

## NEWSLETTER MAY 2022

### President's column



Another very full month has passed, and members are now much engaged in the enthralling and stimulating tutorial series, the classes, discussion groups and the many small group activities. Hopefully this engagement will continue through the remainder of semester 1 and into semester 2 later in the year. We'll be taking a break between semesters in July, with semester 2 commencing in early August. Your Committee has not been completely idle and has prepared what I think will be an even more interesting programme for the second half of the year.

I'm sure that, like me, you are all much relieved that virtually all Covid-related restrictions have now been removed, and we can go on with our face-to-face activities more or less normally. However, there are some good legacies of the long 2 years of Covid lockdowns: the wonderful external tutors we've benefitted so much from; being able to stream tutorials to members unable to be present in the lecture room; and being able to record the tutorials via zoom and make the recordings available to members through our website. This is now something we will continue into the future.

Of course, sadly Covid remains with us, probably forever now, so we must continue to take precautions appropriate to our individual circumstances, and I would urge everyone who can, to get their second booster vaccinations, for which probably all of us are eligible. We have so much to look forward to this year and the years to come, that we don't want it spoiled by any silly bugs!



### What's on during the next two months

First and most important, a reminder that annual subscriptions were due on 31 March. If you have not paid then you are automatically excluded from the Members Area of our website, and all the material accessible through there. As of writing this Newsletter, a small number of those registered had not yet paid subscriptions, and we'll be following up these with individual reminders.

In May the small group activities will continue as before. The fifth social interaction discussion session will be on the 30<sup>th</sup>, while the sixth and seventh philosophy classes will be the 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. This month will see the final of Gerry Engwerda's international relations series on 2 May, and an interesting one-off by our external tutor, Dick Whitaker, on 9 May on the discovery of the body of King Richard III. May also sees three fascinating local speakers, Perry Cho on bird photography on 10<sup>th</sup>, Ray Welsford on family history diagnostics on 17<sup>th</sup>, and Wendy Scarfe presenting her books on 31<sup>st</sup>.

The tutorials for semester 1 will be completed in May and they will resume in semester 2 in August. However, all small group activities will continue their rhythm until the end of June, after which we'll have our mid-year break, recommencing on 9 August. In June the Social Interaction discussion session will be on 20<sup>th</sup>, and the 8<sup>th</sup> Philosophy class will be on the 9<sup>th</sup>. However, all philosophers will be pleased to note that classes will recommence in August, at a date yet to be decided.

Full details of times and locations for all these activities are in the May and June Activity Calendars attached to this Newsletter and also on the website.

## **Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of our Warrnambool U3A was held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April at the Hammond Centre. The mood of the meeting was positive following the successful year we had during 2021 and the generally good start to 2022.

Peter Dexter in giving his President's Report spoke of the successful series of zoom and hybrid zoom/face-to-face tutorials that had provided us with opportunity not only to involve a number of local people but had also allowed us to call on some excellent presenters from elsewhere across the State. These together with the small group activities of mahjong, cryptic crosswords, fine music, etc meant that the group survived the trials of the Covid pandemic and have been able to launch into 2022 with a greatly expanded program.

Treasurer, Peter Hankinson, was then able to give a similarly positive Financial Report with an operating surplus of \$829 and an end of year balance just short of \$5,000.

Two items of special business were discussed. The first was the idea of Institutional membership. It was proposed that institutions such as nursing homes and retirement centres could take out a membership on behalf of their residents who were unable to physically attend U3A activities but could join in remotely through zoom or equivalent. The idea was discussed and accepted, with an annual Institutional Membership fee of \$100 set.

The other item discussed and accepted was to change our financial year to the more usual 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June. This change will allow future AGMs to be held in November which will allow an incoming Committee to be responsible for setting up the following year's program.

Finally, the election of the committee for the coming period resulted as follows: President – Peter Dexter; Vice-president – Bill Gardner; Secretary/Treasurer – Peter Hankinson; Committee members – Barbara Phipps, Fay Armstrong, Barrie Baker. It was noted with sadness that Robyn Harlock had withdrawn from nomination for personal reasons. Conversely, we were delighted that Peter D. had been prepared to continue in the role of President.

The meeting included a very welcome social cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit.

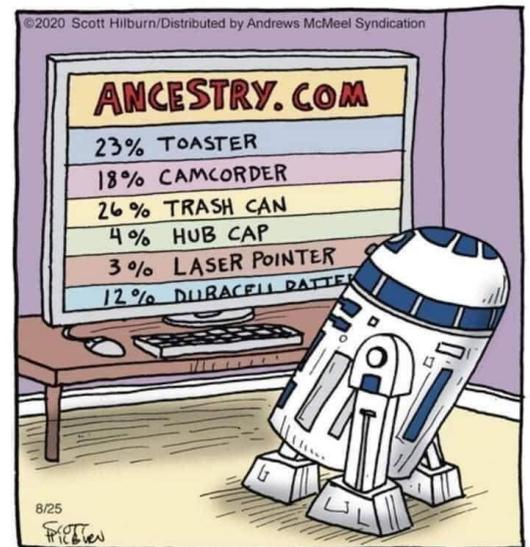
**Barrie Baker**

## Coming Tutorial summaries

**Remaking China. Engwerda.** Xi Jinping is reintroducing modified socialism back into China via his philosophy of “common prosperity” He is trying to replace the western adulation of celebrities, Kpop bands and movie stars with a renewed commitment to the primacy of the CCP in Chinese public life. Will he succeed or will he stifle the very entrepreneurial spirit that has allowed China to succeed so spectacularly in the last few decades. What do ordinary people there think and what do they see as most important to them. Will future generations accept curbs on their self-expression as part of that social contract in which the people exchange personal freedoms and a desire for democracy in exchange for a prosperous lifestyle.

**Discovery of the Body of King Richard III. Whitaker.** King Richard was killed at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485 – and the location of his body was then forgotten and lost in the mists of time.

In 2012 a group of enthusiasts, combined with a team from Leicester University, organised an archaeological dig in an obscure Council carpark in Leicester City and unearthed a skeleton that exhibited a pronounced scoliosis (curvature of the spine). It was then subject to a battery of tests, involving genealogy, forensic anthropology, carbon dating and DNA analysis. It was proven beyond reasonable doubt that this was the skeleton of King Richard III – the last Plantagenet King of England. The discovery – a scientific triumph - is thought to be one of the most significant finds in British national history. Richard’s remains were reinterred in Leicester Cathedral on 26th March 2015, some 530 years after the Battle of Bosworth Field.



**Family History. Welsford.** A brief story of how/why I became interested, then two sections. Firstly, an overview of some of the resources available to family historians in 2022, and secondly, the human side of research – some stories of discoveries made.

**Bird Photography. Cho.** As in his previous presentation to Warrnambool U3A, Perry will concentrate on his renowned bird photography. However, he may also branch out into a more recent hobby, vegetable gardening.

**Experience and Recollection in creating a book. Wendy Scarfe.** Wendy will explore through readings how an experience rooted in India in 1960 can underpin the emotional drive and infuse some of the experiences of characters in 'Hunger Town' placed in Australia in 1930 and written in 2013.

Wendy will talk about and read from two of her books, 'A Mouthful of Petals' a non-fiction account of three years working in a remote, impoverished Indian Village in Bihar in the early 1960's. This experience shared with her husband was first published in London and has been recently re-published. Reviewers have called it, 'a minor classic for good Samaritans.' Nancy Cato reviewing it in the Age wrote, 'It describes with warmth, sympathy and occasional near despair the life of an Indian Village from the inside.'

The second book Wendy will talk about is her novel, 'Hunger Town,' which is set in Adelaide during the violent and despairing years of Australia's Great Depression. Judith Larsen grows up on a coaling hulk in the Port River to become a political cartoonist. Unemployment, hunger, protests and police

reprisals become her world as new political ideas for reforming society grow in the political landscape.

## Tutor Profiles

**Gerry Engwerda.** I am a retired High School teacher. In my 43 years in the classroom, I taught English, History and International Relations and as well worked part time for Latrobe University. I am now happily retired in Yackandandah where we, (my wife, Ellen and I), have lived for the past 40 years. We have four children and ten grandchildren who take up all the time not taken by U3A. I am an aviation enthusiast and a terribly average cook who likes nothing better than to be left alone with a nice glass of red and a good book.

**Dick Whitaker.** After graduating from Monash University in Science in 1968, Dick was conscripted and served two years in the Army, ending his military career as an infantry junior officer with 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment. He joined the Bureau of Meteorology soon after and began a public service career that would last some thirty-one years.

Dick left the Bureau in 2002, but never lost the “weather bug” and came out of retirement to begin his own meteorological consultancy business. He was Chief Meteorologist with Sky News Weather up until 2016 and appeared regularly on radio and television. He remains very interested in history and meteorological education, particularly through television, radio, and books, and has been author, co-author and consultant editor of seventeen books about the weather, including publications for Time-Life and Reader’s Digest.

Dick is an experienced lecturer and has delivered numerous lectures on history and the weather to such groups as Probus, Rotary, Libraries, U3A, bushfire brigades, historical societies, schools and business groups.

**Ray Welsford OAM.** Ray was born into a dairy farming family in Panmure, educated Panmure PS, Warrnambool HS, Melbourne and New England Universities. He had a forty-year career in education beginning as a teacher of Mathematics & Sciences, finishing as Principal of Dimboola, then Warrnambool High Schools. Between Dimboola & Warrnambool, Ray spent several years as a head office administrator based in Colac. He has been a Rotarian since 1979 – involved in Rotary activities at local, national & international levels. He has many other community involvements, and has been an avid family history researcher for more than 50 years.

**Perry Cho.** It was a wonderful journey, recalls Perry, referring to his decision to leave Malaysia and study at the Warrnambool Institute of Advanced Education in the early 1970’s, which grew into a highly successful career in Accountancy, and more importantly, a whole life in the district. He was one of the few overseas students who stayed on in the area. Perry’s career was recognized by being awarded the Warrnambool Business Achiever of the Year in 1997. After retirement, Perry was able to further develop his interest in photography, which he started to focus on in later years, not just as an official photographer at the Port Fairy Folk Festival and the May Races, but also freelance. The Southwest is such a beautiful place to work, live and photograph. Perry is now renowned for his bird photography in particular, and his work appears in many places.

**Wendy Scarfe.** Born in Adelaide, Wendy graduated from Melbourne University and later trained as a secondary school teacher. For over four decades she has written novels in her own right and non-fiction works with her late husband, Allan Scarfe. Her novels show her interest in history, political conflicts and social injustice. Writing in Australian Literary Studies, Dr Katherine Bode commented

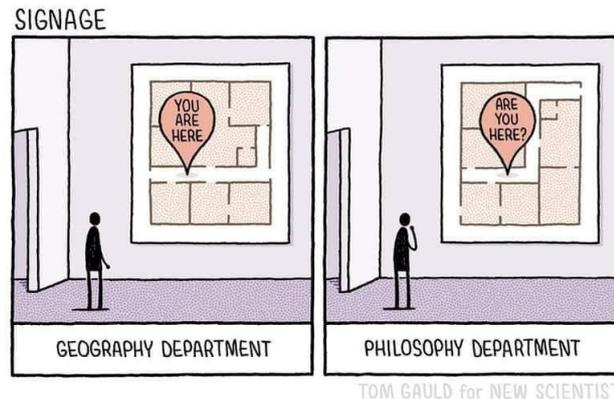
that Wendy is 'an important and innovative author whose books offer a 'difference'. Wendy lives in Warrnambool. She has a son, three daughters and four grandchildren

**Keith Purdie.** Dr Keith Purdie is a retired Anglican priest and registered psychologist. He has worked as a parish priest, and in a variety of industrial settings as counsellor, trainer, and applied researcher. Keith has a B.A (phil major), B.D. (Bachelor of Divinity); Grad Dip Psych; and PhD (in psychology, exploring the free will/determinism issue as it applies to psychology. Jointly supervised by a psychologist and a philosopher). Keith taught a philosophy class at U3A Emerald Victoria for 6 years.

## Activity Reports

### Philosophy – Keith Purdie

So far, we have sought to define philosophy and looked at the range of areas and issues that philosophy deals with. We have just completed an introduction to one of the two great giants of philosophy: Plato. Our next step is to introduce the other: Aristotle. This semester will conclude with a brief look at the place of philosophy in our world today.



Next semester will be devoted to one of the most active and controversial areas of current thought: Philosophy of Mind. This deals with questions such as: What is consciousness? Am I my brain? Is the brain a computer? Do I have a soul? In other words, we will be looking at what it means to be a human being – who are we? What are we? This should keep us well and truly occupied with much to think about. As usual there will be plenty of opportunity for discussion, notes will be sent out prior to each class and there will be a most welcome coffee break at half time.

### Tutorials- Peter Dexter

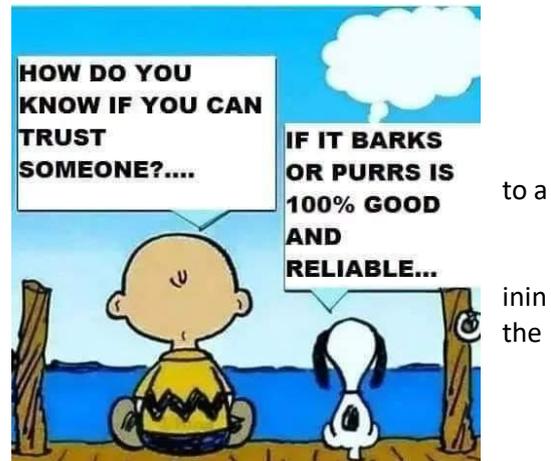
Our tutorial season continued on its merry way in April, with two zoomed in from Gerry Engwerda, on the great population decline and the evolution of the English language, both providing interesting insights on topics that we don't normally think much about and based on Gerry's encyclopedic knowledge of history and international affairs. Local tutor John Sheely, curator of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens, gave us insights into the operation of Kew Gardens in London, accompanied by beautiful illustrations; while our own Bill Gardner gave us the second of his presentations on the ancient world of development and mythology, with his talk on Homer, the Iliad, and the Odyssey. More treats in store in May, with the final talk for this semester from Gerry, another zoomed in from Dick Whitaker, another long-time favourite, and fascinating local presentations from Perry Cho, Ray Welsford and Wendy Scarfe. Watch this space!

### IT Classes – Robyn Harlock

Unfortunately, the IT Classes had to be suspended temporarily because of the indisposition of the tutor, Robyn. It is hoped to resume them in Semester 2 if there is sufficient interest.

### Social Support Discussion Group – Peter Dexter

Unfortunately, the Social Support class scheduled for April had to be postponed, as the presenter, Joe-Anne Nicholas, was unavoidable trapped in Queensland for a while. We hope to reschedule this later date. However, we do have three more scheduled for May, two on Brophy and another on WRAD. These remain on Monday mornings at 10.30 in Hammond, and face to face only. Dates are as in timetables.



### Film Appreciation – Peter Hankinson

For our April session, the group enjoyed “The Life of Pi”, a brilliant film adaptation by Director, Ang Lee, of the Man Booker Prize winning novel of the same name by the Canadian author Yann Martel.

The novel sold over 10 million copies worldwide, and the film enjoyed remarkable success. It was nominated for 11 Academy Awards, winning 4 for Best Director, Best Cinematography, Best Original Score and Best Visual Effects. Our group wholeheartedly agreed that it deserved all those awards and that it should be counted as a modern classic.

Next month’s film will be “Memoirs of a Geisha” based on Arthur Golden’s novel.

### First Year Fine Music Appreciation – Peter Hankinson

Getting right into the early Baroque period, the group enjoyed the great range of compositions for many instruments by the genius Italian composer Antonio Vivaldi. Also included in the program were a few pieces by the prolific German composer, George Philip Telemann.

Next month we will concentrate on Johann Sebastian Bach, who at one time was considered as less talented than Telemann.



### Ongoing Music Appreciation – David Fallaw

While enjoying the comfort of Barbara’s lovely home, the Music Club explored a total gamut of Beethoven’s wonderful output. From the heroic cries of the imprisoned Florestan in the Fidelio overture, we took in the serene calm of the slow central movement of the Pathétique E flat and the pulsating vibrancy of the opening movement of the Waldstein piano sonatas.

The final movement of the Eroica third symphony was a most emotional and vivid example of his huge contribution to the symphonic genre, and followed by the beauty and elegance portrayed in the Concerto for piano, violin and cello, a most difficult combination, which showed Beethoven’s mastery of the musical art. Altogether a stimulating series which was designed by Peter Hankinson to illustrate the genius of this great composer over two delightful sessions.

### Book Club – Barbara Phipps

Autobiography was the theme for April. By chance, three members had selected books written by aboriginal people, the poignant and sad stories of Archie Roach, Truganina, Rosalie and Valda. All of these people overcame difficulties and harsh treatment and triumphed.

We were also introduced to books by Bob Hawke, Stuart O'Grady, the Tour de France cyclist, Sarah Turnbull, an Australian journalist adjusting to living in Paris where she was advised to "Pretend she was a chair" when socialising, and Emma Ayres the Classic F.M. host.

"The Sea" is the theme for May.

### **Mahjong – Barbara Phipps**

"Goulash" is a means of introducing players to new hands. The hand to be achieved is drawn from a hat, players then swop three tiles to each of the others at the table. It is an easy way to learn the game for anyone who has not played previously and fun, made easier by the inclusion of two blank tiles, a cat tile and a rat tile which may be used for any suit.

### **Cryptic Crosswords – Barbara Phipps**

Elizabeth's group is keen and progressing very quickly with her tutoring and a graded set of puzzles. The other group has been introduced to a computer program which helps with those clues too obscure for their collective brains. The latter provides the solution and explains how it is deduced from the clue. Perhaps we will try D.A. (David Astle, nicknamed Don't Attempt) who sets the Friday crossword, with the help of this program.

### **Breaking the Spell: Live Music Recital – Peter Hankinson**

Our first Live Music Event for 2022 was held at Christ Church Anglican Church, Warrnambool on the evening of April 1<sup>st</sup>. Featured performers were Anita Senior, soprano, Anita Hoekstra, piano, and Erin Toulmin, clarinet.

The program was well balanced, with pieces from composers from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern periods and showcased the considerable talents of the performers in various combinations. With the beautiful acoustics and atmosphere of Christ Church, the audience was treated to a memorable performance and an experience that lifted the spirit.

All music lovers in U3A Warrnambool will certainly be looking forward to more of these Live Music Events in 2022.

## **Programme and Enrolments for Semester 2**

**Enrolments for semester 2 will be open from 6 May**, which allows the committee to organise email lists and appropriate venues for numbers expected. Details of what is available can be viewed on the website in the menu item "Semester 2" and can also be found as a link when doing the enrolment form (opens in a separate tab, so you can flick from the enrolment form to the course details easily).

Enrolment occurs by editing your profile, for example when logged into the members area the following is visible:

### ***Members Area***

*Logged in as.../ profile / logout*

*To edit your profile: [click here](#)*

You can either click on the "profile" link or the "click here" link and fill out the form. Note that you need to fill in your password on the form. There is a section where you can make suggestions about activities you would like to see included in the future.

Good luck, and if you have any difficulties or queries, please contact Bill Gardner, our webmaster, at [webmaster@u3awarrnambool.org.au](mailto:webmaster@u3awarrnambool.org.au)

## Member Profiles

Every month, we hope to have short profiles of different of our members, in particular new ones, to help us get to know one another better. This month **Merryl Tanner** introduces herself to us.



I was born in Warrnambool Base where my mother had done her nursing training. My parents were farmers south of Mortlake. I did my primary years at Mortlake then Ballarat boarding for five years before completing year 12 at MacRob High School. I always loved school and the three R's with 'Rithmetic being my strongest suit. I completed a BSc at Melbourne Uni, then Dip Ed at Monash thanks to the Student Teaching scholarship offered by the Bolte Govt. I taught at Hawkesdale in 1967, then Terang 1968 before the babies came along. James and I worked together on the farm as I loved the outdoor life and the challenge to succeed.

My teaching career resumed in 1994 when the next gen filled my place on farm. Terang College were desperate for a maths teacher! It was a steep learning curve going into the classroom after 25 years, but the staff and students were great, and the brain kicked into gear quickly. By the time I retired in 2006 I was teaching physics and maths to the year 11 and 12's. James and I had both come from church going families and our faith was important for us. We were members of the Ellerslie and Mortlake Uniting Church, and now Warrnambool. For me, God never expects anyone to leave their brain outside the church door, although some choose to. I love learning, reading, the Age, cryptic crosswords, classical music, particularly piano, and of course attending the UCA and the U3A! Senior years are creeping up on me and my eyesight is steadily failing due to glaucoma. My car driving years ceased mid last year, so I'm very fit from walking everywhere and am very grateful that I was able to relocate quickly into a lovely apartment 5 mins from the centre of town. I admire the passion and energy of the faithful organisers of the U3A and enjoy being a member, thank you.

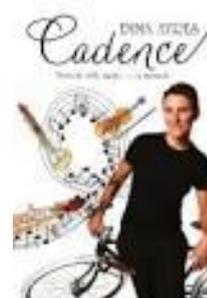
## Contributions

We have one anecdotal story waiting in the wings. However, as this Newsletter is already quite long, this will be held in abeyance until June. Another has been promised, probably for semester 2. Instead, this month we publish a delightful review of a book presented to the Book Club in April by **Victoria Dunn**. It will certainly be of interest to listeners to ABC Classic radio.

### **Cadence: travels with music - a memoir. Emma Ayres 2014**

HarperCollins Australia Pty Limited. With a companion album compiled by Emma.

**Cadence** is an autobiographical story of Ayres' life and thoughts during his bicycle travels from England to Hong Kong. It is described in [GoodReads](#) as an



intercontinental cycling adventure, music guide, and is 'provocative, intelligent, surprising and funny.' It tells the story of Ayres cycling his way from England to Hong Kong with a violin strapped to his back. It is also a journey through the music that inspired his own musical works. And it was during this time that Ayres decided that he was destined to be a transgender man after watching the film **Boys Don't Cry** while in Pakistan. <https://www.goodreads.com/> After writing and publishing **Cadence** in 2014 Emma Ayers came out as a transgender – Eddie Ayers.

Backing up to Ed's early life –

Emma Ayres graduated from the:

- Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, winning prizes for chamber music and viola.
- Hochschule der Künste in Bremen, Germany.
- Studied with members of the contemporary Amadeus Quartet.
- Royal Academy in London.
- And at the Victorian College of the Arts Melbourne.

Eddie or Ed Ayres was born Emma Ayres in 1967 in Dover and grew up in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England. At the age of two, Eddie's parents separated, leaving his mother Anna to bring up four children alone. Ayers described family life in the small house as difficult. She wrote that "*My childhood was hard. It wasn't as awful as many people's, but it was a big challenge at the time. We four siblings tried to survive it, and, in our own very different ways, we did*". Ed began violin lessons at the age of 8, moving on to viola at 12 although he claims that his favoured instrument was always the cello. Having described his early adolescence as miserable, Ed had reacted by doing self-harm.

Of the twelve years that Ayers was a professional viola player, eight of those years were spent performing with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra – having moved there in 1992. He was living in Hong Kong during the British – China handover in 1997.

In 2001 Ayers began presenting the classic music breakfast show on Radio Television Hong Kong. While on a cycling trip in the northern territories with an American friend, Ayres made the comment "*You could cycle from here to Paris.*" And so began his research and planning for the trip. One of the questions that resonated with me during Ayres' research about crossing countries and borders is; "*Was there a clear change from one side of the border to the other, or was there a gradual, almost imperceptible metamorphosis of landscape, culture and sentiment?*" And, like me, he wanted to know if you could feel the distance in the journey – and cycling would certainly allow that. And, for such an enormous physical journey – *he felt he needed a musical journey to match.*

**Cadence** chapters are divided into – or rather described by – musical notes. For example: C Major/Minor; G Major/Minor etc. Ayres' writing of his experiences is a delight to read as it conveys the delight he felt through his experiences. That is not to say there weren't any tricky or scary parts to his journey, but he writes about them with a lovely sense of equilibrium.

For instance in the Indus valley he writes – *I went inside a wooden shop built over the Indus, and two teenage boys came and sat next to me. They were not as talkative or cheerful as young men further south, but they were as inquisitive.* Ayres goes on to say that they wanted to know what was in the case at his feet. He took the violin out and *began to play and gently brought the slow movement from Bach's A Minor Sonata to life. The violin is made to sound like two separate instruments accompanying themselves, as the underneath notes pulse away and the melody sings out on top.* Ayers had only played a few bars into the music before being told to stop by the youths who appeared to be horrified by the performance. At this point, it dawned on Ayers that *he had cycled into a land where, apart from the call to prayer, music was banned. Silence, necessary silence.*

In 2003, Ayres moved from Hong Kong to Australia – living in Melbourne and cycling to work every day. From early February 2008, he presented the Classic Breakfast program on ABC Classic FM. In that year Ayres also taught cello to private students at Melbourne Girls Grammar School. In 2010 Ayres received Australian citizenship.

In 2012 Ayres appeared on Big Ideas Talking with Andrew Schultz, composer and head of school of Arts and the Media at UNSW, and music psychologist Emery Schubert. They each discussed their insights into composition and emotional responses to music. This subject is a constant inquiry throughout Ayres' writing. In 2014, Ayers was living in the inner-west suburb of Glebe in Sydney. It was in May 2014 that **Cadence: travels with music – a memoir** was published.

Not long after the release of **Cadence** – Ayers announced that he would be leaving Australia at the end of the year. In October of that year, it was announced on ABC FM website that Ayers had 'chosen to hang up the headphones and move on to new adventures. Ayers later revealed that the real reason for his departure was that he was suffering from major depression during that time.

- I met Ayers in January 2015 at the Lunchbox/Soapbox at the Wheeler Centre in Melbourne. The title of the talk: The Viola: a big violin, a small cello, or just a joke?
- Ayers' talk and brief performance were absolutely engaging – even though I think his viola playing was a bit rusty. He talked about **Cadence** to some extent, but really expanded his ideas about the positive influence that music can have on people.
- After the talk and performance, we had a brief chat as he signed the copy of **Cadence** for me. He put me on the spot a bit by asking me about what plans I had for my next adventure.
- As far as I'm aware Ayers did not disclose to many people at that time that he was going off to Kabul to teach street kids and orphans at the Afghanistan National Institute of Music. The school was headed by Dr Ahmad Sarmast – son of famous Afghan musician Ustad Salim Sarmast – after it had been closed by Islamic extremists in 1992. Ahmad's goal had been to give street kids and orphans a chance to go to the music school, believing that the healing power of music will transform their lives. A premise strongly held by Ayres.

Ayres wrote about gender in **Cadence** – about his experiences of being thought of as a man during his bicycle travels in countries such as Pakistan in 2013. He said it was like a *total beam of light* moment one evening while watching the film **Boys Don't Cry**. He said in a 2016 Sydney Morning Herald interview '*I've waited a long time to do this. I suppressed this for so long, now I feel I can't wait.*' He transitioned just before his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.

He was Eddie Ayres after his transition but more recently – as the author of his 2021 book **Whole Notes**, he was known as Ed Ayres – until even more recently he is known as Ed Le Brocq after his marriage earlier this year.

After Ayers' gender transition decision in 2016, he was offered assistance and support by a friend – Carol "Charlie" Le Brocq. They eventually fell in love and became partners – and they married in February this year – 2022. Ed took Charlie's surname of Le Brocq. His name is now Ed Le Brocq. Ed is short for Eadic, which is taken from Eadic the Wild who was a resistance fighter in Shropshire after the Norman Conquest of 1066.

In the last few pages of **Cadence** – Ayres asks why he made that cycling trip across continents. His response: *I made that trip because somewhere deep inside me I knew that life is there to be thrilled by, not to be weighed down by. That by testing ourselves we will slow things down to a speed that we can manage, and it will make things simpler; we will distil life to its essential ingredients. Adversity makes us decide what is important and reveals our true selves. And it is by cycling and by*

*playing an instrument that I dare to say I might begin to know myself. Music saved me. It gave me a constant when much around me was bewildering and often violent. ... To share the value of music is the resolve of my life. Pages 278-279*

Sources other than **Cadence** are: GoodReads; Sydney Morning Herald; The Guardian.

**Editor's note:** Personally, I'm getting a lot of both pleasure and knowledge from listening to Ed Le Brocq's potted history of western music on ABC Classic. My thanks to Victoria and Barbara Phipps for bringing Ed, his story and his music, to our attention.



## Smile Corner

This has been around for a while, but I'm indebted to Bernice for reminding me of it.

### ***Serious Grammar Lesson***

*COMPLETE – FINISHED*

*No English dictionary has been able to adequately explain the difference between these two words.*

*In a recent linguistic competition held in London and attended by, supposedly, the best in the world, Samdar Balgobin, a Guyanese man, was the clear winner with a standing ovation which lasted over 5 minutes.*

*The final question was: 'How do you explain the difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED in a way that is easy to understand?' Some people say there is no difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED. Here is his astute answer:*

*"When you marry the right woman, you are COMPLETE.  
When you marry the wrong woman, you are FINISHED.  
And when the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are COMPLETELY FINISHED!"*

*He won a trip around the world and a case of 25-year-old Scotch!*

## U3A Warrnambool Committee

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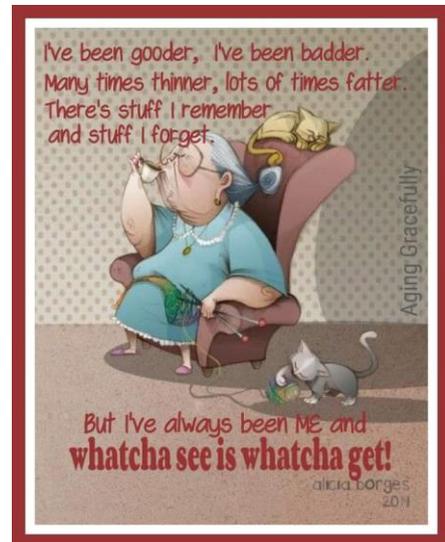
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[secretary@u3awarrnambool.org.au](mailto:secretary@u3awarrnambool.org.au)

For matters regarding our web presence:

[webmaster@u3awarrnambool.org.au](mailto:webmaster@u3awarrnambool.org.au)



**May 2022**

Calendarpedia  
Your source for calendars

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Film, Hankinson, Hammond, 14.00	<b>2</b> Remaking China Engwerda Zoom 10.30	<b>3</b> Mahjong, Hammond 10.00	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Bach, Hankinson 240 Lava, 1400	<b>9</b> Cryptics, Hammond back, 14.00  King Richard III Whitaker Hammond Hall Zoom 10.30	<b>10</b> Mahjong, Hammond 10.00  Bird photography Perry Cho Hammond Hall 14.00	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Philosophy 6, Purdie, Hammond Centre, 14.00	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Romantic Composers, Phipps, 240 Lava St 14.00	<b>16</b> Brophy 1 Kayla Hammond Hall 10.30	<b>17</b> Mahjong, Hammond 10.00  Ancestry Ray Welsford Hammond Hall 1400	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Book club, Hammond back, 14.00	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Cryptics, Hammond back, 14.00  WRAD 2, Powell ACT/SMART Hammond Hall 10.30	<b>24</b> Mahjong, Hammond 10.00	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Philosophy 7, Purdie, Hammond Centre, 14.30	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Brophy 2 Kayla Hammond Hall 10.30	<b>31</b> Mahjong, Hammond 10.00  Book presentation Scarfe Hammond Hall 14.00	1	2	3	4

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# June 2022

Calendarpedia  
Your source for calendars

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31 Mahjong, Hammond 10.00	1	2	3	4
5 Film, Hankinson, Hammond, 14.00	6	7 Mahjong, Hammond 10.00	8	9 Philosophy 8, Purdie, Hammond Centre, 14.00	10	11
12 Handel, Hankinson 240 Lava St, 1400	13 Cryptics, Hammond back, 14.00	14 Mahjong, Hammond 10.00	15	16 Book club, Hammond back, 14.00	17	18
19 Schubert, Phipps, 240 Lava St, 14.00	20 Brophy 3, Kayla, Hammond, 10.30	21 Mahjong, Hammond 10.00	22	23	24	25
26	27 Cryptics, Hammond back, 14.00	28 Mahjong, Hammond 10.00	29	30	1	2

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