



President's Report from Win Jodell

Hello members all, yes I'm back again, unprecedented in our U3A history.

In the following months the Committee of Management will be busy overseeing the move to ETTY Street. Russell Annear will be coordinating a team of volunteers. Anticipating a home of our own is very exciting indeed. Past presidents Tom Commerford and Peter Stephens have, in my time with U3A Castlemaine, worked hard towards achieving this.

Tom in particular could see possibilities with the senior campus and years ago Peter Stephens and I discussed with Larry O'Toole of the Hot Rod Association our shared interest in the future of the buildings when the Secondary College relocated on a single site. So now it is all GO and it will be a pleasure to work toward *The Campus* providing suitable accommodation for our classes and a social hub for members coming and going from classes in close proximity.

I would like to thank all the retiring Committee members, especially **Dick Mack** who took on the Acting President role in recent months. **Rob Murdoch**, Secretary, **Diane Vits** Minute Secretary, and **Peter Batte** Treasurer who came to the Committee two years ago each with a lot of experience in their respective fields, from which those positions have benefitted. The quality of minutes in particular is now excellent. I would like to thank all four of you for your tremendous contributions.

Bev Orgill and Colleen Smith both came

forward to volunteer in my previous term as President. I know them both well. Bev began by recruiting volunteers to specific areas and Working Groups; the following year she recruited Class Representatives to most of the large classes with excellent effect.

Colleen headed up the Communications Working Group and really raised our U3A profile with local press and radio. These two hard working women last year volunteered together as joint Course Coordinators. It was an exceptionally successful team supported by the Courses Working Group. Thank you Colleen and Bev.

Joe Scoglio's term on the Committee has also ended. The Events Working Group has been advantaged by Joe's many years of involvement. All members have benefitted from the engaging Coffee Morning speakers, the wonderful variety of trips, celebrations and other outings. Thank you Joe.

Carol Dorman who has been our Publicity person for the past two years has stepped down. We must thank her for keeping local newspapers and community radio abreast of U3A Castlemaine's activities. Our ever increasing membership is greatly helped by good publicity. Thank you Carol.

A number of new members have stepped forward to join the Committee, and I welcome them. They are **Monique Thomson**, Secretary; **Joanne Thompson**, treasurer; **Sue Tomkinson**, Vice President until March 2017; **Sue Albert** and **Elizabeth Brown** will be ordinary members; they bring fresh eyes to our activities, and different experiences and skills. It's a sign of how vibrant and outward looking our organisation is that we have so many new Committee members.

Continued page 3

U3A Castlemaine — Contact Information

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www.u3acastlemaine.com

MyU3A: go to U3A Castlemaine website and click on MEMBER LOGIN under INDEX

Friday Coffee Morning

Coffee Mornings are held on the first Friday of the month at 10am in the Uniting Church

Hall; in **NOVEMBER @ ANGLICAN CHURCH HALL**

November Speaker: Dot Henshall on two topics - *My Life* and *The Beginnings of U3A Castlemaine*

November Hosts: Armchair Travel, Events Group & Committee of Management

November – Founders Day
at Anglican Church



Read *Third Thoughts* in full colour on our website

Go to http://www.u3acastlemaine.com/newsletters/newsletter_latest.pdf

DEADLINE DECEMBER ISSUE OF *THIRD THOUGHTS* IS FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER

From page 1

I am writing this before the first Committee meeting since the AGM. I will have more to report next month, and I have written elsewhere about our meeting with the new CEO of Mount Alexander Shire Council. On behalf of members and the Committee I wish Robyn Yeoman, our Newsletter Editor, all the very best for the series of hospitalisations and procedures expected in the next few months.

Best wishes and I look forward to seeing you at the next Coffee Morning
in the Anglican Church Hall
on Friday 4 November.

Win Jodell
winjodell@gmail.com

Au revoir

Now the AGM is over and I've reverted to being just an ordinary member. Shortly I will embark on the next chapter of my life in Tasmania, so it's appropriate to reflect on my time in U3A Castlemaine.

It's been a wonderful six years since I joined a U3A class, with no ambition other than to get some insights into writing my autobiography. But you get out of something just what you're prepared to put into it!

Highlights have included:

- ❖ those stimulating classes and activities;
- ❖ such great trips – MONA, Sunnymeade, NGV & Bendigo exhibitions;
- ❖ the 25th anniversary extravaganza;
- ❖ challenging and thoughtful Coffee Morning speakers;
- ❖ the company of so many talented and engaging people;
- ❖ the thrill of sharing my interests as course leader;
- ❖ the challenge and fulfilment of the Course Coordination role;
- ❖ the privilege of serving you as President.

U3A Castlemaine provides such a great service to the community on so many different levels – intellectual and physical stimulation, social cohesion, camaraderie, a sense of belonging, and of valuing older citizens.

It's a most exciting time for U3A – the Etty Street move throws up great opportunities for further growth. Embrace it fully, and meet the initial challenges with vigour!

Thank you all for being so welcoming and encouraging – Rosalie and I will carry great memories with us.

See you at December coffee morning - for the last time!

Dick Mack

MASARG (Mount Alexander Shire Accommodation and Respite Group)



Following the AGM Rosalie and I attended the opening of the respite facility at McKenzie Hill. Such a joyous celebration, the culmination of 10 years of determination by a small group of dedicated carers. A shining example of the power of a community in overcoming seemingly impenetrable difficulties to achieve a common goal. It was so uplifting to see the elation of those who had worked so hard, and we were proud that U3A Castlemaine had played a small part in their journey.

Now they're looking to build a residential facility – and I know they'll get there! And I'm sure that U3A Castlemaine will continue to support them. After all, carers are used to constant challenges!

Dick Mack

Musicals Bev Orgill & Peter Morris

This month we watched the Award-winning 1955 film version of *Oklahoma*. Excellent singing from all, (especially Shirley Jones and Gordon McRae), great dancing choreographed by Agnes de Mille, beautiful Technicolour and a witty script guaranteed that this first of the Rodgers and Hammerstein II musical collaborations was enjoyed by us all. Next month we will do it all again with the screening of *Carousel*.

2017 Courses Update

THIS MESSAGE IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL MEMBERS AND CLASS LEADERS

Great progress has been made in developing an exciting selection of courses for the U3A Castlemaine 2017 year, and we acknowledge with deep gratitude those class leaders who have offered their time, wisdom and enthusiasm to our membership next year. At the time of writing, we will be offering 85 courses in 2017.

We want to outline a number of changes which will occur next year. These changes relate to our new venue, *The Campus* (previously the ETTY Street Secondary College), and to the improved flexibility provided by MyU3A for membership renewals and class enrolments.

THE CAMPUS

For the first time in 28 years we have a new, permanent home at this site. The benefits are numerous:

- ❖ With three, large dedicated rooms assigned to us, we have the flexibility to run courses and other events without the space and availability restrictions we have endured in the past. These rooms are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week;
- ❖ We are now able to provide adequate, permanent storage facilities for our class leaders' use;
- ❖ We will be able to utilise facilities, such as a sprung floor dance space, a kiln, a darkroom and greenhouse equipment, and a large auditorium, by a simple internal booking process;
- ❖ We can look forward to improved social interaction among our members, and in the long term there is a café planned for the Campus;
- ❖ Students doing work-related programs will be on site to assist with office support, reception, etc.;
- ❖ Centralised reception, record keeping and office facilities.

We will need some refurbishment and new equipment – especially our own chairs – but we expect to be able to use our rooms from the end of January.

Members and class leaders will have an opportunity to look over these facilities on Enrolment Days (see below).

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND COURSE ENROLMENTS

In our first year using the MyU3A system we have already improved our administration thanks to all the members and class leaders who have been using it. This means we can have a more flexible approach to membership renewals and class enrolments. In the past these two functions have been managed together. Now we can separate the timings for each, giving you greater control over these important activities.

- 2017 Membership renewals – and new member applications – can be made through MyU3A from late November.
- The new prospectus will be available both online, and in hard copy from early December.
- Class enrolments will open through MyU3A in mid-January, at the same time as our Enrolment Days.
- Paper membership renewals, and class enrolments, can still be processed on our Enrolment Days.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday November 25: MyU3A 2017 Membership renewals open. You will be able to renew your membership or apply for membership. You will not enrol in any classes.

Continued next page

Continued from previous page

Friday December 2: Course details for 2017 available online. These are available for viewing only. No enrolments allowed at this time.

Friday December 2: Prospectus available at December Coffee Morning.

Tuesday January 10: Course Enrolments open. This is when all enrolments begin, both through MyU3A and at *The Campus*.

Tuesday January 10 and Wednesday 11, 9am-11am: Enrolment mornings at *The Campus*, All enrolments, in person and online, will be treated equally at enrolment – there is no need to be first! These mornings will also be a chance to see our new rooms.

Saturday January 21: 2017 Course Leaders' Information Session.

Friday January 27: First Coffee Morning in 2017 at *The Campus*.

Monday January 30: U3A Castlemaine 2017 classes commence.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact:

Hazel Annear, Membership Officer and MyU3A Working Group Leader on 0407 000 054 or hazelpm54@bigpond.com; or **u3acm.courses.com**.

We hope that you will enjoy our 2017 selection of courses, the new venue and greater flexibility in membership and class enrolment dates.

John Waldie

For the 2017 Course Coordination Working Group

Meeting with new Shire CEO Darren Fuzzard

On Friday 14 October Russell Annear and I met with Darren Fuzzard, the Mount Alexander Shire CEO, at the shire offices. He welcomed us and we congratulated him on his recent appointment to the Mount Alexander Shire. I said I wanted to elevate his awareness of U3A Castlemaine.

We reminded him that our membership of over 500 makes us one of the largest organisations in the Shire, and that we are growing. While we have members from all walks of life, this shire has the highest number of PhDs per head of population in Australia, many of whom are retired and some of whom are members and contributors to U3A Castlemaine Inc.

We went on to tell him about our long and successful history, gave him a copy of the *2016 Prospectus* and drew his attention to the *Member Survey 2015*. It was a lively and informal meeting; Darren was genuinely engaged. We talked about the move to Etty Street and the problem with transport. He will set up a meeting with PTV and advise The Hon. Jacinta Allan MP member for Bendigo. We also talked about Mount Alexander Shire (MAS) not having a bus with a lift and lock for

wheelchairs. He will advise us further regarding both these issues.

I asked if MAS would consider printing our Prospectus for next year in support of U3A Castlemaine, not least because we do tick many of the boxes required by state government for the shire in respect of addressing issues of social inclusion and preventing social isolation.

Darren thanked us for "elevating his awareness" at the meeting's end and said again he would get back to us regarding issues raised.

Russell and I were pleased with the opportunity to speak frankly. There will be ongoing reports to members as new information becomes available.

Win Jodell
winjodell@gmail.com

Friday Flicks

In October, we have enjoyed two more excellent films about children: the 1946 classic *The Yearling* directed by Clarence Brown and 2014 Lao-Australian production of *The Rocket* by Kim Mordant. Next month it will be a 1940s UK classic and a wonderful award-winning modern Australian offering.

Bev Orgill

Around the classes

Photography and Digital Imaging

As voted by attendees of U3A Castlemaine's monthly coffee morning, and fellow U3A Digital Photography group members the winner is **Jo Caspi** (another dual winner this year). It was taken during one of our in-house photo shoots. This is a great example of see it and shoot it – don't wait or you may miss the moment.

Jo was amongst other photographers moving around the room. One was holding a torch directing it at a bunch of flowers. Jo managed to sneak this photograph under the arm of another photographer – and isolated the daffodil against the black background.



Jo said "This is one that just worked. I like the purity of the image and the flower, and the way it floats against the black".

Great shot!

A new member of our group, Mike Forsyth – who has been a dual winner of the People's Choice award this year, wrote this month's article. Well done Mike.

I was a new starter to digital photography this year although I have prior experience with optical principles of microscopes, electron microscopes etc in a laboratory environment. I did not have time to develop camera skills as there were willing camera experts who photographed the specimens.

I started my photography interest with the camera late last year with the buying of an entry level camera. I read from cover to cover digital photography books such as a couple by Tom Ang, The Beginner's Photography Guide and Digital Photography for Dummies. Of course, skimming through these gave me the basics but reinforcement of this

knowledge by this U3A group including our technical expert Rod Marchant and the (digital imaging) committee was of great help. I think I am developing from a basic snap photographer to an enthusiastic amateur. I've learnt that attention to the composition of a picture is paramount and familiarity with some of the 1001 features of a modern digital camera are being acquired. Alas, with the development of the mirrorless camera, the desire to excel changes from using the 20th century technology to the 21st.

Attending meetings of the group is most enjoyable, a bit of humour (most important), tolerable criticisms of attempts and the imparting of tips and ideas are important factors in the learning that takes place within the group. Field trips are part of the group activities that range from photographing dry creek beds to trying to develop the magnificent mysteries of using the "old" black and white mode of the camera. This is a mode I'm interested in pursuing - maybe due to partly, to a touch of nostalgia.

Some observations I've made are that the group might attend excursions but each individual photographs their view of what we are looking at resulting in a great variety of interpretations. Another, is that the smart phone camera is very useful in some situations such as photographing activity in street scenes where wielding a digital camera is too cumbersome and the smart phone is slightly more subtle. The iPhone is a very good camera especially if the elements of composition are followed so as to produce good images. It is also useful if it is "the camera you have with you" to capture the moment.

I think most of us look forward to the "People's Choice" at the U3A coffee morning once a month. I have seen great improvements in the exhibits during the course of the year since I've started and of course, the more experienced enthusiasts set the pace for the beginners. It has been a good year.

Mike Forsyth

Singing Together

Our U3A Choir made an annual visit to the Maldon Hospital on the 5th October. This year a change to the programme gave the residents a chance to give to give their lungs a "workout" by singing along with us in some of the more "folksy" tunes, which seemed to go down rather well.



Our next engagement was on Wednesday evening, 12th October, in the Castlemaine Town Hall for the Choir Extravaganza. It was a very enlightening event. I think the first choir to perform was the absolute show stealers. "Those children were great." The remaining seven choirs were given a level to attain, which of course they did. It was a great evening - great success.

With the festive season upon us, we will be busy getting "tuned up". Oh, oh, oh!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Terry Williams

Friday Garden Group

Due to all the rain we've had lately our scheduled garden visit to Elphinstone had to be cancelled.

At very short notice a friend and neighbour of one of the group agreed we could visit her garden. Heather's garden is a surprise. A beautiful and tranquil piece of tropical paradise transported to Castlemaine. Trees everywhere, vines and bamboo with a bit of colour from the flowers to enliven the green palette. Just goes to show that sometimes too much rain for one gardener is just perfect for the next. Everything looked lush and lovely.

Next month, keeping fingers crossed that there are no more downpours, we are going to visit Elizabeth's garden in Maldon.

Bronwen Stephens 5472 3904

Playing Ukulele and Guitar

The ukulele beginners class have now been amalgamated with the more advanced group, so we are learning to play in a large group and it is working out well. We are playing melodies along with strumming chords and the results are sounding very good. We are looking forward to playing with the guitar players, so that will be a new challenge. Keep going well everyone.

Angela Sye
0434 201 701

Coffee Cake and Conversation

Again our group had a happy gathering. The venues for indulging ourselves have been wonderful and we will continue in this tradition when next we meet at

FIG in TEMPLETON STREET
on FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18th at 3pm.

We do look forward to seeing each other and would welcome new members to join our group.

Peggy Munro 5472 2086

Over Eighties Lunch Group

Members are invited to meet at the *Naan Pa Thai Restaurant* in Hargraves Street, on Wednesday November 9th at Midday.

Please notify attendance to Betty Henchman or Eileen Park on 5472 5213 by Monday 7th November.

Eileen Park 5472 5213

Solo Group

We will get together on the 19th of November at the home of Fran Scutt (5472 4858).

Please contact her or Eva Haarbarger (5472 3391) if unable to attend.

Hope to see you for the last get-together for 2016.

Eva Haarbarger 5472 3391

Australian History

Spinning a yarn with wool

At the session in October Clive presented the outline of the growth of industry in Ballarat from 1850 until 2000. This started with the gold rush and traced the development of the wide range of manufacturing activities during that time. This was concerned with the needs of the city area and the rural region.

In November Jan will show us what went on as a result of the sheep grazing busy-ness with the work that took place with the woollen mills that were erected in Melbourne, Geelong, and in many towns in central and western Victoria in the 19th and 20th centuries. She will be particularly concerned with the one in Bendigo that is still operating, and the one in Castlemaine that is now a matter of past memories.

The November session will be at the home of Beth and Geoff at 2pm on Monday 14th. You are most welcome to join us.

Geoff Walker 5470 6652

Queen Victoria Market Trip

A day at the Queen Victoria Market was the perfect antidote to the bleak, wet day of Thursday, September 29.

Ten of us met at Castlemaine station, and, after two very short tram rides from Southern Cross, we arrived at what was once Melbourne's wholesale meat market, but is now a cornucopia of retail.

Jenny, our trilingual guide, told us the fascinating history of the place and introduced us to some very colourful traders, some of whom have followed fathers or even grandfathers into the market life.

We were each given a bag of goodies - samples of produce, vouchers and recipes whose provenance could be located on the stalls. Then there were the food and wine tastings proffered graciously by the various vendors.

For such a brilliant day we have to thank Sally Kaptein, who organised it, liaised with the Queen Vic, and didn't lose even one of her charges, despite the many seductions that called from everywhere around us.

Cheryl Jorgensen

Seniors Week Table Tennis

Seniors Week at the Table Tennis group was celebrated not with nude games as one wag suggested, but with some professional coaching by Daniel and his assistant from Affordable Table Tennis Sunbury, funded in the most part by Mount Alexander Shire and supplemented by the Castlemaine Table Tennis Association.

Members were divided into groups of four and treated to some professional yet simple tips to improve our games. We were given instructions to set aside competitive games for the day and instead practise the correct grip, the forehand stroke ball, serving action and ball balancing exercises. As each group practised, we were able to help each other to improve our games.



The forehand stroke was the major focus, which, for this beginner at least, leads to a great improvement in that stroke almost immediately.

Everyone I spoke to about the coaching reiterated my thoughts, and generally the coaching day was thought to be a great success.

Beverly Bloxham



Missed the consultations on making
our community **age friendly** ?

Have your say at the November coffee morning. Please stay for a short meeting after coffee morning for a chance to see the Age Friendly Communities project proposals and share your ideas about them.