

Bayside U3A

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

NEWSLETTER

March 2024

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

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

Brighton Office
 Monday to Friday 9:30am - 12noon

2024 TERM DATES

- Term 1** 29th January - 28th March 2024
- Term 2** 15th April - 25th June 2024
- Term 3** 15th July - 20th September 2024
- Term 4** 7th October - 13th December 2024

BAYSIDE U3A PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023



As I write this farewell Annual Report, I cannot help but to remember George Washington who wrote a famous Farewell Address to the American people when he retired from the Presidency after two terms.

My two terms were not continuous, nor have I been President for 8 years but like Washington, I have been your foundation President and this final report will be read to you, as I am attending a Rotary Conference.

It has been a continual delight to me to see how fast we have grown and how we have survived the challenge of COVID. This has been due to having an extraordinarily strong and active Committee of Management which has a good balance of continuing experience and new blood. We set ourselves the goal of always having at least three new members join the COM each year and I think we have successfully achieved this. Certainly, we did so in 2023 and will do so in 2024. We have also managed to establish and run two offices, so ably coordinated by Chris Logan who must take a lot of credit for our success.

As I depart, like Washington, I want to say something about our future. He told the USA to have no entangling alliances. What I want to say is to be very wary of having a paid staff member in Bayside U3A because the core value of our U3A is its reliance on volunteers to run everything. The other core values are to not take ourselves too seriously and to always remember we are here to enjoy ourselves. Bayside U3A is not a work place but a holiday camp! I often say, 'This is not BHP!'

Once again, we started the year with an Official Opening by the Bayside Mayor, Cr Hanna el Mouallem. We had missed the 'Official Opening' for two years due to COVID. This tradition was established to keep alive and well the wonderful partnership we have with the Bayside Council.

Our U3A had a great 2023 with 1599 members, 163 courses run by our wonderful Tutors. In addition, John Nurse and Richard Potter put together a strong Speaker Programme, full of variety and large audiences.

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IMPORTANT DATES

Speakers Programme: Wednesday 20th March 2pm
 Beaumaris Senior Centre

Laraine Stephens, Melbourne Historical Crime Writer



Annual General Meeting Thursday 21st March 12pm
 Beaumaris Community Hall (next to the library).

Register your attendance online [here](#), phone U3A office on 9589 3798 or email baysideu3a@gmail.com.

AGM documents are on our website – please click [here](#).

BAYSIDE U3A AGM...

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED URGENTLY

'Many hands make light work'

This saying is from medieval England - at that time there was a common goal of protecting those who were weak and vulnerable, through the efforts of those more capable.

We need many hands to assist with the setting up and assisting at our AGM this Thursday 21st March.

If you can 'help' please call Mary Downie 0417 143 394

BAYSIDE U3A PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023 (Cont'd)

We again had a vibrant and united Marketing, Membership and Events subcommittee, chaired by Warwick Harding. They, amongst many initiatives, organised the purchase of a mobile sound system so when we have functions in large halls, we can all hear what is said. They helped Cheryl Threadgold run the Synergy Book Launch event which was the outcome of Cheryl's innovative Synergy collaborative book project. The MME also created a calendar of key social events including the Pre-Grand Final BBQ, held in the Beaumaris Community Centre where our new sound system greatly helped. The Community Centre accommodated over 100 people at each of these events. Its use has highlighted the fact that it requires refurbishing. It is an excellent space, able to seat 150 people for major presentations and events.

The introduction of U-MAS for the 2023 year was covered in the 2022 Annual Report. All the hard work in introducing this new system has made enrolments easier for members; simpler for the Office to assist those who cannot manage the process; for the Tutors to communicate with members and for the Course Coordinator.

2023 saw some substantial improvements to the blinds, air-conditioning and men's toilets at the Brighton Court House, ably organised by Tony Aplin. Work was also undertaken by the Council on the roof leaks. However, the water damaged carpet has not yet been replaced. It is worth noting that the Council charge us 'peppercorn' rent for the Court House and part of the deal is we are responsible for maintenance within the building.

We also purchased a new photocopier for the BSC Office and undertook upgrades of the Wi-Fi and TV projection. Because of our strong financial position, we were able to undertake these necessary but expensive works, without delay and any financial concerns.

2023 saw Chris Birch take on the role of Secretary. He carried out this role most efficiently, making life very easy for me. We re-introduced the position of Minutes

Secretary as the role of Secretary is quite demanding. Dee De George volunteered to take on this role and it is again proving to be a very efficient arrangement. Chris has been largely responsible for the completion of our Policies and Procedures manuals, now on the website; our Consumer Affairs update and the reissue of our Model Rules and adoption thereof.

2023 saw the successful introduction of a succession planning subcommittee, chaired by Sandra Groves, for the nomination of 2024 Officers and Committee. This has proved to be a significant improvement on leaving it all up to the President and Secretary, as we did in the past.

During the year Vlad Metter decided to resign from the Committee of Management after more than 10 years of service to Bayside U3A. Vlad was a foundation committee member and our first Property Officer, who was responsible for purchasing the various bits of equipment or furniture we needed. He did a wonderful job ensuring we had superior quality equipment at a very good price. On a number of occasions, he and I used his SUV to collect filing cabinets and chairs. It is sad to reflect that he and I could not do this now as age is catching up with both of us. I am happy to say that Vlad remains an active member of our U3A.

Another quiet achiever has been our Treasurer, Robin Douglas, who has managed our finances for the last seven years. He has decided to retire from the COM and the role of Treasurer. Robin has kept us fully informed on our financial position each month and each year.

A U3A is made by its Tutors and 2023 was no different to any other. We had our usual group of remarkable Tutors running a wide range of courses. They were all capably managed by our Course Coordinator, Sue Steele, who has decided she has not enough to do and has agreed to be nominated as our President for 2024.

I wish Bayside U3A all the very best for the future and may it continue to grow!

David Hone, President

APOLOGIES and CLASS WITHDRAWALS

It is important for your absences to be recorded on the Bayside U3A Class Attendance Lists. Waiting lists exist on some classes. If you change your mind about attending a class (it is not for you!) or your circumstances have changed since you enrolled, could you please let the office know.

This can be done online through U-MAS or you may email baysideu3a@gmail.com or phone Beaumaris office 9589 3798 and we will update the database and notify the Tutors.

FIRST SPEAKER SERIES FOR 2024—LARAINE STEPHENS

Wednesday 20th March at 2pm
Beaumaris Senior Centre

After thirty-five years as a teacher-librarian, **Laraine Stephens** threw off her pink twinset, tartan skirt, string of pearls, sensible shoes and 400 denier tights to find out what life was like on the other side of the bookshelves. Donning a tracksuit and moccasins, she was primed to write crime fiction! Not just everyday crime fiction, but historical crime fiction set in Melbourne in the aftermath of the Great War and during the heady days of the 1920s, when gangs, bootleg liquor and gambling dens inhabited the back streets of Melbourne.



In her talk, Laraine will describe her journey to becoming a published author with a six-book contract with Level Best Books (USA). She will discuss how she combined her love of crime fiction and history, along with the skills she acquired in her professional life, to depict historically accurate and lively settings for her Reggie da Costa Mysteries.

GERMAN CONVERSATION

Tutor: Barb Stewart

Our class often have a laugh about the tongue-twisting German words that we encounter. However, they all have special meanings and are usually spot-on! We have a few for you to read below (if you can!).

One way for languages to create more words is by combining two or more words such as: house + work = *housework*. The English language has the added flexibility of combining words in any order such as: *houseboat / boathouse* or *casebook / bookcase*.

The German language tends to just keep adding words to create new words. For example:

1. You are driving below the speed limit but when you see a police car in the rear view mirror, you slow down even further. The Germans have a word for this - **Amstangst** (*authority anxiety*) or irrational feelings of guilt suffered by the spotlessly innocent.
2. When your husband suddenly wants to know a good cake shop to buy a cake or wants your sister's phone number and it is your birthday coming up, you know that he is planning a surprise birthday party. The German word for this is - **Überraschungspartyüberraschungsheuchelei** (*surprise party surprise hypocrisy*) or feigning surprise at a surprise party.
3. When you told your children that when Mr Whippy was playing his music while driving around, he was letting you know that he had run out of ice cream and thus no need to run out and check. The German word is - **Kinderhalbwahrheit** (*children half-truth*) or the myriad deceptions adults practise on children.
4. When you feel your stomach churning and you feel decidedly unwell, you will normally decide yourself what has caused this. The German word is - **Bauchgefühlbauchgefühl** (*gut feeling gut feeling*) or instinctively knowing what gave you food poisoning.
5. One thing we enjoy about getting a new car is sitting inside and smelling that 'new car smell'. The nation that gave us the Mercedes-Benz, Audi, VW, Porsche and no speed limit autobahns, naturally has a word for this. The 47 letter word is - **Kraftfahrzeugsinnenausstattungsneugeruchsgenuss** (*automobile interior furnishing new aroma pleasure*).

There are many more of these wonderful words and as the German poet Charles Follen said in 1835: '*German language is sufficiently copious and productive, to furnish native words for any idea that can be expressed.*'

Indeed!

CRAFTY CONVERSATIONS

Tutors: Alison Barnett and Susan McCarthy

Our weekly gatherings have certainly lived up to our name! Each week there has been lots of chatter as we have caught up with one another's news and discussed our various creations. It is always wonderful to have new members join our group and this year we have been delighted to welcome Anna Atkin, Claire Chilton, Jill Houghton, Sue Langley, Jeanette Limbach and Joy Wood as well as past members Julie Rutter and Estee Pringle.

The long summer break didn't keep the ladies from their craft work. The photos below show a selection of the crafty patchwork, knitting and cross-stitching creations completed by our group recently.



Patchwork: Sue Maxwell and her quilt



Gaye Moody's Christmas Stockings



Knitting: Anne Tresise's Rabbits which are destined for her great-nephew and great-niece



Each year Nancy Jones knits her very popular Easter Chickens

Cross stitch: Rosalind Webb's 'Dream' wall hanging



Jennie O'Reilly's bag

BALANCE AND BONES

Tutor: Helene Redding

Balance and Bones is a Zoom class, so Helene organised a 'getting to know you' morning last Friday to give the members an opportunity to meet face-to-face.

It was a very happy gathering at the Beaumaris Concourse.

Lots of chat and laughs and making new friends!



TREASURY OF GOLDEN ERA MOVIE STUDIES

Tutor: Tom Hajdu

The treasure trove of movies carries on unabated and all are welcome to attend, from the curious through to the Golden Era movie die-hards! Movies are shown on Wednesdays at the Beaumaris Senior Centre at 2pm



20th March : Heaven Can Wait (1943 Colour)

27th March : Mutiny on the Bounty (1935 B/W)

...and into term 2...

17th April : Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex (1939 Colour)

24th April : The Ghost Breakers (1940)

1st May : Sergeant York (1941)

8th May : Love Me Or Leave Me (Colour 1955)



Those of you with just a glimmer of interest in any of the above titles, need only to Google them. Once you have done your research you'll agree with me that in their individual ways, they are MUST see movies!

You will be welcome into the fold!

Enrol at **Treasury of Golden Era Movie Studies Course: 24HUM015**

For any enquiries, call Tom on 0419 377 662

WINE APPRECIATION BRIGHTON

CONVENOR : STEWART BURN

Sparkling Wine Tasting

Andrew Butler, the Vineyard Manager for Oakdene Vineyards provided us with a magnificent tasting on sparkling wines and provided a lot of details on their manufacture.

Sparkling wine can be produced from any grape variety, using a number of different techniques to produce red, white or rose products, ranging from completely dry (no residual sugar) to extremely sweet. At its heart, sparkling wine production starts with a still base wine made like any other wine, except often harvested at lower ripeness to keep alcohol lower and acidity higher. This base wine then needs to have carbon dioxide bubbles added to give the sparkle or fizz. The method used to add carbon dioxide can have a significant effect on the quality and price of the finished wine.

The tasting explored a range of sparkling wines made by Oakdene Vineyards (details of the wines can be found at <https://www.oakdene.com.au/WINES/SPARKLING-WINES>). The wines tasted included:

1. NV Sparkling Brut, a blend of varieties produced using the Charmat or tank ferment method
2. 2019 Matilda, Yvette and Kristen, a trio of wines made from the classic Champagne varieties of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay and produced in the traditional method
3. Sparkling Shiraz, a style popularised in Australia, richer and sweeter than many sparkling wines.



Also tasted were samples of Prosecco, one of Australia's recent winemaking success stories and a bone of contention between Australia and the EU with labelling. Finally we tried an example of a sparkling wine made using carbonation to explore the quality difference of this, the cheapest of all production methods.

Thankyou to Andrew for providing our group with a great tasting. We would encourage anyone with an interest in wine to join our small group – we still have places available.



Enrol at **Wine Appreciation Brighton: 24SOC005**

DAY TOURS

Organiser : Joan Gibbs

Day Tours to Blue Lotus Water Gardens, Glass Blowing, Water Surfing sports, Begonias.



Blue Lotus Water Garden



Red Hill



Arthur's Seat



Begonia Festival, Ballarat

Winery Tours:
Yarra Valley 19th June
Mt Macedon 17th July
Mornington 21st August.
New Itinerary out next Newsletter.

Bookings with joanlgibbs37@gmail.com. 0417 768 433

If you have not already, please join our private members group Facebook page:



- Have your membership number ready
- Open Facebook
- Find **Bayside U3A Members Group**
- Click on Join Group
- OR
- Click on this link: [Join FB](#)

Bayside U3A
Happy Hour
NO EVENT ON GOOD FRIDAY
Friday 29th March 2024 5pm
Hampton RSL
25 Holyrood Street, Hampton

HAPPY HOUR FRIDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2023
Convenor : Karen Hall



Hampton RSL was a lively spot for 35 Bayside U3A members at our monthly Happy Hour on Friday 23rd February. As Convenor Karen was unable to attend, Chris Birch and wife Mary hosted the evening, welcoming several new members along with regular Happy Hour attendees.

We scored a success in the raffle when Michele won a roasting chicken and trayful of veggies!

The Bistro reopened for the night after being closed earlier this year. A dozen of us tested the menu and enjoyed a good dinner after the drinks and raffle were over.



Happy Hour is held on the last Friday of every month at the Hampton RSL, **however NOT on Friday 29th March as it is Good Friday.**



To receive a reminder closer to the day, please enrol in [Bayside U3A Happy Hour course: 24SOC004](#)

3RD FEBRUARY

LET'S DO DINNER
Convenor : Karen Hall
HIGHETT RSL

17TH FEBRUARY



A great turnout for our start to 2024 dinners!

Nearly 30 people at each : 3rd and 17th February at the Highett RSL.

Welcome to the first time new members - hope to see you again.

At the first dinner, early eaters had to wait for everyone to arrive before being served the meal they'd ordered.

We sorted out the 'slow' service in time for the second dinner; the food was then served as ordered rather than waiting for late arrivals.

April dinners are scheduled for the 6th and 20th of April and venues will be confirmed soon.

Reminder:

If you wish to be included on dinner invitations and reminders, please enrol in:

[Let's do Dinner - Course code: 24SOC003.](#)



BAYSIDE U3A WRITERS GROUP

Convenor: Dr Cheryl Threadgold

Word of the Month: 'Celebration'

A CELEBRATION

John Maddick © 2024

It was a last-minute decision. We had planned a quiet Christmas at home after we learned Bernie was to be offered standby allowance. I wanted him home, but we needed the money. Then he was called in at five in the morning. Too early even to see the girls find their stockings. I sat with them, feeling sad, thinking this could be the last year Sam believed in Santa.

Then dad rang. When he heard what had happened, he said we could still go over there. Mum had only been home from hospital a week, but she'd rest up before we got there. He had a chook to roast, and since my brother's family was going to Leonie's parents this year, there was plenty to spare.

So I'm driving down the Freeway mid-morning wondering whether I've made the right decision. It takes an hour and a half, watching out for drunk drivers all the way. Becky starts complaining that Sam's hand is on her side of the back seat. I get them looking out for red cars and blue cars, and trucks and vans. Becky is still young enough to be proud of her identification skills, but pretty soon she's complaining because Sam keeps getting them first.

We're taken into the lounge. Christmas presents for all the grandchildren spill out from below the Christmas tree. Rebecca wants to start opening the presents which starts a fight with Sam. Couldn't dad see this would happen? I make the girls sit on the couch - 'Right back please!' - so their legs dangle impotently while I fetch the doll's house from the hall cupboard. Then I follow my father as he pushes the wheelchair into their bedroom.

'She's not herself today,' he'd said on that day, six months ago. Something about one of her headaches. One glance at her drooping mouth and I had known. 'God dad! Call an ambulance!' I am sure he's getting more dim-witted since his retirement.

I push past him to the side of the bed. 'How are you mum?' She smiles her crooked smile up at me. When the nurses weren't around I used to help her up out of bed. I go to reach around her, as I'd done before, but I get a yowl of protest from her. My father's voice takes over: 'Here. Let me.' He steps past me, lifts the bedding clear,

slides her calves over the edge, leans over and helps her lever herself upright with her good arm. Then he bends over and helps her stand against him. They must have developed a routine. 'Now would you wheel the chair behind her Larney? Guide that hand onto the arm.'

He leaves me to wheel her out of the bedroom.

I can hear Becky's voice raised down the corridor. When we reach the lounge-room there's a sudden silence. They are both staring at their Nan. Of course, when they saw her in hospital she was always sitting up in bed. I step to her side while I try to think of something cheerful to say about wheelchairs. I see she's dribbling, and without thinking, haul out my hanky. Mum inclines her head so I can reach. Something else the girls haven't seen. This is not going to be a fun Christmas for the girls to remember. I could have said 'no' when dad asked me over. Then mum reaches out with her good hand, finds me. Those moistening blue eyes meet mine. She gestures out towards the girls and the Christmas tree and I hear in my heart what she is saying.



CELEBRATION

Will Hollier © 2024

In anticipation of the celebration
 he prepared his oration to the nation.
 His participation in the conflagration
 then innovation during stagnation
 raised expectation of his station.
 The hesitation of his embarkation
 bore no relation to his resignation
 to the culmination of the presentation.

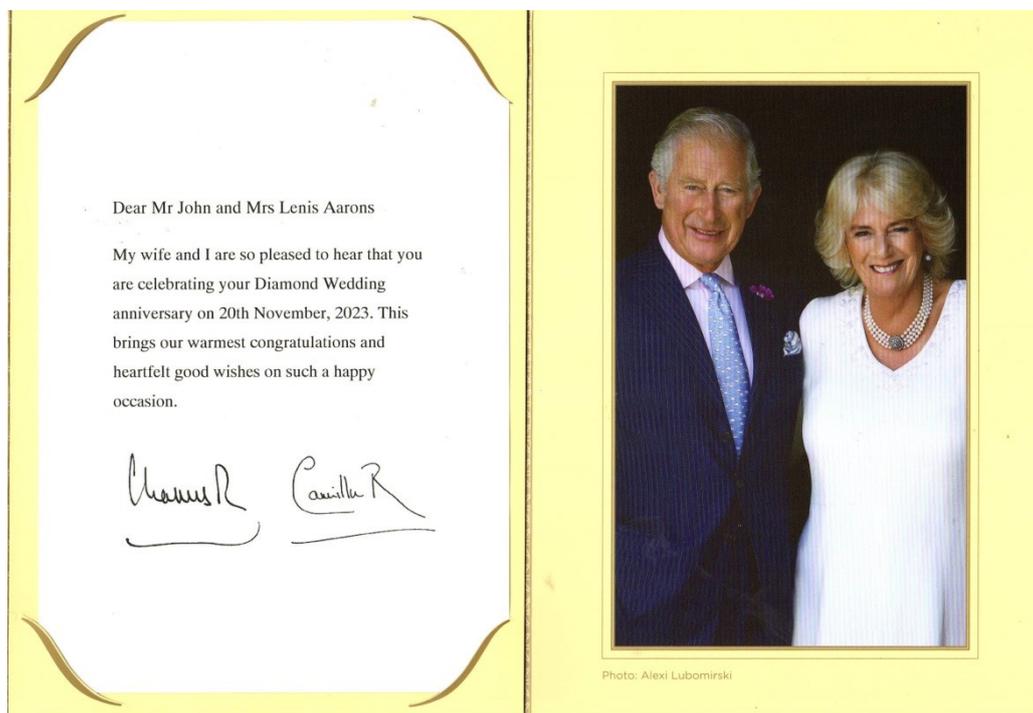
CELEBRATION

John Aarons © 2024

This is a tale of two completely opposite forms of celebration that took place in our family recently.

My wife and I were preparing to celebrate our Diamond (60th) wedding anniversary and our daughters contacted our local federal government representative to advise her of our grand achievement. This was in November 2023 and a week before the actual anniversary we received a flood of congratulatory cards and letters.

They came from King Charles and Queen Consort Camilla, the Governor General David Hurley and his wife Linda, the state Governor Margaret Gardner, the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, the Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan and our local federal minister, Zoe Daniel. The messages were extremely heart-warming and a prime example is the one from Buckingham Palace shown below.



We celebrated with a four day trip around central Victoria enjoying wonderful countryside, basing ourselves in the excellent RACV Resort in Creswick.

A month later, my brother, who lives in Hamilton, called to say that his wife was in hospital having had a serious fall and she was not likely to survive this one. She had a number of falls over the past year, each one resulting in broken bones and hospital stays. This latest one was just days after she had celebrated her 90th birthday, and their four children, who are dispersed around Victoria and Queensland, rushed to be with their mother in her final hours. She passed away on Friday 5th January with her family sitting by her bedside, but unfortunately she was not conscious.

Instead of a funeral, my brother arranged for a Celebration of Life to be held in Hamilton later in the month, which was to be a very different kind of celebration to the one my wife and I enjoyed back in November.

CELEBRATION

Jan Garrard © 2024

'With age comes wisdom,' so we are told. And who am I to dispute that claim? But let's not forget that our youngsters can also teach us elders a thing or two.

This is a tale of how two wise grandchildren taught their grandma how to love and celebrate the myriad amazing creatures who populate our world.

With the passing of my sometimes lovable, sometimes problem-child pet Dalmatian, Tia, I declared that she would be my last pet. My two granddaughters deemed my pet-free state problematic and much thought went into finding a replacement for Tia. Given the limited financial resources of toddlerhood, creativity was called for, and not found wanting. Lily and Alice joyfully presented me with a steady stream of slaters, snails, centipedes, and - their pièce de résistance – a big, black, shiny cockroach. My lack of full-blown enthusiasm for the latter resulted in a high-level entomological discussion.

'But Lily, it's a cockroach!' I declared.

'It's not a cockroach, Nana, it's a Christmas beetle,' was the prompt and confident response from Alice.

'Are you sure?' I countered sceptically.

They were, and who was I to spoil their joy in giving? So we made a comfy home for the cockroach beetle in a well-stocked, nicely aerated recycled pasta bottle where I swear his cockroach – sorry, Christmas beetle – eyes peered out at me, sparkling with triumphalism.

'Insects not your thing, Nana? No worries, come with us.'

With Lily and Alice as guides, a walk around the block, a stroll along the foreshore trails, or a paddle among the rocks, reefs and sandy shallows of Beaumaris Bay was an adventure trip through a free-range zoo. Baby ring-tail possums danced across the high-wires; magpies sang their hearts out; dressed-to-impress parrots squawked, 'Look at me, look at me'; while tawny frogmouths did the opposite, 'Don't look at me, I'm just another boring bit of bark.'

Balmy summer days at Ricketts Point brought close and delightful encounters with Port Jackson sharks, banjo sharks, cuttlefish, cowfish, and all manner of amazing sea critters.

'But you can't take them home, Nana', was the gentle reminder from the zoo-keepers, 'they belong to nature.'

The competition was stiff, but the pelicans were our favourites. Soaring past the cliffs in the red glow of sunset on their way home to the fossil beach, we gazed at them in wonder. What miracle of nature came up with that unlikely design? And managed to make it fly, swim and fish? We decided that pelicans are the giraffes, elephants and rhinoceroses of the air and sea: astonishing creatures that exist but look as though they don't.

We like to think that our stories of unicorns, dragons, trolls and griffins thrill and amaze our grandchildren, until it dawned on me that they are equally enchanted by real creatures that could so easily be the stuff of dreams and fairy tales.

Once upon a time in a far-off land, there lived a creature with a tawny brown patchwork coat whose neck reached all the way to the clouds. It roamed the plains with a giant grey beast with big floppy ears and a long, wavy nose that could perform all manner of clever tricks. They shared a drinking hole with a squat, grey monster whose long, curved horn was the talk of the kingdom. One day, a huge flying creature with a soft droopy pouch attached to its long bill soared across the face of the sun, casting a great shadow over the land.

I now live in that far off land all around me. Two wise children took me there: on a magical journey that showed me how to love a naughty dog, befriend a cheeky cockroach, gaze in wonder at an impossible pelican, and live with joy and wonder in a real fantasy land.

DID YOU KNOW BEAUMARIS LIBRARY OFFERS A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE SERVICE?

WHEN: Wednesdays 10am-12pm
(No booking required)

WHERE: Beaumaris Library

COST: Free