

U3A

Third Thoughts

Castlemaine Inc (Est. 1988)

Volume 25 No 6

July 2011

Reg. A0017409G

AT OUR JUNE COFFEE MORNING...

Dr Chris McAuliffe, Director of the Ian Potter Museum at the University of Melbourne, was guest speaker on the 3rd of June. Chris is only weeks away from taking up a one year appointment at Harvard University, and chose to speak on two aspects of his work: looking at artworks, and an approach to teaching Australian Studies in America.

With his U3A audience, and challenging that "it has all been said before", Chris chose to examine in some detail a well-known work of art, Charles Meere's *Australian Beach Pattern* (1940). In pointing out the crisp, celebratory aspects of the work he proceeded to demonstrate how much we don't see when we take too little time to view a work of art, walking through a gallery and taking away from the works on view a one sentence summary.

Guided by Chris we found much more in the painting than a depiction of outdoor Aussie life, starting with a sand bucket decorated with a picture of Mickey Mouse and moving towards the exploration of Australian attitudes to the influence of American culture in the 1940s. To underline his points Chris also spoke to works of Margaret Preston, Zahalka and Cattapan.

Time spent with the works made it clear just how everything is there for a reason and time spent reaps rewards in terms of seeing and understanding.

As the Gough Whitlam and Malcolm Fraser Professor of Australian Studies at Harvard, Chris will be exploring with his American students what cultural products say about Australian attitudes and how Australia sees itself in the world. With his U3A audience he demonstrated vividly how there is always something new to say and discover about even the most familiar works.

~ Joanna Parkes ~

COMING EVENTS

Monday July 18th - 10.45 am

at Castlemaine's Theatre Royal the first of John Waldie's 'Movies of Merit'

Friday July 29th - 6 pm

at Christ Church Castlemaine "Nine weeks in the Heart of Darkness" a talk by Vic Say on his journey through South Sudan.

Friday July 5th

at the Coffee Morning a talk by Val Anderson about the book she is to publish relating to her ancestor and his contribution to the new colony of Victoria and his son's establishment of the suburb of Thornbury.

Friday July 29th - 11 am

Founders Day – a celebratory morning tea acknowledging those early members of Castlemaine U3A

Welcome new members

Janet Waldie John Waldie

Joseph Davis Fiona Lyons

Heather Mitchell Mary Paul

Nancy Whittaker

July Coffee Morning Guest Speaker

Karen Quinlan

Director of Bendigo Art Gallery

U3A Castlemaine's information Web Page: www.u3acastlemaine.com

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Current 2011 Subscription Fee

\$40.00 + \$10.00 for mailing of newsletter if required.

Members joining after June 30 pay 50% of the
subscription fee.

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

Friday Coffee Morning Roster

1st July: Understanding Opera & Cold War

5th August: Bloomsbury, Writing Your Life

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

Committee Meetings

are held on the third
Tuesday in the month at 1.00 pm
in the Kindergarten Room,
at the Uniting Church Complex.

From the President

Almost July – halfway through 2011 and halfway through the U3A year. Now is a good time to sit in front of the fire and review the U3A Prospectus to see if there are any courses you would like to join – most of our courses have a few vacancies.

While you are thinking about courses give thought to joining your U3A Committee. Sue Turner, Treasurer, and Win Jodell, Course Co-ordinator must step down in October in accordance with our Constitution. Sue and Win will be speaking about their roles at coming Coffee Mornings – not just the work involved but the fun and sense of achievement these roles bring.

This next part is directed at all those members who don't attend our Coffee Mornings. Come along and meet old friends and make some new ones. Enjoy some scrumptious mornings teas and hear some great guest speakers – I'm sure everyone who attended last month will vouch that Dr. Chris McAuliffe of the Ian Potter Museum was a fantastic speaker who was very generous with his time and knowledge.

From the Course Co-ordinator

In partnership with the Theatre Royal our new and much anticipated course, **Movies of Merit**, will commence **18th of July at 10.45 am**. Enrolments were prompt but there are still a small number of vacancies. If you are interested in joining this group, contact me Win Jodell at u3acastlemainecourses@gmail.com or by phone on 5472 3792, where you will no doubt need to leave a message – I'll get back to you. Each week there will be a film (with a high international rating), followed by a discussion. How lucky are we? Firstly to have John Waldie with the movies and then to be given the Theatre Royal. I do hope our members will support David Stretch's business by buying a coffee and perhaps something to eat. David is anxious to offer a special lunch deal to us but I will wait until we have met a few times as a group to see what exactly it is people would like.

Individual classes have been made aware of timetable changes due to holidays and illness. The benefits of e-mail and telephone are abundant and make my life easier.

BEFORE CASTLEMAINE – How our land was formed. A repeat of this inspiring 8 session course with Julian Hollis is planned for **Term 4** commencing at **2pm on 11th of October and running until 29th November**. Please contact the U3A office if you wish to enrol. Please note this is a completely different day and time to give others another opportunity to learn, enjoy and be inspired by Julian's abundant knowledge in his subject.

Course Outline: A run-down on Earth History as it relates to our region; seas; strange animals now extinct; earthquakes; massive volcanoes; ice sheets and great rivers. We've had them all! The rocks preserve records of ancient environments and incredible diversity. The ongoing message is change. Climate change is just one aspect.

Entry Criteria: Free curiosity and an open mind. **Participation** in 2 half-day field visits.

Meeting Time: Every Tuesday at 2 pm (session length 1 hour plus 2 half-day field visits).

Venue: 35 Campbell Street, Castlemaine.

Deadline for the August Newsletter is 3 pm Monday 25th July

Aboriginal history – Our shared history

Felicity say 5472 1841

5th JULY – Today's session will deal with the role of "Culture" in Aboriginal people's lives. It is often said that a greater sense of Aboriginal identity would give people a great sense of self-esteem and would help them to meet the difficulties and dilemmas that contact with modern culture confronts them, and puts them in touch with a set of values and constraints and cultural practices that have traditionally brought order to Aboriginal life and that without which they can feel like devalued flotsam on the tide of change that sweeps through all our cultures in modern life. A contrary view is held by the former Labor MP Gary Johns and we'll consider a talk he gave recently.

19th JULY – We return to the Aboriginal produced series "The First Australians". This episode focuses firstly on Aboriginal resistance to white occupation in the 1890s by the Bunaba people in the Kimberley, led by the mythical warrior, Jandamarra. It then moves on to the situation of mixed-descent or "half-caste" children and their forced removal by the authorities to settlements such as Moore River, under the direction of A.O. Neville, Protector of Aborigines in Western Australia.

Australian history

Geoff Walker 5470 6652

Our theme for June and July is based on the squatting age 1820 – 1850. In June Alan Robinson lead us on a study of Melbourne 1839 – 1846, and the story of the Curr family with the growth of settlement north from Kilmore through to Shepparton and Rochester.

In July Graeme Quinn will outline some of the early history of the Western District of Victoria, beginning with the Portland settlement by the Hentys in 1834. For some years Graeme resided in this region.

We shall meet at the home of Shirley Curnow, at 2 pm, on Monday 11th July and on Monday 25th July. You will be welcome should you choose to join us.

BUSHWALKING

CAROLE INGERSOLL 5474 2372

The Bushwalking group recently visited "Unknown Miner's Grave 1850 – 1854" located to the north of the N-E corner of the tourist road on the eastern boundary of Karrook Bushland Reserve that has been incorporated into the Kalimna Park area. We have been unable to find any information on when or who may be interred there.

Jason Alfred Blakeley, at the time the local building inspector, pack-horsed the materials needed to concrete a surround for the grave, installed the plaque and made a small inscription recording this, dated 5 Oct 1928.

We all, especially the hounds enjoyed this walk.

Frank Pederick

*Picture shows l. to r. Jenny Morton, Carole Ingersoll, Tony Morton, Kevin Hurley and Frank Pederick
Hounds l. to r. Polly, the half-hamster, Bella, Cocker Spaniel, Heidi the Lab. and Lulu the Lurcher
Who took the picture??*



COLD WAR

TOM COMERFORD 5470 6230

While Tom Comerford has been away we have studied the apparent thaw between the Soviet Union and the US in the 1950s (and agreed that as thaws go it didn't melt too many ice blocks), and then the confrontation over Soviet missiles in Cuba in 1962. Tom will return to run our next class at **10 am on Wednesday 20th July**, to discuss that cultural and political turning point in Australian and US history, the Vietnam War. Now that exams are over we will return to the Kindergarten Room of the Uniting Church.

DABBLING IN HISTORY

PETER STEPHENS 5472 3904

Our study of the civil rights movement in the US was so successful that we will continue it at **10 am on Wednesday 6th July** to look at the times we only glossed over in June – the 1950s and 60s, along with the life and work of Dr Martin Luther King.

Friday morning garden group

Shirley Curnow 5472 1729

The June outing was to Campbells Creek where we were the guests at two interesting gardens. One was an average sized block and the other was, in size, about three acres. We were intrigued by the variety of plants, also the colour and landscaping. The main similarity with them was the use of garden decoration in the form of pottery, metal art design, and colourful ceramics. It was a most enjoyable morning.

In July we shall be involved in our annual good deed activity – the pruning of the roses in Victory Park. The very good watering they have had during the past 12 months means we shall have a bigger task than in other years! **On Friday morning at 10 am** (or earlier) we shall meet in Mostyn Street near the RSL rooms armed with our pruning tools. Would you like to join us? Thank you.

GARDENING IN CASTLEMAINE

HARVEY JACKA 5470 5079

At our June meeting, apart from sharing our gardening thoughts and talking about what needs to be done at this time of year, we looked at the question of how we might use all those leaves and trimmings from the garden to make compost, especially those options which are better suited to smaller gardens and involve less effort than the traditional compost heap. Norma showed us her Bokashi Bucket which can be set up in the kitchen and even handles meat scraps. And no smell!

Our next meeting is at **2 pm on 5th July** in the UCA Kindergarten Room when we shall look at some famous gardens around the world which might inspire us in our efforts here in Castlemaine.

FAMILY HISTORY

VERONICA HURLEY 5472 1383

This year's Genealogy members have been an enthusiastic group and although we've had mixed results everyone has agreed that we always learn something. (Not necessarily about Family History but SOMETHING). Although the class was only meant to go for Term 2, we've agreed to meet once a month, the fourth Monday of the month, for the rest of the year. Anyone interested could still phone Veronica and we'll see if we can fit you in.

Picture shows Lenore Bull, Geoff Smith, Monique Thomson and Barbara Bunton making a 'find' on the internet.



ISSUES of CONCERN

CAROL DORMAN 5472 4429

A letter in the local paper on the safety of young children riding or being towed behind bicycles in trailers on the side of the road or on footpaths was discussed. It seems that children under 12 are allowed to ride on the footpath and are not required to be restrained in trailers. Most of us had experiences on footpaths or cycling/walking tracks which made us suggest the need for bicycles to be fitted with a permanent noise generator to warn pedestrians of an oncoming cyclist.

The proposed sale of CRC, a co-operatively owned sheep abattoir and processing plant at Colac, has shown the effects of corporate power. Coles, which buys over 70% of the product, has stated that if their bid is unsuccessful, they would only buy from other producers. Stakeholders are still considering the offer.

We have discussed the uprisings against regimes in North Africa and the Middle East. Some of these states are mainly tribal, some have sectarian issues, with no national concept which could make establishment of democratic rule as we know it, difficult. The effect of the US – largely government funded – National Endowment for Democracy and its offshoots which have been active in the area providing advice, training and Facebook, Twitter and YouTube access to activists aiming to change existing regimes, is difficult to evaluate. It appears to pass unnoticed by most media.

On the possibility of very fast trains in Australia. There seems to be a growing consensus that by 2020, recent technical advances demonstrated in Spain, combined with effects of the post peak oil era, competitiveness with interstate air travel and increasing road expense and congestion, will make the VFT viable in S-E Australia. There is an argument to start planning the project now. On the other hand increased use of applications via the NBN could minimise the need for travel.

MEMOIR WRITING

ELIZABETH RIDER 5470 5681

Valorie Anderson has been working on writing a biography of her ancestors in this class and is about to publish a memoir, her book entitled "The Nelson Milbanke Saga". The story of Englishman, John Milbanke Nelson, who emigrated to Victoria in 1853. She has researched his contribution to the colony whilst working at both the Melbourne University and the Working Men's College in the mid to late 19th century. Her book also tells the story of one of John's seven sons, Ralph Nelson, who helped to establish the Melbourne suburb of Thornbury at the turn of the twentieth century whilst establishing and operating a hardware/ironmongery business for more than 60 years, R.H. Nelson & Sons.

Val's tenacity and enthusiastic hard work has delighted and encouraged the rest of our Memoir Writing group to delve deeper into our own memoirs. These weekly writing sessions are loath to be missed by any one of us. Who knows how many "best sellers" may be lurking there among us. Our weekly jottings bring forth some gems of amusing, poignant, powerful, tearful, startling recollections, often accompanied by a photo or artefact to add depth and understanding to each piece.

~ *Barbara Bunton*

MUSIC APPRECIATION

BRUCE BAUD 5472 4574

Our composers for this morning, 1/6/11, included Max Bruch (1838-1920), Wolfgang Mozart (1756-1791) and Franz Schubert (1797-1828). We started with Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 in G Minor, considered one of the greatest violin concertos. This work was so popular that his other music was largely forgotten. His Scottish Fantasy for Violin and Orchestra is beginning to be played more often as his work for Cello and Orchestra titled 'Kol Nidre'. The G Minor Concerto was published in 1866. Bruch's other music included another two violin concertos, three symphonies, three operas, chamber music, songs, and other choral music.

Mozart's Sonata No. 5 in D Major K294, composed in 1776, was our next piece of music. The work starts with an Allegro, followed by a Rondeau, and finished with a Theme and Variations. A delightful piece of music not often heard. This was followed by Mozart's well known Rondo in D Major K485. Only five minutes in length but great listening.

After the coffee break we heard Schubert's Piano Trio in B Flat Opus 99 0 898, full of beautiful melody, a musical treat. The morning concluded with Schubert's well known and beautiful Adagio in E Flat. A very good way to finish, with a composer who, as an eighteen year old in 1815, composed 150 songs, two symphonies, and other works. A most enjoyable morning.

~ *Brian Willis*

OPERA – AN OCCASIONAL EVENING SERIES

Vic SAY 5472 1841

'Up late and lively' seemed to be the response to our session revisiting Berlioz's "Damnation of Faust" in June, with one member of the group reporting amazement at the hour on checking the time once home. Many reported delight in getting to know this work in 2010, hence the decision to revisit it this year. It was even more rewarding!

We will now compare it with what other composers made of the Faust story. **July 1st at 7 pm** – Gounod's Faust and **August 5th at 7 pm** – Boito's Mephistofele.

requiem and then...?

Vic Say 5472 1841

As well as listening to the Faure Requiem in June we listened to excerpts from 4 different versions of the work, comparing different interpretations and different soloists, including one boy soprano. In July we will listen to works new to the group; we will compare two different interpretations of an 18th century work, and listen to a twenty-first century composition.

Signposts in English: History of English language

DIANA COLLIER 5443 0137

We meet in the U3A office each 4th Tuesday every month at 12 noon – 1.30 pm prompt. Next: July 26th

During the Middle English period, the combination of internal change and external influence created a linguistic awareness which sowed the seeds of standardization. In the 13th – 16th centuries English slowly became the common, the acceptable language, replacing Latin and French of the educated, the governing upper classes, and despite the literary dialects of Scots Gaelic, Welsh and Cornish.

The inclusion of the North of England and the subjection of the Scots, the Welsh and the Irish to English sovereignty, the Plague, the changes from 'Old English' to 'Middle English' (for example the dropping of an initial 'h' or 'w' – we retain a few today – the contraction of personal pronouns, vowel change in some unstressed syllables, the loss of inflexions) were aspects in the huge change. The Printing Press helped to 'freeze' the written form in the London dialect of the time.

SINGING TOGETHER

rae HAWKINS 5472 3446

There will be no singing on 5th of July or 12th of July. Our group is having a short break and Rae a three day sojourn in St Vincent's Hospital, but we'll be back together again on Tuesday the 19th of July, to renew our efforts with the new songs we have been given. ~ *Barbara Bunton*

Solo group

Betty henchman 5472 2139

Our next get-together will be at the home of Ann Lodge on **Saturday 16th July at 1.00 pm.**

Please ring Betty Henchman for directions to Ann's home.

SUDAN

vic say 5472 1841

"9 weeks in the Heart of Darkness....." Reflections on my journey through South Sudan

Members interested in Vic Say's visit to South Sudan might like to attend his Agitation Hill lecture on **Friday, July 29th at 6 pm at Christ Church, Castlemaine.** "I plan to consider what the journey meant to me at personal levels and where it took me emotionally, and my days spent in reflective isolation from my usual networks of communication and interaction".

Vic hopes to prepare a further session for U3A around the 'story' of the journey, including movies and slides, and present it in company with Akier Manut who was his host and guide. It will be advertised in Third Thoughts later in the year. He was invited back to the U3A Issues Group in June to follow up his earlier presentation on the many 'issues' facing South Sudan as it follows East Timor into the international community as an independent country with a largely illiterate population and a 'complete' lack of infrastructure and development. South Sudan becomes independent on July 9th.

WAGNER'S RING CYCLE – A SHORT COURSE OVER THREE YEARS

Vic say 5472 1841

Of our 24 enrolled members 15 managed to come to our first session on the first of the four operas, Das Rheingold, and a further 12 managed to come to the 'dinner included session' for Die Walkure.

Commencing at 5pm, Walkure ended at 10.45pm, a marathon of energy and musical wizardry. It was thoroughly enjoyed with many planning to follow up a week later by attending one of the two showings at the Theatre Royal.

Our July and August sessions will change due to Peter and Barry's plans regarding shifting house and so will be at Vic and Felicity Say's home **both months.** eMail and phone calls will notify all enrollees of details. The July 15 session at 7 pm will go ahead but details will be communicated directly by Vic.

We will also hold some repeat sessions (not on Friday evenings), to allow those interested to catch up on sessions missed. Again, details direct to enrollees by eMail and phone.

WRITING WORKSHOP

Elizabeth rider 5470 5681

Aspiring Castlemaine U3A writers are fortunate to have Dr Sally Berridge leading the *Writing My Life* Class. Sally has a PhD in Creative Communication, focusing on autobiography.

In June, members of the two U3A writing classes, *Writing My Life* class and the *Memoir Writing* class, came together for a very stimulating Creative Non-Fiction Workshop with Sally.

Her presentation aimed at helping us to develop and deepen our creative non-fiction writing skills. She encouraged us to experiment with voice and tense, maybe using past and present tense in the same story. She read an example of using dialogue to illustrate character, and talked of how conversation can be used to tell a story. She showed us the subtle interplay of “scene” and “summary” as facets of writing, and discussed other techniques we can use to enhance our writing. It’s comforting to know that to achieve a good piece of writing, we usually have to write and re-write – maybe many times.

The 16 participants came from the workshop filled with new ideas to use in their own writing.

Sally has said she may do a future workshop focusing on critiquing. We would all look forward to that!



Sally encouraging some participants from the Writers Workshop

Alack and Alas - No More Corks

Many thanks to U3A members who, for some years, have been saving corks for me to pass onto Guides Victoria. Unfortunately Guides Victoria has decided that it is not a feasible proposition to continue this fund-raiser. Therefore I do not have an outlet for any more corks. I understand that there are other organizations that collect corks as a fund-raiser - hopefully someone who is reading this may know of another outlet and may like to continue this service.

Thank you. ~ Marie Twyford.

~ ~ oOo ~ ~

Volunteer Wanted - *To collect material, prepare same, type up, cause to be printed, and oversee delivery of, the October U3A Newsletter. You will be lauded and very much appreciated with lashings of thanks. (I will be in Queensland attending my daughter's wedding, while taking a short holiday.) Rush me now with your offer, Editor BarB, Phone 5472 3186 or e-Mail me on: u3acastlemainenews@gmail.com*

I look forward to chatting with you. ~ BarB

~ ~ oOo ~ ~

This space was reserved for the write-up on the U3A trip to visit the Tutankhamun exhibition at the Melbourne Museum last month.

Sadly the piece didn't eventuate but I understand all those who went really the enjoyed the experience.

I know that I thought it was wonderful.

Perhaps the write-up can appear in next month's newsletter.

U3A COMPUTER CLASSES for 2011

<u>Monday</u>	Family History/Genealogy with Veronica Hurley Fourth Monday of every month 11 am - 4 pm.....	5472 1383
<u>Tuesday</u>	Picasa with David Sime (by Appointment) 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm.....	5472 3756
<u>Wednesday</u>	Computer Club with Shane Doyle - 1.30 pm	
<u>Thursday</u>	Short Courses (by Appointment).....	5476 2286
<u>Thursday</u>	Digital Imaging Group with Trevor Wheeler 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm (1 st , 3 rd , 4 th Thursday of the month.....	5476 2286
<u>Thursday</u>	Photography with Trevor Wheeler 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm every 2 nd Thursday.....	5476 2286
<u>Friday</u>	E-Mail/Internet/Word with Lyn Hall 9 am - 12 noon.....	5472 2316
<u>Friday</u>	Microsoft Word with Betty Johnson 9 am - 12 noon.....	5472 3834