



Newsletter of Canberra's University of the Third Age

www.u3acanberra.org.au



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From the President

AGM 2025



It was gratifying to see such a well-attended AGM on 13 November. I reported another successful year, driven by a rebound in membership, stable course numbers, and high participation levels. This reflects our sound financial position, the dedication of volunteers, and the work of a committed Committee focused on preparing U3A

Canberra for the future and addressing emerging challenges.

A major focus this year has been reviewing and refreshing our Strategic Plan. U3A Canberra's greatest strengths remain its wide range of courses and the strong social connections they develop.

However, we noted long-term risks, including an ageing membership, reliance on a small volunteer base, and the need to attract people in the 50–60 age range who can become future leaders and tutors.

The Committee now has several priorities: growing membership (particularly among those aged 55–75), broadening course offerings, continuing the strategic use of technology, and strengthening governance. Several initiatives are underway. Our strong financial position enables ongoing investment in U3A's future, including upgraded meeting rooms and new IT equipment and services.

With more than 4,000 members and over 160 courses each year, U3A Canberra depends heavily on volunteers. While volunteer participation is declining nationally, we are fortunate to have a core group of longstanding contributors whose efforts are central to our success.

Although online courses continue to grow, and remain valuable for lectures and speaker events, face-to-face learning offers richer connections. We continue to benefit from strong partnerships with the ANU School of Music, the National Film and Sound Archive, and the University of Canberra. Nationally, U3A Canberra is Australia's largest U3A and plays a leading role through its involvement in both Network NSW and the U3A Australia Board.

I acknowledged and thanked all Committee members for their dedication, with special appreciation of past contributions of, Lindsay Rae, Tom Flynn, Peter Sheldrake, Andrea Hope, and the late Simone Clark. We also recognize Garth Setchell, stepping back at age 88 after decades of leading the Walks and Tours program.

We received many favourable comments on the conduct of the AGM, and we thank our Secretary, Maria, and her team of volunteers for their efforts in organising this year's meeting.

Alex Gosman
President

From the Editor

This last edition of our Newsletter for 2025 reflects on U3A achievements for the year, provides some nostalgic glimpses back fifty years to the 1970s, to another Canberra, and momentous events.

We join the President in thanking those whose service to U3A was celebrated in awards presented at our 2025 AGM, we look forward to 2026 and we provide holiday entertainment – our Hard Quiz and a suggested holiday reading list.

Many thanks to those members who shared their stories and photos of 50 years ago. Some of those memories came back recently as Cyclone Fina hit the Northern Territory, fifty years on, the strongest cyclone since Tracy.

In all organizations, sometimes things go wrong, and in this last 2025 Newsletter, we have two apologies to make. Firstly, to Merran Martin, author of 'Seasons of a Canberra Childhood', published in our October Newsletter, for failing to acknowledge her as contributor. The other is to the virtual attendees at our AGM. The sound quality was very poor. Immediate plans are being made for a better experience for virtual attendees next year.

*Janice Munro/Jan Febey
December Newsletter Sub-Editor Team*

Thanking our 2025 Committee



Front row: L to R: Christine King, Mary Bermingham, Kristine Riethmiller, Maria Magro
Back row: L to R: Paul Minogue, Graeme Swift, Alex Gosman, Gary Davis, Brian Weir
Absent: Tom Flynn, Andrea Hope, Keith Huggan, Lindsay Rae

AGM Awards 2025

Many volunteers were recognised for their commitment to U3A Canberra in a number of categories at the 2025 Annual General Meeting. With thanks to Rob Lee (U3A Photography Group convenor) below is a photographic record of many of these recipients.



10 Year Volunteer Awards

The recipients for these awards were: Janene Broere(absent), Inez Florez, Margaret Gosling (absent), John McKinlay, Graham McLennan, Abu Bakar Mudin, Pierre Patron, Gwen Pauletto (absent), Mary Pederson, Jacqueline Pinkava, Steve Reynolds, Joan Ross (absent), Julia Rymer (absent), Kathleen Sinclair, Brad Smith (absent), Judy Tier, Ria Van de Zant (absent), Tracy Webb, Gael Williams (absent), Dorothy Zenz(absent).



15 Year Volunteer Awards

The recipients for this award were:
Heiki Elvers (absent), Kathy Hedger, Joy McInerney and Alyson Robinson



20 Year Volunteer Awards

The recipients for this award were:
Sue Gavin and Ros Greenwood



Outstanding Service Awards

The recipients for this award were:
Pam Behnke, Mariluz Gonzales and Joy McInerney



Special Continuous and Long Service Award

The recipients for this award were:
Fabia de Borzatti, Garth Setchell and Margaret Wright.



Members' Calendar 2026

UC = University of Canberra, Bruce Updated November 2025

JANUARY		FEBRUARY		MARCH	
Monday 12	Offices reopen 2026	Monday 2	Registration opens for semester 1 at UC	Monday 9	Canberra Day Offices closed
		Monday 9	Committee meeting	Tuesday 10	Committee Meeting
Monday 26	Australia Day. Offices closed	Monday 16	UC Semester 1 begins	Tuesday 24	Deadline for April Newsletter
Saturday 31	eBulletin and password access ceases for unfinancial members	Tuesday 17	Tuesday Forums begin for Semester 1		
APRIL		MAY		JUNE	
Wednesday 1	Newsletter published online	Monday 11	Committee meeting	Monday 1	Newsletter published online
Monday 13	Committee Meeting	Monday 25	Deadline for June Newsletter	Monday 1	Reconciliation Day Offices closed
Fri to Mon 3 – 6 April inclusive	Easter Offices closed	Monday 25	Registration opens for Winter Term at UC	To be confirmed	Tuesday Forums end for Semester 1
Saturday 25	Anzac Day			Monday 8	King's Birthday Offices closed
				Monday 8	UC Winter Term begins
				Tuesday 9	Committee meeting
JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER	
Monday 13	Committee meeting	Saturday 1	Newsletter published online	Monday 14	Committee meeting
Monday 13	Call for nominations for annual U3A awards	Monday 10	Committee meeting	Wed 23	Deadline for October Newsletter
Friday 24	Deadline for August Newsletter	Monday 10	UC Semester 2 begins		
To be confirmed	Tuesday Forums begin for Semester 2	Monday 24	Nominations for Committee positions open		
Monday 27	Registration Opens for Semester 2 at University of Canberra	Friday 28	Nominations for annual U3A awards close		
OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
Thursday 1	Membership renewals for 2027 open	Wed 4	Nominations for Committee positions close	Tuesday 1	Newsletter published online
Monday 5	Labour Day Offices closed	Monday 9	Committee meeting Nominations for Committee positions close	Friday 11	Offices close for Christmas-New Year break
Thursday 1	Newsletter published online	Tuesday 17	AGM (Hughes)	Monday 14	Committee meeting
Monday 12	Committee meeting	Monday 23	Deadline for December Newsletter	Monday 11 Jan 2027	Offices reopen
		Tuesday 18	Tuesday Forums end for Semester 2		

Committee Matters

U3A Premises Christmas Closedown

This notice is to remind members that as usual U3A premises will close over the Christmas and New Year period to give our volunteer teams a well-earned rest.

Cook and Hughes

Our offices at Hughes and Cook will be closed from 4.30pm on Friday 12 December 2025. And will reopen at 9.30am on Monday 12 January 2026.

Flynn

We will also be closing our premises at Flynn from 4.30pm on Friday 12 December 2025 until 9.30am on Monday 12 January 2026, except for courses booked for the week of 15 December.

For security reasons, the codes for the key boxes at Flynn, Cook and Hughes will be changed when we close at each site. New key codes will be issued to those needing access in 2026 as required.

Over the holidays you can still visit www.u3acanberra.org.au to renew your membership and to browse our 2026 Courses Listing / Find a Course.

*Louise Morauta
Facilities Manager*

Contacting U3A Offices

U3A ACT 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.

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

U3A Membership Renewal

Your 2026 Membership

U3A's membership year runs from January to December. Members who wish to enrol in a course or activity for 2026 and maintain continuity of access to member privileges should renew their membership by 31 January 2026.

Renewal notices detailing payment options were sent to members in October 2025. If you haven't received your notice, please contact membership@u3acanberra.org.au.

If you have already renewed your membership for 2026, thank you!

If you haven't, in order to renew your membership online, go to the website:

<https://www.u3acanberra.org.au/eway/renew.html>

Members do not need to use their password to renew their membership online. Just have your 2025 membership number, last name and your credit card on hand and choose 'Renew with Online Payment'. Members who renew online via the [U3A website](#) will receive their 2026 membership card and associated information via email.

New payment method introduced: In addition to being able to renew by credit card online, members are now able to renew their membership via direct deposit. The details of the bank account will be available online if you choose 'Renew by Bank Transfer' at the following link:

<https://www.u3acanberra.org.au/eway/renew.html>. Members who renew via this method will receive their 2026 membership card and associated information via email from the Membership Secretary once the payment has been confirmed.

Members can also renew in person or over the phone at either the Hughes or Cook offices.

Joint Memberships – Important – To change a current joint membership to a single membership initially contact the Membership Secretary at the email address below to have the joint membership cancelled.

Equipment Fund

Generous member support through contributions to the Equipment Fund has facilitated and expanded this active equipment program to the benefit of all members and groups. When renewing your membership you might like to consider including a donation to this fund. Donations can be made at the same time as you renew your membership online, by bank transfer, or in person at the Hughes or Cook offices.

Mary Bermingham
Membership Secretary
membership@u3acanberra.org.au

Memories from the 70s

Canberra in 1975



Commonwealth Avenue Bridge, National Library.
No new parliament house, no Questacon



Canberra Hospital and Acton peninsula
No National Museum, one high building in Woden



Tuggeranong Valley – housing just beginning



The carousel – yes, it was there 50 years ago



Garema Place –same vibe?



Canberra Airport – before it was an 'international' airport
Images from National Archives collection accessed via Trove

Memories of The Dismissal, 1975



On 25 October 1975, recently graduated from ANU, I commenced my public service career at PM&C in West Block. Contrary to my experience of lethargic Public Servants attending the 5pm Pol Sci lectures (I was rarely up in time for the 9am ones), the whole Department was buzzing with lots of chatter and movement. I knew generally what was happening but was not fully aware of the implications of the Coalition's blocking of supply in the Senate until the Departmental Secretary, John Menadue, addressed all staff a few days later. Put simply, if the Appropriation Bills were not passed by the impending deadline, the Commonwealth Government would not have the funds to continue with its programs and would not be able to pay its employees, including public servants. I rang my parents to say that my 'brilliant career' might soon to be curtailed.

On 11 November 1975, Remembrance Day for more reasons than one, the buzzing had reached a crescendo. The movements of Whitlam and Fraser to and from Government House and discussions between them and Governor-General Kerr, and subsequently between him and Speaker Scholes, were known and analysed, culminating in the late afternoon cry of "Kerr's sacked Whitlam".

We all rushed over to Parliament House to join the throng gathered around the bottom of the steps. Official Secretary, David Smith, with Gough standing head and shoulders above and right behind him, read the 'dismissal' proclamation, mostly drowned out by boos and "shame, shame". Then, in relative silence, Gough uttered his immortal words: "Well may we say God Save the Queen because nothing can save the Governor-General" and "Malcolm Fraser will go down in history as Kerr's cur" and "Maintain your rage", followed by deafening cheering and applause.

As a postscript, I joined in a huge rally held a day or two later, on the lawns across from Parliament House with Gough outlining the events leading up to his dismissal and particularly his blindsiding by Kerr and Fraser. "I requested a meeting with the Governor-General to advise him that I would hold a half-senate election on 13 December and govern without supply until then. But, unbeknown to me, that snake in the grass, Malcolm Fraser, was already there, hiding round the back". A loud voice from the crowd then shouted out "You should have had a look first, Gough", to much laughter and with Gough replying, "Indeed I should have comrade".

*Keith Simpson
Contributor*



The Penhallow's Darwin home



The table shelter



The home after the cyclone

Darwin Christmas 1974

By Christmas 1974 we had been living in Darwin for twenty months and had been in our new government house in the northern suburbs for eight. I had planted the free shrubs and trees and the paspalum grass, and we were waiting for the wet season to turn our yard into a tropical paradise. It was not to happen! Cyclone warnings started during the morning of Christmas Eve. By six the wind was getting seriously strong, and we started taking precautions like cooking the turkey in case there was no power the following day, filling a PVC jerry can with water and getting together camping items that might be useful, like the gas stove.

We lost power and out of the window saw a broken live power line, dancing on the road, sending off sparks. We moved to the sturdy dining table we had put down the hallway in the windowless structurally strongest place in the house with a cot mattress under the table. We sat there, me holding fifteen-month-old Ann and Britt with eight-week-old Ruth. We dismissed the idea of the cinder block storeroom under the house, because of the risk to the babies of being stung by redback spiders.

An almighty crash from the living room told us the large glass louvre windows had been blown out. Building codes back then hadn't realised that walls needed to be strongly anchored to floor bearers so when the roof went, the walls collapsed. Fortunately, one wall fell on the table helping hold it down giving us some protection. We crawled to the bathroom, which was still standing. Eventually the hall cupboard, which was full and heavy, started to lean over into the bathroom so we quickly went back under the table.

The eye of the storm gave us temporary respite but then the winds started again. By dawn the cyclone had gone, leaving us wondering whether we were the only ones with a wrecked house. As it became lighter we could see that all houses around us were wrecked to the same degree. We were in the worst hit suburbs, 97% wrecked.

We were wet and cold. The cocoa I had made for the night was tepid, but we drank some and then found a way through the rubble to get Britt and the babies out. Our neighbour's car was working, so we bundled the women and children in to get them warm. Mine had a smashed window and was filled with dirt and water. I spent the day cleaning out the car and salvaging possessions. Some things had just totally disappeared, our hot water tank for example! I could find those from all surrounding houses but not ours. The whole kitchen had been blown to the ground – stove, fridge, the lot.



I eventually found the turkey – I followed my nose. I was able to save all my clothes, but Britt's had disappeared. A pity, as she had just bought a whole new wardrobe following Ruth's birth.

In the afternoon we went to the emergency centre at the high school as I had a cut on my leg and needed a tetanus shot. We decided not to stay at the high school because of the risk of disease. Back at the house I found a packet of spaghetti, cans of corn beef and tomatoes and was able to cook up a passable Christmas dinner. We slept in the car.



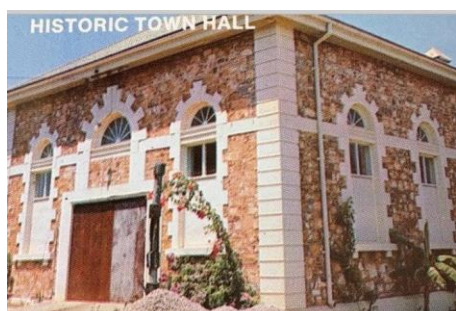
Before the cyclone



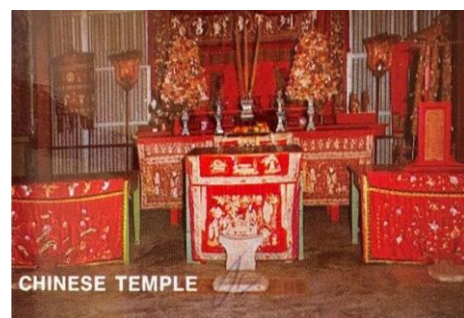
After the cyclone

*Keith Penhallow
Contributor*

Postcard Images



after Cyclone Tracy



after Cyclone Tracy



Supplied by Erica Shearwood

Memories: 1970s Life in Canberra

I was a callow youth, a cadet attending the Royal Military College Duntroon 1971 to 1974, one of those rebels who rode a motorcycle rather than a car - with subsequent consequences of a number of spills. Canberra was a quieter place then and the roads had many fewer traffic lights. I recall those four stark winters and the wind-chill that hit me when heading off on the motorcycle in the early mornings or after dark.



Civic was changing over that time, especially around Garema Place with roads near the Monaro Mall being blocked off with giant pot plants. These were handy places to park a motorcycle, while those with cars were limited to a number of 'on the flat' car parks, now buried under the Canberra Centre.

Lonsdale Street Braddon was full of car yards and tyre sales, but it had two gems frequented by the 'cordies' from Duntroon. Dirty Louis', most attended for their fish and chips and burgers, and the lesser-known Paradise Bar next door with its signature dish, coleslaw on burgers - high cuisine indeed - and Happy's Chinese in Garema Place with his honey prawns.

The various hotels, the Kingo in particular, but also the blood bath that the Civic Pub could become, were frequented, but the favourite for my circle was the Manuka Football Club where the ladies ensured we underfed cadets were given the biggest T-Bones - overflying the plate and topped by vegies to ensure we had a good balanced diet. As you can sense, food (and beer) was a major focus for the cadets to liven life up from institutional Army food – I still cannot face 'ham steak with pineapple'.

*Bill Blair
Contributor*

U3A Course News

Canberra U3A Recorder Orchestra

As the end-of-year is upon us, we in the U3A music world are finalising our rehearsals for concerts.



The Canberra Recorder Orchestra and the Canberra Mandolin Orchestra have been rehearsing separately for their annual joint concert, *The Gift*, which will be held in All Saints' Church, Ainslie on Saturday 6th December at 2:30 pm.

Last Saturday they enjoyed a joint rehearsal, and what a sound! Mandolins, like recorders, have various sizes and shapes, giving a wide range of volume and pitches. The program is a beautiful one, with some gorgeous melodies and lush sounds.

The concert will open with recorders and a mandolin ensemble playing 'Whistling Rufus' written by Kerry Mills in 1899. This jaunty 'catwalk' tune was made popular by Chris Barber's Band in the 1950s.

In the same year, 1899, in France, 24-year-old Maurice Ravel wrote a fanciful piano piece, 'Pavane for a dead princess'. He imagined it to be 'a slow Spanish dance to which a little

princess may once have danced', following the form of a Renaissance courtly dance.

The recorders will be accompanied on piano by Bronwyn Roberts, who plays horn in the U3A Brindabella Orchestra where Margaret Wright plays violin.

A very recent piece will be 'Uxolo' ('peace') written in 2020 by Soren Sieg, based on beautiful Africal melodies. The soranino recorder solo will be played by a member of the CRO, Ken Tsui. A seasonal tribute will be Berlioz's gorgeous, gentle 'Serenade to the Holy Family' from his oratorio, 'The Childhood of Christ'.

The Canberra Mandolin Orchestra will delight the audience with a lovely mandolin concerto by Vivaldi, with Benji Moss as soloist, and the well-known beautiful Shostakovich Waltz No. 2.

The concert will conclude with the CMO and CRO together playing the rousing 'The Heavens are Telling, from Haydn's magnificent oratorio, 'The Creation'.

Tickets for the for ***The Gift*** Concert are available at <https://www.trybooking.com/DHFAN>

Individual tickets are \$20, and Group Bookings (for 6 people) at \$90 (\$15 each). Online ticket sales are capped at 120.

Margaret Wright
U3A Canberra Recorder Orchestra Convenor

Recorders for Fiji



We reported last Newsletter that members of the U3A Canberra Recorder Orchestra collected recorders to present to a school in Fiji, where one of our members, Jeanette, volunteers each year. We received a letter of thanks from the school and a photo of Jeanette's presentation at the school.

The letter of thanks read:

Dear Margaret

Yesterday was the last day of school for the year and the primary principal and the Korean music teacher were thrilled to receive the 12 descant and 4 treble recorders for the new 2026 music classes. All the best with your end of the year performances.

Jeanette

Margaret Wright

U3A Canberra Recorder Orchestra Convenor

Cape to Cairo Journeys

Going on Safari - Pre-World War II



This 2025 new course started with historical background explaining why there had been a 'mania' for C-C (Cape to Cairo) journeys pre-WWII, examined the travellers' motivations, the routes they followed, and their modes of transport. It was largely History-Geography focussed, but with brief touches of 'David Attenborough' and 'Travel Agent'.

A number of different routes were used, we followed one north to Cairo through eleven countries, examining how the travellers felt on the way and at the end of their journeys; and discussed colonization issues arising from these journeys.

The group appreciated the range of activities included in the course which included extracts from old movies, black

and white film clips of some travellers, a quiz, a puzzle, poems (read by two of the class) and contributions by Africa-familiar group members. The highlight was a guest appearance of the son of one of the 1929 travellers with his father's diary.

The quilt of Africa is Margaret's Handiwork. Group members' comments in their evaluation of the course included: "Presenter very knowledgeable, engaging and enthusiastic, an educational and fun course – and highly recommended."



Margaret O'Callaghan Convenor

Join Warrani Chorale

Start the new year well

Warrani Chorale finished 2025 in style with their concert at Weston Creek Uniting Church on Wednesday, November 26. The appreciative audience loved the variety of music which included favourites such as “Think of Me” from “The Phantom of the Opera” and “You’ll Never Walk Alone,” and an eclectic collection of Christmas music. They were put fully into the Christmas spirit with the sing-alongs of well-known Yuletide songs which relaxed them before a busy Christmas season.

At the end of the concert, tributes were paid to the work of outstanding musical director and conductor, Helen Swan, and talented pianist, Brigid Cummins, who were presented with flowers.

Research has shown that singing is good for your health and the members of Warrani Chorale can attest to that. So, why not do yourself a real favour and join Warrani Chorale in 2026. We are a non-auditioned U3A ladies’ choir who can promise you friendship and good singing. The choir practices at Yarralumla Uniting Church for two hours every Wednesday commencing on February 4, 2026. Some previous choir experience and /or the ability to read music is desirable but not necessary.

For more details, please contact our Membership Secretary. Liz Hoffman, phone 0427 930 430 email ebh61uk@gmail.com



Warrani Chorale in concert at Weston Creek Uniting Church.

*Margaret Martin
Convenor*

University of Canberra courses

Did you know that, as a U3A Canberra member, you can sign up to attend(audit) lectures at the University of Canberra? During 2025, members have enjoyed lectures, in person or online without the stresses of university studies – no assignments, no exams, no tutorials, and no HECS!

This year, members report that they have particularly enjoyed the units Cultures and Diversity (11129), Global Ethical Challenges (11145) and Global Perspectives on Gender, Sex and Sexuality (11146), as great introductions to some ways that sociology and anthropology understand the world.

Other members have found Foundations of Law and Justice (11251) interesting and have praised Indigenous Ways of knowing (11126) and Children's Literature (11764).

There are over sixty units currently on offer to U3A members at UC. You can get ready for February enrolments for 2026 by checking what's available at <https://www.canberra.edu.au/about-uc/learning-at-uc/university-of-the-third-age-u3a-members/unit-registration/unavailable-units>

There's something for everyone!

*Karin Hosking
Contributor*

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.

Sat 21 March 2026 - ‘Turandot’

Arrangements are now sufficiently complete to advertise firm prices for our one-day coach tour to the Sydney Opera House to enjoy a matinee performance by Opera Australia of Puccini’s famous last opera - ‘Turandot’. Both A- or B-Reserve seats in the Circle are available. All of these are some distance in from the side aisles and offer good views of both stage and surtitles. The opera will be sung in Italian, with soprano Anna-Louise Cole playing the role of Turandot.

Our tour price of \$470pp for A-Reserve seats, or \$430pp for B-Reserve, includes return travel by coach with on-board toilet, morning refreshments at Exeter and a two-course alternate serve dinner with one round of drinks at Mittagong on the return. The coach will depart Deakin at 7.30am, followed by Civic and Ainslie. Return to all three should be between 8.20 and 8.45pm.

Because the U3A offices will be closed between 12 December and 12 January, those wishing to book should contact the tour leader – garthsetchell@gmail.com – as soon as you are able. Please ensure that you include your name(s), return email address, seating requirement (A or B-Res), desired pick-up point(s) and any special dietary or mobility requirements. You – plus everyone who has already expressed interest – will be sent the tour leaflet, which will also include details of payment options. Bookings will need to close by 6 February 2026 at the latest. Approximately half of the available places have already been reserved.

*Garth Setchell
Tour Leader*

Like-Minded and Joint Programs

The Home Front: 1939-1945

Thursday 4 December

CANBERRA MUSEUM + GALLERY



Rohan Goyne's Exhibition: Australia's Home Front: 1939 – 1945 at the Canberra Museum and Gallery

Family History ACT members will be leading two presentations on Thursday 4 December.

10.30am - Stories of Australians at War with Jo Callaghan.

Jo will share stories of individuals who have served, using their service records to also demonstrate how others can combine family history with military records to learn about their own families.

11.10am – Morning tea

11.30am - The texture of life in Australia 1939-45 with Professor Peter Stanley

Professor Peter Stanley looks at the way the war impinged on the lives of Australian civilians, from “business as usual” in 1939, through the drama of 1942 to the hopes for a better world in 1945.

There presentations will be held at CMAG, Cnr London Circuit and City Square. Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased there.

*Dr Michele Rainger
President, Family History ACT*

Holiday Entertainment

1975 HARD QUIZ

1. 1975 began dealing with the aftermath two major tragic events in Australia; one created by nature and one by error. Can you name these two events?
2. On what date did Medibank officially begin?
3. Who designed the Order of Australia medal which replaced the British imperial honours system in 1975:
 - a. Bruce Devlin
 - b. Kerrie Devlin
 - c. Stuart Devlin
 - d. Colin Devlin
4. What happened on 31 April 1975 to bring about the end of the Vietnam war?
5. Skyhooks had a hit in 1975 with the title, "All my friends are"
6. What is the date for International Women's Day, which was established in 1975?
7. Who wrote the book, 'Damned Whores and God's Police', published in 1975?
8. Who was the indigenous land rights activist who represented the Gurindji people in securing a lease of over 3000 square kilometres from the owner of Wave Hill Station?
9. Which neighbouring island nation achieved independence in 1975? Who was their first Prime Minister?
10. Another pop band with hits in 1975 shared its name with a popular lolly of the time?
11. In which Australian state was much of the film, 'Jaws' shot?
12. What are the two reasons that many Australians still remember 11 November?
13. Who was the male star in the movie, 'Sunday Too Far Away'?
14. Who were the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister after the general election of 13 December 1975?
15. Who was the girl from Queanbeyan who conquered the world in squash during this year and many others?
16. What was the 'explosive' name of one of the albums released by AC/DC in 1975?

-
17. What was the importance of the Family Law Act introduced in 1975?
 18. What car was launched in 1975 that became Australia's best selling four-cylinder car and was named Wheels magazine's 'Car of the Year'??
 19. Who were the main Sydney newsreaders for the ABC and Channel 9 respectively in 1975?
 20. Which film did Patricia Lovell and Peter Weir collaborate to produce in 1975?

NB. Answers at the end of the newsletter.

Holiday Reading

Looking for holiday reading? This book list is recommended by members of the Weston Book Club, a group of nearly thirty years' standing who meet Monday afternoons at the Irish Club in Weston.

Members jointly choose around 30 books a year for review and discussion and share in presenting and leading friendly collegiate discussion. Their books include fiction, non-fiction, poetry and book to film books. Their 2026 books are weighted towards contemporary authors including Irish and Japanese writers.

- ***The Heart's Invisible Furies*** — John Boyne

Sweeping life story of an Irish man seeking identity, love, and belonging.

- ***The House of Doors*** — Tan Twan Eng

Fictionalised Maugham-era tale of secrets, colonialism, and betrayal in Malaya.

- ***Any Human Heart*** — William Boyd

Diary of a writer's unpredictable, adventure-filled 20th-century life.

- ***Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*** — Gabrielle Zevin

Game-design partners navigate creativity, love, and ambition over decades.

- ***Horse*** — Geraldine Brooks

Intersecting stories linked by a legendary racehorse and America's racial history.

- ***The Promise*** — Damon Galgut

South African family's decline mirrors post-apartheid societal change.

- ***Water*** — John Boyne

A woman flees her past to an isolated island seeking renewal and truth.

- ***Limberlost*** — Robbie Arnott

Tasmanian boy seeks freedom and purpose while hunting and growing up during wartime.

- ***You Gotta Have Balls*** — Lily Brett

New Yorker's life unravels when her father starts a quirky meatball business.

- ***Brooklyn*** — Colm Tóibín

Irish immigrant in 1950s Brooklyn torn between love and home.

Alex Gosman, Convenor

Quiz Answers:

1. Cyclone Tracy destroying Darwin and killing 66 people
The bulk carrier, Lake Illawarra collided with the Tasman Bridge in Hobart, killing 12 people (2 points)
2. 1 July 1975 (1 point)
3. c. Stuart Devlin (1 point)
4. North Vietnamese Army tanks burst through the gates of the Presidential Palace in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City). (1 point)
5. All my friends are getting married (1 point)
6. 8 March (1 point)
7. Anne Summers (1 point)
8. Vincent Lingiari (1 point)
9. Papua New Guinea Michael Somare (2 points)
10. Sherbet (1 point)
11. South Australia – Dangerous Reef (1 point)
12. Remembrance Day (Commonwealth members remember members of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty – initially because hostilities of World War I ended on that day in 1918) and the day the Whitlam government was dismissed by the Governor General, Sir John Kerr in 1975 (2 points)
13. Jack Thompson (1 point)
14. PM – Malcolm Fraser DPM – Douglas Anthony (2 points)
15. Heather McKay (1 point)
16. High Voltage OR TNT (1 point)
17. It introduced 'no fault divorce' (1 point)
18. Holden Gemini (1 point)
19. James Dibble and Brian Henderson (2 points)
20. Picnic at Hanging Rock (1 point)

TOTAL Points = 25 Any score over 10 = spectacular!

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