U3A RINGWOOD

SIGNIFICANT UPGRADE TO OUR FACEBOOK PRESENCE

We have redesigned and upgraded our Facebook page to improve management of it which has necessitated a new page name (u3arwood) in Facebook. The image opposite is our new profile picture.

If you are a Facebook user we ask you to:

- Take a look at our new Facebook page (see below)
- Check the profile picture is the one opposite.
- Follow our new page
- add your comments, and re-visit!

We plan to use this communication avenue significantly more than in the past for all of your up to date events, excursions, stories and read other comments> Please put this on your favourites list, and share the link with other fellow members and friends.

Our Facebook page will run parallel to our website and emails regarding important information so you will not miss on up to date news.

To check out our new Facebook page you can:

- Search for it, in Facebook, using “u3a ringwood” or “u3arwood” as your search criteria
- If you are reading this newsletter online, you can:
  - Click the new profile picture above
  - Click on this URL https://www.facebook.com/u3arwood
- Use any browser and enter the following URL https://www.facebook.com/u3arwood

Our old Facebook page (the one with the ‘green U3A tree’ profile picture) will be removed as soon as possible.

CAN YOU HELP?

As you would be aware U3A Ringwood has various laptops and audio-visual equipment that support our classes.

These need to be maintained and from time to time our Class Leaders experience issues and need support, be that simple trouble shooting, checking that cables are correctly connected, batteries need replacing or actually demonstrating how the equipment can be used.

Be assured that this is not a role to come and fix something immediately.

Alex Robertson has been doing this for a number of years and we now need one or more members to support him so that we have more than one option when issues arise and the task is shared

If you have experience with computers and audio-visual equipment or have an interest and would like to learn, this is an ideal opportunity.

If you are interested, please contact us at admin@u3aringwood.org.au and we will make a mutually convenient time to have a chat about the role.

WHAT SOME CLASSES HAVE BEEN DOING IN TERM 3, 2026

BIKE CLUB TERM 3 2026

At Lillydale lake on a cold wet day

Members of the Bike Club enjoyed a number of rides during Term 3, despite some frustrations due to wet weather.

Some planned rides were cancelled including new rides to Oakleigh and Thomastown. Subsequently we settled for several local rides from Schwerkolt Cottage including to Eltham, Jells Park, Boronia, Lillydale Lake and Glen Iris plus one from Westerfolds Park to Hurstbridge.

The Club now has 14 members but with a number of riders away due to travel and sickness, many rides were quite small often with less than 7 riders but were still very enjoyable with most appreciated coffee stops and great conversation.

As always there were interesting sites to see and points of historical significance to learn about as well being outdoors, getting lots of exercise and making friendships.

It was great to welcome a new member who, despite little riding experience, is adapting very well into the group and has already completed a wet ride, as well as a 40 km ride!

We look forward to better weather and the return of a number of our members and doing more exciting rides in Term 4. Anyone interested in doing a trial ride with us is most welcome.

A TASTE TOUR OF THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF WINES

Not unexpectedly, our class has tasted a series of very interesting wines during term 3.

We have tasted wines from various wine growing regions in Australia and overseas and found some wines made from grape varieties which were unfamiliar.

Some wines were very pleasing and some were not placed on our ‘must buy’ list.

However, the highlight for the term was a wine tasting presented by Caroline Mooney from Zonzo Estate, which is located in the Yarra Valley.

Caroline’s presentation highlighted some new grape varieties that are being crafted into ’experimental wines’ which may suit the Australian palate and the changing climate. Some will be marketed and some will not go into commercial production as they have not met expectations in a very competitive market.

Caroline's spoke about her passion for the Yarra Valley, the quality wines which it produces and her learning experience while doing 'vintage' in France.

We are now looking forward to Term 4 during which we propose to travel to the much awarded Levantine Hill Estate located in the Yarra Valley, for a tour and tasting provided by the head wine maker Paul Bridgeman and of course our celebration of the upcoming festive season.

Poetry For Pleasure

For most of the term we have been enjoying the poetry of the Welsh poet Gillian Clarke (b 1937).

Her work speaks of her love of nature and the seasons, of birds and of the Welsh language and reflects her long life and the powerful memories of people and place that remained vividly with her throughout.

Her later poem 'Titanic' demonstrates her poetic mastery of the language – imagery, musicality and rhyme.

The Titanic

Under the ocean where water falls
over the decks and titled walls
where the sea come knocking at the ship's door,
the band still plays
to the drum of the waves,
to the drum of the waves.

Down in the indigo depths of the sea
the white shark waltzes gracefully
down the water stairways, across the ballroom floor
where the cold shoals flow
and ghost dancers go,
ghost dancers go.

Their dresses are frayed, their shoes are lost.
their jewels and beads and bones are tossed
into the sand, all turned to stone,
as they sing in the sea
eternally,
eternally.

Currents comb their long loose hair,
dances sway forever where
the bright fish nibble their glittering bones,
till they fall asleep
in the shivering deep,
in the shivering deep.

ART APPRECIATION

It has been another interesting few months of Art Appreciation. As always, our focus is led by the curiosity of our group and we try to explore areas of their interest. This is best done via YouTube, which offers such a wealth of information.

We looked again at the life and work of the artist David Hockney, as he passed away on 11th June. It was interesting to take another look at his art.

We then had a quick visit to the Venice Biennale where the controversial Australian artist, Kalil Sabsabi installed his work in the Australian pavilion.

We then pivoted to look carefully at 'Abstract Art', as most of the class do not really understand, nor appreciate this style of art. After careful observation (and some instruction, and much discussion), we did, in fact, begin to see some meaning and connection to this style of Art.

I then took 4 weeks overseas for a holiday in Iceland and Norway, and when I returned took the class on a virtual tour of Iceland and its art. This land and art were so different to anything we had looked at previously, creativity being born out of much darkness. The reaction to Icelandic art was mixed!

The group took a physical tour of the Federation Estate in Ringwood, which houses many working artists. Their art is displayed on the walls, and there were many pieces available for sale. The social side of this excursion was much appreciated.

We also looked at the Art of Iran, who judges the Archibald Prize, how Hermes silk scarves are made in Paris, and how Gaudi designed the Sagrada Familia cathedral in Barcelona.

Film Appreciation – 12.30pm Fridays at Parkwood

This very popular class looks beyond just the 'entertainment factor' of films but seeks to understand what the film directors want to convey and how they have actually gone about achieving it.

During Term 3, we viewed and discussed a diverse range of films which included a range of Australian films including those in which the late Sam Neill played a leading role, including Death in Brunswick and The Dish.

We also viewed 'Animal Kingdom', a violent Australian film which was based on a notorious Melbourne Pettingill crime family. This film is noteworthy not only for being nominated for an Academy Award but for gaining international attention and kicked off the international careers of Australian actors, Ben Mendelsohn, Joel Edgerton, Guy Pearce, James Frecheville, Luke Ford (not born in Australia but migrated at the age of one), Jacki Weaver, and Sullivan Stapleton.

There are still a few vacancies for the Film Appreciation class, so why not invest your time on Friday afternoons, by joining Jim Moroney and learn about the 'ART of 'FILM MAKING' – it may increase your understanding and enjoyment of a 'good film'

History of Japan

In Japanese History we have just emerged from the carnage of World War Two. Why the Japanese decided to attack Pearl Harbour remains a conundrum.

Nevertheless, they did, which drew the neutral and isolationist America into the war. We looked at some of the crucial battles of the war and the final decision by Harry Truman to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The class was quite divided over this decision; torn

between moral and military arguments. We have just begun the occupation of Japan and America's rebuilding of the country into a peaceful democracy we know today.

It is a far cry from the military dominated government that invaded large sections of the Asia/Pacific region in the 1930s and 1940s. We will follow the peaceful transition of Japan into a global economic giant and its hosting of 2 Olympic Games in 1964 and 2021. After that, for whatever time is left in Term 4, we will continue to meet on a Tuesday morning but I still have no idea what Historical topic(s) will occupy our discussions.

Music Appreciation – Term 4, 2026 Program

The highlight of Music Appreciation Class for Term 3 was a visit we had to Classic FM Radio Station 3MBS in Collingwood, organised by one of our class members who has been a part-time presenter at the Radio Station for many years.

Upon arrival we were shown various aspects of how 3MBS worked and acquainted with their massive library of around 25,000 CDs, the music on them all digitally recorded. A great many of their CDs have been donated over the years. We were taken into the Live Studio where the Presenter showed us how it all worked and we could watch the countdown of the music so the Presenter knew when to announce the next piece of music.

Following all this, we went to lunch at the Convent Bakery, just a very short walk from the Studio and filled ourselves up on their fabulous bread rolls and pies. It was certainly a day to remember.

An interesting presentation we had entitled "Unravelling Ravel" introduced us to the composer's character and discovered that his mother was a Gypsy and his father's family were Clockmakers. We learned how his childhood background influenced much of the music he wrote.

Another fun session we had was called "Music from the Movies" – Memory Testing. We listened to pieces of classical music that were used in various Movies and had to guess (a) the Name of the Movie (b) the Name of the Music and (c) the Name of the Composer. The winner scored 26 marks out of a possible 36 and received a large bag of chocolate hearts. The balance of members also received a smaller bag of chocolate hearts – "just for having a go!" It really did test our memories!

Another presentation we had was on Women Composers and we were surprised just how many of them there were – in fact so many, we needed to have two sessions to cover them all – learning about them and how many earlier women struggled to be accepted in a male dominated world.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Our Christmas Lunch for 2026 will again be held at the Dorset Gardens on Thursday 19th November at 12.00 noon.

We are pleased to announce that, as per last year, we will have our member Marilyn Benson and her husband David singing all the songs we all know so well.

We will also have a Raffle with some lovely prizes.