

President's Comments



Time passes so quickly now. Term 1 has seen a wonderful group of speakers and we are indebted to Penny Fox and David Ashton for the time and effort they have put into securing them. It is so easy to forget that, as you turn up at each Tuesday Forum, things just 'don't happen'. It is the end result of a lot of contacting, a lot of organisation and a lot of preparation by the Speakers' Convenors and others. I'm sure topics scheduled for the coming Term 2 will prove to be equally interesting and thought-provoking.

Regrettably, the numbers now attending the Tuesday Forum are declining a little. Perhaps it reflects our ageing membership and the greater difficulty some have in attending each Tuesday. I do encourage everyone to be actively involved; the Tuesday gathering is a wonderful social event as well as the opportunity to hear top-class speakers.

We run a significant number of courses/activities which are well-patronised and, hopefully, new ones might be developed. If you would like to be a leader for any course or activity please contact me or any member of the committee. One of a limited duration appeals to many members so give don't hesitate to put your hand up! Every assistance will be given.

At a recent Committee Meeting it was agreed in principle that we move our traditional Christmas Luncheon to earlier in the year. The end-of-year is now very crowded as far as Christmas dinners go, especially if you belong to different organisations and/or activities which have their own special luncheons. Of course, it would no longer be a Christmas event if held earlier. Since the AGM is held in August, probably on 11 August 2015, it was sensibly suggested we hold our annual luncheon close to that date. The logical choice is on the following Tuesday, 18 August 2015, and make it a 'change-over dinner'. When I put forward these proposals to the general membership there seemed to be full support so we can assume it will go ahead. But we do need volunteers to organise the dinner function - book the date, determine the cost, advertise it and collect any monies. I have promised Jean Elliott she is definitely not going to be dragooned into doing it again this year!

Finally, but very importantly, we need to begin the process of encouraging new people to step up and volunteer for committee positions. I hope this can be finalised by the end of Term 2. Some current committee members (myself included) feel they now need a rest. Only by your being actively involved can our U3A continue to provide excellent choices and services to its members.

Des Wann
President

Recent Tuesday Forum Speakers

We have had a real treat with our speakers this term, thanks to Penny Fox. What a variety of topics and approaches! For those who weren't able to come, here is a run-down of some of the more recent presentations. Those who were present will appreciate seeing the photos again to remind them of the interesting, funny, poignant, romantic, adventurous stories that were attached to them.

Tales from Old Japan - Jacqui Murray - 31 March



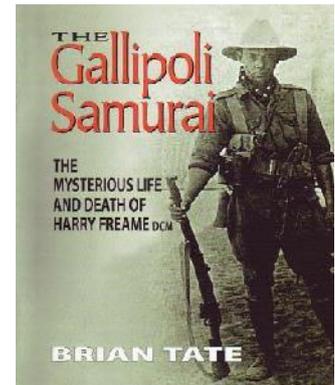
Jacqui Murray has spoken to us before, once as an ex-journalist, telling us about *Prime Ministers I have Known*. More recently she was on the panel for the discussion *Splendour - a Pain in the Grass?*

This week Jacqui was wearing a different hat - that of historian. More than that, Jacqui was raconteur extraordinaire, telling *Tales from Old Japan*, including swashbuckling, scandalous, heroic and adventurous stories connecting Australia

and Japan in times past. Her stories were illustrated by images depicting the times, often from beautiful old woodcut prints.

Jacqui's presentation finished on a very topical note, as she recounted the amazing tale of Harry Freane.

Wykeham Henry Koba Freame was born in Osaka, Japan, son of Henry Freame, teacher of English in Japan, and a Japanese woman, Shizu, around 1885. Harry Freame, as he became known, initially grew up in Japan, speaking Japanese as his first language. After adventures in various place all over the world Harry ended up in Australia in 1910. With the outbreak of World War One, Harry enlisted in the AIF and was part of the original Anzac landing in 1915. His amazing story is told in a book that Jacqui referred us to: *The Gallipoli Samurai - The Mysterious Life and Death of Harry Freame*, DCM, written by Ballina author Brian Tate. [Read more.](#)



The overriding theme of Jacqui's presentation was, as is so often the case with historians, that we should learn the lessons of history so that we don't make the same mistakes again.

My Career Highlights - Pam Rowell - 24 March

Pam's musical career took various forms in several countries, from radio request singer in Sydney, to variety troupe member in New Zealand, to performer for troops in Korea and Japan, to musical comedy in Tamworth with husband Bill. Along the way she was also a finalist in the Miss Entertainment competition.

A highlight among highlights - Pam was the very first performer to record for Festival Records. Along with her story and slides Pam proudly showed us a framed copy of her first recording, *When I Fall in Love*, which sold over 10,000 copies in six weeks - a fantastic achievement. This 78 record was gold plated and was the centrepiece of the Festival Records 50th anniversary display at the Powerhouse Museum.

There were misty eyes in the audience when Pam's recording was played for us alongside the photos showing Bill at her side right through her story, from the teenager on the steps of Sydney Town Hall, to the man sitting proudly in the audience listening to her tale.



The Value of Puppets to Improve the Life of the Ill and Elderly - Shelley Moses - 24 March

Shelley Moses' career started with teaching but moved over the years into various forms of the theatre, art, aged care and puppetry. All of these occupations have led her to her current interest in the value of puppets to improve the life of the ill and elderly.

Shelley entranced us with her vignettes, using appropriate characters to illustrate the various matters that she was addressing, from dementia to "cancer kids". She not only informed us but also entertained us. It was not surprising to learn that Shelley was taught puppetry by Jim Henson, creator of The Muppets, such is the quality of her creations.

It is easy to see how ill and elderly people connect so strongly with the puppets because they become "real people". We forgot Shelley's presence and focused totally on each puppet's particular story, empathising with his/her situation. The puppets are a very powerful tool for communication and education across all age groups.

Shelley is currently conducting workshops for professionals wishing to use puppets as tools in their particular field. Maybe you would like to join her, even if just to learn how to make your own puppet. For more information phone Shelley on 6680 5895 or [Contact Us](#).



Gary Opit - The Known and Unknown Animals of Australia - 10 March



You may not recognise this photo of Gary Opit but many of you will recognise his voice. Gary is the wildlife consultant for ABC North Coast Radio, receiving listener's calls and identifying animals since 1997. He is also an environmental consultant with a field research and public relations career spanning 40 years working Australia, Papua New Guinea and South East Asia. He has lectured to university and high school students on botany, zoology, biogeography, Australian ecology, microbiology, geography, permaculture and on Aboriginal ecology, religion and culture. [Visit Gary's website](#) for more information.

Gary has such a wealth of information, experience and passion that he diverted from his original presentation in response to audience comments and questions; hence he did not finish the slideshow that he had prepared. By popular request Gary will be returning at the start of term 2 to take up where he left off. Something tells me we may still not finish next time too. There is just so much to tell . . .

Tuesday Forum Term 2

21 April - **Gary Opit** - Australian Wildlife and Other Things.

28 April - **John Bailey** - local author. A Different Slant on Economics

12 May - **James Dods** - Pathways to Manhood. Recent developments in this area.

19 May - **Colin Cook** - Changing Events in Our World and How to Manage Them

26 May - **Amie Dreyer** - The Chrysalis Movement: Taking Young Girls on the Journey to Womanhood.

09 June - To Be Advised

16 June - **Russell Trebilcock** - Planning for the End of the Journey

23 June - **Roger Curran** - TBA

Courses

Thanks as always to the wonderful tutors who make our U3A courses run so effectively. They give us their time, energy and expertise so willingly and cheerfully.

There are three changes in the courses for term 2:

- *Introduction to Latin*. Roger Curran will be running a 9 week *Introduction to Latin* course, commencing at 2pm on Tuesday 28 April. Venue to be decided. Please confirm your interest to Roger on 0413 060 010.
- *Make your own blog*. This is a four week course, starting Monday 25 May at 2pm in Ocean Shores. The four weeks will be spread throughout term 2 on days to be decided by the group. Ideally participants will have their own laptop to bring to the sessions but this is not essential. Phone Denise on 6619 0308 for more information.
Blogs can be a public platform for people to air their views or they can be a private place for sharing family stories and photos. They can also be anything in between, anything you want them to be. The idea behind this course is to get you started. You can then do whatever you like, limited only by your imagination.
- *Cryptic Crosswords* - A six week course designed to introduce people to the art of solving cryptic crosswords will be conducted in the second half of term 2. The course will start on Friday 27 May and continue until the end of term. It will be held at 10:30 - 12 noon in Ocean Shores. Phone Denise on 6619 0308 for more information.