



## NEWSLETTER – TERM 4, 2022

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### SOME WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Being a member of U3A Deepdene provides so many areas to explore that making the choices for courses in which to participate can be quite a challenge. We really do have an amazing range of opportunities. At recent gatherings of members, I have encouraged each person to tackle something new each term. Some who have followed this suggestion have commented to me that they are really pleased they 'had a go' at a new challenge. I hope those of you reading this will follow my suggestion and try something that is new for you.



September vacation time provided an array of opportunities. I was lucky to join the excursion to learn about the Metro Tunnel (see page 10). In the process, I learnt that the boring machines are named after groundbreaking Victorian women, one of whom was the first female member of the Victorian Parliament. Do you know who she was? I, for one, love learning about so much of the Melbourne I have lived in for more than 50 years, and the walks around parts of local suburbs as well as the CBD itself provide so much fascinating information. A large group of our members also joined Christine Georgiou and Barbara Mathews for what sounds like a fabulous 3-day bus trip to Bairnsdale (see page 15). From what Christine tells me, they were treated to some fascinating stories about a wide variety of local Gippsland sites.

**Susie White**

A hundred or so of us joined our *Seniors Sharing Cultures* day (see page 4) which we developed in response to a challenge (and a small grant) from Boroondara Council. We shared the occasion with the Kew Home of Chinese and the Eastern Senior Chinese Association on Friday 30 September. We shared food – both Chinese which was provided by the Kew Home of Chinese, and the great Aussie barbecue, ably managed for a solid five hours by Matthew Ety-Leal and Alain Romary. Lining up for a coffee at the coffee cart as well as for food can be seen very positively because it provided an opportunity for people to talk to each other!! What is the title of that song about always looking on the bright side??

The two Chinese groups entertained us with superb dancing in brilliant costumes, and some choral events. Our U3A members' art works were beautifully displayed and Jenny Cash and Karin Watts developed some rolling powerpoints which are quite superb. Others of you may have seen these since the event as they have played at Balwyn Park. Two special activities which were developed by Lesley Macleod and Carole Williams were designed to encourage conversation between people who had never met before. The activities – decorating a dragon which was on the wall of the building, and putting a sticker on the part of the world in which we were born – were popular but I fear my lack of Mandarin limited the extent of my conversation. I cannot mention all the U3A helpers here, but needless to say, they all helped make the day a happy and I believe, successful one.

Term 4 is now well on its way with such a wide variety of opportunities for all. I do hope you get as much enjoyment from the sessions you join as I have experienced in so many of my choices.

**Susie White**

## TOWARDS A MORE DIVERSE AUSTRALIAN MEDIA

On 10 August, Dr Maria Rae presented a fascinating session entitled 'Towards a more diverse media'. This session was the third in a series of sessions presented to U3A Deepdene relating to the recently released book, **The Nordic Edge – Policy Possibilities for Australia**, published by Melbourne University Press in July 2021. Along with Ebony Bennett (Deputy Director, The Australia Institute), Dr Rae authored a chapter in the book (see [Note 1](#)). The earlier sessions were *Australia's Future: Nordic approach for the better*, presented by Prof Andrew Scott on 14 October 2021 and *Driving Norway: electric vehicle policies*, presented by Prof Audrey Quicke on 23 February 2022.



**Dr Maria Rae**

**The Nordic Edge** presents ten comprehensive chapters exploring policies adopted by Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway, and Iceland relating to challenging societal issues. These include taxation, climate, foreign policy, gender, workforce participation, media diversity and prisoner rehabilitation.

Dr Rae is a Senior Lecturer in Politics and Policy in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Deakin University. Previously Dr Rae has been a journalist for News Corp and Fairfax newspapers so her views on media diversity in Australia were informative and insightful, revealing an impressive knowledge about the topic.

The early part of the presentation focused on the current situation in the Australian media and the associated challenges. Reference was made to the high concentration of media and the dominance of News Corp Australia and Fairfax Media (now Nine), especially since the 1980s. Traditionally Australian journalism has been supported through advertising. Reduced advertising revenue and the failings of the business model were mentioned as well as the power imbalance associated with news media companies and the rise of the digital giants Google and Facebook (now Meta). In addition, the tensions relating to the provision of public interest journalism whilst satisfying the needs of shareholders were noted.

The harsh realities of 'local news deserts' and the significant cuts to the ABC, Australia's largest public broadcaster, were also addressed. Dr Rae observed that, according to Australia's Public Interest Journalism Initiative (PIJI), between January 2019 and May 2020, more than 157 newsrooms closed temporarily or permanently across Australia, particularly impacting on rural/regional areas. As stated by Bennett and Rae (2021, p.196):

'A community that lacks high-quality and investigative journalism may incur large social costs in the same way underinvestment in public education or public hospitals may impair economic and health outcomes.'

Dr Rae then briefly discussed some of the efforts attempting to address the challenges associated with media concentration in Australia. Reference was made to the action of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and the News Media Bargaining Code endeavouring to address bargaining power imbalances between major digital platforms and Australian news businesses (see [Note 2](#)).

Also mentioned was the Public Interest News Gathering (PING) Fund, developed by the Federal Government during Covid to support high quality journalism particularly in rural/regional Australia (see [Note 3](#)). The importance of collection of information and mapping of print and digital local news producers across Australia was noted as was the work of the Public Interest Journalism Initiative (PIJI) (see [Note 4](#)). Unfortunately, some endeavours to address Australia's media concentration have been ad hoc in nature, sometimes lacking in transparency, with State Government assistance being inconsistent.

The Australian circumstances stand in stark contrast to the Nordic situation where news organisations are considered an essential public service and where quality journalism is considered essential to a functioning democracy. A broader choice in print, radio and TV is seen as vital to political welfare.

The data on the Nordic countries reveals a higher readership, greater number of subscribers and less concentration of ownership. This greater diversity is encouraged through strong state interventions such as direct subsidies for the

press, taxation exemptions, innovation funding and support for First Nations publications. In contrast to Australia the Nordic nations provide higher per capita funding and more direct funding to achieve greater media diversity.

Deepdene U3A members may wish to research further information relating to this important issue.

**Note 1.** Bennett, E & Rae, M, 2021 'Towards a more diverse media and stronger public broadcasting' in A Scott & R Campbell (eds), **The Nordic Edge - Policy Possibilities for Australia**, Melbourne University Press, Australia, pp. 195-215

**Note 2.** Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC), 2022 'News media bargaining code', viewed 20 August 2022, <<https://www.accc.gov.au/focus-areas/digital-platforms/news-media-bargaining-code>>

**Note 3.** Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, and the Arts 2022 'Relief for Australian media during COVID-19. Public Interest News Gathering Fund', viewed 20 August 2022, <<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/media-technology-communications/television/relief-australian-media-during-covid-19>>

**Note 4.** Public Interest Journalism Initiative, January 2021, 'Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications. Inquiry into Media Diversity in Australia' viewed 20 August 2022, <PublicInterestJournalismInitiative\_PIJI.pdf>

**Note 5.** Dr Rae also referred to the following reference: Young, S 2019, **Paper Emperors - The Rise of Australian Newspaper Empires**, NewSouth Publishing, Australia

Copies of **The Nordic Edge - Policy Possibilities for Australia**, and **Paper Emperors - The Rise of Australian Newspaper Empires** are available through the Boroondara Library Service.

**Barbara Emerson**

## LIVING WITH LOW VISION AND BLINDNESS



**Michelle with her carer, Madalena**

On 5 October a group of nine U3A members attended a most interesting talk by Michelle Gurkin, a member of U3A Deepdene.

Michelle is legally blind. She related to us her experience of living with low vision, giving us valuable information and using her well-developed sense of humour.

She explained to us the various causes of impaired vision and told us of some of the resources available to those with low vision.

She brought with her some of the aids which she uses. We all got to try out the use of a cane and we were able to try on various glasses which mimicked different causes of low vision such as macular degeneration and glaucoma.

There was plenty of opportunity to ask questions and we were left in awe of what Michelle is able to achieve in spite of her low vision.

**Wendy Ray**



**An audience member trying out a cane**

**The views expressed by presenters in all our classes are their own views and not the official views of U3A Deepdene. Our aim is to encourage the exploration of ideas in a relatively free environment.**



# SENIORS SHARING CULTURES

On 30 September we shared conversation, lunch, music, exercise and dancing with members of the Kew Home of Chinese and the Eastern Senior Chinese Association (see our President's message on page 1).



## MONIQUE RYAN

At our Wednesday Special on 10 August, Dr Monique Ryan, the newly elected Federal Member for Kooyong, addressed and eloquently answered prepared questions. Dr Ryan is one of seven children, raised and educated in the Kooyong electorate. She studied medicine at the University of Melbourne, followed by paediatric training in Melbourne and Sydney. She undertook further training as a paediatric neurologist at the premier Boston Children's Hospital. Prior to Federal politics Dr Ryan was a Professor of Neurology and ran the department at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne where she pioneered many advances in her speciality.



**Monique Ryan**

'Kooyong' is believed to be an aboriginal word for camp or resting place. On 21 May 2022, voters in the electorate of Kooyong made a historic decision to support an Independent candidate and in doing so, Dr Ryan defeated the Treasurer, Mr Josh Frydenberg. The seat of Kooyong is an original federation electorate and has always been held by conservative parties and up until the last election, all men. Josh Frydenberg had succeeded Petro Georgiou when he retired.

Deepdene members had been invited to email their questions which were collated and divided into five categories by Ilza Dulmanis. The final amalgamation comprised 14 questions broken into topics covering:

- the experience of a newly elected Independent
- Kooyong community
- environmental impact on the economy
- economy
- parliament

Dr Ryan spent an hour answering the questions and shared with us her early experiences of adjusting to life in Canberra. In her own words, she admitted the 3-day orientation was an exponential learning curve, as it was for the other newly elected Independents. She reinforced her desire to make a contribution to the passing of Bills in Parliament. Dr Ryan talked of adjusting to 15-hour days, starting with emails, preparing for the sitting of Parliament, and contending with unannounced visitors to her office. She was buoyed by the productive meetings with Minister Chris Bowen on the Climate Change Act, which she described as a collaborative process. Electric vehicles and carbon emissions were also addressed and included some of the encountered obstacles.

Dr Ryan articulated her concerns for the Kooyong community, as she called them, 'the Kooyong battlers'. The homeless and disadvantaged schools were also well covered and her thoughts and aims well considered. Considerable time was spent on discussing the environment and the economy where her plans for increased battery production, increased renewables, and the use of renewables for steel production were also covered. In achieving this objective, she referenced Ross Garnaut's transition to renewables, including her views that this would have a positive economic impact. Dr Ryan expressed her health concerns on noise and fuel pollution and the negative societal impact. Generating electricity from solar, community batteries (including the vexatious issue of where to build them), and renewable power from hydrogen were also discussed. In addition she addressed the cost of gas and electricity and the impact on the disadvantaged.

Dr Ryan and the other independents had talked about the theatre of parliament but remained mindful that they did not have the balance of power; however she had enjoyed productive discussions with the new Government. She recounted her first question time in Parliament and how she addressed the Opposition!

First Nation Voice to Parliament was covered where she hoped the challenges to the proposed Referendum, including the importance of phrasing the question in an easy and understood state, could be overcome.



By her own admission Dr Ryan accepts that she is new to politics, which is a significant transition from medicine; however she wishes to have an impact on climate change, demonstrate the economic benefits of a transition to renewable energy, and supports integrity in politics.

It was an informal but comprehensive session presented with drive and enthusiasm, and highlighted a sense of social responsibility in serving her new constituents. Dr Ryan expressed a desire to return and speak with us again as she aims to be available to the community. The zoom session was well attended and insightful and it will be interesting to see how Dr Ryan adjusts to the complexities of her newfound political career in navigating both Houses of Parliament. In her own words, 'she was not naive when it came to politics' and referenced Harry Potter, 'learning your powers'.

**Andrew Kitchen**

## GARDEN VISIT - COLONGULAC

A warm, sunny, calm afternoon in early August, with hints of Spring, greeted members of U3A Deepdene for a garden visit to Colongulac. It is an historic house in North Balwyn surrounded by a large garden. Our hosts were the owners Warwick and Bernadette. Warwick first introduced us to the history of the house. Built in 1888 at the time of 'Marvellous Melbourne', surrounded then by farm lands, it was owned by a succession of colonial families and surrounded by increasing land subdivisions. The name of one of the early owners, Alexander Adeney, a vet, who from 1906 operated his practice from the property, is reflected in surrounding street names such as nearby Adeney Street and Yeneda Street (Adeney spelt backwards).



The current owners bought the property in 1999, undertook extensive restoration of the house and since 2004 have established and extended a wonderful garden. The garden of Colongulac is in three parts: an extensive 'Capability Brown' lawn surrounded by mature trees, a formal ornamental garden and pool and third, a family area of swimming pool, barbecue, etc. First, Bernadette spoke of the establishment of the extensive front lawn which, unusually, is not flat. It has a gently rolling surface, the result of imaginative use of material used from the pool excavation. Surrounding this large lawn between house and street is a wonderful collection of mature trees - Lindens, Horse Chestnuts, Crab Apples, all still in winter bark mode with their patterns of bare winter trunks and branches, yet with plantings of flowering jonquils, daffodils and primroses at their bases. They gave a cheerful note of coming Spring - and delighted the photographers in the group. Strolling around the garden edges with their flowering white Camellias, Hellebores, etc. was delightful. Members enjoyed exploring this area, with Bernadette commenting on various features of the garden.



The second area was a formal reflection pool, surrounded by formal grasses, lawns and high hedges. The third area was a family area of swimming pool and a barbecue. The garden, enjoyed for many years by their children, is now enjoyed by the next generation, as a mixture of formal and less formal fun garden ornaments attest.

And how to end a delightful afternoon? Yes, a 'cuppa' tea or coffee, a biscuit and a sit on the verandah or in the garden in the afternoon sun - and a chat and review of our visit with U3A friends. Thank you to Warwick and Bernadette for hosting our visit. Thank you to Suzanne and Helen for once again organising these wonderful visits.

**Joan Anson**

## FOOTY SPECIAL



Footy tragics, dressed in team colours, gathered for lunch at the end of Term 3 for fun and games. Karin Watts and Kay Axsentieff (photo top right) led us in a celebration of AFL with quizzes, team songs, videos, anecdotes, footy fare and lots of noise and fun. Many thanks to Kay, Karen, the hospitality team, and everyone involved in organising our 'footy special' lunch.



# A TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

I am so pleased that our Newsletter Editor, Pam O'Brien, has invited me to contribute a piece on the Technology section of our course program. It is now more than five years since Kathie and I emigrated to Australia to be with our family and were welcomed as members of U3A Deepdene. From my early involvement in technology and other matters, I have enjoyed the whole experience – the greater the involvement, the greater the pleasure!

At U3A Deepdene, we are blessed to have members who can tutor technology classes and who are ably supported by visiting lecturers. Over many years our Technology Coordinators have worked tirelessly to bring the most relevant and varied program of classes. We thank them. We also welcome and express our gratitude to our newly appointed Coordinator, Dhira Prem, who is looking forward to planning the technology subjects and organising our courses.



**Dhira Prem**

Looking to the future, it would be really appreciated if members write to give ideas for inclusion in the program. It is your U3A, please say what you would like to learn. Nothing is too simple nor too complicated to be included in the program even for members where technology would not be a natural priority. Added to which, technology is progressing at such a rapid rate, it is so important for all of us to keep up to date – and it is all free through the U3A, thanks to the generosity of members who share their expertise. If a course on any topic is not available, someone will be found to write and present it. If members wish, we could arrange a Q & A class for members to ask 'experts' to discuss and explain specific issues. All suggestions to [deepdeneu3amembership@gmail.com](mailto:deepdeneu3amembership@gmail.com). Some members are being asked to express opinions on specific topics via SurveyMonkey. If you are asked, please use this opportunity to express your views - it is safe to use.

As almost anything is possible with a computer and the Internet, it is so important, particularly if we are confined to home, to know how to make appointments, stream entertainment from, eg, Netflix and Stan, download a library book, seek internet information and even to plan our next holiday, all without being scammed. Some streaming subscriptions allow multiple viewers in different locations, allowing a 'swap' trade with our friends and family. Zoom has been a wonderful facility to nearly all our members to help us through COVID. The new normal is to complete many types of eCommerce, Internet purchases, financial transactions, order essentials, and pay our bills online. The Technology Team can help you be confident.

Subject to your responses to this news piece and SurveyMonkey, a glimpse of future U3A courses could include:- computer purchase choices (Apple and Microsoft computers and smart phones), setting up, using confidently, overcoming 'keyboard fright', information search, free international communications, disaster recovery, technical support, making appointments, arranging home help, social media, selecting Apps, keeping safe from hacks, applied technology in the home, managing energy and domestic appliances usage.

Finally, a special thanks to Karin Watts and Michelle Trevorrow, our Facebook Administrators. The U3A Deepdene Community on Facebook is a 'closed' private community to keep us safe. All U3A Deepdene members can join if you so wish to keep up with the social chat amongst our members and to communicate on specific matters of interest. A valuable and convenient use of this platform would be for U3A group leaders to post more regular information about interests and activities. Check it out or for help contact Karin (0432 023 611 or [watts.karin@gmail.com](mailto:watts.karin@gmail.com)) or Michelle (0431 145 060 or [m.trevorrow@bigpond.com](mailto:m.trevorrow@bigpond.com)).

**Gerald Hughes**



**Frances Clancy recently enjoyed a holiday in Arnhem Land. She shares these delightful images:**

*Seven Spirit Bay International Airport terminal - 12 km from the nearest building*

*A Spanish mackerel being reeled in - but an opportunistic shark noticed it first*





## SEPTEMBER VACATION OUTINGS

### **Kyneton - Tuesday 13 September**

On a very cool Tuesday, 18 eager U3A members met at Southern Cross station for the train trip to Kyneton. On arrival the local bus was not there to meet the train, so undeterred we set off on the 1 km walk into town where we were met by Paul Reid who is both a U3A member and a member of the historical society.

He led us on an extremely interesting walk around the town, pointing out the many grand old buildings and explained some of the history of Kyneton. The police precinct was interesting as it contained the old original bluestone jail where Ned Kelly spent some time.

We could see from the buildings that Kyneton had been a substantial town in the 1800s.

In the 1850s the town prospered as a trading hub on the way to the goldfields and is still a busy agricultural centre. It has many industries, one being a large abattoir which is now exporting Australian lamb to the United States.

Our walk finished at the historical society rooms where we were treated to a 1923 movie about the attractions of Kyneton and surrounds. It was a very popular tourist destination in those times with tourists arriving, as we did, by train. Lunch at the RSL followed, hosted by several members of U3A Kyneton.



*Old bluestone building*

We were enjoying ourselves so much that a vote was taken to catch a later train home. That meant we had an extra hour to visit the botanic gardens which had magnificent displays of daffodils, for which Kyneton is famous. The train trip home was quieter than the one going up, as members sat back and enjoyed the end of a day to remember.

Our thanks must go to the amazing Joan Taylor, who as she always does, organised the entire day so splendidly.  
*Ann Palmer*

### **A Walk in the Montague Area - Wednesday 14 September**

As a regular participant in the Full Year Historic Walks with U3A Deepdene, it is great to be able to take part in extra ones offered in the vacation, to explore areas of Melbourne that I have never been to.

This year so far, two of the full year walks have been in Port Melbourne and South Melbourne. Surely there was not the possibility of another one so close by, in Montague (which I had never heard of as a suburb). It was led for us by Janet Bolitho, a former Mayor of Port Phillip, now active in the history and preservation of this interesting part of Melbourne. She had many photos of the area as it was in the past.

Montague was once at the same time industrial yet residential, prone to flooding because of marshy land near the Yarra. The streets were wide and busy with playing children. Post-war, the largest of the factories among which were Dunlop and Laconia Blankets, closed down or shifted to other places. There is much new development but much still being developed. Almost all the housing has vanished.

At one poignant stop near Montague Street Bridge, after allowing us to take in the rather grubby surroundings, Janet showed us a photo of at least a dozen young children splashing in the flood water from the drains, sitting on the same walls we were looking at and having a



*Kirrip Park and the colourful South Melbourne high rise*

great time. The photo was from the 1940s or 1950s. Health and safety would not allow this now!

Janet encountered someone she knew in a laneway and asked him to speak to us. He was the foundation Principal of a new 'high rise' local primary school, South Melbourne Primary. He spoke with such obvious pride in his school and the students there, and expressed his thanks to Janet for her involvement with the local community. We later passed his school and listened to the children enjoying themselves in the playground.

At the end of a very interesting walk, most people lunched at South Melbourne Market nearby.

Thank you, Janet, for leading our walk and Joan for the idea and organization behind it.

**Gay Knox**

### **Melbourne Metro Tunnel Project and Blackburn Sikh Temple**

During the final week of the recent term break, two very special outings were organised by Joan Taylor to the Metro Tunnel Project Office in Melbourne on Tuesday, and the Sikh Temple in Blackburn on Wednesday. On both occasions the number of members attending were in the high 20s, and we were informed and entertained by two very different presentations.

First to the Tuesday outing. The members attending gathered outside the shopfront of the Metro Tunnel Project in Swanston Street – many with umbrellas in hand! Once inside we were entertained by staff members April and Dylan, whose presentations outlined not only the ongoing Metro Tunnel Project, but also the Airport Link, Suburban Rail Loop and upgrades to the regional rail lines. The highlight of the presentation was learning of the four TBMs (or Tunnel Boring Machines), each of which cost in excess of \$15 million! They were obviously the backbone of the project and had been pushing out two tunnels of 9km in length over the past two years. Now they have completed their task and under Melbourne there are five new stations undergoing the final fit out before trains run through the new system in early 2025.



**Melbourne Metro Tunnel Project**

Then it was back into the bustle of the city streets and we were led by Kat alongside the area that will be in the front of the new Town Hall station. She commented that leading U3A members was very different from the noisy school groups that she was more used to! Afterwards many members went down to the Charles Dickens Tavern for lunch before travelling home.



**Blackburn Sikh Temple**

On Wednesday, the following day, 28 members gathered in the forecourt of the Gurdwara Sahib Blackburn on Whitehorse Road. In a previous life the building had been owned by Australia Post and had operated as a postal sorting office before the Sikhs purchased the property in 1994. Today they are extending the temple, and this is one of seven in the Melbourne metropolitan area. Upon entering the members were divided into two groups, removed their shoes and both women and men were required to wear headwear.

Before viewing the temple itself, members were given a history of the religion and its place in today's Australian society. Sikhism was founded in 1469 by Guru Nanak who disliked the dominance of the caste system prevalent in Indian religion at the time. Sikhism does not recognise racial, class, caste or earthly distinctions, but instead celebrates equality between all men and women. The Sikh way of life and beliefs were explained to the groups and many misconceptions about the religion were demystified. After the presentations we were all escorted on a tour into the temple itself.

One of the traditions of Sikhism is that free food is available at the temple daily at lunch. Everybody, including our guides, the volunteers serving the food, and casuals from the street were given lunch. This consisted of rice, dhal, a vegetarian curry and yoghurt washed down with water and chai. The servings were very generous with the volunteers constantly topping up the amounts of food on the thali. The messages from the guides as we all departed for the visit was that we were all most welcome to drop by at any time!

**Chris Hayward**

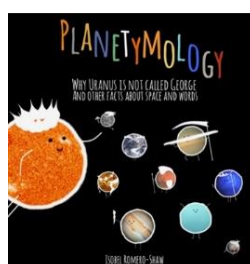
## WEDNESDAY SPECIAL - PLANETYMOLOGY

As part of our Wednesday afternoon specials, Dr Isobel Romero-Shaw presented a well-attended talk titled 'Planetymology: How the Planets Got Their Names'. Via zoom, it spanned two very different time zones: while the audience was in Melbourne where it was 4pm, Isobel was in Cambridge where it was 7am. Some of our members watched from the large screen at Balwyn Park, some from home and because of the wide interest in Isobel's talk, there were attendees from several other U3As.



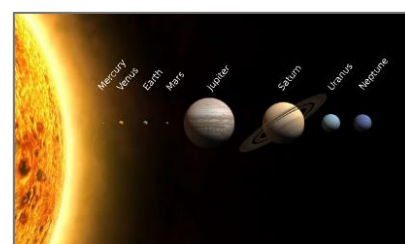
Isobel moved to Australia from the UK in 2018 to complete a PhD in astrophysics at Monash University. She endeavoured to spend her weekends exploring our countryside, although it was somewhat dampened by Melbourne becoming the world's most lock-downed city. She is now the Herchel Smith Fellow at the University of Cambridge in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, researching gravitational-wave signals from colliding black holes, using data from the detectors LIGO (in the US) and Virgo (in Italy). She has published several first author research papers and spoken at conferences for professional astrophysicists. Isobel has helped to increase the representation of women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine) through outreach activities. She has volunteered with groups teaching young girls computer coding and in programs teaching the science of sustainable living to the general public. Her hobbies are drawing (her webpage has a number of her still-life works), reading, and teaching herself Spanish. She keeps fit by running and hiking.

While completing her PhD at Monash, Isobel became interested in the relationship ancient humans had with our night sky and Melbourne's lockdown gave her the time to pursue her interest. She discussed how the planets got their names, tracing the words used all the way back to the first humans and showing how they often have surprising links to familiar modern-day words. She took us on a tour of the alien and exotic worlds of our solar system, from the inner rocky planets of Mercury, Venus and Mars to the inhospitable gas giants of Jupiter and Saturn, to the outer solar system's icy, mysterious worlds of Neptune and Uranus and finally, all the way out to demoted Pluto (discovered as a planet in 1930 and reclassified as a dwarf planet in 2006). We all got to know something new about the planets: their strange weather patterns, day night cycles, unusual year lengths and the unique composition of their atmospheres and interiors. Included were stories of the influence of the great names in Astronomy from Galileo to Britain's first female professional astronomer, Caroline Herschel (royal astronomer under the patronage of King George III and who lived in Bath, the town of Isobel's childhood). Casting the language net further afield the origin of terms like constellation, telescope, galaxy, nebula and universe were explained.



Isobel has written and illustrated two books for young adults - *Planetymology* and *Women in Physics* - the latter with her Melbourne colleague Dr Debatri Chattopadhyay, as a fundraising endeavour to support their upcoming voyage to Antarctica as part of a women's leadership initiative, which is due to take place in November 2023. Both are available from Amazon.

**John Cavedon**





## SINGING FOR PLEASURE

Since the Christmas in July concert, the Singing for Pleasure choir has been practising very hard for the second concert of the year which took place on Sunday 2 October at the Edge, Federation Square as part of Seniors Week.

For this concert, we combined with the Hawthorn Gateway Singers, creating a massed choir of 47 voices. The performance went very well and everyone had a great time singing in that excellent auditorium.

Our third concert for the year was at the Deepdene Afternoon of Music on Saturday, October 22nd.

Well done to all involved in these performances.  
*Julie Lancashire*



## HISTORIC WALK - BOX HILL



On a cold but dry day in June, about 24 members walked 6.5 km discovering some historic venues in Box Hill. The theme of this walk was: *from market town to megacity*, in which we tried to visualize the past. We viewed the Whitehorse sign, the site of the first electric tram in the Southern Hemisphere, the heritage brickworks, and where the artists of the Australian Impressionist School came by train to their Box Hill camp in the 1880s. The pioneer garden in Station Street with its descriptive plaques outlined the history of the area. About ten people were able to chat over nibbles in the multi-cultural food court afterwards.

*Alan Ray*

## SENIORS FESTIVAL MORNING TEA

We opened the doors of Balwyn Park to the community and to our members on Friday 7 October. This was part of Seniors Week, supported by the City of Boroondara. About 50 people attended and enjoyed a delicious morning tea arranged by Ilza Dulmanis. Many stayed on to view Travel on the big screen. This session was presented by Beth Perrigo and we were amazed by the story of Beth's two-year driving trip around Australia, covering 46,800 kms. Beth was accompanied on these adventures by Patches, her elderly tortoiseshell cat.



*Do remember that contributions to the Newsletter are very welcome. There is no need to wait to be asked, just email a review, an article, or photos to editor Pam O'Brien at [u3adepdeneeditor@gmail.com](mailto:u3adepdeneeditor@gmail.com)*

# INVESTING WITH RICHARD TOPHAM

## WHAT IS THE DEEPDENE U3A INVESTMENT GROUP ALL ABOUT?

Too often I hear the comment, even within my own extended family, 'my wife (or husband) looks after all the financial matters. I really don't understand all that stuff'.

Investing does not need to be complicated. The basic rules are simple – choose investments that will still have value in five years' time and aim for regular (and hopefully rising) income. (I acknowledge that investing can get very complicated but that is only for those who have the time and the inclination. That is not the focus of this group.)

At first sight the investing opportunities are broad. Think paintings, bottles of Grange, bitcoins, gold, property, interest bearing securities (including bank deposits), and securities listed on a stock exchange. The first three do not qualify under the basic rules, and are therefore purely speculations that the price will rise through time. Gold will maintain some value but it provides no income.

Property is, of course a major sector with many sub-sectors such as industrial, commercial, residential, holiday house and so on. However, property tends to be illiquid and bulky. It is usual for a property sale to take several months and you have to sell the whole unit. If you need some cash, you can't sell off just the bathroom or the top floor. To overcome these difficulties we recommend investing in a property trust listed on a stock exchange.



**Melbourne Stock Exchange building, Collins Street, third building from right, late 19th century**

In our U3A investment group we concentrate on investments listed on an exchange.

Our meetings are not normally structured as lectures but are more in the nature of discussion groups. Each of us has either direct or indirect influence over the management of one or more portfolios and we swap ideas on matters of current interest. For example, how does today's economic situation affect us? What should we do about a proposed or actual new government regulation? What do we think about the latest half yearly or yearly company reports?

From time to time we discuss some particular aspect of investing such as what does some of the investment jargon mean; what is an ETF; how should we structure a portfolio; dealing in foreign securities. However, sometimes a member (or visitor) shares some ideas on a particular topic – such as financial or estate planning.

So far as concerns listed securities, there are broadly two different approaches to making buy, hold or sell decisions.

The first is based on **fundamental** analysis. This requires us to understand as much as we can about any particular company by answering questions like the following. What goods or services does it provide? Will there still be a demand for them in five (or ten) years' time? How does it make a profit? Is the management competent? Such a portfolio will probably need only occasional changes and will certainly not require daily monitoring of the stock market. Buy and sell signals are based on an assessment of value: relative to the company's profitability are the shares under- or over-priced?

The second is based on **technical** analysis or charting. This approach does not require any analysis of what a company does or how it makes a profit. It relies solely on patterns which emerge in daily price charts. The major difficulty with the technical approach is how to decide what are the buy and sell signals. Is the process subjective or mechanical? Does it rely on a human being to interpret the patterns or is the system based on an algorithm which generates the signals? (Obviously the algorithm will have been developed by a human, but once verified as a valuable method, the signals are automatic.) Technical investing requires regular monitoring of the signals.

U3A members attending vary from those highly skilled in investment matters to those who are seeking to improve their understanding of stock markets. In a typical meeting we discuss the current share market, sometimes both at home and abroad. What consequences, if any, are there for our portfolios? Then we might discuss some recent company reports, explain some technical jargon, explore some basic principles or look at what the charts appear to be saying. How to structure a portfolio and when to sell are popular topics.

I make it clear that we do not provide financial advice. We swap notes and ideas but each one of us makes up his or her own mind what to do with that information. Come along and see for yourself.

**Richard Topham**

# ASSISTED MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA

A group comprising mainly of return attendees to Judy Still's talks on Australian history attended the Balwyn Park Centre in August to get some insight into Australia's assisted migration.

Rather than attempt to cover all the information in this fascinating session, I have focussed on what I found to be the most interesting highlights.

Non-voluntary migration into the colonies from 1788 was by way of the early convicts, soldiers and sailors. The first voluntary migrant was Darcy Wentworth around 1790, who was prosecuted in England for highway robbery. At his trial, he offered himself to migrate to Australia as assistant surgeon on Norfolk Island. He eventually moved to the mainland and had a family, one of whom was William Wentworth, the explorer of the Blue Mountains.

As early as 1817 there was an official scheme to reunite convicts with their families which required the approval of the Governor. Some of those who could not qualify chose to be 'free settlers', with parishes back in England assisting in the payment of their passage. During this time in the 1820s and 30s a number of people migrated from Scotland and Ireland to Australia to avoid poverty and famine.

By 1831, free land grants in NSW for convicts had been stopped. The 'Bounty Immigrants' scheme was introduced, which was co-funded by the sale of Australian crown land and contributions from British parishes. A payment of £19 was paid to the ship owner for each healthy person they landed in Sydney. Henry Parkes and his wife, who landed in 1839, were part of this scheme. By 1852 the journey to Australia from England had been reduced to approximately 75 days with the introduction of steamships, rather than the arduous 4-month journey.

There were many other immigrants in the 1800s who came from a range of countries for various reasons:

- Mauritians – relating to the importing of sugar and settled in Queensland and were supported by the Catholic church
- Lebanese – settled in NSW and were fleeing from persecution by the Ottoman Empire
- Afghans – arrived with camels and went into central Australia
- Indonesians – involved in pearling and sugar cane in northern Australia
- Germans – came to Victoria to work in the vineyards and many settled in South Australia

Post World War 1, there was a 'Soldier Settlement Scheme' for Australian ex-servicemen (non-indigenous) and British soldiers (approximately 37,000). The success of this was dependent on the richness of the land and the skill of the soldiers for farming. There were also migrants from Greece (about 100 per month were accepted) and 5,000 Jewish refugees from Germany.

Post World War 2, the range of migrants was expanded across Europe to include assisted passage in 1948 to people from Malta (26,000 came to Victoria by 1952) and 170,000 Latvian refugees also by 1952. A 2-year work contract scheme for displaced persons was also introduced, eg Snowy River Scheme.

The 'Ten pound Pom scheme' which gave assisted passage to British citizens attracted over 400,000 by 1947 and was known first hand by a number of those attending. By 1965 the national quota system was abolished and family reunions took priority.

At the end of the presentation a few questions followed, which resulted in an interesting group discussion. I left with a far better understanding of the extent and impact of assisted migration on Australia and look forward to attending another of Judy's presentations.

**Jan Tuckwell**



[https://digitalclassroom.nma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-07/1800s\\_1832\\_Introductionofassistedmigration\\_5.jpg?](https://digitalclassroom.nma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-07/1800s_1832_Introductionofassistedmigration_5.jpg?)

**Poster encouraging the British to apply for Assisted Migration**



## BAIRNSDALE TRIP

On Monday 26 September, 28 U3A members gathered in Cherry Road waiting for our bus to start our three-day adventure to East Gippsland. Then it was all aboard. We were driven down the highway to Yarragon for a coffee/comfort stop. We then headed for Macleod Morass - 520 hectares of deep freshwater marsh reserve - where we had byo lunch and were joined by John Hutchinson, a member of 'Birdlife Australia' East Gippsland Group. John told us about the Ramsar Wetlands and Macleod Morass, the world-wide recognition, and the ongoing work. The Morass receives flood water from the Mitchell River, and run off from local catchments. This ecosystem provides habitat for hundreds of birds that visit from other parts of the world, along with insects, fish, and reptiles. Some of the U3A members walked the 500-metre board walk, which runs over the water and weaves its way in the reeds to the bird hide. Back on the walking track we were amongst Red gum, Swamp Paperbark, Woolly Teatree and Blackwood, just to name a few of these magnificent trees - just a magical place! We then went to the Nicholson River Winery, where the tasting room was built high on a hill with stunning views overlooking the Nicholson River. Tables were set for us with cheese platters, and glasses were soon being filled with five different wines to taste. Many bottles found their way on to the bus. Then it was on to the Mitchell on Main Motel Bairnsdale, which we called home for our stay. Dinner was at the Mitchell River Tavern, close to the motel. We enjoyed good food and wine, and lots of conversation about our first day.

On Tuesday, after a hearty cooked breakfast, we headed to Lindenow and the Bonaccord Vegetable Processing Plant. We were met by Ross Ingram, the eldest son of Max and Kath Ingram who bought a 54 acre (20 Ha) dairy farm with 40-80 head of milkers in 1960. By 1978 they had a family of five boys: four of them are hands-on managers in the business as are their wives and the next generation. They are all heavily involved in running such a large property/business. In 1985 they diversified to vegetables. Then in 1989 they bought their first truck. They have expanded from 54 acres to currently 4250 acres providing 30,000 tonnes of produce: beans, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, cos lettuce, mescaline mix, potatoes, spinach and corn. The vegetables are picked, cool packed, and freighted to Coles, Woolworths, Aldi, Costco, and local markets over the eastern side of Australia within 24 hours. In the height of the season they employ and house up to 300 workers. They look after these workers; all the employees we spoke to and watched doing their jobs were happy and had smiles on their faces. Then we went to Lakes Entrance for lunch at the local eateries, after which we boarded the *Thunderbird* for a cruise on the Gippsland Lakes. It was a very pleasant way to spend 2½ hours of our day. The bus returned us to Bairnsdale where we enjoyed a delicious dinner at the Old Grain Store. We all slept very well that night!

On Wednesday, after another hearty cooked breakfast, we headed to the Port of Sale, to meet Alan Lewis, the first engineer for the port. We boarded the historic 110-year-old *EMV Rubeena*, which took us down the man-made Sale canal that played a big part in opening up Gippsland to the world. We glided at 5k down the canal to the landmark Swing Bridge. Along the way we saw a number of scar trees that the First Nations people used for making essentials such as canoes and boomerangs. The bird life was everywhere, it was so silent, with only us floating and no other boats. All the time Alan gave us an extremely interesting talk about the area and the indigenous residents. We were given a brochure about an interesting driving tour of the 'Bataluk Cultural Trail'. After lunch we enjoyed 'The Art of Annemieke Mein' exhibition on at the Gippsland Art Gallery. Then we boarded the bus and headed for home.

A very big THANK YOU to Christine and Barbara for organising such a wonderful trip for us.

**Judy Bailey**



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung People of the Kulin Nation, and their Elders past and present and future, who are the Traditional Owners of the land on which U3A Deepdene is located. We are honoured to recognise our connection to Wurundjeri Country, history, culture and spirituality through this location. We also acknowledge the Traditional Owners of lands across Australia, their Elders, Ancestors, cultures and heritage.



### WE THANK OUR SPONSORS:

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

See our website for details of courses.



#### DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

November 16 Barbecue, Balwyn Park Centre, 5.30-7.00pm; open to all

23 End of Year drinks, Balwyn Park Centre, 5-6.30pm; open to all

December 7 Program Leaders' lunch, Balwyn Park Centre, 12-2pm; by invitation

#### TERM DATES:

**2022** Term 4 Monday 3 October to Friday 2 December

**2023** Term 1 Monday 6 February to Friday 31 March  
Term 2 Wednesday 26 April to Friday 16 June  
Term 3 Monday 17 July to Friday 8 September  
Term 4 Monday 2 October to Friday 1 December

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The Program Guide for Term 1 2023 will be distributed in late November.

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