



## We are launched



ROLL-UP: U3A Network Victoria's Anne Grigg, Senior Victorians' Commissioner, Gerard Mansour, Mudgegonga farmer, author and former politician and diplomat, Tim Fischer, and U3A Myrtleford President, Nino Mautone, at the branch launch.

### **Senior Victorians' Commissioner, author launch Alpine's third U3A branch.**

U3A Myrtleford and District - Alpine Shire's third branch of the educational organisation enabling older people in the community to share knowledge and extend social networks – was launched on February 8 at Myrtleford Senior Citizens' Centre.

Eighty-one people attended and 57 joined as members on the opening day.

**Thanks to Charles Morgan** from Charles Morgan and Associates, for his generosity in developing an Insurance Waiver form for our use. Charles completed this task on a pro bono basis.

## What is coming up?

Many of the courses that were offered during Term 1 will continue or have an extension but we are also offering some brand new courses.

These include:

### **Cryptic Crosswords**

**Alexander Technique** (system for relaxation, posture, balance etc)

**Exploring Shakespeare** (See notes below)

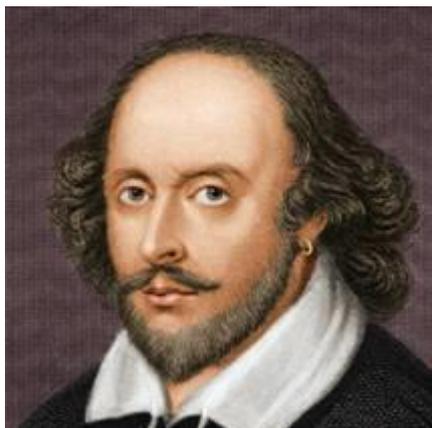
**Nordic Pole Walking** (walking with poles to give a better work out)

If you would like to participate in any of these courses please go to the website [www.u3amyrtleford.org.au](http://www.u3amyrtleford.org.au) and click onto "Courses".

If you have any difficulty doing this, contact Jan Mock (Secretary) via email: [u3amyrtleford@gmail.com](mailto:u3amyrtleford@gmail.com) or Mob: 0401 064 030

We are also endeavouring to be able to offer woodwork, building model trains and computers for both beginners and more advanced students. As soon as we have venues and tutors ready to do these courses a notice will be sent out to let you know when they will start.

## Exploring Shakespeare



So much to explore! He was writing in the 16th and 17th Century but Shakespeare is attributed with inventing over 1700 of our common words by changing nouns into verbs, changing verbs into adjectives, connecting words never before used together, adding prefixes and suffixes, and making up entirely new words. It may be that some were already in use but he placed them in print, or he popularised them.

He wrote tragedies, histories, comedies and poems and probably wrote about 37 plays. Many of these have been on the stage constantly, studied in schools and universities and now developed into films. He had the ability to explore themes that are still pertinent today.

He has been adapted and turned into modern themes.

Join us in exploring Shakespeare. In four sessions we'll explore his words and rhyme, his sonnets, and begin to learn a little of his history.

Who knows where it will lead us ... perhaps to another 'unit' where we read a play together.

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## Art and Wine Appreciation

Both of these courses are starting on 16 April – go to the website, [www.u3amyrleford.org.au](http://www.u3amyrleford.org.au) to enrol.

### Coffee afternoons

Coffee afternoons with a guest speaker have been organised for the following dates:

April 13: Matt Charles-Jones from TRY (Totally Renewable Yackandandah) will speak about Yackandandah's ambition to become a community totally reliant on renewable energy by 2022.



NEXT SPEAKER: Totally Renewable Yackandandah co-chair, Matt Charles-Jones, right with fellow chair, Matt Grogan, (and Indigo mayor Jenny O'Connor) at an ABC Back Roads Yackandandah Open Day in 2016.

**April 27:** Jaclyn Symes, MLC, Victorian Legislative Council parliamentarian for Northern Victoria, will speak about her role in government.

Other dates are: **May 11, June 8, July 13, August 3 and September 7.**

**All events are held at the Myrtleford Lawn Tennis Clubrooms from 2.00pm to 3.30pm. A gold coin donation is requested.**

## Gardeners dig trees' history

U3A Myrtleford gardening course participants visited Stanley and Beechworth on March 16 to learn about some of the North East's most significant exotic trees.

The 21 members viewed a 120 year-old cork oak spreading from a private garden into Stanley's Main Street and later had the opportunity to compare it with another of the same species – *Quercus suber* – growing in the grounds of Beechworth's Anglican Christ Church.

Some of Beechworth's early colonial-era history and the influence of Victoria's first government botanist, Ferdinand von Müller, on plantings in Queen Victoria Park and Town Hall Gardens was also recounted to the group.

Von Müller was director of Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens when it is believed he gave seedlings which became a majestic stand of 10 Sierra redwoods – *Sequoiadendron giganteum* – that today dominates the William Street boundary of the gardens.

In 1858 almost seven hectares was set aside in the north-east of Beechworth as a public garden and promenade reserve.

Much of this became Queen Victoria Park. In 1875 the town's market reserve was converted to a botanic garden which became Town Hall Gardens – so named because its proximity to Beechworth Shire Hall.

The U3A course members afterwards visited Beechworth Gorge where they were shown a sentinel, rare incense cedar – *Calocedrus decurrens* – which grows below historic Newtown Bridge.

It is near the site of what was Chevalier's Mill, which the colonial artist, Eugene von Guerard, sketched in October 1862.

The Swiss-Russian Chevalier family had invested in colonial property in the 1850s and Nicholas Chevalier, who later painted The Buffalo Ranges – the first artwork of an Australian subject to be acquired by what became the National Gallery of Victoria – had been sent in 1854 to Beechworth to check on the mill. He afterwards was court painter to Queen Victoria.

**The gardening group next meets on April 6 to discuss and explore North East garden history and garden techniques.**



**BRANCHING:** Beechworth's Town Halls Gardens' Sierra redwoods – thought to have been given as seedlings by colonial botanist Ferdinand von Müller in 1875 – tower over members of U3A Myrtleford's gardening course during the group's tour.

## 'Finska' players work the numbers

U3A Myrtleford and District's regular game of 'Finska' drew strong interest from players after its February start.

The addictive 'log' or skittle-tossing game from Finland, tests players' planning and throwing skills, requiring them to reach a determined number by knocking down numbered pins with the throwing pin – the 'Finska'.

The game has been rolled out with the support of Sport North East, with Andrew and Fiona travelling from Wangaratta to introducing the game to U3A members. It is similar to skittles but with a different way of scoring and can involve different throwing skills and strategies.

U3A Myrtleford has purchased two sets of Finska from Myrtleford Men's Shed.

**Finska will continue after Easter in the Piazza.**

## Food, glorious food

U3A Myrtleford's first cooking and food preparation workshop was held on March 14 with Café Fez's Amanda Ramia demonstrating tagine recipes. Each session has a different presenter – April participants will learn special dessert preparation. Italian cooking and making preserves are being planned.

Members wanting to participate need to enrol for each session. The U3A branch website, [www.u3amyrtleford.org.au](http://www.u3amyrtleford.org.au) lists each session date, time, the recipe to be prepared and venue.

There is a small charge to cover ingredient costs. Participants should also bring a suitable container in which to take their food home.

We thank Myrtleford P-12 College for allowing us to use their cooking facility.



## Discover Mount Buffalo



## Finska



## Mosaics

