



Volume 24 No 10

October 2012

Reg. A0017409G

Dates for your Diary

October Coffee Morning Friday 5th @ 10am in the Uniting Church Hall

is our AGM

Agenda and Voting Slips will be available

November Coffee Morning will be held in the Anglican Church Hall

~ ~ oOo ~ ~

Our 25th Birthday October 2013

Thank you to all who participated at the last coffee morning with ideas for making this celebration a special one. We have a theme '*Seize the Day*' and lots of ideas for the proposed debate with Castlemaine Secondary College. Speakers, music and so much more.

Now we need a small team of enthusiasts to weave it all altogether.

Would YOU like to be part of that??

Please leave your name at the office or ring Sally Kaptein on 5470 6340 if you would enjoy being part of the team – and NO, you will not be overworked!!

~ ~ oOo ~ ~

Seniors Week 7th – 14th October

***Daylight Saving* starts again October 7th**

Visit to Castlemaine by Stonnington Orchestra on Sunday 18th November

U3A Castlemaine's information Website: www.u3acastlemaine.com

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U3A OFFICE DETAILS

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Office Hours are:

Monday to Thursday 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm

Phone: 5472 2249

Website: www.u3acastlemaine.com

Current 2012 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

**Please see list of Volunteers
on Page 6**

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
Thursday in the month at 9.30 am
in the Kindergarten Room,
at the Uniting Church Complex.

From the President

This is my last column as President. As many members don't make it to the AGM I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has volunteered their time and skills over the last two years and particularly over the last twelve months. Whether your role was a high profile one such as Committee member or class leader, or a more low key one such as helping with administration, in a working group or at a coffee morning your efforts are greatly appreciated. Our club is the sum total of many individual contributions. I hope you have experienced the satisfaction of a job well done and enjoyed the friendship of working with others.

Looking back over the last year it is interesting to see the progress made by the Committee in terms of coming together and working closely with one another. After all the only things we have in common are a *certain age* and an interest in helping U3A. Understandably our first meetings were tentative but as the year progressed and we became more familiar with each other and more knowledgeable about our roles you could see the confidence of individuals take flight and the Committee gel. I have certainly enjoyed the experience.

This AGM will be a watershed for us as not only are many Committee members standing down but several long serving volunteers are relinquishing their roles as well. You know what I am going to say next..... Contact me or anyone else on the Committee to see how you can make a contribution to your club and reap the rewards of volunteering.

All the best to our choir who are joining other Victorian U3A choirs at the Melbourne Town Hall as part of Seniors Week. Sing Out! All the very best also to our members who are joining in local Seniors Week activities. Show them how much we have!

From the Committee Meeting

At its September meeting the Committee:

- approved the 2013 New Member booklet
- agreed to form a small working group to finalise a talk/lunch/concert package and publicity for the Stonnington Orchestra visit.
- referred the policy on information being published on the website notice board to the Governance working group for review
- learnt of an opportunity to participate in a volunteer expo at the Market Building in December.

As the financial statements for 2011/12 were still with the auditor at the time of our meeting a special Committee meeting will be held on 27 September to consider these statements together with the reserves, member fees and budget.

Please wear your name badges at all U3A events and classes so that we can all get to know each other as well as having your I.C.E. details on hand should they be needed in an emergency.

Deadline for the November 2012 Newsletter is 3pm Monday 22nd October

From the Editor

This issue seems to be focused on Volunteers!! Many, many thanks and appreciation must go to those of you who offer your time in any capacity to keep this U3A ticking along so nicely. Without you we would be in dire straits, or even non-existent if you consider an extreme scenario.

At this October Coffee Morning, our AGM, we will be seeking your help to fill Committee positions. Also Course leaders, help with the Office and with kitchen duties, also help with our 25th birthday. And of course a new Editor. All very important in their own way. Like that WW1 poster of Lord Kitchener: *WE NEED YOU!*

Inserts with the newsletter are very important too. Please don't discard them without at least a quick read of them. The information given, or received, helps with our ability to provide the things we all need. Last month we were asking for feed back as to how our Communications with you could be bettered and we do ask that you please take the time to fill out that questionnaire and return it to the office.

This month, as well as the usual green monthly calendar that Robyn draws up for you, we have a request for Course Applications from Dick Mack. Also there is a booklet telling you about the many and varied local functions and activities on offer for you to enjoy during Seniors Week.

And should you find yourself in Melbourne on Tuesday the 9th October about 1.30 pm, drop in to the Town Hall to cheer, clap, stamp, whistle, whatever, to support your very own U3A choir as they join with 25 other U3A choirs in celebration of 30 years of Seniors Week. I know you won't be disappointed. It's a lovely programme.

So with my last newsletter, can I say THANK YOU to everyone who gave so much encouragement and support during the last two years. You know who you are. Volunteers again you see. ~ Barbara Bunton

From the Course Co-ordinator

There are a number of new or repeat courses beginning in the next few weeks:

Karina de Wolfe will be running another series of "Mindfulness for Wellbeing", for four Wednesdays, commencing 3 October, from 12 noon to 1.00pm, at The Forge, Barker Street.

Marion Cooke's course on "Portraits – Getting a Likeness" commences on Monday 8 October, running for 5 sessions, from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm, at Leisterville, William Street.

Peter Sansom from the Mount Alexander Sustainability Group, will be running a course on "Sustainable Food Production", commencing Monday 8 October, and running fortnightly from 11.30 am to 1 pm, at The Hub Plot demonstration garden in Templeton Street (at the rear of 233 Barker St.)

Michael Bascombe created great interest when he spoke at a coffee morning recently, and his "Pets and People in Harmony" course will commence on Thursday 11 October and run for 8 sessions from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm, at a venue to be advised.

The fourth "Craft of Writing" course, led by Elizabeth Rider has been split into two groups, and commences on Wednesday 17 October.

Fred van Amelsvoort has offered to lead two walking trips in October. These will be the Capital City Trail, Southern Cross station to Rushall station (11 and 18 October), and the O'Keefe Rail Trail, Axedale to Bendigo (25 October). If you are interested, please let us know.

If you are interested in any of these courses, call the office (5472 2249) or contact Dick Mack, Course Co-ordinator (0411 244 103 or u3acastlemainecourses@gmail.com).

The Stonnington Symphony will be returning to play at the Castlemaine Town Hall on Sunday 18 November. U3A Castlemaine is joining with them to promote the concert, and host a package deal comprising a lecture on the orchestra and its music program, and a lunch prior to the concert as well as the concert itself. For more details pick up a flyer at the October Coffee Morning.

It is time to start thinking and planning for the 2013 program of classes. Please give some thought to sharing your knowledge, skills and passion by offering to lead a course. Expressions of interest to conduct a course next year must be submitted by Friday 26 October. See attached application form.

Dick Mack, Course Co-ordinator and Robyn Yeoman, Course Administrator

LIVE - LEARN - ENJOY

The 99th U3A Network Vic Council Meeting

(attended by your representative Sally Kaptein) on 19th September.

The Network is the umbrella organisation for all U3A's in Victoria and the meetings (held quarterly) are well attended by groups, with Skype set up for the most distant groups to participate in. It is always interesting to hear what successes/challenges other groups face and the interaction with members is fascinating. At this meeting the conference planned for October 14 - 15 2013 was highlighted and the fact it will be attended by U3A groups in the Asia Pacific region makes it very special. The conference will be held in the Melbourne Town Hall, so do mark the dates in your diary as it is sure to be a memorable event.

The Carnival of Learning display for Seniors Week (Sunday 7 October) has attracted excellent support and there will be marquees fanning out from Federation Square all along the river - worth a trip into Melbourne to see. During seniors week there will be a booth in the Lower Melbourne Town Hall where you can call in and seek information.

Developing strong regional groups has been a focus for Network during this year and has been very successful. We know that our partnerships with Bendigo and Daylesford have developed well and we hope to continue working with them.

Any one interested in attending a Network Meeting, either in Melbourne (the next one will be 21st November at 10.30am, 506 Elizabeth Street) or Bendigo, should contact our President or Sally on 5470 6340

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Say "Hello" and "Welcome" to these new U3A members

Sue Picot

Betty Renn

Margot Ryan

**Volunteers for October's Morning Coffee are:
Val Anderson, Val Case, John Hart, Helen Morris, Marion Taubman and Betty Johnson.
Thanks ladies and gentleman**

VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to George and Rosalind Gray, the office volunteers met at the Gray home recently to enjoy a delicious afternoon tea and each other's company for an hour or so away from the office. It was George's way of saying 'thank you' and it was appreciated by all of us. It made me think of how volunteering has changed my life and brought so many rewards, many times more valuable than anything I ever put in. Meeting new people, many with similar interests, making lasting friends, (two of whom still exchange visits even after forty years) and the intellectual stimulation, have contributed to my general good health. This also has opened many possibilities, new activities, new avenues and exciting outcomes.

Among the key findings of a 2010 survey carried out by United Health Care in San Francisco showed that: More than 68% of those who volunteered in the past year report that volunteering made them feel physically healthier. 29% of volunteers who suffer from a chronic condition say that volunteering has helped them manage their chronic illness. 89% of volunteers agree that volunteering improved their sense of well-being. 73% of volunteers feel that volunteering lowered their stress levels. 92% of volunteers agree that volunteering enriches their sense of purpose in life. More than three-quarters of volunteers who participate in service activities through work, report that they feel better about their employer because of the employer's involvement in their volunteer activities.

U3A, a non profit community organisation, depends almost entirely on volunteers and with 400 members there are plenty of those. Small groups of members lunch together regularly. Others have found people to attend the theatre, films and other functions with. The potential is endless. Yet how is it that the committee has such difficulty in getting members to volunteer? If you want a new sense of purpose, if you wish to make great connections with other people, and benefit from increased physical and mental activity, then give the U3A committee a try.

Can I tell you that I agreed to be U3A secretary at my very first meeting? Granted that was 1998 when we had only 100 members. I enjoyed that two years so much and met the most wonderful people, some who are still good friends.

Talking about the Gray afternoon tea brings me to another point I wish to make. U3A Morning Coffees on the first Friday of each month have changed. The time for coffee is now quite late, very close to lunch time and provides a huge selection of goodies. Fortunately I cannot eat wheat and so don't over eat. But it is all too much. May I humbly suggest that we go back to just coffee or tea and a biscuit? And also that we return to class groups providing the volunteers? Perhaps we can have a vote at the next Coffee Morning or the AGM if that is allowed at this stage.

So..... Over to you, members!

~ Grace McCaughey

Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody

This story is about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it. Somebody was disappointed about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done. *Author unknown*

~ Vale Lenore Bull ~

Lenore's death from cancer has been a sad loss for us all and for the wider Castlemaine community. Lenore was devoted wife and partner to Alan for nearly 60 years. A devout Christian, Lenore witnessed her faith by utilizing her skills as educationalist, needlewoman, thinker, epicurean and friend to enrich the lives of many within our community.

In our publication, As if it Were Yesterday, Lenore relates some of her childhood and school experiences before she commenced her working life in the Women's Hospital Pathology Department. She subsequently trained as a secondary school teacher and when I first became acquainted with her she had established a reputation as an outstanding teacher and thoughtful and innovative curriculum developer. If you placed a student teacher with Lenore you knew they would come away well skilled and excited by the prospect of a teaching career.



In the Mount Alexander Community, Lenore continued to inspire and enthuse students through her work in the reading program at Winters Flat Primary School, her work with junior embroiderers and in the sharing of her knowledge of laces and lace-making with the embroiderers communities. Many of us treasure the piece of her work that she gave as a present or memento of a special occasion. Some of us will know of the intricate and beautiful Christmas nativity pieces that she was creating.

Veronica and Kevin Hurley, Frank and Mary Pederick, Christobel and I enjoyed many happy hours with Lenore and Alan, as part of the Not for New Year's Eve Group. We reasoned we could not stay awake till midnight on the new year and so we celebrated at breakfast on New Year's Day – a breakfast that often ended at 5.00pm! We met on other occasions throughout the year to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, St Pat's Day and Melbourne Cup Day. Under our influence we taught Lenore the skills of betting which her Methodist upbringing had precluded. Over time she frequently cleaned out the bank of lollies which constituted the betting pool. These social occasions were always enhanced by fine food. Lenore was an excellent cook and we all looked forward to whatever delicacy she had volunteered to make. Nor were these occasions always frivolous. We very much enjoyed the discussion that centred around a book just read, an ethical question under debate, and memories shared of our past.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Alan, Sue and Joanne and their families. We shall be poorer by Lenore's death, but we are enriched by her life.

ABORIGINAL HISTORY

FELICITY SAY 5472 1841

OCTOBER 2nd.

According to John Pilger, "Australia is a secret country with a secret history". Today's documentary looks at that history. The history of the Australian Aborigines from the time of white settlement to contemporary times, and reveals the extent of the cruelty and injustice inflicted upon them. The central issue throughout Pilger's film is the differing perspectives on the land and its uses, providing historical background to the land rights movement and other areas of Aboriginal activism.

OCTOBER 16th.

Today's documentary is a devastating account of the Aboriginal lands rights battle in Queensland and captures scenes of shocking racism and political hypocrisy by the leaders of the time.

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

GEOFF WALKER 5470 6652

In September we had two very interesting presentations in our studies of old buildings in the Castlemaine area as part of our 2012 look at the district about 150 years ago. Ailsa let us into the secrets of the local banks which were more numerous than the several that we have at present, and Keith presented the intriguing story of the Castlemaine Hospital (or "Health" if you prefer that word!).

Our investigations continue in October. Clive will give us the history of the use and storage of explosives that were used in the early years of the mining operations in our area. A couple of months ago Geoff looked at (using slides) some of the old residences in Maldon -- this time he will reveal the story of some of the public buildings.

The first session will be on Monday **8th October**, and the second on Monday **22nd October**. Each session will be at 2.00pm at the home of Geoff and Beth. Yes, you will be most welcome.

BALLET APPRECIATION

JOE SCOGLIO 5472 2396

These past two sessions we viewed Matthew Bourne's version of Swan Lake. It is the version that featured men as the swans instead of women. A brief extract of this ballet can be seen at the end of the Billy Eliot film. Bourne's version is highly sexually charged with turbulent passions and fears seething beneath the cool British reserve of polite society. In the **October** session we will begin looking at some of the many versions of Rite of Spring, Nijinsky's ballet that caused a riot when first performed in 1913. One hundred years on and choreographers still find the music stimulating enough to want to choreograph to it.

BRITISH LITERATURE

DIANA COLLIER 5443 0137

In October, Marlowe and Shakespeare will be the central focus for discussion.

Location: U3A Office Wednesdays weekly **10.00 am** to 11.30/12 md.

Christopher Marlowe was born the same year as Shakespeare, but of a rather more unorthodox attitude. His 'study' of Machiavellism in *Dr. Faustus* and the contentious issues in "The Jew of Malta", (this play seen as a source for *The Merchant of Venice*) are enthralling and Marlowe's command of English. The ironies of context, where the grim background is set behind the brightness of the words, their expression of a radiance and beauty. Marlowe's future rivalling or surpassing Shakespeare's, if he had lived, is intriguing. Shakespeare, as with Marlowe, is performing in the beginnings of an established 'English Drama', now in theatres. No longer in church yards or on wagons or in the streets. The lesser Jacobean dramatists present tragedies and even comedies in sensational contexts. Quite a contrast alongside poets such as John Donne's metaphysical poetry.

FRIDAY MORNING GARDEN GROUP

SHIRLEY CURNOW 5472 1729

For our September outing we visited the Home of Peggy Munro and learned a great deal about the care and development of a home garden from a very experienced expert in the approach to gardening. Thank you, Peggy. It was a very interesting and informative morning.

In October we will be going to Blake's Protea Farm at Harcourt. Please meet in the UCA car parking area at 10.00am on Friday 19th October. It will be good to have you join us.

Thank you BarB for all of your hard work and competence during your time as editor.

~ Geoff Walker

MUSIC APPRECIATION

BRUCE BAUD 5472 4574

Our first work for the morning was Beethoven's String Quartet in C Minor, Opus 31 completed in 1836. He died the following year, so it was one of the last of his major works. A puzzling and complex work to my ears and it seems that musicians of the day had similar problems. It is quite different to the usual Beethoven music. One of those compositions that need quite a number of listening sessions. Next we heard the Brahms Festival Overture, a well known and popular work. Brahms had refused the Honorary Doctorate offered him by the University of Cambridge, since he had no wish to travel to England. Two years later the University of Breslau offered him the same Honour with a condition attached that some musical token of gratitude was required of the composer, this was how this very popular Overture was born. The final composer was Gustav Holst (1874-1934) with his famous Planet Suite. Born Cheltenham as Gustav Theodore Von Holst into a cultured German family, who were also musicians, he studied under Stanford and was a life long friend of Vaughan Williams. The popularity of the Planet Suite, which is an orchestral 'tour de force', has seen a lot of his other fine works neglected. A fine grand finale to the mornings programme.

ISSUES OF CONCERN

CAROLE DORMAN 5472 4429

Once again my thanks to Eva and Frank for holding the fort while I swanned around Europe.

The news didn't stop just because I wasn't here so we began on the Reserve Bank bribery scandal. As the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission's investigations has not led to any charges being laid it was felt that a Royal Commission is called for as the bribes were paid after anti-bribery laws were passed in 1999 and clearly the law has been broken. A Royal Commission may help to restore the integrity of the RBA which is such a fundamental organisation to our society.

If anyone reports abuse on Twitter there will be no response from Twitter authorities as they are based in the USA and apparently there are no laws against social media abuse. Australian laws would help prevent abuse but Twitter do not have an office in this country.

A CSIRO report has identified six global megatrends. These are: "More from Less" – the decline in resource availability while demand is increasing; "Going, going gone" - which addresses the risk of biodiversity loss due to human activity; "The silk highway" - meaning the world's economic centre is shifting to Asia; "Forever young" - where the ageing population is both an asset and a challenge; "Virtually here" - the impact of increased digital connectivity; and "Great Expectations"- reflecting the human desire for more intense personal experiences. The full report can be read on the CSIRO website.

If you want to know how the energy industry really works a two part report can be found at the New Matilda website. The first part is "Your Energy Bill Explained"; the second "Poles, Wires, Regulators and Middle Men".

The prevention of a mega trawler operating in Australian waters was a rare victory for the marine environment. The company concerned had been negotiating with the Federal Government for 7 years to allow them to fish. How is it that no news of this came to the general public until just before it was due to be signed off by the current Federal Government?

Australia's surveillance laws are becoming more intrusive; apparently Myki users can be traced. An Issues member said that this could be useful as we grow older!

OBE LUNCHEON CLUB (OVER EIGHTIES)

EILEEN PARK 54725213

In September we met for a pleasant lunch at the Doveton Café and then visited the Art Gallery to look at the latest exhibition.

Our October 10th lunch will be out at "Skydancers", which has proved to be a popular venue. Members are requested to contact Eileen by Monday 8th October to finalise numbers for our booking. Any other members wishing to join us are welcome to contact Eileen on the above number.

OPERA – AN OCCASIONAL EVENING SERIES

VIC SAY 5472 1841

Usually on the **first Friday** of each month at **7pm**. We will continue to choose works coming up in the Australian Opera series and the MetOpera series at the Theatre Royal. Recently we have revisited Satyagraha and looked forward to Aida and Salome.

We will revisit Salome with a DVD version and listen to CD versions of Verdi's Masked Ball, Berlioz' Les Troyens, Donizetti's Maria Stuarda and Wagner's Parsifal. We will eMail and phone group members to confirm program details in terms of dates and operas as we go.

REQUIEM AND THEN ...?

VIC SAY 5472 1841

First and third Fridays at 1-30

Because of the need to postpone our second September session we will begin October with the well loved Verdi. The break gave some time to delve into passions regarding the vast canvass offered by Berlioz in his work, which we listened to for our first session. At least a couple of the group have been exploring recordings of the Berlioz, and purchases have been made which promise recordings new to the group when we listen to the Berlioz next year, both CD and DVD.

Meanwhile several new recordings of the Verdi were purchased after our session with this work last year, so our first session in October will allow us to listen to a version new to the group and compare bits from about 6 different versions for those interested to hear different interpretations.

The Bruckner Requiem will be shared in our second October session, a work new to the group, followed by two familiar works in November: the Britten War Requiem of 1961 and the Sculthorpe of 2004, both favourites of various members of the group.

We will decide whether to go to our ". . . . and then?" list and listen to the Westlake work of 2010, which does not follow the Latin formula but is an intensely personal tribute by a father reshaping his grief for a dead son - or will we decide to end the year with a new version of the familiar Faure work?

SINGING TOGETHER

RAE HAWKINS 5472 3446

On Tuesday **October 9th** most of us will be singing in the Melbourne Town Hall, together with several hundred members from 25 other U3A choirs. This free concert, beginning at 2pm is part of Seniors Week. If you intend to go along, make sure you are in plenty of time, otherwise you could miss out.

This is a very exciting time for our choir members as since May we have been working very hard to learn all the fifteen songs on the programme, only two or three of which are in unison. We have been sharing the learning with members of the Hepburn U3A choir which has helped enormously as well as generated a lasting friendship between our two choirs.

The varied programme includes Mozart's Ave Verum, The Prayer from Hansel and Gretel, a medley from the shows, the stirring Land of Hope and Glory, and concludes with Jerusalem and The Old Hundredth.

Then, in November, as part of the Castlemaine Garden Festival, Peggy Munro has invited us to sing in her garden, when we shall perform songs from the October concert. Please wish us luck in our ventures

SOLO GROUP

BETTY HENCHMAN 5472 2139

Our **October** get-together will be at the home of Dorothy Bessant,

on Saturday the **20th** - **12.30 pm** as usual.

SENIORS WEEK IS HERE!

There are many enjoyable and affordable events in our Shire in Seniors Week – film shows, concerts, an old time dance. The local program is included with your October newsletter, and will also be available at coffee morning.

Thursday 4th October the week before Seniors Week gets underway, is **Seniors Race Day** at the Bendigo racecourse. \$5 will give you a comfortable return coach trip leaving from the Market Building in Castlemaine at 10.45 am, and taking you right to the race course, returning at 6 pm. Phone Elizabeth on 5470 5681 for a place on the bus.

There is free entry to the races for seniors. For the best view and a good lunch, join us at the Castlemaine table in the Silks Restaurant. You must book your \$25 two-course lunch in advance, phone 5448 42009.

Monday 8th October at 11 am, all seniors are invited to the official launch of the Seniors Festival in the Castlemaine Art Gallery. Popular actor John Stanton will be the guest speaker. The announcement of the winners of the Inaugural Short Memoir Competition will also be part of the launch event, and presentation of the first three prizes. There will also be morning tea.

Friday 12th October, 11 am – 1.30 pm, Come-and-Try day in Victory Park. There will be demonstrations of Tai Chi, petanque, golf croquet, music. Our own U3A artists will be offering come-and-try **Art in the Park** on the veranda of the Ray Bradfield rooms. Castlemaine Lions will be offering a free lunch, and the Chewton Senior Citizens Club will provide tea and coffee in the Ray Bradfield Room.



*Come and listen to the
'U3A UKETTES'
play your old favourites
in Victory Park at 11.30 am
on Friday 12th October.*

Brief Encounter

We were, by sheer good luck, in the first row. In front of us were only those on crutches, in wheelchairs or in mobile beds, all with their carers. The auditorium was vast and after the Pope had greeted various groups in the audience in more than a dozen languages, he descended from the stage and began to walk first along an aisle among the halt and the lame, and then along the low wooden partition at waist height which separated us from the disadvantaged groups.

He moved very slowly, facing each person and touching each one on the forehead with one finger. He murmured something which I suppose was a blessing. Young girls burst into tears, old nuns were overwhelmed with ecstasy. His charisma was almost palpable. As he approached our group I could see the smoothness of his skin and the immaculate white fabric (linen I thought), of his cape. Around his neck was a heavy gold chain with a cross. His eyes were bright and alert and his face was peaceful.

Now, he was only one person away. Sister Janet, beside me, was overcome with emotion as he touched her forehead with his forefinger and spoke his blessing. I could not quite catch the words but they would be, I supposed, in Latin. A camera flashed every few seconds and I saw that a professional photographer was recording each person's response to this once-in-a-lifetime experience as the Pope moved along.

And there he was, standing in front of me. He looked me straight in the eyes. He murmured something, he raised his finger but he did not touch me. Did he somehow know that I was not a believer? Did he see something in my face? Did my eyes scream that I was not of the faith?

I will never know. He moved on.

© Vivienne Robertson - Memoir Writers Group 2011

PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR U3A COMMUNICATION SURVEY

To check that members are up to date with what is happening in U3A, and are satisfied with communication in our organisation, your last newsletter included an inserted "Communication Survey" for members to complete. It only takes a few minutes.

If you have not yet done so, please complete the survey you received with your newsletter last month and bring it to the coffee morning in October. Some spare copies will be available at the coffee morning. OR you can easily complete the survey **online**. Just open our website www.u3acastlemaine.com and click on the yellow survey box.

Your answers will be analysed and reported to the Committee of Management.

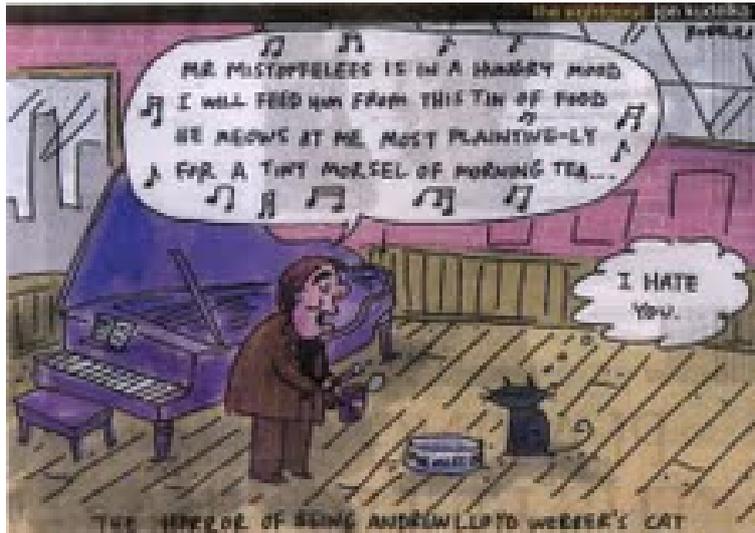
Thank you.

~ Elizabeth Rider, Convenor, Communication Working Group

T. S. ELIOT

EILEEN PARK 5472 5213

For the first two sessions we have explored some of Eliot's life and background and enjoyed reading the verses from 'Old Possums Book of Cats'. Watching a DVD of the musical "Cats" it was interesting to hear how closely the lyrics followed the words of the poems. The next sessions beginning at **1.30pm** on Monday **October 10th** at Eileen's home will be reading "Murder in The Cathedral".



WAGNER'S RING CYCLE

VIC SAY 5472 1841

Our cycle is reaching its climax - for the first time in the three years of this program we have arrived at the final work in the cycle: Gotterdammerung:

Friday 19th October - CD - Gotterdammerung - at Vic & Felicity's - at **5pm**

Bring a plate with something to share for a light meal - and a torch to see you safely out on the way home!

Friday 16th November - DVD - Gotterdammerung - at Peter & Barry's - at **5pm** - with a plate for a shared meal.

We plan to listen to and watch the whole cycle a couple of times next year before having a break in preparation for the live performances in Melbourne late in the year. We will program the full cycle on CD and on DVD, maybe on consecutive weeks. We will survey those interested to decide what is the best time of day to program these series in 2013, which will end our "short course over 4 years".