THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

U3A Emerald Inc.

2027 Courses



Our Home

Unless otherwise stated, the majority of our courses are held at:

The Hills Hub
400A Belgrave-Gembrook Road,
Emerald, Vic 3782

U3A Emerald Inc. Contact Details

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Emerald
Victoria 3782
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A Note on Health and Safety

If or when necessary, all courses and activities will comply with DHHS or other current activity-specific guidelines to maximise COVID-19 (or other disease) safety and ensure the lowest risk to our members.

Please note that in such circumstances, some classes may have restricted numbers attending due to social distancing requirements, and that some courses may have activity-specific plans in place due to the circumstances surrounding their operation. Tutors will advise participants accordingly.

A Note on Courses in "Hybrid Mode"

Courses marked as operating in 'hybrid' mode will have participants in classes at the Hills Hub as well as being live streamed *via* Zoom.

Important Information for all Members

Our U3A Emerald policy requires members to regularly check their email as a fundamental requirement of their membership. Specifically, U3A Emerald relies on email as the main method of communication between tutors and their class members, when not in class. This may take the form of simple courtesy reminders, follow-ups and relevant information concerning the courses members are enrolled in. However, there are some situations where email communication is of fundamental importance to the smooth functioning of an upcoming class or specific activity. In such cases it is essential that you show courtesy and respect to your tutors and fellow class members with a timely response. Please also note some courses do have as an enrolment requirement that participants agree to check and respond by email, as outlined in this Course Handbook and available online on our website.

Where, for any reason, this is not possible or may prove difficult, please discuss the matter with your tutor, or contact the Course Coordinator, Tanya Cooke. We really appreciate your ongoing support with this!

New or revised courses for 2027 are highlighted in yellow

2027 Holiday Dates

The tables below show dates for potentially excluded (i.e., holiday) dates for our classes in 2026. Note that some of our courses operate on both Public or School Holidays – details are provided for each individual class in this Handbook, and all members should check the relevant dates carefully.

Public Holidays	Dates for 2027
New Year's Day	1 January
Australia Day	26 January
Labour Day	8 March
Easter Break	26 - 29 March
ANZAC Day	25 April (Observed on the day it falls)
King's Birthday	14 June
Friday before the AFL Grand Final	1 October
Melbourne Cup	2 November
Christmas Day	25 December
Boxing Day	26 December

2027 Victorian School Holiday Dates

Term Holiday	Dates for 2027
Term 1	26/03/2027 – 11/04/2027 *(Includes Easter)*
Term 2	26/06/2027 – 11/07/2027
Term 3	18/09/2027– 03/10/2027
Term 4	18/12/2027 – 28/01/2028

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Crafts

27CRA001 Hills Hub Craft Makers

This is a vibrant and creative group with the aim of encouraging all participants to share their creations/skills. We have quilters, knitters, crocheters and embroiderers who all enjoy the social and fun atmosphere.

This course operates during School Holidays, but not on Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T 1 & 2 - Training Rooms 1 and 2
Dates: 27 Jan 2027 - 8 Dec 2027
Schedule: Monthly, second, fourth Wednesday 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Tutor: Sue Farr

27CRA002 Needlework

If it requires a needle (knitting or sewing type) this is your group! Knitting, Cross Stitch, Tapestry, Embroidery, Crochet and lace work making are all embraced. This is an informal group where you can work on your own projects. Dig out any unfinished projects that have been in a cupboard for years & bring them along. You don't have to be an expert. Beginners welcome.

This course operates during School Holidays, but not on Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub MP 1 - Multipurpose Room 1
Dates: 1 Feb 2027 - 1 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, first Monday 9:30 AM - 12 noon
Tutor: Pauline White
Secondary Tutor: Ida Swinson

Discussion and research

27DIS001 Ancient Songs of the Greek Gods

A 6-week series on a beautiful, largely unknown, collection of thirty-three ancient Greek narrative songs known as the Homeric Hymns. Dating from about 600 BCE onwards, these hymns are truly remarkable in that they allow us to hear the Ancient Greeks singing about their gods in their own words and from their own point of view. Our sessions will focus on the longer songs to Demeter, Apollo, Dionysos, Hermes and Aphrodite. This class is for anyone who might be interested, it will not assume any prior reading or knowledge. However, if you would like a sample beforehand, there are two good (but different) translations at Internet Archive:

https://archive.org/ details/the-homeric-hymnscashford/ page/n5/mode/2up
Course Handbook 2027.docx

https:// dn760108.eu.archive.org/0/ items/homeric-hymns-ruden/ Homeric%20hymns%20%5B Ruden%5D.pdf

Location: Hills Hub T 1 & 2 - Training Rooms 1 and 2
Dates: 4 Feb 2027 - 11 Mar 2027
Schedule: Weekly on Thursday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Tutor: Heather Sebo

27DIS002 Australian and World History

The program will include significant events in world history, indigenous history, topical issues in Australian history and topics and input from participants.

This course operates on both School and Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T 1 & 2 - Training Rooms 1 and 2
Dates: 8 Feb 2027 - 13 Dec 2027
Schedule: Monthly, second, fourth Monday 10:00 AM - 12 noon
Tutor: Dick Bartley

27DIS003 Current Affairs

This class is not only about discussing current events but also to do some research into a topic. The intention is for the class to develop a list of topics that they would like to examine. Each participant to undertake some background reading and during class participation present and discuss the facts. Given we will from time to time discuss issues that people feel strongly about, the objective is to present various arguments which participants can consider. Hopefully, we can all learn more and become better informed about a current issue. We also hope to utilise various media options (radio interviews, Slow TV, iView YouTube) as a basis for input on various topics.

This course operates on both School and Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T 1 & 2 - Training Rooms 1 and 2
Dates: 1 Feb 2027 - 6 Dec 2027
Schedule: Monthly, first, third Monday 10:00 AM - 12 noon
Tutor: Dick Bartley

27DIS004 Genealogy

Genealogy, with an emphasis on DNA as well. Learn how to find your ancestors in a myriad of records, including on-line versions. Establish a system for Record Keeping and a Family Tree. Learn the history of your family, their places of birth, and the journeys they undertook to arrive in Australia. A Laptop computer is necessary, notebook and pens. This is a very friendly, helpful group with a range of experience.

This course does not operate during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T 1 & 2 - Training Rooms 1 and 2
Dates: 2 Feb 2027 - 16 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, first, third Tuesday 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Tutor: Hilary Thomas
Secondary Tutor: Anne Deschepper

27DIS005 Great Stories of the Dandenongs (Term1)

This once per term course will explore how the natural beauty of the Dandenongs inspires creativity and attracts people who live in its environment to make significant social contributions. It will invite guest speakers to present their stories of Emerald and the region's cultural heritage and encourage class discussion of personal reminiscences and reflections.

First Class: *The Fabulous Friendship between Norah Gurdon & Dorothy Jeeves of Kalorama*.
The Jeeves family were amongst the first European settlers in the Dandenongs in the 1860's, working in the virgin bushland to produce buildings and infrastructure across the mountain ridge. Their work would eventually make the areas from Kalorama to Sherbrooke forest into playgrounds for pleasure seeking tourists and studios for Impressionist painters in the early 20th century. One artist in particular whose opus of work rivals her more well known contemporaries Streeton and Roberts in its formal development was Norah Gurdon. The Kalorama property that Norah bought in the 1920's bordered on the grounds where Dorothy Jeeves lived and so a life lasting friendshipÃ began between the women residents, intertwining the challenges and beauty of living closer to nature. In this class we will have the opportunity to learn more about this significant history as related by the grandson of Dorothy Jeeves - Neil Johnson.

Speaker: Neil Johnson of Mt Dandenong Historical Society

Location: Hills Hub MP 3 - Multipurpose Room 3
Date: 4 Mar 2027
Schedule: One day only: 4 Mar 2027 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Tutor: Sarah Curtis

27DIS006 First Nations

This course is based on the knowledge that Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are custodians of the world's oldest continuing living cultures, with a connection to Country, knowledge and traditions spanning more than 65,000 years. These cultures have endured and adapted despite the profound and lasting impacts of colonisation. The course explores contemporary First Nations issues, experiences and perspectives, recognising that understanding the present requires an appreciation of the past. Through thought-provoking documentaries, stories and discussion, participants will hear First Nations voices and explore topics including identity, culture, resistance, activism, justice, truth-telling and reconciliation. The program celebrates the resilience, knowledge, creativity, contributions and achievements of First Nations peoples.

Participants are encouraged to listen, question assumptions, share perspectives and engage in open, respectful conversation. The aim is to deepen understanding of our shared history and present, and to foster a strong alliance grounded in mutual respect and shared responsibility.

This course operates during School Holidays, but not on Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub MP 3 - Multipurpose Room 3
Dates: 2 Feb 2027 - 7 Dec 2027
Schedule: Monthly, first, third Tuesday 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Tutor: Heather Sherwell

27DIS007 Philosophy

This course explores a wide range of questions in Philosophy. Some questions go back centuries and examine claims about morality, free will and good government. Other questions are contemporary – emerging from recent developments in art, science, and evolving social norms. Contemporary and Classical philosophers alike investigate issues that inform and impact our daily lives. All are influential, some are controversial. This course does not require prior Philosophical study and welcomes discussion and exchange of opinion.

This course does not operate during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T 1 & 2 - Training Rooms 1 and 2
Dates: 23 Feb 2027 - 23 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, second, fourth Tuesday 10:00 AM - 12 noon
Tutor: Eddie Vaughan, Martin Buoncristiani, Nora Sumberg

27DIS008 The Men Who Came Home: Emerald after WWI

What happened to the soldiers after the cheering stopped and they returned to civilian life? In this hands-on research class, we will uncover the post-war lives of First World War veterans who lived in Emerald - both local men who returned home and veterans who came to the district after the war. Using military service records, newspapers, electoral rolls, family history records, land and property records, photographs and other historical sources, we will follow these men as they returned to work, married and raised families, struggled with the effects of war, bought homes or farms, joined local organisations and became part of the Emerald community. No previous military or family-history research experience is necessary - just curiosity and an interest in discovering the stories hidden in our local history.

This course operates on School Holidays, but not on Public Holidays

Location: Hills Hub T 1 & 2 - Training Rooms 1 and 2
Dates: 3 Feb 2027 - 3 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, first Wednesday 10:00 AM - 12 noon
Tutor: Maureen Trotter

27DIS009 Understanding History Through Film

Have you ever wandered out of a picture theatre, after seeing a film about an historical event or personality, wanting to know more? The aim of this course is to provide you with some context to these types of films - some background to know what to look for, some answers about its accuracy, some follow up food for thought about its purpose and message. It may even stimulate you to follow up with some research of your own about the topic. This course, hopefully, will help you to appreciate the role that film can play in understanding some of the most interesting events and people of our time.

This class operates during School Holidays, but not on Public Holidays

Location: Hills Hub MP 3 - Multipurpose Room 3
Dates: 15 Feb 2027 - 15 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, third Monday 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Tutor: Peter Kadar

Drama, reading and writing

27LIT001 Banksia Book Group

If you enjoy reading, extending your genres and lots of highly interesting discussion, then you will enjoy this group. Each month we receive a book from the library's extensive set of book group titles. We also share our favourite books as well as any podcasts or other aspects of interest around books. Many books, if you wish, can also come in ebooks/audiobooks. Morning tea is also enjoyed during the session. Come and join us!

This course operates during School Holidays, but not on Public Holidays.

Location: Meeting Room - Hills Hub Upstairs Meeting Room
Dates: 10 Feb 2027 - 10 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, second Wednesday 10:00 AM - 12 noon
Tutor: Tanya Cooke

27LIT002 Eucalypt Book Group

If you enjoy reading, extending your genres and lots of highly interesting discussion, then you will enjoy this group. Each month we receive a book from the library's extensive set of book group titles. We also share our favourite books as well as any podcasts or other aspects of interest around books. Many books, if you wish, can also come in ebooks/audiobooks. Afternoon tea is also enjoyed during the session. Come and join us!

This course operates during School Holidays, but not on Public Holidays.

Location: Meeting Room - Hills Hub Upstairs Meeting Room
Dates: 9 Feb 2027 - 9 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, second Tuesday 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Tutor: Tanya Cooke

27LIT003 Wattle Book Group

If you enjoy reading, extending your genres and lots of highly interesting discussion, then you will enjoy this group. Each month we receive a book from the library's extensive set of book group titles. We also share our favourite books as well as any podcasts or other aspects of interest around books. Many books, if you wish, can also come in ebooks/audiobooks. Morning tea is also enjoyed during the session. Come and join us!

This course operates during School Holidays, but not on Public Holidays.

Location: Meeting Room - Hills Hub Upstairs Meeting Room
Dates: 9 Feb 2027 - 9 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, second Tuesday 10:00 AM - 12 noon
Tutor: Tanya Cooke

27LIT004 Creative Writing

Each session starts with participants sharing any piece of creative writing that they have found to be of particular interest. This is followed by a writing activity which many members take in turns to prepare and present. These activities are often very humorous, and certainly stimulate our creativity. Our pieces from this are read aloud to the group. We then take it in turns to read our optional homework pieces aloud to the group. The topic for the homework would have been set at the previous session, so we will have had two, or sometimes three, weeks to come up with something.

It is amazing what a variety of pieces are produced from this same common starting point. There are short stories, poetry, plays, songs and other types of writing. We often also read and hear other non-homework pieces that members have written. It is optional to ask for feedback, constructive criticism and suggestions to improve your piece and your overall writing. Assistance will be given with punctuation, grammar, spelling, typing, printing and photocopying, if requested. The focus is on creativity and writing for pleasure. It is not a course "teaching" you how to write.

Members all greatly enjoy each other's company and writing. It is a very supportive and friendly group. You are welcome to attend a session as a trial to see if you would like to enrol. There are several binders of our pieces from 2014 onwards which you are welcome to borrow if you would like to read some of our work.

This course operates during both School and Public Holidays.

Location: Meeting Room - Hills Hub Upstairs Meeting Room
Dates: 5 Feb 2027 - 19 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, first, third Friday 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM
Tutor: Gill Sealby

27LIT005 Life's Journey Through the Prism of Poetry and Prose

Drawing on a method called Shared Reading (or Social Bibliotherapy), where people come together to listen, reflect, and connect through great prose and poetry, over three sessions we will explore the journey of life through the first age (childhood), the second age (early and mid-adulthood) and the third age (late adulthood). We will read aloud from carefully selected prose and poems, mostly by well-known Australian writers such as Tim Winton, Judith Wright, David Malouf and Helen Garner. We shall also hear poems from distinguished poets who lived in our district, such as Leonard Mann and Stella Turner, poets who are in danger of being forgotten with the passage of time.

We will take time to pause, reflect and share how their words speak to each of us. There is no pre-reading, and no right or wrong answers—just an opportunity to enjoy powerful and evocative words and meaningful conversations with one another. For more information about Shared Reading, please see: www.sharedreading.org.au

Location: Meeting Room - Hills Hub Upstairs Meeting Room
Dates: 17 Feb 2027 - 17 Mar 2027 (Three Sessions)
Schedule: Monthly, first, third Wednesday 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Tutor: Dorothy Scott

Exercise and fitness

27EXE001 Beginners Swing Dance Class

Welcome everybody, get ready to move, groove and swing! This class will introduce you to the foundations of Swing Dancing: simple footwork, easy turns and how to stay connected with your partner. Whether you're brand new or brushing up basics, you're in the right place. We'll build skills step by step, so you feel comfortable, confident and ready to dance. This class operates during Terms 1 and 2.

This class does not operate on either Public or School Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub MP 1, 2 & 3 - Multipurpose Rooms 1, 2 and 3
Dates: 1 Feb 2027 - 21 Jun 2027
Schedule: Weekly on Monday 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Tutor: Daryl Gray

27EXE002 Bushwalking (Mondays)

The bushwalking group will meet in various starting locations, as advised by the tutor, every Monday at 9.00. Walks will generally be somewhere in the areas of Lysterfield, Mt Dandenong and Gembrook, Berwick, and Pakenham. Expect to walk about 6-8 km each week. Each walk takes from 90 to 120 minutes. There will be some rough and steep tracks. Reasonable fitness required. The leader will carry a basic first aid kit. There are no walks in school holidays, days of Total Fire Ban and very rainy days. Participants need to be fit and are expected to bring a drink, wear good walking shoes, appropriate clothes and a hat. Walks will be cancelled on days of Total Fire Ban or other extreme weather conditions. Please ensure that your emergency contact details are included on the reverse of your U3A name badge. Importantly, please note that participants CANNOT enrol in both Bushwalking classes.

This course does not operate during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Various - See Tutor for Details
Dates: 1 Feb 2027 - 29 Nov 2027
Schedule: Weekly on Monday 9:00 AM - 12 noon
Tutor: Dot Radings

27EXE003 Bushwalking (Wednesdays)

The bushwalking group will meet in various starting locations, as advised by the tutor, every Wednesday at 9.00. Walks will generally be somewhere in the areas of Lysterfield, Mt Dandenong and Gembrook, Berwick, and Pakenham. Expect to walk about 6-8 km each week. Each walk takes from 90 to 120 Minutes. There will be some rough and steep tracks. Reasonable fitness required. The leader will carry a basic first aid kit. There are no walks in school holidays, days of Total Fire Ban and very rainy days. Participants need to be fit and are expected to bring a drink, wear good walking shoes, appropriate clothes and a hat. Walks will be cancelled on days of Total Fire Ban or other extreme weather conditions. Please ensure that your emergency contact details are included on the reverse of your U3A name badge. Current members of the class will have priority until 11th Dec 2020, after which enrolments will be taken in time order. Importantly, please note that participants CANNOT enrol in both Bushwalking classes.

This course does not operate during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Various - See Tutor for Details
Dates: 3 Feb 2027 - 24 Nov 2027
Schedule: Weekly on Wednesday 9:00 AM - 12 noon
Tutor: Dot Radings

27EXE004 Dance for Fun and Fitness

Love to dance? This is a safe, non-judgmental dance class which allows you to work at your own level. No experience required. You will learn choreographed dances over several sessions in a variety of styles and music. Great for both physical and mental health. Sweat a little, smile a lot!

This class operates during Terms 1 and 2. This class does not operate on either Public or School Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub MP 1, 2 & 3 - Multipurpose Rooms 1, 2 and 3
Dates: 1 Feb 2027 - 21 Jun 2027
Schedule: Weekly on Monday 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Tutor: Beryl Birrell

27EXE005 Lawn Bowls

Would you like to play Lawn Bowls? Our course is open to both beginners and experienced players, and is being held at the Cockatoo and District Bowls Club (2 McBride St, Cockatoo) on a weekly basis, every Monday afternoon. All equipment will be provided, and if you are a learner, there will be experienced bowlers there to help you! So come along and give it a try - fun and exercise for everyone!

This course operates during School Holidays, but not on Public Holidays.

Location: Cockatoo Lawn Bowls - Cockatoo & District Bowls Club 2 McBride Street, Cockatoo 3781
Dates: 1 Feb 2027 - 29 Nov 2027
Schedule: Weekly on Monday 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Tutor: Robert Whimpey

27EXE006 Pickleball (Tuesdays)

Pickleball is a fun paddle sport which you can learn in minutes and play for a lifetime. There is a net, paddles and a lightweight ball and you can play singles or doubles. Pickleball is lower impact than tennis and has features of table tennis and badminton. Young or older or in-between, you'll enjoy this game which can be competitive or just fun and social. Pickleball will keep you active without being too energetic. If you want to get involved in a fun, social and active game, Pickleball is for you!

This course operates during School Holidays, but not on Public Holidays.

Location: Cockatoo Stadium - Cockatoo Indoor Sports Complex YMCA, Mountain Road Reserve, Cockatoo 3781
Dates: 19 Jan 2027 - 14 Dec 2027
Schedule: Weekly on Tuesday 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Tutor: Robert Whimpey

27EXE007 Pickleball (Thursdays)

Pickleball is a fun paddle sport which you can learn in minutes and play for a lifetime. There is a net, paddles and a lightweight ball and you can play singles or doubles. Pickleball is lower impact than tennis and has features of table tennis and badminton. Young or older or in-between, you'll enjoy this game which can be competitive or just fun and social. Pickleball will keep you active without being too energetic. If you want to get involved in a fun, social and active game, Pickleball is for you!

This course operates during School Holidays, but not on Public Holidays.

Location: Cockatoo Stadium - Cockatoo Indoor Sports Complex YMCA, Mountain Road Reserve, Cockatoo 3781
Dates: 21 Jan 2027 - 16 Dec 2027
Schedule: Weekly on Thursday 10:00 AM - 12 noon
Tutor: Robert Whimpey

27EXE008 Table Tennis

We’re an enthusiastic group of table tennis players who believe in fitness, fun, and a good laugh! Whether you're a seasoned player or just starting out, our sessions are all about enjoying the game while getting a great workout. You don’t need to be an Olympic champion to join us — everyone is welcome, and we love to keep the atmosphere light and friendly. We meet every week, holidays or not to ensure the fun never stops! Come swing by, play hard and laugh even harder! Please note: Classes are held twice weekly on every Tuesday (9:30am-12:00 Noon) & Friday (9:30am-12:00 Noon), and participants may join in both Table Tennis classes.

This course operates during both School and Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub MP 1, 2 & 3 - Multipurpose Rooms 1, 2 and 3
Dates: 5 Jan 2027 - 21 Dec 2027
Schedule: Weekly on Tuesday, Friday 9:30 AM - 12 noon
Tutor: Ray Schmidt
Secondary Tutor: Norma Pugh

27EXE009 Yoga

Rooted in the rich traditions of India, yoga is a holistic practice that harmonises the body and mind through movement, breath control, and meditation. Our group invites you to experience the physical and spiritual benefits of yoga in a welcoming community. Whether you're new to yoga or have an established practice, our sessions are designed to help you improve your health, boost your happiness, and find balance. Together, we'll create a peaceful space for personal growth and connection. Our sessions continue through public and school holidays, so you can maintain your practice without interruption. Come join us and discover the power of yoga in a serene and supportive setting.

This course operates during both School and Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub MP 1, 2 & 3 - Multipurpose Rooms 1, 2 and 3
Dates: 7 Jan 2027 - 23 Dec 2027
Schedule: Weekly on Thursday 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Tutor: Ray Schmidt

Explore your creativity

27ART001 Art: Open-Medium

Join and explore with us, Art: Open-Medium such as Water-Colour, Oil, Acrylics and Pastels to list a few. Hands on with special emphasis on developing one's own style. Show and tell at the beginning of each class to openly critique each other's work and constructively comment and debate the merits of each work.

This course does not operate during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub MP 1 - Multipurpose Room 1
Dates: 12 Feb 2027 - 26 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, second, fourth Friday 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Tutor: Iain Johnson

27ART002 Botanical Art

This is a class where people interested in art, plants, and botany can learn to draw and paint plants in watercolour with botanical accuracy. Those taking part may be complete beginners or have some drawing or painting experience.

This course does not operate during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub MP 1 - Multipurpose Room 1
Dates: 3 Feb 2027 - 17 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, first, third Wednesday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Tutor: Kay Craig

27ART003 Calligraphy (Beginners)

This course is for Beginners, and calligraphers who may have had up to three years' experience. For the Beginners in the group, the course covers tuition in different scripts such as Uncial using broad-nibbed dip pens. For those who have mastered some scripts the course will offer tuition in other scripts and use of those scripts to enhance small projects.

This course operates for the first two terms only, and not during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub MP 1 - Multipurpose Room 1
Dates: 10 Feb 2027 - 23 Jun 2027
Schedule: Monthly, second, fourth Wednesday 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Tutor: Nola Bianco

27ART004 Calligraphy (Advanced Self-Learning Group)

This group is for those members who have a knowledge of calligraphy. The class will operate as follows. Each member will present a project for others to learn and complete that will enhance our calligraphy skills.

This course operates during School but not on Public Holidays.

Location: Meeting Room - Hills Hub Upstairs Meeting Room
Dates: 1 Feb 2027 - 1 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, first Monday 10:00 AM - 12 noon
Tutors: Anne Richardson, Tanya Cooke

27ART005 Encounter and Connection Through the Arts and Nature

Exploring together – live music and sound, creative expression, and healing energies - to connect with what resonates within.

This course does not operate during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub Foyer - Downstairs Meeting Space
Dates: 5 Feb 2027 - 5 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, first Friday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Tutor: Mary Knights-Rutten

27ART006 Photography for the Inexperienced

This class is open to members who want to improve their photography, using a camera or a phone, but feel they need more assistance with the basics. The program will cover equipment, camera and phone settings, composition, lighting, focus, using different approaches in different situations… and more. Current members of U3A Photography, who believe they fit the bill, are encouraged to enrol. New members welcome.

This course operates for Terms 1 and 2 only. It does not operate during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub MP 2 - Multipurpose Room 2
Dates: 24 Feb 2027 - 23 Jun 2027
Schedule: Monthly, fourth Wednesday 10:00 AM - 12 noon
Tutor: Paul Bianco

27ART007 Photography Club

This class is designed for the more experienced members who are looking for activities that apply and challenge their knowledge and abilities. The class will rely on members making suggestions and implementing projects, speakers and outings, in which the group will happily participate – a bit like Photography 2026.

This course operates for Terms 1 and 2 only. This course does not operate during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub MP 2 - Multipurpose Room 2
Dates: 10 Feb 2027 - 23 Jun 2027
Schedule: Monthly, second, fourth Wednesday 10:00 AM - 12 noon
Tutor: Paul Bianco

27ART008 Reflections on Rock/Pop

Join us as we continue our journey investigating popular and rock music genres. We will also explore genres such as blues, folk, jazz, rhythm and blues, and country and western. The course will look at important milestones, including significant musicians, performers, song writers, record companies and producers, technological innovation, and social context. This course is a continuation of the previous year's course, but new participants can easily join in. The course does not require any special musical theory knowledge. Instead, it does require an enthusiasm and willingness to engage in diverse musical styles and genres.

This course does not operate during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub MP 2 - Multipurpose Room 2
Dates: 17 Feb 2027 - 17 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, third Wednesday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Tutor: Jon Snyder

27ART009 Seven Centuries of Music

This course explores the history of Western Music from the late Middle Ages to the start of the Twentieth Century. It samples the styles, themes and fashions of music that had been popular over this long period, and discusses the societal forces that had influenced them.

A minimum of eight (8) participants is required for this course to run. This course does not operate during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T1 - Training Room 1
Dates: 3 Feb 2027 - 7 Apr 2027
Schedule: Weekly on Wednesday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Tutor: Eddie Vaughan, Julie Shackleford

27ART010 The British East India Company: History, Art & Artifacts

The British East India Company (1600-1874): the rise and fall of an empire, focussing on India. How did they use art to promote their goods, including tea, silks and drugs! And how did they come to be the largest company in the world at that time? This course will be operated in 'hybrid' mode, with live classes at the Hills Hub also streamed *via* Zoom.

This course operates during School Holidays, but not on Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T 1 & 2 - Training Rooms 1 and 2
Dates: 11 Feb 2027 - 27 May 2027
Schedule: Monthly, second, fourth Thursday 10:00 AM - 12 noon
Tutor: Anne Richardson

Games and hobbies

27GAM001 Bridge

Enjoy great social and mental stimulation by playing Bridge in a friendly environment! Both beginners and experts are welcome. If appropriate, lessons will be held separate from play sessions. Our emphasis is on enjoyment rather than intense competition, so come along and join us!

This course operates during both School and Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T2 - Training Room 2
Dates: 3 Feb 2027 - 24 Nov 2027
Schedule: Weekly on Wednesday 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
Tutor: John Ritchie

27GAM002 Games Club

Do you fancy a game? Canasta? 500? Chess? Backgammon? or maybe Draughts? Whether you're an experienced player or a complete novice, this is the class for you! Basic instructions will be provided, but we see this as just an opportunity for people to get together and rediscover games they used to play, or to learn something brand new. You can even bring your own games along, and share them with others in the group. There's nothing like discovering a new game - from board games to cards!

This course does not operate during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T2 - Training Room 2
Dates: 12 Feb 2027 - 23 April 2027
Schedule: Monthly, second, fourth Friday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Tutor: Lindsay McNaught, Roz McNaught

27GAM003 Rummikub

Rummikub is a tile-based game for 2 to 4 players that combines Rummy and Mahjong. This is for experienced and beginners to enjoy a friendly game. All welcome.

This course does not operate during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T2 - Training Room 2
Dates: 5 Feb 2027 - 5 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, first Friday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Tutor: Elysha Neylan

27GAM004 Scrabble 1

Scrabble is a word game which can be fun, challenging and competitive. It can help mental stimulation, spelling and vocabulary and sometimes we learn something new. New players, beginners or experts, male or female are most welcome!

This course operates during School Holidays, but not on Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T 1 & 2 - Training Rooms 1 and 2
Dates: 9 Feb 2027 - 14 Dec 2027
Schedule: Monthly, second Tuesday 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM
Tutor: Norma Pugh

27GAM005 Scrabble 2

Scrabble is a word game which does wonders for your spelling and vocabulary. You don't have to be an expert. Beginners are very welcome!

This course operates during School Holidays, but not on Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T 1 & 2 - Training Rooms 1 and 2
Dates: 23 Feb 2027 - 23 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, fourth Tuesday 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM
Tutor: Kath Yates

Learn a new language

27LAN001 French Conversation

Course participants need to have a basic level of French. The class will have discussions around a range of topics - books, films, family and world happenings.

This class does not operate during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T 1 & 2 - Training Rooms 1 and 2
Dates: 16 Feb 2027 - 16 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, third Tuesday 10:00 AM - 12 noon
Tutor: Margaret Goldberg

27LAN002 German (Beginners and Intermediate)

Make your next European trip so much more enjoyable! Learn basic German conversation in a friendly, supportive and relaxed atmosphere! As a component of the course, you will also discover aspects of German culture and history. Whether you are completely new to German, the first language of over a hundred million Europeans, or have some previous knowledge, you will feel 'Willkommen' (welcome) in this class! Current members of the class will have priority until 10th Dec 2024, after which enrolments will be taken in time order.

This course does not operate during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T 1 & 2 - Training Rooms 1 and 2
Dates: 2 Feb 2027 - 30 Nov 2027
Schedule: Weekly on Tuesday 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Tutors: John Maguire, Marilyn Huber, Miriam Davies

27LAN003 Italian (Beginners)

Learn Italian in a relaxed and friendly environment. No prior knowledge or experience required. The course includes Italian cultural activities such as movies and songs, a visit and lunch in Lygon Street and Christmas lunch at the Tutor's home.

This course does not operate during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T2 - Training Room 2
Dates: 5 Feb 2027 - 19 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, first, third Friday 10:00 AM - 12 noon
Tutor: Dolores Bellemo

27LAN004 Italian (Intermediate 1)

Some knowledge of Italian and a love of Italian culture are assumed in this class which aims to reinforce Italian grammar, reading, and conversation. The course includes Italian cultural activities such as movies and songs, a visit and lunch in Lygon Street, and Christmas lunch at the tutor's home.

This course does not operate during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T2 - Training Room 2
Dates: 12 Feb 2027 - 26 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, second, fourth Friday 10:00 AM - 12 noon
Tutor: Dolores Bellemo

27LAN005 Italian (Intermediate 2)

This course will reinforce what's already been learnt plus new grammar which as yet has not been taught.

This course does not operate during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T1 - Training Room 1
Dates: 5 Feb 2027 - 19 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, first, third Friday 10:00 AM - 12 noon
Tutor: Aldo Bellemo

27LAN006 Italian Conversation (Advanced Students)

This Class is mainly a conversation class. Emphasis will be placed on Italian Culture, Art, Architecture and Italian life in general.

This course does not operate during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T1 - Training Room 1
Dates: 12 Feb 2027 - 26 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, second, fourth Friday 10:00 AM - 12 noon
Tutor: Aldo Bellemo

27LAN007 Japanese Self-Learning Group

A course for '2024 Japanese for Beginners' members wishing to continue their journey into the Japanese language and culture, as well as new members committed to Japanese learning. This is a self-learning and study group where members work to enhance their Japanese skills beyond their existing capability in a supportive environment. Active member participation is expected. Set weekly activities combined with a variety of learning tools will engage all participants in their Japanese journey and immerse us further into the world of the Japanese language and culture. Lessons are divided into four parts:

1. Either speaking to each other, or sentence construction
2. Audio sessions *via* Borrow Box, Audible, etc.
3. A Japanese movie of video (part of)
4. Self-study and interaction between students.

This course operates during both School and Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T 1 - Training Room 1
Dates: 5 Feb 2027 - 26 Nov 2027
Schedule: Weekly on Friday 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Tutor: Mary Oke

Music

27MUS001 Music Jamming

This activity is an opportunity to give like-minded members an opportunity to get together, jam and have fun. It is to be an informal gathering around the grand piano at the Hub, with a few guitars, a ukulele or two and who knows, sharing songs selected by the members of the group. The group will meet from 2pm to approximately 4pm on the 2nd Thursday each month.

This course does not operate during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub Foyer - Downstairs Meeting Space
Dates: 11 Feb 2027 - 11 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, second Thursday 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Tutor: Paul Bianco

27MUS002 Musicians Sharing Group

Do you delight in making music by playing a musical instrument? This weekly gathering aims to give musicians a chance to perform for and with each other in a friendly and non-judgemental environment. Both individual and small group performances are encouraged, as well as participation in the whole group music. Whether you have recently started playing for the first time or are picking up an instrument after a long break this may be what you have been looking for. Anne Elizabeth, the second tutor for the group, arranges music for the specific mix of instruments present and leads the group playing. We encourage all instrumentalists to join us.

This course operates during school terms only and generally not on public holidays unless otherwise decided at the time.

Location: Evergreens Senior Citizens Centre 8 Church St, Emerald 3782
Dates: 2 Feb 2027 - 30 Nov 2027
Schedule: Weekly on Tuesday 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Tutors: Gaye Dunstan, Anne Elizabeth

27MUS003 Over the Hills Singers

Two hours of fun, social contact and well-being through singing. Our program incorporates preparation for singing - relaxation, breathing and vocal exercises - canons, rounds, songs in unison and harmony of various genres - traditional, folk, musicals, spirituals, modern. There are no auditions, and the ability to read music is not a prerequisite.

Please note that Covid-Safe plans have been developed specifically for courses involving singers and musicians, and all participants must abide by these requirements.

This course does not operate during School or Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub MP 1 & 2 - Multipurpose Rooms 1 and 2
Dates: 3 Feb 2027 - 8 Dec 2027
Schedule: Weekly on Wednesday 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Tutor: Ros Winter
Secondary Tutor: Graham Dunstan

Science and the environment

27ENV001 Evolving Marvels of the Universe

The full title of this course is 'Evolving Marvels of the Universe: Keeping up with Physics, Astronomy and Cosmology'. We frequently hear of marvelous discoveries in science reported in the news. Mysteries of dark matter, entangled particles, black holes colliding and astounding images from the depths of space. This new series follows from the tutorial 'Cosmological and Astronomical Ideas' I gave for several years. It plans to explain these emerging wonders so that everyone can appreciate them.

This course operates during School Holidays, but not on Public Holidays. Note that this course begins in March.

Location: Hills Hub T 1 & 2 - Training Rooms 1 and 2
Schedule: Monthly, second Monday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Tutor: Martin Buoncristiani

27ENV002 Gemmology

Gemmology,will be led by Cornelis Moorhoff, a retiree and a recent Diploma in Gemmology Graduate. Refractive Index, Pleocroism, Polariscope analysis, Specific Gravity, Spectroscope & UV-analysis and then Microscope analysis for inclusion determination, applicable to identify different stones. Some basic crystallography. Hands-on work with instruments. Type of rocks where gems are found. Natural gems vs synthetic stones vs treated gems - with examples. Classes of gems: e.g. quartz, corundum, beryl, garnet, diamond, other silicate gems & certain synthetics [moissanite & cubic zirconia] - with examples. Ornamental gems [e.g. agate, chalcedony, opal, variscite, serpentine etc] - with examples. More hands-on practical analysis.

Location: Hills Hub MP 3 - Multipurpose Room 3
Dates: 5 Mar 2027 - 19 Mar 2027
Schedule: Weekly on Friday 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Tutor: Cornelis Moorhoff

27ENV003 Spotlight on the Environment

Each month, we will examine current 'hot topics' in environmental science - from climate change to pollution and beyond. We will look back at the history of the subject (and how that has influenced our current opinions) and forward to our future prospects. As usual, we'll also have some fun along the way. This course will be operated in 'hybrid' mode, with live classes at the Hills Hub also streamed *via* Zoom.

This course operates during School Holidays, but not on Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub MP 1 - Multipurpose Room 1
Dates: 18 Feb 2027 - 18 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, third Thursday 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Tutor: Bruce Richardson

Social and leisure activities

27SOC001 Cinema Classics

Cinema Classics is a group that meets monthly to view movies of interest – “classics” in one sense or another - from Australia and around the world. The programme includes a first half featuring a selection of short films (including animation, drama, comedy, music and documentary). Suggestions for films from the group members are more than welcome. We rate each film, and during 2026 the average rating by group members for movies shown was over 4.5 stars out 5, with a number receiving close to a 5-star rating.

This course operates during School Holidays but not on Public Holidays.

Location: Gemco - Gem Theatre 19 Kilvington Drive, Emerald 3782
Dates: 22 Feb 2027 - 22 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, fourth Monday 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Tutor: Bruce Richardson

27SOC002 Coffee Club

The Hills are full of interesting cafes and coffee shops. Let's sample them together. This is a good opportunity to meet and get to know other U3A members. Bring your “bucket list” of interesting cafes to our first meeting. We will work out the rest of our programme from all of the suggestions on that day.

This course operates during School Holidays, but not on Public Holidays.

Location: Various - See Tutor for Details
Dates: 18 Feb 2027 - 18 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, third Thursday 10:00 AM - 12 noon
Tutor: Viki Withers

27SOC003 Exploring Victoria 1

Join our very friendly, collaborative group as we explore some of the many interesting museums, galleries, streetscapes, historic buildings and parks and gardens in and around Melbourne and its surrounds. We have the option of carpooling, from Pepe’s land on the Beaconsfield/Emerald Road or driving to Belgrave station to use public transport. Our first outing together is over lunch to brainstorm some ideas for the year ahead. Each member of the group is asked to research and plan an outing of their choice, either on their own or paired with someone else. You will be given a template of what is needed. Once you have planned out the activity, you send me the details by email and I will send it out to our group through the Emerald U3A website. Wherever we go, the winning formula is coffee upon arrival and lunch after the activity, before returning home. Participants cannot enrol in both Exploring Victoria 1 and 2.

This course operates during School Holidays, but not on Public Holidays.

Location: Various - See Tutor for Details
Dates: 4 Feb 2027 - 4 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, first Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Tutor: Marilyn Shinners
Secondary Tutor: Sandy Meyers

27SOC004 Exploring Victoria 2

Join our friendly group as we explore many of the interesting museums, galleries, streetscapes, historic buildings and parks and gardens in and around Melbourne and sometimes beyond. Members can carpool, use public transport or drive independently. We hold a planning meeting in January where we plan our trip schedule for the year and which members would like to organise an outing of their choice. Outings usually last from 9 to 4. Wherever we go the winning formula is a coffee on arrival and lunch after the activity before we head home. Each year we try to build in an overnight trip. Participants cannot enrol in both Exploring Victoria 1 and Exploring Victoria 2.

This course operates during School Holidays, but not on Public Holidays.

Location: Various - See Tutor for Details
Dates: 4 Feb 2027 - 4 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, first Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Tutors: Anne Carter, Jill Davis

27SOC005 Gardening Group 1

We explore public and private gardens and have guest speakers come to The Hub. Participants cannot enrol in both Gardening 1 and 2.

This course operates during School Holidays, but not on Public Holidays.

Location: Various - See Tutor for Details
Dates: 15 Feb 2027 - 15 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, third Monday 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Tutors: Pam Toone, Liz Baxter

27SOC006 Gardening Group 2

Open to all who are interested in gardens/gardening. We visit gardens both private and public, discuss garden problems and invite guest speakers. With a shared interest, we find we enjoy each others company very much. Participants cannot enrol in both Gardening 1 and 2.

This course operates during School Holidays, but not on Public Holidays.

Location: Various - See Tutor for Details
Dates: 15 Feb 2027 - 15 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, third Monday 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Tutor: Marg Edwards

27SOC007 Social Connections

For those seeking connection and good company, this is a perfect chance to expand your social circle, meet others and enjoy shared moments, whether it's over a meal, a conversation, or attending interesting events like plays, cinema, exhibitions, or concerts together. It is a great way to meet people and discover new friendships.

This group provides a warm and inviting space to build meaningful connections in a relaxed and informal setting. Some gatherings may simply involve getting together for conversation and refreshments, while others may take us out into the community for a meal, an outing or an activity.

Activities don't always involve the whole group. While many outings attract a larger gathering, members with particular interests may also get together in smaller groups of two or three - for example, to see a particular film, exhibition or performance. This means there is often someone to share an activity with rather than having to go on your own. There is no pressure to take part in everything; members simply join in with the activities that interest them.

The members themselves help shape the activities, suggesting places to go and things to do. This allows the group to reflect the varied interests of its members and keeps the program enjoyable and interesting.

The program continues through the Public and School Holidays, providing regular opportunities to stay connected throughout the year.

Join us in a supportive and engaging atmosphere, enjoy some good company and perhaps make some lasting new friendships.

This course operates on both School and Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T 1 & 2 - Training Rooms 1 and 2
Dates: 6 Jan 2027 - 20 Dec 2027
Schedule: Weekly on Wednesday 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Tutor: Ray Schmidt

27SOC008 Wine Appreciation

A course for people who enjoy wine and want to know more about it – how grapes are grown, how wine is made, how to taste wine, how to enjoy wine. Our classes include a tutorial and a tasting. The tutorial covers technical aspects of viticulture, oenology and the sensory evaluation of wine. The tastings are of wines selected around a theme or comparison strategy, e.g. a particular grape variety, or wines from a particular geographic region, a comparison of French *vs* Australian wines.

All the wines are brought to the sessions by the members of the class and are paid for by the members themselves. The idea is that every member takes one turn during the year to bring 4 wines to the value of $100 minimum. Alternatively, two members can work together and provide more expensive wines from the $200 that would then be available. Over the years, this joint approach, allowing some high-end wines, has provided some of our best tastings. Guidance is provided (from a friendly but very experienced class member) in the selection of the of the wines and the strategy/theme behind selections).

This course operates during both School and Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T 1 & 2 - Training Rooms 1 and 2
Dates: 5 Feb 2027 - 19 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, first, third Friday 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Tutors: Russell Soderlund, John Wall

27SOC009 Wine Tourism

This course will focus on specific wine regions both local and international, their specialties history and “Enotourismo”, more so than technical aspects of wine. Of course, we will sample some wines and have an evaluation process. Tastings will be limited to a maximum of 4 x 50ml keeping well within guidelines for safe driving. Participants need to bring their own glasses: 5 suggested (1 for water or rejects) The cost per session will be in the range of $5 to $15 per person to allow for significant variation in the wine price by region or category. The price of each session will be available to members beforehand, and as the course develops members will be able to contribute to the discussion of ideas for upcoming region selection. There will be opportunity but not obligation for members to select wines and present. Cheers to broadening horizons!

This course operates on both School and Public Holidays.

Location: Hills Hub T 1 & 2 - Training Rooms 1 and 2
Dates: 29 Jan 2027 - 26 Nov 2027
Schedule: Monthly, last Friday 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Tutor: Russell Marnock