

# U3A Sapphire Coast

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## October 2024 Newsletter

### Art Group on Thursdays - Painting for pleasure!



To farewell Marilyn, who is moving to Victoria, members of The Thursday Art Group enjoyed a lovely lunch at Oaklands.

*Back row standing - Margaret Holm, Lesley Weekes, Heather Percival, Pat Gillies, Marilyn Allen, Wendy Turner, Liz Akmentins, Judy Brand - Front row sitting - Helen Stevenson, Sue O'Loughlin, Laurel Johnson, Beverley Smith*

The Thursday Art Group continues to be keen to paint together, as well as to have the occasional plein air day and social lunch.

We were very sad to lose Mary Weaver when she returned to the UK a few months ago, and now we are missing Marilyn Allen who has moved to Victoria. Laurel continues to inspire us with her walks and bird watching, and bird paintings.

There are no vacancies in the group at present but names can be added to the waiting list. Email: [golfparadise@ultramode.net](mailto:golfparadise@ultramode.net); mobile: 0475 506 156 before enrolling.

**Beverley Smith**  
Course Leader



*One of Laurel's bird paintings*

## Vice-President's Column

As many of you would be aware, Paul and Sue are enjoying a well-deserved vacation in Europe. So, in the absence of Paul, I have been asked to pen some words for this month's edition of the Newsletter.



What to write was the first thought that crossed my mind. Then it occurred to me after attending a newsletter team meeting as Paul's representative, that I should take the opportunity to inform members of the important contribution being made to the smooth running of U3A by various groups of volunteers.

Firstly, there are the **Course Leaders** who are the heart and soul of our U3ASC community. They give freely of their time, skills and knowledge to run classes on a wide range of interesting subjects and activities for the enjoyment of members. We owe a huge debt to them.

Then come the 'infrastructure' teams who largely operate in the background, but the work they perform is vital to bringing together the many disparate elements required for the running of courses.

### 1. **The Newsletter Team**

The quality of the monthly newsletter speaks volumes for the dedication and hard work of team members.

### 2. **Team Office**

Members perform a wide range of administrative duties relating to membership, record keeping and general upkeep of the Tura Beach Centre. In addition, they provide a friendly face for anyone visiting the Centre on a Friday (pm) during term time.

### 3. **The Program Team**

The engine room of U3A. Without the work performed by this hardworking team, there would be no courses, no venues, no presentation aids and no support provided to course leaders.

### 4. **The Tech. Team**

Currently a two-person team, they play an invaluable role in maintaining the website both in respect of technical issues and information design.

### 5. **The Management Team**

Two positions deserve special mention, namely, the Treasurer and Secretary. Both play a vital role in the financial and statutory integrity of U3A.

Members of these teams devote many hours of their time to ensuring that the rest of us have the opportunity to learn, to play, to socialise and, above all, to have fun. And, of course, they are always welcoming to anyone wishing to join them in their endeavours.

**Garry Clear**, Vice-President



## **One-Offs / Short Courses / Workshops**

***'Introduction to Wine Appreciation' with Mike Warren***

**4 sessions: Thursday - 24 & 31 October, 7 & 14 November**

***'Deep Listening to Nature' with Andrew Skeoch***

**Thursday 31 October**

***'Adventures in AI Intelligence' with Nigel Ayling***

**Friday 1 November**

***'Seniors Taiko Drumming' with Reiko***

**Saturday 16 November**

**To enrol in a one-off or short course/workshop, go to Member Login on our website:**

**<https://www.sapphirecoastu3a.org>**



## Franco Svampa †

20 November 1935 - 30 September 2024

It is with deep sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you of the peaceful passing of our fellow member and friend, Franco Svampa.

Franco will be fondly remembered as the U3ASC facilitator of Italian for approximately ten years. His lessons were always interesting and fun. He incorporated his love of everything Italian, particularly music, art and the history of Italy in his lessons. He will be sadly missed.

A celebration of Franco's life will be held at a later date.



### Fran Molinari and Teresa Hamer



U3ASC Italian class in May 2015

*Back - Judith Dunne, Louise Harrison, Geoff Collins, Suzanne Lindhorst. Front - Garry Clear, Frances Clear, Beverly MacNab, Jan Southcott, Joy Cook, Julia Bonet, Franco Svampa (teacher), Roma Shelly and Caroline Svampa*

## Let's Play 500!



We are a friendly group of card lovers and meet in the U3A centre every Monday morning between 9.30 am and 12.30 pm, regardless of public and school holidays. We don't teach 500, so a basic knowledge of the game and its rules is required. We don't mind if your skills are rusty.

If interested, please contact me. Mobile: 0420 653 946 (anytime except Monday mornings).

**Trish Hazell, Course Leader**

## **'Introduction to Wine Appreciation'**

**4 x SESSIONS - THURSDAY: 24 & 31 October, 7 & 14 November**



The course provides an introduction to wine from different Australasian regions and will include wine tasting methods.

A range of white and red table wines will be tasted and discussed each week.

Background information on the Australian wine industry will also be presented. Copious notes and reference documents will be provided.

**When: Thursday: 24 & 31 October, 7 & 14 November, 4:45pm - 6:45pm**

**Where: U3ASC Tura Beach Centre**

**Total Cost: \$60 (over 24 wines are included in the course) + room cost.**

*Please note - places are limited to 15 participants.*

For additional details of course content, please contact Course Leader: Mike Warren

Email [mikewarren1954@gmail.com](mailto:mikewarren1954@gmail.com)

**Enrol online <https://www.sapphirecoastu3a.org/>**

*or for booking assistance, contact Sandy Coates - text/message: 0416 228 211*

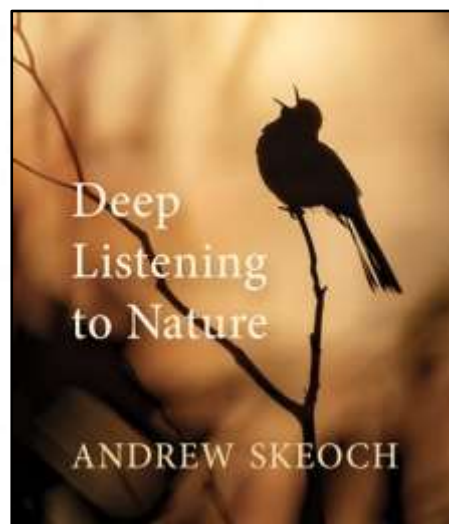
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## **'Deep Listening to Nature'**

**ONE-OFF - Thursday 31 October**

Presented by Andrew Skeoch, a wildlife sound recordist and acoustic ecologist who has recently published the book 'Deep Listening to Nature' - an invitation to tune our ears in to the natural world.

Andrew's presentation will focus on developing an auditory awareness of the natural environment around us, identifying species by their vocalisations, the reasons creatures use the specific calls they do, the dawn chorus and frog communities, empathic listening, and hearing sentience and nurturing care for nature. You'll also find out what listening to nature has to teach us about sustainability.



For more info on what Andrew has to offer, you can access his TED presentation here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRybl2A4kjl>

**When: Thursday 31 October 2024, 1:30pm - 3:00pm**

**Where: Sapphire Club Merimbula**

**Enrol online <https://www.sapphirecoastu3a.org/>**

*or for booking assistance, contact Jane Thomson - text/message: 0437 376 288*



## **'Adventures in Artificial Intelligence'**

**ONE-OFF - Friday 1 November**



Discover the exciting world of Artificial Intelligence (AI) with Nigel Ayling from Solutions 4 Chat!

In this engaging presentation, you'll learn how AI and Chat GPT can simplify tasks, inspire creativity, and open up new opportunities in your daily life.

Whether you're curious or tech-savvy, this session is designed to make AI accessible and fun for everyone.

**When:** Friday 1 November, 1:30pm - 3:00pm

**Where:** U3ASC Tura Beach Centre

Enrol online <https://www.sapphirecoastu3a.org/>

or for booking assistance, contact Jane Thomson - text/message: 0437 376 288

## **Progress on the New Library**



**EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON**  
at the Tura Beach Centre  
from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm  
*(except Public Holidays & School Holidays)*

Come in if you need help to enrol  
or to register for one of our classes;  
or just for a cuppa, a chat,  
or to meet our volunteers  
and other U3A Sapphire Coast members



By the time you receive this Newsletter, new bookshelves have been installed in the office area of the U3ASC Tura Beach Centre, with a great selection of books on offer. The bookcase in the kitchen area will now stock the library of DVDs. Both books and DVDs are free to borrow, but when you return them, please put the books back in the authors' names alphabetical order, and the DVDs filed by their titles.

A big 'Thank You' to our volunteer, Alister Lee, who helped assemble the bookcases and secure them to the wall.

## Bolivia



Bolivia is held every Thursday 1.00pm - 4.00pm at the Merimbula RSL Club. No Cost.

If you can play Canasta, you will love the game of Bolivia!! Or if you haven't played card games before, an exciting opportunity awaits you - it's easy to learn. Come and join our group of Ladies and Gents and learn to play this variation of the game.

Contact Sue Birks on 0427 113 558 or just come along on a Thursday.

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## October Adventure Walking

Alister Lee led us on an interesting and challenging walk around the Tura Headland trails which he planned in three interlinking nodes, beginning and ending at the Tura Headland trail. He introduced many of us to a much more extensive system of trails than we were aware of, some of which are part of the Wharf-to-Wharf Walk which extends from Merimbula to Tathra.



We walked through coastal Melaleucas and open forest to Tura Beach where we joined the Wharf-to-Wharf Walk for a few hundred metres of beach walking, and up a set of well-made stairs and path back to our starting point. We then walked along the main track to Tura Head where we sighted several whales before diverging to a wide rock shelf where we took our break.

The final node took us back on the Wharf-to-Wharf track towards North Tura beach, and then we looped back over the open field inhabited by many dozing kangaroos.

### Elizabeth Stacey

Adventure Walking group member



## How Would You Live Then?

What if a hundred rose-breasted grosbeaks  
flew in circles around your head? What if  
the mockingbird came into the house with you and  
became your advisor? What if  
the bees filled your walls with honey and all  
you needed to do was ask them and they would fill  
the bowl? What if the brook slid downhill just  
past your bedroom window so you could listen  
to its slow prayers as you fell asleep? What if  
the stars began to shout their names, or to run  
this way and that way above the clouds? What if  
you painted a picture of a tree, and the leaves  
began to rustle, and a bird cheerfully sang  
from its painted branches? What if you suddenly saw  
that the silver of water was brighter than the silver  
of money? What if you finally saw  
that the sunflowers, turning toward the sun all day  
and every day - who knows how, but they do it - were  
more precious, more meaningful than gold?



Mary Oliver  
(1935 - 2019)

**Mary Oliver**  
'Blue Iris: Poems and Essays'



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## A positive feedback from 'Bonsai-Take 2 Workshop with Graham Cook'



"Graham, Sandra,

*I wanted to say how much I enjoyed today's bonsai workshop. I was not that convinced that I would enjoy a 4 hour course (too long?) but, boy oh boy, was I wrong... those 4 hours went so quickly!*

*I thought today's balance between chat and practical activity was great. Graham, your knowledge and experience and wisdom just shone through all day. It is great to just sit and listen to someone who really knows their subject. I really enjoyed it.*

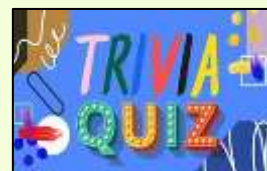
*Thank you both for organising and presenting a great workshop. Much appreciated.*

*Cheers,*

*Alec McQueen"*



## TRIVIA / QUIZ by Bridget O'Hanlon



1. Who is Sam Mostyn?
2. What five letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?
3. What is the hereditary unit of a chromosome?
4. 'Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again' is the opening line of which famous novel?
5. Nicola is a type of which food?
6. Where would a proscenium arch would be found - in a church, theatre or stadium?
7. What does the term 'Para' mean in the Paralympics?
8. The federal electorate of Solomon includes which Australian capital?
9. Name the actor who was in 'The King's Speech' and also in 'Bridget Jones' Diary.
10. The Stasi were the official state security of which country? (Answers on last page)



## Monthly Film Group 'Where the Crawdads Sing'

This month, our group watched 'Where the Crawdads Sing' streaming on Netflix. Not having read the best-selling book by Delia Owens ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delia\\_Owens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delia_Owens)), I was drawn to the film by the acting presence of Daisy Edgar-Jones whom I'd seen and admired in the adaptation of Sally Rooney's 'Normal People'. I was keen to hear what other members thought of the film, especially those who had read and enjoyed the novel.

Although well acted by Daisy Edgar-Jones, I personally found the film's storyline too implausible to be taken seriously. However, I persevered and watched until the end. There were mixed reactions from our group with terms such as Chick Flick, Soap Opera and Hollywood Schmalz being used to describe the film in stark contrast to the appreciation of the novel. Most members enjoyed the twist in the story revealed at the end of the film.



Reviews:

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2022/jul/21/where-the-crawdads-sing-review-daisy-edgar-jones>

and

*"The only thing admirable about the movie is the cinematography, which expresses an evocative introduction to the life of the "marsh girl." The portrayal of nature is surprisingly breathtaking, but it isn't enough to convince the viewer of Kya's true life in the marsh. The life of endless solitude, broken promises, and a dependence to the beautiful marsh."*

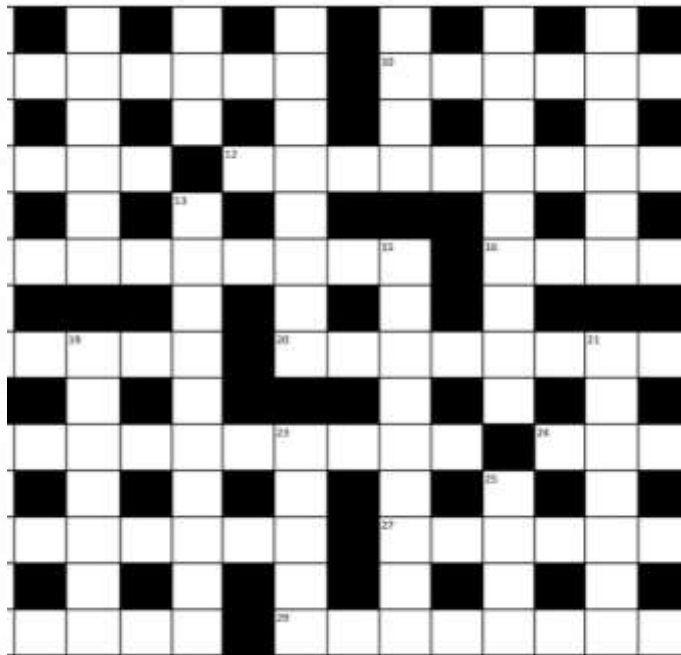
<https://cardinaltimes.org/20802/opinion/movie-review-where-the-crawdads-sing-sorely-disappoints/>

This month will be our last session for the year, resuming on the last Wednesday in January 2025. Many thanks to our small group of devoted members for their continued support and enthusiasm. A special thank you to Fleur Dwyer who joined us with guest Barb Seaton from Castlemaine for our last discussion for 2024.

**Kaye Separovic**, Midweek Monthly Film Group  
[kayeseparovic@gmail.com](mailto:kayeseparovic@gmail.com)



## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD #2044 by John Scrivener



### ACROSS

1. Pony schism! Without fifth of serious music (9)
6. Religious building of Alan Border's governor (5)
9. Left in gang fishing (7)
10. Large, last of it, and wealthy bird (7)
11. Bird sound deserve (4)
12. Wind instrument blown from I would ride good (10)
14. Being thankful to bird and you spoke within slope (9)
16. Notices he is encompassing TV horse (5)
18. Criticise right kiln (5)
20. Answering the purpose of fuel facet (9)
22. Create soup beyond (5,5)
24. Not quick sounding blackthorn (4)
26. Light ccomputer network of bird (7)
27. Concentrate at the German city by the church (7)
28. Gathers mixed fruit (5)
29. An ochre after a way to stretch your legs widely (9)

### DOWN

1. Scrounger takes its start and exacts punishment (9)
2. Mother and son, maybe a reddish colour (7)
3. Fleece hotel gas (4)
4. Of black African origin that is grunted (9)
5. Hit someone over the head on a Thai canal (5)
6. Earthquake causes frock hates (10)
7. Fur colour for the blinder (7)
8. Rude person who begins yelling at home but loves (5)
13. Resentment at lack of sweetness (10)
15. Maybe very loud and I entice well organised (9)
17. Small bird can see coins! (9)
19. Back Anne after insect tentacle (7)
21. Dun Nile flows to a young face (7)
22. Headless steam tank for a slippery worker! (5)
23. Said to gratify mammal of 25 Down (5)
25. Place while I attain firsts (4)

### CROSSWORD #2043 ANSWERS (September 2024)

#### ACROSS

7. At dinner 8. Safety 9. Lounge room 10. Iran 11. Blow up 12. Éclair 14. Sneaked 16. Tableau  
18. Entail 19. Emboss 22. Pisa 23. Imprudence 24. Gallon 25. Follower

#### DOWN

1. Strolling 2. Minnow 3. Interpretation 4. Trooper 5. Official 6. Stray 8. Simultaneously 13.  
Massacres 15. Annually 17. Slip off 20. Breton 21. Final

*Answers to this month's crossword will be published in our next newsletter.*

# NEWSLETTER

## Production Team:

Carole Thomas - [blackbrumby@gmail.com](mailto:blackbrumby@gmail.com)  
Michele Patten - [u3ascoffice1@gmail.com](mailto:u3ascoffice1@gmail.com)

## Contributions & feedback to the Newsletter

can be emailed to our Editors  
by the 1st Thursday of every month.  
Trish Dive: [u3ascoffice8@gmail.com](mailto:u3ascoffice8@gmail.com)  
AND Kaye Separovic:  
[kayeseparovic@gmail.com](mailto:kayeseparovic@gmail.com)



## TRIVIA / QUIZ ANSWERS

1. The Governor General of Australia
2. Short
3. The gene
4. Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier
5. Potato
6. Theatre
7. Parallel. Games for those with a range of disabilities, run parallel to the Olympic Games.
8. Darwin
9. Colin Firth
10. East Germany

*The Sapphire Coast Bridge Club Inc*

**INTRODUCTION TO BRIDGE**

Lessons on offer. To register your interest, email:  
[sapphirecoastbridgeclub@gmail.com](mailto:sapphirecoastbridgeclub@gmail.com)  
or visit the website: <https://www.bridgeclubs.com/sapphirecoast/>

Located in the Tura Beach Shopping Centre.  
Mail to: PO Box 588, Merimbula NSW 2548  
Telephone: 02 6427 0005

Thank you to UBASC for their support  
in promoting bridge within the community.

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	Paul Strutynski	<a href="mailto:u3ascpres1@gmail.com">u3ascpres1@gmail.com</a>
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Secretary	Carolyn Smith	<a href="mailto:csmith1611@gmail.com">csmith1611@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Judy Brand	<a href="mailto:u3asctreas@gmail.com">u3asctreas@gmail.com</a>
Program Team Leader	Jane Thomson	<a href="mailto:programs.u3asc1@gmail.com">programs.u3asc1@gmail.com</a>
Member	Roger Harris	<a href="mailto:rogercharris@bigpond.com">rogercharris@bigpond.com</a>
Member	Lesley Weekes	<a href="mailto:lesleybythesea@gmail.com">lesleybythesea@gmail.com</a>