



Scary times ahead going by the unseasonably hot weather we've been experiencing of late. And the BOM has officially declared the El Nino weather pattern is underway, which is certainly not a welcomed message. Australia is particularly vulnerable to its impact of hot and dry conditions and the warnings of extreme heatwaves this summer rings alarm bells for us all. And to read of a 'Catastrophic' category being activated along the South Coast due to high temperatures and strong winds is very concerning indeed considering we are only in September. Our thoughts go to the people from this region - the conditions must trigger horrible memories.

Welcome back, Alwyn! Your trip to Japan sounded so interesting. Hopefully we can persuade you to be a guest speaker at a Coffee Morning next year. As usual, Alwyn's President's Report is full of important information for us all.

And thank you to John Whale for his comprehensive report on our August Coffee Morning – subject 'our' Uiver – guest speaker Russ Jacobs, Restoration Project Manager and historian.

Our 'Profile' person this month is Ken Raff. As Ken's new class 'Drawing Creative Connections' commences this coming Term, I thought an introduction wouldn't go astray. It's an enjoyable read. Those enrolled in his class are in for a treat and fun times going by the outline. If the article triggers interest, check our U3A website to see if there are any vacant slots available for his class.

Three other new classes are commencing in Term 4. 'Cinema and War' – Tutor, John McQuilton, "Who do you think I am" – Tutor, Gail Gillis. Gail is actually just overseeing the class (from my understanding). Each week the class will be entertained by different presenters who will share the fascinating results of their journey through the archives while compiling their Family History. How could you not be intrigued?! And lastly, by popular demand, 'Know your Gizmo'. I trust anyone interested in seeking help with their devices has enrolled.

On a personal front, Anthony and I visited the NGV this week to see the Bonnard Exhibition. Pierre Bonnard is one of the most beloved painters of the twentieth century – celebrated for his use of colour and texture. It was a feast for the eyes. The NGV commissioned celebrated architect and designer India Mahdavi to design the exhibition's scenography. Colourful wall and floor applications, as well as vibrantly coloured furniture, added a three-dimensional experience to this amazing space and beautifully complimented the artworks. To quote 'Molly'... do yourself a favour!

Are you enjoying the puzzles? I hope you're challenging yourself before checking the answers! And lastly, we were all shocked to learn of Gerry's sudden illness. His absence has been keenly felt by all who attend "Our World" classes and others who have attended his classes over the years. He has been a respected and loved Tutor at our U3A for many years and has devoted endless hours preparing classes for our benefit. Our thoughts are certainly with him during these uncertain times, and it goes without saying that we wish him a speedy recovery.

Happy reading  
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## *from the* **President**

As I write, summer-like days have joined us, heralding the fact that we as older folk will need to be on the alert for our own safe hydration and health if the summer forecast is true! And our thoughts are certainly with those of us who are succumbing to all manner of health attacks with special thoughts to Gerry our esteemed Our World man!

As we enter our final Term, I am delighted with the variety and calibre of four new classes being conducted by our own talented members – Cinema and War is pretty full; “Who Do You Think I Am?” looks at some intriguing member family histories; “Drawing Creative Connections”: a fun and achievable introduction to art with Tutor, Ken Raff; and it really is important to Know Your Gizmo! We are hitting the ground running into Seniors Week, the Victorian version! Along with our own special Coffee Morning (6 Oct) featuring a look at how U3A started and continues to impact our lives and an energetic look or try at Scottish Dance, I hope you will support the Sunday Lunch at The Venue on Oct 8 and I will certainly support our neighbours at The Willows (Day Care Centre) on Oct 9.

I attended the Vic. Network monthly meeting and was impressed by the promotion of four new Course Guides, not just for their topics but also because they are short courses. Understanding Friendship in Later Life only lasts for 5 weeks; First Nations People lasts for 8 weeks; Scribblers lasts for 6 weeks and Science lasts for 5 weeks. The beauty is that **you** could be the Tutor for any one of these! The whole course is set out; you only need to direct them! I'd love to see some short courses happening!

Planning for the 2024 Conference in Melbourne is well underway – 3-5 October 2024, with a theme of “After the first 40 years, what next?” Could be interesting...

Save the Date! We have set Thursday 30 November as our twilight end of year gathering down in the Room 3 and Outdoor area. That will be here before we know it!

Meanwhile, jump into the term with gusto and enjoy every sociable and learning moment!



## KEN RAFF

### *Profile*

Born in Gippsland Victoria in 1948, Ken spent his teenage years by the seaside, spearfishing, swimming, and enjoying the outdoors, in Beaumaris, Melbourne.

In 1971, having hated the whole school experience, (the only thing he was good at was football and absconding as often as possible), on the advice of his father and friends, and against his better judgement, Ken signed up for and completed, a Higher Diploma in Secondary Art/ Craft Teacher Training. How the hell did that happen? Ken couldn't afford to go to university, but you got paid \$21 a week to become a teacher at that time. The catch was you had to teach for three years and could be sent anywhere in Victoria. Ken was appointed to Echuca HS where he taught Art for two years before moving to Euroa HS. By this stage Ken found that he really enjoyed teaching, and especially teaching those rascal kids who didn't fit the system.

Ken taught at Euroa HS for 4 years and met his future wife Gayle, a maths teacher, while there. Ken moved to take up a position at Wodonga HS, married Gayle and travelled for 9 months overseas. Gayle's mantra while overseas quickly became, "*not another gallery or cathedral please*". On their return home they lived in Kiewa for 17 years where they reared two wonderful daughters, Sally and Rebecca.

While at Wodonga HS Ken was Student Welfare Co-ordinator, and Health Education Curriculum Co-ordinator. Ken left Wodonga HS and took up a position as Health Education Curriculum Consultant with the Education Department which he held for 4 years.

In 1993 Ken resigned from the Secondary system to take up full time professional practice as a visual artist specializing in sculpture.

In 1997 Ken successfully completed his Post Graduate Diploma of Arts (Visual Arts)-Sculpture, through the Monash University, Gippsland Campus, Victoria.



Between 1997 and 2002 he worked as a sessional tutor, training student teachers at LaTrobe University, and at Riverina institute of TAFE, Albury, where he taught sculpture in the Visual Arts department.

Ken also taught three days a week at Wodonga Institute of TAFE for 10 years until retiring in 2010. While at the TAFE he taught art within the ATSIC Certificate 1 to 1V Koori art department, and also within the Work Education Centre delivering training to students with learning difficulties.

In 2011/12 Ken completed an Advanced diploma in Art Therapy at the Phoenix institute of TAFE in Melbourne.

Since 1993 part of Ken's art practice has involved designing and completing public art commissions within the region. These works include *The River*, located diagonally opposite the Botanic Gardens in Albury; *Porta*, on the Lincoln Causeway; six outdoor sculptures for the Bonegilla Migrant Centre; Artist in Schools projects; Two High Street installations and most recently, an outdoor work for the new Hyphen Gallery and Library in Wodonga.

Ken has exhibited in Canberra and extensively throughout Victoria. He has held solo exhibitions in Melbourne, Albury/Wodonga, Wangaratta, the ACT, and Beechworth. His work is represented in private collections across Australia and overseas.



Ken's drawings, paintings and sculptures give expression to his inner responses to different aspects of the world he inhabits. Favourite themes in sculpture include issues of identity; conflict; dislocation, the tension of opposites inherent in all things, and the political and spiritual.

Ken works in a variety of mediums and materials with his favourites being wood, steel, found objects, and more recently, bronze. His work is often narrative and layered with symbol, the meaning of which is open to interpretation by the viewer.

When not sculpting, Ken loves to get away and explore the outback, recording the experience while on location, in his own style and technique using watercolour, gouache, and ink on paper. Back in the studio, Ken enjoys exploring new possibilities for more layered expressions of the Australian landscape using acrylic paint and surface texture.

Ken is happiest when with family or in his workshop dreaming up and making new works with background music playing, coffee on the boil, and a good book on the go. "It doesn't get any better than this," he says.



*Creative Connections*

Ken is really looking forward to working with those at U3A wanting to explore the mystical world of creativity this coming term. It is his chance to share the joy, understanding, fun and wonder he gains through the creative process.



## AUGUST COFFEE MORNING

*John Whale*

### **The Uiver pounced Over with a Dutch accent!**

On Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> of August, the guest speaker at our regular coffee morning was Russ Jacobs, Project Manager for the Uiver Restoration project, which is a very complex and long running project designed to restore an old and much dilapidated DC-2 and create a replica of the KLM Uiver aircraft. The reason they are restoring a replica of the Uiver is because sadly the original plane crashed in the Syrian desert in December 1934 during one of its regular flights from Amsterdam to Batavia (modern day Jakarta) killing all on board, strangely this was only about two months after its historic visit to Albury.

Russ mentioned that he considers himself very lucky to have been able to recruit such a dedicated group of 15 volunteers for the restoration project, who spend two solid days every week in the hangar out at Albury Airport working to achieve this monumental task.

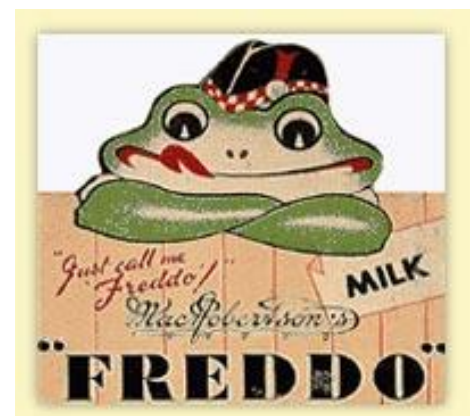
There are an estimated 800,000 rivets in the DC-2 and each one will have to be replaced by the time the aircraft is completely restored and ready to be put on display, without these rivets the Uiver Memorial aircraft would be just a pile of metal parts.



When finally restored the DC-2 will be housed in a purpose-built museum designed to commemorate the original Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM) aircraft's emergency landing at Albury Racecourse as a result of a severe thunderstorm in 1934 during the MacRobertson Trophy Air Race, which was a race designed to see who could fly the fastest from London to Melbourne and the winner was awarded a first prize of six thousand pounds, which in today's money would be the equivalent of a million dollars.

This 1934 air race was an idea of Melbourne City Council as a way of publicising their Centenary year and also that of the State of Victoria, both of whom were formed in 1834 and the event was fully sponsored by a very successful local businessman and philanthropist, Sir MacPherson Robertson founder of his eponymously named Confectionery Company which became famous for products such as Freddo Frogs.

The London to Melbourne MacRobertson trophy air race attracted a diverse range of competitors, not only from Australia but also from Britain, the US and Holland with companies such as De Havilland, Douglas Aircraft Company, and Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM) participating, plus there were some well-known aeronautical celebrities, such as Jim Mollison and his wife Amy Johnson, who was the first woman to fly solo from London to Australia, a feat she achieved back in 1930.





However, the key focus of Russ's presentation was about how the Uiver, and its 3 crew members plus 4 passenger's lives were saved due to the remarkable assistance provided by the local community, initially by a Radio station, 2CO and then by the collective actions of Albury's citizens. This event created so much headline news right across Australia and the Netherland's that it forged a strong and lasting relationship between Albury City and the Dutch population back home, a friendship that still exists to this day.

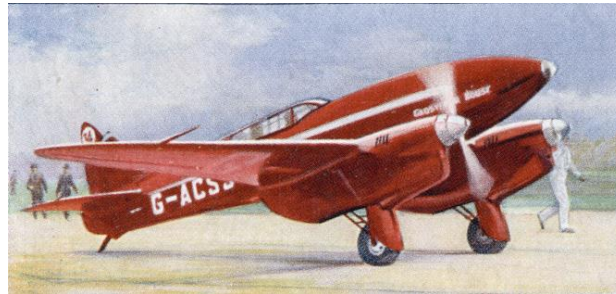
The Uiver was on its final leg of the race from Charleville to Melbourne and while flying near Albury they encountered a severe, electrical storm and as a consequence became totally lost, because the lightning was interfering with their navigation equipment and radio communications systems. They were also running very low on fuel and desperately needed to make an emergency landing. It was then that the local community suddenly became aware of the Uiver's problems since it was flying very low overhead. Albury council's electrical engineer organised for the streetlights to be switched on and off repeatedly, using Morse code to transmit messages to the aircraft's pilot.

Then the radio station started broadcasting exactly what was taking place to the local community and made an appeal for residents to drive out to the Albury racecourse and use their car's headlights to illuminate the runway thus providing a clear path for the troubled plane to make a successful landing.

Finally, the Uiver managed to land on the racetrack, much to the delight of the large gathering of local citizens who were there to witness the event. Once the aircraft had come to a halt, the crew and passengers could safely disembark after what must have been a very stressful few hours.



Later a group of 300 local citizens banded together and formed what was like a "Tug of War" team, pulling the Uiver out with a rope tied to its front wheels, from the boggy ground where it had ended up. After the refuelling had taken place, they took off from the racecourse in order to finish the race in Melbourne and were award second place. Remarkably they only arrived one day later than the eventual winner of the race, Grosvenor House a twin-engine De Havilland flown by two British pilots, Flight Lt. Charles Scott and Captain Tom Black both of whom not only pocketed a huge amount of prize money but were awarded The Britannia Trophy plus a gold medal from the Royal Aero Club, its citation reads "*For the British Aviators who accomplishing the most meritorious performance in aviation during the previous year.*"



### The DH Grosvenor House

The KLM DC-2 and those brave citizens of Albury who were instrumental in rescuing the Uiver will forever be acknowledged with a permanent exhibition centre, housed in a unique building, a living testament to their extraordinary achievements and it will no doubt become a major tourist attraction equalling those other two key historic sites in the region, the Hume Dam and Bonegilla Migrant Experience Centre (BMEC).

At the end of Russ's riveting presentation (every pun intended) about the Uiver's extraordinary landing in Albury he mentioned that next year will be its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, after which his audience collectively made a series of generous donations to fund further purchases of more rivets to finally finish the job. Hopefully the Restoration Project will be completed in the not-too-distant future and afterwards the Uiver can be housed in its own Museum (see below) and the region's community plus visitors from across the country can come and experience firsthand this unique and historically significant event.

Next year, 2024 is going to be a truly fantastic year of celebrations for our entire region, because not only will it be the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Uiver landing but it will also be the Centenary of Wodonga's Water Tower, our equivalent to the leaning tower of Pisa and if that wasn't enough, 2024 will also be the Bi-Centenary of the Hume and Hovell expedition, which passed through this area in November 1824, which was the catalyst that led to the establishment of both Albury and Wodonga, happy days are here again and let's all celebrate.

Finally at the end of Russ's presentation he invited every U3A members to pay a visit to their Restoration project hangar out at Albury Airport, which is something I will definitely put on my to do list and will be organising a tour some time before the end of this year, watch this space.



This is the proposed design of the new Uiver Museum, which is planned to be constructed sometime over the next few years



## Why are waterbeds so bouncy?

They're filled with spring water.



"What do you call a rabbit with flees? Bugs Bunny"



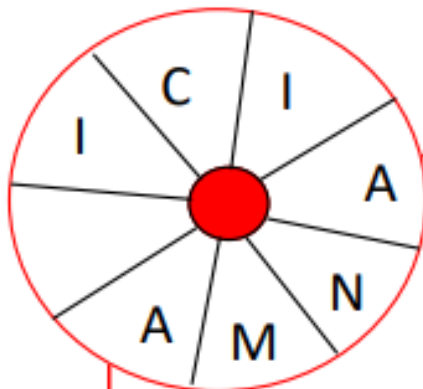
"My winter fat is gone. Now I have spring rolls"





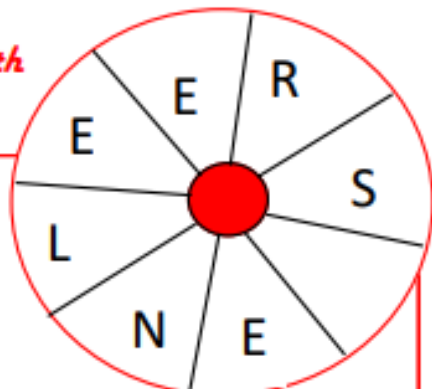


# puzzled



## Playing with Words

Can you solve these **Word Wheels** by inserting the missing letter?



### This month's gripe: What have we done to our language?

“ Ah, look what we've done to the old mother tongue,  
It's a crime the way we've misused it.  
It's been totally diswoggled, crumbed, and blonged and golly-woggled.  
And we've strangled, fangled, mangled and abused it. ”  
— Singer, Eric Bogle

**For example:** Alec Tricity.

Every day, we are warned in news bulletins about the rising cost, potential shortages and cuts in Alec Tricity. It's time we put Mr Tricity to sleep and returned to ... electricity, as it should be spoken!



### WHAT AM I?

LU CKY

CYCLE  
CYCLE  
CYCLE

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M.D.  
Ph.D  
B.Sc

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i  
i  
i



**Who do you think I am**, is on next semester in the Thursday 1pm until 3pm slot and will be taking us on an interesting journey that was experienced by the families of our presenters in this course.

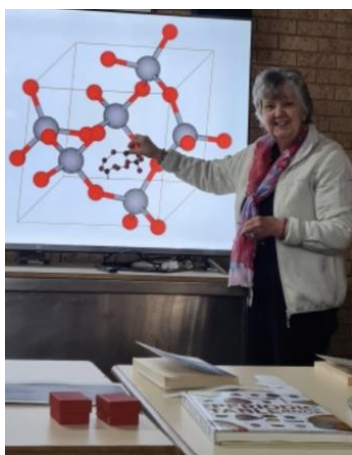
Each week we will be entertained by a different U3A member and some visiting presenters who will give us an insight into the multi-cultural country we live in.

This is a personal history lesson about why people left their homes and families to arrive in this strange new land. I think you will be surprised at the journey the presenters take you on. I know that you might find yourself in Greece, or Prussia, or perhaps a diversion to Ireland, France, or even Columbia which may make you review your history knowledge and just revel at the courage of our forebears.

These Presenters didn't have the support from the TV shows that find relatives by just producing documents and flying people all over the world. These are researchers who have put in the hard work to bring their story to you.

Please support them and book into the class today.

**TRY SOMETHING NEW**



We're so lucky to have such depth of knowledge and expertise in our tutors.

Sometimes we might feel a bit apprehensive at trying a course which is far outside our comfort zone, but for the members of the Discovering Chemistry course (who are affectionately known as The Chemistry Collective) – it's been enlightening and astonishing. They've explored soil, cooking, glass, ceramics, colour, light, metals – anything and everything that their questioning minds can imagine.

So why not give a new course a try – you never know where it might lead you!



## DID YOU KNOW?

Can you imagine the City of Albury with vineyards scattered throughout its streets?

The first recorded vineyard was planted by John P Frauenfelder, Henry Rau and Sebastian Schubach. They arrived from Germany with their wives and families on the 'Beulah' in 1849 under contract to



work for William Walker for two years. Having fulfilled their obligations at Kyeamba Vineyard (near Wagga Wagga) they came to Albury which they likened to their beloved Rhineland. After their arrival on May 12, 1851, they leased land east of Kiewa Street between Guinea and North Streets and planted a quarter acre of vines for each family.

The Kyeamba cuttings had originally been obtained from the Sydney Botanical Gardens. Young John Frauenfelder, then 15,

was given the honour of planting the first vine which was christened by his father with a bottle of sherry. Within three years the vineyard had been extended to three acres. Grapes matured quickly in Albury and the discovery of gold in the area provided a profitable market for fruit and wine despite the hazards of Border customs duties.

Numerous German families migrated in succeeding years, many being experienced vigneron related to Albury settlers. They established themselves in East Albury, Wirlinga and Thurgoona where they planted vineyards. Some of the early German vigneron were – Bopp (Popp), Brumm, Dallinger, Dick, Eberle, Eck, Eisenhauer, Gaber, Gehrig, Helm, Kalbrunner, Klein, Knobel, Kolb, Merkel, Muller, Reis, Stassen, Strauss, Wartzelhan, Weidner and Zoeller. Names of some would be familiar to many of us in U3A?

Somewhere between 1854 and 1856 two brothers who had a profound impact on vine growing arrived in Albury. They were James Thomas Fallon and Patrick Edwin Fallon who initially established a store in Kiewa Street, south of Dean Street.





Friday, 6 October

9.30am for a cuppa and chat  
10am for "guest" speaker

Come along to our next Coffee morning which will be held on 6 October.

We will be participating in Seniors Week, and opening our coffee morning to seniors who'd like to check out what U3A is all about.

Our Scottish Dancing group will perform for us, so please join us and welcome our guests.



Thursday 30 November  
Downstairs Room 3 and around our outdoor area  
Nibbles and drinks  
More information coming soon!



Answers:

**Word Wheels:** magician, newsreel. **What am I:** lucky break, tricycle, three degrees below zero, eyes right.



## TERM 4 COURSE LIST

<b>MONDAY</b>			
Cinema and War	9.30-12.30pm	Room 3	John McQuilton
Everyday Philosophy 5 sessions only this term	10-12pm	Room 1	Michael Evans
Family History & the Internet	10-12pm	Zoom	Gail Gillis
CAE Book Study	1-3pm	Room 2	Carol Antonello
Economics & Politics	1-3pm	Room 1	Eddie Voogt
Art Appreciation 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday each month	3.15-4.30pm	Room 1	Lynne Keys

<b>TUESDAY</b>			
Live Longer Younger 1	9.30-11.30am	Zoom	John Beaney
A Toolbox for the Craft of Writing	10-12pm	Room 2	Jane Carroll
Sustainability	10-12pm	Room 1	Bruce Key
Discovering Chemistry	10-12pm	Room 3	Kath White
Drawing Creative Connections	1-4pm	Private Home	Ken Raff
Garden Group 1	1-3pm	Room 3	Shirley Farr
Random Thoughts and Ideas	1.30-3.30pm	Room 1	Peter Massey
Music Appreciation 2&4 Tuesdays each month	2-4pm	Private Home	Jen Schubert
Air Rifle Shooting	3.30-5pm	Room 3	Bob Cranage

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>			
Europeans Ancient Greece to EU	10-12pm	Room 1	Hugh McHarg
Garden Group 2	10-12pm	Room 3	Shirley Farr
Mahjong for Beginners	10-12pm	Room 2	Karen Ferguson
Social Gardener	10-12pm	Various	Pauline Harris
Mahjong	1-4pm	Wodonga Tennis	Karen Ferguson
Cryptic Crosswords	1.30-3pm	Trinity Uniting	Jean Evans

<b>THURSDAY</b>			
Bird Watching in Albury Wodonga	8-10am	Various	Bernie Datson
Mindfulness Meditation	9.30-11am	Private Home	Kaye Ellis
Philosophical Discussions	10-12pm	Room 3	Anthony White
Walkie Talkies 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month	10-12pm	Various	John Whale
Scrabble	12.30-4pm	Room 3	Kath Clarke
Art in the Afternoon	1-4pm	Various	Kath White
Chess	1-4pm	Room 3	Steve Currell
Who Do You Think I Am?	1-3pm	Room 1	Gail Gillis

<b>FRIDAY</b>			
Living Longer Younger 2	9 30-11.30am	Zoom	John Beaney
Genealogy Decipher DNA results	10-12pm	Zoom	Gail Gillis
Mahjong Intermediate Beginners	10-12pm	Room 2	Karen Ferguson
Play Reading Group	10-12pm	Room 3	Margaret Richardson
Scottish Country Dancing First 3 Fridays each month	10-12pm	Room 1	Anne Murray
Card Games and Mahjong	1-3pm	Room 3	Karen Ferguson