



VOLUME 25 NO. 1

FEBRUARY 2011

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Welcome everyone to 2011 with a special welcome to our new members.

Our year began with a bang with over 60 long and short term courses on offer - a fantastic number for a U3A of our size. Thanks to members who have volunteered as class leaders and to Win Jodell our Course Co-ordinator for discovering and encouraging some of the volunteers. Win spent countless hours preparing the prospectus, arranging venues and juggling a crowded timetable. Win would be the first person to acknowledge the help she has received, particularly from Bridget Leach.

Our January enrolment days went extremely well despite the persistent rain. Win and Sue Turner and all their assistants had systems in place that ensured member and class enrolments were quickly and efficiently processed. It was great to see so many "old" members happy to be back as well as lots of new faces as well.

It's going to be a great year with more short courses and special events to be announced later in the year. Being a history nut I am particularly looking forward to our visit to the Tutankhamen Exhibition in March. If you intend to go put your name on the list quickly as the bus is limited to 57 seats.

I'd like to end by looking back to Fresh Ideas Day held last September. Members attending the day were asked to offer suggestions in the following areas:

- how to better meet member expectations
- improvements in our communications
- the popularity and timing of holiday programs
- improving our administration and making better use of our volunteers
- new classes for 2011
- addressing the changes facing U3A



We hope you will notice improvements following the implementation of several suggestions, including:

- re-arranged seating at coffee mornings to make the meetings more friendly
- appointment of Val Case to look after new members at coffee mornings as a sea of unknown, albeit friendly, faces can be daunting
- more information on our membership form about your skills and space to list tasks you are willing to help with
- a swag of new courses - notably in science, art and cooking, plus more short courses

I hope to announce the implementation of more ideas during the year.

Now lets get on with our classes!

-- Peter Stephens
U3A President



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U3A OFFICE DETAILS

The Office is at the Uniting Church Complex,
Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine.

Office Hours are...

Mondays, 1.30 – 3.30 pm
Tuesdays, 1.30 – 3.30 pm
Wednesdays, 10– 12 noon
Phone: 5472 22349

Web Page: www.u3acastlemaine.com

Current 2011 Subscription Fee

\$40 + \$10 for mailing of newsletter if required.
Members joining after June 30 pay 50% of the
subscription fee.

**PLEASE INFORM THE OFFICE
OF ANY CHANGE IN YOUR
CONTACT DETAILS**

Friday Coffee Morning Roster

**4th February: Play Reading, and Music
Appreciation**

**4th March: Photography & Digital Imaging, and
Solo Group,**

**Coffee Mornings are held on the first
Friday in the month at 10.00 am
In the Uniting Church Hall**

The Deadline for the March newsletter

Monday, 21 February at 3 p.m.

Send contributions to...
u3acastlemainenews@gmail.com

If this is difficult, leave articles at the office
before the deadline.

Thoughts from the Course Coordinator

Welcome to the start of a new U3A year. Enrolment days were bustling with activity, happy reconnection for many and a time for me to briefly meet new members. I trust you all enjoy the choices of classes made for the year ahead. The selection this year is remarkable for a town this size. The generosity of the Course Leaders is unquestioned.

There are some alterations below so please check carefully to see if they affect you.

Bloomsbury Group Commencement date changed to 12th July from 2pm till 4pm at 49 Hargraves St, then fortnightly comprising 6 sessions and finishing on 4th October 2011.

Signposts in English with Diana Collier will commence Tuesday 22nd February at 12 midday in the U3A Office. See separate notice in this Newsletter.

Electromagnetic Pollution Issues with Janobai Smith was wrongly named in the Prospectus, Apologies to Janobai.

Mindfulness for Wellbeing with Karina de Wolfe has a change of commencement date: 13th April then 20th, 27th April and 4th May.

Gardening in Castlemaine. Change of commencement date to 8th February due to family circumstances. The following sessions will be on the first Tuesday of the month as advertised.

Updated link to Latrobe <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/timetable/timetable.php?year=2011>

Julian Burnside QC and Human Rights Advocate. I am very pleased to advise Julian will speak in Castlemaine on Saturday 26th March after lunch, in the Town Hall. Please put the date in your diary. An exact time will be given in coming weeks.

Castlemaine State Festival I am reminding you early that the dates for our Festival this year are 1st to 10th April. During that first week of April the Uniting Church Venues will not be available. Those with classes there could cancel for that week when attendances are notoriously low ... or find an alternative venue. Get in touch with me if that causes some extra problem.

Please keep your Prospectus to refer to during the year. It may be that you **do** have time to join another class at a later date. Alternatively the Prospectus is on the internet at: <http://www.u3acastlemaine.com/> and will contain updated information, timetables and Newsletters as they are published.

Putting the 2011 Prospectus together was a big undertaking. However this year the métier was familiar enough for me to know who and when to ask for help. So I do want to thank Bridget who not only was always there for me but has all the breathtaking computer skills I lack. Besides we are both Mac owners and that made us even more compatible! It was wonderful for me to be able to share some of the work with Sue, Marion and Elizabeth also. Tom has always been available as a reference point with advice when needed. Thank you all. -- Win Jodell

Enrolment Day Receipts

The enrolment days were a great success. We welcomed 36 new members and 168 of the 2010 members renewed their subscriptions for 2011.

To reduce the queue this year we did not write the receipts on the spot. Your receipts will be available from the treasurer at the next coffee morning on the 4th of February, and after that from the office or from the leaders of the classes when they start. If anyone would like their receipt posted to them please leave a message on the office telephone.

For anyone that could not attend enrolment days please mail in your enrolment forms and cheques with renewal forms as soon as possible so that class leaders know how many people will be ready to start in February.

-- Sue Turner

On Second Thoughts ...

Here we are at the start of another action-packed U3A year. Almost anything you could possibly want, to learn, find friends, study, grow, exercise, teach, cook, visit or discuss, is on offer to you from our wide and varied range of courses. How lucky are we! Win and her helpers did a sterling job preparing the 2011 Prospectus from which to make your choices. I'm sure you'd agree.



It seems such an age since our December coffee morning when that meeting's agenda was very quickly dealt with, before being treated to some home-grown (so to speak) entertainment from our U3A Singers, our Ballet ensemble, and our very own magician, Phil Maygaard. What fun and mayhem **he** created. Then to finish off the festivities, what a marvellous lunch, made, prepared and beautifully presented to us by the Bridge group. Thank you for that wonderful repast, you truly treated us royally.

So quickly after that came Christmas and New Year, to be celebrated and enjoyed in whatever form each of us recognised best. Regrettably the New Year brought sad tidings to some of our members though, and I'm sure we all offer sincere condolences to you David Kennedy on the loss of your wife. Our thoughts are with you. And also with you Barbara Robinson as you recover from that mild stroke, (though I have to say, I should think any stroke be it mild or otherwise, is a serious thing isn't it?) Get well soon hey?

Lastly I would like to say a very big sincere "Thank You" to our web master Bruce Carruthers, who has put this and the December newsletter together for you. Now I have donned the "L" plates, and from the March newsletter, will be "on my own". Elizabeth did such a terrific job as your last editor, that I am quaking in my boots about taking over from her. Please don't take me to task if I get an apostrophe in the wrong place or let a misspelt word slip through. Elizabeth, Betty and Valorie have been very generous with their help so time will tell if I have been a good pupil, but I'll do my best. But don't think you ladies can get off lightly though. You are just a phone call away.

See you on a course somewhere,

-- Barbara Bunton



Committee Member Wanted

Your enthusiasm, ideas and a little of your time and energy wanted.
In exchange fun, fellowship and job satisfaction guaranteed.
U3A has a vacancy on its Committee for the remainder of the 2010/11 term.
If you're interested or would like to know more speak with our President Peter Stephens, Secretary Betty Johnson or any of our other Committee members.



Are You Holding a U3A Key/s?

I am drawing up a new Key Register and would like any **member** holding any **keys** to send me an email or contact me.

Please notify me if you are holding any key at all.
It is important to keep track of all keys within U3A.

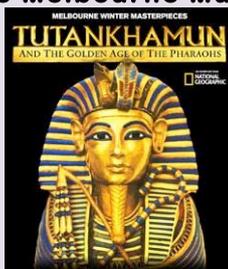
Thanking you for your co operation.

Betty Johnson - Hon Secretary

Phone: 5472 3834

Email: beejay@mmnet.com.au

Visit to Tutankhamun Exhibition and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs at the Melbourne Museum



'For the first time in Australia's history the record breaking Tutankhamun exhibition visits Melbourne. This is the only Australian stop before this exhibition of Egypt's treasures return to Cairo'

So don't miss out!! **The Special Events sub-committee have arranged an excellent package for this visit, and as seating in the bus is limited, please book early.**

When: Monday 30th May 2011

Cost: \$48.50 This covers bus, entrance and introductory short film.

Arrangements: Bus leaves from front of the Market Building at 8.45 am and returns to the Market Building by 5 pm.

Number of places on the bus: 57

Payment must be made to secure the booking (cheque made out to U3A Castlemaine with your name printed on the back and name of excursion).

You can pay by cash or cheque at the February Coffee Morning OR by cheque only at the office, during opening hours.

Remember there is **No refund for bus travel** if you need to cancel.

A Continuing Course Omitted from Prospectus

Signposts in English: a socio-linguistic glance

Diana Collier 5443 0137

Course Description

Six (option of 2 more) discrete sessions on pivotal developments/changes in social and linguistic English. Beginning with prehistory of language as we know it (lacking 'grammar, with 'grammar'), then continuing with early English language and samples. Social and political events, the printing press of the middle ages, invasion, travel, trade, colonisation each has far-reaching effects, on vocabulary, usages of language, dialects. DVDs will be used where possible.

Entry Criterion

Interest in language and its structure and usage.

Expectation of Participants

It is hoped that participants will have some background in the history of language, or a keen interest in the variations of speech, writing, the 'music' of language.

Time and Venue

The last Tuesday of each month in the office 12 - 1.30pm starting 22nd February.

If you are interested in joining this class please email Win Jodell at

u3acastlemainecourses@gmail.com

or phone Win : 54723792

The first unit for consideration will be the Age of Governor Macquarie. Probably the greatest of the early Governors in Australian colonial days, his name is remembered in many aspects of our modern Australian society. We shall look at developments in infrastructure, education, his humane treatment and rehabilitation of the convicts, and his relationships with the indigenous inhabitants. The study will last for about four sessions, i.e. two months.

The first two sessions in February, will be at 2.00pm on Monday 14th and Monday 28th, at the home of Geoff and Beth, 9 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine. We are looking forward to seeing you, and welcoming new members to our talkative group.

Electromagnetic Pollution Issues

Janobai Smith 54734153

SINGLE SESSION 10am -12 noon
Thursday, 24th February

"You cannot see it, taste it or smell it, but electromagnetic radiation is one of the most pervasive environmental exposures in industrialised countries today" Cindy Sage, *Biolinitiative Report*, 2007.

This presentation focuses on the sources of electromagnetic pollution we are exposed to/ how we can identify them, and what we can do to lessen our exposure to them. We will also look at why, from the viewpoint of our health and the environment, it is important to minimise exposure levels.

There will be an opportunity during the session to break into groups and try out a **Stetzerizer** meter (for measuring dirty electricity within a building), **Milligauss** meter (for measuring magnetic fields), and Radio Frequency Field Strength meter. Participants are welcome to bring along any particular item whose field they might wish to test (for example, a clock radio or notebook computer).

Paper Mache

Diana Collier 5443 0137

Papier mache is re-pulped paper mixed with glue/paste. It may have originated in China (BCE) and by 1500s was used for doll heads. In the early 18th century in France trays, boxes, dolls, masks were made from papier mache. . In England gilded papier mache was used as an inexpensive alternative to wood-carved furniture and by 1800 England was well known for its papier mache furniture. In the same century America used the pulp to fashion canoes. Today it is not used extensively, but beautiful articles can be made and decorated with for example Oriental motifs and the highly glazed.

The first session will introduce ways of making the pulp and the paste/glue and considering models and articles. Would **prospective participants** please see the convenor for the lists of material to bring along to the class.

Convenor: Diana Collier 5443 0137 Email collierd@vic.chariot.net.au

Time: 2pm

Location: Room beside the Kindergarten Room, (Uniting Church Complex, Lyttleton St)

Dates: 1st and 3rd Tues. In the month : 1st Feb and 15th Feb et seq.

The Friday Garden Group is one of the few original Castlemaine U3A study groups that still remain as part of our U3A. It had its origin in 1988, when Castlemaine U3A was founded. The convenor until the end of last year, 2010, was Cath Polinelli. We wish Cath and Jack all the best in their planned "retirement" to Bendigo. This year we trust that we shall learn a little bit about how to cope with the "change of climate" that we have experienced in the past 12 months.

The first gathering will be in the Uniting Church Sunday School room on Friday 18th February, at 10.00am. We are looking forward to welcoming you all back, along with some new members. When you come please don't forget to bring with you, some good ideas about things we need to investigate with our gardens.

New Computer Class at The Octopus

Introduction to "Microsoft Word"

Lyn Hall will be Tutor for this introductory course for beginners. It is aimed at people with little or no computer or word processing experience. Learn how to switch on a computer, use the tools in "Word" and arrange and save documents. Email and Internet can be included in this course as the student progresses.

All that is needed from you is a willingness to learn and to practice at home.

Sessions will be held from 9am each Friday. Times will be arranged with students. No classes on U3A Coffee Mornings.

Venue: The Octopus, Duke Street, Castlemaine.

Course Tutor: Lyn Hall 54722316

Free Computers

For those in need of a computer, I have a couple of free ones available. These are **ex** school computers so are nothing flash but they will happily do word processing, photo editing and they are internet ready.

Please Contact: David Sime 5472 3756

Apple Mac Computer Help

When it comes to needing some tuition for your Apple computer, iPod, iPad or iPhone, why not come along and be part of the great group that has met for two years now. We go 'back to basics' and also 'in depth' and tailor sessions to what users really need!



It is fun and guaranteed to make you more adept with your connected world.

This group also runs a digital photography set of sessions during the year – so watch out for when those happen also.

Convenor : Mike Smith Tel 5470 6638 mirue@tpg.com.au
Presenter : Bruce Carruthers 5472 3900 bruce@keepingitsimple.com.au
Time : 10.00 - 11.00 am
Location : Salvation Army Hall, Kennedy Street, Castlemaine
Dates: Every Monday : starting 7th Feb. and continuing all year

When and how did language begin as a form of communication? From body language as Jean M. Auel suggests? From movements, sounds which developed in meanings? Drawings - we still use these for immediacy e.g. traffic, danger, toilets... The Middle Ages and later showed pictures of a trade above the door... There are different opinions/ research findings as to the earliest verbal language having or not having a grammar. We shall see (on CD) one of the earliest known languages and its symbols for sounds, for writing. These themes will be discussed in the first session.

Interested people may like to know of the SBS program on Mondays at 9pm "Why do we talk?"

Convenor : Diana Collier Tel 5443 0137 collierd@vic.chariot.net.au

Time : 12.00 - 1.30

Location : U3A Office

Dates: 4th Tuesday in the month : 22nd Feb.

Singing Together

Rae Hawkins

Welcome to yet another year of "Singing Together".

We shall be resuming at 3.30pm on February 8th. (The Tuesday after the February Coffee Morning.) As usual, the venue will be the Uniting Church Hall.

I cannot be there that day, but John has kindly agreed to look after everything for me. I will arrange for covers, and music copies will be available.

Please make sure when you sign for your music, that you take only those items that bear your Choir Number.

If we are lucky enough to have some new singers, then music may have to be shared just for the day. Extra copies can be obtained as need during the year.

I am very much looking forward to seeing everyone again. Best wishes to all.

-- Rae

WANTED: USED STAMPS AND CORKS

Do you have used stamps in your bottom drawer? If so you may like to pass them onto me. Many thanks to U3A members who have been doing so. Just a reminder: please leave at least a cm of envelope around the stamp or tear the envelope in half and pass on the stamped half to me if that is easier. The stamps eventually find their way (via the Uniting Church) to collectors who would prefer to have plenty of envelope around the stamp.

Please also save corks and pass them onto me - Guides Victoria collect corks as a fund-raising activity. MarieTwyford



CAKE RAFFLE ROSTER

Thanks to members who have offered to make a cake for the monthly U3A cake raffle. If you have not received a roster by the March Coffee Morning, your services are not needed this year. Your assistance last year was very much appreciated.

Marie Twyford, Raffle Coordinator

Although our leader has been doing her walking overseas and interstate we have muddled on. Our last three walks have been in the local area.

In October we began a walk in Vanstan Road and using Tully's goldfields map as a guide we found Opossum Gully and further on the end of Hodge's Channel which probably supplied water for alluvial mining in the gully from 1881. Before going east on the Tourist Rd we noted the Devonshire Reef and Milkman's Flat now part of the junior High School grounds. Our puffing on this part of road reminded us of Mitchell's comments on the sharp, steep, rocky nature of the hills and gullies in this area. At the NE corner of the Tourist Rd we could see the ridge above Specimen Gully where Hodge's Channel was started. Probably about 4 km as the crow flies and maybe 16 as the channel winds around the hills. Heading north we chose a track leading to Trust for Nature covenanted area with many nesting boxes placed in trees. The bees appreciate them. This area leads into Opossum Gully and there was some evidence of mining but just bare rock outcrops in some places. The sandstone ridges date from the Silurian era about 440 M years ago and run N-S because of a squeeze with Gondwana. Moving north-west along saddlebacks we came to the ridge overlooking north Castlemaine. We noticed several small Buddhist shrines constructed in this area. Descending we relaxed over a cuppa & game of bocce.

The next walk had the same starting point but we walked west on Sawmill Road passing the remnants of the mill. There were reminders of the not too distant past, what looks like a disused shed was once the home of a family living on the gold field in the Nathans Hill area, north between Sawmill Rd and the railway line. During the Depression era unemployed people were given minimum equipment and funds with a one way ticket to Castlemaine to try their luck at gold prospecting. Some ended up in this area. We headed N-W towards Chinamans Hill one of the cemented hills in this region. These are parts of an ancient river beds which in this case probably flowed in the area of Barker's Creek. The surface has compacted and reacts to a pick like cement. Once through the cemented layer digging was easier and shafts could be enlarged to find paydirt. Judging by the number of well preserved shafts and a major open cut this area must have

been rich. Continuing on to Blakely Rd we visited two stone structures which have been conserved. Even the roofs are big slabs of slate. They may have been a store & shepherds' hut on Dr Barker's run. Continuing on up the Burgdorf Track we returned for tea & bocce.

Because of rain later, what turned out to be the last walk for 2010 was from the site of the 1851 Monster Meeting site off Golden Point Road. We followed the track beside Forest Ck passing through the Chewton School pine plantation. The recent rains made the track soggy in places but not like on 1 Jan 1889 when a flash flood drowned two men in the nearby Frances Ormond mine and flooded parts of the Castlemaine CBD. We looked over the Garfield wheel constructed in 1887 and the Golden Point channel 1884 which supplied water from the reservoir at Expedition Pass to an elevated flume which fed the wheel. After looking over the mine workings in the area we retraced our steps. Alun boldly strode where few other had gone before, trying to keep his feet dry recrossing Forest Creek.

-- Frank Pederick



The first session of Issues of Concern will be on Friday February 11th at 1.30pm in the U3A office. I look forward to seeing familiar faces, and hopefully some new ones, for another year of discussion and learning.

During the break I have begun reading "The March of Folly" by Barbara W. Tuchman in which she examines the presence of folly in government through the ages. Why, she asks, do governments persist in following policies of self-interest which ultimately leads to their destruction despite feasible alternatives being available? In this book four decisive turning points in history are covered: the Trojan Wars, the breakup of the Holy See provoked by the Renaissance Popes, the loss of the American colonies by George III and the USA's pursuit of folly in Vietnam. I have only just started this book but already it is clear that ignoring good advice that is contrary to a leader's thinking or to statements made by a leader is a common factor leading to folly.

-- Carol Dorman

Croquet

Nigel Harland 5474 8246

Access to the Castlemaine Bowling Club croquet greens and instruction on golf croquet is again being offered in 2011 to U3A members. A similar offer was made in mid-2010 and now 6 to 8 of us meet each Thursday morning to play. Ian Campbell, Nigel Harland & Trish Devlin introduced us to the game and provided fine instruction and encouragement.

Golf croquet is a simpler form of Association Croquet. As in golf the players play a stroke at a time in succession. It is a very social game that involves good company, light exercise, planning ahead, hand and eye coordination, and a degree of concentration. All things U3A members hope to enjoy well into the future. Kevin Hurley says it is the only sport you can play in an overcoat. There are also psychological aspects to the game. This becomes obvious when a stop shot is learned ; it is possible to dispatch an opponent's ball into the far distance while your own stays close to the hoop. Sometimes this is done with what Pat Norris calls "evil intent".

There are quite extensive rules of the game which are available on the internet. The major rules are easily mastered and John Brennan has developed as an informed source for the less obvious ones.

We have become associate members of the bowling club which involves fees but enables us to play through the week except for Wednesdays & Saturdays which are reserved for the Association game. I find it good value for money, I have fun playing a game which I hope I can continue playing for many years.

It is not too late to enrol ring Nigel.

-- Frank Pederick



Calling All Artistic Types !

Could YOU design a greeting card incorporating the words :

" from all at the University of the Third Age, Castlemaine "

If so please contact Val Case ...
5472 1656

valeriecase37@yahoo.co.uk

The whole business of the apostrophe is getting to be too much for me, and even although I knew everything (or almost) about how to use it when I was in Grade 5, I am not so confident these days. Miss McGregor spent endless lessons on it and I think all forty of us felt very sure that we had mastered it.

There were just two things to remember. The first was that we use it to show that a one or more letters have been omitted. If we want to say "can't" instead of "cannot", or "don't" instead of "do not", we can, so long as we put in the apostrophe to show the omission of these letters.

The other case was a little more complicated. The apostrophe also indicates possession, so if I want to refer to a book which belongs to John, then I write "John's book". This was relatively simple, except when the name ended with the letter "s". If the Williams family owned a house, was it the Williams' house, or the Williams's house or even just the Williams house? And should the sign say "boy's toilets" or "boys' toilets" and what about "mens' toilets", or "men's toilets"? And what about the friends of Jesus – are they "Jesus' friends", or "Jesus's friends" – or even "Jesu's friends"?

I have to say that my computer has been a great help to me on this subject. When I type a word which does not exist, like "mens", or which is unacceptable like "Jesus's", the computer immediately underlines the word with a squiggly red line, and I know that I am on the wrong track. Interestingly though, if I try to make a possessive case out of another name that ends in "s", like "Les's" or "Judas's" or "Moses's", the computer does not seem to mind the first two, but objects to the last. "Jesus's" and "Moses's" must be special cases! Perhaps the computer feels that these names already have quite enough esses (and the computer objects to this word too but how else can I spell it?) without adding another. But it does allow "Isis's"! Mmmm

But if we apply this to Jesus, it should be "Jesus's friends", but "Jesus' friends" is more acceptable. Perhaps one should settle for "the friends of Jesus". It sounds more biblical.

I note that my dictionary does give the rules for the use of the apostrophe, but it does not mention anything to do with excessive use of the letter "s", except to say that both "Charles'" and "Charles's" are acceptable although the former is preferable. It also mentions that "Xerxes's fleet" is unacceptable for "reasons of sound". I should prefer to think that there is a rule concerning the frequency of the letters "s" or "x" as I do not want to think that special cases are made in the grammatical rules of a language for (some) great religious or military leaders.

Miss McGregor also told us that we must look at what came before the apostrophe to see who was actually doing the possessing. So in the first case of the "boy's toilets", it meant that only one boy owned the toilets, so that "boys' toilets" was the way to go. And in the case of the "mens' toilets", there is no such word as "mens", so it had to be "men's".

But what about "menswear"? Shouldn't it be "men'swear"?

This is all very well but the biggest problem was "it's". If we want to say that the dog chased its tail – that should be right. The case is possessive, and "it" owns the tail, but no – "it's" actually means "it is" and although it looks like a clear case of the possessive, it is actually a case of the letter omitted. It has to be the dog chased its tail – with nothing to indicate the possessive case. I suppose they could have used "its' ", but then it breaks Miss McGregor's rule about looking at what comes before the apostrophe.

Anyway, these days we are constantly bombarded with apostrophes wherever a word ends with an "s". Everywhere people are putting up signs saying that they are selling "video's", "piano's", "radio's", "pizza's", "focaccia's", "tomato's" (or even "tomatoe's"). Or we see plurals like "box's", "case's", "shoe's", "suit's" and so on. Close to home one can see signs for "Pink Lady's" everywhere. I haven't seen "asparagu's" yet, but it won't be long.

Does it matter? When we speak we cannot hear the apostrophe and it does not seem to cause any misunderstandings. Somewhere along the line we have lost the apostrophe in place names like Kings Cross or Campbells Creek. Again, does it matter? Well yes, sometimes. In the written language there are words like "I'll" and "we'll" and "we're" which one would pronounce differently if the apostrophe were not there.

Although there is sometimes a need for apostrophes, at least in the case where they signal elision, they are nevertheless going the way of suspenders, stays, snuff, and suet puddings. I think I'll stick with them though. When I leave them out, my writing takes on that look of someone who wears glasses all the time but isn't wearing them now – sort of lost, vulnerable, not quite sure.

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOUR TO U3A MEMBER

Australia Day - January 26th 2011, in Castlemaine's Victory Gardens, and hosted by Mayor Janet Cropley, we were privileged today to witness a well deserved presentation of "Citizen of the Year" to our own U3A member Francis Caesar-Gordon.

Since coming to live in Castlemaine in 1982 Caesar has been involved with so many local community organizations that it would be impossible to include here all of his achievements and Life Memberships.

Except to say that he was one of the founding members of this U3A.

Nominated for this award by the Castlemaine Pioneers and Old Residents Association, judging by the many congratulations and loud applause, it was indeed a very popular choice.

While Caesar these days is battling indifferent health, the beam on his face told much about his pride and delight on receiving this recognition. Well done Caesar, may the flame continue to burn!



International Women's Day 2011



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2011

A special Castlemaine event will mark the 100th worldwide anniversary.

Women in western countries have come a long way towards gaining legal equality and voting rights since 1911. In Australia at present we have a woman Governor, a woman Prime Minister and two women Premiers. Our Chief Scientist is a woman. In our Shire we have a woman mayor.

To celebrate women's achievements on International Women's Day in Castlemaine this year, the VIEW Club, which has about 75 members in Mt Alexander Shire, has gained a grant to cover the costs of a splendid evening in the Castlemaine Town Hall on Tuesday 8 March from 7 – 10 pm. Cold drinks will be available in the Town Hall foyer from 7 pm for a 7.20 pm start.

Working with Castlemaine District Community Health (CHIRP), VIEW has invited representatives from Castlemaine U3A, CWA branches in the Shire, and Red Cross to support and share the evening. VIEW members from Bendigo other centres will come to the town for the evening.

At least 200 people are expected to attend. Men and women are welcome. Speakers will include Dr Georgina Heydon, lecturer in Criminal Justice at RMIT, an expert in languages and forensic linguistics, and Eliza Tree, a local artist who has recently retraced Major Mitchell's expedition. There will be women's music and a light supper at interval.

Entry will be by gold coin donation. Proceeds will go to United Nations programs that facilitate leadership training for women in developing countries..

U3A and participating organisations will have an information table and provide a few plates of savoury snacks for interval. Please contact Elizabeth Rider, 5470 5681, if you are prepared to help, or would like more information.

COME AND CELEBRATE!
Tuesday, 8 March, 7.00 for a 7.20 pm start

-- Elizabeth Rider