

# Bayside U3A

## UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

**Offices:** Beaumaris Senior Centre  
84 Reserve Road, Beaumaris (behind the library)  
  
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### 2023 TERM DATES

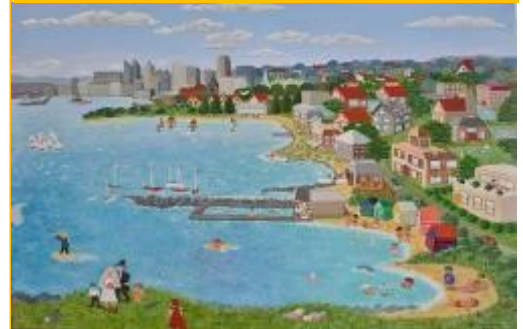
Term 2 24<sup>th</sup> April - 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023

Term 3 10<sup>th</sup> July - 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Term 4 2<sup>nd</sup> October - 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## NEWSLETTER

### May 2023



#### Beaumaris Office:

Monday to Friday

9:30am - 2:00pm

#### Brighton Office

Monday to Friday

9:30am - 12noon

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

### DAVID HONE



I have heard great reports about the improvements to the Brighton Court House, especially how warm it now is in this early winter weather. Once again thanks to Tony Aplin for organising all this. We are hoping that Bayside Council is now working on the roof leaks and then will replace the carpets that were water damaged. It is worth remembering that the Council charge us 'pepper corn rent' for the Court House and part of the deal is we are responsible for maintenance within the building. We have also purchased a new photo copier for the Beaumaris Senior Centre Office. It is worth saying that because of our strong financial position we can undertake the necessary improvements without any financial concerns.

We filled the Beaumaris Senior Centre on the afternoon of 26<sup>th</sup> April when Dr John Basarin gave us a fantastic talk on Gallipoli from a Turkish perspective. John Nurse and Richard Potter are to be congratulated for revitalising our speaker program. More great speakers to come in the near future.

Our Marketing, Events and Speakers sub-committees have started working very hard on planning our future development and entertainment. They have decided to reform into one Committee called Marketing, Membership and Events (MME), chaired by Warwick Harding, and are in the process of producing a final calendar of events for 2023.

At its last meeting, the Committee of Management decided to continue with our monthly Radio program on Southern FM despite our inability to know if anyone is listening. All those involved seem to enjoy the experience and we thank Stephen Le Page and Alina Skoutarides who continue to organise this activity. Please let us know if you are listening in!

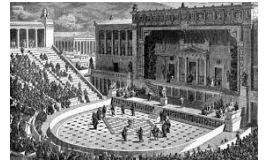
Behind the scenes a lot of necessary work is going on with our draft Policy and Procedure Manual. Judy Sinclair was leading this project prior to her retirement as our secretary. John Nurse, Sandra Groves and Chris Birch have agreed to finish the task. They are very mindful of the fact that we need policies and procedures suitable for a voluntary organisation to socialise, learn and have fun. In this legalistic age this is quite a challenge. We need policies and procedures which we can realistically follow, not ones drawn up for the likes of BHP or the ANZ bank. I thank them for taking on this task.

**COURSE NEWS****Convenor: Sue Steele**

Places available in courses starting in Term 3.

**ANCIENT GREEK DRAMA**

Many plays from the Athens of more than two thousand years ago are still performed and admired. Their poetry, drama and unforgettable characters have inspired countless later writers and audiences. We will explore eight of the greatest plays – the tragedies and comedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides and Aristophanes. The course will be conducted fortnightly, commencing 10am Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July. Enrol in [Course Code : 23LIT017](#)

**iPADS FOR BLOKES BEYOND THE BASICS**

This course is intended for blokes who have basic iPad competence and wish to take it further. You may not have your own iPad but use your family's iPad, or you could also be thinking of getting a newer one. This course is structured to be interactive where we help and teach each other. The weekly course commences 2pm Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July. Enrol in [Course code : 23COM007](#)

**NATIONAL 15-21 MAY 2023**  
**VOLUNTEER**  
**THE CHANGE MAKERS WEEK**

A special thank you to all our wonderful tutors, committee members, office volunteers and everyone who volunteers their precious time to support our Bayside U3A club!

We can only continue with your valuable talents.

Our success depends on you ... **THANK YOU!!**

*A Heartfelt Thank You*  
**TO ALL OF OUR**  
**AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!**  
 We couldn't do it without you!

**COLLABORATIVE CELEBRATORY BOOK PROJECT**

The Bayside U3A Writers Group is delighted to be collaborating with artists from the Bayside U3A Painting for Pleasure Group, on a book to celebrate both the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Writers Group and the collaboration between art and the written word. The book was inspired by a similar collaborative publication produced by the Hamilton U3A Writers and Art Groups.

The publication of this book is possible thanks to a successful grant application to Bayside U3A, for which we are most grateful.

**MONTHLY BROADCASTS ON 88.3 SOUTHERN FM**

On the third Tuesday of every month at 9am, the Bayside U3A Writers Group joins presenter Pauline O'Brien in her 'Community Capers' programme on 88.3 Southern FM to either present a radio play or for Pauline to interview a writer.

The segments can be heard live by visiting [www.southernfm.com.au](http://www.southernfm.com.au)

**SCULPTURE FOR PLEASURE****Tutor : Roy Bird**

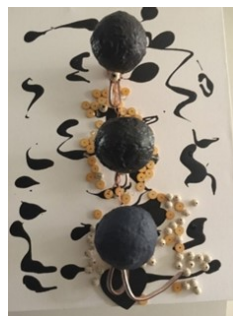
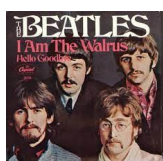
Nefertiti

Glass Mosaic (by Janice R.)



Blackbird

Aluminium Cans (by Peter)

Maasai Woman's Head  
on Wool (by Joan)Concrete Plaque  
(by Peter)Abstract Balls  
(by Marion)**THE BEATLES****Tutor : Bob Mason**

Our Beatles classes have been progressing since the beginning of the pandemic and we have finally gotten to their most complex song 'I Am The Walrus'. We are undertaking a thorough review of their celebrated catalogue through the perspective of their lyrics, using Historicisation, Historical Method and Literary Analysis as our main tools. There's always a lot to discuss and for this song we have been at it for four hours already!

Donovan's tribute songs and Peter, Paul and Mary's rebuttal come next and then, out with those Tarot cards (the Ryder-Waite variety) as we start 'The Fool On The Hill'. What card will you draw? Paul McCartney was scared of his hippy friends drawing one card in particular - it's not hard to guess the card if you understand Paul. But in the end he only ever drew 'The Fool'.

The nine songs after Brian Epstein's death mark the Beatles at their peak. This brief period is followed by their historic visit to India and then everything suddenly falls apart and we are into the agonising end-game. It will take us into or even beyond 2025 to complete our journey.

**GENTLE EXERCISE TO MUSIC****Tutor : Helene Redding**

This class has restarted in Term 2.

The whole body is moved and strengthened from head to toe,  
including everything in between.

There is room for more participants, both men and women are welcome.

Please contact the friendly office staff at 9589 3798 or enrol in  
Gentle Exercise to Music [Course code : 23FITB07](#)



**DAY TRIP TOURS****Convenor : Joan Gibbs****DAY TRIP TO THE PENINSULA 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

A fun time was had by all on a recent day trip organised by Joan Gibbs and excellently piloted by her daughter Jaclyn. Jokes and stories came thick and fast!



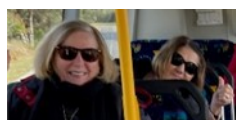
We started off from Beaumaris and headed to Sorrento for a stop at the famous Vanilla Slice Café, then moved on to Point Nepean National Park. Parking near the Quarantine Centre, we caught the shuttle bus to Fort Nepean where the first shot of the British Empire in the First World War - and the first Australian shot of World War II - were fired from Gun Emplacement 6, earning its entry into military history. These battlements were modified and used right up until the end of World War II.

Today, Fort Nepean remains an outstanding example of the evolution of gun technology and Australia's early defence strategies. Above and below ground we saw gun emplacements, barracks, tunnels, ammunition magazines, an engine house and even a bomb-proof room.

We had a short stop-off at the Harold Holt Memorial on the way back to the Quarantine Centre, which is worth a whole tour on its own. We had a quick look around, wondering how the people there survived, especially in winter! Our next stop was at The Briars, one of the first houses built by Europeans on the Mornington Peninsula. In 1840 Captain James Reid, a retired army officer, took up a pastoral lease which he named Tichin-Gorourke after the Boonwurrung name for Balcombe Creek meaning 'voice of many frogs'.

In 1846 Alexander Balcombe settled at Tichin-Gorourke, where his descendants remained until 1976. Richard A'Beckett gifted The Briars Homestead jointly to the Shire and the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

Alas, their café was closed, so Jaclyn drove us to Mt Martha Fine Foods where we had a delightful lunch – well worth the visit. We drove on the road under the canal leading into Martha Cove which is a fascinating development and then back to The Briars, for a tour of the homestead and the gardens which are magnificent!



Heading home, a bit quieter than when we started off, we all agreed we had had a great day and were looking forward to more trips very soon!

**Sally Mort****DAY TRIP TO THE YARRA VALLEY AND THE BIG BOUTIQUE 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

An enjoyable visit to Yarra Valley plus a trip to The Big Boutique, included a welcome kiss by an Alpaca, to our driver Jaclyn!



The next Day Tour will be to Philip Island on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May. We will then resume Tours after winter.

If anyone is interested in a winery tour over our break in winter, please contact Joan Gibbs for more information.

If you would like an itinerary or to make a booking, please ring 0417 768 433 or email joanlgibbs37@gmail.com

**INTRODUCTION TO PAINTING WITH ACRYLICS****Tutor: Naomi Heath**

Our Acrylics class has been doing some wonderful still life!

**ARMCHAIR TRAVEL****Convenor : Claire Andrews**

*Please help!* I am the tutor hosting Armchair Travel, a friendly Bayside U3A group in Beaumaris. We meet monthly to discuss our travels, whether holidays, living overseas or trips around Australia.

I know how much we in U3A look forward to our get togethers and how important these meetings are to so many people, whether it is for companionship, education or a 'change of scene'.

We are looking for members to share their travel stories, talking for about 60 minutes on the destination of their choice, with some photos or images of the places discussed. I can provide you with help putting the photos together into a presentation, for example on PowerPoint. We are lucky to have a helpful admin team, who can assist with setting up the laptop - you do not need to provide any technology equipment.

**ARMCHAIR TRAVELS**

If you think you might be interested, please contact the office on 9589 3798 or email me, Claire, for a 'no obligation' chat about what's involved. My email is [claire.bec.waters@bigpond.com](mailto:claire.bec.waters@bigpond.com)

I look forward to hearing from you. Many thanks!

**LAWN BOWLS STUDENTS GET INVOLVED****Convenor : Rob Coulson**

Now well into our ninth year, there has been a healthy turnout of both Absolute Beginners and Intermediates at our Wednesday morning sessions. We now have all three greens at Hampton on which to show our talent and no shortage of willing volunteer helpers. In fact we are even fine tuning the program, with a review of our activities by coaches and students. One of the consequences is the introduction of a mentor system to give some players a buddy.

In Term 1 we concentrated on our bowlers achieving a smooth and effective delivery of the bowl. Now in Term 2, we are moving to playing different roles in teams and exposing the students to actual game opportunities, with previous graduates from the program. We can still take in new entrants, with a view to getting them ready for the spring/summer.



Not all will progress as well as a beginner from as recently as 2022, Kathy Walker, who succeeded in being the runner-up in the Victorian State Novice Singles Championship in Bendigo last month! But...you never know!

## HAPPY HOUR ON FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023

Convenor : Karen Hall



Another dreary, wet Friday evening in April for our monthly Happy Hour.  
Of the 23 members who attended, 18 stayed on for a friendly dinner.  
Good feedback was overheard for all the meals served.  
One new member this month but no winners in the raffle – there wasn't one!  
Seems that the RSL are not the only club suffering from a lack of volunteers.  
Please join us for the next Happy Hour on the 26<sup>th</sup> May commencing at 5pm.  
Do bring along some cash to support the RSL raffle.  
It's a great cause and an excellent chance of prize success!  
Everyone is welcome any time. Feel free to bring along a friend.



Enrol In [Course code: 23SOC004 Bayside U3A Happy Hour.](#)

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

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023 5pm at the Hampton RSL**

- \* No need to reply—just turn up!
- \* Drinks: \$6.50 sparkling or house wine, discount beer and some spirits.
- \* Please wear your Bayside 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.**

Do bring along some cash to support the RSL raffle. It's a worthy cause and we historically have an enviable high rate of prize success! Everyone is welcome including a friend of U3A members.

Enrol in [Course code: 23SOC004 Bayside U3A Happy Hour.](#)



25 Holyrood St Hampton VIC 3188



Bloomsday in Melbourne has a long history of performing Joyce and has become one of the Joyce hotspots internationally and we'd like to invite you to join in the craic.



If you have an interest in literature and modern culture, you will be interested in Bloomsday's 30<sup>th</sup> season which has as its centrepiece Joyce's only play, *Exiles*. It's a gripping psychological drama in which he explores modern marriage and sexual ethics. And it's rarely seen. This is only the second production in Australia. It's a Victorian première with a strong director, Carl Whiteside, and a talented cast and designer. Well worth having in your literary kitbag, along with being a part of a very engaged community of literature lovers.

More information about the play is available at the [Bloomsday website](#)

## LET'S DO DINNER - APRIL 2023

Convenor : Karen Hall

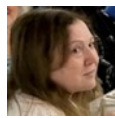


One only dinner was held in April due to the Easter break. Although there were a few last minute cancellations, 45 of us spread across 3 tables and enjoyed almost exclusive use of the Onyx café/restaurant in Cheltenham.

Food reviews were excellent, with one exception.

Apparently, vegetarian is not their strength.

The steaks were outstanding!



## LET'S DO DINNER - MAY 2023



With a relatively small group attending the first dinner in May, we were able to enjoy the separate private area in the newly renovated Bentleigh RSL. Thank you to everyone who made such an effort to celebrate the King's Coronation. Crowns, tiaras and a few dress-ups brightened our usual photos!

Only one dinner is scheduled for the 17<sup>th</sup> June. It will be held at the Glasshouse Restaurant in Caulfield.



If you wish to be included on future dinner invitations and reminders, please enrol in [Let's do Dinner - Course code: 23SOC003](#). Everyone is welcome!

**BAYSIDE U3A WRITERS GROUP 2023****Convenor: Dr Cheryl Threadgold****Word of the Month: 'GURU'****COUSIN EILEEN (1893 - 1981)****Jocelyn Wood © 2023**

Jo was first aware of her mother's cousin Eileen during the second World War. Eileen and her sister, Ada, both unmarried, were taking care of their four young nieces, daughters of their sister Frances, who had been evacuated from London. Ada looked after the home front, did the housework, and cooked the meals while Eileen taught Geography at Christchurch Girls' High School. Josephine, Judy, Lolly (Lorraine) and Briony went to school.

Eileen was born at Andersons Bay, Dunedin on June 27 1893. Her father Andrew Fairbairn was a keen climber and Eileen developed an enduring passion for the mountains. She attended Christchurch Girls' High School and then graduated with a BA in 1915 from Canterbury College, when Geography was not a subject. She returned to the Girls' High School to teach, but drew no salary to appease her father who disapproved of her career. After gaining a Diploma of Geography at Newnham College, Cambridge, England in 1929, she went back to Christchurch Girls' High School, teaching geography, biology and mathematics.

Eileen brought new perspectives to the curriculum, introducing field trips, and making relief models in the face of departmental opposition. She was long remembered by staff and pupils with affection and respect. In the staffroom as a vigorous debater, with a gift for getting in the final remark before she left the room. All this Jo gleaned much later, mainly from family members, but there were many vivid vignettes of the few times they were together.

With her mother and father, a pleasant evening was had viewing Eileen's slides following time in Hawaii. As her dad was almost nodding off, Eileen challenged with, 'If you think that was caused by glacial erosion – you're wrong!' Jo didn't think he had any opinions one way or t'other.

A bus load from Jo's class went for the day to Lake Ida in Canterbury's high country to ice skate. The whole lake was frozen over – a rare occurrence. Vans sold sausages and hot drinks, and loudspeakers had music blaring. As Jo and her friend Belinda were standing chatting, a voice warned, 'Out of my way child, out of my way!' And there was Eileen in navy serge skirt and jacket heading for them. Needless to say Jo didn't bother to claim relationship. Going into Ballantyne's department store with her on one occasion, she heard, 'My man I find you impertinent! Fetch me your manager.'

In retirement, Eileen travelled the world enjoying music, art and architecture in Italy, and attending international geographical conferences. She was a foundation member of the New Zealand Geographical Society, became President in 1961, and one of the first Life Members in 1973. Twenty years previously, she had bought some two acres of hillslope eighty miles from Christchurch, at an altitude of 2,100 feet facing north, and planted it out in beech trees.

To mark the centenary of Christchurch Girls' High School, in 1977 she gave the cottage to her old school as a mountain lodge.

Eileen Fairbairn is remembered for pioneering the teaching of modern geography in New Zealand secondary schools.

*Postscript*

In 1981 after moving abroad, Jo had an aerogramme from Eileen – an excerpt follows:

'At my age I am content to vegetate, to read what I want without thought of improvement, to gather rosebuds rather than tomatoes, and I'm already thinking that when winter comes, I can stay in bed and let the world pass by.'

A bluestocking maybe, a guru maybe, but a respected and dedicated teacher she certainly was.

**THE GURU OF TIME****Lynette Payne © 2023**

Before moving to a bright new building in the gardens of Carlton, Melbourne Museum shared a venue with the State Library and, earlier, the National Painting School and Gallery. Each organisation fought for exhibition and storage space in a structure that grew in a haphazard and eccentric way to take up the block between Swanston and Russell Street.

Construction commenced in 1854 on the wealth of Victoria's gold discoveries. Galleries and balconies, staircases and halls, arcades and passages, were added over the years. When the National Gallery moved to its own premises, the Museum spread its tentacles, taking up the vacated halls. The rear galleries became space for the science and technology collection while the front became room for everything else. Hundreds of glass cases were on display. They contained minerals, coins, butterflies, beetles, rocks, crystals, flints, stuffed mammals, reptiles, birds and countless other strange but priceless objects. In one case was a doll that belonged to the daughter of John Batman and in another a gorilla family captured in 1865 that had travelled from their jungle home preserved in salt. They were acquired to prove that Darwin was sadly mistaken and still gazed balefully at the countless visitors filing past. In another large case, a pair of giant pythons coiled around a log, their sawdust stuffing bursting through their scales, the remnants of some circus, and donated for reasons best forgotten.

These were the open, public places but there was another, hidden museum. The haphazard development over many decades created secret, forgotten spaces deep within the building. Stairwells and passages, vaulted tunnels and hidden chambers became storage space for old collections or laboratories for scientists. Down in the crypt, strange objects in bottles lined the walls and anonymous boxes were tucked into corners. Records were mislaid, fell apart or faded. The building breathed silently and held its secrets. Once, an Egyptian mummy was found by workmen repairing the roof. The sarcophagus had lain there for decades, its painted, single eye gazing silently down, down through the rafters to the visitors far below.

A busy workforce polished the cases, cleaned the floors, studied the specimens, went on research trips, kept flesh eating bugs to clean bones and fossils or devised new exhibitions and education programs. Schoolchildren and families filed dutifully through the galleries. During the day the building hummed with endless activity. At night it waited silently, breathed quietly, sighed and whispered.

Under a darkened stairwell in a scarcely visited part of the building was a tiny but immaculate office. No cleaners ever visited but no speck of dust was allowed to remain on its shelves. The door was always closed; nobody knew what happened inside. Most of the present staff had forgotten about the existence of its occupant. He attended no meetings, took no phone calls, did not associate over lunch or coffee. He did not appear on any staff list and did not draw pay. He was anonymous until his rare, infrequent visits to the galleries. Then, he wore a dustcoat and gloves, groomed, precise, and tidy. He was a watchmaker, after all.

He came out of his office to wind the clocks.

He was the Curator of Horology, the Guru of Time. Nameless and unknown, he spent his days locked away in his tiny cupboard, small glasses on his nose, bent over his instruments. Small brass devices adorned his desk: tweezers, screws and cogs, springs, pendulums and dials. He repaired, oiled and maintained the timepieces of the Museum's collection: mantel clocks, coach clocks, grandfather clocks, railway clocks, cuckoo clocks and sundials. There were over 600 pieces dispersed throughout the galleries, many of which he had donated himself and which he maintained through an endowment provided by a long-passed benefactor. He had been named by a previous, now-retired, director as honorary curator, an expert in his field and a dedicated collector. He continued his work regardless of the comings and goings of the museum. He did not know he was forgotten.

When he wound the clocks located throughout the galleries, they ticked and chimed as they came to life. Pendulums swung and alarms rang in a cheerful, discordant chorus. The largest of his charges was the Foucault pendulum that measured the rotation of the earth. It was a huge device fastened to the utmost reaches of the roof and three floors in depth. Day after day, it swung, silent, inexorable, a sombre counterpoint to the cheerful tone of clocks. Time passed. Years passed.

The Museum and its exhibits slumbered on, unaware of a coming calamity. Change was in the air. Young and energetic staff started hovering in the galleries, with clip boards and laptops. They were listing, recording, cataloguing, classifying, and deciding. What will stay and what will go? The horology collection, unneeded, was packed away with the gorillas and the pythons, and deposited in storage off site. No one knew what became of the Guru of Time. The new museum was off to the gardens of Carlton.

There are no secrets in a digitised world.

**GURU**

**Margaret Boyes-Pringle ©2023**

I'd wanted to believe  
this accidental prophet  
his thin skin, his kind eyes  
his words like a scythe  
cutting down the old lies ...  
his cheesecloth shirt  
feet bare as they  
trode the earth

I'd been happy to just go,  
pack the car, head north,  
follow  
smoke the smoke,  
drift, dream, laze,  
the future a haze  
live the now,  
talk of how,  
share the food  
share our flesh  
abandon the West  
as we undressed

but, with nails full of dirt,  
hands that could barely  
write but could work,  
eyes dull but knowing  
mouths open, swallowing  
words destroying doubt ...  
was this the harvest  
of opting out?

Happy now, see  
Little Bourgeois Me,  
slipstreaming by  
just a spirit in the sky  
re-enrolling in uni,  
reading Nussbaum,  
eating sushi,  
talking online  
to Butler and  
extolling the great  
R.B.G.