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PLEASE EMAIL ALL NEWSLETTER ITEMS AT LEAST 7 DAYS BEFORE THE START OF THE MONTH TO:

Lorraine Erenstrom on [erenstrom@optusnet.com.au](mailto:erenstrom@optusnet.com.au)

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Welcome back to Term 3 at U3A Waverley. Once again, I am filling in for our President Robert Taylor who continues his travels around the "Old Dart" etc. The term dates for the rest of the year are to be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

### CABLES & CONNECTORS

Also, in this edition, is an article from Bruce Brown regarding the return of cables and connectors to the right place. When these items are not found it can cause annoying delays for the next user and makes more work for Bruce. Please read Bruce's advice carefully.

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND US

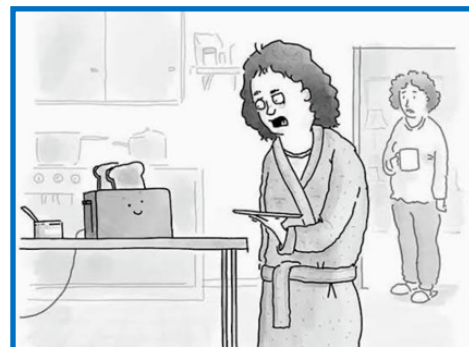
My topic of interest this month is "ChatTPG". This has been a big topic in the news in the last month or so. What is ChatTPG? In my own words it is a special computer (chatbot) that can have a two way conversation with a human. "The language model can respond to questions and compose various written content, including articles, social media posts, essays, code and emails". The chatbot has access to multiple data bases. Much of the consternation in media relates to that ability to provide written content as outlined .....and the possibility of cheating and plagiarism,



especially in education. At the extreme is the claim that it could eventually make humans irrelevant.

On the other hand, many supporters see it as an amazingly positive development, handled carefully. Freeing us from drudge work to concentrate on creative matters. It had over a million hits in 5 hours on the day it was released. The interest is huge. It is coming, whether we like it or not. Some of you out there will know a lot more about it than I do. Some of us may have had a go already.

I met a consultant in a bank the other day. The topic of ChatTPG arose. He had already tried it. He thought it was fantastic. His eyes were sparkling. So how is this relevant to a U3A? It could make research much quicker and easier, but we would still need to be aware of bad research if bad data is used. As we don't have exams or assessed essays etc. the problem



"Honey, why is the toaster trying to convince me that all this new A.I. stuff is nothing to worry about?"

of cheating is not a big one. It's worth being aware of, even if we don't use it much at U3A level.... but I think eventually we will, just like the rest of the world. Food for thought.

*Dennis Atkin.*

In my house I'm the Boss. My wife is merely the decision maker!

When I lost the fingers on my right hand in a freak accident, I asked the doctor if I would still be able to write with it. He said, "Probably, but I wouldn't count on it."

He said, there was no spark between us anymore. So I tasered him!!! (I'll ask him again when he wakes up).



### OPERATIONAL DATES 2023

Term	Starts	Ends	Public Holidays
3	10 July	15 Sept	
4	2 October	1 Dec	Melbourne Cup Holiday 6 and 7 November

NEW COURSE COMMENCING  
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 16 AT 2.00PM

### *Why You Are What You Are - Investigations Into Human Personality - 23SCI005*

Wherever you go in life, you carry with you a large, complex set of traits, beliefs, emotional tendencies, motivations, and values that predispose you to respond to the world in certain ways. Some of these you share with virtually all other human beings; they are part of human nature. Others, however, differ greatly between one person and another, and they help create the kind of person you are and the kind of life you lead. Using a DVD-based lecture series as a base, over 12 weeks we will consider these questions, amongst others:

- Are you outgoing and highly social, or quiet and more inclined to spend time alone?
- Do you consider yourself organised or disorganised?
- Do you have more energy in the mornings or in the evenings?
- How much self-control would you say you have?

### *Croquet Lessons*

Monash Croquet Club is offering members of U3A Waverley the opportunity to participate in introductory Croquet lessons. The details are as follows:



**ADDRESS** - Monash Croquet Club is located in Electra Avenue, Ashwood (behind the Community Centre).

**LESSONS**- Wednesdays 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th October

**TIME**- 1-3pm

**CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS** - [monashcroquet@gmail.com](mailto:monashcroquet@gmail.com)

**MAXIMUM NUMBERS** - places are limited, so get in early.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** - No fee for the lessons, however a green fee of \$20 for the four weeks will be payable at the 1st lesson. This is to be paid directly to the Croquet Club.

If you wish to participate in this activity, please enrol on the U3A website - the class is called "Croquet at Monash Croquet Club" course number 23EXE40.

Very best wishes,

**Sue Sturman, Course Coordinator**

### *AV Connecting Cables in the Room Tubs*

Could all classes please take greater care to ensure that any connecting cables they use from a room's tub are returned back to the respective tub - NOT packed away in laptop cases. On several occasions recently, some classes have been inconvenienced to find cables missing from a given room tub, because a previous class failed to return such cables back to the tub after use. Many thanks, **Bruce Brown**

### *Office Volunteers Needed*

We are seeking extra volunteers to work in our U3A office. This is an excellent way for you to contribute to your U3A, which is completely



dependent on volunteers. Come along and meet all the friendly U3A members. Office volunteers work a morning and/or afternoon shift about twice per month and training is offered before you start. Familiarity with using computer software programs is necessary, as is a clear speaking voice for communicating with members, both on the phone and at the office. You can also choose Office Volunteer as one of our courses, and we will be in contact. Both males and females are most welcome.

Enquiries phone **Heather Topp 9569 7650** or leave a message for **Andrew Croft or Heather Topp at the U3A Office on 90772720** to arrange an information session.

### *New Course - Outdoor Singing*

Do you enjoy singing? Would you like to meet new friends in a safe setting?

**Commencing in Term 4**, a new activity will be offered. This will be our "Outdoor Singing Group". The group will meet with our new tutor, Angel Shea, in the car park on Mondays and sing from 11am until 12 noon. You are welcome to join these new sessions by enrolling on the U3A website. **Course code: 23MUS40.**

**TRIVIA:** In the 19th century, craftsmen who made hats were known to be excitable and irrational, trembled with palsy and mixed up their words, - which gave rise to the expression "mad as a hatter". This behaviour was caused by chronic mercury poisoning from the solution used to treat the felt, which attacked the central nervous system.