

**WATTLE I DO?**  
**U3A Maryborough Inc.**  
**NEWSLETTER**

February 2023

Vol. 28 No. 1

Reg No. A0032701S



Happy New Year and welcome back to another year of learning, socialising and having fun. Some members have enjoyed lunch at the Highland Society each Wednesday on January.

Term 1 activities will get underway from Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup>, beginning with a visit to **Alma**, where Jan Gray will lead us on a bush walk near her house. We'll meet at 9.30 am at the Hub and head out to her place. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes, bring a drink bottle, binoculars (if you have any) and a snack for morning tea. Jan will provide a cup of tea or coffee.

**Tuesdays at Mill House** should keep us all busy. Digital Storytelling will continue each morning. Afternoon sessions are as follows:

- 7<sup>th</sup> Myth in Human History
- 14<sup>th</sup> Book Club
- 21<sup>st</sup> Adventure in English – the development of the English language from 5<sup>th</sup> century CE to 2000s
- 28<sup>th</sup> History/Literature with Riley Upton

**Thursdays** in February include:

- 9<sup>th</sup> Armchair Travel – Wendy will lead us around Australia
- 16<sup>th</sup> Lunch at the Thai restaurant
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Nick Weaver from the Highland Society will be our guest speaker

**Friday** mornings host Mah-Jong each week at the Hub. Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> is Writers Group. It is wonderful to see members putting their hands up to run and host sessions, either in a series or as a one-off.

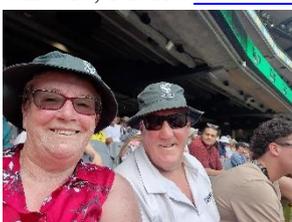
The **Art Gallery talks** will continue this year and will be held in the newly opened gallery. The first talk, on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> will focus on the works of Dean Bowen.

Last year's Van Gogh exhibition at the **Lume** in Melbourne was brilliant. This year **Monet's** work will be exhibited. We will travel to it by train on **Thursday March 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Tickets are \$39 + handling (probably **\$42**). Please let me know by **February 23<sup>rd</sup>** with your payment if you would like to go.

Holidays were busy for the Laceys, with plenty of grandparent duties, a trip to Tasmania for a reunion of The Moose Toques (2010 exchangee teachers to Canada) and a day spent in Bay 13 at the MCG. One of my sons took me to the Australian Open tennis tournament and another accompanied me to the annual Pier-to-Pub swim. It's too busy at the pub, so our tradition is to enjoy an ice cream after the swim, but I don't think we're famous enough to change it to Pier-to-Ice-cream!

For any new members and for any who are yet to renew their membership: Membership \$25. Bank details are BSB: 633 000, Account number: 172 502-957. Remember to include your name. Cash can also be paid to Libby McKinna.

Cheers, Maria [marialacey1@hotmail.com](mailto:marialacey1@hotmail.com)



## President's Notes

I would like to thank the contributions to our U3A by the past president, Val Dwyer and past secretary, Alex Stoneman. Alex, in particular, over the past twenty years has given us great insights into geology, philosophy, literature and musical appreciation.

A big welcome to our committee, Wendy Madden who has taken on the role of Secretary, Libby McKinna, our treasurer, my lovely wife, Maria, our course coordinator and newsletter editor and Connie Bilardi. We all look forward to a year full of interest, laughter and a lot of learning.

Unfortunately, our numbers are very small and we welcome any new members with open arms. Maybe we could all go out and find people in the community who would like to join us.

## Tony Lacey

### Secretary/Gardener Notes

#### The Gardener's Notes

The garden in summer can sometime look quite, well, shall we say sad? The green grass of spring has morphed into a crunchy brown, but with odd spikes of green weedy stuff poking through. The roses need quite a bit of attention: deadheading currently is done quite regularly in response to the fierce winds we've been having out here in Daisy Hill. Quite remarkable really, how long the rose petals actually stay on.



In the vegie garden, we have had our fill of zucchini. I made relish, I baked the stuff with mince, I tried many different recipes, but it really is a bland vegie, isn't it? And don't start me on tomatoes! Where are they, the ripe ones, I mean? We've had five so far – cannot make a decent pot of tomato sauce with just those few! But interestingly, our potatoes have done well, and are providing us nicely with chips and little roasties. Lettuce still going strong, I think I've finally got that 3-weekly sowing thingy worked out - keeps us up with salad.



Cannot believe how quickly a 6-inch seedling has transformed into a 3-foot sapling. Otherwise, the "water feature" is full of several different varieties of grasses, so it is looking a bit untidy, to say the least, and I think the ducks and herons have taken one look and retreated, fearing they might get lost in the wilderness, so to speak.

The Engineer is in summer fire-fighting mode, so you need to be careful not to trip over hoses all over the place, and the old paddock bomb, the ute, is on sentry duty in the carport fully laden with 1000litres of water and pump at the ready. The forecast is consulted hourly, and the wind speed and direction make for much of our conversation.

Otherwise, life is going happily on and we love it!

## Wendy

## From the Astronomer:

Hi Folks

For thousands of years, people have been drawn to looking up at the stars. Like the ancients, we are using only our naked eye, and it is only in the last 400 years that we've had anything better. We also have available a wealth of knowledge, in that we don't need to rely on the appearance of certain stars to know when to plant crops any more, although some of us cling to a certain amount of local lore, such as planting out your tomatoes no earlier than Cup Day!

Okay! On to astronomical notes for February. Venus is visible in the western evening sky, and towards the end of the month, around the 22nd and 23rd, Venus and Jupiter will appear to be quite close to each other which, with the crescent moon, make a pleasant twilight view for the unaided eye. So please get out and have a look!



Mars was in opposition last year, so 2023 being a non-opposition year, the Red Planet offers little for the visual observer, and indeed will decrease in size throughout the year.

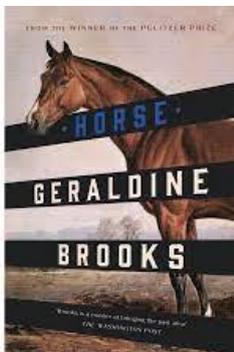
I don't often mention Mercury as it is a bit difficult to see, being observable just before sunrise. And you really do need a telescope to see the rings of Saturn, but you can see that planet without a telescope.

Happy stargazing, folks! Enjoy our magnificent galaxy!

Gerry

## BOOK CLUB

Geraldine Brooks, in her novel, *Horse*, links the lives of many seemingly unrelated people over the years through their connections with famous US thoroughbred horse, Lexington. The horse was famous for his racing exploits but even more for siring 579 foals, 230 of which became champions. She draws her characters well, developing them throughout the novel, and uses her imagination to fill in gaps in actual events over the centuries. The novel displays a level of very detailed research.



### **Maryborough U3A Committee 2023**

#### **President:**

Tony Lacey 0432 305 056

#### **Secretary:**

Wendy Madden 0412961318

#### **Treasurer:**

Libby McKinna 0488 020 095

#### **Course Coordinator & Newsletter Editor:**

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#### **General members:**

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#### **U3A Victoria Online About**

U3A in Victoria

[www.u3avicnet.org.au](http://www.u3avicnet.org.au)

#### **U3A Online Australia**

Online courses are sponsored by Griffith University

[www.u3aonline.org.au](http://www.u3aonline.org.au)

*WATTLE WE DO FEBRUARY?*

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		<b>Feb 1</b> <b>Walk at Jan Gray's Alma</b> <b>Car pool Hub 9.30</b>	<b>Feb 2</b>	<b>Feb 3</b> <b>MAH-JONG</b> <b>Hub 9.30</b>  <b>WRITERS</b> <b>GROUP</b> <b>Mill House</b> <b>10.00</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>DIGITAL</b> <b>STORYTELLING</b> <b>Mill House 10.00</b>  <b>MYTHOLOGY</b> <b>Mill House 1.30</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>ARMCHAIR</b> <b>TRAVEL</b> <b>Around</b> <b>Australia</b> <b>Hub 10.00</b>	<b>10</b> <b>MAH-JONG</b> <b>Hub 9.30</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>DIGITAL</b> <b>STORYTELLING</b> <b>Mill House 10.00</b>  <b>BOOK CLUB</b> <i>Horse</i> <b>Mill House 1.30</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Lunch Thai</b> <b>Restaurant</b>	<b>17</b> <b>MAH-JONG</b> <b>Hub 9.30</b>
<b>20</b> <b>COMMITTEE</b> <b>MEETING</b> <b>Connie's 1.30</b>	<b>21</b> <b>DIGITAL</b> <b>STORYTELLING</b> <b>Mill House 10.00</b>  <b>ADVENTURE IN</b> <b>ENGLISH</b> <b>Birth of a</b> <b>Language</b> <b>Mill House 1.30</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>NICK</b> <b>WEAVER</b> <b>(Highland</b> <b>Society)</b> <b>Hub 10.00</b>	<b>24</b> <b>MAH-JONG</b> <b>Hub 9.30</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>DIGITAL</b> <b>STORYTELLING</b> <b>Mill House 10.</b>  <b>HISTORY/LIT</b> <b>Riley Upton</b> <b>Mill House 1.30</b>			

*from:*

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***U3A Maryborough Inc.***

Learning, sharing, supporting and encouraging retired and semi-retired members of our community through classes, activities and friendship.

