



NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 3

December 2020

A few words from our president...



Well, it has been a bit of a year hasn't it! But it finally looks as if we have turned the right corner. We are

heading into Christmas with a lighter step and the enjoyable prospect of catching up with family and friends that we haven't seen for quite some time.

Looking to 2021, the Program Planning Group has been devising ways to keep you busy, beginning on 8 January with the first of the Summer Program.

We are planning a return to the Railway Station for Semester 1 on 1 February. Hybrid sessions are on the agenda, but there is still a bit of work to be done before we can

press the 'go' button. Course and timetable details will be soon available on the website.

We were delighted when Jude Doughty put up her hand to join the CoM after Maureen O'Flaherty stepped down. Many of you will know Jude from her time as Manager of Quercus. Huge thanks to Maureen, you are so appreciated for all your effort...and welcome Jude.



Jude Doughty

Despite the difficulties of 2020 the Indigo U3A show did go on. We offer sincere thanks for the hard work and commitment of all those involved in the development and delivery of the program, and the general operation of our U3A....

.... and finally, although we are not having our usual Christmas party, we hope you will all come along to the Railway Station Platform on Wednesday 16 December from 5.30pm-7.30pm for a very informal get-together. It will be a 'BYO Everything Except Tables' event. (yes you can bring drinks and nibbles, glasses and serviettes—and especially a chair). No speeches, just a time to catch up with fellow members who you may not have seen in person for some time.



Rosemary Ryan, President E: president.indigo.u3a@gmail.com

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Summer School, January 2021...

Everyone is welcome, UMAS entries are open so do enrol so we know to expect you, especially for Jazz and Twilight in the Trees

Friday 8 January

Breakfast by the lake at Rotary Exercise Park, from 8 am.

A great way to celebrate the New Year. Bring your own chair plus coffee and croissant or muesli and orange juice.

Also your swimmers if it's hot or, like me, just shorts for a paddle.

Friday 15 January

Jazz with Michael 4pm to 6pm at the RSL Club.

This will be an introduction to Michael O'Flaherty's Jazz program for 2021. The Bar will be open for you to purchase a drink and please bring a gold coin donation to cover cost of cleaning.

Friday 29 January

Twilight in the trees From 4pm to 6pm at the picnic tables in the trees at The George Kerferd Hotel.

We will each need to purchase a beverage from the Hotel as we are using their space but we can bring our own nibbles and I thought we could wander through the trees and maybe have a bit of music to drink by.
GW-S

Enrolment and Information Day...

U3A's Enrolment & Information Day will be held at Beechworth Memorial Hall on Tuesday 19 January 2021 from 10am-1pm.

Those of you who attended Enrolment and Information Day early this year will recall that we couldn't fit everyone in at the Railway Station. It was cosy, but not ideal - so for 2021 we are moving to the Memorial Hall where we will have more room.



As usual, many of our tutors, presenters and group leaders will be there to give a brief presentation of the courses that they have planned for us, and to answer questions.

Presentations will begin shortly after doors open at 10am. A schedule and other details will be circulated early in January, and available on our website.

U3A on the Radio...

Well Happy Listeners ... as the poetry proved popular this year on our radio program Rhonda and I thought we might concentrate on just poetry next year ... whether it be interviews with poets or reading a particular poet's work. Of course we would be more than happy to have feedback and even contributions to our programs.

We broadcast every Friday in Beechworth at 11am on Indigo FM and at the moment we are playing repeats of some of our best programs.

And a Happy Christmas to all from Gail W-S.



Busfire Readiness...



Are you prepared? The bushfire season is upon us again, so please check out the valuable CFA information presented by Maureen Piera and April Padbury at the Zoom session in September. [Click here](#) or go to our website at www.indigou3a.net, click on 'Courses' then 'Presentations'.

Indigo U3A 2020 Member Survey...

Thank you to all who participated in our annual survey, now in its third year. The focus this year was on internet usage, and in particular the use of Zoom. This is a snapshot of the responses. A more detailed summary is available on our website at www.indigou3a.net.

On *internet usage* generally, you told us that the single most important use was for email (95%), followed by banking (85%), U3A (79%), general browsing (77%), Zoom and FaceTime (75%), checking the weather (72%), and online shopping (68%). Less commonly noted were streaming services, YouTube, news, eg The Age, government sites such as MyGov and MyAgedCare, social media, holidays, podcasts, and transport.

For the majority, the primary device used is a laptop or PC, with a third using an iPad or Android tablet.

On the use of *videoconferencing tools* – and in contradiction to the popularly held belief about older people using technology – 80% of

you use Zoom, and 30% use FaceTime. 63% used Zoom for U3A sessions.

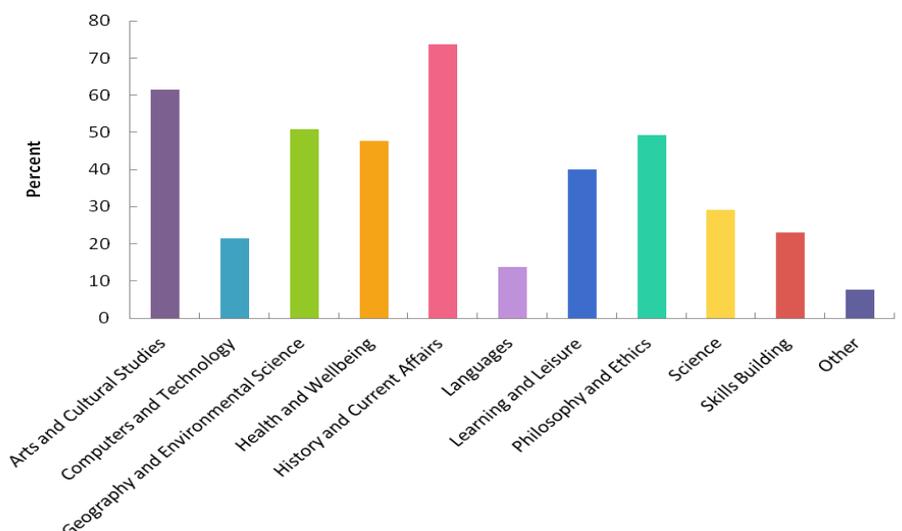
We will be introducing hybrid sessions next year, combining face-to-face at the Railway Station and Zoom for those who wish to join from home, and we asked you to state your preference. 52% of you would prefer face-to-face only; 31% will accept either, and 17% would prefer Zoom.

In reply to the question, "Why did you join U3A?" "What do you most enjoy?", and "What sustains your

Interest?" there was a common thread. Members joined for intellectual stimulation, social interaction and often a combination of both at the same time; for example, meeting like-minded people while learning. Several members requested sessions which took them "out of my comfort zone".

The graph below clearly indicates your preferences.

Keep reading to find out about the 2021 program. We think we are on the right track!



Under the spotlight...

Conversations 2020 with Michael Evans...



Michael Evans

In Conversations, we take a topic and apply a little philosophy to it. We consider it in history, its ethical implications, and its relevance for us today.

Occasionally, we look at a philosopher and consider their life, their work, and their relevance today.

In 2020, we covered a wide range of topics – Ignorance, Knowledge, History, Justice, Obligation, Fear, Democracy, Capitalism, Socrates, Grief, Power, Fairness, John Locke, Nature, Happiness, Truth, and Dystopia.

Until the end of first term, we met and discussed our topics in the Old Railway Station. Covid restrictions shut down our meetings. From Obligation in the second term, we met virtually on Zoom, using PowerPoint to supplement our discussions. Zoom was not ideal but worked for us. Unfortunately, we lost our planned fourth term after I fell off a roof and put myself out of action.

Conversations will be back in 2021, rebadged as **“Everyday Philosophy”** to capture the idea that we apply philosophy to everyday topics. Our first topics will be – Being a Patient, Bertrand Russell, Compassion, Education (in the internet age), Public Ethics, and Optimism.

Explorers of Australia...



Frances Baker

A new enthusiastic group in 2020, The Explorers is a group where members take on the challenge of becoming presenters.

Luckily, we had a format that translated quite easily to Zoom. The well-known or obscure explorers our members spoke about included : Indigenous guides and trackers, Edmund Kennedy; the Polish explorers Kosciuszko and Strzelecki; Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth; Major Mitchell; local Beechworth pioneers and explorers; Emily Creaghe; and Trim the cat who went on many adventures with Matthew Finders.

We are all looking forward to a full program in 2021.

Scribblers 2020 with Olga Evans...

In 2020, COVID restrictions stopped us meeting in person. We met this challenge by taking up ZOOM and WhatsApp.

During weekly ZOOM sessions, we quickly became accustomed to blurry images, sound problems, and connection issues. We became more creative in showing our weekly artwork while attempting to adjust the onscreen camera.

Weekly drawing themes included self-portraiture, memory objects, water, collage, and nature.

One of our theme highlights was a “30-day poetry illustration challenge” between Beechworth poet, Philip Bunn and Scribblers. Scribblers illustrated one of Phil’s poems daily.

This project revealed our unique drawing styles and interpretation of the same words - challenging and fun for poet and artists alike.

Between lockdowns, we were lucky enough to squeeze in a

couple of plein air sessions at Mayday and the Out of Town Nursery.

In our WhatsApp group, we shared drawings, resources, and engaged in interesting and at times lively discussions on a wide range of topics.

Despite all the challenges of being an art group trying to do everything online, Scribblers thrived.

Urtes Borchard’s mixed media illustration of Phil Bunn’s poem -“On Reading Poetry”.

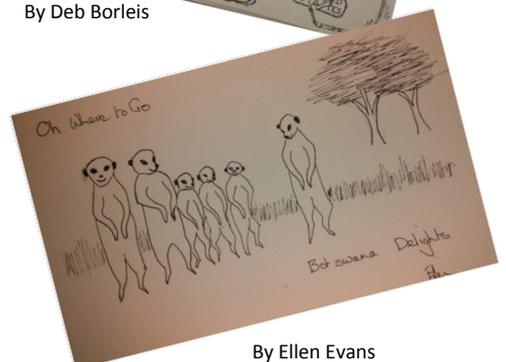


The following three illustrations show different styles and interpretation of the same Phil Bunn poem “Oh, Where to Go”

By Urtes Borchard



By Deb Borleis



By Ellen Evans

Bike Riding Group with Harvey Anderssen



Harvey Anderssen

The group has had a very successful year. We have researched a variety of rides to suit riders with varying skills and equipment, aiming for shorter routes for the riders without eBikes.

We have been fortunate with the conditions. Rain, wind, smoke and storm have threatened but never disrupted our Thursday morning rides. Memorable rides included Greenwattle Road past L'Oliveraie, Kibble Lane with dog, the Magic Forest at Stanley, Murrumbidgee to Whorouly Cafe, three bush rides in the Chiltern-Mount Pilot forest, and the rail trail ride from Osbornes Flat to Yackandandah.

With the warmer weather, we are now starting at 9am and enjoying Covid-safe socialising with outdoor coffee/snacks after our rides.

For 2021, we plan to continue the past practice of riding locally from the Old Beechworth Railway Station on first Thursday of the month and taking our bikes to (new) exciting locations on every third Thursday, weather permitting.

We have options to help those without transport to participate, thanks to group members volunteering time, and resources, and to Indigo Shire for providing the assistance to get the group started. We plan for rides in Stanley, Chiltern, Lake Hume, Murrumbidgee and Baranduda in the coming year.

Bike riding, like bush walking, is best practiced regularly. We plan for weekly Thursday morning rides. We aim to be flexible with those, and appreciate comment and feedback on start times and distance. We will help members who have not ridden for ages to get safely started, knowing it can be very rewarding to rediscover the long-forgotten joys of bike riding.



Rescheduled to 2021...

Memoir writing...



Joy Phillips

In this weekly course beginning on 3 February, Joy Phillips will help you develop your thoughts and ideas about memoir/life-writing: why write a memoir, how to start, how to express the intricacies of memory and feeling, how to tell stories and to shape them for your audience.

Memoir and life writing are about the human need to tell stories, recollect the past, preserve family history, teach lessons, pass on culture, record history, draw insights, and most importantly to help us to make meaning from experience and memory.

Discovering Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park ...



Friends of the Park member, Mick Webster, will lead four separate walks to the hidden gems of the Chiltern-Mount Pilot National Park.

Full details including what to wear, what to take and how to get there, will be available on our website shortly at www.indigou3a.net. Follow the links from the calendar.

11 March – Mount Pilot – Starting with a general survey and introduction to the Park, then a visit to an interesting industrial ruin where there are several workers' huts and returning to Yeddonba aboriginal art site for lunch.

8 April – Eldorado - Two walks to some rarely-visited waterfalls in the Park, as well as a visit to the historic

dredge and investigate a biological control site for the invasive Wheel Cactus.

13 May - Chiltern Gold Mine

Investigate the various types of gold-mining which took place in the Chiltern section of the Park, including the huge Chiltern Valley No. 2 mine.

10 June - Chilton Flora

Visit several sites with rare plants (hopefully flowering!), a brewery and a pub (old sites anyway!) and finish up taking a look at a large revegetation project managed by Friends of the Park.



New in 2021...

Music, music, music...



Michael O'Flaherty

Jazz on Fridays with Michael O'Flaherty, from 2pm-4pm on the third Friday of the month.

Members will be encouraged to select their favourites, with Captain's pick biased to hard bop bands!



Gail Warren-Smith

How about some Folk Music? Gail Warren-Smith would love to hear from anyone interested in starting a jam

session. Bring along your instruments ... or voices ... or just ears to listen and enjoy.

Contact Gail on 0448 883 194 or email gailmarion@live.com.

Women of words...



Brenda Nicholson

Meeting each month in an informal setting to encourage open, wide-ranging and stimulating conversation,

the group will discuss topics with particular reference to women.

The 'Topic of the Month' will be chosen by the group and could be on health, politics and current affairs, family, literature, music.

Come and join us for interactive, stimulating discussion, sharing issues and interests with like-minded people.



Maureen O'Flaherty

Continuing in 2021...

Programs include...

Art and Architecture

Be Connected

Bike Group

Coffee Mornings

Everyday Philosophy
(formerly *Conversations*)

Explorers of Australia

Film Group

Games

Garden Group

Get Active!

Men's Book Group

Poets

Scribblers

Tastes

Our World: Background

Briefings
(formerly *International Relations*)

Walks with Gerri
(formerly *Fourth Thursday Walks*)

Tastes...

Our plans for 2021 include: Guided tour of Beechworth's Bio-Dynamic Produce and Seedlings Farm; Talk by Barb Lowry Food writer, presenter and cook; Christmas Lunch in July - Bring Christmas dishes to share; Australian Indigenous Ingredients; Spring Lunch of locally sourced ingredients at Pickled Sisters Cafe in Wahgunyah; and finally a Picnic. We kick off on Monday 22 February sharing lunch with a Greek theme.

Garden Group...

2020 started with Chris Dormer's talk on garden planning, then Covid. In a rush of activity at the end of the year we enjoyed the Hummingbird Garden; Jenny Indian's shady space; Felicity Leigh's fabulous collection of plants.

In 2021 the Gardeners will enjoy a mixed bag including visits to meet local organic growers; Autumn and Spring plant swaps; garden travel photo exhibition and presentations; pruning skills development and tool care.

Be Connected 2021 with Gerri Boland...

Indigo U3A has partnered with Quercus to provide the *Be Connected* program in our Shire. The program is an initiative of the E-safety Office of the Australian Government and its objective is to empower all of us to thrive in a digital world.

Be Connected works across Australia, within communities, through a network of volunteers. At least 50 new learners have participated in the program here in Beechworth, and we have about 10 volunteer tutors most of whom are Indigo U3A members.

Three sessions are scheduled at the OBRS for Term 1 and topics cover:

- Photos, editing and cloud storage
- Streaming options: ABC iView, SBS on Demand, Netflix and other streaming platforms
- Social Media.

We will use the [Be Connected website](#) as well as look at YouTube videos and share our experiences.

There are some new [topics on the website](#) including *Intro to myGov* and *Online Banking*. We urge you to have a look and try some of the modules. If you are new to the site remember [to sign up](#) so your work is saved. We are listed as Quercus Beechworth on the on-line sign up page.

You can always contact Gerri if you have difficulties on 0438 282 259. Do let her know if there are particular topics you are interested in.

Volunteer tutors are always welcome.



Gerri Boland

Thank You All for Your Outstanding Contribution

External & U3A Member Presenters, Tutors and Leaders U3A Members 'Behind the Scenes'

These are among the many people we thank most sincerely for their generous contribution to Indigo U3A in 2020.

- A**
Margaret Anderson – Program Planning Group
Harvey Anderssen – Bike Group
- B**
Frances Baker – Secretary; Committee of Management; Program Planning Group; U-MAS Management; Garden Group; Explorers; U3A On the Radio
Carolyn Barratt – Program Planning Group—Reference Notes and Agenda; Newsletter
Kat Bennett, Gateway Health – Presenter, Get Active!
Garth Blackman - TechSavvy Seniors; U-MAS Management
Karin Blaurock – Program Planning Group; Tastes
Geri Boland – Be Connected; Fourth Thursday Walks; Explorers
Alan Brink, Albury-Wodonga U3A – Presenter, The Murray Darling Basin Plan
June Brown – Explorers
Phil Bunn – Poets; Explorers; Newsletter contributor: Phil Bunn's Corner
Frank Burfitt - Coffee Morning presenter, Yackandandah; U3A On the Radio
Michael Bydder – Vice President; Committee of Management; Program Planning Group; Zoom; U-MAS Management; U3A on the Radio
- C**
Priscilla Chan, Dietitian, Beechworth Health Services – Presenter, Get Active!
- D**
Gavin Doherty - Host, Garden Group at Hummingbird Garden/Out of Town Nursery
Chris Dormer – Presenter, Coffee Morning 'Women of Stanley'
Jude Doughty – Committee of Management
- E**
Gerry Engwerda – Presenter, Our World: Background Briefings
Ellen Evans – Tutor, Art and Architecture Series; Poets
Michael Evans – Committee of Management; Explorers; Tutor, Conversations
Olga Evans – Tutor, Scribblers
- F**
Ellie Flower - Physiotherapist, Beechworth Health Services – Presenter, Get Active!
Tina Fraser - Host, Garden Group at Hummingbird Garden/Out of Town Nursery
- G**
David Geryga – Tutor, Art and Architecture Series
Hugh Grady – Committee of Management; Zoom; Get Active
- H**
Vivienne Harvey – Weekly 'What's On' email
- I**
Jenny Indian - Host, Garden Group - Stanley

Thank You All for Your Outstanding Contribution

K

Rhonda Kirkland – Indigo U3A on the Radio

L

Felicity Leigh – Host, Garden Group

M

Richard Maskiell – Treasurer; Committee of Management

Stephen Masters – Poets; Presenter: The Body Shop Story; The Murder of an Aeroplane: TSR2; and Sky, Pilot, War, Fate

Helen McIntyre – Coffee Morning, ‘Women of Stanley’; Poets

Heather Meyer – Program Planning Group; Course Scheduler; Explorers

John Meyer – Chair, Program Planning Group; Explorers

Jan Milhinch – Committee of Management

Judi Moncur – Tutor, Psychology: The Quest for Understanding

N

Brenda Nicholson – Program Planning Group; Poets; Explorers; O&M What’s On; Ageing Well Newsletter contributor

O

Jenny O’Connor, Mayor, Indigo Shire – Presenter, Indigo U3A Annual General Meeting

Maureen O’Flaherty – Committee of Management; Program Planning Group; Poets; Scribblers; Explorers

Michael O’Flaherty – Men’s Book Group; Explorers

P

April Padbury, CFA – Presenter, Bushfire Readiness

Remo Parente – Presenter, Plant-based Health Film

Maureen Piera, CFA - Presenter, Bushfire Readiness

Valerie Privett - Presenter, Coffee Morning ‘Women of Stanley’

R

Karen Retra – Presenter, Wild Pollinators

Rosemary Ryan – President; Committee of Management; Website; Newsletter; Zoom

S

Wendy Stephens – Photos for Newsletter and Publicity

Jann Stewart - Garden Group

T

Gabriella Tange, Health Promotions Officer, Beechworth Health Services – Presenter, Get Active!

Anni Turnbull – Plant-based Health Film

Christina Twomey, Head of School, SOPHIS, Monash University – Presenter, Men’s Book Club

W

Gail Warren Smith – Program Planning Group; Coffee Mornings; Indigo U3A on the Radio; Films; Summer School

Mick Webster – Presenter, Coffee Morning ‘Mt Pilot National Park’

Bill Wilson – Presenter, History of Terrorism

Note: It is dangerous producing a list as someone might be unintentionally missed. If that person is you, we sincerely apologise. Please let us know who you are, and we will correct the error.

Coffee Mornings...

...with Gail Warren-Smith

The November Coffee Morning was a great success. Just under 20 people attended and Helen McIntyre spoke about the Women of Stanley and the book she has just sent to the publishers on the topic. Valerie Privett and Chris Dormer also shared some valuable information on those stoic women.



Our Coffee Mornings with speakers have been very popular so we will continue them next year, sharing around the Shire. Hopefully Vivienne will give us a short talk in the trees of Beechworth and then we must go back to Rutherglen and stroll around the new lake after coffee with representatives of the Art Society. If anyone has any topics or venues they would like to suggest please let me know.

Remember to enrol on UMAS—just the once in 2021, and please do make your apologies if you cannot attend in case any venue has a limit.

Looking forward to seeing more of you in the new year.



Gail Warren-Smith

Seasons Greetings...



Phil Bunn's Corner....



SO SAD

Things, in the night, that go bump
And feel like a kick in the rump
Are probably a twitter from
Trump
Thus to the spam folder you
dump

THROUGH THIS WE WILL MUDDLE

We all suffer from a certain
inflictions
Currently called Covid
restrictions
So stay out of trouble, remain in
your bubble
Limit the huddle or the fine will
be double

ZOOM - ZOOM

I've said again and again
But it's stopping me going
insane
U3A is still easing the gloom
This time by us all using Zoom

FREE?

Free, free, free at last.
Watch the distance but discard
the mask.
Though COVID-19 took us all to
task
Let's now hope it's in the past

Indigo U3A

Committee of Management

President: Rosemary Ryan
Vice-President: Michael Bydder
Secretary: Frances Baker
Treasurer: Richard Maskiell
Member representatives: Michael Evans, Jan Milhinch, Jude Doughty and Hugh Grady.

Program Planning Group

Group Members: John Meyer, Heather Meyer, Frances Baker, Maureen O'Flaherty, Margaret Anderson, Gail Warren-Smith, Brenda Nicholson, Karin Blaurock, and Carolyn Barratt.

Publications & Social Media

Website: Rosemary Ryan
What's On: Vivienne Harvey
Facebook: Hugh Grady
Newsletters & Event Flyers:
Editor: Rosemary Ryan
Graphics & Layout: Carolyn Barratt
Contributed Photos: with thanks to Wendy Stephens.
Please send your contributions to
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What's On...

Remember to read **What's On** every week to stay up to date.

Enrol for your chosen courses and **especially** for activities where maximum numbers or a set number of seats may apply.

If you have enrolled in a course and subsequently can't attend, please let us know by emailing courses.indigo.u3a@gmail.com or calling 0492 830 612.

This is especially important from now on as we adjust to what is now the new "Covid-normal".