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Acknowledgement of Country: Bacchus Marsh U3A Inc. respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet; which includes the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Wadawurrung people. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.

## LATEST NEWS

### Our 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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### SHAKESPEARE SONNET SETS SCENE for SESSION SUBSIDY SUCCESS!



The Minister, Anthony Carbines (top centre) and group consider Shakespeare's Sonnet 138.

Bacchus Marsh U3A were very fortunate when our local MP Michaela Settle (who our committee have met with on another occasion) chose our organisation when State Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers, Child Protection and Family Services, Anthony Carbines, and our local MP for Melton, Steve McGhie, were in Bacchus Marsh on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 to get a feel for the great volunteer work that groups such as U3A do for our community.

As it happened, Wednesday afternoons are when the **U3A Shakespeare & English Literature** group meets. So with the approval of team leader Geoff Camm and members, and to give the Minister a practical demo of our activities, that session was chosen to host the meeting. Our U3A Committee members and other team leaders were invited to attend the event. We had a great turn out .

The Shakespeare group arranged for a reading of Sonnet 138 (*When my love swears, she is made of truth...*) and a discussion on its wordplay including the clever use of puns. The session then continued with Anthony Carbines giving us an insight into the role of his State Government ministry and inviting our members to raise issues of interest. One issue was the practical difficulty of using public transport (train service) between Bacchus Marsh and Melton to consult with medical specialists.

Another hot issue for U3A members was the costs of room hire fees at the Lerderderg Library not only for the U3A Shakespeare & English Literature group but also for the U3A Discussion group. MP Steve McGhie was very quick to pick up on the issue of hire fees and pledged that he, on behalf of his position as a member of the State Govt, will pay for the hire fees of both groups until at least the State election later in 2022. This is a saving to our members that attend these groups of \$4.00 per week for the Shakespeare group or \$4.00 per month for the Discussion group. Any U3A member who might have had an interest in either group, can now attend them at **no cost** till the 26/11/2022.



Geoff Camm making a point about Shakespeare. Local MP Steve McGhie (centre) considering the issue.

Images & story by local U3A President, Helen Brown; editing & layout by John Spain.

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## Bacchus Marsh U3A Inc. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 14th Annual General Meeting of Bacchus Marsh U3A Inc was held on Wednesday 25th May 2022. The AGM received reports for the year ending 31st December 2021. Normally our AGMs are held a bit earlier in the year, but the COVID-19 pandemic legacy upset those plans. While it seems we have left the period of COVID disruptions, the virus is still active in our communities and it's up to us to think smart and be aware of risky places.

This year also saw a return to holding face-to-face AGMs in the Darley Neighbourhood House & Learning Centre. The crew at DNHLC always make us welcome and continue to host many of our sessions. This AGM was attended by about 20 members.



After welcoming the attendees our President Helen Brown asked that the minutes of the previous AGM be accepted and this was done. Marie Dempsey, who took over from long-serving Treasurer Yvonne Foster during 2021, presented the Treasurer's Report. Bacchus Marsh U3A is in a good financial position; At the end of 2021 the General Account had a balance of \$2310.36 and the Membership Account balance was \$4442.30.

The President reported on our activities for the 2021 year. COVID continued to present many difficulties and some activities were curtailed yet again. Thankfully those days are largely behind us and activities have picked up in the current year. Helen finished up by thanking all Session Leaders, the Committee and Office Holders. Special thanks due to our Secretary Sharon Moore who has worked closely with Helen to keep the ball rolling during COVID.

The session and group leaders each presented reports on activities. Judy Archer spoke for the French group and emphasized the usefulness of Zoom software in enabling sessions to continue. A special shout out was given to Jan Jackson who directs the very popular Tai Chi group. Unfortunately Jan was unable to attend the AGM because of illness.

Report continues next Page...

## Annual General Meeting Report, continued...

Exciting news at the meeting was the announcement of two new groups, being the Table Tennis sessions and Poetry. Doug Soden and Karen Davey will lead the Table Tennis and local poet Jennie Fraine will head up the Poetry group. Stay tuned for Watson news flashes about these activities. Good to see new members in the leaders group.

The AGM finished up by appointing Office Bearers and General Committee Members for the 2022 year.

Re-appointed unopposed were:

- President : Helen Brown
- Vice-President: Anneli Rickards
- Secretary: Sharon Moore
- Marie Dempsey continues automatically to her second year as Treasurer.
- Re-appointed unopposed to the Committee were John Spain, Juanita Bridgeman, Jan Jackson; Toni Collins continues automatically to her second year on the Committee. Jennie Fraine was appointed to the Committee and one Committee vacancy remains. Anyone interested in joining the Committee should contact our Secretary Sharon Moore by email sent to [secretary@u3abacchus.org.au](mailto:secretary@u3abacchus.org.au).

After closing the meeting, Helen and Sharon invited the attendees to tea, coffee and light refreshments of sandwiches and scones provided by the Bacchus Marsh CWA. As usual, the food was great! Sandwiches, scones and sweets - just the thing for a light lunch.



Darley Neighbourhood House & Learning Centre  
Image by: DNH&LC

I like this image of the Darley Neighbourhood House & Learning Centre (taken from their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/darleyneighbourhoodhouse](http://www.facebook.com/darleyneighbourhoodhouse)).

This year, Bacchus Marsh U3A will be holding sessions in the Anna Curry building that formerly housed the child-minding centre. Sessions will continue to be held in the main building. JS

Report on Anthony Carbines's Visit continued from front page...

## Room Hire Fees and Other Matters discussed with Minister & MPs

U3A members attending sessions held in the Lerderderg Library will not have to pay contributions to room hire fees; at least until the State Election in November 2022. This represents a direct saving of \$4 per session per attendee.

The welcome news was announced by local MP Steve McGhie at the end of the weekly *Shakespeare & English Literature* session on Wednesday 1st June 2022, a session attended by **Anthony Carbines MP, State Minister for Disability Ageing & Carers, Child Protection & Family Services**.

The Minister, accompanied by Local MPs Michaela Settle and Steve McGhie and staff, visited Bacchus Marsh & District to see the efforts of volunteer organisations that contribute so much to our communities. U3A Bacchus Marsh was fortunate to get a time to speak with the Minister. Apart from the room hire fees, **other issues** raised with the Minister included transport and community infrastructure:

- U3A member Peter Rickards spoke eloquently of the need for a direct bus service between Bacchus Marsh and Melton to assist residents seeking specialist medical care, as well as providing opportunities to purchase goods and services that are just not available locally in Bacchus Marsh. Steve McGhie MP mentioned that previous proposals for such a service ran up against local businesses concerns about losing trade to Melton. But Mr. McGhie also made the point that customer traffic could be a two-way street, with Melton residents travelling to Bacchus Marsh if a convenient service was available. The existing transport method for residents without access to motor vehicles is : walk + bus + train + bus + walk; with a similar combination on the return journey. Mr. McGhie promised that proposals for such a service would continue to be made.
- Minister Anthony Carbines indicated a strong commitment by the State Labor government to supporting local volunteer groups such as U3A that provide valuable social services to their communities. The Minister understands the pressures that a rapidly growing population places on a community. The population of greater Bacchus Marsh is expected to grow to around 40,000 before 2040. Demand for community resources including schools and public libraries will rise with that growth. The new hospital at Melton (near Cobblebank railway station) is attracting federal as well as State funding. This will alleviate some issues encountered by Bacchus Marsh residents who presently must go in to Footscray for care.
- Our members emphasised that residents appreciate the many services provided by the Lerderderg Library and the Minister agreed, mentioning libraries as place where people feel safe and enjoy socialising with friends and fellow club members.
- Steve McGhie also confirmed the worst kept secret in Bacchus Marsh that the Moorabool Shire Council is committed to returning the Council offices in Bacchus Marsh to a Main Street location; i.e. behind the Village Green. It all depends on funding of course, but there is a strong desire in Council to make it happen.

All in all, U3A members felt the meeting had a positive "vibe", and thanked Minister Carbines, Steve McGhie MP and Michaela Settle MP for taking the time to listen to community concerns.

## Other Local Groups - this month - “The Bacchus Marsh Platypus Alliance”

Did you know there is a local volunteer group dedicated to protecting the platypuses in the Werribee River? From their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/platypusalliance> the following information was obtained:



**Bacchus Marsh Platypus Alliance Inc.** aims to protect, monitor, advocate for & educate the community about platypus in and around Bacchus Marsh.

If you're looking for another interesting volunteer activity then please check out their page.

**And for the artists among our U3A members**, you might be interested in submitting an Expression of Interest for a public art mural that the Platypus Alliance is organising. See below.

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### CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FROM ARTISTS:

#### 'PLATYPUS RIVER' THEMED PUBLIC ART MURAL, BACCHUS MARSH

**Bacchus Marsh Platypus Alliance** and **Moorabool Environment Group** are seeking Expressions of Interest from artists who can undertake the conception and installation of a public mural which celebrates the platypus of Bacchus Marsh, and raises community connection with waterway health and other special native animals and plants of the area.

The mural will be located on the exterior wall of the current Bacchus Marsh Aquatic Centre (55 Grant Street, Bacchus Marsh), which is adjacent to the Werribee River through Peppertree Park, where platypus live. The mural is part of an overall vision for a “Platypus Arts Trail” through Bacchus Marsh, which would engage a wide cross-section of the community in appreciating and protecting the unique fauna and flora of Bacchus Marsh.

Collaborators on the project also include Friends of the Werribee River Through Bacchus Marsh, Moorabool Gardens for Wildlife and Moorabool Landcare Network.

This project is funded by Moorabool Shire Council (Community Arts and Culture Grant), Bendigo Bank Bacchus Marsh (Connecting our Community Grant), Melbourne Water and local environment groups.

If you would like to submit an Expression of Interest, please download the Artists Brief located at the link below:

<https://www.platypusalliance.org.au/platypus-arts-trail>

If you would like to contribute funding to the Bacchus Marsh Platypus Arts Trail or related projects, please contact us at [platypusalliance@gmail.com](mailto:platypusalliance@gmail.com).

## U3A Group Highlight—this month, “The Coffee Club”

**Coffee Club.** Wednesday 4th May 2022. Members gathered at Loot Café in Main Street Bacchus Marsh for an enjoyable hour of coffee, cake and conversation. A variety of topics including Booster shots, home care (no longer to be delivered by Moorabool Shire Council), Soldier Settlements, and Road Rules Refresher course for seniors (delivered by Moorabool Shire Council). Just for a laugh, we posed for a photo depicting coffee club in the Age of Smartphones. It’s really not like that at all. With a group of nine (including the photographer) there were at least 3 conversations proceeding simultaneously.



Thank you Sharon for the lovely photo!

And on Wednesday 18th May, we gathered at Mel & Joe’s in Griffith Street Maddingley. As usual, interesting conversation over a cuppa and some of us indulged with a piece of cake. No photo alas but here’s a map of this handy establishment for Maddingley residents. Try it out!



Bacchus Marsh U3A Coffee Club meets on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 10:30am. Locations vary, so check the website for details on the “Courses” page.

**Mel and Joe's Place**  
Restaurant

Website    Directions    Map

Address: 35B Griffith St, Maddingley VIC 3340, Australia  
Phone: +61 412 685 726

## JUST FOR LAUGHS

Courtesy @just\_4jokes on Instagram

Two little boys were at a wedding when one asked the other, “*How many wives can a man have?*” His friend answered, “*Sixteen. Four better, four worse, four richer, four poorer.*”

Source unknown

The definition of a “Bachelor’s Handbag”: “*BBQ Chicken from Foodworks*” [Think about it]

### My Computer Passwords - This is NOT advice for you! Your situation may be different.

How many computer passwords or pin numbers do you have? Can you remember them all? Do you write them down? I use a password manager program called LastPass on my laptop, but not on my mobile phone. Because I like to use different passwords for most accounts, I have about 50 passwords recorded by the LastPass program. That’s a lot, but then I use computers a lot. And I cannot remember all of my passwords. That’s why I use a password manager program. Do a Google search for “password managers” and compare the products. For “low-value” accounts I sometimes let my internet browser program remember them for me; these are accounts that, if breached, won’t result in a big financial risk for me. I do a lot of online banking and for those accounts I have very strong passwords. I don’t write my passwords on a card and put the card in my wallet. That would be foolish. I don’t use passwords like “123456”. That would also be foolish. Sometimes I make up a private phrase and use it as a memory aid so I can figure out my passwords. For example, the phrase “The Muffin Man who lives in Drury Lane.” could be used to remember the password “TMMwliDL.”. Can you see the translation? Note that the full stop is used in the password as well. I don’t write the phrase down. I remember it. I use this method to recall the password that locks my laptop - *of course it’s a different phrase to the Muffin Man!* The password doesn’t have to have a direct match to the phrase - It’s easier to remember “add-on” letters, characters and numbers if you can recall most of the password. These days the banks let you set pin numbers for apps on your mobile phone. It’s taken me a while to accept that that is an acceptable risk to enable the convenience. But I don’t use post-codes or dates of birth or such. I dream up random numbers (more or less) and since I don’t have that many bank accounts I am able, so far, to remember my pins.

I am happy to discuss different password techniques. Send an email to [john@omapa.net](mailto:john@omapa.net) any time. In future newsletters I will share my thoughts on multi-factor authentication or “The 3rd password” - stay tuned.

Story by John Spain.

### Local Organisations supporting Bacchus Marsh U3A Inc.



## GAMES Notes



Want to play **Mahjong** and not on your smartphone? The Mahjong group meets every Thursday between 1 pm and 3 pm at the Darley Neighbourhood House & Learning Centre in Jonathon Drive Darley. This friendly group is looking for new players so give **Elaine** a call on **0400 052 857** for more details. Beginners are most welcome!



The **Games and Cards** group meet monthly on 4th Tuesday of the month 2.00-4.00pm at Providence Village Community Hall, Griffith Street in Maddingley. For further details contact **Ian** on **5367 5875**. Something for everyone and, remember, beginners are welcome!



The **Discussion Group** is led by Terry Randall and happens every 3rd Thursday of the month at the Lerderberg Library. Chatham House rules are applied - Who said what in the discussion is kept strictly within the group. Call **Terry** on **0412 939 935**

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## Around the Town

And now it's Winter! A blast of cold air heralded the start of Winter in Bacchus Marsh. Layer up to stay warm.

All in all, the weather in Victoria is mild when compared with conditions in North America. In British Columbia, for example, the Winter season means chains on car tyres, clearing snow off your footpath, snow boots and icicles hanging off the eaves. We got it easy!



*Early Winter Sunset in Maddingley - Image by J. Spain*