

# Third Thoughts



December 2017



**PLEASE DIARISE THE FOLLOWING DATES ..**

**COURSE ENROLMENT DAY 2018**  
**UNITING CHURCH HALL**  
**TUESDAY JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
**From 9am - 1pm**

If there is an 'Extreme Heat' day on January 9<sup>th</sup>, enrolments **will be held on** Wednesday January 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am - 1pm, Uniting Church Hall

**The Octopus (Office) will open for enrolments :**

- ◆ Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January
- ◆ Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January
- ◆ Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January
- ◆ From 9.00am - 12pm

If there is an 'Extreme Heat' day the Office will open on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>, same time

**On-line Enrolments will open at 9am on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January**

We would strongly encourage members to enrol in courses **ON-LINE**.

This is a simple and quick process and the more people who take advantage of this opportunity the simpler it is for your Course Working Group volunteers.

**MyU3A:** go to U3A Castlemaine website and click on 'MY U3A LOGIN' at the **TOP** of the 'page'.



We are coming to an exciting time of the year. Christmas is just around the corner and the 2018 Course Prospectus will be launched on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December at the Coffee Morning/Christmas Lunch, Church of Christ.

We have a very interesting year ahead with a total of 86 courses currently listed. We are very grateful for the 63 Class Leaders who have offered to continue with the courses they ran during 2017. And we are very happy to offer 23 new and exciting courses for 2018.

Thank you to all new Class Leaders and to those returning Leaders who are offering new courses.

Our organisation can only operate through the generosity of our Class Leaders. If there is anyone who has been considering running a course **...it is not too late!** Please feel free to contact me with details or to discuss a suggestion you may have.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Courses Working Group for their involvement in the production of the Prospectus and especially Robyn Yeoman, Bridget Leach and Margaret Griffin for compiling, formatting and editing the Prospectus. We would not have a Prospectus without your invaluable input.

I wish everyone a happy and joyful Christmas and look forward to a New Year filled with exciting learning opportunities. Russell Annear

**MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION**  
**2018: Join or Renew ..... \$60 p.a.**

**CUT-OFF DATE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS : 22nd January 2018**

## URGENT CALL FOR CLASS LEADERS

Two of our very long standing courses unfortunately will not be returning in 2018.

*Australian History* is one of our original and most popular courses and has been led by Geoff Walker for many years.

Unfortunately Geoff is unable to continue this year and would love someone to come forward and take over.

The course has normally been run every second Tuesday and involves participation in preparation and presentation by class members. Geoff is more than happy to offer advice and assistance to anyone prepared to coordinate the class.

*Friday Gardens* is another long running course previously led by Bronwen Stephens, who for various reasons is unable to continue next year.

This course is run on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month and needs someone to help coordinate visits to district gardens. This has also been a very popular course.

If there is any member who would be prepared to coordinate either of these classes **please** contact me for further details or information.

Russell Annear (Course Coordinator)

## COURSE LEADERS INFORMATION MORNING

**Buda Garden Room**  
**TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2018**  
**9am – 11am**

The annual Course Leaders information morning will be held again in the New Year.

We hope all new and returning Class Leaders can join the Committee of Management and the Course Coordination Working Group to prepare for classes in 2018, followed by morning tea.

Russell Annear (Course Coordinator)



### Extreme Heat Policy 'In a Nutshell'

All U3A activities (includes all Enrolment days, classes, office attendance, administrative meetings and coffee mornings) must be cancelled when the forecast temperature for **CASTLEMAINE** is:

- ◇ 38° or higher at 8pm the night before
- ◇ on a day of extreme or greater fire danger regardless of the temperature

- The U3A Castlemaine website has a link to the weather forecast and to the Policy <http://www.u3acastlemaine.com>
- Predicted temperatures for Castlemaine are broadcast on the local ABC radio FM 91.1 every morning following the news. It is also available on the Bureau of Meteorology website <http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/forecasts/map7day.shtml>
- **Heat kills more Australians than any natural disaster**

Activities are cancelled automatically, without any need for Course Leaders to contact the members in their group.

The point of the 'automatic' policy is that:

- ◇ no individual decisions need to be made
- ◇ no one needs to out-guess the forecasters
- ◇ or decide when 'the change' might be coming, and so on

The policy is designed to ensure safety not only during the activity but also travelling there and back – and therefore the presence of air conditioning at the venue is irrelevant.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Everybody

Well, that's the first month over and what a month it has been, everybody has been frantically busy but it's all worthwhile and your new Committee and Working Groups are settling well into their tasks.



We were all a bit concerned with the need to run a Special General Meeting before the Founders Day Celebration, firstly because there had been some acrimony at the AGM which was perhaps due to how the matters were presented, and then we were very concerned that the meeting might detract from celebrating Founders Day.

We are delighted to report to everybody not able to attend, that the Special General Meeting went extremely smoothly with near unanimous approval of both the Subscription increase and the proposal not to appoint an Auditor for the coming year; not only was it smooth it was also over quite quickly and did not interfere with Founders Day too much at all. Thank you everybody who attended the meeting for your cooperation in this.

And so to Founders Day; we had a group of 12 Founders in attendance, 5 of whom were inaugural members of U3A Castlemaine and

7 who all joined in the first couple of years and whom we are pleased to include as Founding Members.

It was really great to see our very first President Mary Thompson was able to be with us and looking very spritely if I may say so, as were all the other Founders. A very lovely morning tea was served to the Founders by members of our Events Working Group and this was greatly appreciated by all of our wonderful guests.

Founders Day was also treated to an absolutely wonderful presentation on 'Mosaic Art and its History' by our very special member Helen Bodycomb who is an internationally renowned Mosaic Artist and who has lectured on her subject at major exhibitions in the USA and Italy. Helen held the audience totally spellbound and we thank her for a truly great presentation which included a short display of a selection of her own works. You are welcome to do this again whenever you can fit it in Helen.

If you don't normally attend the monthly Coffee Mornings held on the first Friday of each month at the Church of Christ in Blakely Road, give this some thought, it's a fine way to spend a morning.

We usually have a very interesting speaker and we try to ensure a wide variety of topics are presented; we also provide an excellent array of food for morning tea courtesy of a rostered group of members and there is time for a good chat with other members.

The best bit, it costs absolutely nothing. We would love to see some more of you there and Blakely Street really isn't far. There is good parking and the seats and acoustics are infinitely better than where we were previously in the Uniting Church hall. So give it a try, you'll love it!

Our Courses Coordinator, Russell Annear and his Working Group, have been frantically busy this past month preparing a great selection of new courses and old favourites for the coming U3A Year; we will not quite get to 90 courses but it will be very close, what a selection!

Remember, you will need to pay your subscription for 2018 **before** you can enrol for any of next year's courses.

Isn't it great to see the sun shining again and to be able to put the big coat back in the wardrobe.

### John Pizzey

President U3A Castlemaine Inc.

[u3acm.pres@gmail.com](mailto:u3acm.pres@gmail.com) M:0419 118 36



## Coffee Mornings ..

are held on the first Friday of the month (unless otherwise advised)

**From:** 10 am

**Where:** Church of Christ  
Blakeley Road Castlemaine

### *Mosaic Art and its History*

Helen Bodycomb's talk at our **November** meeting was fascinating and inspirational. Hopefully she'll take us on a tour of all her mosaics in Melbourne one day!! **Helen??!!**



**Founders Day Morning Tea** was held at the November Coffee Morning. We had a group of 12 Founders in attendance, 5 of whom were inaugural members of U3A Castlemaine and 7 who all joined in the first couple of years and whom we are pleased to include as Founding Members.



### **Founders Day Morning Tea**

**L to R:** Mary Thompson, Fran Scutt, Judy Munro, Dot Henshall, Ann van Gemert

**For the Scrabblers!!**





**Await eagerly/Anticipate ...the NEXT**  
Coffee Morning! - **Friday 2nd February 2018**

**February Speaker** Denise Jepson will speak on FOCAL (Friends of Castlemaine Library) and the various activities that they get up to.... "without FOCAL to speak up for the library it would have been moved to some second rate place years ago"

**Morning Tea Hosts :** Table Tennis / Monday  
Rubber Bridge / Tuesday Bridge

**To all our wonderful raffle cake makers in 2017**

Marie T (Jan/ Feb), Margaret G (March), Lynda (Apr), Sally (May), Helen M (June), Margot (July), Babs (Aug), Jenni R (Sept), Sue T (Oct) and Christobel (Nov)

A much appreciated role and a very special thank you to BETTY and ENID for their ticket selling and folding every Friday, to Ruth on the trading table and Marie on refreshments. A special mention to Christobel for once again making and donating the wonderful Christmas cake for our November raffle. This year it was won by the very lucky Phil who is taking it all the way to Queensland for a family Christmas there. If you are interested in volunteering for cake-making for next year contact: Beryl P:5472 3182 E: berylleavesley@hotmail.com. Thank you to those who have already indicated they will be part of it again next year.



*Our Member Christmas donations this year go to OrphFund. Please be generous at the Christmas Coffee Morning*

In 2005, **Castlemaine** Steve Argent (Founder/ Director) "sold my house and decided to follow

my passion and dream to help some of the world's most vulnerable children.

ORPHFUND IS A VOLUNTEER BASED ORGANISATION HELPING ABANDONED, ORPHANED AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

With a foundation of passionate volunteers we're able to send 100% of donations to our projects which support some of the world's poorest children". Check out Steve's website: <http://www.orphfund.org/>

**Sad News**

**Jill Leisegang**

**17 November 1943 - 13 November 2017**

Jill Leisegang was a member of Castlemaine U3A with her loving partner of 25 years, Grace McCaughey, until the last few years – when these two keen travellers started to spend large parts of each year in Thailand.



Jill was born and brought up in South Africa, but spent most of her working life in social and community work in Melbourne. Many former colleagues remember how well she supported them as well as the families with whom they worked. She was an innovator in improving child care and broadening the council's role in community work for an ethnically diverse area. She fought for justice and understanding of political issues, and campaigned for affordable housing with Abbeyfield Australia, of which she was a foundation member.

At her very first Castlemaine U3A meeting, before she even got inside the room, Jill was Course Coordinator, having been waylaid by Lisle Freedman on the doorstep. That led to much enjoyment and involvement over several years.

Jill read widely – often two books a week – and valued the range of U3A courses. She taught U3A members to use computers better.

Being a book group member was a particular love. She took advantage of the opportunity offered to U3A members to sit in on lectures at La Trobe University, particularly appreciating the courses in comparative religion.

The funeral service for Jill was a mixture of sadness and joyful appreciation of a much loved and very intelligent woman with a great sense of humour. We heard music composed by one of her nieces, and were led by Grace and her family in dancing to African music.

## Congratulations !

Gill King, avid U3A Castlemaine member, has just returned from Adelaide to collect her amazing award as winner of the Volunteer Service Excellence Award, for her 30 years of volunteering with Riding for the Disabled Association.

She freely admits she has always been horse-mad! And what a way to use that passion!



Tai Chi originated in ancient China , it improves health and wellness and is practised throughout the world, there are many forms of Tai Chi each with their own special features. The Tai Chi we practise is Tai Chi for arthritis developed by Dr Paul Lam. Our course leader Dot Henshall is a great example of the benefits of practicing Tai Chi.

Pam Collins

## Australia Day

- embracing ALL of our history

Again, Australia Day in Castlemaine will have 'Survival Day' as part of the program and we hope to have a gently expanded presence this time.

Do join us on January 26 and take the opportunity to meet and greet members of the local Aboriginal community who work towards a healthier shared future for all.

Members of U3A joined the Survival Day aspect of Australia Day last year and here's hoping to see more of us attending and expressing support for this aspect of the day next year.

If you have suggestions for how to inclusively increase the presence of Survival Day, do contact members of the Aboriginal Community, leave suggestions with the Shire marked "Attention: Australia Day Ideas" or contact Vic Say P: 5472 1841 /

E: [sayvf@castlemaine.net](mailto:sayvf@castlemaine.net)

## Excursion to Melbourne

'Mozart & Papa Haydn' at the Melbourne Recital Centre ... "An hour of wonderful music" performed by the Australian National Academy of Music



Our **Tai Chi** Groups have returned to the Gardens for the summer period. We have two groups, and are run jointly between U3A and Castlemaine Community Health. The Beginner's Group learn the basic Tai Chi for Arthritis form and the Community Group which refines and expands our practice of Tai Chi.

We also have an enthusiastic group who come ½ hour early to practise the Fan Form, a lovely form involving the use of colourful fans.

The **Friday Garden** group ended our year with a visit to two gardens in Harcourt and lunch at Skydancers.

Kay and Graeme have a big rambling suburban garden with lots of native gums and wattles (which were pruned to keep them manageable) mixed with exotics such as roses and a big vegetable patch.

The second garden of Judy and Lou was on some acreage adjacent to Barkers Creek. The views across the creek were lovely but it has been a mixed blessing for them as t h e y had a major flood wipe out much of their garden a few years ago. Also, a mob of escaped cows using the creek as a path-way demolished all their European plants before being rounded up. Despite these setbacks their garden was beautiful.



I would like to thank all those people who opened their gardens to us during the year and to those members who suggested gardens for us to visit.

Unfortunately I will not be able to organise the garden group next year so unless someone takes up the reins it will not run. Let's hope this is just a short hibernation.

Bronwen Stephens

## SUMMER for THINKING GARDENERS

We will meet at Leiesterville, at 3pm on Monday, 4th DECEMBER. This will be our finale.

Come along and join the conversation, give us your ideas about surviving this coming summer, you **and** your garden.

Tell your experiences of the best/worst summer ever. Or any other item of interest that could inform us of strategies to cope.

Look forward to this last event and seeing you all.

## Armchair Travel

In 2017....We have been to *Cuba* with Steve Breheny, *Oman* with Philip Orgill, *Mexico* with Deb and Bill Wiglesworth, *Poland* with Izi and Eti Marmur, *Taiwan* with Judy Beaumaris, *Christchurch and the NZ earthquake* with Helen Hewertson and Ken Richards, *Around the World* with Maxwell Clarke and off to *Sicily* with Bob and Marie Twyford.

In December, many class members shared experiences of where they went, what they did and how they liked their vacations.

Wow! What a line-up! We have seen wonderful photos, heard lots of great stories and been inspired to get off the couch and go! 2018 looks like being another great year for travel. Why not join us?  
Bev Orgill

Edith Head, the Hollywood Designer, has been our focus in the second half of the year of **'Friday Flicks'**.

Each week we viewed and screened a wide variety of films in which she was involved - "The Heiress" starring Olivia de Havilland and "A Place in the Sun" starring Elizabeth Taylor and Montgomery Cliff (Swoon! The Ed.) were our last offerings with a special Xmas film to end an interesting year.



A feature of 2017 was our trip to Bendigo Art Gallery to see the Edith Head exhibition. Over 38 members attended and we were treated to a most informative talk from gallery guide Margaret McCready, a fellow U3A member. A great way to end the year. If you haven't visited this exhibition, please try and do so. It is well worth the trip.  
Bev Orgill



As the year draws to an end we are preparing for the annual Christmas Lunch / Coffee Morning. We hope you all enjoy our presentations on that morning. Serious practising is the name of the game to put everything together.

We have a most enjoyable time learning new skills, singing new songs and enjoying the fellowship with our friends in the groups.

Music is a great medium for dealing with sad

times, happy events and overcoming depression, whether just listening, playing instruments or singing. We laugh at our mistakes and try to put them right, and feel that we have made good progress throughout the year.

'Singing Together', 'Recorder', 'Ukulele' and 'Guitar' courses are continuing next year and ... we welcome new members.

On behalf of the groups, we wish you all a VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.

Angela Sye M: 0434 201 701

## Book Discussion Group

### The 5 most popular books :

*All the Light We Cannot See*. Anthony Doerr  
A blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

*Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter*. Tom Franklin

*Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*.

Jeanette Winterson

Adapted into a BBC television drama of the same name, this is a coming-of-age story about a lesbian girl who grows up in an English Pentecostal community.

*The Aunt's Story*. Patrick White

*The Girl Who Played With Fire*. Stieg Larsson

### Also read this year :

*Cooee*. Vivienne Kelly

*Flaubert's Parrot*. Julian Barnes

Shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1984 and won the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize the following year. The biography of Gustave Flaubert

*The Campus Trilogy*. David Lodge

*The Leopard*. Tomasi Di Lampedusa

Chronicles the changes in Sicilian life and society during the Risorgimento; also 1963 Italian epic period drama film by director Luchino Visconti

*The Longing*. Candice Bruce

over **80** Tread Restaurant  
Harcourt  
Thursday  
December 14th  
12.30pm

Please note the change from Wednesday to Thursday!

Confirm your attendances with Eileen Park on 5472 5213 by Monday 11th.

## Want something to do in January?



Many U3A members miss their regular courses during January – but instead, we have a special holiday program of activities, outings and informal get-togethers. Join other U3A members for social activities – music, films, bird watching and games of all sorts.

If you didn't get a copy of the Summer Holiday Program with this newsletter, look for it on the U3A website noticeboard.

### Do you still receive snail mail?

If so, the **stamps** on the envelopes can be put to good use. Uniting Church's "Sammy Stamp" sorts and sells to collectors, raising money for grants for worthy organisations, such as those who assist the homeless and who have fallen on hard times.



If you are interested, please tear the

envelope in half and pass on the stamped half to me. I am usually in the kitchen on Coffee Mornings. Please do not cut or tear around the stamp; there is a special way of doing so to ensure the value of the stamp.

*What do you do with your postcards?* There is also a market for these, providing they still have the stamp attached. I blank out the name and address of the person to whom the postcard is addressed before sending them on. If you have these and they do not contain personal messages, think about passing them on as well. Many thanks in anticipation.

Marie Twyford

### Finances Working Group

*Do you want your receipt?*

Receipts that are not collected by a member at the time of payment, are kept for the current calendar year. Receipts can be collected from the office during office hours, or from the Assistant Treasurer at Coffee Mornings. All uncollected member receipts will be destroyed at the end of December, while the Treasurer's copy is kept for our records.

### A Burning Favour

We have 2 boxes of old/out of date financial papers, which need to be destroyed.

*Is there anyone out there who can burn them up for us please ???*

We understand that the fire danger period is upon us now, so the actual burn will have to wait. But it would be nice to find someone who will agree to do it after that time. Please contact Anet McDonald (Assistant Treasurer)



### U3A Castlemaine Office

The Office is located opposite the Castle Motel in Duke Street, Castlemaine:

Hours: **Monday to Thursday 9.30 -11.30 am**

◇ Phone: 5472 2249

◇ P.O. Box 792, Castlemaine 3450

◇ [u3acastlemaine@gmail.com](mailto:u3acastlemaine@gmail.com)

◇ [www.u3acastlemaine.com](http://www.u3acastlemaine.com)

**MyU3A:** go to U3A Castlemaine website and click on MY U3A LOGIN at the **top** of the page

### The new printer/photocopier

If you need training please contact Annie or Ellie



**from 18 December**

### The Octopus (Office) will open for enrolments :

- ◆ Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January
- ◆ Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January
- ◆ Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January
- ◆ From 9.00am - 12pm

If there is an 'Extreme Heat' day the Office will open on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>, same time.



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