



TERM 2 2026 PROGRAM GUIDE

Monday 27 April – Friday 19 June

Our prime concern is the wellbeing of all members: those who are keen to attend face-to-face sessions and those who would prefer to use Zoom.

The program has been developed to provide opportunities both for face-to-face sessions and for sessions delivered through Zoom.

This Program Guide is in three parts:

- News and views (N & V)
- Short courses (S)
- Visits and outings (V)

Full Year Courses 2026 is a separate document.

Enrolments for ALL courses must be done online – see page 31, or phone for assistance.

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Office and main meeting rooms:

Balwyn Park Centre, Balwyn Park
206A Whitehorse Road, Balwyn 3103
(See page 32 and our website for other venues)

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Mondays to Fridays, 9.00am to 12 noon during term time

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NEWS & VIEWS

2026 Term 2

Thursdays 12.00 - 1.15pm (AEST)

Via ZOOM

or viewed at Balwyn Park on large screen

Presentations: 40 minutes followed by Q&A via Zoom 'Chat' facility

Our aim is to encourage the exploration of ideas in an open, safe & mutually respectful environment

Views expressed by presenters are their own & not the official view of U3A Deepdene

Date	Focus of Presentation	Presenter
30 April	DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS	Maya Zahran: Media & Public Relations Manager Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)
7 May	MIDDLE EAST GEOPOLITICS: Drivers of Conflict & where to from here?	Dr Jessica Genauer: Academic Director UNSW Public Policy Institute UNSW
14 May	My life experiences as a HUMANITARIAN AID WORKER IN AFRICA	Jo McElhinney: Former humanitarian aid worker Director: Athlete's Plate (Nutritionist & Dietician)
21 May	5 THINGS happening in the world WE'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION TO	Melissa Conley Tyler: Honorary Fellow Asia Institute University of Melbourne
28 May	AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY: post Federal Budget	Jeff Borland: Professor of Economics University of Melbourne
June 4	'NOT ALWAYS DIPLOMATIC': An Australian Woman's Journey through International Affairs	Sue Boyd AM: Former Australian Diplomat with continuing interests in international relations, education & business
11 June	IMPACT of CHINESE ECONOMY on the Australian Economy	Dr Yixiao Zhou: Assoc Professor of Economics Arndt-Condén Department of Economics Crawford School of Public Policy Australian National University
18 June	"OUT OF GAS: Managing the decline of Gas in Australia"	Hamish McKenzie Deputy Program Director Energy & Climate Change Program Grattan Institute

N&V Team: Kay Axsentieff, Barbara Emerson, Melinda Sparkes, Ken Wilson

SHORT COURSES

THE ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE

Art and Architecture

S 01 *Painting Himself into History: Napoleon Bonaparte & the Fine Art of Propaganda*

*Sylvia Sagona, la Maîtrise ès Lettres at the
University of Aix-en-Provence, retired lecturer
University of Melbourne*

There is infinitely more to Napoleon Bonaparte than the brilliant military general and nemesis of the Duke of Wellington. Before photography, the internet and Trump, he knew that image was crucial to his grip on power and so manipulated all areas of the arts from architecture and painting to snuff boxes and furniture. Every military campaign was accompanied by the most accomplished artists of the day who were told exactly how to portray him and how to turn defeats into resounding victories. The city of Paris itself was to become the new Rome embellished with triumphal arches and Trajan like columns. The ornate plates of Sèvres dinner sets celebrated



his triumphs as did the luxury materials and Empire jewellery modelled by his first wife, Josephine. This lecture will explore another side of a fascinating man and dig beneath the counter propaganda so skilfully

established by the English.

Wednesday 10.30am – 12 noon
29 April

Balwyn Park Centre

S 02 *The Kangaroo used in Art & Design*

*Alisa Bunbury, Senior Curator, Grimwade
Collection*

When James Cook, Joseph Banks and the crew of the Endeavour first saw the 'leaping quadruped' we now know as a kangaroo in 1770, they were astounded. A single image was circulated in Europe until the First Fleet arrived in 1788, when images of Australia's marsupials - and even better, stuffed or live specimens - were in huge demand. This paper will explore the history of the kangaroo in settler Australian and European art and design, and its rise as a much-loved symbol of Australia.



Wednesday 10.30am – 12 noon
13 May

Balwyn Park Centre

S 03 *A Velvet Ant, a flower and a bird*

Deepdene U3A members

A velvet ant, a flower and a bird is an exhibition that is currently on display at the Potter Museum of Art. It evokes a garden of knowledge anchored by three familiar figures from nature — a velvet ant, a flower and a bird. Several members of U3A Deepdene visited the Exhibition in March and this is a reflection of our visit.

Wednesday 10.30am – 12 noon
20 May

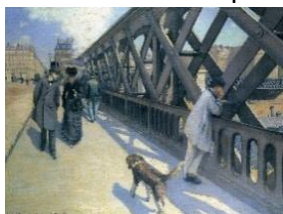
Balwyn Park Centre

S 04 Gustave Caillebotte

Dr Michael Adcock, 19th century art historian, Academy Travel tour guide, University of Melbourne lecturer

Most people have still not heard the name of Gustave Caillebotte, however, it clear that he was a driving force of the Impressionist movement. He was independently wealthy from an industrialist father. His generosity and appreciation of art allowed him to buy paintings and provide support to many fledgling artists such as Claude Monet – saving them from death by starvation.

He was an accomplished artist in his own right.



Wednesday
10.30am – 12noon
27 May

Zoom and/or Balwyn Park Centre

S 05 John Perceval

Kendrah Morgan, Curator, Heide Museum of Modern Art

Heide exhibition 21 March – 12 July.

This exhibition surveys three decades of the remarkable achievements of the maverick Australian artist John Perceval, a central figure in the creative circle associated with John and Sunday Reed at Heide and a significant contributor to the evolution of modernist art in Melbourne.

Perceval was producing works of considerable technical competency and psychological power by the age of nineteen. He went on to experiment across painting, drawing, ceramics and sculpture, and explore an expansive range of subjects, yet remained anchored throughout by a profound engagement with the complexity of the human condition.

All That We Are traces Perceval's creative development from the late 1930s as he shifted from unsettling portrayals of childhood memories and wartime experiences to exuberant imagery inspired by the Renaissance masters and later gestural, vibrant land and

seascapes. The exhibition includes more than twenty of his celebrated angel series from the 1950s and early 60s.



Wednesday 10.30am –
12 noon

3 June

Balwyn Park Centre

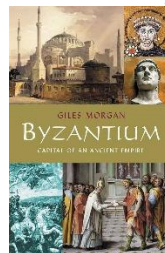
S 06 Byzantine Architecture & Mosaics 333-1454 CE

Frank Devlin, USA Deepdene Member

A pictorial journey into the Byzantine world as enjoyed on my travels over the years.

Byzantium – a civilisation that built Hagia Sophia in 537 CE which remained the world's largest cathedral for over 1000 years, and the skills of their mosaicists were sought from countries as distant as Spain.

We'll see how their religious architecture and mosaics developed in a tumultuous environment that saw the fall of the old Roman empire, iconoclasm, the sack of Constantinople by the 4th crusade and the rise of Islam across Turkey, Spain, Jordan, Italy, Greece, Croatia, Armenia and Georgia until Constantinople was overwhelmed by the Ottomans in 1453 CE.



Wednesday 10 30 am – 12 noon

10 June

Balwyn Park Centre

S 07 Monet's Water Garden Giverny: the Enchanted Domain

Dr Michael Adcock, 19th century art historian, Academy Travel tour guide, University of Melbourne lecturer

Michael will present a luscious visual tour of Monet's waterlily garden at Giverny. He knows the site well, having taken Academy Travel groups there on every one of his tours. Monet lived here for 40 years and it became a 'must-

visit' site for artists from around the world.
Michael says "who needs silly ideas of heaven
when paradise is right here on earth? "
Wednesday 10 30 am – 12 noon
17 June
Zoom and/or Balwyn Park Centre

Discussions

S 08 *Discussing Art*

Bev Steer, U3A Deepdene

Learn to explore the meaning and message of art works. Your perceptions and point of view are based on your experience and knowledge. These are shared within the friendly group. Skills of questioning, reflection and critical thinking are highlighted. Understanding others' points of view is a celebration of ideas. A different artwork is chosen each time for contemplation.

(2) Wednesdays 1.30pm – 3.00pm
13 May, 10 June (2nd Wednesday)

Balwyn Park Centre

Practical Arts

S 09 *Making cards*

Joan Cooper, U3A Deepdene

It is so good to receive a handmade card, realising that the sender has taken time and effort to make it for you. Come, learn and make special birthday and greeting cards for friends and family. A variety of examples is provided to copy or adapt. Led by an experienced card maker. All materials supplied.

Cost \$2 per card to cover materials (pay Joan on the day)

(2) Mondays 1.30pm – 3.00pm
4 May, 1 June

Private home

S 10 *Felting*

Julie Holder, U3A Deepdene

Felting wool is the process of transforming loose wool fibres into a dense, non-woven fabric by matting, condensing and pressing them together using heat, moisture and agitation – wet method. This ancient technique causes the wool fibres' scales to interlock, creating a durable, stretch-resistant material that does not fray.

Felting can be a fun craft to do with children as well as providing gifts. Items to make range from toys, jackets, glasses cases – your imagination will make it happen.

Things to bring from around the house:

Old towel

Sprinkle or strong spray bottle for water

Half-metre-square bubble wrap

Half metre of netting, e.g. tulle or lace curtain piece

Piece of soap

Rolling pin or sturdy cardboard tube

Cost \$5 per card to cover materials paid to Julie on the day/s

(2) Mondays 1.30pm – 3.00pm

11 May, 25 May

Balwyn Park Centre – Garden Room

F 23 *Slow Stitching and Beyond (Full Year)*

Anne Semple, U3A Deepdene

Experience the conviviality and the freedom to relax as you play with bits of fabric and hand-stitch them creatively in collages as the mood and interest take you.

Plain and simple, large or small, you can embellish with beads, buttons and lace, or not at all.



Something already on the go? Bring it along and we'll stitch together.

No formal classes – share and create as we go.

(4) Tuesdays 10.30am – 12 noon

5 May, 19 May, 2 June, 16 June

Balwyn Park Centre

See also under History & Culture

F 34 *English Architecture 950 – 1700.*

Anglo-Saxon to Wren. We'll trace the evolution of English architecture from humble Anglo-Saxon buildings to Wren's St Paul's Cathedral

Frank Devlin

Balwyn Park Centre

Thursday, 4 June

10.00am – 11.30am

Full Year Art Courses

F 21 Exploring watercolour

Merryl Corney

NOT Term 2

F 22 Introduction to Drawing

Christine Leuner

Tuesdays 10.30am – 12 noon

First 6 weeks of Term 2

Garden Room, Balwyn Park Centre

F 23 Slow stitching

Anne Semple

Tuesdays 10.30am – 12 noon

1st and 3rd Tuesday each month

Balwyn Park Centre

F 24 En plein air

Helena Dunn

Wednesdays 1.30pm – 3.00pm

4th Wednesday each month

Participants will be advised of chosen sites

F 25 Painting and drawing

Gary Faul

Fridays 9.30am – 11.00am

Weekly

Garden Room, Balwyn Park Centre

F 26 Quilting

Jean Dunn

Thursdays 1.45pm – 3.15pm

Weekly

Garden Room, Balwyn Park Centre

F 27 Photography

Karin Watts

Mondays 11.00am

Various locations, fortnightly

Thursdays 9.30am – 11.00am

Weekly

Zoom

**We thank our
U3A Deepdene supporters:**



Deepdene



GARDENS

V 01 Garden Visit – Victoria Gardens

Leader: Helen Page, U3A Deepdene

Victoria Gardens, 361 High Street, Prahran

Victoria Gardens were designed in 1885 by William Sangster, a well-known gardener and nurseryman of the firm Taylor and Sangster. The gardens were named after Victoria, the wife of Mayor George W. Taylor. On Friday 7 August 1885, the gardens were formally named and dedicated for public use by Lady Loch, wife of the Governor of Victoria.

In 1888, Cr Taylor presented a fountain, a statue of Victory, and terracotta vases to the City, which were imported from Europe for £300.

Please read the weather forecast, bring a water bottle, and wear sensible shoes.

All who enrol for the walk will receive meeting instructions before the day.



Thursday 10.00am
14 May

S 11 Hortus – a quarterly Celebration of Gardens and Gardeners

Helen Page, U3A Deepdene

Founded in 1987 by David Wheeler, *Hortus* has grown into one of the most respected privately published gardening journals in the English-speaking world. Now at issue No. 156, it continues to be edited and produced by Wheeler with remarkable consistency.

In 2020, the *Times Literary Supplement* praised *Hortus* as ‘an excellent place for mind-gardening’. Thoughtful, polished, and wide-ranging, *Hortus* remains a notable publication for discerning and knowledgeable gardeners. In this talk, Helen will share personal highlights drawn from her complete

collection of *Hortus*, offering insights into the character and charm of this enduring journal.

Thursday 10.00am – 11.30am

28 May

Balwyn Park Centre

S 12 Gardens – my favourite garden

This term we have a session from members of U3A Deepdene telling us about a garden they love, or that has left a lasting impression on them

Cranbourne Botanical Garden

This garden is not only an Australian garden but includes areas of natural bushland. We will take an illustrated walk through the natural bushland up to Wylie Creek, then go through the main Australian garden, looking at the flowers and scenery and the birds and animals (including the Southern Brown Bandicoot) which use the vegetation of the garden.

Geoff Deason

My Home Garden

My garden has been a quarter century of continuous physical exercise devoted to learning about what flourishes in North Balwyn through an ongoing process of trial and error. The resultant Australian cottage garden of large gums with an understory of azaleas, roses, wisteria, box, camellia, and dogwood yields changing blooms throughout the year along with the illusion of relaxation.

Bruce Grundy

Colonial Botanic Gardens in Victoria

My favourite gardens are both examples of the mid to late 19th Century Botanic Garden movement that swept through Colonial era Victoria - the gardens at Camperdown and Colac.

Philip Russell

Thursday 10.00am – 11.30am

11 June

Balwyn Park Centre

See also under Arts & Architecture

A lecture with Dr Michael Adcock, 19th century art historian, Academy Travel tour guide, University of Melbourne lecturer

Zoom and on the screen at Balwyn Park Centre

Wednesday, 17 June 10.30 am – 12 noon

S 07 *Monet's Water Garden Giverny: the Enchanted Domain*



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung People of the Kulin Nation, and their Elders past and present and future, who are the Traditional Owners of the land on which U3A Deepdene is located.

We are honoured to recognise our connection to Wurundjeri Country, history, culture and spirituality through this location.

We also acknowledge the Traditional Owners of lands across Australia, their Elders, Ancestors, cultures and heritage.

HEALTH AND MEDICINE

S 13 A tropical disease in Victoria

*Prof Paul Johnson, Infectious Diseases
Physician, Austin Health*

A tropical disease that is endemic in more than 30 countries worldwide is now found in Victoria. Originally found in coastal regions of Victoria, it is now out of control in suburban and coastal Victoria and now in the inner suburbs of Melbourne and Geelong. The official name is Buruli ulcer but it is also called Bairnsdale ulcer and Daintree ulcer in Australia. Find out more about this disease and how it is being spread via mosquitoes and how it can be treated and cured.



Tuesday 10.30am – 12 noon
28 April

Balwyn Park Centre

S 14 Staying independent at home – understanding your options

Krister Borja, Bolton Clarke

Aged care navigation is often daunting. There are a number of state and federal government funded programs designed to support well-being and independence alongside self-funding of private services. Be informed of a way through the maze and find the right services available for you and/or family members. There are many options available to help stay involved in your community and maintain a healthy and independent lifestyle for as long as possible. If it's to be 'it's up to me'; gather the facts to make this happen.

Tuesday 10.30 – 12 noon
12 May

Balwyn Park Centre

S 15 Transforming health care with digital health tools

*Dr Cassandra Szoeki, Associate Fellow of the
Australian Institute of Digital Health*

What is digital health and how is it progressing in Australia. Digital health involves using information and communication technologies—such as apps, wearables, telehealth, and electronic records—to enhance healthcare delivery, improve patient outcomes, and increase system efficiency. How many of us have personalised medicine and health information on our wrists and phones? What is the role of robotics and AI in medicine? Dr Szoeki will discuss the potential (and pitfalls) of this ever-developing technology and its implications.



Tuesday 10.30am – 12 noon
26 May

Balwyn Park Centre

S 16 Just Sleep on It: The science of sleep and ageing

*Dr Elena Kavaliotis, Clinical Psychologist
and Sleep Researcher, Monash University*

Sleep – we all need it, but why does it sometimes feel effortless and other nights completely impossible? This practical and engaging talk explores what 'normal' sleep really looks like, how sleep patterns change as we age, and why sleep is so important for brain health and overall wellbeing. We'll also discuss the impacts of poor sleep and share practical strategies to help improve sleep and support healthy ageing.

Tuesday 10.30 – 12noon
9 June

Balwyn Park Centre

SCIENCE

S 17 Care of the Yarra

Ian Penrose, First Yarra Riverkeeper

Discover the story of Melbourne's most important waterway — and why its future matters now more than ever. The Yarra River shaped the founding of the city and still supplies around 70% of Melbourne's drinking water from its upper reaches. But the health of the river is suffering from high levels of water extraction, pollution and ongoing urban expansion placing it under growing strain. Join Ian for a talk filled with personal anecdotes, history and behind-the-scenes insights into the Yarra Riverkeeper Association, the work of the Yarra Riverkeeper and how we might better care for the natural environment.



Tuesday 1.30pm – 3.00pm

28 April

Balwyn Park Centre

S 18 Walk a mile in the shoes of a Pompeian

Dr Tamara Lewit, Institute of Archaeology, London; University of Melbourne

Step into bustling Pompeii in the year 70 CE and walk a (Roman) mile through a living city. Burn incense for household gods, taste take-away food, buy a spell from a street musician, hear the excitement of a wedding procession, go bowling at the baths, and celebrate a birthday feast in a cemetery. Slip through time to experience the sights, sounds, and smells of a day in ancient Pompeii brought to life through archaeology and imagination. Recent excavations at Pompeii have recorded significant findings which Tamara will present with visually compelling, original photographs.



Tuesday 1.30pm – 3.00pm

12 May

Balwyn Park Centre

S 19 Mt Stromlo: telescopes, trees and turmoil

Alex Prygodicz, Astronomical Society of Victoria

Perched high above Canberra, Mount Stromlo Observatory has weathered a century of triumph and turmoil. Over its 100-year history, it has survived two World Wars, influenza epidemics, devastating firestorms, and even bureaucratic battles. Yet through every challenge, the observatory has remained at the forefront of Australian astronomy. From producing the first detailed atlas of the Sun, to tracking Sputnik, to helping measure the size of the Universe and map it in 3D, Mount Stromlo has played a pivotal role in expanding our understanding of the cosmos — uncovering remarkable and unexpected discoveries along the way.



Tuesday 1.30pm – 3.00pm

16 June

Balwyn Park Centre

S 20 A Treasure from the deep

John Beaney, U3A Mornington

We take a deep dive into the clear, azure waters of the Mediterranean close to the tiny Greek island of Antikythera and share one of archaeology's most astounding discoveries. A beautiful bronze mechanism that continues to amaze and perplex - effectively a hand operated analogue computer, at least 1,300 years ahead of its time. It simply should not exist. But it did! This complex geared device provided a model of the cosmos in a way that was unmatched until centuries later. Together with other remarkable discoveries, John will discuss how sophisticated and surprising ancient scientific knowledge and technologies could be.

Thursday 1.30pm – 3.00pm

21 May

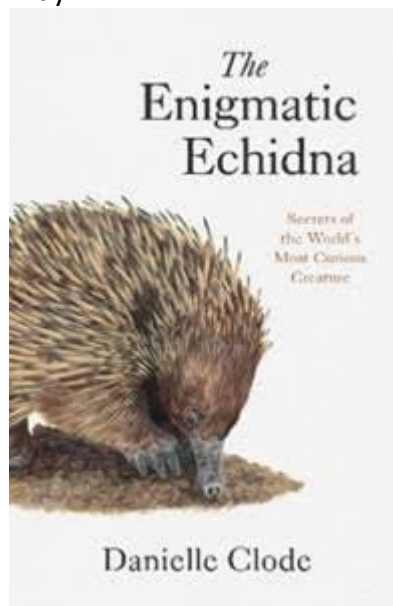
ZOOM and on the screen at Balwyn Park Centre

S 21 The Enigmatic Echidna: secrets of the world's most curious creature

Danielle Clode, Author talk

Discover the captivating world of the echidna. There are few animals more unusual than the echidna – a spiky, egg-laying mammal that eats ants. But some of the most striking things about echidnas are things most of us don't know. That they use their snout like a snorkel when they swim, that they can sense electromagnetic fields, that they have intriguingly complex brains, startling physical strength and 'backwards' back feet. That they go into torpor when conditions are poor and can survive fires by sheltering underground. And that during the mating season, male echidnas will line up behind a female, making cooing noises and forming an orderly echidna

train, waiting for their chance to impress her with some very strange reproductive equipment! Danielle, a previous winner of the Victorian Premiers Literary Award, will be in Melbourne for her new book to be published in May.



Tuesday 1.30pm – 3.00pm

9 June

Balwyn Park Centre

Full Year Science Course

F 37 The New Scientist discussion group

Well-informed discussions based on the reading of selected articles in the *New Scientist* weekly journal.

(4) Fridays 9.15am – 10.45am

2nd and 4th Friday each month

Balwyn Park Centre

HISTORY AND CULTURE

S 22 Tom Uren

Matthew ETTY-Leal, U3A Deepdene

Tom Uren had an amazing life. He was largely self-educated and before serving in World War II fought for the Australian heavyweight title. After being captured by the Japanese he went to work on the Thai Burma railway often taking punishment for others. He then worked in a Japanese smelter observing Nagasaki being bombed. Tom later entered politics becoming a senior minister under Gough Whitlam. He later became Anthony Albanese's 'father' and mentor.

Monday 1.30pm – 3.00pm

27 April

Balwyn Park Centre

S 23 Behind the façade: world famous palaces and their inhabitants

Jane Gaillard, U3A Deepdene

Humans have always needed a place in which to live protected from the elements in a space that was shared with the closest social group, tribe, clan, family. When hunting and gathering was more and more substituted by agriculture the need of building permanent dwellings arose - it was the beginning of civilisation. Villages expanded into cities, their inhabitants identified by their roles - artisans, merchants, rulers - and by their economic and therefore social status. These differences assumed visible aspects - clothes, jewellery, and dwellings. The one with more money and more power not only could afford more but they also felt the 'necessity' of showing that they could: their clothes were more colourful and made of expensive fabrics, their jewellery was sparkling ... all or most of this has been lost, but many of their castles and palaces still survive and tell us the story of the men and women who lived there behind the façade.

(8) Tuesdays 10.30am – 12 noon

Weekly Starts 28 April

Zoom

S 24 Venezuela

Gerry Engwerda, U3A Albury

This session will look at how Venezuela, once a prosperous Latin American Country with a thriving oil industry, became the impoverished, corrupt mess that it is now. We will also focus on recent events post Maduro, how the US intends to manage the country as well as its effects on Trump's future relations with the rest of the Western Hemisphere, Europe, China and Russia. Is this setting a 'might is right' approach to international relations and does this create a dangerous precedent for such flashpoints as Greenland, Colombia, Cuba, Ukraine and Taiwan? How will this play out for Venezuela, its neighbours and the US itself?

Friday 9.30am – 11.00am

1 May

Zoom

S 25 The French Revolution (1): Citizens All

Dr Michael Adcock, 19th century art historian, Academy Travel tour guide, University of Melbourne lecturer

While the most common image of the French Revolution is the guillotine, its political, social and moral ideals are less well understood. Strangely, it was two humanitarian doctors – a Dr. Louis and a Doctor Guillotin – who believed that if capital punishment had to occur, it should be done as humanely as possible. Strangely, they lived in the same street, a few houses away, both unaware that the other was working on the same project. This lecture will explore historian William Doyle's famous dictum: "It is resistance that makes revolutions become violent." It will examine the causes of the French Revolution, and the luminous ideals of Liberty, Fraternity and Equality.

Tuesday 1.30 – 3.00pm

5 May

Zoom and/or Balwyn Park Centre

S 26 *Xi Jinping's playbook: Mao's revolution and China, 1900–1976*

Graham Morey-Nase, U3A Deepdene

Is Xi Jinping a 21st-century replica of Mao Zedong? Are his policies and behaviour modelled on Mao? This course of 16 sessions spread over four terms traces the Chinese Communist Party's rise from the collapse of Imperial China through to its seizure of power in 1949. It will then examine the key features of Maoist China, including the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution. Our four sessions in Term 2 will focus on the years 1926 to 1936. Sessions combine short lectures, guided discussion, and source analysis. Each class will begin with a participant response to a key question or image. Readings will be provided in advance.



(4) Thursdays 10.00am – 11.30am
7, 14, 21, 28 May
Balwyn Park Centre

S 27 *From Ordinary to Extraordinary: Australia's 24,000 Women Soldiers*

Barbara Emerson, U3A Deepdene

Established in 1941, the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) enabled more than 24,000 Australian women to serve with courage and distinction, freeing men for overseas service. Initially assigned routine duties, women's roles expanded dramatically after the Fall of Singapore and Japanese bombing raids on northern Australia. Many undertook skilled and technical work, including Morse code training under Violet McKenzie. AWAS members served across Australia and in New Guinea, some close to home on the Mornington Peninsula. This session explores what motivated these women and follows the experiences of three very different trailblazers whose contributions have often been overlooked.



Monday
1.30pm – 3.00pm
11 May
Balwyn Park Centre

S 28 *Internet – cables and data centres*

Gerry Engwerda, U3A Albury

As artificial intelligence makes its inexorable way into everyday use and power-hungry data centres consequently become ever more critical, how will the Internet as we know it cope? How secure is it and how vulnerable are all the undersea cables that carry the data for over 90% of all internet traffic from email to ordering online, from hackers and direct state sponsored sabotage. What can be done to protect this vital lifeline for so much of the modern world?

Monday 9.30am – 11.00am

18 May

Zoom

S 29 *Three early colonial court cases and my own brush with law.*

Gillian Yung, U3A Deepdene

In this talk, three early colonial court cases are revisited not as legal curiosities but as pivotal moments that shaped enduring attitudes to authority, justice, and fairness. Along the way, I confess to my own modest brush with the law, an experience that suggests legal history has an awkward habit of becoming uncomfortably personal.

Monday 1.30pm – 3.00pm

18 May

Balwyn Park Centre

S 30 *The two faces of Seneca: stoic and sycophant – Part 1*

Janet Wood

In 1813 a bust was uncovered in Rome, a double-sided portrait of Socrates and Seneca. For centuries people have frowned over the nature of the 'real' Seneca. Was he a brilliant, rational moral follower of the Stoic tradition of self-restraint or was he a principal enabler of the murderous debauchery of Nero's court? The two sessions explore, though not solve, the ambiguities in Seneca's life and death.

Session 1: 'Everyday should be regulated as if it were the last one, the one that brings up the rear, the one that rounds out and completes our lives.' How did a Stoic philosopher step into and stay in the role of tutor and more to a narcissist and increasingly nasty emperor?

Wednesday 1.30pm – 3.00pm

20 May *Zoom*

S 31 **William Pitt (1855 – 1918)**

Graham O'Rourke, U3A Deepdene

No, not the British Prime Minister, either elder or younger, but a significant Melbourne architect of the last decades of the 19th century up to the end of World War I. His work ranged from the splendours of such buildings as the Princess Theatre, The Rialto and Olderfleet buildings in Collins St, to the more prosaic but still striking industrial complexes of Bryant and May, Foy and Gibson and the Denton Hat Factory. The talk will explore his life in architecture and politics and assess his lasting contribution to the cultural heritage of Melbourne.



Monday
1.30pm – 3.00pm
25 May
Balwyn Park Centre

S 32 **The Gulf States**

Gerry Engwerda, U3A Albury

The Gulf monarchies—Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman—sit at the intersection of energy, security, and global power politics. Their small populations, large hydrocarbon reserves, and strategic geography give them influence disproportionate to size. Over the past two decades, they have shifted from passive actors to assertive regional players shaping conflicts, diplomacy, and global markets. This session will look at what part they play in global and regional politics.

Monday 9.30am – 11.00am

1 June

Zoom

S 33 **The French Revolution (2): To Arms, Citizens!**

Dr Michael Adcock, 19th century art historian, Academy Travel tour guide, University of Melbourne lecturer

This second lecture will illustrate the later stages of the French Revolution, when the luminous ideals of the men and women of 1789 were put to the test by a king who was offered – but who refused – the role of a constitutional monarch. By the 1790s, the hopeful ‘patriots’ of 1789 were facing an existential threat from foreign

powers and from domestic opposition, requiring a massive military mobilisation abroad and the atrocious horrors of the Terror on the home front.

Tuesday 1.30pm – 3.00pm

2 June

Zoom and/or Balwyn Park Centre

S 34 **English Architecture 950 – 1700.**

Frank Devlin, U3A Deepdene

Anglo-Saxon to Wren. We'll trace the evolution of English architecture from humble Anglo-Saxon buildings through Norman, Early English Gothic, Decorated and Perpendicular Gothic, Tudor, Jacobean and English Baroque culminating in Wren's St Paul's Cathedral. We'll cover the Norman's largest building project in Europe, the advent of the pointed arch, the English persistence with Gothic Perpendicular while France pursued the Rayonnant style and, finally, the impact of Palladio's 'Villa La Rotonda.' My story is a pictorial history gathered over many visits to the UK in the last 20 years.

Thursday 10.00am – 11.30am

4 June

Balwyn Park Centre

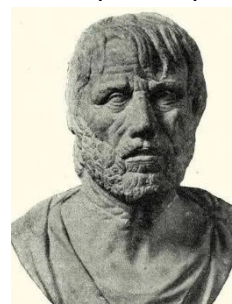
S 35 **The two faces of Seneca: stoic and sycophant – Part 2**

Janet Wood, U3A Deepdene

In 1813 a bust was uncovered in Rome, a double-sided portrait of Socrates and Seneca. For centuries people have frowned over the nature of the 'real' Seneca. Was he a brilliant, rational moral follower of the Stoic tradition of self-restraint or was he a principal enabler of the murderous debauchery of Nero's court? The two sessions explore, though not solve, the ambiguities in Seneca's life and death.

Session 2: 'Cotidie morimus: we die each day.'

Over centuries, Seneca's death by enforced suicide, has been depicted in poetry, paintings and philosophical texts as that of a virtuous



hero of the Stoic kind. Or was he, as Robert Hughes described him, 'forever a patent fraud'?

Wednesday 1.30pm – 3.00pm

10 June

Zoom

S 36 Globalisation

Gerry Engwerda, U3A Albury

The fundamental economic logic remains strong: open economies tend to be more dynamic, innovative, and resilient. Globalisation of trade has been one of the most powerful engines of human progress in the modern era. Its benefits – growth, efficiency, innovation, and expanded consumer welfare – are substantial. Recent years have seen rising scepticism about globalisation due to geopolitical tensions, supply-chain vulnerabilities, and concerns about inequality. This talk will look at the benefits as well as the dangers of that interdependence.

Friday 9.30am – 11.00am

12 June

Zoom

S 37 Charles La Trobe

Judy Still, U3A Deepdene

Charles La Trobe was the first Superintendent of Port Phillip District from 1839 to 1850 and the first Lieutenant-Governor of the new colony of Victoria from 1851 to 1854. He arrived in Melbourne in September 1839 with his wife and daughter, two servants and a prefabricated house which still stands today. He established the State Library and the University of Melbourne, chaired the committee which established the Royal Melbourne Hospital, and helped create the Botanical Gardens. This talk looks at La Trobe's years in office – a turbulent time which saw the arrival of immigrants, the gold rush years and the dispossession of the indigenous peoples of the District and Colony.

Monday 1.30pm – 3.00pm

15 June

Balwyn Park Centre

See also under Art & Architecture

Byzantine Architecture and Mosaics: 333 – 1454 CE.

Frank Devlin

A pictorial journey into the Byzantine world

Wednesday, 10 June 10.30am – 12noon

Balwyn Park Centre

Painting himself into History: Napoleon Bonaparte and the fine art of propaganda.

*Sylvia Sagona, la Maîtrise ès Lettres at the
University of Aix-en-Provence, retired*

lecturer University of Melbourne Wednesday

29 April 10.30am – 12noon

Balwyn Park Centre

Full Year course

F 38 Judaism and the Jewish People

Dina Burgess, U3A Deepdene

In the Bible, Moses instructs the Israelites to 'choose life' (Deuteronomy 30:19). In 2026 we will seek to understand how this principle has shaped the Jewish people for more than three millennia - through the lens of Jewish beliefs, ethics and practices; Jewish history and communities; and Jewish contributions to civilisation. Our studies will include a diversity of disciplines – from theology, history and archeology to sociology and music. Most sessions will begin with a segment called 'Israel matters', providing information about current events in Israel and the Jewish world. Jewish religious festivals will be highlighted as they occur during the year.

The course is for non-Jewish people and is designed to suit both new and returning participants, with commentary by Jewish sages and rabbis selected to be new and thought-provoking for everyone. In keeping with Jewish tradition, questions and discussion are welcome, the only requirement being mutual respect.

The course is conducted on Zoom, on Wednesdays, from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

The course is hosted by U3A Waverley, with members of other U3As also participating.

Enrolment for Deepdene members is through U3A Deepdene.

Zoom

F 44 Historic Melbourne Walks – Full Year

Co-ordinator – Beth Perrigo

Leaders are all U3A Deepdene members

May 5 – Lost Mosaics & Murals of Melbourne

Judy Heron

May 19 – Geelong

John Manton

June 2 – Burnley

Alan & Jean Mapp

F 46 Travel – Full Year

Coordinator – Pam O'Brien

Presenters are all U3A Deepdene members

1 May	Geoff Deason The Simpson Desert
8 May	Jan Dods Ecuador
15 May	Suzanne Collings Vietnam
22 May	Pam O'Brien Weekends Away
29 May	Matt English Switzerland
5 June	Judy Still The Outer Hebrides
12 June	Sue Steegstra Cruising on the Danube
19 June	Frank Devlin Jordan

Fridays 11.00am – 12.30pm

This is an opportunity for us to enjoy travel experiences. It does not include political, cultural or socio-economic observations.

Zoom and on the screen at Balwyn Park Centre

LITERATURE

S 38 **Play reading**

Lilian Cohen, U3A Deepdene

Do you enjoy drama? Perhaps you have been involved in amateur theatre, or maybe you harbour an unfulfilled dream to be a thespian. An opportunity to participate in reading aloud a different play each term, without the need to commit one's part to memory.

Cost: \$5 to cover hiring and postage of the scripts for the selected play, to be paid to the class monitor at the first session

(2) Thursdays 2.00pm – 3.30pm

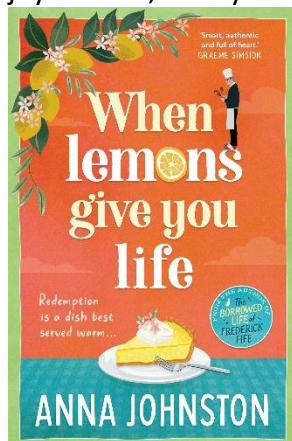
14, 21 May

Balwyn Park Centre

S 39 **When lemons give you life**

Anna Johnston, author in conversation with Trish Lele

Retired Michelin-star chef Griff Barlow has lost his appetite. Life's given him all the lemons he can handle, so he breaks into his nursing home kitchen to bake himself one last tart. Soon, he's regularly sneaking in after dark, serving up flavour and comfort to his fellow residents. Yet behind the apron is a lie so big it could destroy the one thing he has left to protect. When secrets, soufflés and second chances collide, he discovers a recipe for forgiveness. A sharply funny, heart-stirring novel about rediscovering joy when life has lost its flavour, from the author of the bestselling, *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* (recently acquired by Netflix). Come early for a cuppa and a piece of tart, then settle in for an inclusive conversation about the joy of food, family and friends.



Thursday

2.00pm – 3.00pm

14 May

Balwyn Park Centre

S 40 **Enjoying Robert Frost Poetry**

Ken Wheat, U3A Hawthorn

The two sessions on the poetry of Robert Frost will include a brief biography of Frost's life and how his experiences might have contributed to his writing, an introduction to the nature of his works as well as an exploration of his life and works as they evolved. Both sessions will be structured as explorations aiming to develop appreciation by reading several of Frost's most highly regarded poems as well as a few other less well-known offerings. The intention is to reveal the paths that Frost travelled and his experiences of rural life in early 20th century New England and to consider the legacy and influence of Robert Frost and his contribution to our appreciation of life through poetry.

Friday 9.45am – 11.00am

15, 29 May

Balwyn Park Centre

S 41 **Liberté, Égalité, Sororité et La Mode; How the French Revolution shaped Regency Fashion**

Dr. Christopher Browne, Program Director, Melbourne Rare Book Week

After more than 120 years during which the royal court of France at Versailles dictated the trends in fashion in both France and England, the French Revolution and the fall of the French monarchy led to an upheaval in the way fashionable women dressed. This other 'Revolution' was led by three extraordinary women: Rose, Thérèse and Juliette. Professor Chris Browne will lead you through their lives and influences, and will illustrate his talk with images of fashion plates and portraits showing the changing styles.

Chris Browne is a popular visitor to Deepdene U3A. Arrive early for a cuppa and a tasty treat, then settle in for a lively and entertaining morning.

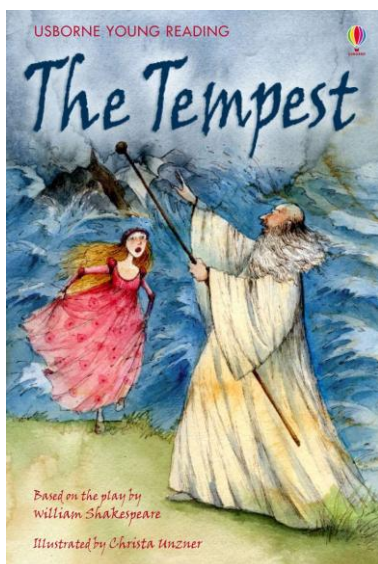
Tuesday 10.00am – 11.30pm

2 June

Balwyn Park Centre

S 42 'The Tempest' for a Modern Age
*Sue Tweg, Vice-President of
 Shakespeare Society Melbourne*

Currently we are debating ideas about how cultures collide, and how people respond to becoming displaced, fleeing geopolitical violence as involuntary refugees, or as hopeful migrants. The same issues swirl around in Shakespeare's plays. My talk revisits a reconciliatory 'Federation' Tempest from MTC Melbourne 2001 to open up some ways theatre can focus constructive discussion. And it will also reference the powerful 'Strangers' Case' speech from the play Sir Thomas More, believed to be written by Shakespeare.
 Wednesday 1.30pm – 3.00pm
 17 June
 Zoom



Full Year Book Groups

Asterisked groups described separately

F 01 Readers' rendezvous (1st Monday)

Trish Lele
 Mondays 1.30pm – 3.00pm

Zoom

F 02 Alston readers (4th Monday)

Jan Beards
 Mondays 1.30pm – 3.00pm

Alston Halls, Deepdene Uniting Church

F 03 Exploring history in fact and fiction

Tuesday once a term

Kamoya Peterson
 Tuesday 1.30pm – 3.00pm

Term 2 date: 9 June

Stradbroke Park Pavillion

F 04 'Whodunits' (3rd Tuesday)

Roz Berman
 Tuesdays 1.30pm – 3.00pm

Stradbroke Park Pavillion

F 05 Terra Australis book group (1st Wednesday)

Fiona Malcolm
 Wednesdays 10.00am – 11.30am

Alston Halls, Deepdene Uniting Church

F 06 Reading great literature (weekly)

Christine Watters
 Thursdays 12 noon – 1.30pm
 Weekly

Alston Halls, Deepdene Uniting Church

F 07 Crime fiction book group (1st Thursday)

Robert Lyons
 Thursday 2.00pm – 3.30pm

Balwyn Park Centre

F 08 Men's book group*

John Kidman
 Thursday 2.00pm – 3.30pm

Term 2 date: 28 May

Balwyn Park Centre

F 09 Biography book group*

Susie White
 Thursday 2.00pm – 3.30pm

Term 2 date: 18 June

Zoom

Full Year Book Groups

New members welcome

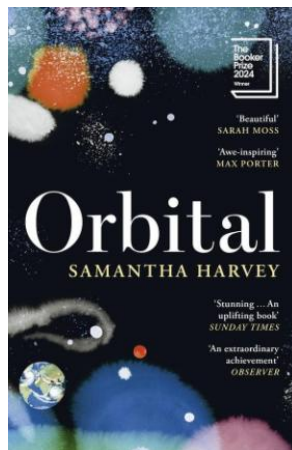
F 08 Men's Book Group

Leader: John Kidman

Our Men's Book Group meets once each term to discuss a book selected and introduced by one of our members. We take turns choosing the book and leading the discussion, ensuring a variety of themes, subjects, and styles. While non-fiction titles are often favoured, no genre is excluded — this approach gives us the opportunity to step beyond our usual reading preferences and discover new ideas, authors, and perspectives.

Our Term 2, 2026 book, kindly selected by David Crawford, is **Orbital** by Samantha Harvey.

Samantha Harvey's 2024 Booker Prize-winning novel **Orbital** is a short, poetic meditation following six astronauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS) over 24 hours, during which they complete 16 orbits of Earth. It is a plot-light, character-driven story focusing on their observations of the planet and reflections on humanity, climate change, and existence while they monitor a typhoon and receive news of a personal loss. The novel functions as a love letter to Earth and a contemplation of human life's significance.



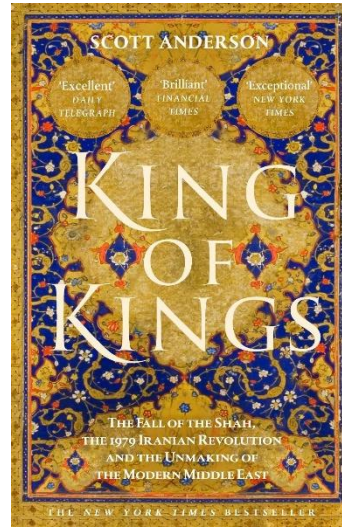
Thursday 2.00pm – 3.30pm

Term 2 date 28 May

Balwyn Park Centre

F 09 Biography Book Group

Leader: Susie White



A friend of mine has just introduced me to a book which seems very pertinent to today's world situation. Published in 2025, it is entitled 'King of Kings' by Scott Anderson. The book focuses on 'the fall of the Shah, the 1979

Iranian Revolution and the unmaking of the Modern Middle East'. One promotion calls it 'thrilling and authoritative'. It would surely be difficult to find a story so pertinent to our world in March 2026!

Thursday 2:00 – 3:30

Dates will be published each term

Term 2 date 18 June

Zoom

MUSIC and DANCE

Full Year Music Sessions

F 12 Singing for pleasure

Stuart Shearman, U3A Deepdene



Everyone needs to sing ... and singing is good for you! Come and join us to sing in a fun, relaxed environment, in unison and in parts. No auditions involved, but extremely helpful if you can read music and have a good sense of pitch.

New members are welcome.

Music selected will depend on the vocal abilities and types of voices of the members. There will be a charge for music (about \$5 per term), which should be paid to the class monitor when requested. We will be led by Stuart Shearman and accompanied by Helen Thomas, U3A Deepdene.

We meet weekly: Mondays 1.30pm – 3.00pm

Let's keep the choir going and who knows what we may achieve!

Main Hall, Deepdene Uniting Church

S 43 Karaoke

Kristine See

Karaoke is where music, laughter, and a little bit of bravery come together.

This term we have a new offering from an experienced local karaoke



organiser. This is your chance to join a small group of Deepdene U3A members singing along, karaoke style. You don't need to be a great singer to enjoy karaoke – in fact we want members who enjoy singing to come along.

(8) Thursdays 10.00am – 11.30am

Starting 30 April (weekly)

Alston Halls, Deepdene Uniting Church

We have a range of practical music classes included in our Full Year Program.

- Singing
- Recorders – two levels
- Recorder ensemble – two levels
- String orchestra – two levels

S 44 Ballet

Julie Holder, U3A Deepdene

We are trying something different with ballet in 2026. Led by Julie Holder we will coordinate our sessions with the Opera and Ballet season at Balwyn cinema. In term 2 2026 our ballet will be *Le Parc*, danced by the Paris Opera Ballet. Join us at Balwyn cinema at 11 am on Wednesday 20 May 2026 followed by lunch/coffee at a local café. Cinema and lunch at own expense.

'What is love today?' asked Angelin Preljocaj in 1994, when he created *Le Parc* for the Paris Opera. Thirty years later, the world has continued to change, but his ageless ballet has travelled the world.

In a French-style garden, the choreographer draws us into the seductive games of the Grand Siècle and the Age of Enlightenment, summoning up our classical musical and literary imagination: famous pages by Mozart, the *Map of Tendre* and *Liaisons dangereuses*.



Wednesday 11.00am – 3.00pm

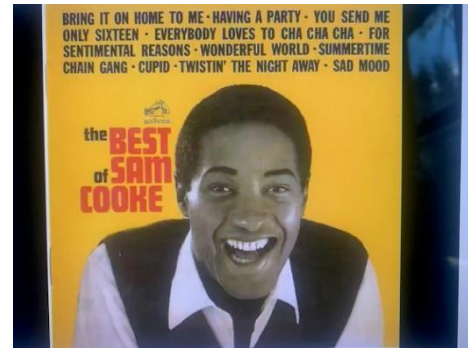
20 May

Balwyn Cinema

S 45 Musical exuberance – Sam Cooke

Adrian Rossi, U3A Deepdene

Sam Cooke was an American soul singer and songwriter. Considered one of the most influential soul artists of all time, Cooke is commonly referred to as the 'King of Soul' for his distinctive vocals, pioneering contributions to the genre, and significance in popular music. During his eight-year career, Cooke released 29 singles that charted in the Top 40 of the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart, as well as 20 singles in the Top 10 of *Billboard's* Black Singles chart. In 1964, he was shot and killed by the manager of a motel in Los Angeles.



Wednesday 1.30pm – 3.00pm

27 May

Balwyn Park Centre

PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIETY

S 46 Global Political, Economic and Military Landscape

Dr David Dorward, Associate Professor, La Trobe University (Retired)

Associate Professor David Dorward will continue his insightful series on key global developments, offering timely updates on some of the most pressing issues shaping our world today. Topics are expected to include: the rise of military governments across the West African Sahel, civil war in Sudan and instability in Nigeria.

(4) Mondays 9.30 am – 11.00 am

27 April, 11 May, 25 May, 15 June

Zoom



S 47 Lunchtime conversation on Tuesday

Vince Giuca, Ken Parker and Bruce Pullbrook, U3A Deepdene

Lunchtime Conversations is continuing in Term 2. Please note that numbers are limited and attendance is only open to those who have enrolled.

Take a break, bring your lunch and join us every Tuesday at lunchtime for thought-provoking conversations on today's most pressing issues. Each session focuses on a different topic shaping our world – from the political influence of emerging technologies to global diplomacy and the environmental impact of government decisions.

We'll start with a short article or video to spark ideas and set the stage, followed by a guided discussion where everyone can share their thoughts in a respectful and open environment. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided. Let's talk about issues that matter.

(8) Tuesdays 12.15pm – 1.15pm

Weekly

Balwyn Park Centre

S 48 *Morals, Metaphysics and Naturalism*

Leslie Allan, Non-executive Board Director, Humanists Australia, and Owner of 'RationalRealm' website and 'Philosophy Matters' Meetup Group

What if understanding right and wrong didn't require believing in divine commands or mysterious cosmic forces? In this talk, Leslie Allan makes a compelling case that moral laws work just like traffic laws – they're human-created systems designed to help us live together safely and productively. What is the insight from this analogy? Just as we don't need supernatural explanations for why we should stop at red lights, we don't need them for why we shouldn't lie, steal or harm others. Both systems emerge from our shared need to cooperate and thrive. This down-to-earth approach makes morality accessible to everyone, regardless of religious or philosophical beliefs. It's grounded in what we all share: our common humanity, interdependence and capacity for reasoned cooperation.

Thursday 10.00am – 11.30am
30 April

Balwyn Park Centre

S 49 *Are we Pilgrims or Tourists?*

Beth Perrigo, U3A Deepdene

Come and explore this question by looking at a brief overview of pilgrimage through the ages. We will explain the difference between a pilgrimage to a destination and a trip to the same destination. It involves an explanation about the ritual, the reason and purpose, the where and why, and the question of why bother at all.

Wednesday 1.30pm – 3.00pm
6 May

Balwyn Park Centre

S 50 *Who Can We Trust in the Information Jungle?*

Dr Vince Giuca, U3A Deepdene

We are surrounded by more information than at any time in history — news, opinions, claims and 'facts' arriving from every direction. But more information doesn't necessarily mean better understanding.

This interactive session will help you:

- understand why navigating today's information environment is so challenging,
- explore how human psychology shapes what we believe (often without us realising it), and
- learn practical, down-to-earth strategies for evaluating claims more wisely — without falling into either blind trust or total cynicism.

We will look at how people cope (and often don't) with the sheer volume and complexity of information, why we naturally slip into binary thinking, and why even thoughtful, well-informed people can sometimes be drawn to dubious or misleading ideas. Along the way, we will examine the role of cognitive biases, mis- and dis-information, and the very human reasons why untruths are created and spread. The session combines a short presentation with small-group discussion, giving participants the opportunity to share experiences, test ideas and reflect on how they decide what — and who — to trust in everyday life.

Thursday 10.00am – 11.30am

11 June

Balwyn Park Centre

S 51 *Donald Trump: Before and After*

Ian Hundley, U3A Deepdene

Were there particular underlying conditions which assisted in propelling Donald Trump into the White House in 2017 and again in 2025? How has he sought to take advantage of such circumstances whilst in office? Is his legacy likely to be durable and are there counter-measures available to remedy the dysfunction of his time in office?

Thursday 10.00am – 11.30am

18 June

Balwyn Park Centre

S 52 *Climate Change: Cult or Reality?*

Dr Ken Parker, U3A Deepdene

In his **Spectator Australia** piece 'The end of the climate cult', published in December 2025, Matt Ridley argues that concern about climate change is exaggerated and describes climate advocacy as a kind of 'cult' that has outlived its usefulness. But this framing is misleading and risky. The scientific consensus — supported by vast research from reputable climate scientists and economists — shows that the real cost of

inaction or slow action on climate change far outweighs the costs of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Dismissing serious climate action as mere hysteria undermines the urgency of tackling one of the greatest collective challenges of our time and can slow down the very efforts needed to protect vulnerable communities, ecosystems, and future generations. Ken's talk will explore how Ridley's rhetoric works, why it departs from mainstream science and how we can respond constructively with evidence-based climate solutions.

Thursday, 10.00 am – 11.30 am

4 June

Balwyn Park Centre

Full Year Courses

F 30, F 31 Issues and current affairs – Mondays

Group A 9.45am – 10.45am Zoom
 Group B 11.00am – 12.15pm Balwyn Park Centre

F 37 Politics and current affairs – Thursdays

Group A 10.00am – 11.30am Zoom

AFTER RETIREMENT

S 53 Generational Memory

Julian Dahl, *My Life Story Legacy*

Timeless life story documentaries preserve personality, cherished stories, and awareness. Share the legacy of a life well-lived so your family may keep your memory close and share your life lessons, wisdom and joys. Inspire and guide your children now and into the future. Julian will talk about how to create generational memories that will.

Wednesday 1.30 – 3.00pm

29 April

Balwyn Park Centre

S 54 The new Home Care options

Jaimi Hannam, *MannaCare, Community Coordinator*

A return visit from MannaCare, a local organisation that offers a range of residential, community and in-home care services. Jaimi will explain how the new My Aged Care system is working and to make sure it works for you. There will be time for questions after an easy-to-understand presentation.

Tuesday 1.30pm – 3.00pm

19 May

Balwyn Park Centre

S 55 Support at Home: empowering Independence through In-Home Services

Caz Van Dort, *Business Development Specialist, Benetas*

This presentation explores the range of support services available to help individuals remain in their homes longer and maintain their independence. Caz will provide practical insights into how tailored in-home support can enhance quality of life, and foster a sense of autonomy and wellbeing. The session will also highlight the importance of early engagement and how to navigate available options effectively.

Monday 1.30 – 3.00pm

June 1

Balwyn Park Centre

Ideas for presentations/classes

Do you have suggestions for our program?

Contact the co-ordinators of the various categories or email

Short Course Program Coordinator, Judy Still, at

deepdeneu3ashortcourses@gmail.com

TECHNOLOGY

The courses within the Technology program are a response to the expressed needs and interests of members. If you are looking for a technology course that is not listed, please let us know. Please be aware that some of the technology sessions will be delivered through Zoom. Some courses are 'hands-on', where you will learn how to use your own device. The course description for these courses will indicate whether you will need to have access to a device.

Please note that U3A Deepdene committee and presenters do not accept liability for any consequences to your computer or mobile device in acting on any information you obtain at these classes.

S 56 Taking photos with iPhone/iPad

Karin Watts, U3A Deepdene

This class is for those just starting out using their iPhone/iPad camera app and will include some tips on what makes a 'good' photo, following some basic composition rules. Part of the session will also be checking your camera set up in Settings, learning the difference between Portrait, Photo, Video, Cinematic etc and some editing skills will also be incorporated. We'll start inside for the introduction and then head outside to practise your skills

Monday 1.30pm – 3.00pm

27 April

Balwyn Park Centre

S 57 Introduction to iPads/iPhones – individual sessions

Terry O'Callaghan, U3A Deepdene

This is a one-to-one session to introduce individuals to the iPhone or iPad. Over many years, Terry O'Callaghan has shared his expertise in iPhone and iPad skills through small group classes. While classes suit many people, for many reasons some would prefer to learn in a one-to-one session. Terry has very kindly offered to provide a session to individuals where they would prefer this to attending a class.

If you would like to book a personal session with Terry to learn about your iPad or iPhone, please enrol in this class. The Tutor will make contact to let you know what date and time is possible.

Enrol in the class and Terry will contact you to arrange a date and time.

Tuesdays: time and date to be agreed

28 April; 5, 12, 19, 26 May; 2, 9, 16 June

Alston Halls

S 58 Make Microsoft Word behave: text wrapping and pictures made easy

Megan Williamson, U3A Deepdene

This session is for those who want to extend their current skills with Microsoft Word – it is not a beginners' session. Learn how to place pictures into a Word document so the text flows neatly around them. We'll explain the key 'Wrap Text' options (such as Square, Tight, Top and Bottom, and Behind/In Front of Text) and show how to anchor images so they stay where you want them as you keep typing and editing. You'll practise moving, resizing, and aligning images, and learn quick ways to keep layouts tidy using Position presets, alignment guides, and simple page layout choices. We'll also look at the small details that make illustrated documents look polished: adding captions, using borders and subtle effects, cropping images, and keeping consistent spacing. Along the way you'll see common 'why did it jump?' problems – and how to fix them confidently. By the end, you'll be able to create clear, attractive documents such as newsletters, travel notes, club updates, or instructional handouts where text and images work together rather than fighting each other.

Limit: 15 participants

Thursday 2.00pm – 3.30pm

30 April

Balwyn Park Centre



**S 59 AI Research Made Simple:
Prompts, Tools & Trustworthy
Results**

Tim Hodgetts, U3A Deepdene

This 90 minute workshop shows how to use AI for everyday research and fact-finding. You will learn how to ask better questions, get clearer answers, and use tools such as ChatGPT, Perplexity, and NotebookLM in a simple, reliable way.

The workshop focuses on practical skills: which tools are best for which tasks, how to improve your prompts step by step, how to check whether an answer is trustworthy, and how to spot bias or weak sources. You will also learn how to guide AI by setting clear instructions, such as who the answer is for, the tone you want, and the length you need. The kinds of research you do will cover health, travel, investments, hobby learning, work, with some ready-made starter prompts tailored to you, summarising long articles, PDFs, and emails, and drafting emails, reports, and notes from your research. You will work with NotebookLM to organise your source documents (PDFs, notes, links) and see how it helps you organise your research by generating summaries, themes, timelines, and draft outlines that stay grounded in your uploaded sources.

By the end, you will have a simple prompt guide you can reuse for future projects such as talks, reports, travel planning, and personal research. If you have a laptop or iPad, this is preferred, but a mobile phone will also allow you to participate.

Limit: 20 participants

Tuesday 10.30am – 12.00noon

5 May

Balwyn Park Centre

S 60 Your Apple watch and your health

Jan Dods, U3A Deepdene

This face-to-face session introduces participants to the practical features and everyday benefits of Apple's wearable technology. Learners will explore how to set up and personalise their health data on their watch, track activity and heart health, fall detection and emergency SOS, use Siri, and

stay connected through calls and messages. The workshop combines live demonstrations with guided practice.

Limit: 10 participants

Wednesday 1.30pm – 3.00pm

13 May

Balwyn Park Centre

**S 61 Hacks, tips and hints to master
Chat GPT (session 1)**

Ken Wilson, U3A Deepdene

Already using ChatGPT but want better results? This hands-on workshop covers practical techniques to make ChatGPT clearer, smarter, and more useful. You'll learn how to craft better questions, refine and iterate on answers, and use effective prompt patterns for improved outcomes.

We'll explore often-overlooked features like settings, personalisation options, memory, file uploads, voice input, and generating structured outputs. These tips will help you customise ChatGPT to suit your workflow. The session shows you how to build meaningful context in conversations, guide follow-up questions, and adopt best practices to enhance privacy and security with smart digital habits.

Limit 20 participants

Tuesday 10.30am – 12noon

19 May

Balwyn Park Centre

**Have you an idea a request or a
query about possible Technology
presentations or workshops for
future programs?**

Contact Errol Muir

Deepdene Technology

deepdeneu3atechnology@gmail.com

S 62 Hacks, tips and hints to master Chat GPT (repeat session)

Ken Wilson, U3A Deepdene

Already using ChatGPT but want better results? This hands-on workshop covers practical techniques to make ChatGPT clearer, smarter, and more useful. You'll learn how to craft better questions, refine and iterate on answers, and use effective prompt patterns for improved outcomes.

We'll explore often-overlooked features like settings, personalisation options, memory, file uploads, voice input, and generating structured outputs. These tips will help you customise ChatGPT to suit your workflow. The session shows you how to build meaningful context in conversations, guide follow-up questions, and adopt best practices to enhance privacy and security with smart digital habits

Limit 20 participants

Tuesday 10.30am – 12noon

26 May

Balwyn Park Centre

S 63 Scams

Gerald Hughes, U3A Deepdene

We like to believe and hope that we are sufficiently streetwise to avoid scams. The truth is that the types of scams we face are changing. Thankfully, due to Government initiatives and technology improvements the total annual value of scam losses in Australia has declined from \$3.1bn in 2022 to \$2bn in 2024 with 500,000 individual scams. Human error is now the greatest weakness in our defence against the scammers. They mislead us into parting with crucial security information by ever more devious methods. We are now accidentally helping the scammers steal our money. The U3A Members' age group is the prime target, and some are even unaware they have already been scammed. This talk will discuss the latest devious scam methods, plus ways to identify a scam and protect yourself, your family, and your friends. Essential information for an enjoyable retirement. A victim I met at one of my talks lost \$620,000 – that is life-changing. The scammers are getting smarter. Let's make sure we are getting smarter too.

Wednesday 10.30 – 12noon

27 May

Zoom

S 64 Editing your photos on phones and tablets

Karin Watts, U3A Deepdene

Learn how to improve/edit your photos taken on your phone/tablet, then how to sort them into folders plus share them with family, social media or to your laptop. Whilst the demonstration will be on an iPhone, the same principles apply to Android phones.

Participants: limit of 10

Tuesday 1.30pm – 3.00pm

2 June

Balwyn Park Centre

S 65 Introduction to iPads/iPhones – group class

Errol Muir, U3A Deepdene

Get confident with your iPhone or iPad in this practical, beginner-friendly session. You'll learn the essentials step by step: how the Home Screen works, what key buttons and gestures do, how to open and manage apps, connect to Wi-Fi, adjust important settings, and keep your device secure with passcodes and updates. We'll also cover common tasks such as sending messages, taking and sharing photos, browsing the web, and finding information quickly, with clear guidance on what to tap and why. Beyond the basics, this session includes a couple of standout features that show just how capable these devices can be. You'll see how voice commands can help you send messages, set reminders, and answer quick questions hands-free. You'll discover how your iPhone or iPad can instantly scan documents and read text aloud using built-in accessibility tools. By the end, you'll have a solid foundation, practical confidence, and a clearer sense of how iPhones and iPads can support communication, organisation, learning, and fun.

You will need to bring an iPhone or iPad and your Apple password to download Apps.

Tuesday 10.30am – 12noon

9 June

Balwyn Park Centre

S 66 Digital Legacy

Gerald Hughes, U3A Deepdene

Have you ever wondered about what happens to all your online accounts after you pass? It's not something many of us want to think about, however, planning how you would like your online accounts and digital assets to be managed after you have gone is just as important as working out what will happen to your physical assets.

Everything from Facebook and online banking accounts to your photos in the cloud, so much of our lives is now spread across the digital space. Leaving a clear digital legacy plan gives you peace of mind and saves your loved ones from having to deal with some tricky tasks at a difficult time.

In this session we explore why it's important to create a digital legacy plan and the steps you can take to prepare one. The class will show pro-formas and procedures for a practical step-by-step approach to the completion of a digital legacy.

Wednesday 10.30 – 12noon
10 June

Zoom

S 67 Microsoft Word Essentials: a practical introduction

Megan Williamson, U3A Deepdene

These two sessions give you a clear, practical start with Microsoft Word—what it is, what it's good for, and how to work confidently in a document. You'll learn your way around the Word screen, including the Ribbon, tabs, and the most-used commands. We'll cover creating and saving documents, opening existing files, and setting up a page sensibly from the beginning.



You'll then practise the core skills that make Word genuinely useful: selecting text, fixing mistakes quickly, copying and moving text, using undo/redo, and applying clean formatting (fonts, spacing, alignment, and headings). You'll also see how to use simple templates and keep documents consistent as they grow. By the end, you'll have a straightforward workflow for producing professional-looking letters, notes, agendas, and short reports.

Limit: 6 participants

Thursday 2.00pm – 3.30pm

11, 18 June

Balwyn Park Centre

S 68 Google AI made practical: free tools for daily use

Errol Muir, U3A Deepdene

Explore Google's expanding range of free AI tools in a practical, hands-on workshop focused on everyday use. The session introduces Gemini, NotebookLM, Google AI Studio, and selected Google Labs tools available in Australia, with a brief look at how AI is also changing Google Search and Lens. The emphasis is on what these tools can actually do for you now: helping you write, plan, understand information, and create useful content more easily.

You'll explore standout features such as text-to-image generation, music creation, source-based summaries in NotebookLM, and prompt testing in Google AI Studio. The workshop will also highlight creative tools from Google Labs, with practical examples that show how they can support travel planning, personal projects, community work, and learning.

Along the way, the session will cover the essentials of using AI well: how to ask better questions, how to improve results through simple prompt changes, and how to check answers for accuracy. It will also include practical guidance on privacy and safe use, so participants leave with a clear understanding of both the opportunities and the limits of Google's AI tools

Tuesday 10.30am – 12 noon

16 June

Balwyn Park Centre

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

Here are some FULL YEAR courses to keep you busy!!

See 'Extending Your Thinking' in the FY Program

F 32 Chess

*Anne Whittenbury, Manfred Siebentritt,
U3A Deepdene*

Please join Anne and Manfred on Monday mornings to enjoy a game of chess or learn how to play. Beginners are welcome to join the group

Chess sets will be provided by U3A Deepdene.

Mondays 11.30am – 1.00pm Weekly

Stradbroke Park Pavilion

F 33 Scrabble

Beverley Walsh, U3A Deepdene

If you enjoy playing with words, join this group for a friendly and light-hearted game.

Tuesdays 1.00pm – 3.00pm Weekly

Balwyn Park Centre, Garden Room

F 34 Eastern style Mahjong

*Swee Wah, Mak Elaine Chin, Michelle
Chee, U3A Deepdene*

Come along and join us for an afternoon of eastern style mahjong. We accept people of all abilities.

Wednesdays 12.30pm – 3.00pm Weekly

Stradbroke Park Pavilion

F 35 Trivia

Elizabeth ETTY-Leal, U3A Deepdene

We are thrilled that this very enjoyable activity will continue in 2026.

Come along, join our local 'Hot Seat' team.

Just knowing one answer could help your team win a chocolate, as well as having some fun.

Wednesdays 1.30pm – 3.00pm

First Wednesday each month during the term.

Balwyn Park Centre

F 42 Mahjong

Caryl Hogg, U3A Deepdene

Come along and join us for an afternoon of mahjong. We play the western version and can only accept people who can play, as lessons are not available.

Fridays 1.00pm – 3.00pm Weekly

Stradbroke Park Pavilion

U3A Deepdene Internal

S 69 Mandarin

Donna Cao, U3A Deepdene

For beginners, the course will begin with simple greetings and basic pronunciation, gradually building confidence in speaking everyday Mandarin. A key feature of the class will be the integration of traditional Chinese festivals throughout the term. Around relevant festival dates, I will introduce related vocabulary (most of them are the simple words which are used every day), customs, and traditional food. *(We may also include small hands-on activities, such as simple food preparation demonstrations or traditional craft making).* The aim is to make language learning enjoyable, culturally rich, and interactive - not only learning words, but experiencing Mandarin as a living culture.



Wednesdays

10.00am – 11.30am

Weekly

Balwyn Park Centre

S 70 Visit to Adeney Hospital

Coordinators:

Helen Christie, Trevor Rosen, U3A Deepdene

We have been invited to a tour of Adeney Private Hospital. 209 Cotham Road, Kew. 3101. **Please use the main entrance.**

The tour is on Saturday 23 May, 2026, commencing at 10.30am. Please arrive by 10.15 am for registration and enter via the main hospital entrance.

Parking: The hospital car park will be closed.

Street parking available in Cotham Road.

After the tour, there will be a 30-minute

Specialist presentation/Q+A session - Dr

Rohan Sheehy, Orthopaedic Surgeon,

'Treatment of Hip and Knee

Osteoarthritis: the latest updates and insights'

Following this a Physiotherapist and exercise demonstration – Mr Andrew Kokinos, Physiotherapist.

‘Peak Hip & Knee Management-practical updates for over 50s’

This part of the program will finish about 12.30pm and a light lunch will be provided. We will contact attendees closer to the event to confirm lunch numbers and any dietary requirements.

Adeney are ‘showcasing’ their hospital/services.
U3A Deepdene is in no way endorsing this organisation, but it is a good opportunity for members to view the premises and services and to ask questions.

Saturday 10.30am

May 23

Places: 30

S 71 Discerning Diners

Anne Kemp, U3A Deepdene

Our next ‘Discerning Diners’ event for 2026! This *special occasion* event brings together people who like to enjoy fine dining, good food, interesting wines with great company.

The venue for Term 2 2026 is **India @ Q, 234 High Street, Kew 3101**

India @ Q by DD's Kitchen features a diverse menu that showcases traditional Indian dishes with a contemporary twist. Whether you're stopping by for a quick meal or settling in for a multi-course dinner, you'll enjoy a modern interpretation of the freshest ingredients blended with classic Indian cooking techniques, rich spices, and a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. We take pride in the quality and comfort we provide to our guests and look forward to welcoming you soon!

Anne will send a menu to those who register.

Please let her know of any food allergies.

<https://indiaatq.com.au/>

Tuesday 6.00 pm

May 26

Places: 20

External Courses

S 72 Cards – 500 and Solo

Anne Leonard, U3A Box Hill

Instruction in either or both of these card games provided for beginners or those who have not played for some time.

Supervised games arranged for more experienced players.

(Additional members of U3A Deepdene may join this course as guests of U3A Box Hill.)

U3A Deepdene members intending to join this group should enrol through U3A Deepdene.

Tuesdays 2.00pm – 4.00pm Weekly
U3A Box Hill – Main Hall, 29 Strabane Avenue, Mont Albert North

S 73 Eastern Mahjong

Angela Fung, U3A Box Hill

Come along for some instruction and lots of time to play eastern style mahjong on a Monday afternoon.

(Members of U3A Deepdene may join this course as guests of U3A Box Hill.)

U3A Deepdene members intending to join this group should enrol through U3A Deepdene.

Mondays 1.00pm – 3.30pm Weekly
U3A Box Hill – Main Hall, 29 Strabane Avenue, Mont Albert North

S 74 Croquet

Malcolm Baxter, Kew Croquet Club

Come and try at Kew Croquet Club!

Kew Croquet Club is offering a Thursday session on 4 June, 1.30pm – 4.30pm. This will be a social function with an initial welcome and afternoon tea followed by demonstration and play of two codes – Golf Croquet and Kew Croquet.



So that attendees can experience both codes, they will be divided into two groups and play each code for 45 minutes.

People who enjoy the experience will be offered the opportunity to attend the club on one of their social play sessions for whichever code they are interested in (or both) for 3 sessions without charge. There is no charge for the Come and try session.

U3A Deepdene members intending to join this group should enrol through U3A Deepdene and your names will be forwarded to the Club.

Thursday 1.30pm – 4.30pm

June 4

Venue: Kew Croquet Club, 500 High Street, Kew Victoria, Australia

VISITS AND OUTINGS

V 01 Garden Visit – Victoria Gardens

Leader: Helen Page, U3A Deepdene
Victoria Gardens, 361 High Street, Prahran
3181

(Between Lewisham Road North & Trinian Street)

Victoria Gardens were designed in 1885 by William Sangster, a well-known gardener and nurseryman of the firm Taylor and Sangster. The gardens were named after Victoria, the wife of Mayor George W. Taylor. On Friday 7 August 1885, the gardens were formally named and dedicated for public use by Lady Loch, wife of the Governor of Victoria.

In 1888, Cr Taylor presented a fountain, a statue of Victory, and terracotta vases to the City, which were imported from Europe for £300.

Please read the weather forecast, bring a water bottle, and wear sensible shoes.

All who enrol for the walk will receive meeting instructions before the day.

Thursday 10.00am

14 May

Limited participants

V 02 Immigration Museum

Leader: Angela Padula, U3A Deepdene
Flinders Street, Melbourne



Opened in 1998 in the old Customs House, the Immigration Museum brings us a fascinating look at Melbourne and Victoria's immigration history.

All who enrol for the visit will receive further information before the visit.

Cost:

free for concession card holders and \$12 (Seniors), at own expense on the day.

Friday 1.30pm

12 June

Limited participants

Looking for more visits & Outings?

Each vacation, Anne Kemp coordinates a

U3A DEEPPDENE VACATION PROGRAM



Adventurous April

Important information about ENROLMENTS in:



News and Views
Short Courses
Technology Courses
Full Year Courses

Enrolments for all sections of our program must be done online.

The complete Term 2 2026 Program will be online on MyU3A by Monday 23 March.
Enrolments will be open then.


**At the beginning of the vacation, the office will be open
9.30am – 12 noon on Monday 30 March**

If you do not have an email account, you will need to post a list of the courses you wish to attend to:
PO BOX 3149, COTHAM POST OFFICE, KEW 3101.

**The office will be open before Term 2 2026 starts:
Thursday & Friday 23 & 24 April
9.30am – 12 noon**

If you do have an email account, enrol by logging in to MyU3A, via

www.u3adeepdene.org.au

From the U3A Deepdene homepage, click on the **Member Access**  button.
This will take you to **MyU3A** and you can use your ID and password to access **On Line Member Services**.
If you have forgotten your password, phone 0408 019 815.

**If you need help, send an email (anytime) to u3adeepdeneinc@gmail.com
or phone 0408 019 815
and someone will assist!**



Office and main meeting rooms:

Balwyn Park Centre, Balwyn Park
206A Whitehorse Road, Balwyn 3103
(see page 32 for other venues)

Postal address:

PO Box 3149, Cotham PO, Kew 3101

Phone:

9817 7736 during office hours or 0408 019 815 at other times

Email:

u3adeepdeneinc@gmail.com

Website:

www.u3adeepdene.org.au

OUR VENUES

On our website, there is a section VENUES. There you will find descriptions, photos and clear maps.

◆ **OFFICE & MAIN VENUE – Balwyn Park Centre, 206A Whitehorse Road, Balwyn, 3103**

109 (Box Hill) tram, Car park (entrance from Whitehorse Road) street parking in Whitehorse Road, Cherry Street and some surrounding streets.

◆ **Alston Halls, Deepdene Uniting Church, 958 Burke Road, Deepdene, 3103**

109 (Box Hill) and 72 (Camberwell) trams; 548 (Ivanhoe) bus. Car park (entrance from Dale Street, off Whitehorse Road) with limited parking; street parking in Burke Road and Whitehorse Road.

◆ **Main Hall, Deepdene Uniting Church, 958 Burke Road, Deepdene, 3103**

109 (Box Hill) and 72 (Camberwell) trams; 548 (Ivanhoe) bus. Car park (entrance from Dale Street, off Whitehorse Road) with limited parking; street parking in Burke Road and Whitehorse Road.

◆ **Stradbroke Park Pavilion, Corner Harp Road and Burke Road, Balwyn, 3103**

48 (North Balwyn) tram – 10 minute walk; 302 (Box Hill), 304 (Doncaster SC) and 548 (Ivanhoe) buses. Ample off street car parking; entrance from Burke Road plus parking in Burke Road.

◆ **Horrie Watson Pavilion, Deepdene Park, Whitehorse Road, Balwyn, 3103, between Walsh Street and Parkside Avenue**

109 (Box Hill) tram. Off street car parking plus street parking in Walsh Street and Parkside Avenue.



Balwyn Park Centre, 206A Whitehorse Road, Balwyn