

U3A

Third Thoughts

Castlemaine Inc (Est 1988)

Volume 25 No 9

September 2010

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~ NOTICE OF AGM ~

The Annual General Meeting of U3A Castlemaine Inc. will be held in the Uniting Church Hall, Lyttleton St, Castlemaine, on 1 October, 2010, at 10 am.

Refreshments will be served.

It's not often we see all our Class Leaders together. Here most of them are, gathered for the annual Class Leaders Breakfast at Buda in August.

What talent and knowledge - and breadth of courses - our Class Leaders provide for us!



Would you like to nominate anyone before the Annual General Meeting to take a role on the Committee.? Nomination and Proxy forms are with this newsletter. Descriptions of various committee roles are also in this newsletter.

The Computer program has a survey inserted in the newsletter, asking you what you would like in the computer classes.

U3A CASTLEMAINE'S INFORMATION WEB PAGE: www.u3acastlemaine.com

~ Committee Members ~

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

~ FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING ROSTER ~

3 September Memoir Writing, Music Appreciation, Opera

1 October Short Walks, Singing Together, Solo Whist

The free Coffee Mornings are at the Uniting Church Hall every first Friday of each month. They start at 10 am with a short business meeting, There is often an interesting guest speaker before tea and coffee. Members' guests and members of other U3As are welcome.  PLEASE SEE PAGE 3 FOR THE CHANGED TIME OF THE SEPTEMBER COFFEE Morning.

Email u3acastlemaine@mmnet.com.au

Computer courses: 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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$40.00 plus \$10 if postage of newsletter is required. \$20 if you join after June. 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).

The Deadline for the October newsletter is Monday, 23 September at 3 p.m.

Please email your contributions, including photos to:
u3anews@aapt.net.au

If this is difficult, leave articles at the office.

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

This is my penultimate President's communiqué and because this is **Elizabeth Rider's** penultimate newsletter and, in the hurly burly of the Annual General Meeting, it is sometimes difficult to adequately acknowledge the commitment of retiring members, I should like to take this opportunity to thank Elizabeth for her persistence in ensuring that the Newsletter has always been of the highest standard, and that it has kept us informed and entertained. Many of you will not realise the amount of cajoling and emailing that she spends in meeting the high standards that she has set for herself.

Marion Taubman our tireless Vice President, member of the Special Events Subcommittee, and former Secretary, is also taking a well earned rest from office. She has been a supportive and faithful backstop to me. A committed U3A Castlemaine member, Marion is happy to continue in her sub-committee work. Thank you Marion.

Judy Sime, our secretary, is swapping roles. She is happy to undertake the taxing role of Office Manager. Thank you, Judy, for your time as secretary. You have been an exemplary member of our team. **Joe Scoglio**, as Committee member and latterly Office Manager and **Eva Haarbarger**, as Welcomer and Convenor of the drivers' assistance team, have worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of our organisation. They have always been willing to cheerfully undertake any task allotted to them. Thank you, Joe and Eva. **Geoff Walker** tutor, Network representative, former president and great advocate for U3A Castlemaine, steps down from office. I thank him for his leadership and commitment. **Hans van Gemert**, bridge tutor and innovator, former Treasurer has indicated that he would like to retire from the Committee and I thank him most sincerely for all he has done to further our development and image in the community.

On Friday, 20 August, I attended two events which could impact on the future of U3A Castlemaine:

- A most enjoyable evening was spent at **Prue Cole's** home where if the hum of conversation, the wonderful spread of food and the range of exotic drinks is any indication the future of U3A Castlemaine

3

JOTTINGS~

will be in good hands. The purpose of this event was to raise awareness among potential Committee members of the roles and commitment which office bearers and committee members undertake. Thank you to **Sally Kaptein, Prue Cole and Sue Turner** and their supporters for ensuring the successful organisation of this event. ([See Page 12.](#))

- U3A Bendigo sponsored a meeting attended by representatives of Ballarat, Kerang, Heathcote, Shepparton, Ararat, Maryborough, Hepburn, Kyneton, Echuca U3A with apologies from Stawell, Cohuna and Horsham.

The purpose of this meeting was to canvas some form of regional organisation which would enhance contact, communication and cooperation between the attendee U3As. Various modes of union were proposed including those used by government departments, those in association of a major highway, those limited by time taken to travel.

No resolution was reached and a further meeting is to be held on the 19 November. There is a possibility that, as the number of U3As increases and the Network meeting becomes more cumbersome, a reshaping of the Network meeting - with delegates appointed from regional groups rather than representatives from each U3A - is a possible model. Thank you, Bendigo, for taking this initiative.

Another event which will shape the future of U3A Castlemaine is **Fresh Ideas day** which will be held in conjunction with this coming Coffee Morning. **FRESH IDEAS DAY ON FRIDAY 3 SEPTEMBER BEGINS WITH TEA/COFFEE AT 9.30 FOR A 9.40 START.** There will be three fifteen minutes group sessions to be followed by morning tea and a short business meeting. After this **Bruce Carruthers, our webmaster**, will demonstrate the workings of the Website, to be followed by three fifteen-minute group sessions, summing up and lunch. Please come to this activity session - it is your opportunity to influence the direction of U3A Castlemaine in 2011.

~ Tom Comerford



WHAT DO WE ACTUALLY DO? Committee members talk about their roles

The President's role and tasks

Whilst I have been conscious of the brief outlined here, when I reflect on my day-to-day role as president it came down to:



- Encouraging and supporting my fellow Committee members (not difficult because not necessary- they are a great team)
- Chairing the Coffee Morning meeting (which I hated)
- Providing a public face (seldom called upon)
- Chairing Committee & monthly Agenda meetings (keeping to time is difficult for me. Others can do this e.g. alternating chairpersons)
- Writing the president's message for the monthly Newsletter (this was the hardest part of the position for me – I'm not good at meeting deadlines)

The brief in the Committee of Management manual reads (with the amendments I've suggested to the Committee)

- 1.1 To provide leadership and support to all U3A Castlemaine Inc committee and general members
- 1.2 To be involved in public relations activities to ensure that U3A Castlemaine Inc presents a public image consistent with the U3A Castlemaine Inc strategic plan
- 1.3 To play a leading role in the strategic development of U3A Castlemaine Inc to promote the future growth of the organisation.
- 1.4 To organise and chair all committee meetings, all other U3A meetings or to delegate responsibility for this function to an appropriate person(s)
- 1.5 To work collaboratively with each office holder / committee member on all matters relevant to the U3A Castlemaine Inc business, processes and decision making
- 1.6 To liaise with U3A Network Victoria, the local council and community as required
- 1.7 To allocate some projects or tasks to other U3A Castlemaine Inc members. The delegation of such tasks must be discussed with /approved by the Executive
- 1.8 To attend committee meetings as set down in the constitution

~ Tom Comerford

The Committee Secretary's role and tasks

Do you like to organise and make things happen? Do you like to have your say? Then the job of Committee Secretary could be for you.

You **DO NOT** sit in the U3A Office and carry out clerical tasks. That's the role of somebody else. You **DO** need computer skills to compose and write letters, emails, and create the agenda for each committee meeting. You do most of your work at home in your own time and that could average about four hours a week, including meetings.

Here is a summary of your main tasks:

- Prepare the agenda for committee meetings, attend committee meetings and take minutes (if no Minutes Secretary), and after approval, distribute them. Write any letters required on behalf of the Committee
- Clear the Post Office box regularly and deal with the correspondence, plus any emails and phone calls received
- Present applications for membership at the meetings and send acceptance letters, badges and booklets to the new members.
- Book an alternative venue for monthly Coffee Mornings when the regular venue is not available – normally in November.

~ Judy Sime, who takes over as our new office manager after the AGM.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Barbara Ashworth

Christine (Tina) Carroll

Carlyn McGufficke

Josef Mika

Arthur Peart

Judy Stack,

Dianne Tooby

The Treasurer's role and tasks

The U3A Treasurer's timetable and jobs to be done, as I see it after ten months. There are four commitments during the month.



1. First Friday -the Coffee morning meeting
2. Second Tuesday - the Committee meeting
3. Last Friday -the Agenda planning meeting for the executive to plan the coffee morning and the next committee meeting
4. First Monday -Data entry onto the office computer.

Tasks to be done during the month:

First Monday of the month enter previous month's data into MYOB on office computer with bookkeeper and produce a bank reconciliation, profit and loss, and balance sheet reports (and produce the BASquarterly). This takes about one hour.

Second Tuesday of the month, I allow half the day for:

- The committee meeting
- To collect and list all accounts to be paid
- To write all cheques for countersigning at committee meeting
- To present profit and loss report and balance sheet from the previous month to the committee and copy for presentation to members at next Coffee Morning
- Pay all accounts once approved by committee

First Friday of the month I allow about three hours to:

- Present report to members
- Collect monies from trading table, cake raffle, book sales and write receipts
- Collect and pay any petty cash claims from members
- Receipt new members subscriptions and renewals from existing members
- Collect class levies from PC group at Octopus, bridge, MAC group, Play group etc

Last Friday of the month I allow about two hours to

- Attend the agenda planning meeting
- As needed, bank all money after writing receipts and checking office receipts.
- Manage monies for special events
- Monitor and manage term deposit
- Draft and present budget to committee

- Annually present accounts for auditor
- Prepare Treasurer's report for AGM in October.
- Assist with grant applications and future planning.

- Sue Turner

The Course Coordinator's role and tasks

I am responsible for coordinating the education program for U3A Castlemaine. This year-long responsibility begins with the development and publication, in December, of the U3A Prospectus for the following year.

Enrolment day in January is a time of much anticipation and excitement. This is followed by the tutor information morning, when we distribute the class lists (student names and contact details) and a concise update of particulars for Class Leaders, old and new. Training sessions for Class Leaders are held during the year as needed.

I need to keep my ear to the ground at all times for the possibility of offering something new, or encouraging members to share their skills and interests. Courses can be over a year, a term, or offered as single or short courses.

Each month the U3A newsletter requires updates and reminders from me concerning new courses and any changes in the timetable. This is always an opportunity for personal input, reminders, praise or encouragement and even making requests or suggestions.

Memos and updates are sent to Class Leaders as required and these too offer an opportunity for acknowledgement of their efforts.

Last year, a newcomer to Castlemaine, I put my hand up for this role with U3A at the AGM. I had no idea really what was entailed but simply thought, in a rather foolhardy way, I would be able to do it. The end of year work load is quite substantial, but even so the amount of support from members is astounding. The reward of the various stages completed with success is a pleasure. I have met a lot wonderful people and have formed many rewarding friendships.



While this position is not up for renewal this year I do encourage you to follow up with questions and I would be pleased to have someone 'shadow' my work during the year. A full description of this position is available.

~ Win Jodell



The Editor's role and tasks

I love the name, *Third Thoughts*. I like to think that it encourages us to feel that our ideas, opinions, classes and activities are equally important.

Anyone who takes on the editor's role will bring his or her personal stamp to it, and that is the way it should be.

Narelle Stocks, the previous editor, mentored me and she also produced our wonderful book, *As If It Were Yesterday*. Narelle took over from Val Anderson, who took over from ... ? The history is important, and it is all there in the beautifully-bound copies – a fascinating account of what members of U3A Castlemaine have done since our enterprising Founders set it all in motion 22 years ago. What a creative, energetic bunch they were, and still are. And did they have fun!

What do I do, and what skills are needed?

- I attend two Committee meetings a month and occasionally convene a Communication Subcommittee meeting.
- The agenda meeting on the Friday before Coffee Mornings is to plan the Coffee Morning and the next full Committee meeting. (two hours.)
- The Committee meeting is on the first Tuesday after the Coffee morning, when we follow up on Coffee morning, incoming correspondence, executive members report to the committee, and I glean some of what should be in the next newsletter from the committee. (Skills needed : patience and attention. two and a half hours.)
- Committee members work as part of a team, so we get support from each other when we need it. As a Committee member and a kind of U3A reporter, I go to events and activities organised for members and take photos or ask others to take photos and send them to me. (Skill needed: Don't be shy to ask!)
- I encourage as many different people as possible to contribute to the newsletter. My biggest frustration is that I often don't have enough space for interesting and amusing contributions from members and Class Leaders.

My second biggest frustration is when my computer bares its teeth and declares war on me. Thank goodness for our generous, patient, clever Knight in Shining Armour, David Simes. David has saved me from the computer dragon a few times!

My newsletter routine:

- Set the monthly deadlines for the year to go into the annual calendar. I allow two and a half days to put the

newsletter together—more when you first start. (Skill needed: planning and meeting deadlines, computer.)

- Ten days before the deadline, send out a reminder email message to Class Leaders and Committee members to get their contributions in. (Skill: email)
- Save incoming newsletter articles and photos from email into the month's contents file. (This usually takes about two hours, not all at once.)
- The day of the deadline (Monday), start putting the newsletter together. I use Publisher. This takes me two and half days - maybe less for a more computer-efficient person. (Skills needed: Ability to create a newsletter with whatever software suits you, and process photos.)
- The third day after deadline (Wednesday), take a print-out of the newsletter to at least two proofreaders. Persuade the trusty proofreaders (usually Anne F and Narelle) to give it back to me for corrections the same day.
- Make final corrections and save to my memory stick.
- The next day (Thursday) take the memory stick to the Copy Centre at 9.30 am, where Pete and Hannah put it on to their computer, we check it, then they make a PDF file and print me a proof to check.
- Send the PDF to our webmaster, Bruce Carruthers, who immediately puts it up on the webpage.
- On the Friday a week before Coffee Morning, pick up the copies and take to the agenda meeting where we fold them. We put them into the envelopes that Veronica Hurley in the office has so efficiently labelled. They are then ready for the post - many hands make light work! I count the envelopes, take them to the Post office and voila!– it's in members' mail boxes by the beginning of the week before Coffee Morning.

It's a piece of cake, really! I've enjoyed it, and getting to know more U3A members. I am happy to work with someone who takes on the adventure of being the new *Third Thoughts* editor. You would have discretion on the style and how you want to do it. You definitely need some computer skills, and I could show you Publisher, which is easy to learn.

~ Elizabeth Rider

Thank you to members who have sent in material for *Third Thoughts*. Unfortunately I have, again, been pressed for space, so I will hang on to them to use in the next issue, which will be a Bumper Issue.

- Editor, *Third Thoughts*

~ CLASS NOTES ~

ABORIGINAL HISTORY - OUR SHARED HISTORY

Felicity Say 5472 1841

Tuesday, 7 September

Women of the Sun - 25 Years Later is the remarkable film which tells of the conception of the series of films *Women of the Sun*, which were unique in that they brought to television drama, spoken Aboriginal language for the first time. We'll hear the director and the writers of the series and hear of the real life experiences of some of the actors and the consequences of having taken part in those very memorable films, made in the early 1980s.



Women of the Sun

21 September

Today's session is in preparation for the class visit to Mooroopna next month to see a performance of *Pecan Summer*. Deborah Cheetham tells about her conception of her opera, the first Indigenous opera, written by herself, an Indigenous opera singer. We'll meet many of the singers and witness their preparation and introduction to the world of opera and the telling of this very significant story of the Walk-off from Cumeragunga Mission in 1939.

ADVENTURE OF ENGLISH

Diana Collier 5443 0137

The social history background of Chaucer's England, will be the theme for this month, touching on to the political/economic/social divisions of the people into Three Estates, the spread of the population, housing, men's status and women's position, education and the social criticism by authors such as John Gower, William Langland, Geoffrey Chaucer.

The medieval sense of humour and the contemporary use of satire (different from ours) will be seen in many of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. Dialects of today may be recognised as nice contrasts and developments.

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

Geoff Walker 5470 6652.

We are continuing our biographical studies of well-known Australians. At one of the sessions in August Alan Robinson presented a DVD, *The Floating Brothel*, which gave the story of Mary Wade, transported to New South Wales in 1789, at the age of 11. She died at the age of 87, leaving five generations and 300 descendants.

At the second session Shirley Curnow gave us the story of Banjo Paterson, one of Australia's greatest ballad writers, who inspired many in the early years of the 20th Century.

Our sessions in September will be on Monday 13th and Monday 27th, both at 2 pm at the home of Shirley Curnow in Silver Street, Campbell's Creek. Jenni Owen will give us the life story of Raymond Longford, the film pioneer, and Barbara Robinson will reveal some of the insights into another pioneer, Reginald Ansett.



BALLET APPRECIATION

Joe Scoglio 5472 2396

In August we looked at Petipa's choreography and viewed a documentary on Degas' painting of dancers of that era.

In September we will begin the 20th Century with the colourful, exotic, and exciting 1909 arrival in Paris of Diaghilev's *Le Ballet Russe*. It was an event that was to stimulate developments in fashion, interior design, painting, choreography and music. It reintroduced the power of male dancing to a jaded Western European artistic elite.

DABBLING IN HISTORY

Peter Stephens 5472 3904

Dabbling In History is now meeting only on the first Wednesday of the month. Tom's American History class is on the third Wednesday.

For those brave enough in August to defy the cold, Fred spoke about his recent pilgrimage to Santiago De Compostela in northwest Spain, when he walked about 1,700kms on this journey. He described the camaraderie



of the pilgrims, the infrastructure necessary to look after them. He discussed the history of the pilgrimage which started over 1,000 years ago, reaching its peak in the Middle Ages. Surprisingly, given our non religious age, it seems to be reaching another peak. Fred is addicted as this was his seventh!

On Wednesday, 1 September we will look at a time just before many of us can remember: Europe in the 1930s and the causes of the Spanish Civil War.

I am ashamed to admit that I know very little about the European settlement of New Zealand but that will be rectified in October when Don tells us all about the discovery and colonisation of our sister country.

AMERICAN HISTORY

The War of Independence and the dispossession of the First Americans provided the theme for our last session. In the coming session we shall examine the role of slavery as a cause of the Civil War, and the Civil War and its outcomes. All are welcome to attend this or any session of the American History series. The Robber Barons will be the theme of the October meeting. We meet in the Kindergarten Hall on the third Wednesday in the month at 10 am.

ISSUES OF CONCERN

Carol Dorman 5472 4429

Two members of the Issues group were absent for part of August having both gone under the knife but are now with us again and participating as vigorously as ever.

The State government passed legislation recently, extending Melbourne's city boundaries set by Melbourne 2030. Land in the Shire of Casey, previously used for

market gardens has now been earmarked for housing. This means less land for growing produce close to Melbourne increasing transportation costs and consequently food prices. Melbourne already spreads a 100 km from east to west.

In the African state of Niger 80% of the population is ten days from starvation. Food is plentiful but expensive. The USA buys 40% of its oil from Nigeria so Nigeria's finances should be healthy enough to provide for its people.

China is pursuing renewable energy far better than Australia. The day will surely come when China will reduce its demand for coal. What happens to our economy then? Australia's coal exports to China account for 46% of our total exports. China has ORDERED thousands of high polluting factories to close before the end of September to avoid embarrassment at missing an environmental deadline.

Thanks to Richard Wynne, Victoria's Housing Minister, a new facility for housing the homeless opened in Melbourne recently. It is called Melbourne Common Ground and came into being after Richard Wynne visited the Common Ground project in Times Square, New York. Melbourne Common Ground has 161 homes and provides accommodation and support services such as medical staff, mental health referrals, drug and alcohol abuse treatment, job search services and recreational facilities. Some good news for a change!

October Seniors Festival Promises A Feast of Events.

U3A Castlemaine members are involved in Seniors activities during the month of October. The Digital Photography class will be exhibiting some of their work, Sally Kaptein is organising reading from *As If It Were Yesterday* in the Library, and Tom Comerford is organising a very interesting symposium on "Change" at Buda on 22 October. These are among some of many activities on the Seniors Festival calendar in October. There will be more news of the program in the next newsletter.

Please contact Sally if you are willing to be one of the readers from *As If It Were Yesterday*.

MEMOIR WRITING

Elizabeth Rider 5470 5681

What can I say? ~ Written by a member of the Memoir Writing Group who wishes to remain anonymous.

I am sitting at my computer wondering what on earth to write about. Over the past weeks my nifty fingers have pummelled out all sorts of theories, solutions and feelings about what has recently happened to my 78-year-old mother whose husband of 25 years has told her he wants out. To avoid an old age on her own in Canada, she will need to emigrate for the fourth time in her life and live again in Australia. I've written pages so far and the story is still evolving day by day. But enough of this for now as it has consumed me over the past two weeks and I've tired of it.

Coughing for much of the day with a pain in my chest, my hypochondriac tendencies gleefully announce that I may have pneumonia. Everything overwhelms me at the moment; my batteries are nearly empty and I really want someone to take over and look after me for a bit. But let's face it, life is as it is and I must pull myself out of this sorry state and get on with it.

I'm reading Zoe Heller, a marvellous writer who makes me and my writing look like goat poo. Still I must write about something as it's only a couple of days till my writing group. If I leave it till the morning again, I shall arrive there empty handed which is probably not such a bad thing, but I want to write something. Anything!

I don't want to prattle on about my childhood again. Not now anyway. It makes me feel wet behind the ears and terribly immature. I could continue with the recent story of my mother, but it is too raw to present as yet. What about the early years of my marriage? Not flattering if I am to be honest. Oh well I'll just keep thinking. Thinking, thinking, thinking.

I'll make myself a cup of tea. That's it. Then words will flow like quicksilver, so much that I won't be able to keep up. My fingers will rattle along while I mouth out words, startling the lazy dogs lying by the fire until they bark with excitement.

After rinsing my tea mug I sit at the desk, inconveniently away from the annoying fire which keeps threatening to go out, so that I have to keep getting up to revive it. I hear rival birds singing out their threats to each other, the recognisable tunes reminding me that birdsong is the forerunner to human music. *'Here we go looby loo...'*

I stare blankly through the window and notice tiny blue wrens hopping about, investigating the upturned soil from recent gardening efforts with easy pickings. Nearby pink galahs nibble on the sweet winter grass. Apart from quarrelling birds it is quiet here on our ten acres. Very peaceful, in fact, with no interruptions. So I should be able to get this done. But I can't.



My life has been varied and eventful but not really interesting. If I was to write about these adventures, geographical and emotional, I imagine people stifling irresistible yawns while muttering "ho hum" to themselves. If I bared it all, some could well respond with shock, disgust, envy, pity, mirth or even admiration, depending on their own experiences. Some people could be amazed, enthralled, even aroused, while others are simply bored or annoyed.

But memoir writing isn't just about how others see you or your writing, is it? Much of what I've written could never be aired to family or friends of family. So why do I write?

Well at this minute I really don't know why I write except to say that I have enjoyed much satisfaction over the short time since I started. I am a newcomer to this form of expression and not at all confident, but no matter. I'll improve, sooner or later. I look forward to the Memoir group and enjoy hearing the pieces written by ordinary women with extraordinary abilities. So what shall I write about for this week?

Time is running out and I need to write something. A couple of paragraphs will do. But what can I say?

POETRY READING

Eileen Park 5472 5213

After our recent break we will have our first meeting on Tuesday, 14 September at 1.30 pm.

This will be a special session led by Bernard Slattery who will explain and discuss with us many of the traditional forms of poetry such as the sonnet and haiku. As he also knows very well the work of Les Murray, he will be an excellent link into this next planned section of our studies.

~ Pat Milthorpe

OPERA - AN OCCASIONAL EVENING SERIES

Vic Say 5472 1841

We meet monthly evenings of the U3A the Coffee Mornings—first Friday of the month at 7 pm.

- 3 September: *Boris Godunov* by Moussorgsky
- 1 October: *Otello* by Verdi

Boris Godunov by Moussorgsky is as grand and brutal as any historical fragment of Greater Russia could be, which falls historically between Ivan the Terrible and Stalin. It has all the size and grandeur of Russia itself . . . or *War and Peace*.

I suggest you Google the libretto or the history for a colourfully grand slice of the history of Eastern Europe. You won't need to know the music - it is immediately accessible with great male voices in a grand Russian musical setting. The orchestration, the voices and the melodic lines are fantastic. Look forward to the evening; the politics does leave room for a love song!

To picture the emotional scale of the historical setting, consider the fate of the body of Tzar Dimitri who later invaded Russia from Poland and overthrew and murdered Tzar Boris's son, Tzar Feodor. (Tzar Dimitri was in turn overthrown by a long time schemer of Tzar Boris' court, Shuisky who then became Tzar.) When reports began to circulate that the dead Tzar Dimitri's grave gave off light, Tzar Shuisky had the body disinterred and burned; the ashes were mixed with gun powder and fired from canons in the direction of Poland from where Dimitri had invaded Russia. Tzar Boris, Shuisky as a prince and Dimitri as a young monk, are all characters in the part of history covered by the libretto. Mousoorgsky was his own librettist.

RENAISSANCE POPES

Tom Comerford 5470 630

The lives of the four Medici popes and a video of the times of Leo X and Clement V11 comprised the material of our August session. The September session will focus on the reforming roles of Clement V111 and Gregory X111. The Borgia popes will be the theme of the October session. Please note that we return to our regular meeting place - the Kindergarten Hall at 2 pm on the second Thursday in the month.

Please feel free to attend any or all of these sessions examining the lives and achievement of some of the Renaissance popes.

REQUIEM AND THEN . . . ?

Vic Say 5472 1841

We meet on Fridays, usually at 1.30 after the U3A Coffee Morning and again two weeks later

3 September: *Requiem* by Ockeghem 1410 - 1497. A generation earlier than Prioris, his is the very earliest requiem still known and available. We will compare a recording recently acquired by a member of the group with the shorter version of his requiem we listened to last year - so two Ockaghem recordings to anticipate.

NOTE: If the Coffee Morning and associated activities planned for the morning run past 1 pm we will start at 2 pm, but just come when you are ready.)

17 September: *Requiem* by Karl Jenkins, a 21st Century composer who also draws on five Japanese haiku death poems and includes orchestration for the Japanese shakuhachi and Arabic and Japanese ethnic drums.



Playing the shakuhachi

SHORT WALKS

Dorothy Henshall 5472 5108

We have been very fortunate during this cold, wet winter in that we haven't needed to cancel one walk owing to inclement weather. Some Wednesdays have dawned wet and miserable but by 10 am the rain has eased, the sun has shone – maybe a little feebly, and we have been able to have a good bracing walk in the bush for an hour.

It is good to see the bush restored and rejuvenated and to note the re-appearance of the under-storey. The Wattles are now in full bloom, making glorious splashes of colour on the hill-sides and in the bush, and we have high hopes that, come September, there will be a flush of wildflowers to delight our senses as we return to favourite places or seek out new ones.

During these past months our short bush walks have taken us to the Oak Forest, Harcourt; Muckleford State Forest and the Red, White and Blue Mine; Norwood Hill

SHORT WALKS CONTINUED

and Deadhorse Gully; the Chewton Bushlands Walks; Kalorama and Kaweka; Castlemaine Heritage Diggings; Pennyweight Cemetery and Happy Valley; parts of the walking track alongside the Castlemaine/Maldon Railway Line; The Old Gower School and Smith's Reef; along Sawmill Rd. to Haw's Rd. and beyond. We have explored the two newly constructed walking tracks beside Campbell's Creek and found them to be safe and comfortable.

Word has it that the wildflowers are early this year and are already beginning to appear in sunny and sheltered spots and the native birds have returned and are singing their songs of joy. So the prospect of more interesting and enjoyable Short Bush Walks is before us. The year has turned!



SINGING TOGETHER

Rae Hawkins 5472 3446

The U3A Choir has been invited to sing at Peggy Munro's home in the afternoon of 3 November during the Festival of Gardens. This means that we shall not be at the Uniting Hall on 2 November, which is Melbourne Cup Day. We have to select a program of about 12 songs. Fortunately we have plenty in our repertoire.

It is almost time to start preparing our Christmas program. Nothing has been decided yet, but it will include old favourites and some new songs.

We shall continue to work on the two new songs that we started practising during August.

HORTICULTURE

Peggy Munro 5472 2086

We have been very busy. At Peggy's we tried to see/do many different types of propagation. David did an aerial graft on his camellia and set some tree dahlia cuttings in a styrene box. Many of the group cut, dug up, snipped, potted up plants for themselves and for the garden club. We had a great day and Gill came back the next day to graft a scion of Snow Apple on to my Lady William.

We have planned our outings for the rest of the year.

On 17 September we will go for sustainability at Dot Henshall's. Meet at the Uniting Church at 1.30 pm to car pool. A special feature of this garden is a wick watering system. We hope to be inspired. On 2 October we want to go to Lambley Nursery, and on 25 October, we will visit Gill King's at Harcourt North to learn about orchard maintenance.

We also plan a visit to Trentham to Norgates nursery and then on to the topiary garden there. And in December, we will have a picnic somewhere—venue to be decided.

Poems by Christobel Comerford

ODE TO THE SALMON (Limerick form)

*The sex life of salmon seems cruel
With wild bears and cascades they must duel
Only then can they mate,
Their love consummate,
Wild rapture, then death in a pool.*

*So next time you're dishing up salmon,
It's usually a feast or a famine,
Remember this fish,
Cold and pink on the dish,
It died for species to carry on.*

ODE TO THE SALMON (Rhyming Couplets)

*I hesitate to be unkind,
But the salmon has a one-track mind,
Once every season full of fire,
He swims upstream, higher and higher.*

*Up rocks and rills, up streams and hills,
Up high cascades, up glassy glades,
Through canyon steep, through waters deep,
Up stones and rocks, up dams and locks.*

*From day till night, from dark to light,
Until at last, on one bright dawn,
He gets there, just in time to spawn.*

*Now, having done his salmon duty,
And having wooed his salmon cutie,
And weary from his trip uptown,
In quiet waters he will be drown,*

*Pondering with
his dying
bubble,
Just why is sex
so darn much
trouble.*



SPRING TRIP TO THE NATIONAL GALLERY FOR THE EUROPEAN MASTERS

Wednesday 29 September - U3A has arranged a magnificent outing to the NGV to see the, not to be repeated, European Masters exhibition. The coach will pick us up outside the Castlemaine Market Building at 9 am on Wednesday, 29 September and deliver us to the gallery door. From there we will have our usual lecture on the exhibition before moving into the display area. The coach will pick us up again at the door, and deliver us back to the Market building at approximately 5 pm. What luxury!

To keep costs to a minimum, we will share the trip with members of the Castlemaine Gallery. Bookings for this event will only be secured with the payment of \$40 which includes everything. **BOOKINGS MUST BE MADE** at the local Castlemaine Art Gallery. As this is open every day this is easiest option. Get in as soon as you can as there are only 57 seats. There will be no refunds.

*I visited the exhibition last month and it is magnificent. I think this is a really good deal!
If you can go, don't miss this opportunity.*

~ Elizabeth Rider, Editor.

Members enjoyed the "Mocktail" Party in August.

Sue Turner and Sally Kaptein spent a good part of the day preparing for the Cocktail Party, which was a great success. At least 42 enthusiastic and happy people enjoyed Sally's magnificent champagne cocktails. Christobel Comerford brought a delicious cranberry juice-based cocktail, which went down a treat as well. There was much chatter and laughter, and several members of the committee spoke about their roles. We are looking forward to hearing from all those who expressed interest in joining such an active and involved committee.



Reminder! Please let the office know of any change in your e-mail , postal or other contact details.