

U3A Hawthorn Summer School 2020

Unless stated otherwise, all sessions are in the Hall at 26 Sinclair Avenue

Information about Summer School

- The U3A Hawthorn Summer School 2020 runs over three weeks from Monday 6 January to Friday 24 January. Two or more sessions will be provided each weekday, including a Games program. Please check the timetable for start times and locations of sessions.
- The Summer School is free, but is available only to Members of U3A Hawthorn who have paid their 2020 membership fee.
- Please enrol for the sessions of your choice. This is important for our planning and to provide information for our speakers. It also enables us to contact you if a session has to be cancelled due to an unforeseen event such as illness of the speaker.
- Enrol on the U3A Hawthorn website www.u3ahawthorn.org.au/members. The sessions are listed under the code SUM (Summer School). Tick the sessions you wish to attend and then confirm and then finalise your selections.
- You may also visit Reception for assistance, but remember that the U3A Office will be closed from Monday 9 December until Monday 6 January. **NO PHONE BOOKINGS FOR SUMMER SCHOOL WILL BE ACCEPTED**
- Please assist us by enrolling, and then attending, sessions. It is very disappointing for speakers and organisers when members who enrol fail to attend. It may not always be possible to phone Reception to advise of absence during the Summer School as Reception is operating on restricted hours throughout January.

20SUM001: Resisting the Rise of Machines: AI & Ethics

Professor Robert Sparrow

Monday 6 January, 10.30am

Artificial intelligences are machines that can perform tasks that are characteristically thought of as requiring intelligence. In this talk I will distinguish between four different types of artificial intelligence (AI) — domain-specific AI, artificial general intelligence (AGI), sentient AI, and “superintelligence” — and survey the ethical issues raised by each. The more we think AI will transform society in the future, the more important it is that everyone has a say in the decisions that will shape the future development and application of AI.

20SUM002: Machu Picchu - Incan Masterpiece

Bruce Hawken

Monday 6 January, 1.30pm

Machu Picchu was the last great structure built by the Quechuans (1450 onwards) under Sapa Inca Pachacuti. Bruce Hawken offers an unusual insight by taking you behind the utility beauty of Machu Picchu and lets you appreciate the planning and engineering that created this masterpiece. All done by a people without slaves and without a written language.

20SUM032: Summer Duplicate Bridge – 3 sessions

Claus Gyrn

Dates: Monday 6, 13 & 20 January, 1- 4pm in Room 1 & 2 Sinclair Avenue

Duplicate bridge for experienced players. One-off \$2 fee. Players without a partner are welcome. Maximum 40, registrations essential.

20SUM003: Can Parliament make a Law exclusively against an individual?**Irving Miller****Tuesday 7 January, 10.30am**

Julian Knight & Craig Minogue v State of Victoria. Two prisoners who were sentenced to life imprisonment with lengthy non-parole periods have sought their release from custody. They are each still “behind bars” despite serving the non-parole period. This topic will examine whether Parliament can make a valid Law which applies exclusively against a single individual. The presentation will discuss how the Victorian Parliament passed laws which purported to have the effect of denying Julian Knight and Craig Minogue, both convicted murderers, the opportunity of getting Parole. Is such legislation a clash between the Parliament and the Courts? Can Parliament “punish” a convicted criminal, as well as the Courts?

20SUM004: Venice**Keith & Roger Creed****Tuesday 7 January, 1.30pm**

Keith and Roger spent 10 days in Venice - it was Roger's 4th visit but my first. We saw lots of things including Opera and Contemporary Art and Wagner's haunts, all Roger's choices. I said I would go anywhere he wanted to go as it was all new to me although I noted things he was less concerned with. I wanted to go to Padua for a day - why would I have wanted to do that? This talk is not from an historical point of view although there is plenty of that. The photos are arranged according to themes and they include all of the places you would expect - how could you go to Venice and not see lots of churches? Then there are all those steps - there are 54 going up the Accademia Bridge and 54 more coming down the other side, along with the canals....

20SUM033: Summer Mahjong – 3 sessions**Janina Noga****Dates: Wednesday 8, 15 & 22 January, 10am – 12 noon in Room 1 & 2 Sinclair Avenue**

Mahjong for experienced players, no beginners. Maximum 40, registrations essential.

20SUM005: What in the Hell was Happening on Earth in the Name of Heaven – Part 1**Wolfe Sharp****Wednesday 8 January, 10.30am**

History and Politics in the Ancient World to the Beginning and Early Expansion of Christianity. A totally secular view of ancient civilizations and some of their belief systems, and seeking rational (and political) explanations for the seemingly irrational. The emergence of City States, Kingdoms and Empires in the then known civilized world of Egypt and Mesopotamia. Egyptians, Assyrians, Hittites and other major actors will be discussed in the context of their rise to power until the collapse of the Bronze Age (c 1200BCE). Some religious beliefs will be briefly outlined, as well as an examination of the Exodus from a secular point of view.

20SUM006: The Australian Made logo - the mark of 'Aussie Authenticity'**Ben Lazarro****Wednesday 8 January, 1.30pm**

The famous Australian Made logo is the true mark of Aussie authenticity. It's Australia's most trusted, recognised and widely used country of origin symbol, and is underpinned by a third-party accreditation system, which ensures products that carry the logo are certified as 'genuinely Australian'. Find out more about this iconic brand from the organisation that administers and promotes it.

20SUM035: Supervised Duplicate Bridge – 3 sessions**Linda Baynham****Dates: Wednesday 8, 15 & 22 January, 1.30 – 4.00pm in Room 1 & 2 Sinclair Avenue :**

For players with some experience but no absolute beginners please; useful if you're contemplating joining this class for 2020. One-off \$2 fee; players without a partner are welcome. Maximum 40, registrations essential.

20SUM036: Summer Chess – 3 sessions**Claus Gyrn****Dates: Wednesday 8, 15 & 22 January, 2.00 – 4.00pm in West Room**

Must have some experience. Please bring your own chess set.

20SUM034: Summer Cryptic Crosswords – 3 sessions**Peter Gillett****Dates: Thursday 9, 16 & 23 January, 10am – 11am in Rooms 1 & 2.**

We will be tackling a variety of cryptic crosswords together as a group, in pairs, small groups or individuals. Any skill level; bring pencil, eraser, a sharp mind and any cryptic crossword you fancy!

20SUM007: Travelling in Trump's America**Graham Pratt****Thursday 9 January, 10.30am**

A recent visit to the US covered the states of Florida (a key swing state) and Georgia (part of the southern block). How noticeable is the impact of Trump's presidency? How divided are the people? Is this a unique form of populism? Some aspects of Florida that are quite different. Georgia today – just the deep south or is there more to it? The situation for the November 2020 election.

20SUM008: What is Buddhism?**Sandeep Karki****Thursday 9 January, 1.30pm**

In this presentation we will explore the meaning of sharing and morals, as well as cultivation and development and how to be a "good person". The session will conclude with an exploration into meditation. Sandeep Karki was born in Nepal and came to know about Buddhism during his university education in California in 1998. He was ordained as a monk in 2000. Since then he has been teaching in prisons, temples, clubs, drug rehab and in houses. At present he works as an Intellectual Disability Support Worker.

20SUM009: The China Conundrum**Ian McKenzie****Friday 10 January, 10.30am**

Ian McKenzie has lived in, studied and visited China and Hong Kong for over 30 years. This is a personal perspective on arguably Australia's greatest strategic challenge this century.

20SUM010: Seasons and Sounds of Australia**Jenny Lu & Hamish Gould****Friday 10 January, 1.30pm**

In this concert, countertenor Hamish Gould and pianist Jenny Lu are presenting an array of compositions by Australian composers. The program includes the premiere of Dindy Vaughan's song cycle Dandenong Ranges Seasons exploring the Aboriginal seasons and rarely-heard works by living composers such as Tony Gould's Empathy. It will be an exploration of the Aboriginal, Colonial and multicultural kaleidoscope of Australian music. PROGRAM Vaughan Dandenong Ranges Seasons; Gould Empathy; Grainger Colonial Song; Kats-Chernin Autumn, Russian Rag; Sculthorpe Djilile; Vine Toccatissimo

20SUM011: Creating a Tramway Titan**Warren Doubleday****Monday 13 January, 10.30am**

In 2020, Melbourne retains the title of having the largest electric street tram system in the World. Why is this? Marvelous Melbourne; a Public Private Partnership that built a cable tram network in 1885; the formation of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board in 1919; even though its demise in 1983 followed by a constant re-arrangement of its management and despite franchising in 1999 - are just some of the reasons. The presentation will look at the history and why Melbourne continues to maintain the title of a being a Tramway Titan.

20SUM012: Water- why value it, and how**Dennis Flett****Monday 13 January, 1.30pm**

The way our society values water keeps changing. The public policy which drives the effort to manage water reflects these changing values, but trails well behind. From a Victorian perspective there have been four phases of water management – modification, development, management and adjustment – and water policy has done a fairly rapid 180 degree turn. Consideration of water for the environment in water planning has gone from no thought, to an afterthought, to a necessity for sustaining our way of life.

20SUM013: The Power of Consumption: The Habsburgs and Art Christopher Wood**Tuesday 14 January, 10.30am**

The Habsburgs, both in Spain and Vienna, formed collections that have become the core of two of the world's greatest museums, the Kunsthistorisches, Vienna and the Prado, Madrid. This talk will explore their taste and their use of art to express their power, their right to rule, and the longevity of that rule. It will explore their accumulation of treasures of the Holy Roman Empire in order to show the deep history of their claim to power, as well as their accumulation of masterpieces from artists as varied as Hieronymus Bosch, Pieter Bruegel, Titian Vecelli, Peter Paul Rubens and Diego Velazquez.

20SUM014: Eastern Europe: Cultural brilliance overlooked**Christopher Wood****Tuesday 14 January, 1.30pm**

When historians speak of the 'rise of civilization', they often describe an axis between Ancient Greece and Rome, Renaissance Italy and France and Britain in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. This talk will demonstrate the important contributions of countries like Russia, Poland, Hungary, the Czech lands, Romania and Bulgaria to world culture. It will chart the rise of great powers and explore their sumptuous patronage, describe the rich cultural diversity of territories like Transylvania, and probe the dynamic tension between Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy that shaped the region's religious culture.

20SUM031: Crossing the Line**Barbara Gibson & Grant Fry****Wednesday 15 January, 10.30am – 12 noon in West Room**

The controversy around the image to which Africa Geographic awarded the title "2019 Photographer of the Year", only to disqualify it a few days later after learning that post-production had misrepresented the subject, has prompted us to revisit the question of how much an image can be "photoshopped" before it is not acceptable as "pure" photography. We would love to hear your opinion on this. Firstly this session aims to debate the concept of "true" photography versus "enhancement". Is it possible to identify a degree of post-production that is acceptable? We will then look at what can be achieved with the many editing programs available, and identify where "the line" lies, if there should be a line at all.

20SUM015: What in the Hell was Happening on Earth in the Name of Heaven – Part 2**Wolfe Sharp****Wednesday 15 January, 10.30am**

The Sea Peoples, Ancient Empires reborn in the Iron Age, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians and Ancient Greeks. Judaism and Zoroastrianism will be touched upon as well as the emerging philosophies of Greek culture.

20SUM016: Homo Stultus, Homo Sapiens**Nobby Ward****Wednesday 15 January, 1.30pm**

Homo stultus: stupid man. Homo sapiens: clever man. Why are we masters of stupidity? Come and find out.

20SUM017: How your eye reads great art**Henry Lew****Thursday 16 January, 10.30am**

This presentation by Dr Henry Lew, a retired ophthalmic surgeon with a deep interest in fine art, will challenge the way you think about and perceive your own vision - using the artwork of such artists as Frans Hals, John Constable, Edouard Manet, Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, Alfred Sisley, Berthe Morisot, John Singer Sargent, Alfred Munnings, Derwent Lees, Roderic O'Connor and Chuck Close.

20SUM018: Rimsky-Korsakov - the Patriarch of Russian Opera**Alan Cook****Thursday 16 January, 1.30pm**

We will trace Rimsky-Korsakov's improbable rise from being the junior member of the 'Mighty Five' Russian nationalist composers to the patriarch of practically all Russian music. Very little Russian opera survives which doesn't bear his fingerprints and we will delve into his unique sound-world to see why he was unmatched in Russia as an opera composer as well as orchestrator.

20SUM019: Belgium: Not one Renaissance but two**Sandra McMahon****Friday 17 January, 10.30am**

Think Belgium, think Chocolate! But scratch the surface of this historic country and you will find a rich visual culture including painted masterpieces and magnificent gothic, renaissance and Art nouveau monuments, grand castles, quaint medieval villages and idyllic woodlands. Now there's a splendid new renaissance in garden and landscape design sweeping the world – Northern New Wave - which was born out of the work of Jacques Wirtz, whose ground-breaking designs complemented, instead of concealed, the natural surroundings. My talk will expand on this concept and look at the works of other great designers. See how these ideas may work in your garden!

20SUM020: Flying High and Patagonia**Dr Ellen Stoddart****Friday 17 January, 1.30pm**

In 2017, Jim Payne & my son Morgan Sandercock set a new World Altitude Record for Gliders (52,220ft) & this was surpassed in 2018 by 3 new records (the last, 76,000ft by Jim & Tim Gardner). All flights were in the unique Perlan 2 glider, out of El Calafate in Argentina. This talk will explain the Perlan Project, describe the flights and cover my travels in the Patagonia Glacier Park (Perito Moreno Glacier & Torres del Paine).

20SUM021: The science of climate change: separating fact from fiction**Dr Scott Power****Monday 20 January, 10.30am**

The media is full of stories and extreme commentary about climate change. It is getting harder to separate fact from fiction. In this presentation Scott will explain what we know and what we don't know about how the earth's climate has changed, what caused the changes, and what it will look like over coming decades. Speaker: Dr Scott Power, Dip. Ed., Senior Principal Research Scientist, Bureau of Meteorology; Honorary Professor, University of Queensland.

20SUM022: Keeping women out of prison, keeping families together**Tricia Ciampa****Monday 20 January, 1.30am**

WAM's mission is to keep women out of prison by matching them with a supportive female mentor to help them deal with the underlying issues that may have contributed to their involvement in the justice system. Women's contact with the justice system is often the symptom of significant social issues. A custodial sentence does not improve their outcomes! This presentation allows criminalised women's voices to be heard about the impact mentoring has on changing their lives.

20SUM023: What world will our children inherit?**Carmel Benjamin AM****Tuesday 21 January, 10.30am**

Carmel Benjamin OA, a member of the Hawthorn U3A, will chair a Q & A style panel of senior students from Melbourne Girls College to explore the issues that concern youth today, their thoughts for the future and to consider the world we have left them. Audience participation will be encouraged!

20SUM024: Tunnelling under Melbourne – Challenges of the Unknown**Anthony Bennett****Tuesday 21 January, 1.30pm**

Now is a busy time for underground construction in Melbourne, and it will change the way that the city works. One of the main technical challenges is a result of Melbourne's complicated geological history. The ground conditions have shaped our city from its origins, but we now have less choice in where we build our infrastructure. This presentation will describe the ground and ground water under Melbourne from an engineer's perspective, rather than a geologist's, and then discuss how ever evolving tunnelling techniques are allowing us to build through these conditions more safely. The presentation will discuss learnings from tunnelling over the last century or more, and touch on a number of the current projects underway, or in planning.

20SUM025: What in the Hell was Happening on Earth in the Name of Heaven – Part 3**Wolfe Sharp****Wednesday 22 January, 10.30am – 12.30pm**

Alexander the Great and Hellenization, the Roman Empire, Parthians, Judea and the Hasmonean and Herodian Dynasties, the Crucifixion and its aftermath, and the birth and subsequent development of Christianity. (NB – this is a longer lecture and will have a mini – break)

20SUM026: A personal journey of a Vietnamese boat refugee from Saigon to Melbourne**Yen Bui****Wednesday 22 January, 1.30pm**

This presentation will follow the personal accounts of Yen Bui from her early childhood schooling in Vietnam through to the life changing decisions and struggles to escape from Vietnam by boat with her husband and 5 children. In addition, Yen Bui will share with you the experiences of settling in Australia and the personal fulfilment of giving back to our community. It will include the stories and accounts of her journalist father, Matthew Vu (now 102 years old) who spent 10 years in the 'Re-education Camp' at the hands of the Communist Vietnamese government.

20SUM027: Hearing & Brain Health Seminar**Andrew Campbell****Thursday 23 January, 10.30am**

In this session you'll learn about the newest advances in brain health and hearing from leading studies including the links between untreated hearing loss and dementia, presented by leading Masters trained Audiologist Andrew Campbell. In this presentation, you will learn: How memory loss and cognitive overload may be caused by untreated hearing loss: Understand the importance of preserving the neural pathways between the ears and the brain, for the prevention of memory loss: Why it's important to take action early

20SUM028: Will the real Boris Godunov please standup?!**Alan Cook****Thursday 23 January, 1.30pm**

Mussorgsky's Boris Godunov is widely thought of as the greatest exemplar of a truly Russian opera. However, battles with censors, critics of his style, alcoholism, and a bewildering array of versions that rival any other opera ever written, make for a tale as complicated and dramatic as its protagonist.

20SUM029: Politics in Retirement!**John Kennedy MP****Friday 24 January, 10.30am**

Political life and attitudes since turning 60! – a personal story, assessment and group discussion about a society that is "fair, productive and compassionate", the complexity of balancing these three commodities in 2019.

Friday 24 January, 1.30pm

Why are there so many disagreements over what constitutes ethical behaviour? A major factor is differing degrees of emphasis on the various methods of ethical reasoning. This session uses an interactive case study, with audience participation, to explore this topic and suggest a way forward.

BOOK Exchange

The Book Exchange will operate in the Foyer area throughout Summer School.