



the BULLETIN

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Next Bulletin Deadline

April 1 2024

BEGONIA FESTIVAL PARADE



Preparations for the Begonia Festival Parade, Monday March 11, are well underway. Nina will keep you updated via email. We will have representatives from a range of classes walking, with our Ukulele Minstrels playing as they parade.

Many thanks to the Sit and Stitch class and other U3A members for donating fabric and making 100+ fabric flowers for the parade. An article on page three of the Bulletin outlines what our sewing crew have been doing.

Forthcoming Events for March and April

Monday March 11 (Labour Day Holiday)
Begonia Festival Parade 11am-12pm

Wednesday March 20
New Members' Morning Tea, BNCC
lunchroom, 10.30-11.30am

Thursday March 21
Coffee and Chat, Selkirk Foyer, 10-11am

Thursday March 28
Last Day of Term One classes

Saturday April 5
Swap Tables BNCC 10-11am

Monday April 15
First Day of Term Two classes

Wednesday April 17
New Members' Morning Tea, BNCC lunchroom, 10.30-11.30am

Thursday April 18
Coffee and Chat, Selkirk Foyer, 10-11am

Thursday April 18
Oldtime Dance, BNCC, 4.00pm - 6.00pm





President Nina Netherway

As I write this report, my thoughts are with those members who have had to evacuate - some for the second time. I thank the members who are offering class mates a bed and other help. It is an anxious time for all of us as we wonder where the current fire will spread to, and where the next fire/s will be.

However, we still need to look forward. We are looking forward to the Begonia Festival Parade! By the time you receive this Bulletin, the Parade may well be over, but I would like to express our thanks to Anne Dwyer, Jim Thomson and Jacki Metcalf who organised our entry. I also wish to thank all the 'flower makers', who have added colour to our parade entry. We will have full coverage in the April Bulletin!



Fabric flower from Sit and Stitch



One of the highlights of February was the Swap Tables - we were swamped with goodies to swap and take. It is wonderful to have such a giving group of members. You could have made lots of jam, pickles, desserts, cordial and whatever else you can make with rhubarb! There were some beautiful plants and also household goods from a member who is downsizing. So, come along to the next Swap Table in April! We thank Gladys who, as usual, made her wonderful cake for morning tea!

The February New Members' Morning Tea had a good number of new members who enjoyed a chat and a cuppa. They also kindly agreed to be a focus group, reviewing the new brochure the Communications Subcommittee has been working on. You never know what you will be asked to do when you attend one of our morning teas!

Our Coffee and Chat at Selkirk gave Joyce and I a good chance to catch up until a couple of other members arrived! Then we all had a good chat! One of the benefits of being at Selkirk is you see members coming and going from the classes held there. A member from the Islamic Geometric Patterns class happened to stop and chat. She showed us what they have been doing and I was amazed at the detail and intricacies of the patterns she had drawn. Make sure you have a look when they exhibit in our new gallery space. They are beautiful.

The new gallery space will be operational in the BNCC Hall after the forthcoming holidays. The space is available to all groups who would like to put on a hanging display - I mean a display of work which could be hung as in an art gallery! We are in the process of working out protocols for this area and looking at things like after hours opening, Exhibition openings, length of time for one class to display their works, etc. Our intention is to provide clear guidelines for classes to follow.

All classes seemed to have settled down very well. We are grateful to the tutors who have been willing to create a second class when discovering they have a large wait list. We still have new classes starting and there will be some new ones in Term Two. So, watch this space! If you would like to run a class, regardless of whether it be for a long time or a few weeks, please contact Miriam Peck, our Class Co-ordinator. Her contact details are on the front page of the Bulletin.

Everyone is reminded to please leave each classroom neat and tidy, with chairs and tables moved back to their rightful place (see diagrams on the wall at BNCC). Blinds should be drawn and windows closed and locked if possible. Whiteboards should be cleaned, and cables (ie HDMI) rolled up neatly and put on a shelf. This is not just the tutors' job: it is a task where everyone can help.

I have been reminded that the kitchen at BNCC is not always left as it should be. If you use cups please put them in the dishwasher and put the dishwasher on when you leave. Please empty the dishwasher if the washed sign is up. Do not put dirty cups in on top of clean ones! This is a shared kitchen and we all have to work to keep it clean.

And with that, I wish you all the best for the rest of the term. Do come along to our events which are open to all members - especially if you haven't chosen any classes yet.

Nina

SIT AND STITCH CLASS



Anne Dwyer spoke with Margaret Copping, Sit and Stitch tutor, about the class and their support for the Begonia Festival Parade.

1. How long has Sit and Stitch been offered as a class at U3A Ballarat?

Sit and Stitch is a merging of two classes. Patchwork Hand Piecing commenced in 2011, and Sit and Sew began in 2012, with classes being held in the old Orphanage on Victoria Street. When the two classes merged, the class name became Sit and Stitch. We still have quite a few original members in the class.

2. Can you tell us what normally happens in a Sit and Stitch class?

There are no formal lessons: people bring along whatever they are working on. We offer the occasional demonstration, but people usually bring their own embroidery, sewing, patchwork, quilting, knitting, crocheting and sometimes beading. People are happy to share ideas, chat and help others as they work on their individual projects. We take turns to make morning tea, which helps create a friendly environment.

3. Can you comment on how Sit and Stitch embodies the mission of U3A Ballarat?

U3A Ballarat Mission

Through the provision of low-cost opportunities our members learn, teach and share ideas and wisdom in a friendly, respectful, inclusive and supportive environment.

The mission is a match with our class. A lot of us are now on our own. We are there for each other, offering support when required. The good thing is, people are keen to help each other.

4. Sit and Stitch class members have played a key role in supporting our entry into the Begonia Festival Parade. Can you briefly outline the steps associated with creating the fabric flowers?

We agreed to help, sourced fabric, found a pattern, then the industry began. We had a production line: circles were printed onto the fabric, the circles were cut out, ironed, then sewn together. Felt was then glued to the back of the flower and a button sewn on the front.

5. I am sure you and others who helped have sore fingers after all the stitching! Beyond sore fingers, how are you feeling as you view the completion of over 100 flowers?

I didn't want to part with the flowers because they are so lovely! I am so happy with what we achieved: 128 flowers in two weeks from two classes, and plenty of sewing at home. I'm very proud of the girls who helped out.



CALLIGRAPHY WORKSHOP

with an expert

Thursday April 11th 10am-4pm

BNCC Blue room

Room for 7 more people to join the workshop

Enquiries and bookings to Elaine Maberly

egm154@me.com

Did You Know ... Ballarat Once Had a Zoo?



White swans, Lake Wendouree

Some readers may remember the squirrels in the Botanic Gardens and even the white swan at Lake Wendouree. This morphed into having exotic animals on display in zoos. People donated animals to Mr Longley the first gardener at Ballarat Botanic Gardens. He was a gardener, not a zookeeper, but he had some cages erected for their display. There was even talk of an elephant!



Animal cages, Ballarat Zoo



Feeding a wombat and goat



the zoo by including entertainment. Despite their best efforts, the zoo was not financially viable and closed in 1959, with the remaining animals being sold off. Remnants of the zoo can still be seen in the North Gardens.

(By Nina Netherway)

In 1912, Henry Ben Jahn, a wealthy German bachelor who had lived in Ballarat working as a gold assayer, died in Germany leaving his estate to Ballarat City Council for the purpose of forming a proper zoo at the Botanic gardens. The two shops and cottage he owned in Ballarat were sold and the proceeds went to the City Council.

The zoo was built, with the ANA begging that it should house only native animals and birds. The zoo opened in 1917 with five monkeys, twelve cockatoos, two wombats, one cassowary and a few other birds.

Historical accounts show that the animals were well housed, but there were many deaths. By the 1950s, the zoo was in poor shape and the Council offered it to George Langley for 5 shillings per year. He and his family worked to improve

U3A Office Ballarat North Community Centre

702 Walker St Ballarat North

Office Hours for Term One:

Tuesday 10am-12pm
Wednesday 10am- 2pm
Thursday 10am-2pm

The office shreds their old paper documents. Would you like some shredded paper? If so, contact Rebecca Black, Office Manager: Bec.u3a@gmail.com

Having problems with myu3a?

If so, contact Mary Maloney moomoo@southernphone.com.au and she will help you.

Mahjong - Can you help us?

We are keen to get the people who are currently on Mahjong waiting lists into classes. To do this, we need more equipment. Do you have a card table and/or a Mahjong set you could donate? The card table and Mahjong set need to be in good condition. If you can help out, please contact Carolie carolie.kerry@gmail.com

Kudos to our Caterers



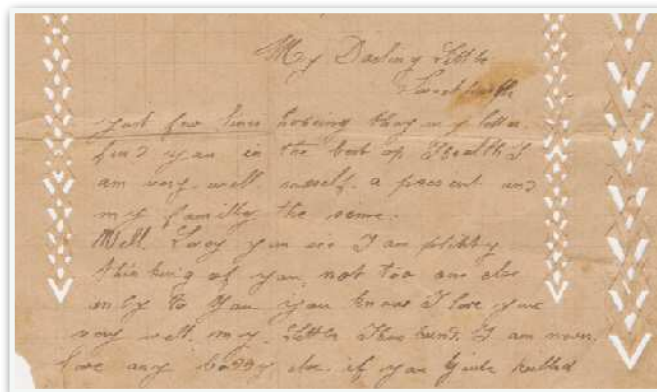
Colleen Noonan, Fran Hanrahan and Doris Miller served morning tea at the February New Members' Morning Tea. Many thanks to our helpful and cheerful catering crew, who are ever present and busy throughout the year!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Australian War Memorial Project

The Australian War Memorial is running an ongoing project that involves transcribing letters from World War One to the Vietnam War. The Australian War Memorial is seeking the assistance of interested people who can read cursive script.

U3A Ballarat member, Marion Dick, heard an interview on local ABC radio on Valentine's Day, thought the project might be of interest to some of our members, and provided a link that shows an example of some of the transcription work. <https://transcribe.awm.gov.au/transcription/item/awm202468>



If you are interested, the link includes a Sign Up tab.

iPads for Over 50's



Ballarat North Neighbourhood House is running a series of workshops to help people become more creative and confident when using an iPad or iPhone. The workshops commenced on February 8, but a series of sessions are being offered. If you are interested, details can be found at the following link: <https://www.socialplanet.com.au/at/ballarat-north-neighbourhood-house>.

Ballarat Speakers Club Luncheon

Speaker: Dr Mike Stephens - A life of service to Australian Agriculture

When: Thursday March 14 12pm

Where: Selkirk Stadium, 989 Norman St Wendouree

Cost: \$40 per person (\$15 goes to charity)

Register: before 9.30am Wednesday 13th March <https://events.humanitix.com/stories-of-farm-life-with-mike-stephens>

Recently awarded the **AM** for his service to Australian agriculture, Dr Mike Stephens has been an influential leader, trainer, speaker and consultant across Australian farming circles for five decades. His main specialty in recent years has been in the often-fraught issue of family farm succession.

During the 90's Mike appeared every Friday on the ABC Country Hour in the persona of Michaelago Mick, with a poem that entertained and provided thoughtful commentary on current farming events.

An entertaining talk is assured!

SCONE RECIPE

Many thanks to Carolie Kerry for sharing her much enjoyed scone recipe with us.

Ingredients

500g self raising flour
250ml cream
Pinch of salt

Steps

1. Empty cream into a microwave jug
2. Rinse cream bottle out with 2 tablespoons of water and add to the cream
3. Heat in the microwave until blood temperature
4. Mix into flour with a flat bladed knife
5. Put out onto a floured board and knead lightly, patting out until about one inch high
6. Cut into shapes with a scone cutter
7. Bake in a hot oven at 200°C



We are keen to include economical, nutritious, seasonal recipes in the Bulletin. Do you have recipes ideas you would be happy to share? If so, send your recipe and a photo to bulletin@u3aballarat.org.au. We will try and include one recipe in each Bulletin edition.

TOMATO HINT

Do you have a glut of small tomatoes? If so, you can freeze them.



1. Wash



2. When dry, freeze on a tray



3. Place in bags in the freezer

GARDENING TIP

Banana Skins as Fertiliser

Don't throw away those beautiful banana skins! Did you know they are brimming with potassium, and as they decompose, they release nutrients into the soil to feed plants. Just place the skin on top of the soil: don't let them touch the plant stem. Tomatoes, peppers, roses, orchids, succulents, ferns etc. are potassium loving plants.

Coral Hiscock, Gardening Interest Group



U3A Network Tutor Recognition Awards 2024

Would you like to recognise the work of your class tutor? U3A Network Victoria Tutor Recognition Awards for 2024 are now open. Each Victorian U3A can nominate 2 tutors. If you decide to nominate a tutor, please note that the application form will ask whether you the nomination has been approved by U3A Ballarat Committee. Please contact Nina Netherway president@u3aballarat.org.au if you are going to nominate a tutor.

To find out more about the application process, click on the link below:

<https://u3avictoria.org.au/nominate-your-tutor-2024>

Last year, three of our tutors received U3A Tutor Recognition Awards.



John Maguire (French F)



Andrew Parker (Bushwalking)



Bernard Catrice (Le mot juste)



QUIZ CORNER

1. What are the four typical sections in a male and female choir?
2. Which composer is from the Classical period - John Lennon, JS Bach, Beethoven?
3. True or false. A waltz has 3 beats to a bar.
4. What does 'a capella' mean?
5. Is a song that is marked as 'allegro' to be sung fast or slow?

Questions provided by George Walpole, Ballarat U3A Choral
(Answers on page 8)

Tutors, would you like to provide 5 questions and answers for future Bulletin editions? We are seeking one multiple choice question, one true or false question, and three question types of your choice. Please send your questions to bulletin@u3aballarat.org.au

Events at the Sebastopol Library

181 Albert St, Sebastopol.

Wednesday March 6, 11.00am - 12.00 pm

Financial Wellbeing Morning Tea

A free morning tea and a conversation with local financial counsellors.

Wednesday March 13, 11.00am - 12.00pm

Accessing Affordable Housing.

An information session on how people over 50 can access affordable housing

Wednesday March 27, 3.00pm - 4.30pm

Preparing for Retirement

Presented by Services Australia this session will take you through different payments that you might be eligible for and how to initiate a claim

VOICE FM

Community Radio

is wanting volunteers to read the Courier newspaper on air.

This is an important community service and great fun helping members of our community and discovering more about radio production...

Contact: John van Wooden
johnvanrooden@gmail.com

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U3A BULLETIN

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Quiz Answers

1. Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass
2. Beethoven
3. True
4. Singing without instrumental accompaniment
5. Fast

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