



the BULLETIN

PRESIDENT

Miriam Peck

Miriam.p.u3a@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Elena Tommasi

elena.u3a@gmail.com

TREASURER

Dianne Passalick

accounts@u3aballarat.org.au -

SECRETARY

Coral Hiscock

info@u3aballarat.org.au

CLASS CO-ORDINATOR

Leonie Benson

classcoordinator@u3aballarat.org.au

OFFICE MANAGER

Rebecca Black

MEMBERSHIP

Nina Netherway

EVENTS MANAGER

Elena Tommasi

BULLETIN

Leona Ryan

bulletin@u3aballarat.org.au

WEBSITE MANAGER

Nina Netherway

GALLERY MANAGER

Robert Weiser

MAINTENANCE

Robert Weiser

U3A Phone: 0415 407163

Email: info@u3aballarat.org.au

Website: www.u3aballarat.org.au

U3A Office: Ballarat North Community Centre

(BNCC), 702 Walker St, Ballarat North

Reg. No A 13304K

ABN 3371 3445 856

Tutors wanted for 2027 Summer School and ongoing classes

Are you inclined to start a new class, sharing a particular interest with other U3A members?

Are you a member of a class that is full and has a waiting list? Why not think about starting an 'off-shoot' class of the same type?

To discuss the possibility, please contact Nina Netherway (for Summer School) or Miriam Peck (for ongoing classes).

Nina: ninan06@bigpond.com

Miriam: ClassCoordinator@u3aballarat.org.au



FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2026

Thursday September 17

Chorale BNCC Hall (see page 11)

Friday September 18.

Last Day Term 3.

Saturday. October 3

Swap Tables

10.00 - 11.00, BNCC Blue Room

Monday October 5

1st DayTerm 4.

Deadline for 2027 class information forms from Tutors and Summer School tutors.

Saturday October 24

Combined Music Groups Concert

BPAC (Neil St)



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is with great pleasure that I write my initial President's Report. Repeating my words from the recent Annual General meeting, I am humbled by the trust that has been shown in me and will do my utmost to live up to that responsibility.



My immediate predecessor is, of course, Don Collins and I am mindful of his legacy with U3A Ballarat. During his term as President our operations and procedures became just that little more 'ship-shape' and streamlined. We formulated a Vision Statement and Mission Statement that clearly define what our organisation is about. And of course, Don presided over our change to Member Wizard. While there are still some issues to be ironed out with it, this new platform will ultimately streamline our administrative processes.

Thinking of legacies from past Presidents, Nina instigated our very successful gallery and our Summer School. Elena kept U3A Ballarat 'alive' during Covid years, ensuring that our members' engagement with U3A suffered minimal impact. And of course, she, Nina, Blake Gordon and John Olsen were all instrumental in the procuring of land for our workshop and the protracted building process that has resulted in a facility of which we are justifiably proud.

I wonder what the legacy of my term as president will be. As yet, I don't know what I don't know but as time goes on, with the help of our wonderful Committee of Management and our other excellent volunteers, the path will become clear and I will find a way to lead U3A Ballarat forward.

Speaking of our wonderful Committee of Management, while we have reluctantly farewelled Jeff Langdon and Steve Walsh, I have pleasure in welcoming Dianne Passalick and Leona Ryan to the Committee. I surely speak for the entire Committee in looking forward to their contribution.

Miriam Peck



SPRINGING INTO SPRING WITH THE GARDEN INTEREST GROUP

Spring was definitely in the air for our garden visits on September 1st.

On the day, 31 enthusiastic participants visited the garden of Teresa Meeker at her home, the historic former vicarage, in Learmonth. We then proceeded onto Talbot, where we enjoyed morning tea on the verandah of London House (a former Drapery) before exploring the Community Garden alongside.

A short meander took us to the former Police Station where owners Helen and Lindsay showed us around their cottage garden, allowing us to look inside the 1870s prisoner cells and stables. Group members were particularly impressed with the extensive and very productive vegetable beds, while some seemed to enjoy the garden seating, where conversations could be had whilst appreciating the Spring sunshine.

After a relaxing lunch, we drove the short distance to Greensleeves house and garden. The house was built in the 1870s initially for the school headmaster. Current owners Gus and Amanda were very happy to share their extensive garden with us. They pointed out some very old oaks, elms and a mulberry tree in a garden which retains some of the 1930s layout. There was also a more recent rear garden developed with the assistance of landscape designers.

Not being fully gardened out, we completed a very enjoyable day by driving on to Lambley Nursery on our way home, to see how it was progressing under new ownership.

Next month, we are looking forward to our bus trip to the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Gardens and the RJ Hamer Arboretum. For November, a trip to Castlemaine is planned. This will align with the Castlemaine and District Festival of Gardens.

Group members continue to be inspired by gardens, both private and public, that we have visited over the year, though many are pleased to have smaller gardens that don't require the enormous amount of work undertaken by some of our presenters.

I continue to enjoy leading such an enthusiastic group and appreciate the assistance of the members of our planning group. I'm sorry that I couldn't extend the membership beyond 70 this year, but advise those the wait list that they will get their chance next year.

Geoff Howard.



MAINTENANCE PERSON (F. F & E.)

We need a member to act as a ***Furniture, Fixture and Equipment Manager*** (F.F&E) The role would include organising the repair and replacement of existing furniture, fixtures and equipment. This does NOT include technical equipment. If you could fulfil this role please contact the U3A office.



ATTENTION TUTORS AND CONVENORS - 2027 CLASSES (FEB TO NOV)

You will soon receive an email from me with the **2027 Class Information Form** so that you can confirm your intentions re classes in 2027. You may wish to offer the same class as in 2026, or try a new one. Once you have completed the information could you send it back to me. There will also be paper forms available from the office. **Deadline for all submissions is Monday October 5**

.Leonie Benson -
Class Coordinator

RED ROOM AT BNCC

Some months ago, we were approached by Ballarat Council who informed us of their intention to provide Ballarat North Neighbourhood House with exclusive access to the Red Room. Because BNCC is owned by the City of Ballarat, they technically have the right to do this. U3A Ballarat is a co-tenant of the building, along with City on the Hill Church and the lead tenant, Ballarat North Seniors.

We are currently in negotiation with the Council, whose representatives are considering an alternative solution that we have proposed. While we await their response, our usage of the Red Room will continue as is current, at least until the end of 2026.

U3A Ballarat Committee of Management will keep you informed of developments through our monthly Bulletin.



An Introduction to Pastels in Art

A 'trial run' in the '25 Summer School of a shortened version of this course has been expanded into a 6 sessions during 3rd term. So, the Class is new, I'm new to being a tutor (without a teaching background) so I'm very much 'learning on the job'! The venue is also a new one for U3A—the Sebastopol Community Hub, an attractively designed building with a fantastic Art Room.

The course is NOT a painting class but more of a guide to students regarding the ins and outs of the materials and equipment required for this often misunderstood exciting and vibrant painting medium. In my self-taught art journey, there has been a lot of '**2 steps forward, 3 steps back**' over many, many years in the process of finding out what works /doesn't work, plus tips and tricks I've picked up from other artists along the way. So hopefully this class will shorten that journey for those attending.

In the first session a brief History of the origins of pastels and pastel painting was covered and we looked at some pre-20th century pastellists and examples of their work. In a later class, there will be a 'slide show' of works from several current Australian pastellists to illustrate the versatility of this medium and perhaps provide inspiration.

With a small and enthusiastic group of students we have had a lot of fun as we were all learning new things—me how to run a class and the students hopefully gaining new information and skills. Most of the practical stuff has been covered so everyone is looking forward to actually having a go at some pastel painting in the last 2 sessions. Perhaps the results won't be quite as accomplished as the pictures below—but you never know!



Left to Right : Degas, Mary Cassatt and Daniel Greene

RECORDER WORKSHOP

Recently the Recorder ensemble had a workshop with Nick Dinopoulos, Artistic Director of the Australian Boys Choir. It was a most inspiring session as Nick had us singing, moving as we played and getting us to make beautiful sounds! As one member said "It was such an enjoyable and inspiring morning."



IMPORTANT HEALTH AND SAFETY MESSAGE

Stay at home if you are feeling unwell, e.g. if you are coughing, or have flu symptoms

Keep hydrated

Listen to your body. **Say no** if you are unsure of your health status

Set healthy boundaries that **keep others safe** during classes.



The well attended annual Ballarat U3A Trivia Night Extravaganza

SEPTEMBER GARDENING TIP

Citrus mould can be removed from any citrus tree by spraying the tree with this mixture:

1 litre of water to 1/4 cup of detergent

Mix thoroughly . Spray, especially under the leaves.

Do this in dry weather Allow 48 hours for absorbing.

Hose tree down with clean water

Repeat 2-3 times per year for clean, shiny ,bug free leaves and fruit.



BARRY KENTISH

Barry arrived in Australia from England in 1972 as a 22-year-old. He had trained as a Zoologist and was one of the many overseas teachers recruited by the Victorian Government to address the teacher shortage, Barry's first placement was Hatfield near Pascoe Vale, where many of his students were from Italian and Greek communities. When his contract ended, Barry returned to London but it was the Thatcher years and he wasn't happy there, so he returned to Australia.



Barry came to Ballarat and picked a position with the CAE which eventually became Fed Uni. He soon settled into the field that became his life's work, teaching environmental science, ecology and wildlife management. Later in his career he focused on environmental policy and bringing about real change. "We know what to do, so why don't we do what we know we should be doing?" This question relates to contentious issues from mining uranium to bringing horses into national parks.

Barry assisted students to see the broader implications of various management models. "Easy/quick fix answers are rarely the best way forward". Barry spoke of his frustration that today education is largely seen as purely job training.

Although Barry retired in 2005, he maintains links with the Uni, attending field trips and maintaining contact with some graduates. Some tertiary teachers prefer to keep a distance from students, but meeting and interacting with others is a key part of the Uni experience. "My teaching wasn't just a TED talk, you're actually interacting with people, it's about engaging with them as people, not just teaching the subject. If your only engagement with students is through a screen, there is no opportunity to take these factors into account.

The natural environment continues to be a central passion of Barry's life. "I love the Grampians and recently explored western NSW, which is very green right now. I'm happy to explore on my own, and to think about what happened in the past to produce this environment, what will happen in the future and what impact will that have? We recognise Indigenous experience and their relationship with the land but we are all impacted by our environment.

These days Barry is very much embedded in the Ballarat community, with his wife, three grown offspring and seven grandchildren all living locally. "Being our age is fascinating because we have the ability to observe and reflect on changes to society, but how much should we try to influence the next generation given that we cannot live their lives."

Barry greatly values U3A for the opportunities it offers members to do things they haven't previously been able to do. "It would be fascinating to see a study of the medical, physical, emotional benefits of U3A!" As a long-standing member of the Philosophy class, Barry sees himself as Socratic, "We need to examine everything. I'm not looking for answers, I'm interested in really good questions that spark thinking."

FOUR GENERATIONS OF THE HARVEY FAMILY

Who remembers the old box Brownie camera?

Members of the U3A Australian History class were fascinated last week when they learned about the history of the Harvey family, whose name was synonymous with photography in the Ballarat area for many years.

Class member Lorraine Harvey researched and presented the history. Fellow class member Lloyd Harvey brought along a fascinating collection of heritage cameras and photographic artefacts. Lloyd showed us some of the earliest box-type cameras, which used glass negatives, as well as examples of cameras from different periods, including the much-loved Kodak Box Brownie.

The presentation began with the story of **Sydney Harvey (1882–1956)**, the first generation of Harvey photographers. Sydney was a talented photographer who captured many important local events, including the launch of Ballarat's first electric tram. He specialised in portrait photography while successfully combining his photographic work with his employment as a railway signaller. His passion for photography was passed on to his 8 children, including Norman,

Norman Harvey (1916–2006) Initially worked as a motor mechanic. However, as Australia became engulfed in war, he joined the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). His passion for photography proved to be a natural fit with his service in the Air Force, and during the war he took numerous photographs from aircraft.

The cameras used by wartime photographers were remarkably large and heavy. Lloyd brought along examples of some of these cameras, giving us a real appreciation of the equipment photographers had to carry and operate in an era long before digital photography.

Norman and his wife Rachael raised seven children. Norman continued his involvement with photography after the war, working as a freelance photographer as well as contributing to the family photographic business.

When Norman's son **Lloyd** joined the family business, he became the third generation of Harvey photographers. Lloyd left school at 16 and went directly into the family business. His wife **Lorraine** established an enviable reputation as a photographer, particularly through her association with the South Street competition.

The fourth generation was represented by **Rhys Harvey**, who has developed a strong interest in video production, editing and digital photography. His involvement demonstrates just how far the family's photographic tradition has travelled—from glass negatives and box cameras to the sophisticated digital technology of today.

There is no doubt that photography is firmly embedded in the Harvey family lineage. The cameras, photographs and other artefacts brought to the presentation provided a fascinating illustration of the enormous changes that have taken place in photography since Sydney Harvey first began taking photographs.

For the Australian History Class it was a fascinating glimpse into both the history of a Ballarat family and the remarkable evolution of photography over more than a century.

Graeme Holmes



2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AUGUST 20TH

The call to put your hand up, engage and participate was answered with enthusiasm by U3A members. 219 people attended the AGM on August 20th, with an additional 6 accessing the meeting via Zoom.

The Choristers opened and closed the meeting and of course provided very enjoyable entertainment



Many thanks to Coral, Adele and Bec for ensuring every i was dotted and every t crossed, Congratulations also to our new committee. Many thanks the Catering Crew for a scrumptious afternoon tea.

Congratulations to Bec Black and Jeff Langton, who were awarded Life Memberships.



A RECIPE FOR SPRING FROM JANE BOADLE

This recipe originates from Jane's time in a student share house in the 1980s, where learning to cook and share meals was a feature. It was also a time of developing taste buds and the beginnings of valuing time spent in the kitchen and around the dining table

JOE'S MUM'S CHICKEN.

joe's mum was a tremendous Italian born cook.

INGREDIENTS

Oil for sautéing

1 chicken, cut into pieces and coated in flour

1 onion, chopped

2 rashers of bacon, chopped

2 - 3 Tbsp capers, chopped

1 small glass white wine

1 egg

1 lemon, rind and juice

1/2 cup walnuts or pecans, chopped

Handful of parsley, chopped.



METHOD

1. Fry onion and bacon together.
2. Add chicken and cook until light brown
3. Add wine and capers and cook for about 35 to 45 mins
4. When chicken is almost ready, beat the egg in a small bowl, combined with the lemon rind and juice. Pour over chicken.
5. Add nuts and parsley.
6. Cook for 2 - 3 mins, making sure the egg doesn't become stringy.

Serve with your favourite Spring vegetables.



Let's Talk Ageing with Geraldine Doogue

Geraldine reflects on her experience of ageing and broader societal challenges facing older Australians. She describes ageing as a period of increased clarity, stronger judgement, and deeper contentment, while also acknowledging the risks of losing purpose and feeling irrelevant.

From a series produced by the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Watch on

https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/campaigns/older-peoples-rights/the-lets-talk-ageing-series?mc_cid=ede4e5702f&mc_eid=6a80e63a5d

What's On

U3A Office Hours Term 3 2026

Tuesday 10am-12pm

Wednesday 10am-2pm

Thursday 10am-2pm

Ballarat North Community Centre

702 Walker St Ballarat North

Ph: 0415 407 163

UNDERSTANDING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

A practical introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI), covering what it is, how it is being used in everyday life, and how it is affecting the way we work, learn and communicate. The session will explore both the opportunities and concerns surrounding AI, and what these changes may mean for individuals and society.

Gill Rowan is Manager Learning and Academic Skills Success at Federation University Australia. Through her work supporting university students, she has become increasingly interested in the opportunities and challenges presented by generative AI. She believes it is essential that we understand AI and how it can affect us, so that we can make informed decisions about its use in our everyday lives.

**Thursday, 8 Oct
2:30 PM**

Ballarat North Community Centre
702 Walker Street

afternoon tea to follow
also to follow view the Paper Craft exhibition in the ENZO Hall Gallery

U3A BALLARAT
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Art On Thursdays
13th July to 18th September

Open days 22nd July and 5th August: 4-6pm
Ballarat North Community Centre

U3A BALLARAT
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Afternoon Tea is provided

U3CA Chorale
Nostalgia About What it Used to Be

**17 September 2026
2:30 PM**

A variety of beautiful songs and familiar favourites that will have you humming the melodies, singing along and tapping your feet.

Ballarat North Community Centre
702 Walker Street

U3A BALLARAT
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

SPRING INTO SPRING QUIZ

1. Before the term "Spring" what was the season known as, based on an old English word?
2. Who is the Goddess of Spring in Roman Mythology?
3. Which wattle is Australia's floral emblem?
4. Which NSW town is renowned for its vibrant Jacaranda blooms each Spring?
5. When does Daylight Saving start in participating States and territories of S.E Australia?
6. In Vivaldi's Four Seasons, when played in correct order, where does Spring occur?



QUIZ ANSWERS

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U3A Ballarat
PO Box 2058
Bakery Hill, Vic 3354

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