



U3ACanberra

## NEWS

**Newsletter of  
Canberra's University  
of the Third Age**

[www.u3acanberra.org.au](http://www.u3acanberra.org.au)

[https://www.facebook.com/  
groups/u3a.act/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/u3a.act/)

**June 2025**

**Volume 39 Number 3**

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## From the President



As previously mentioned, the U3A Committee is currently in the process of reviewing its existing strategic plan. On 19 May, the Committee along with a number of team leaders met to assess the currency of existing strategies, key priorities and to consider possible new or refined strategies for the future. Discussion papers on organisational structure, member expectations, and IT usage

were provided.

During the meeting, members discussed key aspects of the U3A's value proposition including social engagement, intellectual stimulation, skill sharing, and a sense of purpose. It was noted that our healthy financial position presents an opportunity to invest in strategies that support our future vision.

It was agreed that the key issues to focus upon were:

- Increase in Membership (particularly in the ages 55–75).
- Expanding Course Offerings: including courses that are demand-driven and reflect member interests.
- Strategic Use of Technology: improve productivity, especially for course leaders.
- Review Governance Structure: clarify the roles and responsibilities of specific volunteers to enhance organisational effectiveness.

Members will be kept informed as the revised strategy is “firmed up” and no changes will be introduced without consultation and discussion.

It was interesting to note that many of the attendees at the session joined U3A on the advice of friends and family. It highlights that personal recommendations remain our most effective tool for attracting new members. Please continue to spread the word about U3A and the wide variety of activities we offer for people over 50. Your conversations can make a real difference!

Also, on behalf of the Committee I want to acknowledge the sad passing of our former Vice President Simone Clark after a short illness. Simone played a pivotal role in leading, producing and reporting on the U3A membership surveys and was instrumental in negotiating the latest lease with COTA for the Hughes venue. Simone was always cheerful and incredibly committed to U3A, and her presence will be greatly missed.

Alex Gosman, President

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## From the Editor

Our *penchant* for musical articles is a little subdued this issue, but instead we've had welcome influx from our creative writers – a very enjoyable collection for your reading pleasure. Also a bit subdued is the walks and tours program – Garth really needs someone to partner up with him lest we lose this major activity.

I was caught up in all the rain up north – being forced to backtrack from Port Macquarie to Grafton to get home. The news and the visuals from the disaster tug at our heartstrings and our thoughts go to them. Meanwhile, as I write this, I sense I've brought a bit of the wet weather to our neighbourhood, though looking at the state of our dams (and my precious trout streams) we certainly needed it. My detour through the New England brought into display some beautiful autumn displays of colour – rivalling those local – so I thought a collection of Autumn shots from the ever prolific U3A Photography Group would be good for adding some colour to the edition.

U3A Canberra's formal and informal connections to related activities get a guernsey and hopefully inspires your attendance.

The edition is rounded out with a further item on expected conduct of U3A Canberra members, as well as another set of hints on how to use our website.

*Bill Blair*  
*June Newsletter Sub-Editor*  
[newsletter@u3acanberra.org.au](mailto:newsletter@u3acanberra.org.au)

## Newsletter Timetable for 2025

Please observe the deadline for each edition — it makes our job much easier.

Newsletter Edition	Deadline for copy	Newsletter placed on U3A Website
August 2025	25 July 2025	1 August 2025
October 2025	24 September 2025	1 October 2025
December 2025	24 November 2025	1 December 2025

## U3A Offices: Addresses and Phone Numbers

**U3A Canberra Office at Hughes** (ph. 6281 6998) is in the Hughes Community Centre at 2 Wisdom Street, Hughes, ACT, 2605 and is usually open Monday to Friday from 9:30 to 4:30. All general enquiries should be directed to this Office.

**Our Cook facility** (ph. 6251 8005) is in the Cook Community Hub at 41 Templeton Street, Cook, ACT, 2614 and has the same opening hours.

**Our Flynn Teaching Rooms** (Course activities only; NO public or member enquiry services) are at Flynn Community Hub at 21 Bingle St, Flynn, ACT, 2615. **Please note:** Access to U3A at the Flynn Community Hub is from Hedland Circuit. For more information on holding a course at Flynn please contact the course coordinator for Flynn at [flynn@u3acanberra.org.au](mailto:flynn@u3acanberra.org.au).

Our mail address is now:     U3A Canberra  
                                         Hughes Community Centre  
                                         2 Wisdom Street  
                                         Hughes ACT 2605

# U3A Canberra Members' Calendar 2025

UC = University of Canberra, Bruce

Updated 22 May 2025

				JUNE	
				Sunday 1	Newsletter published online
				Monday 2	Reconciliation Day Offices closed
				<i>To be confirmed</i>	<i>Tuesday Forums end for Semester 1</i>
				Monday 9	King's Birthday Offices closed
				Tuesday 10	Committee meeting
JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER	
Monday 14	Committee meeting	Friday 1	Newsletter published online	Monday 8	Committee meeting
Monday 14	Call for nominations for annual U3A awards	Monday 11	Committee meeting	Wed 24	Deadline for October Newsletter
Friday 25	Deadline for August Newsletter	Monday 25	Nominations for Committee positions open		
<i>To be confirmed</i>	<i>Tuesday Forums begin for Semester 2</i>	Friday 29	Nominations for annual U3A awards close		
Monday 28	UC Semester 2 starts				
OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
Wed 1	Membership renewals for 2026 open	Monday 3	Committee meeting	Monday 1	Newsletter published online
Wed 1	Newsletter published online	Wed 5	Nominations for Committee positions close	Monday 8	Committee meeting
Monday 6	Labour Day Offices closed	Wed 12	AGM (Hughes)	<b>Friday 12</b>	<b>Offices close for Christmas-New Year break</b>
Monday 13	Committee meeting	Monday 24	Deadline for December Newsletter	Monday 12 Jan 2026	Office reopens
		<i>To be confirmed</i>	<i>Tuesday Forums end for Semester 2</i>		

## For U3A Canberra Members

### Audit (attend) courses at the University of Canberra

Did you know that U3A Canberra members can sign up to audit (attend) lectures at the University of Canberra? We can watch lectures, whether in person or online, without all the other stresses of university studies (there are no assignments, no exams, no tutorials, and no HECS) as part of our annual U3A membership. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn new things or update existing knowledge.

More information here: <https://www.u3acanberra.org.au/members/courses-uc.html>

and here: <https://www.canberra.edu.au/about-uc/learning-at-uc/university-of-the-third-age-u3a-members/how-to-register-to-audit-a-unit>.

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There is now a curated set of units available to U3A members each semester/term:

<https://www.canberra.edu.au/about-uc/learning-at-uc/university-of-the-third-age-u3a-members/unit-registration/unavailable-units>. Subjects available include creative writing, ecology, education, history, law, literacy, literature, mathematics, nutrition, psychology and more.

Semester 2 starts: Monday 28 July (enrol from 14 July)

Enrol by completing the form at <https://www.canberra.edu.au/about-uc/learning-at-uc/university-of-the-third-age-u3a-members/unit-registration>

Many thanks

*Karin Hosking*  
[ucanberra@u3acanberra.org.au](mailto:ucanberra@u3acanberra.org.au)

## Code of Conduct: What U3A Canberra expects from you

When you join or renew your membership of U3A Canberra you pay a membership fee that makes you part of the organisation. This means that you are required to comply with our Rules and Policies. For those of you who haven't read the rules and policies, following are two key points you need to keep in mind when participating in U3A activities. The full Code of Conduct is also set out below.

- **Be courteous and respectful** We want to create an environment where everyone feels safe and comfortable to participate and share their views. A core part of our activities is being exposed to ideas that might be quite different to your own. Show courtesy in group discussions by actively listening without interrupting, using polite language, and acknowledging others' ideas. Ensure everyone has a chance to speak and consider diverse perspectives thoughtfully. Maintain a positive tone and avoid dismissive words and gestures to foster a respectful and effective learning environment. We take the wellbeing of members very seriously. If you have concerns about lack of courtesy or respect, please contact [memberliaison@u3acanberra.org.au](mailto:memberliaison@u3acanberra.org.au)
- **Follow instructions** At U3A Canberra, our courses and activities are led by dedicated volunteers, without any paid staff. These leaders and administrative volunteers provide instructions to ensure that everything runs safely, smoothly, and effectively. When a course leader requests help with tasks like putting away chairs or setting up morning tea, your cooperation is essential. Adhering to safety instructions helps protect everyone involved. Similarly, following administrative guidelines, such as including your membership number when joining a course or paying fees, is crucial. Neglecting this could lead to issues verifying your membership status and your eligibility to participate in a course or activity. For Tuesday Forums, please turn off your video.

### Code of Conduct

To support the principles, policies, objects and rules of U3A ACT Inc. (U3A) members participating in any U3A activity must:

- Abide by all U3A by-laws, policies and procedures, particularly the safety and wellbeing policies.
- Treat everyone with respect, courtesy, inclusivity and sensitivity, taking into account people's different individual experiences and views.
- Avoid any words or actions that might be interpreted by others as intimidation, discrimination, harassment, disruptive or other inappropriate behaviour.
- Comply with course/activity leader instructions and guidelines, including following all reasonable directions to ensure the safe, orderly and effective conduct of U3A activities
- Behave with honesty and integrity.
- Respect the confidentiality of all members' personal information, including course/activity leaders, administrative volunteers, and other participants.
- Act responsibly so the reputation of our association is maintained, including in dealing with individuals or organisations with whom you have contact as part of a U3A activity.

If you would like to know more about the Code of Conduct and or talk about what U3A expects of you, please contact the Member Liaison Person through [memberliaison@u3acanberra.org.au](mailto:memberliaison@u3acanberra.org.au)

## Our Website

FIND A COURSE is a great way to quickly see what's available.

In the example below I'm looking for a book group that runs on Mondays, is long-term and meets in the Weston Creek area.

U3ACanberra Hi, Jane

Home **Courses** Membership News Course Leaders Volunteers About

Members' Home » Courses » Find a course

### Find a course

**FIND A COURSE**

Search for:

Subject area:

Starting date:  2025 to  2025

Course Leader:

Day of the week:

Duration:

Location/s:

Arrange by:

Or I could search for offerings in a specific Subject area or from a specific Course Leader.

If you want help using FIND A COURSE, call one of our offices for support.



### WANTED

Do you have some experience with HTML and/or blogging?  
Would you be interested in helping to maintain the U3A website? The role requires about 2 hours per week from home.

Still reading?

Then please contact [webcontent@u3acanberra.org.au](mailto:webcontent@u3acanberra.org.au)

Jane  
Web Manager

[webcontent@u3acanberra.org.au](mailto:webcontent@u3acanberra.org.au)



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## U3A Course News



*Rob Lee*

### ELL024.17 — Just Writing

A couple of members of my Just Writing group have sent some pieces. "Just Writing" is a creative writing group which has been offered by U3A for over 20 years. Our members write in a variety of styles including, poetry, fiction and biography.

*Christine Hobbs*

#### *Gather by Jenny Burgess*

The trolley stands empty,  
Its key chain dangles.  
He gathers his possessions  
With smoke-stained hands,  
Arranges them with care,  
One by one, in his new home.

Six cardboard boxes, neatly stacked,  
Blue tarp roof instead of tiles.  
Torn sleeping bag floor,  
Two stained lumpy pillows,  
Blue plastic plate, chipped red mug,  
Old army coat, epaulettes flap.  
Green garbage bag bulges,  
Checked shirt peers out,  
Holey socks neatly rest  
On worn-out shoes.

At the entrance,  
A rusty dog bowl  
And skinny Kelpie  
Stand guard.

Bourgeoise woman, I recoil,  
My senses offended  
By the grime & stench.  
Then guilt glides over.  
What is his past?

I enter Woolies,  
Ignore my own list.  
Gather milk, ham & cheese,  
Fresh bread rolls,  
Half a hot chicken,  
Thick woollen red socks.  
I knock on his curtain,  
Slim shape curled up,  
Bare blue feet.  
No face, just a hand protrudes.

Thank you, lady.

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## *Bird on a Wire* by Mark Connolly

Well it's not so much a bird on a wire but we will return to that later. In the sixties rock and roll arrived in fits and starts along the Gumly Gumly Reach of the Mid Murrumbidgee. One breakthrough was the purchase of a pre-loved but magnificent Stromberg-Carlson radiogram complete with a cabinet of Italian walnut. Its predecessor was a smaller, bakelite HMV unit. Its record player had been rendered useless by the siblings, before my time. Our story could be summed up by one of Kenny Everett's characters, Syd Snot, who once reflected, in Cockney accent;

"Yeah I come from a broken 'ome. Mind you, I broke most of it meself."

So we heard the Beatles, the Stones and the Easybeats through the grand old Strommy. It held up well to the battering. There were several 45s and a few LPs and they were generally dusty, covered in fingerprints or scratched. We were quick learners and realised that if a record was scratched and repeatedly jumping back then you could apply finger pressure to the tone arm as it played and effectively re-groove it with the stylus. That technique actually had a very low success rate and is no longer recommended by audiophiles.

Compared to the HMV, the new unit was grander on every scale. We had never experienced such bass, booming out of its massive speaker. Yes, that was 'speaker', singular. One of the senior sibs announced one day that the Strommy could not play in stereo. It was a classic marketing strategy; identifying a lack we didn't know we had. We played on but now dreamt of the day when stereo might be heard along the Reach. After seeing the Strommy's slow destruction Dad was reluctant to reinvest and besides with enough encouragement and bushcraft one could still coax a song out of it.

To where could the record player devouring zombies turn? Well there was our third, Gail, and it was most serendipitous that she joined the workforce in this darkest of hours. Two or three of her younger brothers helped her realise that she needed one of those new stereos with a smoked perspex lid and two separate speakers. Separate speakers, could you imagine?

We are forever grateful to Gail for introducing us to stereophonic sound, if only for a while. The AWA machine was delivered to Gail and Mary's room and all plugs and wires were hastily connected. Besides the usual features, we now had a knob that said 'balance' and we knew we were in stereo. Keep your Italian walnut. Now, one should never underestimate the rat cunning of the zombies. One among them, and I'll name Pat here, suggested to Gail that perhaps one speaker would be sufficient and that he could wire the second speaker through to the adjacent boys' room. Reluctantly Gail agreed and Pat went about joining up some scrap pieces of figure eight wire to make a connection long enough to reach its destination wherein he triumphantly hung the right channel speaker on the wall.

The arrangement worked for some months but one day the right channel ceased to function. Yes, the zombies. The extended wiring had developed a short circuit at a badly made joint and the result was that the one amplifier was burnt out, never to work again. I'm not sure if the cause was ever fully made public but a certain junior detective worked it out.

Nevertheless we enjoyed some of the classic rock music of the early 70s on the single channel stereo and no one seemed to mind too much. There had been rumblings on the telly about this thing in America called Woodstock. It was a music festival and some years later the live recording became available in a three LP set. The price was an unheard of, and unreachable, eighteen dollars.

However, one of the sibs was able to do record swaps with his classmates. These were short term arrangements and participants had to protect their reputations as good caretakers of records. I still don't know how but one day he brought home the complete Woodstock album and, foolishly, delivered it into the zombies' lair. We had not heard of most of the artists but we played it endlessly over that weekend. After several hours, one of the vinyls began to jump backwards and repeat. So we used the age old technique of applying pressure to the tone arm. It was a catastrophe. Several tracks became unplayable. We never found out how, or even if, David explained it to the owner on that Monday.

One or two years later the Woodstock movie arrived at the Plaza theatre in town. It had an enormous impact on us as early teenagers. For years after we would reel off pieces of the dialogue, copying the American accents and with heavy emphasis on the swearing.

Oh yes, to get back to that bird on a wire; although it wasn't highly visible, Woodstock did have a logo. It was not a bird on a wire but on the neck of a guitar.

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### *Random Encounter by Jenny Burgess*

He faces the thick Perspex visor of the riot helmet, inches from his nose. His left hand clutches the collar of his opponent's uniform. His right elbow feels the strong police grasp. His eyes widen in recognition. He sees the baton.

**'DON'T REGISTER FOR MURDER!'** screams a large banner behind him.

To his right, another banner, **'MAKE LOVE NOT WAR!'**

Nearby, his two bearded friends hold up a large white sign, with red printing,

**'END CONSCRIPTION OR TWO YEARS GAOL!'**

Next to them, four middle-aged women in conservative dress balance a huge sign,

**NOT OUR SONS!**

**NOT YOUR SONS!**

**NOT THEIR SONS!'**

A red-headed young boy helps his mother raise a banner,

**'LEAVE VIETNAM NOW!'**

His defiant teenage sister waves her thick sheet of white cardboard, on which she's painted bright red drops of blood,

**'DON'T LET MY BROTHER DIE!'**

The chant grows louder: 'End the war now! End the war now!' He remains frozen, staring, staring at the raised baton.

'C'mon, Johnny, hurry up! We're nearly there, nearly at Parliament House. Quick!' plead his friends.

'Bill, it's me! Johnny Fitz, Johnny Fitzsimmons! Your mate! Broken Hill Primary!' he beseeches his impassive captor. 'Remember – we wagged school together! Down by the river! Remember the raft we built! And the snake! Ripped off my shirt for the tourniquet on your leg! Bill, put down your baton!'

Every muscle of his face tightens. The sinews of his neck protrude. His long brown hair shines in the sunlight. His check shirt-tails flap in the breeze. His intense young face is a whirlpool of passion, commitment, yet also fear and uncertainty. Then, he sees a hand raise the visor. Bill lowers the baton to his side.

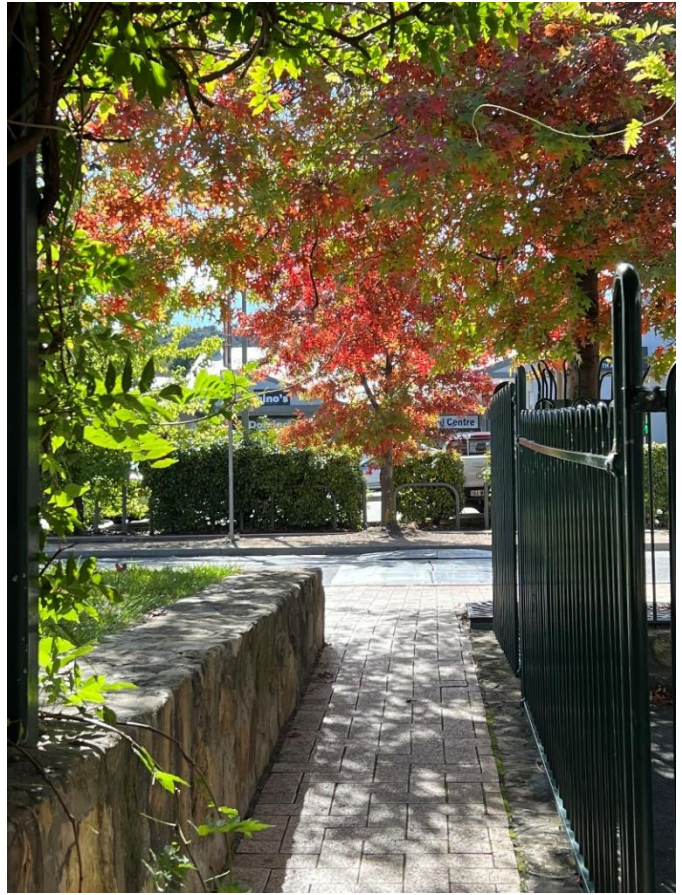
They stand there, inches apart, as if suspended in space, yet on opposite sides of the world. Around them, the Moratorium marchers surge forward, chanting. Some link arms, some throw punches, some struggle with police, some are dragged off.

'OK, Johnny,' Bill sighs, 'I got me job to do. Ya better get a move on. I always knew Uni would be bad for ya. Stay away from these lefty idiots!' Bill smiles and pulls his visor down. He moves to the other side of the road to help a colleague restrain a protestor.

A random encounter.



*Kathy Griffiths*  
*My Neighbourhood*



## **Cybersecurity Forum – 27 May**

Organised by U3A Canberra and conducted under the auspices of the U3A Network as part of the Tuesday Forums, a well-attended Zoom seminar on Cybersecurity was held on 27 May. Over 400 attendees were drawn from U3As across Australia.



With funding from the Department of Home Affairs under the Act Now, Stay Secure cybersecurity awareness campaign, Network NSW is supporting its members to improve their cybersecurity knowledge and skills to better protect themselves online. As the volume and sophistication of cyberattacks continue to grow, it's increasingly important for Australians—particularly seniors—to be cyber-aware, as they are now prime targets for scammers, hackers, and identity thieves.

The seminar was presented by Wayne Custodio, a trusted expert in digital transformation, strategic innovation, and cybersecurity. He provided valuable insights into the real risks individuals face in today's digital world and how to reduce them. Topics covered included:

- Introduction to Cybersecurity
- Understanding Online Threats
- Safe Online Practices
- Spotting Scams
- Protecting Devices

A follow-up Forum exploring cybersecurity issues in more detail will be held on 10 June.



A recording of the 27 May talk, along with additional information on reducing online risks, is available at the following link:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13HkeGMs0Yww\\_IISppd3USzF\\_P5im2poM?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13HkeGMs0Yww_IISppd3USzF_P5im2poM?usp=sharing)

Rob Lee

Lake Burley Griffin



## Warrani Chorale invites you to their June Concert

Join us at Weston Creek Uniting Church on Wednesday, 4 June at 10.30 am for a very enjoyable morning of music. The choir will entertain you with choral music to warm and delight you – from Brahms and Caccini to ABBA, from Karl Jenkins and John Rutter to Paul Simon. There will also be an opportunity for the audience to join the choir in a sing-a-long of old favourites which will start your toes tapping. Don't miss this opportunity to raise your spirits and voices in the joy of singing. Admission by gold coin donation.



*Warrani Chorale in concert  
in 2024 conducted by Helen  
Swan.*

*Margaret Martin*

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## U3A Canberra Recorder Orchestra – and Who Remembers Empire Day

The Canberra Recorder Orchestra added a new piece written by a recorder friend from Leeton, called 'A Very British Selection.' She scored it in 13 parts, and incorporated many familiar tunes from the British Isles. We played it on Wednesday 21st May to give a nod to the formerly celebrated **Empire Day**, (24th May.)

How many remember celebrating Empire Day as children?

24th May would dawn to much excitement as we would check our cache of fireworks (crackers) and put the finishing touches to the bonfire we'd spent weeks building in the back garden or on the empty paddock nearby.

We'd walk to school with our friends, discussing the 'crackers' we had bought with pocket money, and observe the red, white and blue bunting and flags flying from shops and the school.

The Empire Day assembly was taken by the Head Master/Mistress, giving a fine speech about the reasons for the day (Queen Victoria's birthday) and the benefits of being members of the British Empire. Each child was given a small cardboard flag to pin to our lapels. I still have mine!

We would sing songs such as 'Advance Australia Fair', 'There is a Land Where Sunny Skies.' and 'God Save the King' (George VI), and someone would recite 'My Country'. We fidgeted in anticipation of the evening's fun, but had to attend our classes until lunch time.

Then we went home. A half-day holiday was such a treat! Most mothers didn't go out to work, so they were at home to give us our lunches.

'Cracker Night' was just wonderful. As darkness fell, we'd nail the Catherine Wheels to the wooden paling fence and squeal as they spun around sending off sparks, and sometimes they would slip off the nails and seem to chase us around the garden. Rockets went up from empty milk bottles, and Roman candles and sparklers were waved around as we watched the bonfire blaze, then die down. Next day we'd search for little 'Tom Thumbs' or rockets that didn't quite go off.

Health and safety were the responsibility of parents.

I think this ritual was only in a few Commonwealth countries. It began in Canada in 1890s, and spread to other Commonwealth countries.

In 1958, Empire Day was renamed Commonwealth Day, and 56 countries have chosen to belong to this group of nations.

Eventually it became impossible to buy the 'crackers', and the private fireworks fun was stopped.

My English husband and friends had never heard of such a celebration on 24th May. But here, in Canberra, 30 recorder players had a little musical reminder of a long-gone ritual.

### *Recorder Players Wanted!*

The U3A Canberra Recorder Orchestra would love to welcome players for some of our deep instruments.

Our deep section is beautiful and resonant, and our extra instruments are waiting for players to join our happy band.

If you can read the bass clef, and know the F fingering, we have a recently repaired contra bass ready for a player.



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If you can read the bass clef and know the C fingering, we have 2 great basses waiting for you.

If you'd like to really stretch yourself, we have a huge sub contra bass recorder which needs F fingering and bass clef reading.

Come along and try out these unusual recorders, and even have a few lessons if you like.

We meet every Wednesday during school terms in Hall 1 at the Woden Seniors' Club from 2:00-4:00.

Our repertoire is varied, including music from the Renaissance, Baroque and Classical times, with some modern pieces.

Please contact Margaret Wright [recorderteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:recorderteacher@hotmail.com)

*Kim Pendreigh*

*Autumn Trees*



## **SBS036.02 — Life Writing**

### *A Certain Tango Adventure by Amalia Milman*

My tango adventure started in Canberra in February 2011. I grew up in Buenos Aires. My parents were great tango dancers and Dad really wanted to teach us when we were teenagers. At that time, my sister and I preferred rock and roll. We saw tango as a dance for oldies. When you are 15, old means anyone over 22.

In 2011, after having a couple of lessons in Canberra, I travelled to Buenos Aires to see my family. With that sort of tango experience, I had the audacity to go to a 3 pm milonga (tango dancing salon). I think the place was in Cochabamba Street and it was definitely a pick-up joint for the over 55s. An old man, at least older than me, asked me for a dance. We started to move on the dance floor.

- I haven't danced before, I said.

- It doesn't show, he politely replied while I kept stepping all over his toes. We endured the 4-tango set, called 'a tanda'. Well done Amalia, I thought, you've survived.

As I started to change my shoes, another bloke asked me for a dance. I repeated my excuse.

- Never mind, he said. I like you!

- Oh dear, I thought.

---

As I struggled on the dance floor, came his verdict.

– I am dancing to the music, madame. I wonder what you are dancing to.

At the end of the song, we said goodbye and I disappeared towards the old part of the city.

My tango adventure looks a bit brighter these days. My tango shoes are worn-out by now.

## **ELL019.14 — The Write Stuff**

### *The Waiter by Judy La Porte*

Thaddeus, head waiter at Le Poisson at Sydney Harbour, stole a glance at his own reflection in the gilded mirror as he prepared to greet the evening's diners. He sighed with contentment. Yes, he looked fabulous as usual. It was 7pm. He surveyed the opulent dining area, with its soothing hues of pale blue and aqua, pristine white tablecloths and shining silver cutlery. Raymond, his junior waiter, was already lighting the candles on each table.

Suddenly Thaddeus took in a sharp breath. He frowned. The four people loitering at the door waiting to be seated caught his gimlet eye. Riff-raff was the word that came to his mind. The man was tall and gawky, wearing a cheap-looking brown suit. Brown! His hair was still damp from a shower. He was looking around the restaurant with great interest. His female companion was plump and dressed in a hideously gaudy pink and purple ensemble. She was fussing over what presumably were their children. The girl looked about eighteen, casually dressed in blue denim jeans, in Le Poisson, if you don't mind! The boy, younger, was looking bored and glancing about with a smirk.

Rushing towards them, a frozen smile on his lips, his grey eyes cold, Thaddeus held up a perfectly manicured hand. He addressed the man. "I am so sorry, sir but we are completely booked out tonight at Le Poisson." The man looked bewildered and stared at Thaddeus. Just then, the woman spoke up "Oh, but we have a 7pm booking. For four. Grimley. Bernie and Mavis." She smiled and looked expectantly at Thaddeus.

Thaddeus grimaced momentarily and snapped his fingers at Raymond, indicating the booking ledger that he had not yet perused. Raymond handed it to him, smiling politely at the couple. Thaddeus ran a slender finger down the page and located the name: Grimley, for four at 7pm. Of course, these sorts of people always arrived at the exact time. And 7pm - not the fashionable 8 or 8:30 time slot!

"This way," Thaddeus said icily. Strutting stiff-backed through the almost empty restaurant, he led the dismal quartet to a table at the back - no discernible view of the gloriously sparkling harbour lights, and near the restrooms. He held out two of the oversized menus in the direction of Mavis Grimley. The boy glared at Thaddeus and rudely snatched one of the menus. "Coke, no ice," he mumbled. "Make that two, thanks sport," his father said to Thaddeus and began to study the other menu. Thaddeus slapped the extensive wine list on the table. "Oh lovely," gushed Mavis, reaching a chubby fist across the table. "I'm dying for a drink. Maybe a sweet sherry." She fluttered her eyelashes at Thaddeus who shuddered briefly.

Having noticed a new couple arrive, an ex-PM and his stylish wife, Thaddeus hurried away from the Grimleys and gushed at the couple, graciously escorting them to a prime location in the restaurant. He hovered about them, flourishing napkins and suggesting dishes until the ex-PM, obviously irritated, had to wave him away.

The Grimleys settled on their choices: grilled white fish for Mavis, Barramundi for Bernie and calamari for the two kids. After several unsuccessful attempts to catch Thaddeus's attention, the girl, Chantelle, was dispatched by her parents to the front of the restaurant to let the waiter know that they were ready to order. She was tempted to wink at Thaddeus and whisper "how about dinner tonight." But she somehow knew he would not get the Grimley sense of humour. She picked up a sweet sherry from the bar for her mother and a lemonade for herself. After another five minutes, Thaddeus finally headed towards them.

"Watch out, here comes Dracula," said Bernie,

"Shush, love," Mavis admonished him with a giggle.



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After another inexplicably long wait, their food was plonked down in front of them. They all agreed it looked and tasted delicious. As soon as the last mouthful was swallowed, Thaddeus swiftly appeared at the table and gathered up their plates. "Coffee?" he inquired unenthusiastically.

"No, thank you," said Mavis. "We plan to have a nice cup of tea at home."

"Just the bill, thanks sport," said Bernie, reaching for his wallet.

Later, as Thaddeus farewelled the last of the late diners, Con, the restaurant manager, rushed in the front door. He had been absent all that evening. He glanced around the restaurant. "Have the Grimleys been in?"

"The Grimleys..." Thaddeus looked uncharacteristically flustered.

"Yes, the new owners of Le Poisson. I presume you read my email." Sadly, Thaddeus had not. He never read Con's emails as a rule. The manager continued. "Sir Bernard and Lady Grimley own several upmarket seafood restaurants in Sydney, now including Le Poisson." He beamed at Thaddeus "I trust you treated them with extra courtesy, Thaddeus. And that you waived their bill. Lady Mavis particularly is keen that her restaurant staff are gracious and friendly to all our diners." Thaddeus smiled weakly.

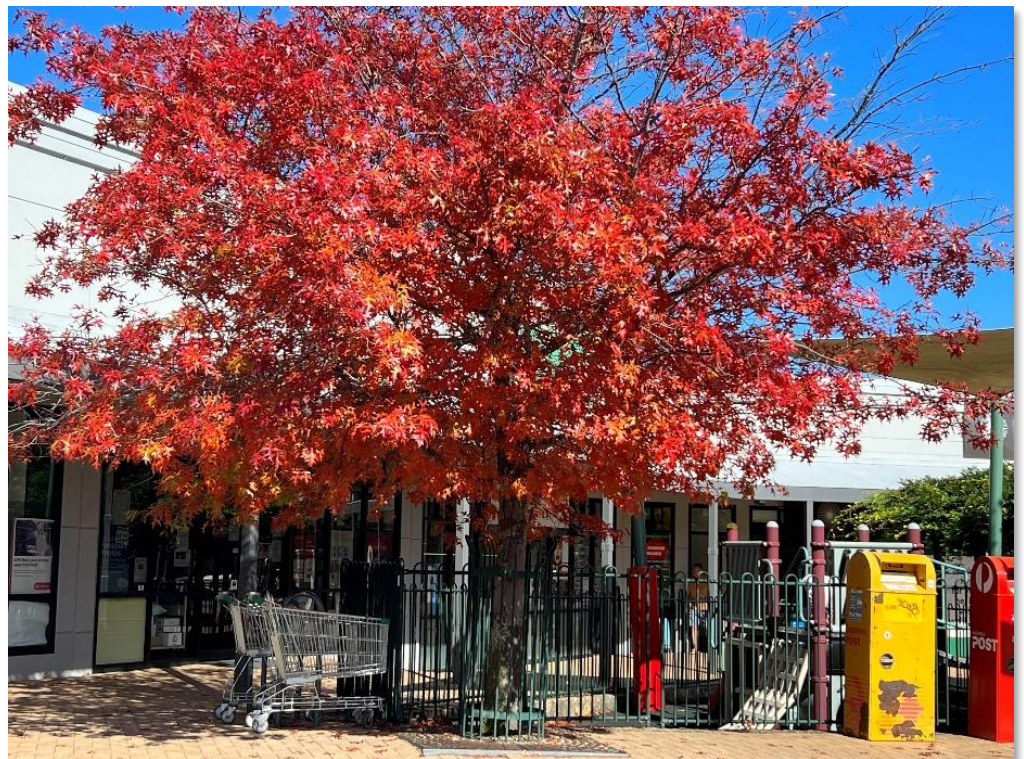
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If you ever dine at Le Poisson any time, you will find the ambience is the same - tasteful and relaxing. However, the general welcoming feel and friendliness, particularly from the head waiter, Raymond, are particularly noticeable.

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*Kathy Griffiths*

*My Neighbourhood*



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## Like-Minded Programs

### Musical Reflections – ANU School of Music

Musical Reflections is a journey across genres presented by the ANU Community Music Centre at the School of Music, ANU. U3A and the School of Music have entered into a “partnership” on these talks. Held at Llewellyn Hall the talks feature a variety of informative and interesting talks on different musical genres, with representation of various musical styles, composers and topics.

To date we have had three very well attended sessions covering:

- Influences from the Periphery (March) - Aperion Baroque (Marie Searles and John Ma). Aperion Baroque presented on the 25th on Influences from the Periphery – an exploration of the musical influences from the outer edges of Europe.
- The Castrato – Fame and fortune for a few – (May) Tobias Cole, Tobias discussed the history of this, in 17th and 18th century Italy, socially acceptable practice examining the sacrifices families made for the sake of money and social standing.
- The Theatrical Roots of Jazz – Leisa Keen. Leisa delved into the connection between musical theatre and jazz, and how composers such as Gershwin, Porter and Berlin influenced the jazz musicians of the 30's and 40's through to the current day.



### Queanbeyan Players

Queanbeyan Players is proud to present as part of their 60th season, EssGee's *The Pirates of Penzance*. Simon Gallaher's reimagined version of the Gilbert & Sullivan classic was first performed in the 90s and included revered Australian theatre stars such as Jon English, Toni Lamond and Simon Gallaher himself.



*The Pirates of Penzance* was one of the very first major musicals that Queanbeyan Players ever performed and they are super excited to bring out the classic once again at the Queanbeyan Performing arts Centre this July.

The production boasts a talented local cast of almost 40 and a large on stage Orchestra.

Musical director and Queanbeyan Players president Jen Hinton had this to say “the production will be a fabulous trip down memory lane for many of our audience who I’m sure have seen many versions of the show before. We have assembled an incredible cast of whom audiences have seen before including Demi Smith and Paul



Sweeney, recently seen in our production of *Oklahoma*, Lachlan Elderton who most recently performed in Free Rain's *The Boy From Oz*, and David Cannell, Wally Allington and Adam Best who were a part of our production of *HMS Pinafore* in 2022. The show both incredible numbers such as Poor Wandering One, Climb Rocky Mountain and of course The Modern Major General."

Turning 60 this year, Queanbeyan Players has long been a part of the Queanbeyan fabric producing quality theatre and providing opportunities for Community performers to tread the boards. They will be holding an anniversary concert in September and will be calling for QP alumni to join the chorus. Stay tuned to [www.queanbeyanplayers.com](http://www.queanbeyanplayers.com) for more info.

Tickets to *The Pirates of Penzance* are from \$35 can be bought at [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au) or by phoning the box office on 02 62856290.



## Musica Viva Australia

Musica Viva Australia tours chamber music performances from Australian and international musicians to cities, towns, regional areas and remote communities across Australia and beyond. The company is a leading provider of music education in schools and a champion for composers and emerging talent.

In 2025 Musica Viva Australia will deliver live performances, masterclasses, competitions and coaching across all seven states and territories in Australia, touching the lives of over 150,000 people from primary school students to professional musicians and from emerging artists to lifelong audiences.



It's a long way from Vienna, and a long way from Australia of 1945, where Central European refugees Richard Goldner and Walter Dullo put together an ensemble of displaced musicians to perform Beethoven's *Grosse Fuge*. There were no thoughts of touring international soloists or culturally diverse teaching ensembles at that time; no national competitions, emerging artist development or systemic music education initiatives: just a group of musicians sharing their profound love for a multifaceted artform which had shaped their lives.

In the eight decades since, Goldner and Dullo's initiative has become the largest chamber music organisation and the largest music education provider in the world.



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As Musica Viva Australia approaches the 80th anniversary of the first concert of 'Richard Goldner's Sydney Musica Viva' the organisation is taking a moment to see where it is now. Much has changed across eight decades but Goldner and Dullo's original instinct, to build a community around their deep love of music, is a constant. Indeed, it continues to define Musica Viva Australia's stated purpose, to connect all Australians to something bigger than themselves: to powerful music which awakens the spirit.

Join Musica Viva Australia in its 80th anniversary Season with a series of performances at Llewellyn Hall – Australian National University:

- Northern Lights – Thursday 12 June, 7pm
- Mozart's Clarinet – Saturday 26 July, 7pm
- Takács Quartet – Saturday 16 August, 7pm
- Trio Isimsiz – Friday 3 October, 7pm
- Piotr Anderszewski – Friday 21 November, 7pm

Find out more at [musicaviva.com.au/2025](https://musicaviva.com.au/2025)

## U3A Walks & Tours

### DISCLAIMER

*Most activities involve some element of risk. Bushwalking, in particular, is a potentially dangerous activity and requires an appropriate level of fitness. Whilst U3A ACT Inc maintains public liability insurance and will endeavour to protect your safety, it cannot remove all the dangers. It therefore assumes that all participants, by booking, consider themselves to have appropriate levels of fitness and mobility, in respect of which they participate at their own risk. More details from [tours@u3acanberra.org.au](mailto:tours@u3acanberra.org.au).*

Continuation of this widely appreciated program depends on the coming forward of persons willing to arrange and lead individual walks and/or tours. There is also the need for someone to take on board the promotion and overall management of the Walks and Tours Program.

Over 160 walks and tours have been offered to U3A members and friends since Garth Setchell took on management in 2007 – but age catches up!

At age 88, whilst Garth still hopes to offer occasional activities, his main hope is that, by offering personal assistance, inspiration and guidance, others will offer to arrange and lead individual activities or take up the chalice of overall Program management. If this could be you, or if you need more information, please contact Garth on [tours@u3acanberra.org.au](mailto:tours@u3acanberra.org.au).

The only confirmed tour coming up is the one-day coach tour to the Sydney Opera House on Sat 30 August to enjoy 'Carmen'. A few spaces may still remain – most likely A-Reserve opera seats at a total tour price of \$440pp, including travel (7.30am to 9.00pm), morning tea and a 2-course dinner. Enquiries, including your name(s), contact details, etc, should be made to [tours@u3acanberra.org.au](mailto:tours@u3acanberra.org.au) by 30 June.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND KEY CONTACTS – 22 May 2025

Committee Members	Name	Email	Phone
President	Alex Gosman	<a href="mailto:president@u3acanberra.org.au">president@u3acanberra.org.au</a>	0414 258 745
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Vice President	Andrea Hope	<a href="mailto:vicepresident2@u3acanberra.org.au">vicepresident2@u3acanberra.org.au</a>	
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Ordinary member	Gary Davis		
Ordinary member	Tom Flynn		
Ordinary Member	Christine King		
Ordinary member	Paul Minogue		
Ordinary member	Kristine Riethmiller		
Ordinary member	Peter Sheldrake		
Ordinary member	Brian Weir		
Ex officio member	Keith Huggan	<a href="mailto:chaircsc@u3acanberra.org.au">chaircsc@u3acanberra.org.au</a>	

### OUR SERVICES FOR MEMBERS

Enquiries: Cook	Office volunteer		6251 8005
Enquiries: Hughes	Office volunteer		6281 6998
eBulletin	eBulletin team	<a href="mailto:ebulletin@u3acanberra.org.au">ebulletin@u3acanberra.org.au</a>	
Facebook	Julie Polson	<a href="mailto:facebook@u3acanberra.org.au">facebook@u3acanberra.org.au</a>	
Newsletter	Newsletter team	<a href="mailto:newsletter@u3acanberra.org.au">newsletter@u3acanberra.org.au</a>	
Member Liaison Person	Christine King	<a href="mailto:memberliaison@u3acanberra.org.au">memberliaison@u3acanberra.org.au</a>	
Membership enquiries	Mary Bermingham	<a href="mailto:membership@u3acanberra.org.au">membership@u3acanberra.org.au</a>	
Suggestions		<a href="mailto:suggestions@u3acanberra.org.au">suggestions@u3acanberra.org.au</a>	
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University of Canberra enquiries	Karin Hosking	<a href="mailto:ucanberra@u3acanberra.org.au">ucanberra@u3acanberra.org.au</a>	
Program Development Team	Andrea Hope	<a href="mailto:development@u3a.org.au">development@u3a.org.au</a>	
New volunteers	Julie Polson	<a href="mailto:volunteerliaison@u3acanberra.org.au">volunteerliaison@u3acanberra.org.au</a>	

### OUR SERVICES FOR COURSE LEADERS

Chair Courses Sub-Committee	Keith Huggan	<a href="mailto:chaircsc@u3acanberra.org.au">chaircsc@u3acanberra.org.au</a>	
Proposals for new courses		<a href="mailto:courses@u3acanberra.org.au">courses@u3acanberra.org.au</a>	
Course changes or cancellations		<a href="mailto:coursesdata@u3acanberra.org.au">coursesdata@u3acanberra.org.au</a>	
Room bookings: Cook, Hughes, Flynn		<a href="mailto:roombookings@u3acanberra.org.au">roombookings@u3acanberra.org.au</a>	
Equipment bookings		<a href="mailto:equipmentbookings@u3acanberra.org.au">equipmentbookings@u3acanberra.org.au</a>	
Assistance		<a href="mailto:courseleaderassistance@u3acanberra.org.au">courseleaderassistance@u3acanberra.org.au</a>	
IT/AV problems: Cook		<a href="mailto:helpdeskcook@u3acanberra.org.au">helpdeskcook@u3acanberra.org.au</a>	
IT /AV problems: Hughes	Brian Kensey	<a href="mailto:helpdesk Hughes@u3acanberra.org.au">helpdesk Hughes@u3acanberra.org.au</a>	



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IT/AV problems: Flynn		<a href="mailto:helpdeskflynn@u3acanberra.org.au">helpdeskflynn@u3acanberra.org.au</a>	
Facilities Team		<a href="mailto:facilities@u3acanberra.org.au">facilities@u3acanberra.org.au</a>	0452 602 009