

Bayside U3A

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Offices: Beaumaris Senior Centre
84 Reserve Road, Beaumaris (behind the library)

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63 Carpenter Street, Brighton (behind the Town Hall)

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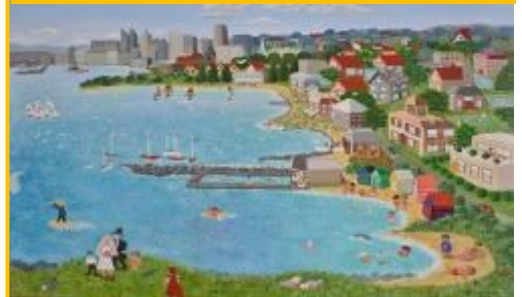
2022 TERM DATES

Term 4 3rd October—16th December

2023 TERM 1 commences Monday 30th January 2023

NEWSLETTER

September 2022



Beaumaris Office:
Monday to Friday 9:30am - 2:00pm

Brighton Office
Monday and Wednesday 9:30am - 12noon

FROM THE PRESIDENT

DAVID HONE

Our Speaker's Program lives again. Thanks to John Nurse and Richard Potter for organising the re-opening of this program—a strong feature of U3As. Professor John Buckeridge and Murray Orr spoke about the internationally significant fossil finds that occur on our Bayside beaches. A follow up beach visit has now been organised. The next speaker will be in November with Joy Meekings 'Ten Pound Pom ... and poems' presentation. A 10 minute advertising video on the topic will be shown before the talk. Further details on Page 3.



Last week I went to a well attended information session held by the Mayor on the formation of the Billilla Advisory Committee. The Council is setting up this committee to advise Council on how best to develop and use this great community facility. I have sent in an expression of interest in joining as your President and as a trained historian. I am delighted to report that three people have expressed interest in joining our Marketing Committee and I am currently contacting them about this.

Sadly, Peter Roberts, who volunteered at our AGM to be our Vice President, has had to resign due to ill health. He was helping me by being our representative at U3A Network meetings. I thank him for his willingness to volunteer and for his short but significant contribution to our COM. It would be great if someone was willing to replace him.

Tickets are still available for our 10th Birthday Party lunch on Saturday 1st October but they are selling fast!

Bayside U3A



Saturday 1st October 2022
12:30pm-2:00pm

Brighton Town Hall

Buffet Lunch, Champagne & Dessert

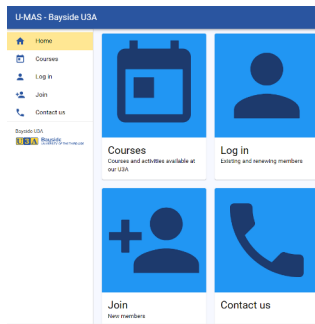
\$20 pp | RSVP by 22nd September

ANNIVERSARY GALA LUNCH



BOOK ONLINE:
tinyURL.com/BaysideU3A

or, Book & Pay at U3A Beaumaris office

COURSE AND ENROLMENT NEWS**Convenor: Sue Steele****Changes to Bayside U3A membership and enrolment computer system**

U-MAS, our new membership management system, is almost ready to go! All membership, course and enrolment information has been transferred and we will officially cut over on 30th September.

Interested members can learn how to manage their online membership and enrolments, by joining a Zoom preview/information session during the term break.

Monday 26th September or Wednesday 28th September at 1.30pm

Zoom link: tinyurl.com/bu3aumas

****New course******WRITING FOR WELLBEING****Tutor: Barbara Churcher**

This course uses poetry, literature and art objects to encourage reflection and discussion. We explore the power of words to connect us and help communicate our thoughts and feelings. It works by providing the opportunities to access and process those thoughts and feelings with a view to promoting wellbeing and sharing our stories in a safe and supportive environment.

There is never any pressure for anyone to share more than they want to and this process can be a lot of fun, getting to know others and building community. No need to know a lot about art or poetry, or to feel confident as a writer. If people stay in the group, it becomes a richer and more exciting place to meet and be together.

Enrol in Course #22154: Monday at 1pm at Black Rock House, commencing 3rd October.

****It's Back******USING YOUR BRAIN****Tutor: Rosemary Simpson**

Have fun and exercise your brain at the same time. Each session consists of a wide range of word-based tasks including using differing skills at spelling, memory, story telling, imagination, anagrams, analysis, oxymorons and creative thinking.

The purpose is to have fun in a non-competitive, enjoyable atmosphere. Keeping our minds active is so important for we older citizens. Let's try to achieve this goal by using different parts of our brains.

Enrol in Course #22130: Thursday at 12.15pm at Black Rock House, commencing 6th October

WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW TUTORS

It's 2023 course planning time and we are always interested in new courses and new tutors/convenors. Volunteering as a tutor is fun and rewarding - a chance to keep your skills up-to-date by passing them on to others, or to develop a new interest. Please talk to us if you would like more information. We are very flexible about classes, days, times and presentation methods.

At the moment we have a few 'orphan' classes, as the current tutor is retiring and we haven't found anyone to take over yet! We would dearly love to find people who can take over the following courses...

- ⇒ **Armchair Travel** - this is a convenor role, finding presenters from fellow class members or other U3A members for our monthly sessions.
- ⇒ **Intermediate Spanish** - Are you a fluent Spanish speaker? Would you like to guide a small group of enthusiastic students who have a good basic knowledge? We'd love to hear from you.
- ⇒ **Gentle exercises to music** - a weekly class at the Beaumaris Senior Centre. The retiring tutor is happy to provide some advice and assistance for the person taking over.

JOIN BAYSIDE U3A MEMBER'S GROUP FACEBOOK!**Share Information! Stay Connected!**

This group has been created so Bayside U3A members can easily keep in touch with each other. It is a place to share our knowledge, ideas and life experiences, make new friends and continue our friendships.

Private—Only members can see who is in the group and what they post. [Facebook URL](#)

BAYSIDE U3A ART & CRAFT SHOW 2022

OUR ART & CRAFT SHOW IS BACK AND YOU ARE INVITED TO THE OFFICIAL OPENING

All Bayside U3A members and friends are invited to the official opening of the Bayside U3A Art & Craft Show

Friday 7th October 2022 from 5.30pm – 7.30pm
Brighton Courthouse
63 Carpenter Street, Brighton



Take this opportunity to get an early preview of the fabulous works created by our talented members before the exhibition opens to the public on Saturday 8th October.

Drinks and nibbles provided.

Please RSVP via the following link or book a place at either Bayside U3A offices.

<https://bu3a-artcraft.eventbrite.com.au>

U3A SPEAKER SERIES

We kicked off our Speaker Series with a hugely successful first event on the 23rd August.



About 65 members turned out at the near capacity Brighton Courthouse, to hear a highly entertaining and informative talk from Murray Orr and Professor John Buckeridge on the topic of **'The Geology and Fossils of Beaumaris'**. From the response of those attending, the session was highly appreciated.

Our next Speaker is Joy Meekings **'Ten Pound Pom plus poems'** to be held at the Beaumaris Senior Centre on **Wednesday 2nd November at 2.30pm.**

Joy Meekings, originally from Essex in the UK, came here by herself in 1970 as a Ten Pound Pom. She has been a member of the Bayside U3A since its inception and joined a U3A course 'How to Write a Radio Play' in 2013. After a rather tentative start, she became quite proficient at it, with some of her plays being recorded and broadcast on Southern FM. This led her to start writing poems, in a style she describes as being like that of quirky English poet and comedienne Pam Ayres.

Our Next Session



Joy Meekings

"Ten Pound Pom plus poems"

2.30 pm, Wednesday 2nd November

Beaumaris Seniors Centre



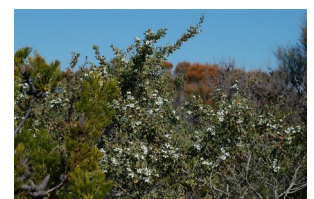
There once was a chicken named Thelma
 her life was not going so well
 For she was a battery hen
 and confined to a living hell

If you liked Pam Ayres ...

This session promises to be another wonderful event in the Speaker Series,
 so make sure you mark this date down in your calendar!

RICKETTS POINT COASTAL WILDLIFE/ENVIRONMENT WALK

Discover the wildlife (mostly birds), vegetation and Indigenous history of Ricketts Point as we walk along the foreshore and return via the inland bush track. Your guides will be Elizabeth Walsh from the Bayside Friends of Native Wildlife (FoNW) and Denis Young from Bayside U3A.



Meet at the Beaumaris Yacht Club end of the North Car Park at Ricketts Point. Wear a hat and sturdy walking shoes, bring a water bottle, sunscreen, binoculars if you have them and camera if you want to. There are some uneven surfaces and we will be walking approximately 3 kilometres, mostly in the sun. There are public toilets available.

Enrol in Course #22155 Come and join us on Friday 18th November at 10am.

COME AND TRY PICKLEBALL!



Pickleball is a paddle sport that is easy to learn and enjoyed by many worldwide. It is similar to tennis, badminton and ping pong and is a sport that's fun for all ages and skill levels. Pickleball is a fun way to get fit and stay social and is suitable for either friendly games or competitions. An average session can take about 10-25 minutes and can be played as both doubles and singles.

Play is with Bayside Pickleball Club Inc. at the Community Sports Centre, 219 Thomas Street Hampton. As it is held indoors, you will need to wear loose, comfortable clothing and sports shoes.

Come and try Pickleball on Thursday 13th October from 10am - 12noon.

Enrol in Course #22156.



COMMUNITY RADIO 88.3 SOUTHERN FM

Convenor: Alina Skoutarides

Bayside Community Hour— 4th Tuesday monthly, 3pm to 4pm.

In our July interviews we heard Lynne Fox and Ivan Silver present their respective courses: Introduction to Croquet and Lawn Bowls.

In August we continued the 'Healthy Body, Healthy Mind' theme, with Marie Arendsen introducing Feldenkrais-Magical Movement and Anna Wonneberger outlining the principles of QiGong for Health.

BALANCE and BONES



Tutor: Janneke Casson

Balance and Bones on Thursdays at 9am continues sweetly!

With *Springing Steps* and amazing *Wardrobe Hues* enlivening us all.

Zooming throughout the holidays, come and jump in! We'd love to have you.

BAYSIDE U3A BUS TOURS

Convenor: Joan Gibbs

Melbourne Botanical Gardens and Heidi Museum of Modern Art—Thursday 25th August

Botanical Gardens: We organised a 30 mins bus trip with information on the History of the Gardens. Unfortunately the driver cancelled at the last moment due to illness. It would be worth remembering for another time? Coffee was our consolation prize! Lunch at the Heidi Cafe was enjoyable talking to new friends. The group then wandered around the Museum and amongst sculptures, with the sun appearing at the right time! An enjoyable day!



This photo was taken on the Mt Macedon tour 7th September.

An itinerary of Tours for the next few months is available from Joan 0417 768 433, or email joanlgibbs37@gmail.com

U3A BRIGHTON BOWLING CLUB

Co-ordinator: Bert Verlaan

Brighton Bowling Club has just completed the second term of its U3A program and we have been extremely pleased with the support and dedication of U3A members.

Our program is designed around teaching the basic skills of our sport to our enthusiastic attendees. It doesn't matter if you are a beginner or an accomplished bowler - all the drills are the same for all participants. Bowlers proceed through the different training drills in order to understand how and what type of shot to play when and ultimately, obtain their highest level of competence possible, without having to play formal competition. The most important aspect of our program is that attendees have fun and a laugh.

When we have completed the skills course, we put into practice what we've learnt and play a casual game of bowls using all our learnt skills. All attendees rotate in the various positions of bowls i.e. leads, seconds, thirds and skips, to get a better understanding of the game.



Although the weather is warming up, this isn't an issue at Brighton. With our stadiums being air-conditioned, you will always play on perfect greens and continue to learn our sport in comfort at Brighton. If you are thinking of giving lawn bowls a go on Thursdays 10am – 12noon, enrol in **Course #22149 Lawn Bowls - Indoors**. From beginner to advanced, you are always most welcome at Brighton and we will provide the bowls if you need them.

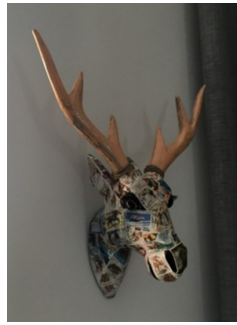
SCULPTURE FOR PLEASURE

Tutor: Roy Bird

The Sculpture group has continued working on Mosaics of their own choice.



Baby face
Polymer Clay
(by Cynthia)



Deer decorated
with Stamps
(by Joan)



Sculpture of a
Dachau survivor
(by Rona)



Greek Urn Mosaic
(by Janice R)



Blue Bird Mosaic
(by Janice R)



Flamingo Mosaic
(by Davan)

CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS

Co-leaders: Alison Barnett & Susan McCarthy

In August, the Creative Conversations ladies were approached by the Australian Catholic University to help in supporting **Impact for Women**, an organisation dedicated to assisting women and children fleeing extreme violence at home. We were invited to knit an outfit for one of 250 donated ragdolls that required clothes. Knitters could enter a competition or submit an outfit as a donation.

The competition was organised into 3 categories: Wear a Touch of Red, Catwalk Fashion and Powerful Women. A doll auction is planned for late September 2022 with some of the competition entries being available for purchase. Last year, \$2,100 was raised from the sale of 36 dolls which went directly to **Impact for Women**.

Two members from our group, Lynette Taylor and Gael Ellis, took up the challenge and knitted the outfits below. Lynette knitted the nurse's scrubs which included the green top and pants plus a face mask and stethoscope as well as the little black dress with lavender wrap while Gael knitted the bright pink evening dress. Well done Lynette and Gael on such fantastic dolls' clothes.

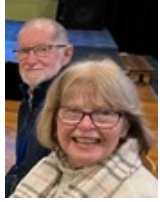


HAPPY HOUR ON FRIDAY 26TH AUGUST



A great turn up at the Hampton RSL this month. 36 members attended with one table staying on for dinner in a very quiet bistro.

A special thank you to the new members who attended!



Beginner's luck for Ralph and Vivienne Cadman – 2 lucky raffle tickets! Lamb roast AND a pork roast. Congratulations!

Please join us on Friday 30th September. Do bring along some cash to support the RSL raffle. It's a great cause and we historically have an enviable high rate of prize success!



Everyone is welcome however to get a reminder email closer to the day, enrol in [Happy Hour Course #22056](#).



The BAYSIDE U3A HAPPY HOUR is on the last Friday of the month!

Please join us 5pm Friday 30th September at the Hampton RSL



25 Holyrood St Hampton VIC 3188

- * No need to reply—just turn up!
- * Drinks: Special \$6.50 sparkling or house wine, discount beer and some spirits.
- * Please wear your U3A name badge.
- * Bring along your RSL membership card if you have one!
- * Dinner is available for those wishing to stay on. One table of 8 is permanently booked for U3A ... ***BUT to confirm a booking, call the Hampton RSL on 9598 0460.***

SANDRINGHAM COMMUNITY BENDIGO BANK is a valued partner of Bayside U3A.

Recently we were granted over \$2,000 to buy 10 chairs for each of our major centres, Brighton Courthouse and the Beaumaris Seniors Centre. These chairs have arms to assist members with getting out of them easily. We thank Community Bank Sandringham for this support; they are helping us to serve our members and the community.



When you bank with them, over 80% of the profit goes back into the community. This is how they can support us and other community groups. Please read their [newsletter](#) to see the other great things they are doing in our community.

If you need to discuss your banking needs, contact their friendly team on 9521 6488.

LET'S DO DINNER - AUGUST 2022 **Co-ordinator: Karen Hall**



Great attendance for our dinners at the Bentleigh RSL on the 6th and 20th August. There was plenty of space for our tables of 8 and 10 at the front and away from the Sports bar.



Many compliments were made about the food. Good old fashioned lambs fry and bacon was very popular and yes, I can hear all those complaining about how they hated it as a child! The desserts were pretty good as well.



Unfortunately, the second dinner was exceptionally noisy as our tables were way too close to the youngsters play area.



The 10th and 17th of September are scheduled for the next dinners at Brighton Beach Hotel (formerly Milanos). They are only a week apart to avoid Fathers Day and the Grand Final.



Everyone is welcome. However, If you wish to be included on future dinner invitations and reminders, please enrol in [Let's do Dinner Course #21002](#)



BAYSIDE U3A WRITERS GROUP

Tutor: Dr Cheryl Threadgold

Word of the Month: DISCOMBOBULATED

THE PIANO BURNING **by Evelyn Cronk © 2022**

Would you like to come to a piano burning at Birrarung Marr on Friday evening?' Andrew asked.

I was shocked enough to stop reading the morning newspaper and turn to look at his face. Not a shred of humour there, he was serious.

'It's part of the Rising Festival,' he added.

'What? You can't be serious. Why would I do that?' Images of the wanton destruction of books in 1930's Germany sprang to my mind. The concept of burning a piano in the public gaze was to me on a par with that desecration. I accept that pianos get destroyed by war, bushfires, and floods and that is bad enough.

To cut to the chase, last Friday evening, dressed as if I was stepping out in Antarctica, I found myself walking along Birrarung Marr alongside the Yarra River. We arrived at the site for this item of performance art, or as I saw it, a public execution on a par with the guillotine or stoning women for adultery. The upright piano, clearly elderly and long past its tuneful prime, sat in forlorn dignity in a large circle of earth. The fading light and cold breeze from the river only added to my discomfort. I sat on a bench and gazed at the scene. I was totally discombobulated.

How many family gatherings and celebrations had this piano presided over?

Did it enter a new home with a young bride? Was it a gift from a loved one?

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Did its music give solace to aching hearts when a soldier was away at war?

Had children learned to play on it with their feet unable to reach the pedals?

How had it journeyed through its lifetime to meet its end here in a circle of earth?

The silent piano sat in front of me, a picture of resigned forbearance. Was its soul aware of its impending fate? To divert my attention, I researched piano burnings on my phone. Yes, it's a real thing. Not just a one-off here for this festival. Wikipedia told me the following.

"Piano burning is the act of setting on fire an acoustic piano, most commonly an upright, as either a ceremony or a form of performance art. Although piano burning ceremonies are now popular in the Royal Air Force, Royal Canadian Air Force and the United States Air Force, there is little or no evidence to suggest that descriptions of its origin have any historical authenticity. According to one version of its origin, pianos were set alight by RAF pilots to avoid piano lessons aimed at improving their dexterity and general level of culture. Another version is that piano burning began in World War II in remembrance of fallen RAF pilots. Several contemporary musicians, including Annea Lockwood, Yōsuke Yamashita, and Diego Stocco, have composed for and performed on pianos which have been deliberately set alight. A burning piano was also the centrepiece of Douglas Gordon's 2012 video installation, The End of Civilisation."

Yes, that summed it up for me, "The End of Civilisation". Still uncomfortable, I watched the crowd gathering as the gloaming thickened into darkness.

Orange hued lights came on around the perimeter. The pianist and concept artist Annea Lockwood, entered with her stool and sat down. She started to play. The piano's voice was throaty as if coated in rust. It hadn't felt the ministrations of a tuner for some time.

A man set the fire at the back of the piano. It felt like many minutes until the smoke curled out of the top. More minutes later, the smoke wreathed around the pianist, and she pushed her stool back to full arm's length, still coaxing some fractured sound out of the doomed instrument. The piano's voice faltered and finally died. I noticed the crowd was still and silent. Were many of them as uncomfortable as I? The pianist gathered up her stool and left as the flames continued their wilful work.

I filmed this with my phone, noticing that monitoring the event through the screen made me feel a little removed from the reality of the action in front of me. I mused that this is possibly the only way news cameramen can do their jobs when filming natural or unnatural disasters.

The varnish on the front panel bubbled, obscuring the bouquet of flowers painted on the surface. The wood bent and buckled finally giving way and the fire broke through the widening hole. The inferno inside was exposed. As the outer case fell away, the piano's skeleton and its heart withstood the pain for a few minutes before it succumbed.

I couldn't bear to stay until the end, I walked away along the lower terrace. Discombobulated is a word for how I felt but somehow to me, that word with its flowing syllables, denotes a layer of levity. I didn't see anyone laughing. You might ask if I was so ambivalent about the concept, why did I go? After two years of mostly lock down in our homes and being locked out of live performance of any kind, I decided to step out of my comfort zone and try a new and different experience.

Later, playing the video for my friend Suzanne and telling her of my feelings, she opined that the purpose of art is to move us, to put us in touch with our feelings. It certainly did that.



Some of the Bayside U3A Writers Group
busy at work at
Black Rock House.
(photo by Evelyn Cronk)

A Christmas Eve in Melbourneby Gwen Zammit © 2022

'What time again you coming, Jack?'

'I told you Mama, 7.30.'

'And what's her name again, *twoja dziewczyna*?'

'It's Stella, Mama, and she's not my *dziewczyna*. She doesn't speak Polish so please stick to English.'

'And you think she's *ladny*?'

'Yes, quite, well sort of.'

'Sounds like *dziewczyna* to me.'

'Just leave that please, Mama. She's shy and new to Australia like you were. She's been a bit *samotny*. You remember how you felt, after we finally left Bonegilla.'

'Yes, I remember. I be kind. I speak good English.'

'Thanks Mama, see you tonight.'

Driving to pick Stella up, Jack wondered if he'd made a mistake inviting her home on Christmas Eve. It wasn't as if they were going out; they'd only had a couple of drinks together. She sounded sad when he asked about her Christmas plans. None, she had said, apart from calling her mother briefly, too expensive to talk for long. He felt drawn to her again, wanted to help her. Oh well, he didn't think she liked him very much anyway, so nothing much to lose. Waiting at the lights, he revved up the Sunbird, pride of his life, late model and clean as a whistle.

Getting ready, Stella wondered why she had accepted Jack's invitation. *Because she had nothing else to do of course*. It would be something to help fill the fortnightly aerogram home at least. She'd always been home for Christmas and here she was the other side of the world in the middle of summer! Not many new adventures yet though.

She would miss her mother's Christmas dinner. Turkey with stuffing, roast potatoes and parsnips, Brussel sprouts, carrots, bread sauce with sherry and cloves and really tasty gravy of course. The latter two were always Stella's job as well as the brandy butter for the pudding.

The homemade Christmas cake would have pride of place on the trolley; smeared with apricot jam to make the marzipan stick then covered in royal icing made with beaten egg whites and icing sugar, just a couple of drops of glycerine. The same little snowman and Christmas tree on top, Happy Christmas spelt out in little silver balls and the same Christmas wrapper to hide the messy sides.

They would all have a sherry after a mid-morning walk in the fields to work up an appetite. If there had been a hoar frost, the twigs and branches in the hedgerows would still be laced, the ridges of the ploughed furrows sharply iced, the puddles in the lane still frozen.

Mum would set out the best cut glass and a bottle of sauterne. They would say a toast before they sat down to eat; to absent friends and family. To her personally, she hoped.

After a short drive and some stilted conversation, Jack and Stella arrived.

'Happy Christmas, Mrs Dabrowski. I am very pleased to meet you.' Stella extended her hand and was surprised to find it taken in both Mrs Dabrowski's as she pulled Stella towards her. A kiss was planted on both her cheeks before she could step back.

'Stella, welcome. You get to know my son, Jacek. He's a good boy.'

'Yes, Mrs Dabrowski. We know each other a little.'

'Call me Eva. That's like forever and ever. No Eeeeva like they say here.'

'Of course, Mrs... Eva.'

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'Now you enjoy our Christmas Eve feast and then you come to Midnight Mass with us. Don't worry about a late night, tomorrow is a very quiet day. Nothing to do then.'

'Oh, I didn't realise. Is this your main Christmas meal tonight?'

'Yes of course, our tradition. First, we have *sledz pod pierzynkg*. No, you tell her Jacek. I have to go to kitchen.'

'That's herring salad. Mama soaks the herrings so they're not too salty then adds potatoes, carrots, mayonnaise.'

'Salted herrings? Does that mean they're raw?'

'Yes, pickled though. Like your pickled eggs.'

'Then there's beetroot soup. You've heard of Borscht?'

'Not really.'

'There's also mushroom soup.'

'That sounds nice.'

'With noodles.'

'Oh.'

'We finish with fruit soup.'

'Fruit soup!.'

'Yes, it's good. Its soaked dried fruit with spices and honey. You'll like it, everyone does. As well as the soups, there's fried carp, cabbage rolls, gingerbread and poppy seed cake. It's quite a feast.'

'Goodness.'

Stella collected herself. Wasn't she the one who wanted new experiences?

Jack was looking at her very nervously. 'Don't you think you'll like Mama's food?'

Stella laughed and touched Jack on the cheek. He really was quite an attractive man.

'It sounds wonderful, Jack. Thank you so much for inviting me. It's just all very different and unexpected. For a moment, I felt quite discombobulated.'

'Never heard that one before. I like the long words you use.' He was smiling now too.

'I like using them. And I like eating. Let's go and enjoy this food.'

Twoja dziewczyna - your girlfriend Ladny – pretty Samotny – lonely

[The Writers Festival](#) [by Sandra Stirling © 2022](#)

The tram squealed around the corner into Park Street, South Melbourne, stopping outside the Malthouse Theatre, the venue for this year's Writers Festival. The sun shone through grey clouds, its rays colouring the handmade bricks of what was once the Carlton & United Breweries, now brilliantly converted into numerous theatres and function rooms.

The people from the tram mingled with those already arrived, tickets collected and, for some, time for coffee and a muffin before the first event. People of all ages, but predominantly women 45 and over, mingled and greeted and gestured in the courtyard, colourful beads and bangles catching the sunlight. Tents holding an array of books were set up in the courtyard inviting early inspection. Inside the foyer of the Malthouse, long tables surrounded by tall chairs also beckoned the coffee and tea drinkers - 'Sorry, wine's not served until midday' - a little late for those anxious to get into 'literary mood!'

The mixture of topics and session times saw hundreds ebb and flow through the foyer or into the courtyard throughout the day, drinks in hand, to discuss the novelists, their ideas, their skills, their opinions and, if interested, to make purchases of their novels. It was an Aladdin's Cave of ideas, subjects and topics - from 'The Zookeeper's War,' (a first novel about the keeper of the Berlin Zoo during World War 2) to Australian short stories by the much admired David Malouf, to discussions between writers on how much 'autobiography' goes into works of fiction.

Thus, from 9.30am until late in the afternoon, voices, colours, opinions, food and drink swirled through the rooms of the venue and into the sun and colour of this perfect Winter's day.