

New Horizons



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Unlock your potential – embrace the wisdom of your experience

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Important Dates For 2024

Enrolments: Wed 17 Jan – start 9.00am

Semester 1: Mon 5 Feb

Semester break: Mon 1 Jul-Fri 12 Jul

Semester 2: Mon 15 July

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President's Report

Mark Rubinstein



Summer Issue

Glen Eira U3A offers an amazing value proposition to our members: potentially hundreds of hours of face-to-face learning for a total annual fee of \$70. In comparison, the price of courses run on a commercial basis is generally more than 100 times greater. Expressed differently, if we were to outsource what Glen Eira U3A provides, the bill would be many millions of dollars annually.

The explanation for this extraordinary disparity is simple.

We work hard to keep our costs low. We have no paid employees. Our organisation is run entirely by an army of volunteers: at the reception desk, the garden, the kitchen, the committee, over 100 volunteer tutors and all the other behind-the-scenes tasks that make Glen Eira U3A run so smoothly. We owe them our thanks.

But more than that, in the interests of fairness, we need to share the workload a little more equitably.

If you'd like to lend a hand in any capacity whatsoever, please send me an email at: president@gleneirau3a.org.au
In due course, we can discuss the details of what this might entail.

We look forward to our tutors and members coming together again in 2024 to learn, explore and share the joy that is our Glen Eira U3A.

Thank you for your support.

Mark Rubinstein
President

Our New Committee

And here they are!



- Standing, left to right – Joe Pasmanik, Scott Gordon, Mark Rubinstein, David Collier, Tony Todd, Richard Salomon
- Seated, left to right – Cheryl Rubinstein, Del Wood, Hilary Friedland, Anne-Margaret Healy.

Ducklings On The Move

By Halina Leitch (member)

As I was putting out the daily rubbish, I noticed 10 newly hatched ducklings following their mother duck.

I quickly realised that I would have to guide them to a body of water or park. So, I began my journey across busy roads in South Caulfield towards Landcox Park. This was not an easy exercise to do as I had to stop all traffic on the busy road. Luckily, most of the motorists were obliging and happy for us to pass by.



I watched the poor ducklings along with their mother carefully and finally we arrived at the park, and I directed them towards the lake. The mother was immediately attacked by a male duck and flew off leaving the ducklings to fend for themselves. Eventually, the family were all reunited at the lake. After all

this, I was exhausted and glad to get back home.

Knitting Circle

Diane Shonberg and Sandra McMillan (Tutors)

The knitting circle meet every Thursday at 1:30pm. The knitters have a range of abilities, from beginners through to advanced. Our role has been to teach beginners and assist any knitters with reading patterns, and all other aspects of knitting.



The types of items our knitters have been working on are scarves; children's jumpers; baby beanies, blankets and jumpers; blanket squares; and adult jumpers. Some knitters have been knitting scarves and beanies for two charities, KOGO – Knit One Give One, and Impact for Women, for women and children fleeing extreme violence at home; some have knitted poppies for ANZAC Day, which were donated to the Bentleigh RSL; and some have been knitting beanies to donate for premature babies. Knitters use either their own wool, or wool that has been donated.

Throughout the year, we delivered scarves, beanies and poppies from our knitting group (see the photos below). Well done everyone! Thank you to all the knitters who attend. We are a warm, friendly group and happy to welcome new members.

Remembrance Poppies





There has been a new Beatles song released, is it time to bring out the old T shirt?

In Conversation With...Ancita Beale

"In Conversation With..." is our way to showcase our amazing tutors and highlight their wealth of experience and skills and of course, the value they provide to our members.

Ancita has taught Visual and Performing Arts at Secondary School level and since retirement is a volunteer in these disciplines at Glen Eira U3A. As a member of the Glen Eira Artist Society, Hughesdale Art Group and Watercolour Society of Victoria, she maintains a keen interest in painting and enjoys sharing her experiences and love of the arts as a tutor.

Tell us some more about your background and involvement with art.

From pre-school years I have loved to draw and paint, encouraged by my maternal grandmother. It was merely a hobby while I pursued a career in teaching music. Eventually I completed a course in Graphic Communication Education and taught Visual Arts at Secondary School. Retirement offered me the joy of spending more time painting and after a few years at U3A, I decided it was time to do some volunteering as well. I've been tutoring at Glen Eira U3A now for over ten years.



Do you have a favourite artist or style of art - who or what is it and why?

There are so many artists, living and historical, whom I admire and follow that it is impossible for me to name any in particular. If pressed I would claim that it's the Impressionist movement that inspires me and of course this includes the Heidelberg School.

On a purely emotive plane, Hans Heysen captured my attention when I first arrived in Australia. I so want to paint gum trees like he did.



The artist signing her work

What inspires you when painting - is it colour, shapes and/or textures?

Colour invigorates my perception and emotion when painting. This is in conjunction with all the elements of art which have become intrinsic to my work. Much depends on the medium with which I am working. I think that I work intuitively and much of my work is an expression of the subconscious through the use of elements and principles of art. Of necessity I've worked with a variety of media over the years and find myself still eager to try anything new. For the last few years, however, I have concentrated on Watercolours in my effort to prove that they are a lovely medium and not as difficult as many would suggest. Yes, my style evolves. I like to resort to a style that speaks to the subject I want to portray.

Has your style changed over time?

I have been accused of not 'sticking to one style' and take it more as a complement than the criticism that was intended.



For people who want to paint but never have, what would you suggest?

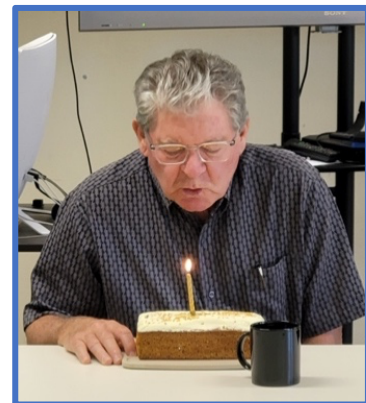
There is no such thing as 'CAN'T'. If one wants to paint, one should. Too many people give up even without trying. Somewhere along life's path they have been given the impression that it's all too difficult.

I have made it my goal to convince anyone wishing to paint that one could, and should, pursue the desire and just enjoy the creative experience.

Behind the News

Graham Ihlein's birthday falls on Remembrance Day, 11 November. Last year (2022) the Behind the News class coincided with Graham's birthday but Margaret Blight was unable to provide the cake on that occasion because Graham was off sick with COVID.

Margaret assured us that the cake she brought this year was fresh, certainly not held over from last November!



Creative Writing in French Class (By Judy Lawry)

French tutors, Fortuna and Bertha are proudly displaying a Bilingual Novella written, produced and published, by their class, called "Mystere Dans Les Jardins" ("Mystery In The Gardens")

During the semester, students in French Class B used creative writing as a method to learn French. The idea came from our tutor Fortuna Schachna who suggested we choose a title for a future story, and that one student volunteer to write the first chapter and read it to the class the next week.

And so the short story or novella, "A Mystery In The Garden" was born!

Guided each week by our tutors, the whole class became absorbed in the unfolding adventures of

the heroine, Sandrine, as she tried to solve two mysteries that seemed to be linked together: first, how to make her life more meaningful, and second, who was leaving anonymous notes for her in the garden?

Over the nine weeks, students took turns to progress the story, using their imagination (and their knowledge of French!) to continue Sandrine's journey from the previous chapter, and then creatively add new twists and turns to the adventure.

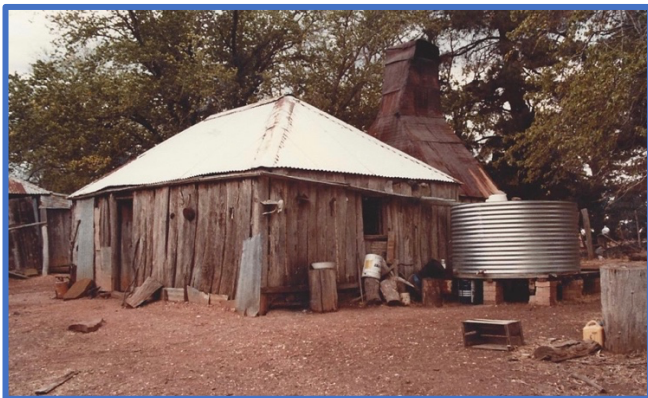
When every student who wished to had written a chapter, it was time to write the final chapter, to give “an ending” to Sandrine’s adventure. Our tutors suggested we all write a version of how we thought the story would end, and they would select one version as the final chapter.

In fact, the story has three different final chapters, as Fortuna and Bertha could not decide which ending was the best! U3A’s wonderful office staff printed our story, “A Mystery In the Garden” by French Class B.

The Joys and Challenges of Writing A Memoir (By Marlene Laurent)

Since retiring, I’ve had time to do some research about my family and find old photos of my life. Having chatted with my cousins and other family members, usually at funerals, I decided to research the area where my mother grew up and where her sister lived, having married a local farmer. I then decided to write a memoir of the year I lived with my aunty on the farm.

Before I began to write, I participated in some classes. Finally, I launched into writing my first book. It was a long journey over about five years. I was lucky to have a cousin who had researched the family history and given me a copy of that book. Using this, old photos from those days, my memories, and chatting with my cousins who also spent time on the farm, I began to piece together my story.



It is a little slice of Australian history. A trip down memory lane for some, including me. I called it Down The Road To Waterford. What I’ve learned is that writing a story is only a small part of getting work published. There are many ways to go about it and it’s helpful to join a local writing group and learn from and with them.



This is one for our opera buffs

Glen Eira and Bentleigh U3A Choir Concert



Once again, our great Choir Leader, Valerie Suhr, conducted the combined Glen Eira and Bentleigh U3A choirs on Saturday 25 November at our Glen Eira U3A venue. A large turnout heard the choir perform a selection of ABBA specials, a rendition of New York New York and a selection of some seasonal songs.

After the end of the concert, it was suggested to Valerie that she will now be able to enjoy a break - she said, "what break - I have another 4 concerts over the next few weeks". The singing never ends! Well done to all the Choir and to our Volunteers who assisted with refreshments and clearing up.

Tutor Thank You Lunch



A Tutor Thank You Lunch was held on Monday 27 November at our Glen Eira U3A venue.

Mark Rubinstein said that this lunch was an acknowledgement of our Tutor contributions through this past year and as a thank you for their dedication and expertise that has been instrumental in the success we have achieved: over 150 courses held, both at Glen Eira U3A and various external venues. This gathering serves as a small token of our gratitude for all that our Tutors do.



Here are most of our great Volunteers who helped support the lunch. They were planning, ordering, buying, cutting, peeling, serving, cleaning up – it could not be achieved without their help and we are thankful to all of them.

From left to right: Anne-Margaret Healy, Etia Golder, Amparo Ruiz, Allan Walker, Ann Orre, Madel Gheller, Phyl James, Shelley Massel, Hilary Friedland and Susan Lau.

Letter from Benjy

“My name is Benjy and I am a 14-year-old, year 9 student. In 2018, when I was 8 years old, I was walking home with my parents on a cold night, and I thought to myself: What happens to people who don't have anything to keep them warm and support themselves? I asked my parents this question, who replied telling me that although it was hard for these people, there were lots of others who helped them through charities. I heard this and immediately decided that I wanted to start a charity to support people in need which I called Socks 4 Support. The charity collects socks for people in need.



I decided to collect socks because socks are an item that many deem insignificant, whereas they actually mean a lot to those who don't have them.

Throughout my 6 years of doing Socks 4 Support, I've collected over 44,400 pairs of socks. These socks have been distributed to the homeless, people suffering from domestic violence, drug/alcohol abuse, and other forms of desperate situations. Most recently, I have supported many people in NSW who were severely affected by the floods and storms. I have collaborated with many other charities to ensure that I can help as many people as possible and reach those in need throughout Australia. Courage to Care is one organisation who have supported me along this journey.

I also want to show people that no matter how young you are, you can make a big difference, and that even the smallest idea can have a big impact. It is so important that more people of my generation become Upstanders rather than bystanders and stand up to the challenges we face.

You can contact me at donateyoursocks@gmail.com, and can see everything I've done on my Facebook and Instagram accounts: [@socks4support](https://www.instagram.com/socks4support)."

Bridge With Arie Meydan

Arie has been tutoring Bridge at Glen Eira U3A for a number of years but will not resume in 2024. However, he is still available to answer questions and comment on the Bridge hand prompting your question. Thank you Arie for your contributions over many years.

You can contact Arie with your questions via email at arie@my3.net.au

Some Statistics

The success of Glen Eira U3A depends not only on our tutors and volunteers, but on an active, growing membership. At November 30, we have 1,089 active members including over 150 tutors and volunteers.

We have 805 female members and 284 males. Of our members, 531 were born in Australia with the rest born in over 70 countries, from Andorra to Zimbabwe.

While he was visiting, my father asked for the password to our Wi-Fi. "It's taped under the modem," I told him. After three failed attempts to log on, he asked, "Am I spelling this right? T-A-P-E-D-U-N-D-E-R-T-H-E-M-O-D-E-M?"

