

Monthly News – September 2025

Welcome to our September 2025 Monthly Update

I'm pleased to report that Glen Eira U3A continues to thrive.

One clear indicator of our organisation's health is the impressive number of courses we offer: around 190, serving a vibrant community of over 1,200 active members. However, as an entirely volunteer-run organisation, our greatest strength lies not just in numbers such as these, but in the goodwill and dedication of our volunteers — the true driving force behind Glen Eira U3A. Although we can't quantify goodwill as easily as enrolments or course offerings, a couple of valuable proxies are very encouraging.

The first of these is a wonderful expression of goodwill: a very generous and anonymous donation of \$1,000 we recently received from one of our members. This gift was made in response to a note in the August Monthly Update highlighting our need for funds to purchase new garden furniture. The donation was given in honour of the donor's mother, a long-time member of U3A.

The second is the level of interest in joining our Committee. This year, that interest is particularly important. Several long-serving Committee members who have contributed significantly to our growth and success, will not be standing for re-election. Although the final nominations will be confirmed closer to the Annual General Meeting (AGM), early signs point to encouraging interest from new potential Committee members.

At our upcoming AGM on Tuesday 7th October, we will elect the new Committee. The AGM also provides a special opportunity to acknowledge and thank those retiring from their roles for their service and dedication. It is also a time to reflect on and celebrate the continued success of our organisation, and to share an overview of our achievements and progress over the past year.

Our Rules of Association require at least 10 percent of our financial membership - 110+ members - to vote, either by attending the AGM in person or by appointing a proxy to vote on their behalf. All relevant AGM information and documentation can be found on our website: <https://gleneirau3a.org.au>. I look forward to your participation.

I trust you enjoy reading this latest issue of our monthly update.

Mark Rubinstein

President, Glen Eira U3A

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Save The Date - Glen Eira U3A AGM, Tuesday 7th October 2025 @ 2.00pm.

At Glen Eira U3A, everything we do is made possible by our volunteers. Altogether, around **150 dedicated volunteers** give their time, energy, and goodwill so that when we walk into Glen Eira U3A, we can enjoy a coffee, a friendly chat and an inspiring class led by tutors who have thoughtfully prepared.

The **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** is **your** opportunity to come together, celebrate our achievements and help shape the future direction of our U3A. It is also a time to reflect with gratitude on the efforts of past members who built the foundations we enjoy today and to consider how we might build on their legacy.

This year marks our **38th AGM** — a milestone that reminds us of the strength and spirit of our community. It is also a moment to farewell and thank Committee members who have worked tirelessly, often at great personal commitment, to ensure our success.

We invite you to join us for the AGM followed by a Special High Tea:

Date: 7th October 2025

Time: 2:00 pm

Venue: Green Rooms, 1151 Glen Huntly Road, Glen Huntly

Bernadette Pierce

Secretary, Glen Eira U3A

¿Hablas español?

Do you speak Spanish? Do you want to join our Spanish tutors and teach Spanish?

Glen Eira U3A has many language courses and our Spanish language courses are very popular. If you want to know more or are interested in joining our other Spanish tutors to conduct basic, elementary or intermediate level courses, please let us know. Our Spanish tutors have offered assistance and there are teaching notes and resources available.

Contact courses@gleneirau3a.org.au - we would love to hear from you.

2026 - SEMESTER AND ENROLMENT DATES

Here are dates for your 2026 calendar:

- 2026 Enrolments open: Wednesday 14 January 2026, 9.00am
 - Semester 1: Monday 9 February to Friday 26 June 2026
 - Semester break: Monday 29 June to Friday 10 July 2026
 - Semester 2: Monday 13 July to Friday 27 November 2026
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2025 Courses for Enrolment

We continue to have new courses and there are some courses with spaces available. A list of courses with vacancies is always available from website: www.gleneirau3a.org.au

Enrol now!

25CRA10: Mini Dried Flower Arranging – one-day workshop: Monday 29/9/25 - from 10.00 to 11.30

Discover the artistry of crafting mini dried flower arrangements in our upcoming course! Join us for an immersive experience where you will learn the fundamentals of selecting, preserving and arranging delicate blooms into stunning compositions. From choosing the right flowers to mastering design techniques, this hands-on activity will unleash your creativity. Perfect for beginners and enthusiasts alike.

Members will need to pay \$20 to cover the cost of a vase, foam and flowers. Scissors and floral tape will be provided. Jinny is an experienced mini dried flower arrangement tutor.

25GAM26: Fearless Sudoku: it's logic, not maths – short course: Tuesday 9/9/25 and 23/9/25, from 10.00 to 12.00

This is a beginner's course, for those wishing to join the fray of solvers – we will be starting easy and learning strategies over these 2 sessions, with the aim of having fun and exercising our brains. The tutor will bring puzzles.

Dates for this course are: 09/9 and 23/9.

25SOC13: Special Event: Bonegilla Experience – one day: Sunday 19/10/2025 – from 10.30 to 16.30

Join us for a special event at the Sun Theatre in Yarraville on Sunday 19 October.

Well known musician and violin player, Simon Reich, is hosting an interesting documentary film called The Bonegilla Migrant Experience. There are so many amazing interviews, videos and photos - great memories for so many of us European migrants during the 40-50s.

Film starts 1.00pm with musical accompaniment from Simon Reich. We will have lunch at 11.30 at the Railway Hotel (at members own cost) which has a great seniors menu.

Tickets are \$30 which will have to be pre-booked and pre-paid due to the show's popularity. Please leave your \$30 in a sealed envelope, with your name on the front, and leave at Reception.

Meet 10.30 Caulfield Station platform 1 for 10.45 train to Yarraville.

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News from the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team

Fire Drill & Emergency Evacuation – October 2025



The **Health, Safety and Wellbeing (HSW) Team** has been working to put robust procedures in place to keep everyone safe during an emergency. As part of this, **two fire drills will be held during October** at our Glen Eira U3A venue, 1151 Glen Huntly Road, Glen Huntly.

Your cooperation will help ensure the evacuation is carried out **calmly and safely**.

Important Information

- An **Emergency Evacuation Campus Map** and a **step-by-step guide** are displayed in every classroom, the foyer, the bathrooms and the kitchen. Please take a few moments to familiarise yourself with these.
- Our campus has been divided into **two evacuation areas**:

Area A

Green Rooms, Pink Room, Purple Room, Bocce Court

Exit via:

Back gate

Assembly point:

Corner of Glen Huntly Road & the Laneway

Area B

PC Room, Red Room, Gold Room, Art Room, Kitchen, Lobby, Toilets

Exit via:

Front gate

Assembly point:

Fire Water Tank in the Woolworths carpark

During an Evacuation

Tutors and Wardens will guide you once the alarm sounds. Please stay calm, follow their instructions and assist others if needed.

Together, we can make sure each drill runs smoothly and everyone feels confident about what to do in an emergency. We appreciate your cooperation.

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Memory Lane: Alexandra Phelan, 2025

*(The Outsiders Exhibition,
Flinders Lane, Melbourne— A Rone installation)*

The factory – as it was
when it kept Australia in style!

Silent now are the squat bodies
the jaguar heads, the teeth
that devoured textiles –
stitched Melbourne into the fabric
of the fashion trade
They sit, tamed as circus beasts
their hunger pains ignored

Patterns hang from hooks;
tight belted skirts, prim shirt dresses
held housewives in their place

My uncle's at the cutting table
laying sediments of velvet cotton linen
smoothing smoothing smoothing
the fault lines, marking incisions
with concentrated precision

He drags the cutter, its umbilical cord
feeding its power lust
slices through a birthday cake
of delicious fabric
denying the blade a slip
a finger, to bloody
thirty layers of Myer order

My mother, bent as a gnome
ear against the heavy rev rev revving
breathes in oil and lint
as she fashions pieces into vogue;
her payment, the price of hearing loss

And there is the owner uncle
whose designs run the business
and whose import concerns
are being realised in the ledgers
that cannot be balanced on
his cluttered table

The Flinders Lane rag trade
is tattered now. The buzz comes
from those whose tastes turn
to cutting edge foods and designer wines
All that is left are memories,
and Rone's re-creation

Alix Phelan is a Glen Eira
U3A tutor and also a
poet. She has won the
Glen Eira "My Brother
Jack Open Poetry"
competition in 2016,
2017, 2021 and gained
second prize in 2022.

We are pleased and
privileged to be able to
share one of her poems,
Memory Lane, with our
members.

Thank you, Alix.



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Gardening Update: Save the date - Sunday 14 September from 10.00am

It has been great to have so much positive feedback for our gardening efforts - your remarks and constructive comments make it so worthwhile and are appreciated.

The gardening cleanup is continuing apace as we try to get as much cleared before spring catches up with us. This has led to some surprising reveals: the size and placement of the many large rocks - who would have thought? And the chilean weed that looked like a tree against the Woolworths wall that is dangerous to animals that eat it. (Not, unsurprisingly however, to our resident ringtail possum!). This was intertwined with a dead eucalyptus which had obviously been planted before the chilean weed took over. Gratifying is the new growth on revitalised plants, pruned and fed and the competing weeds removed.

Also great news - a very kind and thoughtful member of U3A has anonymously donated \$1,000 for new benches. We thank this person very much. They obviously noted our decrepit and collapsing benches - stored pending removal, and we are now currently busily scouting for suitable replacements. The gardening team would like to put a small sign on the new benches to say how appreciative we are of this kind gesture.

We have also been checking out community gardens for planting ideas and researching appropriate trees and shrubs. If anyone with expertise in these areas is willing to give us advice and direction, it would be really appreciated. Otherwise we stumble on in our own creative way.

So - clearing, feeding, mulching, planting; brings us to mulching... Glen Eira Council has made mulch free for collecting. A **Mulching Day Working Bee is to be held on Sunday 14 September from 10.00am**. We are hoping to concentrate on the delivery of mulch - a team at the mulch end near the racetrack, vehicle/s to transport it, and a team to put it on the gardens. Everyone welcome! GEU3A has a resident magpie who will supervise. He/she will collect the grubs and tasty titbits and make occasional comments on our progress.

The early garden - circa ?



Wendy - One of our happy gardeners



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Trip Highlights - from Siena, Italy

One of our members, who attends an Italian class, has shared some highlights from his trip to the Palio in Siena, Italy. The Palio, a horse race, is held twice a year in Siena in a tradition dating back to the 17th century.

**A cart with trumpeters and
relics**



Horses lined up ready to race



**Procession of the Contrada
Onde**

