

U3A

# Third Thoughts

Castlemaine Inc (Est 1988)

Volume 25 No 4

May 2010

Reg. A0017409G



Geoff and Beryl and members of the Australian History Group, see the book.

### IN THIS ISSUE ...

- Margaret Hynam-Smith is honoured
- New Members Day
- Seniors Week this year
- Class Notes
- Coming Events.

### A PEDAGOGUE IN PATCHEWOLLOCK

For three years in the mid-1950s Geoff Walker taught at Patchewollock Group School. When he attended the Back-To Patche celebration In 1988 (Australia's Bi-Centenary year) memories flooded back, and he has produced 20 short stories that reflect the history and social life in this remote Mallee township 50 years ago. This was the decade of the Melbourne Olympics, the last great Murray flood, Sputnik, and prosperity in the country with the post-war European demand for wool, meat and grain.

"The stories will stir memories for all of us. We all have a story to tell," says Geoff. "I hope that reading the book will challenge U3A folk to put pen to paper."

You can obtain a copy of the Patchewollock stories at the Coffee Morning on 7 May or from Geoff at 9 Lyttleton Street, Phone 5470 6652.

The theme of the May Coffee Morning is writing and publishing. Members are invited to contribute. (President's Jottings, Page 3)

*New Members Afternoon Tea was well attended. It was interesting to meet many new members; many are also new to Castlemaine. (See Page 7 & 10 for more photos)*



## CONTACT DETAILS

### ~ Committee Members ~

<i>President: Tom Comerford</i> <i>tomchris@mmnet.com.au</i>	5470 6230
<i>Vice President: Marion Taubman</i> <i>sharval@dodo.com.au</i>	5470 5079
<i>Secretary: Judy Sime</i> <i>daveju@gmail.com</i>	5472 3756
<i>Treasurer: Sue Turner</i> <i>turningwild@impulse.net.au</i>	5472 1015
<i>Past President: Sally Kaptein</i> <i>walmer@castlemaine.net</i>	5470 6340
<i>Course Coordinator: Win Jodell</i> <i>winj@tpg.com.au</i>	5472 3792
<i>Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth Rider</i> <i>u3anews@aapt.net.au</i>	5470 5681
<i>Prue Cole</i> <i>pruecole@gcom.net.au</i>	5472 5054
<i>Eva Haarbarger</i> <i>ehaarbarger@vtown.com.au</i>	5472 3391
<i>Joe Scoglio - Acting Office Manager</i> <i>scoglio@internode.on.net</i>	5472 2396
<i>Hans van Gemert</i> <i>elouera3@bigpond.com</i>	5472 1082
<i>Geoff Walker</i> <i>geoffwalker@gcom.net.au</i>	5470 6652

### ~ FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING ROSTER ~

7 May Computer First Aid

Computer Group

Computer for Novices



4 June Dabbling in History,

Digital Photography

English Literature

French Language and Literature.

### CONTACT U3A

**Web page** [www.u3acastlemaine.com](http://www.u3acastlemaine.com)

**Email:** [u3acastlemaine@mmnet.com.au](mailto:u3acastlemaine@mmnet.com.au)

**Computer courses:** [octopus@mmnet.com.au](mailto:octopus@mmnet.com.au)

**Office phone** 5472 2249

#### POSTAL ADDRESS

*PO Box 792, Castlemaine, Vic 3450*

#### OFFICE ADDRESS

*Uniting Church Parish Centre  
12 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine*

#### OFFICE HOURS

*Mondays 1.30-3.30 pm*

*Tuesdays 1.30-3.30 pm*

*Wednesdays 10 am-12 noon.*

#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S EMAIL

*[u3anews@aapt.net.au](mailto:u3anews@aapt.net.au)*

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION** \$40.00 plus \$10 if postage of newsletter is required. Payment can be made by cheque or money order payable to U3A Castlemaine Inc. and posted to:

**The Secretary, PO Box 792, Castlemaine, 3450.**

*OR paid in U3A office hours at the Office, 12 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine.*

**(Note: cheque or money order only).**

### Third Thoughts

√ Please email your contributions, including photos to:  
**[u3anews@aapt.net.au](mailto:u3anews@aapt.net.au)**

If this is difficult, leave articles  
at the office.

THE JUNE NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE IS MONDAY,  
24 MAY AT 3 p.m.

The Committee usually meets every second Tuesday each month. Members are welcome to talk to a Committee member or write to the Secretary with items they would like included on the agenda.

## ~ PRESIDENT'S JOTTINGS ~



Many members will be sad to learn of the death of Alba Merry. Alba, I am told, was one of our earliest members. In more recent times she acted as class convenor of the Solo Whist group. Our condolences go to her family and friends. Thank you to Bev Stokes for the work she has done in the keeping of the membership records. Unfortunately Bev is not able to play this role now and we are grateful to Veronica Hurley for agreeing to undertake this taxing task.

There are 310 financial and honorary members for this year to date. 81 members have not renewed their subscriptions as of mid-April. A gentle reminder to members whose addresses or contact details have changed to ensure that the Office is notified of the changes. As Bev, Veronica, Sue and I have been updating the lists we have become conscious of the differences between what the records show and what is our personal knowledge of contact details of some of our members.

The planning for the **mid year holiday program** is underway. The theme of the program will be "*Places I have wanted to visit*". The program format will include a visit to a venue and an associated workshop. It is expected that the regular classes will not held during this term break June 28 - July 9.

**The Car Trail** will be held on the fifth Monday of May. It is important that you tell Graeme and Jane Quinn if you intend to participate as expenses are involved in the preparation. It is expected that the few regular classes which are held on a fifth Monday will **not** operate, so that all those who wish might attend.

If you have **written, co-authored or been involved in the publication** of a book, the Committee would be thrilled if you would very briefly tell the Coffee Morning gathering a little of your involvement - no more than two minutes, if that! Luke Devenish, a published author will be our guest

speaker and it seemed an appropriate occasion to acknowledge those of our members who have "published."

Thank you to all our volunteers for the splendid work you are doing to the benefit of all our members.  
~ Tom Comerford

### ~ INVITATION ~

At our Coffee Morning on 7 May guest speaker will be Luke Devenish of Castlemaine. He is a writer for television and theatre, and a lecturer in screen writing at RMIT and the Australian Film Television and Radio School. His two novels set in Ancient Rome have met with wide acclaim.

The U3A Committee invites members who have had something published to make a very short presentation at the Coffee Morning - no more two minutes would be the time line. This could include a short reading and very brief background. It could be a chapter in a gardening book, a recipe book, short story, or memoir, it does not need to be a 'weighty tome'!

The work does not have to be recent. A mix of writing would make the morning interesting. We already have one member who recently edited and published a collection of memoirs and he will speak.

Please respond to Win Jodell, Sally Kaptein or Tom Comerford. Contact details on Page 2.

**WELCOME  
TO NEW  
MEMBERS!**

Diana Acford  
Sherrill Aldersea  
Marie Anderson  
Elaine (Lisa) Hales  
Kumi Horvath  
Vanessa Johnstone  
Kerrie Patmore

## FROM THE COURSE COORDINATOR

I would like to thank you again for your time and dedication to Castlemaine's U3A. Term I rolled out without any dramas and I trust next term will be the same. Only one class was cancelled due to lack of numbers. Language classes are expanding and flourishing. Most classes seem to be well attended.

There are more classes this year and our rental bills have increased accordingly to the point where it is putting pressure on the budget. I therefore ask those of you using rented premises to consider the possibility of having your sessions in private homes.

Do get in touch with me if you have concerns about anything pertinent to your sessions. I am here to help.

Christobel Comerford will offer her sessions *Stem Cells - All You Need To Know* again in the Second Term on Wednesdays, 7, 14, 21 and 28 July at 2 pm in the Uniting Church Kindergarten Room.

Christobel's information is up to date and she presents it in an immediate and accessible way. I attended the sessions in February and could not recommend them highly enough. There is no need for a 'science' background to enjoy and be rewarded by this course.

**Update on *The Bloomsbury Group*** with Dr Helen Long. There was an error in the recent timetable and for this I apologise. Helen has advised me that, due to a change in her travel plans, the classes will now start on Tuesday, 15 June, 2 pm, at 49 Hargraves St, Castlemaine. Those who enrolled for this course will be notified by mail/email two weeks before the classes begin. There is currently a waiting list. Because of the waiting list I will need confirmation in order for you to keep your booking for these sessions.



It is good to see tutors are using the newsletter more to advise of what is planned for future sessions. Please keep thinking about offering items about activities that have occurred for the website. I hope to see more of you take the plunge!

Meantime I hope you continue to enjoy the wonderful assortment of activities and challenges on offer from U3A Castlemaine.  
~ Win Jodell, Course Coordinator

### LET'S PLAN FOR SENIORS WEEK

The Mount Alexander Seniors Week Working Group has already started meeting. U3A is one of several local organisations planning interesting and enjoyable events. This is a chance to share knowledge, showcase what we do in U3A, have a good time, and show the rest of the world that we are very much alive and kicking, even as we get older.

This year Seniors Week will be launched at the U3A A.G.M. immediately after the business of the meeting.

Please discuss in your classes, any activity or event you can contribute in Seniors Week. Last year U3A members presented a wonderful photography exhibition, an entertaining play reading, a debate, computer lessons and more. What can we come up with this year? Contact a Committee Member as soon as you can with your ideas.

**Reminder!** Please let the office know of any change in your e-mail, postal or other contact details. The office handles all address details, not the newsletter editor.

## A force to be reckoned with!

### U3A CASTLEMAINE IS NOW PART OF A NATIONAL BODY.

By Sally Kaptein

*Report on the Statewide U3A Network AGM and Council Meeting held on 24 March 2010.*

About 100 people attended, including delegates from Mildura, Ballarat, Wonthaggi and other regional centres. Jack Carolan and Sally Kaptein represented Castlemaine U3A.

Items of particular interest were:

\* There are now 24,000 U3A members in Victoria with 91 U3A organisations. (During 2009 four new U3As were formed and there was an increase of 1500 members).

\* All U3A's are now part of the newly formed Australian National Alliance. Only Victoria has a Network body representing all U3A'S in our state.

\* There is a move to be part of an international body and the National Alliance will be part of the 'Asia Pacific working party.' John Mitchell is our Victorian delegate on the National Alliance and will keep all groups informed on the progress of the group. There will not be any costs to local U3As and only a \$50 a year fee to the Network. The aim of the national and international groups is to foster cooperation and strengthen our voice in the wider community.

\* The data collection spreadsheet that we filled in early in the year showing our demographics, will be required to be updated in September. This is a government requirement to ensure ongoing funding.

\* The ACFE grant that we receive from the State government is now allowed to be used as we see fit for excursions that relate to classes. So visits to Art galleries/ museums for example would be seen as legitimate.

#### Actions for U3A Castlemaine

The new network newsletter editor would love to have some 'stories' from our tutors and/or personal stories from members, about U3A related activities. These should be sent to the Network office.

Two of the Network Council meetings each year (June and November ) will be for workshops. We can send items we would like discussed at the workshops to the Network and we can send delegates to participate in the workshops.

There is a U3A lunch at Swinburne (Hospitality Dept) planned on Wednesday, 12 May, which we can include as a special event for our members - \$15 for two courses, including drinks. Please contact me if you would like to go to this lunch. Only 60 people can attend, so contact me soon.

### DESTINATION UNKNOWN

Note New Date - 31 May .

Members who have participated in the past will find the format of the event remains the same. For those who have not joined us before, the Tour is a gentle drive through local scenic and historic areas. We end at a pleasant spot near Castlemaine. No serious navigation is involved.

This year we suggest that you bring either a picnic lunch, or the ingredients for a BBQ, as there will be facilities available for burning the odd chop or two. As usual there will be wine if you need a lubricant to assist the digestion.

Please let me know EARLY if you are an entrant for this event. This year the RACV has not been as generous as in the past and have asked us to pay for the suggested map so I need numbers.

To assist with the smooth running of the event I will provide an entry form in advance to complete and return, and any further information you may need. We look forward to seeing you on the day for what in the past has been a popular event.

~ Graeme Quinn Graeme  
5474 2320 or  
gandjquinn@bigpond.com



## ~ CLASS NOTES ~

### ABORIGINAL HISTORY - OUR SHARED HISTORY

*Felicity Say 5472 1841*

Tuesday, 4 May: In this session, we will turn our attention to the Port Phillip District of the 1850s and 60s following the abolition of the Aboriginal Protectorate System and the new measures put in place for Aboriginal concentration and separation from the relentlessly burgeoning white population.

Tuesday 18 May: Our focus will move north to the inevitable cultural clashes of the new frontier opening up in colonial Queensland, with the ever-westward movement and spreading out of white squatters and their cattle.

### ADVENTURES IN ENGLISH

*Diana Collier 5443 0137*

We will meet again on Thursday, 13 May, in the U3A Office, as usual. We will then go into recess until the second week of August. We'll meet on 12 and 26 of August until the end of the last semester, including Thursday 30 September.

Chaucer's period will be the subject area. I shall provide more detail in a later newsletter.

### ART DRAWING *Paula Paas 0438657588*

Thanks to Jan we had a beautiful autumn still life to draw and paint at our 19 April group meeting at the Leiesterville hall. Jan's photo shows some of our members with the arrangement we were drawing.

Through the warmer weather we have been going outdoors to various locations including the Forest Creek Diggings, North British mine at Maldon and the cascades at Metcalf to work *plein air*.

As the weather turns cooler we will resume meeting every Monday at Leiesterville for our drawing and painting sessions.

### AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

*Geoff Walker 5470 6652*

In April Graeme Quinn gave us a fascinating insight into the life of Thomas Sutcliffe Mort. You can still see the Goldsborough Mort building from the train as you go in to Southern Cross (formerly Spencer Street) Station in Melbourne.

Alan Robinson revealed some of the secret life of Phillip Gidley King, one of the early Governors of NSW.

In May two of our relative newcomers will be taking the chair. On Monday, 10 May, Joan Casley will show us something of the life story of Sir Douglas Nichols, one of the great and fondly remembered Indigenous Australians, footballer, Christian minister, and Governor of South Australia. On Monday, 24 May, Jennie Owen will present on Watkin Tench, who did not spend much time in New South Wales but wrote quite a lot about it.

We will meet at the home of Shirley Curnow, 3 Silver Street, Campbell's Creek at 2.00 pm.

We welcome Lisa Hales, a new member to our group. You will be welcome too.

*Members of the Art Drawing Class at work.*



## BALLET APPRECIATION

*Joe Scoglio 5472 2396*

The excavation of Pompeii and the French Revolution freed up costume design and choreographic thought. The Romantic movement came to ballet with Marie Taglioni dancing effortlessly on the tips of her toes. It was the era of the ethereal female and the striving male.

Popular ballet themes were unrequited love and death. The latter reflected the common occurrence of tuberculosis and other diseases in the overpopulated slums of the Industrial Revolution. Hence escapism was sought in ballet, music, painting and literature, exploring exotic locations and far removed times. The pale consumptive face became fashionable.

## BRIDGE

*Hans van Gemert 5472 1082*

At the beginning of the year we had up to 12 people wanting to learn (or relearn) the game of bridge in the introductory classes held in February and March. Of those, several people have now joined the regular bridge players on Tuesday afternoon. Some others are waiting for some extra practice sessions for beginners before taking the plunge.

The new venue this year, the Hospital Auditorium, is proving to be a great success with a quiet, air conditioned environment assisting improvement in the standard of play.

Some members are so keen that they have additional social games during the week and have joined the Bendigo Bridge Club as well.

While Anne and I were in New Zealand on holidays, Jenni Rutherford coordinated the sessions and Bob Seedsman took care of the scoring. Our thanks go to them.

## COMPUTER CLASSES

*Convenor: Shane Doyle 5472 4017*

**Microsoft Access** - Are there any members out there who would like to get some help using the Microsoft Access database software? We have an experienced tutor waiting to assist you. If you would like help with an existing Access database, or wish to delve into Access and learn how to use it, please phone Denis Upsall, 03 5473 3190 to register your interest.

For other computer classes, you can either phone Shane Doyle, 5472 4017, to discuss your needs, or phone the class tutor directly if what you see in the timetable is what you want.

For **APPLE MAC** computer courses and activities, please contact Michael Smith, 5470 6638. The Apple Mac classes have continued to grow and so are now in a bigger, better, venue.

**Please Note: There is no longer a separate Computer Classes Page. The Computer timetable is on Page 12 of the newsletter .**

## DABBLING IN HISTORY

*Peter Stephens 5472 3904*

Due to overseas trips for some lucky members our numbers dwindled in April, but we still had a lively discussion about Rene Descartes, a French mathematician and philosopher set in the context of the Scientific Enlightenment of which he played a major part. We also looked at the little known subject of Australian women and Federation and suffragettes more generally. On Wednesday, 5 May, we will study Thomas Jefferson. Our topic for 19 May has yet to be decided.

*New Members Day 2010*



## CLASS NOTES ~

### ENGLISH LITERATURE

*Denise Jepson 5473 4470*

In April we met at Kay's beautiful home, a perfect setting to review a rare and beautiful love story, *Precious Bane*, by Mary Webb. The setting is a remote Shropshire village in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, where superstition, fear and ignorance reign.

Here lives an intelligent and courageous young woman with a great love of life and nature in all its mystery. She is despised and labelled a witch because she has a hare lip and, therefore, believes she can never have a marriage partner.

Her brother is possessed by his drive to dominate his world. He cannot, or will not, contain the emotions that he allows to possess him. He is destroyed by his failure to contain his emotions.

His sister, like every young woman in the village, is drawn to a visiting weaver. The man has his thoughts and emotions under control and is, therefore, master of his own life. She wins his love through her courage and intelligence.

I cannot say that all members of the group are in agreement with each other about all aspects of the story, as it raises many questions which, of their nature, can never be adequately answered. Yet, this was perhaps the most enjoyable session of the year so far.

Thank you, Denise, for drawing out of all of us, what would have remained hidden. And thank you, Kay, for hosting a wonderful afternoon.

On Friday 14 May we'll discuss our next novel for the year, *Mrs Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf. We meet at 10 am on the second Friday of each month at Leisterville. ~ *Brian Clarke*



### FETE DE LA BASTILLE

Mercredi 14 Juillet 2010

a Midi

Invitation de venir au rassemblement habituel chez les Quinns. Pouvez vous telephoner Sally Kaptein 5470 6340 avec idees pour le menu.  
Merci!

Seulement 15 personnes.



For many people the main event of the French Revolution is the storming of the Bastille on 14 July, 1789. It is a national holiday in France, celebrating the Revolution. Nonetheless, Louis XVI wrote in his diary for that day - "July 14th; nothing." Little did he know that the events that had taken place in Paris (he was at the Palace at Versailles) would forever mark the downfall of the French Monarchy and change the course of history of world history.

In Castlemaine it has become custom for U3A Francophiles to celebrate it with a jovial get together and delicious French meal!

Coming at the end of JUNE ...  
MID YEAR HOLIDAY PROGRAM,  
packed with enjoyable things  
to do and places to go!

## GARDENING AT U3A

*Cath Polinelli 5476 2402*

On 16 April, the sun shone brightly with a slight breeze for the garden group trip down the Calder highway to Dennis's place. On entering the property we followed the winding track through the well grassed hills to the house built on the hilltop. The views were spectacular. Most of the windows look out over the valley towards Mt Tarrengower – a peaceful area and a wonderful sight to behold.

The garden is still young, but Dennis has planted it mostly with native shrubs. He has put in a drip system (which he only used twice last summer) and has used a large amount of mulch. The soil is very poor, but with the addition of fertilizer, moisture and mulch, it now produces earth worms. As the property is not rabbit and kangaroo fenced, they help themselves to the plants. Dennis has found that a good sprinkling of blood and bone is very beneficial in keeping them away. He has plans for a vegetable garden toward the south of the property.

We enjoyed lunch on the terrace looking west over the citrus grove and more natives, with green lawn adding a delightful effect.

Thank you, Dennis, for giving us this interesting morning. In the future this garden will be well worth a visit.

On Friday, 21 May, we meet at 10 am at the Octopus to tidy up. Please bring gloves, secateurs, and saws (pruning and hand saw.)

*Garden Group members have lunch above the valley last month.*



## ISSUES THAT CONCERN

*Carol Dorman 5472 4429*

In April we lost a much-valued friend and contributor to our weekly discussions. Ton Gribble died of a sudden heart attack. His contributions were thought-provoking and serious and yet we always looked forward to his jokes section, which brought some balance to our diet of bad news. We miss him.

We went to afternoon tea with Rosemary, his widow so that she and we could share our memories of Ton. I believe that we all enjoyed and benefited from the experience.

This month our discussions included hospital reform legislation, the cancellation of the roof insulation program, the approval for the Wantirna/Richmond football club to have another ten poker machines on the basis that it should not harm the community, the multiple tragedies at Harcourt and refugees.

Our guess as to what we'll talk about next month is some of the above and possibly Tony Abbot's suggestion that we double our military commitment to Afghanistan for reasons which include being seen to be punching above our weight.

*~ Alan Bull*

### ***'Stem Cells – All You Need to Know'*** **will be repeated in Term 3, 2010.**

Four sessions, approx one a half hours each. On Wednesday, 7, 14, 21, 28 July, 2 pm in the Uniting Church Kindergarten Room

The ethical issues, as well as the science of stem cell research, will be discussed in each session.

To register, please phone the U3A office or add your name to the list at the May and June Coffee Mornings.

Summary of the Four Sessions:

- Human embryology and discovery of stem cells.
- History of stem cell research
- Applications of stem cell therapy
- The future for stem cell therapy.

## ITALIAN

### Italian 1 - Jill Kromkamp, 5473 4191

The Italian 1 Class for beginners is continuing Tuesday mornings, with five enthusiastic members. We are continuing basic vocabulary with an emphasis on pronunciation. Everyone is becoming more confident in sounding out words and simple sentences. After a few weeks we are all settling into a routine with a little homework along the way.

### Italian 2 - Norma Rantall 5472 4125

### Italian 3 - Vivienne Robertson, 5470 6499

We have completed our challenging excursion into the world of the *Pinacoteca* and have improved greatly in our use of the appropriate terminology for our discussions of some of the great masterpieces in the Italian Art Galleries.

Our next excursion is into the world of *Il Teatro*. We begin with a list of specific vocabulary for this area and then will attempt to produce and enact several short plays, which we can then discuss with some expertise. The group continues enthusiastic and diligent.

## READING AUSTRALIAN POETS

*Eileen Park 54725213*

Judith Wright (1915-2000) was our poet for April. Though born into an old and wealthy pastoral family, for whom she had a great affection, she became a dedicated environmentalist and campaigner for Aboriginal land rights. She covered a broad spectrum of thought, emerging as a new voice in literature with a feminist perspective, daring to write love poems to her husband and of the sexual act from a woman's point of view, *Woman to Man* (1949).

Winner of many awards, she held honorary degrees from several universities and left a large body of work *Magpies* won our hearts:-

*'Along the road the magpies walk  
with hands in pockets, left and right.  
They tilt their heads, and stroll and talk  
In their well-fitted black and white.'*

Contact me if you would like to read the rest!

May sessions will concentrate on A.D..Hope.

The Special Events Committee, Sally Kaptein, Narelle Stocks and Marion Taubman organised a most enjoyable New Members Afternoon Tea at Graeme and Jane Quinn's home, where the new members could meet each other and the U3A Committee members. Thanks to the Quinns for hosting us in their lovely home.

## NEW MEMBERS AFTERNOON TEA



## FIFTY YEARS OF VOLUNTEERING

By Margaret Hynam-Smith (as requested by the editor of *Third Thoughts*)

As the year turns to 2010 I thought that I would add to my family history, which I am writing, by telling about my life as a volunteer. This year marks my 50 years in the Australian Red Cross, Victorian Division, beginning when my children started their schooling at South Warrandyte State School and I felt the need to venture into a different world.

At that time a Red Cross Transport Service had been established in the Ringwood East and Croydon district, covering the area as far as the Dandenong Ranges and to the large Melbourne hospitals. An office was opened in Ringwood East manned by Volunteers five days a week and at times there were more than 50 Volunteer Drivers who used their own cars.

When I moved to Brighton Red Cross my record showed that I had driven 47,000 km in my own car.

During the years 1960- 1980 we had a male driver join us. He was Alf Dunstan, the uncle of Joy Lovelace who lives in Castlemaine. Alf was a very popular member and I remember him driving a group of ladies to help with a bush fire at Lockwood, near Bendigo.

The bushfires in 1962 and 1965 around the Warrandyte-Mt Dandenong areas certainly gave our office members and drivers an experience we never forgot. I spent two days in the Fire HQ at the Basin at the base of the Dandenong Ranges.

Our own home area of Warranwood was badly affected, houses lost and, personally, my family had to leave. Fortunately our own home was



saved by the CFA. Meanwhile Wendy, Kerry and Rob moved to be with their grandmother. My husband, Andrew stayed with our home and lemon grove where my precious 180 year old grandfather clock was saved as it lay in the wet grass between the lemon trees.

As I had been Superintendent of Ringwood East Red Cross between 1962-64, I was made an Honorary Life Governor of Box Hill Hospital, on behalf of our Service Company. In the 1970s I completed a course which permitted me to be a volunteer for the Ringwood/Croydon Advisory Service.

After leaving Warranwood in 1980 to live in Black Rock, I joined Brighton Transport Unit. My husband, Andrew, joined me in doing regular

commitments and delivering Meals on Wheels fortnightly. After moving to Castlemaine 10 years later and following 30 years of Volunteer Driving, I chose to continue my membership of the Castlemaine Unit but this time only on the Committee. My other volunteering consisted of helping in the office at Buda and in the

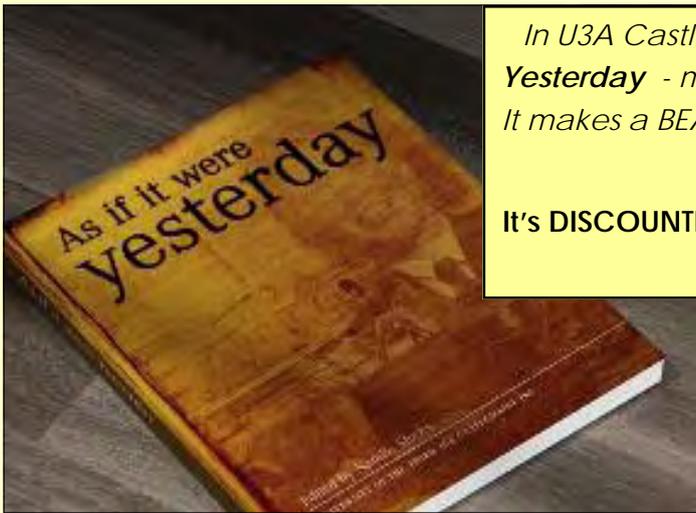
Mt Alexander Hospital Kiosk.

We joined U3A Castlemaine in 1991 and this was our introduction to getting to know Castlemaine folk. Andrew was Secretary from 1995 -96 and led the Current Affairs group.

For the past 10 years Andrew's illness, and my own ill health, have made me realize that I can no longer do as much, but that I can continue to be a member of Red Cross where I enjoy the company of the good friends I have made.

Sadly, at 87, old age has caught up with me!

*On 4 May, our well known member, Margaret Hynam-smith, who, with her husband, Andrew, has been active in U3A in past years, will be at Government House to receive the honour of being presented, by Mrs Jan de Kretser, Divisional President, with the Red Cross Laurel Wreath for Fifty Years of service to the Red Cross.*

U3A Castlemaine Inc., *Third Thoughts*, May 2010

*In U3A Castlemaine's fascinating book, **As If It Were Yesterday** - members reminiscence on days gone by. It makes a BEAUTIFUL gift for friends and family, and an heirloom for grandchildren.*

**It's DISCOUNTED to \$15 . Don't miss out! Buy your copy at the next coffee morning!**



**SOLO GROUP** *Betty Henchman 5472 2139*

Our next lunch is 1 pm on Saturday, 22 May, at Jeanette Hutchinson's new home at 68 Raglan Street,



*Just look at this group of competitive croquet players! Croquet has proved such a popular U3A activity, that there are now two classes running—one in the morning and one in the afternoon.*

*The Lifeball players would like more U3A members to come and give it a try. It's a god game. Ask Elizabeth, George, Pat or Margaret for details if you are interested. We can also choose to do Tai Chi, bush walking, short walks, table tennis, croquet. We obviously enjoy these physical and social activities.*

**COMPUTER CLASSES****2010**

Day	Program	Tutor	Times	Phone	Email
Monday	<b>Vacant Slot</b>		9am-12.30pm		
	Family History/Genealogy	Veronica Hurley	1.30pm-3.30pm	5472 1383	<a href="mailto:vrondkev@bigpond.com">vrondkev@bigpond.com</a>
Tuesday	<b>Possibly Microsoft Access</b>	Denis Upsall	9am-12.30pm	5473 3190	<a href="mailto:dupsall@qotak.net.au">dupsall@qotak.net.au</a>
	Computer First Aid (1st & 3rd Tuesdays)	David Sime	1.30pm-3.30pm	5472 3756	<a href="mailto:daveju@gmail.com">daveju@gmail.com</a>
	Introduction to Picasa (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)	David Sime	1.30pm-3.30pm	5472 3756	<a href="mailto:daveju@gmail.com">daveju@gmail.com</a>
Wednesday	<b>Vacant Slot</b>		9am-12.30pm		
	"The Computer Club"	Shane Doyle	1.30pm-4.30pm	5472 4017	<a href="mailto:shanefromcastlemaine@gmail.com">shanefromcastlemaine@gmail.com</a>
Thursday	<b>Vacant Slot</b>		9am-12.30pm		
	Digital Imaging Group (1st, 3rd, 4th of the month Each 2nd Thur- Photography)	Trevor Wheeler	1.30pm-3.30pm	5476 2286	<a href="mailto:trevorwheeler@westnet.com.au">trevorwheeler@westnet.com.au</a>
Friday	Email/Internet/Word	Betty Johnson	9am-12.30pm	5472 3834	<a href="mailto:beeay@mmnet.com.au">beeay@mmnet.com.au</a>
	Desktop Publishing	Val Anderson	1.30pm-3.30pm	5472 1860	<a href="mailto:valorie@mmnet.com.au">valorie@mmnet.com.au</a>