

## OUR CHRISTMAS LUNCH NOVEMBER 2023

Our 2023 Christmas Lunch at the Dorset Gardens, Croydon was again enjoyed by members. Publicity Officer Lynn had arranged for Dorset Gardens to give us this lovely room that had floor to ceiling windows overlooking the garden. Dorset Gardens once again gave us some Gift Cards to be used at their venue which were won from a draw of lucky ticket numbers.

The two course meal they served was much appreciated by everyone. President Daryl welcomed everyone to the lunch and again entertained us with one of his jokes.

As in the past we held a Raffle with some lovely prizes donated by the Committee and our local politicians Michael Sukkar & Nichole Werner who gave us Cadbury Hampers.



Also, a donation from our very generous leader Linda Robertson who made some absolutely gorgeous Patchwork Quilts, very prized and cherished by those members who won them. Photos of some of the winners are included in this Newsletter.

Between courses our Secretary Jeanette entertained us with some very puzzling questions and fun stories and you could hear the audience agreeing and laughing at so many of these.

All in all, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and loved the occasion of socialising with the members from their table.

## MEMBER SURVEY

As you are aware, your Committee commenced a survey of members in late 2023 which remained open until late February 2024. The survey asked members to provide their views about classes they would like to see offered in

the future and their willingness/ability to be involved etc. .

We have just closed off our survey and the Committee is now examining the information provided by members. Thank you to those members who responded.

Your responses are very interesting and the Committee will contact those members who have made suggestions which we think we can adopt and/or have offered to lead classes in the future. Of course, we would like to be able to implement every suggestion, but as you realise, unless we have Class leaders and enough members wanting to participate in those classes, they are unlikely to be added to our time table.

## PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY

### ADVANCED NOTICE U3A RINGWOOD - SAUSAGE SIZZLE, BUNNINGS RINGWOOD WAREHOUSE

**SATURDAY, 20 April 2024**



As most members will know, we have been fortunate enough to be allocated one or two sausage sizzles each year at Bunnings Ringwood Warehouse. This has not only enabled us to publicise what we do, but also raise funds to supplement income from membership fees (our only other source of revenue to cover rising operating expenses). We are fortunate to have been allocated a Sausage Sizzle at the Bunnings Ringwood Warehouse on **Saturday 20 October 2024**.

We need members to help cook sausages and onions, serve customers with sausages and canned drinks and take money, between the hours of 9.00am and 4.00pm and then clear up. To make it easier all round, we have divided the day into four x 2 hour shifts, so we will only need you to volunteer to help for a 2 hour shift. If you can assist, please email [admin@u3aringwood.org.au](mailto:admin@u3aringwood.org.au) or telephone: [0481 591 224](tel:0481591224).

If you have a preferred shift, please let us know:

Shift 1: 9.00am – 11.00am;

Shift 2: 11.00am – 1.00pm;

Shift 3: 1.00pm - 3.00pm; or

Shift 4: 3.00pm to finish

Should we have difficulty in offering you your preferred shift, we will discuss that with you. If it is too early for you to commit now, we will contact you later, closer to the date. This is an important activity from which we will all benefit, so your assistance will be much appreciated.

## WHAT SOME OF OUR NEWEST CLASSES ARE DOING

### What Cheeses Me Off

It appears that we will have enough issues (serious and not so serious) that ‘cheese us off’ to enable us to run classes into the next decade.

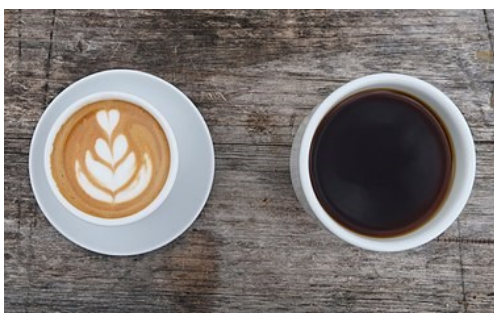
At our first meeting we discussed how the Australian public had little knowledge of the Australian Constitution and why it is no longer fit for purpose due to its history and being almost impossible to change – in over 120 years we have had 45 referendums and only 8 successful.

We discussed the history leading to the creation of the Australian Constitution in 1900, how our 'old, white male fore fathers' wrote the Constitution at a time when issues that need to be addressed today were not even thought of, such as air travel which was not beyond their comprehension (the Wright Bros didn't actually fly until 1903 – a flight of 36 metres) radio, TV, internet, and travel from the UK to Australia by fast steam ship via the Suez canal was around 7 weeks, if you were lucky.

Further, when referendums were held in 1900 in the 6 colonies to approve the Constitution, women, indigenous peoples, foreigners, and in some states, non-land holders, didn't get a vote (which was not compulsory).

Our second class discussed the trend for politicians, would be politicians and others to avoid putting forward and proposition and an argument to support it, by reverting to slogans in order to get a 30 second news grab, e.g. Tony Abbott – “No more new big taxes”, Darren Hinch – “the Melbourne City Council is Woke”, and Donald Trump – “Drain the swamp”.. When are we going to hear proper debate on issues of importance to us all??

## Coffee Club



Coffee Club is a new offering to U3A Ringwood members in 2024, introduced to enable members to get together casually and enjoy each other's company. Often there is not much time between classes to spend with your class mates over a cup of tea/coffee ... Coffee Club is the solution! Following our first meeting we decided the best venue, to address everyone's needs, was one with plenty of parking, no stairs, a central location and not noisy. We investigated and discussed the pros and cons of a number of options and decided on The Ringwood Club. Whilst you can join

the Club for \$10 a year (and purchase your coffee/tea for just \$2.50 as a member plus other offerings they have) or you are able to attend as a visitor.

We meet on Fridays at 10.30 am until 11.30ish and everyone is welcome. We have a number of members who discovered they are attending the same courses or have attended courses together in the past. It's great to catch up and renew friendships. Coffee Club is for all members – we would love to welcome some more men – they are “coffee drinkers” as well as women! The important thing about Coffee Club is its casual nature. You can fit it in around your monthly or fortnightly classes/appointments, attending only when you have the time.

We do hope more U3A members can make the time to join us – you know what is always said: “Retired people are always busy” – if you have entered it in your diary, it will happen!

See you on Friday!

## Chess Class



The Chess Class meets on Wednesday mornings from 11.00 am to 12.30 pm at Parkwood. In 2023 we had half a dozen students of varying standards, from beginners to well-experienced players. As the focus of the class is mainly to encourage newbies to take up the game, the better players eventually departed, seeking more competitive foes. That means numbers are diminished in 2024. Hence, anyone who is tempted to learn one of the world's most fascinating games, or to rekindle an old passion, is welcome to join us. Leader John Robertson will be happy to introduce you to the rules and then to basic strategies and tactics to increase your enjoyment and chances of winning: perhaps against your grandchildren. The game teaches logical thinking, attendance and perseverance.

Players often report drifting into an exquisite meditative trance while mindfully focussing on the pieces shuffling around the board. Meanwhile over-the-board play encourages a safe and respectful rivalry, creating and enhancing new friendships.

We look forward to meeting you, even if you want to pop in for a look-see.

## Ringwood U3A Bike Club

The Bike Club had its first ride on Feb 7 with 5 riders. It was a short 16 km return ride from Yarran Dheran to McAdam Square where we had a planning meeting while we enjoyed a coffee.

The Club will have rides on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month commencing at 9.30 am. Rides normally will vary between 25 and 40 km round trip, on official bike tracks or quiet roads in the Eastern Suburbs. They will include a half-way coffee or tea break, with an expected return to the start by 2.00 pm.

The rides will be organised to suit the abilities and needs of the riders. The start and end will often be from the Schwerkolt Cottage carpark at Yarran Dheran, but on occasions it will be further afield such as for a ride on the Warburton Trail.



On some occasions, part of the ride may be done by train. The group will be kept relatively small to make for easier management and safety of the rides. Both manual and electric/electric assisted bikes are welcome, and individuals may choose to do part of a ride if they prefer. Some features of our rides include:

- Enjoy social rides to many bicycle destinations in the Eastern suburbs.
- Discover many of the bike paths in the area.
- Suitable for both less and more experienced riders.
- Improve both physical and mental health and fitness.
- Gain a greater sense of well-being, fulfillment, and happiness.
- Make new friends during the ride and at the coffee stop.
- e-bikes welcome — reduces the effort on hills while enjoying the outdoors.
- They are not a race, just enjoyable, controlled riding with good company.

Anyone interested in joining the bike Club should contact Brian Phillips at [bphillips437@gmail.com](mailto:bphillips437@gmail.com) or Peter Wakeham at [hamwake@gmail.com](mailto:hamwake@gmail.com).

## Personal Cyber Security



There has been a very successful class of just three weeks on Personal Cyber Security led by Rob Hagan. The good news is that there will be another class on this subject in the not too distant future, so watch for this announcement so you can enrol.

## History of Germany & Vietnam



The History of Germany has been a huge success. It was born from a request out of last year's Revolutions class that we learn another history in 2024. We started with a cap of 20 but now manage to squeeze 24 into the room (that's if everyone attends on the same day). We started with German states during the Napoleonic War and have just recently reached the unification of Germany under Bismarck in 1871. The class is enjoying the amusing YouTube video presentations on Germany in the C19th.

Ahead of us lies Germany before, during and after World War One, as well as the Weimar Republic and Hitler's rise to power.

## 500 Card Game



It is a small group of 6 players. Two of us are very experienced in the "Parkwood Method" and the other 4 are on a steep learning curve. The adapting to the modified rules is progressing slowly, as some struggle with tradition and muscle memory. However, we have managed to progress from playing with cards face up to holding our own hands, bidding and even scoring. We are able to play 2 handed, 3 handed and 4 handed games depending on how many people are present. There is plenty of room for anyone else who may be interested in playing 500.

You can be an experienced player or a total beginner. We cater for all. As Glen has commented several times, "Playing 500 on a Monday morning is a great way to get the brain into gear at the start of the week."

## DID YOU KNOW .....



## New Classes

This year we have a number of new classes and there are still a few vacancies to be filled:

- **500 Card Group:** – play one of Australia's the most popular card games (beginners are welcome)
- **Chess the World Game:** – play or learn how to play the strategic game that is played throughout the world (beginners and experienced players are welcome)
- **Bike Club:** - exercise with like-minded members
- **Coffee Club;** - the chance to have a chat over a cup of coffee and socialise;
- **Personal Cyber Security:** – ever worried about the vulnerability of your on-line account. If so, this is the class for you, as it provides an 'easy to understand' process to protect your passwords and improve your online security. It merely runs over 3 weeks, so you can easily fit it into your busy diary. **Watch for announcement dates of our next class.**
- **What Cheeses Me Off:** in today's world we all have issues that cheese us off, so why not share yours with others and discuss why is it so?

You can find the course description for these and other classes on our website: [www.u3aringwood.org.au](http://www.u3aringwood.org.au).

## Advising Absences

### Reporting Absences



You can let us know of your class absences online without the need to call us, SMS us or email us. To do this:

- Logon to our online members system at <https://www.u3aringwood.org.au/members/> or just click on the blue “Members Login” icon on our web site ( [u3aringwood.org.au](http://u3aringwood.org.au) )
- Enter your member number and password to login
- Click on **My Absences** on the left hand menu
- Select the courses that you will be absent from by clicking on the box containing “All Courses”
- Select a reason by clicking on the box containing “Other”
- Select the date range that you will be absent
- Click on **Submit**

A system generated email will be sent to your class leader when you click on Submit.

## U3A RINGWOOD FACEBOOK PAGE

Whilst U3A Ringwood have a Facebook page, it is set up so that comments cannot be added by the public or members with the intent that the Committee controls what is included.

However, if you wish to send something interesting to the Committee, they would make the decision to add those they thought appropriate.

Therefore, please email us at [info@u3aringwood.org.au](mailto:info@u3aringwood.org.au) and we will forward this to our Facebook Convenor, Doug Parlee.

## HOW WELL CAN YOU READ? TRY THIS!



**Believe it or not, you can read this paragraph even though it looks weird.**

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## NEXT TERM DATES



Term 1 ends on Thursday 28th March 2024

Term 2 starts Monday 15th April 2024 and ends on Friday 28th June 2024.