



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Welcome everyone to your U3A Deepdene newsletter for Term 2 of 2026.

We are now well into the term and enjoying our chosen courses. This newsletter brings you some of the course highlights over the latter part of Term 1 and Term 2 so far, from around the full range of courses at U3A Deepdene. There's a lot to explore and you might just discover something you would like to try.



Philip Russell

But first, to all our tutors/leaders and members whose courses take place at the Deepdene Uniting Church Main Hall – thank you for your patience while the renovation and extension work continues at that venue. This will take some time yet.

The trees around Balwyn and Canterbury are a riot of autumn colour once again, as we head into winter. But the shortening daylight and colder weather need not bring on Season Adjustment Disorder (otherwise known as 'the winter SADs'), especially with our mid-year social event coming up soon. It's a great way to meet people and we'd love to see you there. An email was sent on 25 May inviting us to the event.

As you may know, we held our Annual General Meeting on 20 May at the Balwyn Park Centre. In attendance were invited guests from the City of Boroondara, Deepdene Uniting Church and Bendigo Bank, as well as the President of U3A Network of Victoria and over 80 U3A Deepdene members. A lively social evening with savouries and drinks provided by our U3A hospitality teams followed the formal part of the event.

Importantly, the AGM elected four new members to the U3A Deepdene Committee of Management – see the article on page 7. I look forward to working with our new committee members. The audited Financial Statements and Treasurer's Report presented at the AGM confirmed that our U3A operates in a sound financial condition.

There was also an update in relation to U3A Deepdene's move to register under the GST regime later in 2026, as turnover from our operations has closed in on the \$150,000 p.a. threshold applicable to not-for-profit organisations. The annual membership fee for 2027 will be set later this year; at this stage it appears likely to return to \$50 from the temporary reduction to \$35 set just for 2026 to help us stay below the GST threshold and to allow us to properly plan and prepare for GST registration.

Last, but certainly not least, the AGM was also the occasion for the Committee to award Life Membership of U3A Deepdene to Denise Bray. Denise joined in 2011 and has been very active in the French language program. She currently tutors four French classes each week, regularly steps in to replace other tutors when required and, as convenor of all French groups, provides curriculum leadership. We are fortunate and proud to have Denise as a tutor and member. See the article about Denise on page 6.

We want to make sure that membership of U3A Deepdene is a stimulating and social experience. Have a great Term 2 and enjoy what U3A Deepdene has to offer.

See you around the U3A!

Philip Russell

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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.

IMPORTANT TECHNOLOGY NEWS!

Did you know that the newsletter's Table of Contents is now hyperlinked?

If you are reading this newsletter as a 'soft copy'
(on your computer/phone/tablet)
you are now able to *click* on an article's title or
page number in the Table of Contents and be taken straight to the article.

And not only that ...

The arrow at the bottom right-hand corner of each article is also hyperlinked!
If you click/press on it, you will be taken back to the top of the Table of Contents.

However ...

If you are reading a paper version (hard copy) these features will not work.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

We would like to reinforce the importance of the protocols we request for our safety.

Please remember to:

- Wear/bring your membership card with the reverse filled in to all face-to-face sessions.
- Carry your medical waiver form (with details included) to all physical exercise sessions.
- Take into account the weather and decide whether you will attend or not.
- Consider your own fitness regarding the activities in which you choose to participate.
- Carry water with you and wear a hat outdoors.

It has been suggested that we install the free '**EmergencyPlus**' app on our mobile phones:

It is easy to do and it's **free!**

- **Download the App:** Available on both Android and iOS platforms, users can download the app from Google Play Store or Apple App Store.
- **Install and Open:** Once downloaded, install and open the app.
- **Allow Location Access:** The app requires location access to function correctly. Ensure you grant the necessary permissions.
- **Familiarise Yourself:** Explore the app's features and understand how to use it in an emergency situation.

You can see your exact location (most important).

It is just a tap of a button to alert 000 Emergency, SES, or Police immediately.

Members are reminded that U3A Deepdene has policies about Health and Safety, as well as Physical Programs. These can be found on our website.

AED - AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

Each of U3A Deepdene's locations has a defibrillator on the walls in case of emergency. Open the package and a recorded voice immediately gives instructions for use.

Please note their positions:

- **Balwyn Park Centre** – beside the lift on the upper level
- **Alston Halls** – to the right of the doorway into Room 1B from the Breezeway
- **Stradbroke Park** – inside Room 1, to the left as you enter from the Cricket/Football oval (not the Athletics field)
- **Horrie Watson Pavilion** – inside, on the west wall, on the right of the doors into the kitchen.



Left is the sign outside the buildings indicating that an AED is nearby

Right is the AED beside the lift at Balwyn Park Centre and at our other venues as listed above



**Upcoming Wednesday
Special!**

Wednesday 3 June

AEDs – Automated
External Defibrillators

The Wednesday Heart Start Special!!

Wednesday 3 June at 4.30 pm

Balwyn Park Centre

How often do we hear people tell us – ‘It is easy to use a defibrillator if someone appears to have stopped breathing. You would be able to manage it easily!’ Well, many of us are just not so sure and would like a reminder of the process in what is likely to be a scary situation.

Anne Holland of ‘Defib First’ will show us how to (re)start a heart with a defibrillator.



NEW LIFE MEMBER - DENISE BRAY

On behalf of our President, Philip Russell, and the Committee of Management, it gives me great pleasure to announce that Denise Bray has been awarded an Honorary Life Membership of U3A Deepdene.



Denise Bray

Denise is the embodiment of the University of the Third Age. She joined U3A Deepdene in 2011 and was immediately asked to tutor a French class. Now, after 15 years, she regularly tutors four classes each week and, when needed, fills in for other tutors who are ill or away. This is a huge undertaking: planning, preparing and teaching classes weekly for different levels of student expertise.

She is also actively involved in the setting-up of the classrooms at Stradbroke Park, Horrie Watson and Alston Halls. This includes both the required furniture and electronic equipment. She does all this with grace and charm and always has the wellbeing of her students at heart.

Denise is also the co-ordinator of all the French groups.

Denise learnt French 'at her mother's knee'. She majored in French at the University of Melbourne and on graduating worked at Myer as an employee trainer. She has a true understanding of how 'the older person' learns, is always encouraging and patient, and is able to make everyone feel comfortable when learning to speak French.

Denise regularly attends and contributes to other groups, including but not limited to the Wine Group, 'whodunits' and social functions.

I am sure that you will join with me in congratulating Denise on this award.

Roslyn Berman
Past President 2012–2014



COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2026

The following people have been elected to the U3A Deepdene Committee at the recent AGM.

We congratulate our 2026 Committee of Management and thank them for their willingness to lead U3A Deepdene for the coming year. It is a vital role, involving lots of hard work, and is most appreciated by us all.

President: Philip Russell

Vice-President: Vacant

Secretary: Helen Christie

Treasurer: Paula Grundy

Ordinary members: Jenny Cash, Leona Edwards, Lois Heycox, Nancy Hillier, Tim O'Leary, Trevor Rosen, Judy Still, Beverley Walsh

Profiles will be included in the Term 3 newsletter.



Left to right, back row: Philip Russell, Trevor Rosen, Judy Still, Tim O'Leary

Middle row: Leona Edwards, Helen Christie, Juliann Byron (Bendigo Bank), Lois Heycox, Coral Ross AM (Bendigo Bank)

Front row: Kate Bellamy (Bendigo Bank), Paula Grundy, Jenny Cash, Beverley Walsh

Absent: Nancy Hillier



JO REITZE - GARDEN ARTIST

Jo Reitze recounted her artistic journey over the past 20 years, via a delightful presentation of her work, including many commissioned garden paintings from her business, 'Jo Reitze Paints Your Garden'.

In the early 1980s, on a tight deadline to complete a new painting, inclement weather forced Jo to abandon her usual practice of painting landscapes *en plein air*. Desperate, she found a sheltered spot under the back porch where she could capture a pretty aspect of her garden. There she discovered colour and was hooked. From that time her garden became her muse. Later when that best aspect of her garden was built over, she realised that her paintings had immortalised that spot. On taking early retirement, it occurred to her that she could also immortalise gardens of others. This venture proved popular with garden lovers, particularly those who chose to downsize and leave beautiful places they had nurtured.



I enjoyed the intimate landscapes she showed us, knowing that each carried particular meaning for the client. When clients choose their subject, Jo composes a work that captures the area, the emotional connection, and makes a pleasing composition. She gets the client's approval before proceeding with the work – unless perhaps it is to be a surprise gift. It was touching to see a rose arbour, with a hint of the home behind, made as a memory for a person leaving to live elsewhere.

A memorable painting of a kitchen garden, with spade, tools and a chaotic mixture of plants carried a sense of the absent gardener, soon to return and resume work. Another was a series of four paintings of one location, each at a different time of year, illustrating seasonal change.

Jo paints to capture the essence of her subject rather than a photographic likeness. In this sense she is not a botanical artist, more a visual historian of happy memories. Her work incorporates emotion and the particularity of the chosen subject; her textures and treatment of light create a dimension that photographs rarely achieve.

Jo took us through the development of a composition, starting with diluted blue gouache (rather than pencil) outline, progressively building in the form and detail. Any mistakes are incorporated rather than erased.

Although taught to start with a dark background, she also tends to add darkness for depth at later stages. I feel she captures the ephemeral nature of plants, their colour and profusion, light and shade, and our emotional response to them.

Background hints of architectural elements are juxtaposed with the ephemeral: paving, pots, corner of roof, trellis or gate unmistakably identify the place and a patch of sky hints at the wider world. One striking example was a pond in the foreground, with its water reflecting light rather than colour.



The materials she uses include gouache on illustration board, university paper, or the back of matboard but also oils on linen, and more recently she has been creating pen drawings in black and white on paper.



Jo likes portrait format as it enables a close viewpoint but she also showed us works of many shapes and sizes, including a 1.7 metre-wide canvas of a tree at Woodlands Golf Course, with its spreading shadow in the foreground. We also saw a long slim panel of a Connewarre property, all peaceful sky and paddock, painted from a photograph, which allowed her to capture the scene's changing colours.

Jo Reitze (Mrs de Carteret) is a Fellow of the Victorian Artists Society, Past President of Melbourne Society of Women Painters & Sculptors and an award-winning artist. She coordinated Art at Canterbury Girls' Secondary College for 20 years. Her website is www.joreitzeartist.com.au.

Annie Treasure



FOOD ON THE GO

The title covers take-away, street food and quickly prepared meals. Kamoya Peterson took us on a history of street food. We travelled across continents and centuries to see how different cultures adapted food to social change.

Dating back to 2400 BC, archaeologists found mass-produced bowls in Mesopotamia used for the military who needed food on the move.

In Asia, the Chinese (Tang dynasty) had tea houses that were centres for snacks and conversations but also provided food for travellers and 'take-home' food for locals. The dumpling was invented, influenced by the seafarers and those travelling on the Silk Road. Rice was an expensive commodity at the time, so it was not part of the cheap meals.

In Egypt, those building the pyramids around 2500 BC required large quantities of food and meat (for strength) and Alexandria, which was a large seaport, needed cheap, easy food for those travelling.

In India, around 2000 BC, food was regionally based and included flatbreads, samosas and kebabs.

Japan was an isolated country and feudal based. Samurai lords with very large entourages were required to travel to Edo (capital) every two years. Stalls and hawkers were on the Edo streets to feed this large influx of people and were offering sushi, soba noodles, tempura and eels. A wooden version of the bento box was used to carry food and later the lacquered bento box was developed as a social marker.

The Greek, Roman and Ottoman empire influenced take-away food with the increased trading, larger populations in cities and smaller homes (without kitchens). In Ancient Rome, both the cities of Ostia and Pompeii have evidence of eat-in and take-away options in many shops.



A cartoon from George Cruikshank's Almanack shows Oyster Day - with boys building a grotto (from oyster shells) in the bottom-right corner

During the Middle Ages in Europe, street food again became common, including the development of mobile ovens for pies, which were made with inedible pastry covers, called 'coffins'.

A Medieval saying was: 'God sends the meat; the devil sends the cooks'.

In the 18th century, the increased population and industrialisation in Europe created markets near poor areas, such as Billingsgate fish market and Norwich regional market, which offered oysters, sausages, etc.

The 19th century saw street sellers of soup, baked potatoes, pies, gingerbread, tea (which had become cheaper), coffee and cake. Ice-cream was served in glasses called 'penny lickers', which were later stopped due to health concerns with reusing the glasses.

In 1889 pizza became acceptable after Queen Margherita of Savoy loved it.

The 20th century in New York saw the iconic hot dog developed and oyster bars opened. Convenience food has always had a mixed reputation. Initially focused in poorer areas, it responds quickly to economic and social change and soon influences the tastes and habits of all classes. Today there are all kinds of take-away and food trucks which supply worksites, tourist spots and family functions.

In 2026, the top take-away countries were listed as: USA, UK, France, Sweden and Austria. Australia ranks 12th and, notably, Africa and South America are rated low.

Thank you to Kamoya for her interesting talk; I have included some of the highlights, but there was so much more.

Jan Tuckwell



RAOUL WALLENBERG



I'm sure all of you have at one time or another driven through Kew Junction. But have you noticed the monument in the garden on the north-east corner of the junction? Andrew Dixon joined us on 18 March to explain more about the man being honoured, and how the monument came to be.

Andrew, a retired librarian, is the Vice-President of the Duldig Studio, President of the Villa Alba Museum and involved with Labassa and the Johnston Collection, and has a great interest in this monument.

The monument honours Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat from a wealthy family, who spent time in Hungary during the Second World War, where he was able to save tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from death or deportation. While serving as Sweden's special envoy in Budapest between July and December 1944, Wallenberg issued protective passports and sheltered Jews in buildings that he declared Swedish territory.

If you have looked at the monument you will recall it shows the date of his birth in 1912 and the date of his death is left blank. He was arrested by the Russians in Budapest in January 1945 and transported to the Soviet Union; he was never seen again. Eventually, in 1957 the Russians said that he died in captivity in 1947, although no proof has ever been provided, hence the lack of a date of death. At one stage, 1947 appeared on the monument as the year of his death. It was removed and the culprit has never been discovered.

To mark 40 years since Wallenberg's disappearance, there was a worldwide move to honour him for the thousands of lives he saved. One of the leading proponents was Dr Frank Vajda, a resident of Melbourne who had been saved by Wallenberg as a nine-year-old, with his mother. Many councils in Melbourne were approached, and some planted a tree and/or provided a plaque, but Kew Council was far more proactive. The mayor, Cr Jill O'Brien, was so moved by the story that she became the driving force behind producing a more lasting memorial to such a special man. From 1982 to 1985 Council minutes showed a concerted effort, first to be able to use the land owned by the Country Roads Board and then deciding what type of monument would be built. Eventually, sculptor Karl Duldig, the 1956 Victorian Sculptor of the Year, was appointed and designed the monument now in place, which was paid for by public subscription. The garden was officially opened in 1984 and the unveiling of the statue was held in 1985.

Wallenberg has been honoured in many countries around the world and he became the first Honorary Citizen of Australia in 2013.

Forty years after the monument was installed, there was a further celebration to commemorate the Raoul Wallenberg monument. So next time you drive through Kew Junction, spare a thought for an amazing humanitarian – and the mystery surrounding him.

Diane Tiffin



HISTORIC WALK AROUND SURREY HILLS



Jenny Kelso

Twenty members led by Alan Ray explored the Union Road shops, the Surrey Gardens and part of the Windsor Estate in early March.

We discovered the place where the Prime Minister announced the start of the Second World War in 1939, a compounding pharmacy that has been in the same location for over 100 years, an Armenian church, and a Shrine of Remembrance in the Surrey Gardens, with a quote from Lord Byron's poetry, and intricate wooden carvings of native vegetation.

The group noted how little had changed in this part of Melbourne over the years. Many heritage plaques recorded the history of the buildings and we admired the architectural styles of the large homes and their impressive gardens.

Fortunately the weather was not too hot and many stayed for a coffee and chat at one of the coffee shops nearby, after our exploration of this often-overlooked area.

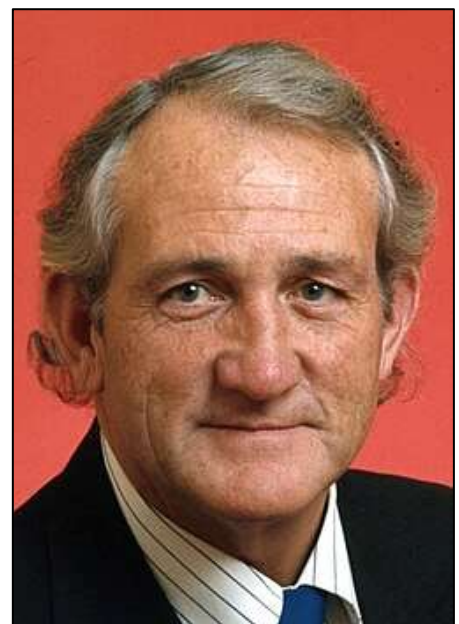


TOM UREN

Often referred to as the Conscience of the Labor Party, Tom Uren rose from humble beginnings to serve in the Federal Parliament for 32 years, holding several Ministerial portfolios. The story of his life, achievements and the forces that formed his political philosophy were the subject of a most interesting presentation by Matthew Ety-Leal.

Born in Balmain in 1921, Tom left school at 13 to help support the family in the Depression. A keen sportsman, he played rugby league for Manly, learned boxing, and in 1940 at age 19 fought for the Australian Heavyweight title. However, the pivotal event in Tom Uren's life was his war service, when he served in Timor before being captured in 1942 to become a slave of the Japanese on the Burma-Thailand Railway, cutting a path through the notorious 'Hellfire Pass'. Like other prisoners, he was starved, beaten and worked close to death – it is recorded that one man died for each sleeper laid on the railway. Interestingly, in later years, he was most proud of achieving compensation for the then 900 remaining ex-prisoners of war.

In 1944 Tom was transferred to southern Japan to work in a copper smelter and later a lead smelter. It was from here, in August 1945, that he saw the sky change colour as the atomic bomb was dropped on the port of Nagasaki.



Tom Uren

Tom's war experience didn't leave him with enduring hate and bitterness. Like Martin Luther King, he believed that hate is more injurious to the hater than the hated and he came to see the Japanese he worked with as also victims of militarism and fascism. His political philosophy was greatly influenced by his mother's sense of social justice, the example of Weary Dunlop, and others such as Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela.

In later years Tom read widely to compensate for his lack of early education. He never lost his faith in his fellow man and was a true believer of the Labor left. Curiously he became an atheist at age 45, yet formed a strong bond with the Josephite Nuns, who admired his humanity; he drew great inspiration from the 1963 Papal Encyclical 'Peace on Earth'.

After the war Tom worked in Port Kembla, got married and then moved to Lithgow. In 1951 he attended Ben Chifley's funeral at Bathurst and joined the Labor Party. In 1958, living in Guilford, Tom Uren won the western Sydney seat of Reid, which he held until his retirement in 1990. Over his 60 years in public life, political activism was a feature of his life. From his war experience he formed a lifelong opposition to nuclear weapons and militarism. He led a peace delegation to Japan in 1960 and strongly supported increased trade with Asia. With his great friend Jim Cairns, Tom was a key figure in the anti-war movement and the Moratorium marches opposing the Vietnam War. He also championed the cause of Land Rights, protection of the environment and self-determination for the people of East Timor. In 1978 he was outraged by Joh Bjelke-Petersen's ban on street marches and was arrested leading a protest march. He was briefly held at the Boggo Road Gaol - only to find the officer in charge was a former prisoner of war.

In Parliament Tom Uren served in the Whitlam government as the Minister for Urban and Regional Development. His achievements included establishment of the Heritage Commission, helping prevent the destruction of inner Sydney and the Rocks area, and accelerating the provision of sewerage to outer Sydney suburbs. From 1975 to 1977 he served as the deputy leader of the Labor Party under Gough Whitlam. The move to decentralisation with the Albury-Wodonga project was another significant project steered by Tom Uren.

In the early 1980s Tom met a young student political activist, Anthony Albanese, and subsequently became a key mentor to him – in fact he became the father that Albanese never had. Sadly, Tom died in 2015 and never saw his protégé achieve the leadership of the parliamentary party in 2019 and the prime ministership in 2022.

Peter Conlon



CANBERRA MODERN - WHY MID-CENTURY MODERN MATTERS

This interesting and stimulating talk was given in mid-February by Edwina Jans. As a cultural heritage expert, who was educated in Canberra and is a co-director of Canberra Modern, a group dedicated to celebrating the city's design legacy, Edwina was ideally qualified to discuss the postwar development of Canberra.



Rose Seidler House

Based on the prize-winning plans of Marion and Walter Burley Griffin, Canberra had its first boom period in the 1920s, and its second from the 1950s to the 1980s. Edwina began with a photo of the Rose Seidler House, built for Rose by her son Harry (1949), which introduced Bauhaus principles to Australia. She then showed us a large range of buildings, mostly constructed in brick or concrete and glass, with residential, commercial, educational or civic functions. Though all were distinctly individual, overall coherence was achieved through the National Capital Development Commission (1958–1989). Edwina especially highlighted the work of the Italian/Australian architect Enrico Taglietti (1926–2019), who designed many modernistic and organic style buildings. He and his wife Francesca arrived in Australia in 1955 to supervise an exhibition of Italian design at the David Jones gallery in Sydney. Whilst here, he was invited to Canberra by the Italian Ambassador to select a site for their embassy, which he later designed. Other architects who made a significant contribution to Canberra’s built environment included Alex Jelinek, Roy Grounds and Robin Boyd (his last commission).

As the population increased, separate townships were built as integrated communities, each centred around a commercial hub. These were linked by bus services, which have now proved inadequate, so Canberra is putting in a light rail system. These suburbs had to be carefully sited, as Edwina reminded us of the Woden Valley floods of 1971, which claimed seven lives.

While some significant buildings enjoy heritage protection, e.g. the Australian Academy of Science, others of importance have already been demolished, despite protests. As Edwina pointed out, mid-century constructions, especially houses, feel familiar to us, and not old enough to be considered worth preserving on historical grounds, they are often at risk of demolition through development pressure. Many mid-century houses were small but built on large blocks when land in our middle suburbs was more affordable. Besides, some owners oppose protection, fearing it will reduce the value of their property.

Edwina went on to draw links with residential construction in North Balwyn and adjacent suburbs. Largely undeveloped until after the Second World War, they became the suburbs of choice for young married couples, with many using progressive architects influenced by the International Modernist movement.

Altogether this was a thought-provoking and well-presented talk, and we hope that Edwina will delight us soon with another fascinating presentation about Canberra.



Australian Academy of Science



Early houses in North Balwyn



MONTMARTRE - THE REPUBLIC OF PLEASURE

This wonderful talk was given by historian Dr Michael Adcock. Dr Adcock was head of history at Melbourne Grammar School and previously lectured in Modern French history at the University of Melbourne. He has lectured on French art at the National Gallery of Victoria, the National Gallery of Australia and the Queensland Art Gallery and has published several books about the history of France through Cambridge University Press. He has also been a tour guide for Academy Travel Sydney, leading study tours in Paris, Moscow and St Petersburg.

In his presentation Dr Adcock provided the historical context for the French Third Republic, the political regime established in 1870 after the fall of the Second Empire. He talked about the Belle Époque (c. 1870–1914), a period in France of cultural, artistic and technological flourishing, and how Montmartre became the capital of the ‘republic of pleasure’, a term used to describe the vibrant cultural life in France during this period. He illustrated his talk beautifully with the works of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Théophile Alexandre Steinlen and others.



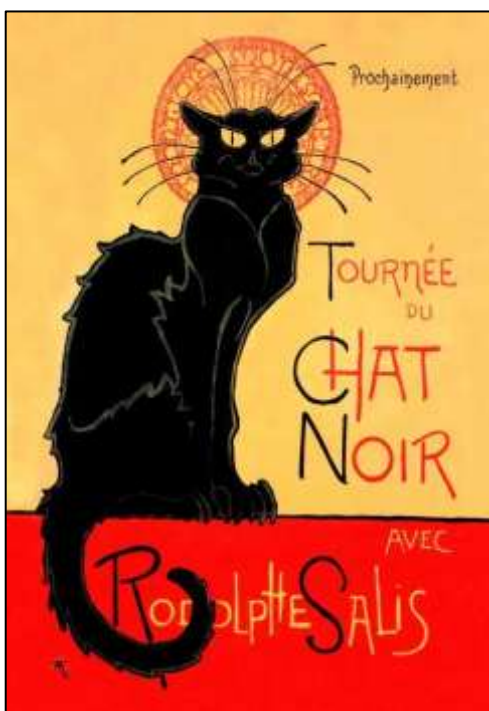
At the Moulin Rouge, the Dance
by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, 1890

Unlike the Second Empire of Napoleon III, which had tried to crush pleasure, the Republicans realised that they could win popularity by actively encouraging it. They supported working people to celebrate culture through popular festivities and encouraged the establishment of dance halls as purely working-class venues for working people to have fun. As the windmills of Montmartre were no longer being used to mill grain, their storerooms were easily converted to dance halls, and these became very popular with the thousands of working people who had come to Montmartre after being pushed out of central Paris by the renovation work of Baron Haussmann. One of the earliest dance halls in Montmartre was the Moulin de la Galette.

Over time, these Montmartre dance halls gradually changed, with audiences now coming to watch the dancing and with some of the dancers even becoming celebrities. Newer, smarter dance halls were created by entrepreneurs who realised that fortunes could be made by attracting wealthy audiences. In 1889, two businessmen, Charles Zidler and Joseph Oller, established a new dance hall called Moulin Rouge. They were able to attract celebrity dancers such as ‘La Goulue’ (the greedy one) and Valentin ‘the boneless’, so called for his springy flexibility. These dancers were very popular – their dancing was energetic, could be quite suggestive and was occasionally indecent! La Goulue was particularly famous for her audacious high-kicking cancan (a type of cancan). Another famous dancer at Moulin Rouge was Jane Avril. Her stage name was ‘La Mélinite’ (the explosive) – although usually refined and demure, she would go ‘wild’ once on the stage.

Zidler and Oller also commissioned Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec to produce promotional material for Moulin Rouge. This was a real coup. Toulouse-Lautrec was brilliant at capturing the ferocious intensity and posturing of the dancers in his sketches and he attended Moulin Rouge every night from 1889 to 1893. His sketches became the basis for his coloured lithographs, which were then developed into posters, using the technical innovations of the time. One of his most famous posters was from 1891, *Moulin Rouge: La Goulue*.

Apart from the dance halls, other forms of cultural entertainment flourished during this period. The singing café (or café artistique) was very popular in Montmartre, with the most famous being ‘Le Chat Noir’, established by the entrepreneur Rodolphe Salis.

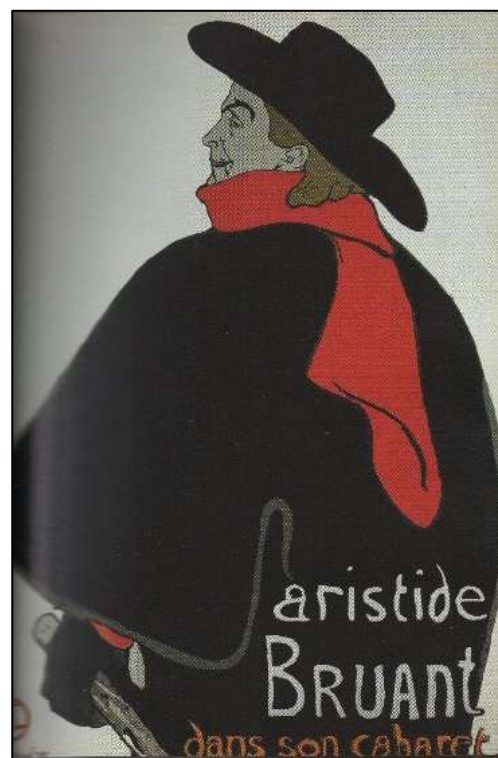


Salis knew how to achieve success by combining bohemianism with intellectualism. Singers mixed with intellectuals and produced new songwriters, new songs and totally transformed music. Wild scenes were not uncommon. We were introduced to the striking figure and face of Aristide Bruant, the aggressive and confrontational cabaret artist who would berate verbally (and sometimes physically!) anyone who dared to make fun of him. Toulouse-Lautrec’s posters were brilliant at capturing the power of this entertainer.

Music halls were also very popular during this period. They were different to the singing cafés because you had to pay to enter, but they were still considered

very democratic, as the audience was quite mixed. The music hall provided many different forms of entertainment – we learnt that at one stage there was even a boxing kangaroo – ‘Le Kangourou Boxeur’! The most famous music hall in Montmartre was Les Folies Bergère and one of its stars was an American dancer called Loie Fuller. She dazzled the audience with a new form of dance, where she had flowing robes controlled by sticks, with one stick in each hand. She used a dark stage with transcendental light effects to enhance the shimmering of her flowing robes when she was swirling around. The French adored her!

Dr Adcock gave us a wonderful history of the period and introduced us to some remarkable artists and entertainers. He was warmly thanked for his enriching presentation and splendid slides. We look forward to his lectures on the French Revolution in Term 2.



Pauline Cooper



OUR ADVENTUROUS APRIL PROGRAM

Our Adventurous April program was well supported. Visits included a Williamstown cruise, lunch at the Steam Packet Hotel, and an interesting walk and talk presented by Ken Russell of the Williamstown Historical society. This gave us the opportunity to learn about the early history of the area. A few of us enjoyed an ice-cream or a coffee and then the leisurely boat ride back to Southgate.

Our travel presenters, Noela and John Manton, enticed us with exciting stories from their trip from Oslo to Tromso, a combination of train, ferry and a coastal cruise; boat travels in a most beautiful part of the world. The following week we had Trish Lele tell the story of her travels with her husband down the Mississippi Delta between Memphis and New Orleans, via Greyhound bus – an amazing, thought-provoking adventure, incorporating Blues music, plantations, slavery and of course the Civil War. The humanity aspect was so evident.

Matthew ETTY-Leal warmly hosted 22 enthusiastic members on a day trip to Trentham – no mean feat! We had a train ride, bus ride and a wonderful presentation from the Railway Historical Society, plus a delicious lunch at Trentham Hotel, followed by plenty of gentle conversation with the odd snooze on the way home.

A repeat of the Heritage Tour of Melbourne Town Hall for 11 members was enjoyed, then lunch at Strangers Corridor restaurant at Parliament House for 19 members. I have been encouraged to seek out the different tours available at Parliament House, which include an architectural, garden and parliamentary tour – check forthcoming programs for future options.

Elizabeth ETTY-Leal hosted another fun picnic at Alexandra Gardens in Kew, with a good turnout in delightful sunny weather.

Lois Heycox hosted a wonderful tour of the Ian Potter Centre Bark Salon, which showcased bark painting as a genre. Works ranged from the NGV's earliest acquisitions through to contemporary works by some of Australia's most renowned painters. Several participants enjoyed lunch at Federation Square afterwards.

We also enjoyed a very interesting tour of the Abbotsford Convent – our guide's enthusiasm made the visit so interesting, and despite the rain's efforts, we all enjoyed the visit, which at times was sobering and very thought provoking. I recall Sandy Curnow did a fascinating presentation at Balwyn Park on the Abbotsford Convent a year or two ago, which whetted my appetite – so it's taken a while, but thank you Sandy!

Our usual coffees and a chat took place – a gentle reminder: if you're not going to be able to join us, please withdraw online, or if on the day, text me – as we make bookings with cafes who, in good faith, hold the number of spaces, stopping other potential business for them. We want to protect the good reputation of our U3A, so let's work in with all providers and ensure it's as much a win for them as it is for us. Thanks to Sandie Beswarick for hosting again.

To complete the April program, a few of us met for lunch at Box Hill Golf Course, overlooking the greens, which is always a wonderful view, with good conversation and laughter.

The next program is well underway in the planning stage, with a few surprises I've been working on for a while – so keep an eye out for further information.

My thanks to Noela and John Manton, Trish Lele, Elizabeth and Matthew ETTY-Leal, Lois Heycox and Sandie Beswarick. Also a special thank you to those miraculous 'behind the scenes' people who make all this come together: Jenny Cash, Ilza Dumanis, Paula Grundy and Helen Christie.



Abbotsford Convent



Trentham Station



Abbotsford Convent



The Williamstown Uniting Church



Williamstown Primary

Anne Kemp



ISRAEL - PALESTINE: WHOSE STORY?

How to review a presentation on a topic that is currently so highly charged and controversial? During the short period of time Dan Rabinovici took to give his presentation on 20 March, in the Middle East, men, women and children were killed and/or injured and infrastructure was destroyed due to the interpretation of the 'facts' Dan presented. This is the practical reality of how highly charged the topic is. It is not just a simple interpretation of historical documentation but the impact on individuals – like you and me – with dreams, aspirations and a desire just to live in peace.

This topic has libraries of documents and published opinions stretching back through the ages and Dan had to bring this together in just over an hour. An impossible task, one might think, but Dan expertly threaded his way through the main facts from:

- the identification of Zionism (a separate people, not just a religion – an argument itself) at the Zionist Congress on 30 August 1897
- the total lack of consultation with the Palestinian people
- the relevant history of Palestine, up to 1937

Dan didn't venture past 1937, after which the different interpretation of historical 'facts' was/is being played out on the ground at this very moment. On several occasions Dan noted that early documented accounts over this period clearly pointed to future problems. Numerous historians, politicians, academics and individuals published warnings of the consequence of the steps being taken, but were ignored.

Due to the sensitivity of the subject, Dan first declared he had Jewish parents but is currently non-observant himself. This enabled him to present a series of recorded facts for those present to interpret.

To do justice to the very large amount of research that Dan clearly has undertaken, and his supporting PowerPoint presentation, would require a book or series of lectures. It is important to note that the PowerPoint Dan talked to clearly supported the evidence for the historical facts that were then subject to interpretation. Indeed, it was fundamental to the premise of his presentation that narratives of the documented 'fact' and what took place, together with their interpretation, are not neutral. I would strongly encourage members at the presentation and all U3A members to access and study this challenging presentation. However, Dan left it to us to wonder why 2 + 2 can equal 5. Still, we were encouraged right through the presentation to look at both sides.

Because this is a brief review, to quote a few of the many documented 'facts' given would possibly go against the request by Dan to keep an open mind. Selection of some documentation presented could indicate my own prejudices. So, I will conclude with the three points Dan used to summarise his excellent presentation:

- the problems that are currently occurring in the Middle East were visible from the start (early 20th century)
- narratives of historical documents are not neutral – they are interpretations
- it is critical to look at all sides.

Roy Olliff

Dan Rabinovici provided two slides from his presentation for this article; they have been reformatted for the newsletter:



Mayor of Jerusalem Yusuf al-Khalidi's letter to France's chief rabbi, Zadok Kahn, 1899

'Who can challenge the rights of the Jews in Palestine? Good Lord, historically it is really your country...Good Lord, the world is vast enough, there are still uninhabited countries where one could settle millions of poor Jews who may perhaps become happy there and one day constitute a nation.... In the name of God, let Palestine be left in peace.'



Theodor Herzl's letter to Yusuf al-Khalidi, 1899

'You see another difficulty, Excellency, in the existence of the non-Jewish population in Palestine. But who would think of sending them away? It is their well-being, their individual wealth which we will increase by bringing in our own. Do you think that an Arab who owns land or a house in Palestine worth three or four thousand francs will be very angry to see the price of his land rise in a short time, to see it rise five and ten times in value perhaps in a few months?'



THE BURULI ULCER

On Wednesday 28 April we were privileged to hear an excellent presentation by Professor Paul Johnson on the Buruli ulcer. He is an infectious diseases physician at the Austin Hospital and the University of Melbourne, and has been a Buruli ulcer researcher for 30 years. He is a technical advisor to the World Health Organization and has extensive clinical experience with the ulcer.



Professor Paul Johnson

Many of us have heard of the Buruli ulcer, but most of us know very little about it. The very words may be off-putting to some people and the images we may have seen of the ulcer on someone's skin can seem alarming. However, the information provided by Professor Johnson not only explained what causes the ulcer and how you get infected, but also how to prevent it and how it can be treated. The ulcer is endemic in parts of Victoria, including some coastal towns and more recently in some of the inner northern suburbs of Melbourne.

Although the subject is highly technical, Professor Johnson's presentation could be easily understood by those of us without a scientific or medical background, which includes the writer. He also provided us with a useful link, paul-johnson-buruli.com, which contains detailed and clear information about the ulcer.

Some of the key points made by Professor Johnson were:

Buruli ulcer is a destructive skin and soft-tissue infection. Possums carry the causative bacterium – *Mycobacterium ulcerans* – but also suffer from Buruli ulcer themselves. However, outbreaks in possums are geographically restricted, so having possums in your garden does not necessarily mean you are at risk for Buruli ulcer. When outbreaks do occur in local possums, high concentrations of *Mycobacterium ulcerans* can be detected by PCR (polymerase chain reaction) in locally collected possum excreta. The connection between disease in possums and disease in humans is explained by mosquitoes that bite both humans and possums. Strains of *Mycobacterium ulcerans* recovered from possums, humans and mosquitoes have been shown to be identical. Buruli ulcer is not passed from person to person.

Buruli ulcer is now endemic throughout the Mornington and Bellarine peninsulas and has established footholds in some suburbs in Geelong, and especially the inner northern suburbs of Melbourne. Outside these areas the risk is minimal, although the geographic range of Buruli ulcer seems to be progressively expanding. The Department of Health and Local Public Health Units provide the latest up-to-date information.

Transmission in Victoria occurs in the mosquito season (summer and autumn), but people with confirmed Buruli are most often diagnosed in winter and spring because of the long incubation period, which is typically around five months. For those of us who live in or visit endemic areas, protection against mosquito bites is the single best way to reduce the chance of acquiring Buruli ulcer. This includes personal protection (clothing, repellent) and reducing opportunities for mosquitoes to breed in our back gardens.

Buruli ulcer does not respond to standard antibiotics, but fortunately treatment with special oral antimycobacterial antibiotics given together over eight weeks will reliably kill the bacteria, although it takes much longer for the ulcer to fully heal.

Prof Johnson has asked us to include the following website
<https://www.wphu.org.au/health-topics/buruli-ulcer/>

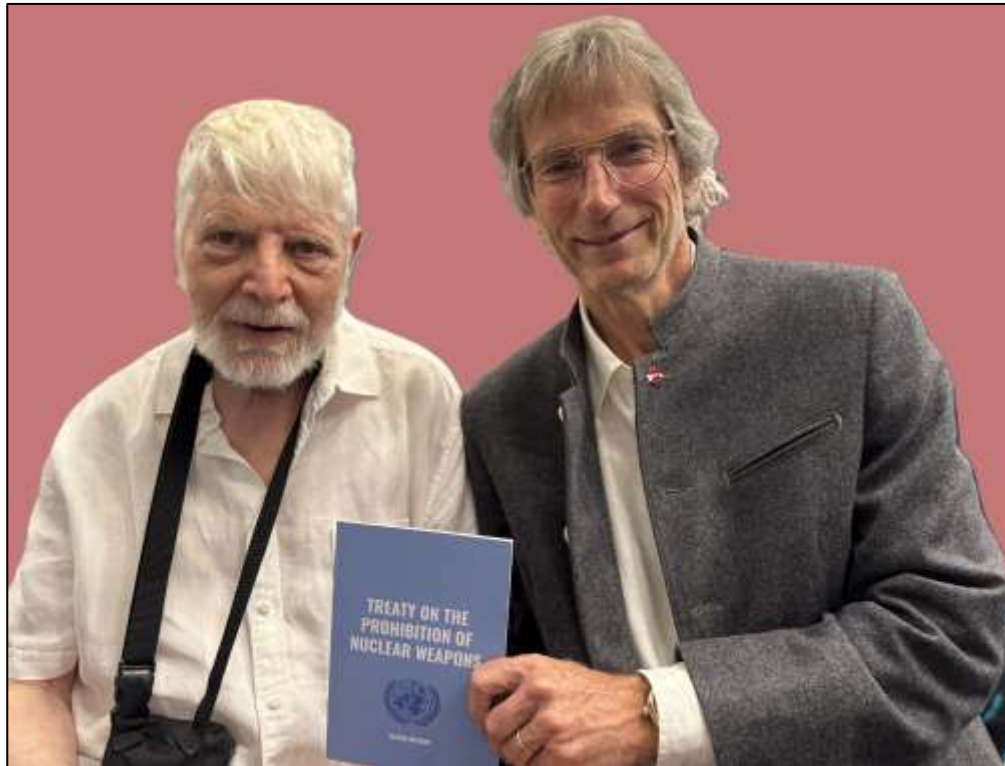


Buruli ulcer
(from Professor Paul Johnson's website)

Trevor Rosen



ENDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS BEFORE THEY END US!



*Professors Fred Mendelsohn (L) and Tilman Ruff (R)**

We were very privileged to have the esteemed and humble Professor Tilman Ruff AO address a room full of interested and concerned U3A members.

As a founder and leader of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), Tilman was a key part of the organisation that was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize, due to its efforts to highlight the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and its work towards a treaty-based prohibition – the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Tilman was also co-president of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), an organisation that was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985 for its work in creating awareness of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear war, helping to end the cold war.

Tilman informed us that tragically the world is not disarming, but arming, pointing out to us that the world's current nuclear arsenal is equivalent to 150,000 Hiroshima bombs. The average size of a modern nuclear weapon is 13 times that of the one dropped on Hiroshima, which killed approximately 140,000 people and left a huge number with ongoing, life-threatening health issues and trauma. Shockingly, Tilman said that nuclear weapons planning by militaries focuses primarily on specific direct physical effects of nuclear detonations (principally blast and thermal radiation, and prompt radiation), whilst consequences such as humanitarian impacts, long-term environmental damage and global climatic effects like nuclear winter are not fully incorporated into operational risk assessments. As Professor Peter Doherty AC (Nobel Laureate) said in 2024, the one sure path to extinction is nuclear war.

Several emerging factors may increase nuclear risk, including climate change acting as a stress multiplier for geopolitical conflict, growing cyberwarfare capabilities that could interfere with nuclear command systems, and the potential integration of artificial intelligence into military decision processes. Existing arms-control agreements do not fully address these technological risks, and have largely lapsed. According to Tilman, arguing that nuclear weapons are essential for deterrence purposes is a nonsense: 'myth and magic'. Even if there is no intention to use nuclear weapons, there is a history of near-misses coming very close to accidental nuclear wars.



Tilman spoke of the conclusions made by John E. Hyten, a former Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and previously commander of United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM), the command responsible for the United States nuclear forces. Hyten has stated that when nuclear weapons are introduced into war games it always ends in a nuclear war. Hyten has explained that the first nuclear use leads to rapid retaliatory nuclear strikes. Commanders then assume that further nuclear use is inevitable. The conflict escalates to large-scale nuclear exchange, often within hours or days. Hence, preventing first use of a nuclear weapon is critical. Unfortunately, there have been numerous incidents where nuclear wars could have been triggered accidentally or through misinterpretation: the Cuban Missile Crisis 1962; the 1983 Soviet False Alarm; the Norwegian Rocket Incident of 1995; the 1979 NORAD Computer Error; the 1980 US Missile Warning Computer Failure; the 1961 Goldsboro B-52 crash (Nuclear Bomb Accident); and the 1983 NATO Exercise Able Archer. Human intervention and luck have prevented a catastrophic event to date, but the dangers of a climate-stressed world, cyberwarfare and AI make the potential of a nuclear disaster more likely. Daniel Ellsberg's book, *The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner* (2017) is an informative read.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is the first global treaty that comprehensively bans nuclear weapons, including their development, testing, possession, stockpiling, transfer and threat of use. It was adopted at the United Nations on 7 July 2017 and entered into force on 22 January 2021 after the 50th ratification. As of 2026, 99 countries have signed this agreement – a global majority. However, all nine nuclear-armed countries have refused to sign the agreement: United States, Russia, China, France, United Kingdom, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel. In addition, Australia, Japan, South Korea, Germany, Canada, the Netherlands and Italy have also *not* signed. Tilman said that it is established ALP policy to sign this agreement, but to date the Australian government has not taken steps to implement this. The ICAN organisation will be lobbying the government to do so.

Tilman mentioned that Australia is expanding its infrastructure so that US nuclear-capable bombers can be based on permanent rotation at RAAF Base Tindal near Katherine, NT. Australia will also be acquiring up to eight nuclear-powered submarines under the AUKUS agreement, and will be permanently hosting UK and USA nuclear-powered submarines. US Virginia class attack submarines are planned to again become nuclear-capable by 2032. Except when Malcolm Fraser excluded nuclear weapons from US bombers visiting Australia in the 1980s-90s, Australia also accepts the US policy of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear weapons. These developments mean that for the first time, from this year, nuclear weapons could be operationally deployed for use from Australia, even without our specific knowledge or consent.

Indiscriminate, inhumane weapons have been banned by international treaties and chemical and biological weapons, land mines and cluster munitions which have been key to progress in controlling these weapons. Treaties are critical for the prevention of nuclear-weapons usage. Tilman emphasised the need for Australia to join the TPNW. In our sphere Thailand, New Zealand and the Philippines have already ratified and their conventional military collaboration with the US has not been impeded.

Asked what the current trigger points in the world might be, he responded: India and Pakistan, the Korean Peninsula, Russia and Ukraine, and the Middle East.

Tilman encouraged all U3A members to become informed and educated about the threat of nuclear weapons and the need for nuclear disarmament; he also mentioned that ICAN always welcomes support.

There is no doubt that the U3A audience appreciated the extensive information provided by Tilman and, as many members commented, Tilman provided much information that the audience had not heard before.

*Our photo shows Tilman with his friend and fellow Nobel Laureate Fred Mendelsohn, who was invited to attend the talk.

Jane Mitchell



THE ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION CRUISE INDUSTRY



Many of us have dreamt of a trip to Antarctica. Somehow time has slipped by, and we have literally ‘missed the boat’. Our lecturer at this Wednesday Special, Luke Saffigna, was wonderful, enthusiastic and an extremely knowledgeable speaker. He has done three decades of guiding in Antarctica. Several audience members recognised him from his guiding at the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Melbourne Zoo. Luke’s lecture was accompanied by stunningly beautiful photos. It began to feel quite chilly in the hall!

Sir David Attenborough describes Antarctica as one of the most remarkable places in the world. The coldest, windiest and most hostile continent, yet a place of immense beauty and fragility. The Antarctic Peninsula supports an abundance of life. The waters are rich in krill, which sustain vast numbers and varieties of whales and seals, and millions of seabirds. We were amazed at the colourful lichens. The huge rookery of fluffy brown penguins elicited many oohs and aahs from the audience. We saw vast vistas of the breathtakingly beautiful Antarctic wilderness. The deep blue and searingly white icebergs with ice and snow, punctuated in places by black exposed rock, were remarkable.



Luke Saffigna

The expedition cruise industry has its own unique origins. Swedish/American Lars-Eric Lindblad, a pioneer travel entrepreneur, led the first ‘citizen explorer’ cruise to Antarctica in 1966, breaking away from the purely scientific or military expeditions of the past. He fostered the appreciation of adventure and conservation. His first ship, *MV Explorer*, affectionally known as the *Little Red Ship*, sadly hit an iceberg and sank. In 1991 the industry really began in earnest when the Soviet Union collapsed. Russian ships were reconditioned as tourist boats for the more intrepid customers. Evidently they were steady in the ice but nerve shattering on the open sea, due to ice-breaking design features.

Nowadays the tourist ships are new-generation purpose built, with far greater stability and using greener energy and all the technical wizardry of modern navigation. Experienced and extremely knowledgeable guides ensure everyone enjoys the unique experience of Antarctica. Passenger safety is always a priority. We were pleased to hear that Luke has never had to plunge into freezing water to rescue a passenger! Most

current expeditions focus on the Antarctic Peninsula, while about five to ten percent visit the Ross Sea region, due south of Australia and New Zealand, with ships departing from far southern Chile or Argentina.

Excursions in the Zodiacs (smallish rubber boats) must be a great experience. Visitors can enjoy firsthand the beauty of the environment of this incredible continent. Luke spoke about the vital importance of the Antarctic Treaty, signed in 1959 by 12 countries whose scientists had been active in and around Antarctica. It was declared a demilitarised natural preserve, and is a place dedicated to scientific investigation on a peaceful basis.

In 1991 the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO) was formed to advocate and promote safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel, to ensure minimal impact on the region's fragile ecosystem. The industry is self-regulated, while recognising the need to set high standards for safety and environmental protection. There is a co-ordinated effort to manage ship scheduling and ensure visitors leave the smallest footprint. In conclusion, Luke spoke about the future, which he expects will lead to new ships and more people. Over 100,000 people currently visit Antarctica every year.



**Luke Saffigna with host,
Lois Heycox**

Our grateful thanks to Luke for an outstanding presentation.

Christine Leuner



CONFLICT AND LANGUAGE RIGHTS

The role of language in promoting social cohesion seems obvious, given that it is a means of communication as well as of expressing ideas that are unique to a language's culture and history.



Professor Joseph (Joe) Lo Bianco

In a fascinating talk on the subject, Professor Joseph (Joe) Lo Bianco, Professor Emeritus of Language and Literacy Education at the University of Melbourne, explained how language education and language policy works to enhance social cohesion in a range of countries, but especially in those suffering internal conflicts driven by cultural or religious differences.

Professor Lo Bianco provided several examples of sub-national conflicts that resulted from minority language grievances because people were being discriminated against as a result of their inability to communicate in the dominant language. Quoting from one of his 2016 publications, 'Some aspect of language is present in many conflicts, some kinds of conflict involve many aspects of language, and some conflicts are only about language'.

His insights are informed by his extensive field experience in numerous countries and his publications, often in collaboration with local experts with whom he has worked. Much of his work has focused on using theoretical constructs to inform the implementation of structures and solutions that have led to successful outcomes.

Forming a functioning and cohesive society in multilingual countries relies on having communication skills and opportunities for meeting 'the other' in society, and knowing the language of power in the country. Providing language learning in each of the languages spoken by a country's diverse communities gives the minority languages status and promotes mutual understanding, as well as social inclusion and social mobility. The national language becomes the link language, the standard through which inter-community communication can occur and the means by which people can communicate with decision makers.

We were given a range of examples from several countries in South-East Asia and Africa, where this approach has been successful, and others where it is being used to great effect. Two well-known examples of language conflict are Myanmar and Sri Lanka; in the former a decade of ‘peace promoting language policy’ had produced a functioning national language plan, unfortunately thwarted by the 2021 military coup, while Sri Lanka has in recent years moved away from bitter conflict to an uneasy peace. In both settings language reconciliation is part of the wider efforts to build long term social cohesion.

A very enjoyable event, from which we came away much better informed about an important subject that gets very little attention in the media.

Vin Massaro



AUSTRALIAN WOMEN’S ARMY SERVICE: ORDINARY WOMEN DOING THE EXTRAORDINARY

Barbara Emerson gave a well-researched and fascinating talk about Australian women in the Australian army in the Second World War.

It wasn’t until the 1970s that academic studies focused on and acknowledged the role of women in the army. There is surprisingly limited information about this available today.



Barbara Emerson

Initially the military were against women joining the army; their role was seen as volunteering. But pressure grew, especially from those women who wished to serve, and eventually it was deemed necessary for the ‘national good’. In August 1941 the Australian Women’s Army Service (AWAS) was established. The AWAS was the first Australian women’s army and the largest Second World War women’s service in Australia. The women were trained, paid, in uniform, and a great success. Sybil Irving, a remarkable Melburnian who needs more study and recognition, was put in charge, becoming a Colonel in 1943.

Over 24,000 women (aged 18-40) joined the AWAS and served full time as drivers, administrators, telegraph operators, vets, anthropologists, translators, and code and signal operators. They showed discipline, efficiency, courtesy, tenacity, and they worked hard. In 1944 the first group served overseas, in New Guinea.

The experience in the AWAS opened opportunities for learning, travel, adventure, leadership, responsibility and comradeship. It changed the lives of the women who served.

Society had altered by the end of the war. Whilst many women returned to their pre-war roles, others established new lives and careers. They would continue to fight for equality in pay in the workforce and in society.

Barbara finished with stories of three ‘ordinary’ women, including her aunt, Eileen Brown. They all trained at Bonegilla. Later, two of the AWAS women served together at Mornington in the 52nd Unit of the Australian Special Wireless Group. Madge McBrien undertook top-secret work intercepting coded Japanese and Russian messages. Eileen Brown became a Group II Transport and Motor Driver, with some of her responsibilities driving to highly secret destinations in Victoria.

What they did after the war showed how society and women’s roles had changed. Their legacy and ‘extraordinary service’ paved the way for serving women in the Australian Defence Forces today.

Linda Crapper



Eileen Brown AWAS 1942



Eileen Brown and other AWAS Transport and Motor Drivers at Bonegilla in 1942



Eileen Brown (1914 – 2003) served in the AWAS as a Group II Transport and Motor Driver and after the Second World War became a highly successful businesswoman in regional NSW. Eileen is pictured here with her husband, Noel Sullivan, and her niece, Barbara Emerson, in 1962.



MY LIFE STORY LEGACY

‘Timeless life story documents preserve personality, cherished stories and awareness. Share the legacy of a life well-lived so your family may keep your memories close, and share your life lessons, wisdom and joys, and inspire and guide your children now and into the future.’

Such was the preamble to Julian Dahl’s recent talk and I was intrigued to attend. Having attempted for several years now to put together my own ‘life story’ for my children, I was regularly getting a little stuck on how to formalise and structure it all.

Julian is a filmmaker and photographer and has made films in Australia and the USA. He spoke about the various ways to pass on memories as the impetus for his interest in this particular area. The inspiration for Julian was when his father, who migrated here after the Second World War, became ill. Julian recorded his father’s life story and was grateful to have done it. It was transformational for both of them, giving each of them clarity. It gave his father a chance to reflect on his own life, as well as providing a reality to the grandchildren. In other words, it provided an intergenerational memory.

Julian described a legacy as what we leave behind for others. Not just a monetary legacy, but more significantly a passing down of knowledge. He stressed the importance of elders as the keepers of knowledge and the benefits for the youth in our families to have a record of those who came before them. This in turn ensures that your life experience doesn’t just disappear. For our younger people, these memories clarify who we are and who they came from, which can enhance the younger generation’s sense of their own identity, meaning and purpose in life.

Throughout the talk Julian shared several audio and film clips of clients he had worked with. He described the various methods that can be used to record one’s life story. He also emphasised the importance of preparation on the part of the interviewer and the interviewee, and the opportunity this process provided for quiet contemplation and sharing with elders. He spoke also about the use of keepsakes, photos and memorabilia in putting together a life story.

In his interesting slide presentation, he outlined the various methods of creating audio recordings/video and film recording and the time frames involved. He reflected on how, in the past, the passing down of a

lifetime of memories consisted largely of using paintings, songs, poems and eventually photos. In our modern digital age there are newer techniques – home movies, digital files, etc.

Julian spoke about photo preservation, scanning to make digital photo files, and stressed the importance of backing up all information regularly. He showed us examples of photo shoots, autobiographical interviews at home, and short films. He gave DIY audio and video tips and stressed the importance of structure and previewing photos and other memorabilia so that the finished project is clear and interesting, capturing the essence of the interviewee. Julian also suggested that you spread your archive as widely as possible amongst family and close friends, thus determining the longevity of your story.

This was a wonderful presentation; so practical, heart-warming and entertaining.

Nola Bartak

Why is inter-generational memory important?



- Connects the elders to the youth
- Ensures that your life experience does not disappear
- Helps you understand your own life by telling your life story to others

TIPS to preserve your family photo prints



- B&W prints can last over 100 years
- B&W negatives can last up to 200 years
- Colour photos can last up to 50 years or more
- Store prints in a cool, dark, dry place
- Use photo corners on thick paper albums

Professional life story documentaries



- Filmmaker comes to your home for an interview
- You get a finished video documentary about your life
- Video plays on a website with download button

Photo credit "Photo (c) 2026 My Life Story Legacy"



THE KANGAROO USED IN ART AND DESIGN

On a beautiful sunny morning in May, we were fortunate to have Alisa Bunbury return to talk to us, this time on 'The Kangaroo used in art and design'. Alisa is a senior curator, art historian and writer, and works at the University of Melbourne. She spoke to us and showed us photos from the earliest Aboriginal rock carvings of the kangaroo through to the many forms we see in the current day.



George Stubbs
The Kongouro from New Holland, 1772
 beeswax and pigment on mahogany panel
 60.5 x 71.5 cm
 National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

In Europe there was enormous interest in this 'leaping quadruped' from the earliest sightings. When Lieutenant James Cook's ship was damaged on the Great Barrier Reef and stranded for some weeks, Sydney Parkinson (Joseph Banks' botanical illustrator) drew sketches of the kangaroo, and these were probably used by George Stubbs to make his famous oil painting '*The Kongouro from New Holland*' in 1772. This painting had an enormous impact on various depictions of the kangaroo from that time on. Many pictures of the kangaroo were sent back to England after settlement here and the intense interest in the animal continued right across Europe.



Attributed to Ferdinand Meurant, Sydney
Snuff box commissioned by Walter Davidson, 1808
 turbo shell and gold
 Powerhouse Museum



A standing brown velvet toy kangaroo with applied arms and movable legs. The figure is covered with assorted badges of First World War vintage.
 Terence Lane Collection, NMA

Alisa then spoke of the exhibition 'The kangaroo in the decorative arts', held at the National Gallery of Victoria in 1979, and the extraordinary personal collection of kangaroo memorabilia of Terence Lane - the former Curator of Australian Art at the NGV - which was sold to the National Museum of Australia. He had collected over 150 items over 20 years. These were displayed, and showed kangaroos used to decorate ceramics, jewellery, clothing, silverware and even candle sticks and an umbrella stand! The ongoing influence of the original Stubbs painting is apparent. The many photos of articles in the exhibition Alisa showed us made it a fascinating morning.



Umbrella stand, 1885
 George Tinworth (designer)
 Doulton (manufacturer)
 glazed stoneware
 Terence Lane Collection
 NMA



A QUIZ FOR YOU

Now that you have read this wonderful newsletter, with coffee cup in one hand, here is a little quiz. The page numbers for the answers are printed in **bold**.

Unfortunately, there is not a prize of a return trip for two to Antarctica for 10 correct answers!

1.	What is the EmergencyPlus app?	Page 4
2.	When did Denise Bray join U3A Deepdene?	Page 6
3.	Who is absent from the Committee of Management photo?	Page 7
4.	What is gouache?	Page 9
5.	Who was the first Honorary Citizen of Australia?	Page 11
6.	Where would you find “Le Kangorou Boxeur”?	Page 16
7.	Which animals carry the Buruli ulcer bacterium?	Page 21
8.	What is the first global treaty banning nuclear weapons?	Page 23
9.	What is a “Zodiac”?	Page 25
10.	When was the Australian Women’s Army Service formed?	Page 26

With thanks to Alan Ray

The views expressed by presenters in all our classes are their own views
and not the official views of U3A Deepdene.

Our aim is to encourage the exploration of ideas in a
respectful and relatively free environment.



2026 DATES

U3A Deepdene Term Dates 2026

	U3A Deepdene	Schools
Term 1	Monday 2 February to Friday 27 March	Wednesday 28 January to Thursday 2 April
Term 2	Monday 27 April to Friday 19 June	Monday 20 April to Friday 26 June
Term 3	Monday 20 July to Friday 11 September	Monday 13 July to Friday 18 September
Term 4	Monday 12 October to Friday 4 December	Monday 5 October to Friday 18 December

Public Holidays 2026

Monday 26 January	Australia Day
Monday 9 March	Labour Day
Friday 3 April	Good Friday
Sunday 5 April	Easter Sunday
Monday 6 April	Easter Monday
Saturday 25 April	Anzac Day
Monday 8 June	King's Birthday
Friday 25 September*	Friday before the AFL Grand Final*
Tuesday 3 November	Cup Day

* to be confirmed

Source: business.vic.gov.au

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U3A DEEPDENE INFORMATION AND SPONSOR DETAILS

OFFICE HOURS (during term time):

Mondays to Fridays: 9am to 12 noon

T: 9817 7736 (AH) 0408 019 815

E: u3adeepdeneinc@gmail.com

W: www.u3adeepdene.org.au

Weekly emails are sent to all members with email addresses; watch for these updates.

See our website for details of courses: www.u3adeepdene.org.au.

Program guide for Term 3 2026 will be distributed during the second week of June.

Enrolments for Term 3 2026 start on Monday 15 June.

FUNCTIONS:

10 June Mid-year celebration 4.30 pm Balwyn Park Centre

26 June Tutors' lunch

VACATION PROGRAM 'WINTER WANDERINGS':

This will be held between Monday 22 June and Friday 3 July and is currently being arranged.

Please watch for emails giving details.

THANK YOU:

Many thanks to all contributors to our newsletter: writers, photographers, and proofreaders. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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