

Monthly News – October 2025

Welcome to our October 2025 Monthly Update

In case you missed our Annual General Meeting on 7th October, below is an abridged version of my President's Report — I hope you'll find it interesting.

President's Report – Glen Eira U3A 38th Annual General Meeting

Welcome to the 38th Annual General Meeting of Glen Eira U3A. This is my second President's Report, and if re-elected, next year will be my last.

Let me begin by extending my heartfelt thanks to all those who help make Glen Eira U3A the vibrant and thriving community it is. This includes our dedicated office volunteers, passionate tutors, hardworking Committee members and the many members who contribute through our **Volunteering at U3A** teams. A special mention goes to the Gardening Team for their wonderful efforts in revitalising our garden — a great example of community spirit in action.

I'd also like to congratulate one of our long-standing and very deserving members:

- **Dan Phelan** (pictured centre), recipient of the **Tutor Recognition Award** from U3A Network Victoria.

We are also deeply grateful for the generosity of:

- **Tova Seelig**, who donated \$500, and
- An anonymous donor who contributed **\$1,000** for the purchase of two park benches in memory of her mother, a long-time U3A member.



These gestures of generosity and recognition are powerful reminders of the strong sense of community we enjoy.

Glen Eira U3A by the Numbers

Our organisation continues to impress with its scale and diversity:

- **Total members:** 1,230
- **New members since last AGM:** 186
- **Postcodes represented:** 63
- **Countries of birth:** 73
- **Courses offered:** 189

Committee Changes

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On behalf of all our members, I'd like to sincerely thank the outgoing Committee members — including those who stepped down since last year and those not seeking re-election — for their dedication and service: **Anne-Margaret Healy, Scott Gordon, Joe Pasmanik, Tony Todd, Del Wood, Kate Shelton and Peter Shonberg.**

I believe that renewal is essential to the health of any organisation, and I'm very encouraged by the strong interest shown in Committee nominations this year. I look forward to welcoming the newly elected members and working collaboratively with them.

Of course, with significant change comes a period of transition, and I kindly ask for your patience and support as we adjust to a new team dynamic.

Looking Ahead

Our success relies on teamwork, goodwill and shared responsibility. To ensure no one bears more than their fair share of the load, **I'm eager to broaden our volunteer base.** I encourage all members to consider lending a hand — whether through a formal Volunteering at U3A team or in any way that suits your time and interests. If you'd like to explore how you can contribute, please feel free to speak to any Committee member.

2026 Enrolments

Enrolments for 2026 open on Wednesday, 14 January at 9:00 am.

Many of our courses are extremely popular and tend to fill quickly. To improve your chances of securing a place in your preferred courses, I strongly recommend enrolling online rather than relying on assisted enrolment.

To support members who are less confident using the online system, **David Bloom** has generously offered to run tutorial sessions. If you've previously relied on assisted enrolment, I encourage you to book yourself in to one of David's sessions — with assistance from any of our reception volunteers — it will make a big difference. More details below.

Thank you all once again for your ongoing support and participation in making Glen Eira U3A such a special place.

Warm regards,

Mark Rubinstein

President, Glen Eira U3A

Welcome to the 2025/2026 Committee

A strong turnout of around 70 members filled the Green Rooms for our 38th Annual General Meeting, held on Tuesday 7 October. In accordance with our rules, at least ten percent of financial members must be present in person or represented by proxy—and with well over 100 proxy votes received, this requirement was easily met.

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The meeting itself proceeded smoothly, with the new Committee duly elected. (See below for the full list of new Committee members.) Afterwards, members gathered in the reception area to enjoy a superb afternoon tea, thanks to the inspired efforts of our dedicated catering team, expertly led by Cynthia Tait.



Role	Name
President	Mark Rubinstein
Vice President	Vacant
Treasurer	Preeti Khushu
Secretary	Bernadette Pierce
Ordinary Members	
Cheryl Gelfand	Margaret Summers
Cheryl Rubinstein	Robyn Freedman
Del Stitz	Shirley Moore
Helen Steinberg	Simone Markus
Howard Arber	Sue Hayward
Jeff Tait	Susan Catherall

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2026 – Courses and Semester and Enrolment Dates

We have been planning our 2026 courses and over the next few months, and prior to enrolment day on Wednesday 14 January 2026, we will let you know about the 2026 courses and how to enrol.

We will also offer short training sessions for those members who would like to know how to enrol and pay online. See the course listings below: **25COM23: 2026 Online Enrolment or 25COM24: 2026 Online Enrolment.**

Here are dates for your 2026 calendar:

- 2026 Enrolments open: Wednesday 14 January 2026, 9:00 am
 - 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

There are some 2025 courses with spaces available. **Enrol now!**

25COM23: 2026 Online Enrolment – short course: Tuesday 11/11/25 from 13:30 to 15:00

OR (please only enrol in one course)

25COM24: 2026 Online Enrolment – short course: Wednesday 12/11/25 from 13:30 to 15:00

These courses are for those members who wish to gain more confidence in enrolling online for 2026, this course will explain how to login to UMAS and how to complete your enrolment. This will involve:

- Renewing your membership for 2026
- Selecting those courses you wish to do in 2026
- Paying your subscription

Completing the process online will mean you can complete your 2026 Enrolment without the need to come onto campus for Assisted Enrolment on Wednesday 14 Jan 2026. It's a simple process once you know how. The 2026 Online Enrolment course will explain how, so that in future years you will be comfortable completing the process online.

Prerequisites: ownership of a phone, tablet or computer (Apple or android phone/tablet, Mac or PC computer), or access to one.

25GAM26: Fearless Sudoku: it's logic, not maths – short course: Tuesday 21/10/25 and 28/10/25, from 9:30 to 11:30

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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 two sessions, with the aim of having fun and exercising our brains. The tutor will bring puzzles.

25GAM19H: Golf Croquet: Come and Learn – short course: Thursday 6/11/2025 to 27/11/2025 – from 10:00 to 12:00

Learn the exciting game of Golf Croquet, a classic lawn game that offers gentle exercise and strategic thinking. Over four weeks you will develop the skills to navigate through challenging hoops and develop clever tactics. Croquet is an excellent way to meet new people and make friends, fostering a sense of camaraderie. You will be given the opportunity to practice and play with others to improve your skills and understanding of the game. Dates for this course are: 6/11, 13/11, 20/11, 27/11.

The Elsternwick Croquet Club is relaxed and welcoming. Elsternwick Croquet Club 27 Parkside Street Elsternwick, entrance near children's play equipment in park. There is also an option to play a practice game on Saturdays at 11:00 am.

COURSE SHOWCASE: Train Trips

Since June 2024, we have been offering Train Trips to local or country Victoria destinations on a nearly monthly basis. These train trips, and lunch at a local hotel, are very popular with our members.

Some trips are Mystery Train Trips – this is where members only know the location once they meet at the designated rail station. Sometimes, we needed to work around the vagaries of the rail network and metro tunnel work.

Trips in 2024 included:

- Yarragon
- Ballarat
- Trafalgar
- Geelong
- Mystery: Williamstown
- Werribee

Trips in 2025 included:

- Spotswood Grazeland
- Bendigo
- Bacchus Marsh
- Castlemaine
- Mystery: Belgrave
- ACMI & Immigration Museum

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- Warragul
- Parliament House Tour (see photo at right)
- Yarraville Sun theatre - Bonegilla Experience
- Mystery Trip – still a mystery until we meet at the station!

In summary, we have arranged 16 trips from mid 2024 to the end of 2025. A big thank you to all who have assisted and who came along to make each trip a pleasant day out. Let's see what next year will bring.



Tutors: Margaret Summers and Rozina Stein

(Postscript: according to Margaret, her directional skills are woeful so having Rozina beside her has been a saver).

TRAD JAZZ JAM SESSIONS 2026 – “Red-hot Mommas (& Poppas) Love their Daily Jazz!”



- Do you love Trad Jazz?
- Still find yourself tapping your feet and singing along to those irresistible tunes from the 1900s to the 1930s that you remember from the Trad Jazz revival in the 1950s and 1960s?

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- Do you play - have ever tried playing – or would like to start to play - any of those Trad Jazz instruments – trumpet, trombone, clarinet, saxophone, piano/keyboard, guitar/banjo, cello / upright bass/ bass guitar, drums/washboard?
- Or any other musical instrument?

If so, why not consider picking up your instrument and forming a weekly Glen Eira U3A Trad Jazz Jam Session?

Playing in a Trad Jazz Jam Session doesn't demand a life-long dedication to mastering complex musical scores – in fact, it really helps if you never were much good at reading sheet music!

If you have those 4/4 toe-tapping tunes in your head and have tried knocking out a version on your instrument of choice, you'll quickly find your place just by following your memory or working from a simple chord chart – and get to play the Jazz you grew up with!

The Jam Session could be held in the Purple Room on Fridays from 11.45 – 1.45 and the chairs will be arranged in a circle following the Friday Recorder Workshop class.

We could start off playing numbers from Jim Mills' *Easy Chord Book* – I can supply copies in print - or electronic if you prefer.

If this idea tickles your fancy, why not drop me a note on jbadger001@hotmail.com so we can gauge the likely interest and potential class numbers.

Jim Badger

(Banjo player in Badger's Buskers)

HEARING AUSTRALIA VISIT – Monday 10 November 2025, 9:30 to 12:30

Hearing Australia is once again offering free hearing tests for our members. These tests are available at 15-minute intervals from 9:30 to 12:30 on Monday 10 November.

Those who wish to attend should contact Reception on (03) 9572 0571 or call in and add your name to the appointment list at Reception. The hearing tests will be held at our Glen Eira U3A venue, 1151 Glen Huntly Road, Glen Huntly.

A Digital Duality, 2025

By Ivor Linson

(pseudonym of a Glen Eira U3A tutor)

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There's another me out there. Somewhere?
A doppelganger, a digital me.
Daily we intersect and overlap. He interrupts my days.
He mimics me ruthlessly, knows all my secrets.

My digital self manages my banking. Pays all my bills in seconds. Forget tiresome cheques and adding up.
But, my digital self creeps around squeezing, squirming and slithering into every crack and corner of my world.

So. There is, however, a dark side to his being. He circles like a shark. Invasive and predatory.

Push One:

If you wish to update your details and information with the bank.

Push One:

As the ATO requires an income statement. Push 2 to select preferred language.

Push One:

I think your solar panels need cleaning.

Push One:

My GOV needs to confirm your superannuation status.

Push One:

We have detected an error in your NBN service

On and on, "till the last syllable of recorded time."
All scams, all intrusive. My phone number is the key to his access to my privacy. Delete and block becomes a daily action.

My digital self inhabits the Philippines', India, Singapore and Malaysia and beyond.

Now the tsunami of AI. Talking to robots!

Where will it all end?
After I am gone my doppelganger will, "walk the night. "
Only to be painstakingly dismantled by my heirs. Thousands of photos, files and digital archives all eternally living in the ether.

So be very, very careful as you soldier on with a presence looking over your shoulder 24 hours a day.
All very helpful and enticing but, full of danger.

This is the world we live in which our children will endlessly inherit.

Behind the News visit to Potter Museum

On Friday 5 September 2025, members of the Behind the News class visited the Potter Museum of Art at the University of Melbourne to view the special exhibition '65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art'. This followed a previous class session led by Colin Golvan KC, who spoke about copyright issues and the growing global appreciation of indigenous art over the past 50 years.

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At the museum, ten class members were guided through the exhibition, which featured a wide range of indigenous artworks including sculptures, weavings, bark paintings and dot art. These works reflected themes such as Aboriginal spiritual beliefs, early British contact, and the Stolen Generations. Some pieces explored the complex relationships between indigenous communities and modern Australian society.

A particularly powerful section focused on the University of Melbourne's historical collection of Aboriginal remains, tied to the 19th-century Eugenics Movement. A video by Marcia Langton exposed the unethical conduct of certain university figures during that time.

After two hours of viewing and discussion, the group wrapped up their visit with an Italian-style lunch on Lygon Street.

Phillip Nagley and Graham Ihlein



U3A Behind the News group at the Potter Museum of Art. Class Tutors Graham Ihlein and Phillip Nagley are 4th from right and at extreme right, respectively.

HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING: Emergency Evacuation – Fire Drills in October

In September, our wonderful Office Volunteers completed their training to become Emergency Evacuation Wardens. They will play an important role in helping us all stay safe during the two practice fire drills that will be taking place in October.

We kindly ask for everyone's cooperation so that, together, we can leave the Glen Huntly Road premises quickly, calmly and in an orderly way. Your support will help ensure that everything runs smoothly and safely.

To prepare, please take a few moments to look at the evacuation maps and assembly points displayed on the walls of every classroom. You'll also find our Emergency Evacuation Procedure clearly posted in each room.

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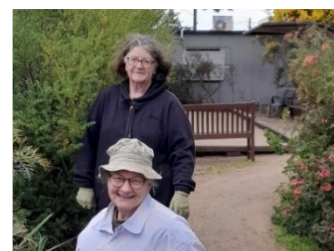
Here are some simple ways you can help during an evacuation:

- **Always sign the attendance folder** when you arrive at class.
- **Offer a hand to anyone who may need assistance** with sight, hearing, or mobility – walk beside or just behind them and guide them carefully to the exit. Remember: safety comes before speed.
- **Follow your tutor's instructions.** Tutors will find evacuation guidelines at the front of their attendance folder.
- **Leave your belongings behind,** except for **tutors who must take their attendance folder with them.**
- **Stay calm and move in an orderly way** along your class's evacuation route to the assembly point.

This will briefly interrupt classes but practising together means we'll be better prepared if a real emergency ever happens. Thank you for helping to make our community safe!

GARDENING TEAM NEWS

The Gardening Group (thank you to those diligent hardy souls!) have been forging on with preparing and fertilising the garden beds for the upcoming revegetation. Everyone will have noticed the lovely clean steps to the front entrance - thanks to Michael and his wonderful machine, the Karcher!



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And don't the clivias and bluebells look great along the path outside the office area of Reception once the flourishing weeds were removed! Kuranga Native Nursery in Mt Evelyn has been checked out as a potential plant source and a possible educational tour.

We were very impressed with their range and the suitability of their flora.

We had a bit of plant overload and had to recover with a coffee and scones and to discuss the many options which the nursery showed us.

Glen Eira Council indicated earlier in the year that they often had extra plants that we could use. They have been most accommodating, but so far it looks as though what they have remaining might not be suitable, so we are continuing our search.



Thank you to Nicole Rose who gave us an insight into the Yalukit William Native Reserve, Elsternwick. Well worth a walk through if you are in the neighbourhood.

Again, if anyone has contacts in the horticultural area, we would be delighted to have a chat about possibilities for our U3A garden.



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A WORKING BEE is scheduled for SUNDAY 19th OCTOBER at 10am at Glen Eira U3A venue, 1151 Glen Huntly Road, Glen Huntly

We would love to see a jostling crowd of volunteers, ready with gardening gloves and creaky knees, all willing to give it a go!

On this occasion we want to rejuvenate the long, overgrown garden carpark side of the U3A as well as mulch, mulch, mulch! - and anything else that comes to mind!
