



the BULLETIN

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Next Bulletin Deadline

February 23 2026

U3A Office Hours Term 1 2026

Tuesday 10am-12pm

Wednesday 10am-2pm

Thursday 10am-2pm

Ballarat North Community Centre

702 Walker St Ballarat North

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Forthcoming Events February and March 2026

Saturday February 7

Swap Tables, BNCC 10-11am

Ballarat North Community Centre (BNCC) 702 Walker Street,
Ballarat North.

Thursday February 19 (please note new date and time)

New Members Afternoon Tea, BNCC 2.00pm

Thursday March 5

Choral Workshop with Dr Faye Dumont, BNCC Hall, 2.30-4.30pm

Saturday March 7

Swap Tables, BNCC 10-11am

Correction: Please note, in the November 2025 Bulletin, we included an article on Don Moss. A typo occurred with Ken Neerhut's name. Apologies to Ken.

Welcome!

As we step into another year, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning U3A Ballarat members. Coming off the "long break" of Christmas and New Year, the Summer School and the first week of classes has brought about renewed enthusiasm and energy throughout our many venues. It is always pleasing to see so many instances of our members actively participating, sharing their knowledge, and forging new friendships across our community. This is something that will continue throughout the year.

The U3A Ballarat Committee work diligently to ensure that our offerings continue to reflect the diverse interests of our membership. I thank them for their essential contributions to the running of our organisation. With over 150 classes on offer, there is something for everyone: this is because our members have such high levels of knowledge, skills and understanding to share.



Don Collins

If you are still on a waitlist for a class, you are encouraged to check the most recent list of classes with space. Why not try something new - whether it's a creative pursuit, physical activity, or some other educational endeavour.

We are delighted to have added several new class locations. I wish to thank Vice-President and Class Co-ordinator Miriam Peck for her work in co-ordinating the classes and sorting out all of the necessary arrangements to make these venues work for us. Tutors and Class Convenors will be asked for feedback on the new locations to help us ensure the learning continues smoothly and effectively.

Whilst there will be more to share later, I wish to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of Ros McArthur, who has made the decision to resign from the U3A Ballarat Committee after more than 18 years of service at this high level. Her knowledge of organisational history and her experience with so many aspects of our organisation will be sorely missed. Ros has offered to help out whenever and wherever needed and will still run several classes this semester. Thank you for your service, Ros.

Finally, thank you for your ongoing support and contribution to U3A Ballarat. Let's continue to make this a vibrant and welcoming place for learning and connection. Volunteers are always welcome, so please consider lending a hand if you have some spare time - it's a fantastic way to get involved and make a difference in the lives of others.

Don Collins

U3A Ballarat President

	VISION STATEMENT To develop a sense of belonging and enjoyment of life, through sustained and supportive connections with the U3A community, and as part of the broader Ballarat community.
	MISSION STATEMENT Through the provision of low-cost learning opportunities, our members learn, teach and share ideas and wisdom in a friendly, respectful, inclusive and supportive environment.

Summer School

"It was great"
"I learnt so much"
"It was such fun"
"I wish it was one of the normal classes"
"I now know why the music is like that"

These are just a few of the comments I heard during our two week Summer School. Our 26 classes were attended by 391 members. Unfortunately, due to illness, three classes had to be cancelled. Also, unfortunately, many students did not apologise for their absence which was disappointing for the tutor who was preparing for a certain number, and particularly when there was a wait list. The sessions were held at BNCC, Hut 48 at the Airport, BGMAW, Lake Wendouree and the Gardens, and various outdoor spaces. This generally worked very well - although its tricky knowing how many will enrol in a class when allocating rooms. BNCC was a wonderful hive of activity with the office open and staffed by 2 volunteers each day. The tea and coffee had to be replenished often as many classes stayed on for a chat. A very big 'thank you' to the tutors who volunteered to take classes and gave so much time in preparation. Without them there would have been no Summer School.

Nina Netherway
Summer School Co-ordinator



(Photos provided by Robert Hammond)

Do You An Image to Share?

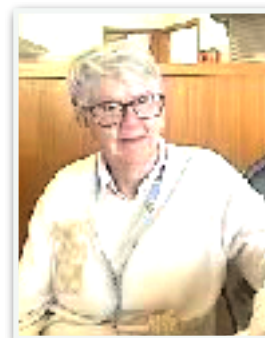
Madonna Quixley (pos.practices.pos.people@gmail.com)
and Robert Hammond (rh3439@gmail.com)
maintain our Facebook site.

If you have images to share, please email Madonna and/or Robert.
(Many thanks to Robert who attends many U3A events to take happy snaps.)

Lyn Snibson, U3A Member

“U3A provides the unexpected delight of finding people from days past and the pleasure of meeting U3A people who are new to Ballarat.”

Lyn has lived in Ballarat for nearly all of her life and describes her childhood as wonderful. The eldest of five children, Lyn lived with her family in a little miners cottage, just off Victoria Street. Behind the house was a creek and oval (behind St Alipius), which seemed like a huge world to the children. The siblings happily played on the banks of the creek, sucking on the grass that “goodness knows how many animals had been over”.



The family moved to Brown Hill and the local bush became their playground. “We were lucky”. From around the age of 9 or 10, it was nothing for Lyn and her siblings to take a raw sausage, a piece of bread, an apple and some matches and then disappear into the bush for the day. Her years as a girl guide meant she was well equipped to spend time outdoors, including knowing how to manage camp fires. “We did some things that you look at now and say ‘what were you thinking!’ We used to go to the caves over behind Lofven Street, and we would also wander around, jumping over mineshafts. I remember one day we jumped across a mine shaft onto a snake on the other side. On another day, I was with my cousins and, fortunately, we had a rope with us because my brother got caught in the quicksand. He was up to his mid chest before my cousins and I managed to use the rope to pull him out. We went to Grandma, who cleaned him up, then we took him home to Mum who roared at him for being dirty. She didn’t know what had happened.” Lyn’s love of nature has stayed with her, and has extended to the extensive gardens she created at her various homes. Having recently relocated to a home with a much smaller garden, Lyn is now “enjoying the fruits of someone else’s labour”.

Lyn married Les and they raised their family in Ballarat. For two years, the Snibsons lived on the Langi Kal Kal prison farm where Les was a prison officer. At the time, the prison farm was for young offenders, and Lyn remembers that being able to work on the farm provided purpose for some of the young men. An avid reader, Lyn trained as a librarian, a beneficiary of Gough Whitlam’s Adult and Vocational Education Policy. She worked in the town library initially, then at Aquinas College which later became ACU. Lyn then worked as an archivist with The Sisters of Mercy, who have had a presence in Ballarat since 1881, focusing their service on education, healthcare and social service.



Lyn joined Ballarat U3A after she retired, recognising that friendships, some developed over the decades, change. “You lose people along the way. People develop other interests, move away, and some die.” U3A has allowed Lyn to continue to expand her friendship base. The physical activity that comes from U3A classes is also important to Lyn, who was a Tai Chi tutor for six or seven years, and currently enjoys attending a line dancing class. She learnt to play the ukulele with U3A, expanding the musical skills she developed as a member of the Ballarat Ladies Highland

Pipe Band. Lyn can be found at the U3A Bridge Play class each Monday, assisting the tutor set up the room and helping class members with rules and protocols associated with the card game.

Lyn said the family she grew up in made a lasting impression. “My mother and my two grandmothers were incredibly important influences on me. They offered support, you always had love, care and friendship”. Lyn was able to trace back the history of women in her family in a previously offered U3A course. She is happy to have a document that captures the role and achievements of these women, ensuring their endeavours are not forgotten by future generations.

At the interview ended, Lyn was asked what brings her joy, Lyn immediately spoke about her extended family, and the importance of friendships formed playing cards (Bridge and 500), line dancing, playing the ukulele and painting. Having spent time in recent years caring for an elderly parent, Lyn indicated that these activities ensure she has some time for herself, helping provide balance in her life.

Advanced Monoprint Class with U3A Ballarat

After my foray into beginner gelli-printing with Faye, I spied a vacancy in the Advanced Gelli-printing class with Suzanne. I knew it would be a jump as the group had been meeting for three years and become 'gelled'. However, at the first workshop, I recognised it was not a 'hop, skip and jump' to a higher level, but a catapult onto another planet. The class included members who were well established in their long-term commitment to the arts.

As we age, we benefit from the resources and knowledge we have collected over time. Pursuing hobbies and passions can bring contentment. As a non artist, I was working at an elementary level as I applied my skills and knowledge to create what I had in my mind. The collegial atmosphere generated by the group made my learning an enjoyable and interesting experience.



New ways of attacking the image construction began with learning how to make plain-coloured pages for collage. This required using the gel-plate most times and having a hands-on understanding of what some colours do to other colours: ie which colour combinations are cousins and friends, the relationship between black and white ... and everything which lies in-between. The types of paper, the kind of glues, the consistency of pigments and the show-and-tell routines added to building an even bigger store of information and were used at different levels once I got home. So, this is how 3D images come to be! There is a translucent paint that offers a clean light into the image: this is similar to holding an object up to a sunshine filled window and seeing new complexities.

Cheap rolls of baking paper and expensive brand names of paint meant learning how to distinguish what to invest in and to take advantage of where to shop... this information also gets passed on to the students. Somehow Suzanne is able to detect quickly what tasks offered the biggest learning experience and translates them into our homework instructions. The bulk of my learning occurs when I try things out. In the workshop venue, I begin to develop my familiarity with using the tools, touching the paper, seeing what comes out again, tampering with stencils, taking out and adding at times. At home, I tackle set tasks, learning from my mistakes and finding interest and joy in what I complete - even it is only half of what was set.

The second workshop had us create 4X4 inch collages using only black and white, in design and plain. I was surprised to find I was engrossed for a couple of hours. I continued to experiment at home, spending three to four hours, in the zone, working on the task. In the end, the accumulated hours added to my understanding of what worked and what was difficult: the difficulties will be taken to the next session. I am relieved and delighted with the knowledge and skills I am picking up as a beginner.



Upon reflection, there was folly in not completing monoprints, as suggested. I stayed in the collage phase of painted papers, convinced I was on the ball with everything. I haven't remembered everything I was told or shown, but I do know that observing and learning from others feeds your own creative output. I thought I would miss out on joining this class, but fate had another idea.

Hurrah for U3A Ballarat and be careful what you wish for... you might get a whole lot more!

Devika Das

U3A Ballarat Choral Workshop with Dr. Faye Dumont

THURSDAY, MARCH 5 2026
2:30 - 4:30 PM
BALLARAT NORTH COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL

In this workshop, Faye will focus on phrasing, pitch control, singing softly and ensemble balance and blend. Music will be provided to all participants.

RSVP by February 19 by visiting our website. Courses 2026 – Courses – Events – Choral Workshop.

*Donations to help offset workshop costs are most welcome.

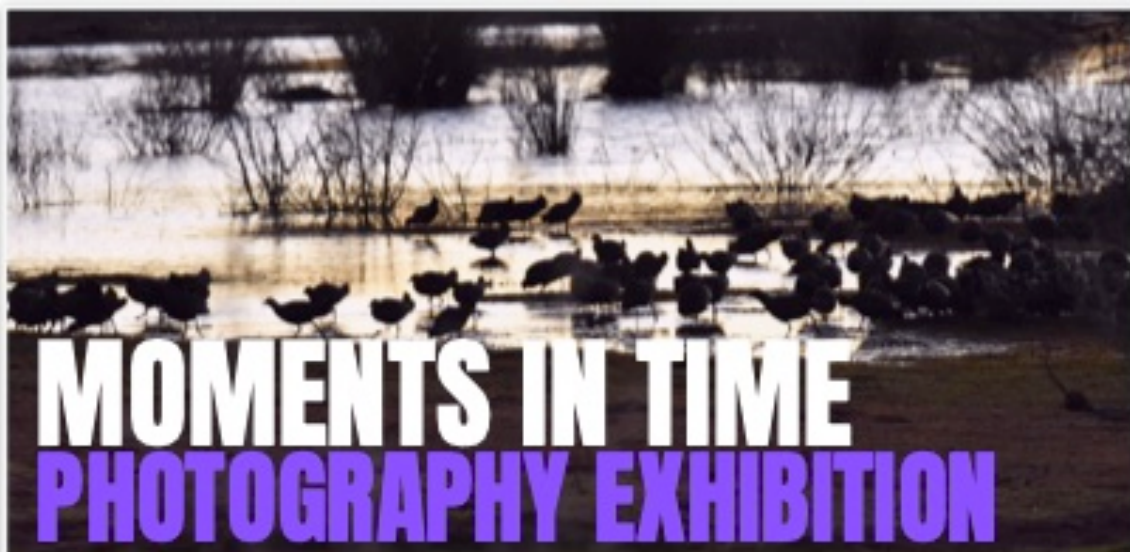


Swap Tables

Saturday March 7

BNCC

10-11am



MOMENTS IN TIME

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION



2 February to 2 April, 2026

Opening days 4th and
18th February 4-6pm.

**Ballarat North Community Centre
Gallery**
702 Walker Street



Memorial to Robin Philip

U3A BALLARAT
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

COMMUNITY NOTICES**Ballarat Speakers Club | March Luncheon and Meeting**

Our March guest speaker is Wing Commander Dr David Hooke, now a retired kidney specialist. During the 2nd Iraq war David spent three months working in the US surgical hospital intensive care unit as part of an ADF Medical Detachment.

You'll hear rarely-talked-about experiences and what it was like to be involved.

When: Thursday March 12th 12 noon – 2pm

Where: Selkirk Stadium, Norman St, Wendouree

Cost: \$40 per person for lunch and speaker

All welcome, but you need to register at <https://www.upendo.org.au/bsc> up until the day before at 9.30am

City of Ballarat Ageing Well Team

You may like to click on the following link to see what is being offered by Ballarat's Ageing Well Team

<https://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/community/ageing-well-ballarat/useful-resources-older-people>

GARDENING TIPS

A Sustainable Way to Display your Blooms!

Use glass containers for displaying your cut flowers.

Display in an old chipped vase, a wine bottle, sherry glass, carafe, jam/asparagus/capers or mustard jar: they are all ideal.

You can also give your arrangement as a special gift from your garden, and the recipient does not need to return the 'vase'.



Coral Hiscock and Robert Hammond, Gardening Interest Group

Orange and Date Scones

This recipe was snipped out of The Age newspaper several years ago. I have halved the original recipe, and choose to use a scone cutter, rather than cutting the mixture into squares. Make sure you keep the scone cutter dusted with flour, as this is a wet scone mixture. Makes 16 - 18 scones. Anne Dwyer

Ingredients

4 cups plain flour, sifted
 ¼ cup castor sugar
 4 tsp baking powder
 1 large firm orange (Navel is best as you want the rind)
 50g soft butter
 1 cup chopped dates
 250ml milk (+ extra to baste the top of the scones before cooking)
 250 ml cream



Method

1. Preheat oven to 180C and line 2 baking trays with baking paper.
2. Place flour, sugar, baking powder and orange zest in a bowl.
3. Work in the butter using your fingers.
4. Add dates.
5. Make a well in the centre and add the milk and cream. Gently mix. (The mixture will be very sticky.)
6. Place mixture on a floured surface and gently knead. (Don't overwork.)
7. Using a floured scone cutter, shape scones and place on baking trays. Keep space between scones as they will expand. You will need to keep the cutter continually dusted in flour.
8. Baste lightly with milk.
9. Bake until golden brown on top (25 minutes), then cool on a wire rack.

The original recipe said to dust the scones with icing sugar, but I think the scone mix is sweet enough. Serve with butter or a spreadable butter alternative.

U3A members said the scones were "lovely and moist" and that "the orange rind adds a lovely flavour".

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.

Prefer a Printed Copy of U3A Bulletins?

If so, please let Barbara Burnett know.

Ph: 0477 035 507

apollobay3377@gmail.com

CAN YOU HELP?

Do you have a Mahjong set languishing in the back of a closet, never to be used? The Mahjong classes are looking for another set. If you have a set, with numbers and blanks, and you would like to donate the set, please contact Elena at elena.u3a@gmail.com or 0421 520 414.



QUIZ CORNER

BEES

1. Yes, No, It Depends. Do native bees sting?
2. Apis is Latin for...
3. Why are Ligurian bees special?
4. Yes or No. All bees form hives
5. How many jobs does a worker bee have: a) up to 5, b) up to 8, c) up to 11.



Many thanks to Don Collins for this month's quiz.

Quiz answers can be found on page 12.

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

Quiz Answers

1: It depends. Some do, but most don't.

2: Bee. (Apis was also a sacred bull worshipped by ancient Egyptians.)

3: Often kept by bee keepers, Ligurian bees are very calm and good honey producers.

4: No. Most native bees are solitary and do not form hives.

5: c) up to 11. Worker bees: 1) clean the cells in the hive, 2) cap cells, 3) attend the queen, 4) tend the brood (larvae), 5) receive nectar, 6) clean debris, 7) pack pollens into cells, 8) build comb, 9) undertake orientation flights so they can return to the hive, 10) guard the hive, 11) forage

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