

## **Bathurst U3A Matters**

Bathurst U3A conducts forty courses each week for people aged over 50, and for an annual fee of just thirty dollars members can participate in as many classes as they can manage. There are physical classes such as Yoga Tai Chi, Revitalise and Table Tennis and more cerebral courses such as Chess, Philosophy, Writing Classes, Art groups, Book Clubs and everything in between. Classes are led by volunteer tutors in a variety of local venues. If you're aged over fifty there's a U3A course or two or more, for you

The final term of 2017 is now well underway and members are enjoying the warmer weather. Some classes experienced reduced attendances during the winter due to illness or absence. It's great to see full classes again.

### **Art Attack, not Heart Attack**

Jennifer Edmunds conducts art classes on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Eighteen artists and would-be artists get together in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere under Jennifer's tutelage, helping and advising each other in the creation of works of art. Painting is the most common theme, however one gentleman does wood carving and another man uses wood as a medium, etching pictures using the ancient skill of pyrography, which dates back to the Iron Age. Pyrography is commonly called poker work these days.

Participants use a variety of mediums, including acrylic, oils, water colours, charcoal, pastels and pen & ink. Landscapes, portraits and still life pictures, of a very high standard, are often exhibited in galleries, sold at markets or simply displayed in the homes of the artists or their friends and families.

Whilst some participants have been attending classes for many years, others are newer and are supported and encouraged in their development.

Jennifer Edmunds has worked as an artist for many years and has led the Art Attack group for fourteen years. She named well known local artist David Wilson as one of her mentors. Jennifer said that the group is like a family and they all enjoy the social aspect of coming to the classes to catch up with friends. The group range from fifty years up to late eighties. Jennifer quipped that Grandma Moses painted past the age of one hundred, so there's hope for everyone. New members are welcome so if you enjoy a cuppa and a laugh and would like to paint, Art Attack will welcome you. Art Attack might prevent a heart attack!

### **Not a Bridge too far**

Wednesday afternoon U3a Bridge classes will be starting again in 2018. Bridge is a game of serious fun, and has its origins in the ancient game of whist. The modern game of Bridge has been played for over a hundred years.

Anyone can learn to play Bridge. The game, played in teams of two, involves bidding and then attempting to take tricks. Five hundred is similar in that regard, however

Bridge has several further complications and there is a lot more involved than just luck. The U3A Bridge tutor, Bob Dillon, (no relation to folk musician Bob Dylan) has been playing Bridge for seventeen years. Bob describes Bridge as the premier card game, and it is on a par with Chess in its intricacy and permutations. Bob suggested that in the hierarchy of the whist family of card games, euchre would be base, and that 500 would be the equivalent of a step above, and Bridge would then be a further 20 storeys, plus a crane on top, above 500.

The modern game of Duplicate Bridge involves the team of two players scoring points not only against the two opponents at their table but also against pairs playing on the other tables in the hall. Whilst anyone can learn to play, it takes years to become an expert. If you're up for a challenge, Bridge will be starting again in 2018.

### **Other courses returning in 2018**

Other courses likely to return in 2018 include Armchair Travel, Drama, Reading French, and Canoeing. A new course, First Aid and Health for Seniors is also proposed.

The very popular Monday Morning Session program, which has been presented in term one each year will also return in the first term of 2018. A program of exceptional guest speakers has already been arranged, and the program will run for eight Monday mornings commencing on 5 February 2018. These sessions are also open to non-members of Bathurst U3A.

For more information about Bathurst U3A, visit [bathurstu3a.com](http://bathurstu3a.com) or contact the Secretary, Sue Lasky on 6331 6968.