love for the subject you wish to share.

It seems incredible to start thinking about 2024 now, but we are and we have to. The Committee meeting after our AGM on August 24 will be a planning meeting for activities and committee tasks. We will have a wonderful committee with some new members who will give us fresh ideas.



On Wednesday at committee we said a sad farewell to Helen Slater and Denise and Phill Grant. We also awarded them Life Membership for what they have done for U3A Ballarat during their time with us. I am sure they will keep in touch.



We had an interesting situation at the Hut at the Airport last week – the key went missing! As there is only one key this was a disaster. It was finally found after a series of phone calls between Elena, myself and the tutors of the classes who meet there. It was lucky one of the back doors had not been locked properly so they could get in. This was a very salient lesson for us. As the locks are fire locks they are easy to release and can be released accidentally. We will be obtaining another key. This can easily happen at other venues as you unlock the door and put the key in your pocket and forget about it. So, **please put the key back in the key box** after you open the doors. Unfortunately the backup keybox at BNCC was damaged by vandals. We are in the process of trying to remove the box – Superglue is certainly super!

Our July Cappuccino and Chat session at Selkirk was really great with at least 20 members – some new and some who have been around for a while – who met and had coffee and a lovely chat. It was a dreadful day – it even kept Phill off his bike, but not one of our other hardy bike riders! So if you have not been to one of these informal sessions – come along. It will really be Phill's last one this time I think, although he may miss us so much he comes back sometime.



The highlight of the month was our Oldies Dance featuring clothing from Op Shops – well, the hall looked like an Op Shop also, thanks to Mary and Elena who spent a lot of time searching Op Shops for decorations, clothing and prizes. It was such fun and the music provided by one of our members was great. Mind you it did not do my feet any good!

I attended the Seniors AGM last Friday – it is good to support our venue partners. I also attended the open session at ELC held by the City Council to review plans for the new building. It will be interesting to see what facilities we will be able to tap into for our classes as there appears to be great demand for space in that building. We will have another 'relationship' with Mat Gannon, Deputy Principal, Ballarat Specialist School, Farm Campus. This venture is quite exciting as there is the possibility of being able to use the large previous vegetable garden in front of the Shed as a garden. There may be other creative ideas also. We are making quite a name for ourselves in our co-operation with the co-tenants of our various buildings.

It was great to see so many U3A members at the Ballarat Choral Festival last Sunday at St Patrick's Cathedral – both in choirs and in the audience. Our U3A Chorale performed two songs and then our conductor George, conducted the mass choirs in singing 'Hearts around the World' and a most uplifting performance it was!

Our next big event is our AGM – please come along as we **must** have a quorum – you will be entertained by the Chorale, fed by the Catering committee and warmed by the heating!

Nina ninan06@bigpond.com

CLASS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

We have one new course being offered in Scottish country Dancing and reminders of two other classes that will commence in Term 4

Beginners Class Scottish Country Dance

New intake this term! Our long-established Thursday U3A morning class is full so this is a new class aimed at the complete beginner. Scottish Country Dance is the social and special occasion dancing of Scotland, and it is lots of fun. We dance in sets of 6 or 8, it is structured and a bit formal with heaps of history and tradition. You need a fair level of fitness and a sense of rhythm, comfy clothes, and shoes with soft soles.

Call tutor Julie Shelton 0433 782113

Tuesday 10:00- 11:30 ELC Activities room Commencing Term 4 03/10/23

Ballarat's Military History and its Characters

Ballarat has had a military presence since 1858! There have been unpaid volunteers and paid Militia, Citizen Military Force (CMF) and Army Reserve. "Ballarat's Military History and some of its Characters" will discuss the various eras of the military in Ballarat and will include many of the characters who kept the military going over those years.

This class will run for 8 weeks and will be held at the Ranger Barracks, Sturt St.

Monday 9:30-11:00 Commencing in Term 4

Derek Wallace has offered to take a course in Chinese History in 4th term. It will be on Zoom on Tuesdays from 2:00 – 3:30. If you are interested could you please send your name and email address to me, and I will forward them to Derek

Chinese lecture

Part 1 of 2 parts

Part 1 covers the Qing dynasty to modern times.

Looks at the Forbidden City, selection of concubines, polygamy, the many Emperors, the V.O.C company, Opium wars, Eunuchs, the Great Wall, Various rebellions, Treaty Of Nanking, Imperial examination system, Taiping Rebellion, Self Strengthening Movement, Yellow river floods, Empresses Dowager Cixi, Boxer rebellion, Yuan Shikai, Emperor Puyi, Sun Yat-sen, Chiang Kai Shek, May the

Fourth movement, Mao Tse Tung, Long March, Rape of Nanking, Korean War, Hong Kong, Xi Jinping, Chinese congress

This month we have to farewell two tutors

Laraine Gunning, who has led the U3A Bushwalkers since 2011 has passed the leadership over to Helen Boshier. **Mary Melcherts**, who has conducted several recorder classes, has moved to Melbourne. Her Beginners Recorder Class will be led by Viv Webb, but the Intermediate Recorder Class has concluded. The U3A Committee would like to thank both tutors for their dedication to their classes and hope that each group has brought them much enjoyment. To Laraine and Mary, we wish you both good health and much happiness in your next pursuits.

A reminder to all Tutors. If you have not yet sent me the information regarding your Length of Service could you please do so in the next little while.

Helen Slater

Class Co-ordinator



Ukelele Minstrel's Soiree/Tea Dance
Thursday 31 August 2:00-4:00
At BNCC



Dances will include waltzes, line dances, rock 'n roll, salsa, twists....

Or just do your own thing!"

You may just prefer to come and listen or sing along

You will know all the songs!!

Cordial and nibbles will be available to give you plenty of energy!!

And, there will be a delicious afternoon tea!!

See you there!!

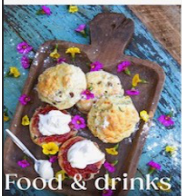
U3A Gardening Interest Group invites all U3A to enjoy a day at **Tesselaar's Tulip Festival October 3**
<https://tulipfestival.com.au/>

Leave BNCC 7:50am
Return approximately 5:00pm.

Facilities: food vans, drinks, souvenirs and entertainment will be available at the Festival
Cost: Total of \$51.50.
(Bus \$32.00, Entry \$19.50 which covers Seniors and Pensioners discount)

Payment: Cash or Card at the Office, U3A BNCC: see Bulletin for winter office hours

Note: we have limited places available, so payments must be made when booking. Please book early so that you are not disappointed.





Armchair Travel Talks at Meadow Gardens

18 Cooina Dr, Delacombe

Could you share your travels with us?

So far, we have been to South Africa, USA, Moscow, Glasgow and the Balkans!

Next stop: Antactica, date TBA

Where to after that??

Email Lee at u3aballaratbulletin@gmail.com if you can share your adventures with us

Ballarat Engine & Machinery Preservation Society



Open Day
on 22nd October.
10.00am – 2.00pm
Entry is free.



Anyone with any interest in old engines, farm or industrial machinery, cars, tractors or even trucks should come along and say hello. You can have a sausage and a cuppa, have a look through our inside displays and have a chat about anything along these lines that you are interested in. BEMPS is very keen to attract new members. So, if you or someone you know would like to get involved, please come out to our clubrooms between about 10.00 am and 2.00 pm on October 22nd and make yourself known.



The silversmithing class is being creative with old clockwork!

They are happy to buy old and broken watches, clocks and costume jewellery for repurposing into memento and found art pieces.

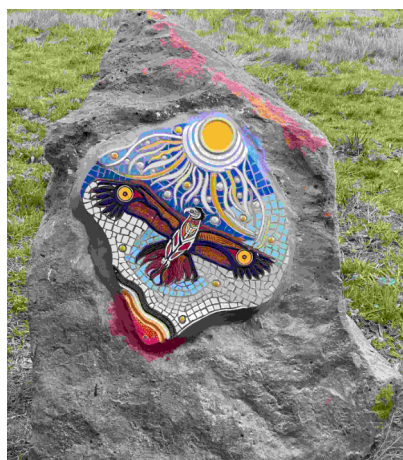
Contact Jacquie on 0407 328 64

The Mosaics Group Meander Trail at Smyesdale has anchored two of the rocks which had been toppled firmly into the ground, by drilling into the rock and inserting reinforcing rods, then dropping these into bricks which were then filled with quicksetting concrete. A slow and laborious job!



This rock now has one of the planned butterflies fixed on it.

The eagle has landed on another.



Tutor Jo Koenen writes:

U3A mosaics Group are now in possession of a "Grinder 2", which allows participants to be more precise in shaping their work.

The grinder is part of the project "The Mosaic Meander", which is 20 large rocks on the SMYTHESDALE Railtrail.

A great deal of time and materials have been donated to the project. As their tutor I'm very proud of their amazing work.

One of the Cycle Touring groups has visited the trail, and another group is planning a trip. U3A member Terry O'Brien (of Botanic Gardens fame), wondered whether the mosaics group might be interested in decorating rocks that have been placed near the cottage in the Botanic Gardens. They may need more class members next year!

If you feel like a trip, take the right turning to Snake Valley from the main road and look for a small shelter on the right, a couple of hundred metres down, marking the end of that section of the Ballarat-Skipton Rail Trail. Parking is easy and you can stroll down the trail till you come to the free camping ground. Lunch or coffee at the Court House Hotel of the cafe "Through the Gate" and you will have an enjoyable outing.

Cappuccino and Chat and New Members' Morning Tea.



**Thursday 17 August, starting at 10.00 am
at the Selkirk Stadium Café (989 Norman Street)**

Fancy a coffee/tea, with or without carbohydrates, in the company of chatty U3A Ballarat Members, and the President Nina?

The cappuccino chat session is on again. The venue is airy, warm and offers the opportunity to observe the weather from a comfortable environment, through towering floor to ceiling windows and in great company.

All are welcome, including new members. There's no need to RSVP, just turn up anytime after 10 am and join the conversation.

Phill Grant

Word Diversion

Seriously, it is time to be serious. No, really, it is the time to be serious for at least a few minutes.

In the background, two people have been responsible for working out the scrambled words. Yes, Aunt Jessie and Warwick are indeed real people. Aunt Jessie has preferred to remain anonymous, but I suspect those who know her would recognise the ever-present, subtle smile on her face, a consequence of knowing that every month she has provided U3A Ballarat members with devilish challenges. Warwick is also a real person, one who has supplied a never-ending supply of spreadsheets containing equally devilish challenges.

Continuing in 'serious mode', may I say a huge thank you to Aunt Jessie and Warwick for providing so much fun for our members. They started during the Covid lockdowns, as a way of providing activities for our members during those times when we could not meet nor run our normal classes and activities. They were happy to continue, even after lockdowns faded into memory. Many, many thanks to each of them.

What about the coming month? Well, Aunt Jessie has suggested EROTATSPRCINA and Warwick's challenge is in the spreadsheet.

N	L	E
C	H	T
I	A	C

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Solutions please to Phill at grantphillip@hotmail.com and the usual fabulous 'prizes for discerning people' are again on offer.