

U3A

Third Thoughts

Castlemaine Inc (Est. 1988)

Volume 24 No 5

June 2012

Reg. A0017409G

AT THE MAY COFFEE MORNING....

Geoff Walker, retired Scotch College History Teacher, and long term Castlemaine U3A member presented an intriguing theory about the successful evacuation of ANZAC and other allied troops from the Gallipoli war zone in 1915. The truth of this retreat, withdrawal, call it what you will, after six months of unnecessary, bloody conflict, was completed with minimal loss of life or even obstruction from the Turkish military, compared to the dreadful loss of life at the landing.

Indeed the suspicion has long been floated by many official historians such as Professor Geoffrey Blainey, John Masefield and C.E.W. Bean, and military sources, that the evacuation had been planned and discussed covertly by both protagonists. Though nothing was ever officially written down.

The question is why and how. Could it be possible that a secret truce had been arranged by both sides? Certainly the question of an evacuation had been in the newspapers of the day and discussed openly in the British Parliament, causing Winston Churchill to resign in protest.

There were about 100,000 men who would need to be taken away from these hostile beaches where the Turks held the high ground and therefore the upper hand. To get it right was of paramount importance so plans were kept away from public opinion at home and in New Zealand.

General Sir Ian Hamilton who had been on Gallipoli from the outset was replaced at the last minute by General Sir Charles Monro, presumably with the evacuation plans given to him as he left London.

All this is theory of course, but there is a photo in existence showing the Turkish hierarchy watching with field glasses as night after night ships came close in with very few gun shots to deter plans of those below. The evacuation took almost two weeks, up to the 21st of December.

Geoff had an article on this subject printed in "The Age" of 24th April, 1998. For further reading: "Gallipoli" by John Masefield, "The Official History of Australia in the War" by C.E.W. Bean, "The Times History of the War and "Five Months at Anzac" by Colonel J.L. Beeston. Also the 1993 article in The Age by Professor Geoffrey Blainey entitled "The Miracle of the Gallipoli Retreat". ~ Barbara Bunton

COMING EVENTS

Friday June 1st - 10.00 am

Coffee Morning at the Uniting Church Hall including a *special meeting on changes to the Constitution*

See page 14 for details of morning tea volunteer rostering.

Guest Speaker Jarra Hicks - Windfarms

Friday July 6th - 10 am

Coffee Morning at the Uniting Church Hall

Guest Speaker – Dr Michael Bascombe
Veterinarian and "Animal Whisperer"

Friday August 31st

(tentative booking)

A 48 seater coach for a tour of the Cranbourne Gardens – Total cost \$50 pp which includes Coach, M/tea, Guided Tour and Lunch. A deposit of \$25 (non-refundable) will be required by July 10th. Further details at the June Coffee Morning and in the July Newsletter.

Friday September 14th

Combined Bendigo and Castlemaine U3A Garden Group visit to three Bendigo gardens. Maximum number 30 with car pooling. Details at the next coffee mornings and in the July Newsletter.

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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 note changes to rostering

See page 14 for details

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

I hope to see you all at our Special General Meeting on Friday 1 June to vote on changes to our constitution. I also hope if you have an interest in the constitution that you have looked at the website and read the proposed constitution and the explanation of the changes. I would like to thank those members who came to the information session and to those members who phoned me with comments and questions.

Your Committee discussed succession planning at its May meeting. Several Committee members indicated that they will be retiring from the Committee at the Annual General Meeting in October. You will hear more about this over the next few months. In the meantime please give some thought to volunteering. All you need is a little time, a commitment to keep U3A ticking along and to like working as part of a team. If you have an interest or any questions speak to one of the Committee - we would love to talk with you.

Finally a brief word about Pat Milthorpe. I didn't get to know Pat until she was chronically ill. I found out a lot more about her at her memorial service. She was a remarkable person with many interests and talents beyond U3A. I was most impressed with the number of people who spoke at her service, their diversity in terms of age and interests and their sincerity.

From the Course Co-ordinator

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will see notices for three new short courses proposed for later this year. It is terrific to see U3A members and other residents offering their expertise and passion to help us all keep our minds and spirits active, and I hope you will support these courses with your participation. Please let us know of your interest in attending these classes by phoning the office (5472 2249) or emailing u3acastlemainecourses@gmail.com.

Plans are progressing for U3A's involvement with the Stonnington Symphony's concert in Castlemaine on Sunday 18 November. We are hoping to sponsor a package comprising a talk about the orchestra and its program, and lunch at the Theatre Royal, and a discounted entry to the concert itself. Further details will be provided in coming months.

As the weather becomes colder, many participants succumb to winter ills or escape to warmer climes. Please notify your class leaders if you are going to miss classes. And leaders, please continue to keep accurate roll cards of attendees and absences and return completed cards to the office. Thank you for your co-operation.

As I am one of those fortunate people heading for sunshine next week (Paris, Tuscany, Andalucia), Robyn will efficiently handle all issues related to course management in my absence. I'll be back at the start of July.

Dick Mack – Course Cordinator, Robyn Yeoman – Course Administrator

From the Editor

You will see in President Peter's report that several members are stepping down from the Committee at the October AGM. I will be one of those who are retiring, even though putting together your newsletter has been a most enjoyable experience. Circumstances in my life have changed, so it is timely now for me to hand over the reins to another U3A member.

For those of you who have aspirations of putting pen to paper so to speak, and would like to see just exactly what is involved in putting "Third Thoughts" together, let me know and I will be happy to give you any initial help to get you started, as happened for me. There are many helping hands to guide you. So give it some thought between now and October and put your name forward to President Peter or any other Committee member.

~ Barbara Bunton

Deadline for the July 2012 Newsletter is 3pm Monday 25th June

Courses for Semester 2

Earth Energy and Healing 6 sessions

- Course leader :** Bronwyn Bain **0412 357 776**
- Course outline :** The land lives and breathes. - A journey seeking awareness of earth energies and the interconnectedness of body/listening and morphic resonance. We experience time and space through the transpersonal mode where our perceptions shift from solid objects to fluid energy patterns, and the gap between observer and observed no longer exists.
- Entry criteria :** Ability to think outside the square. An interest in the interconnectedness of all living matter - nature, country, stone, river, mountain, cloud, tree. A willingness to try to comprehend other ways of knowing.
- Meeting time :** 10am to 12 noon Tuesdays, commencing 17 July
- Venue :** Julian Hollis's residence, contact course leader for details

Pets and People in Harmony 8 sessions

- Course leader :** Michael Bascombe **0438 309 902**
- Course outline :** A sensitively guided exploration of imagination and enquiry with your pet. Animal whispering will be used to select the best of Dr Edward Bach's flower essences to meet your pet's needs for mental and emotional harmony. The remedies will be presented. Sharing is encouraged.
- Entry criteria :** An open imagination to connect with animals interactively. Participants will be expected to present a short (10 minutes) case study.
- Meeting time :** 2pm to 4pm Thursdays, commencing 11 October, for 8 weeks
- Venue :** TBA [An animal friendly space for at least 10 people]

Write your own Personal Manifesto 8 sessions

- Course leader :** Fred van Amelsvoort **0466 574 257**
- Course outline :** The word manifesto traces its roots to the Latin *manifestum*, which means clear or conspicuous. A manifesto is defined as a declaration of one's beliefs, opinions, motives, and intentions. It declares what is important to the writer of the manifesto. It is a statement of principles and a bold, sometimes rebellious, call to action. It may cause the writer to evaluate the gap between those principles and their current reality, the manifesto challenges assumptions, fosters commitment, and provokes change.
- Entry criteria :** None. Participants should accept that a hallmark of being a person is knowing what you believe, and having the courage to live it.
- Meeting time :** 1pm to 3pm Tuesdays, commencing 9 October.
- Venue :** TBA

Understanding Your Local Council (REPEAT) 8 sessions

Course leader :	Janet Cropley	0419 539 142
Course outline :	This discussion group will cover the operations of Mount Alexander Shire Council: what regulations it works under; the annual processes; the budget and where it goes; how rates are set and how to appeal; State required work - by-laws, planning, building health, emergency management; gauging community input; developing strategic plans for areas of interest - sport, arts, environment, heritage; how council works with other organisations and governments. Note: This is not a vehicle for debating issues.	
Entry criteria :	An interest in local government and active discussion.	
Meeting time :	1 pm to 3 pm, Wednesdays, 1 August to 19 September.	
Venue :	TBA	

If you are interested in attending any of these courses, please phone the office (5472 2249) or email u3acastlemainecourses@gmail.com.

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

Energy Efficiency in Your Home

Whether you accept the general view of scientists that our climate is getting warmer or not, we would all like to be more comfortable in our home and reduce its running costs. "Energy Efficiency in your Home" is the title of a course being offered on four Friday mornings in July and August by Michael Reeves, Jarra Hicks and Hans van Gemert. Topics covered will be wide-ranging and include: how to read and understand your electricity bill, the cost/benefits of insulation, simple home improvements and producing low-cost renewable energy from the sun on your own roof or from the wind in a community-owned wind farm.

All of the presenters are associated with the Mount Alexander Sustainability Group (MASG). Michael is an accredited Energy Assessor and Technical officer for the Solar Hub project, Jarra is Coordinator of the MASG Community Wind Farm project and Hans has recently built a space, water and energy-efficient home in Castlemaine. About 12 people have already enrolled but we can take some extra participants. The venue is the Kindergarten Room at the U.C. Complex and the dates are: Fridays from 10.00 am till 12.00 noon on 13 July, 20 July, 27 July and 10 August.

Please notify the U3A office if you wish to enroll and have not already done so.

ABORIGINAL HISTORY

FELICITY SAY 5472 1841

From the explosive Western Desert Art Movement of the past 40 years, our attention for the next few months will focus on the quest for equality of rights and justice for Aboriginal people since Federation.

5th JUNE: The little known story of Aboriginal struggle to retain some land in the 1920's, as well as rights to their children and some control over their lives was spearheaded by the emerging Australian Aboriginal Progressive Association and it's articulate and visionary spokesman, Fred Maynard.

19th JUNE: This session will pursue the activism arising from the late 1930's as such figures as William Cooper, Doug Nicholls and Charlie Perkins strove to achieve a "Fair Deal for the Dark People".

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

GEOFF WALKER 5470 6652

Our gatherings for May were held at the home of Geoff and Beth, and Geoff took the sessions. At the first session Geoff used a set of slides which he had produced as part of a school excursion kit for secondary school folk when he was on the staff at Scotch. They dealt with old buildings and the institutions and landscapes of Castlemaine during the gold rush days. At the second session he gave us the story of the ANZ Bank building which has remained virtually unaltered since the late 1850s.

The first session in June will be at **2.00pm on Monday 11th** when Clive Carmichael will give us the story of the unique property Kaweka. Please meet at the home of Geoff and Beth. The second June session will be at **2.00pm on Monday 25th** when Barbara Robinson will outline the history of Christ Church Anglican Church. Meet at the Anglican Church Hall.

BALLET APPRECIATION

JOE SCOGLIO 5472 2396

In May we began looking into the life and career of Rudolf Nureyev. Born unexpectedly on a trans-Siberian train, he came late to serious study of ballet. But when he was accepted into the Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) ballet academy at seventeen years of age, he worked feverishly to catch up with his contemporaries who had started training years earlier. His determination, beauty and charisma brought him phenomenal success. His graduation performance was "assisted" by the wife of his teacher who seduced him on the eve so as to relieve him of any nervous tension. Always the rebel, he fitted uneasily into the Soviet system. His "escape to the West" reads like a Hollywood script. Branded a traitor by his motherland, he lived in fear of retribution. His Leningrad friends suffered the consequences of having known an "ingrate".

Over the next few months we will continue with Nureyev's extraordinary life. For those who want to join these sessions, we meet on the third Wednesday of each month, not on the Thursdays as listed in the Prospectus. The **Theatre Royal** will be screening the Paris Opera Ballet's version of **Romeo and Juliet** on the weekend of **June 16, 17**.

BRIDGE

HANS VAN GEMERT 5472 1082

The standard of the game being played each Tuesday afternoon is improving all the time. With over 30 players registered, we usually run to 6 tables and on occasions, seven.

The arrangement we have with the Bendigo Bridge Club allows us to play pre-dealt duplicate hands which come to us each week complete with computer analysis. The played boards are then returned to Bendigo where they are scored and the results listed on the web within a few days. Our thanks go to Kevin Gunn, Director of the Bendigo Bridge Club, for the dealing and the scoring and also to our players responsible for the transport of the boards to and from Bendigo. We are also grateful to one of our players, Geoff Smith, for the setting up of the room each week so that play can commence on time.

On the first Wednesday of each month we are now scheduling a Bridge Problem Solving session which allows our players to learn new techniques or handle unusual situations. In April we dealt with slam bidding which is clearly having positive results. In May we discussed opening leads and signals to partners which can produce a stronger defence. The next session will deal with alternative responses to opening No Trump bids by partner.

GREEK MYTHOLOGY AT LATROBE UNIVERSITY

The six U3A members who participate in the Greek Mythology class with Dr. Rod Blackhirst are of the same opinion that it is a fascinating subject expertly presented.

The texts used include Homer's Odyssey, The Iliad and Plato's 'Last Days of Socrates'. We are fascinated with the tales and also the connections with and influence of Greek Philosophy on Western Civilisation and thought.

We recommend that others interested check out on the Latrobe university website to find when the subject is offered again – possibly next year. It is also possible to apply for a second semester subject – remember to contact Sally Kaptein if you want to enrol.

It is such fun to share drive to the University and interact with the students and lecturer- yes we feel much younger for the experience!
~ Sally Kaptein

FRIDAY MORNING GARDEN GROUP

SHIRLEY CURNOW 5472 1729

For the May gathering two car-loads made their way to Just Ferns in Eaglehawk where Ted gave us a fascinating talk on the growing and caring for ferns -- our folk were most interested and had lots of questions. On the way back to Castlemaine we stopped at the Junction Hotel, Ravenswood for an enjoyable lunch.

The June experience will be a visit to Chewton's Bold Garden where we hope to learn lots about winter plants. Please meet, as usual, at **10.00am, on Friday 15th June**, in the UCA car park, Lyttleton Street.

SOLO GROUP

BETTY HENCHMAN 5472 2139

Our **June** get-together will be at the home of Fran Scutt,
on Saturday the **16th**. **12.30 pm** as usual.

GOLF CROQUET

FRANK PEDERICK 5472 1017

I would like to thank Ian Campbell and Nigel Harland, (respectively President and Secretary Castlemaine Croquet Club) for making the facilities of the Club available to U3A members and for their guidance and instruction for this course which concluded on 15 May. Also thanks to Kevin Hurley, John Leavesley and Peter Morris who assisted with instruction and other duties.

Because some participants were unable to attend all earlier sessions an additional session was arranged. This showed how far they had progressed. Sue Flanagan ran 4 hoops in succession.

Notes:

1. There is about a 3 mm difference between the size of the ball and the hoop the ball passes through.

2. Sue scored 4 points towards a minimum of 7 to win a game. Jill Evans ran 8 hoops to 5 by her instructor. Jill Leisegang is happy with her consistent improvement and Graeme Quinn has developed the disconcerting habit of running hoops from long range. All have an opportunity to join the Club to continue with this intriguing game.

Earlier participants in this course have shown progress. The Croquet Section Report 2011-12 notes: "John Brennan has made a bright entry into Association Croquet winning the 'Champ of Champs' in his first year". He represented the northern district at the regional 4th division championships. "The (club) Golf Croquet Championship was won by Frank Pederick."

As a reminder that this is not a game solely for geriatrics, the runner up, in the final of the recent Association Croquet world championship was Robert Fletcher, an 18 year-old from Lismore, Vic. (ie: He beat half of the world's best players, perhaps he could beat all of them except one.) Several schools in the Ballarat area include croquet in their sports programme.



Concentration - Jillian Evans,

Careful Aim – Graeme Quinn,

How to "Run a Hoop" – Susan Flanagan

Jill Leisegang, Frank Pederick, Graeme Quinn, Jillian Evans, Sur Flanagan and Kevin Hurley

Photos by John Leavesley

ISSUES OF CONCERN

CAROL DORMAN 5472 4429

Our convenor is rediscovering NW Australia leaving Eva Haarburger and I to try to keep her charges under some control. This proved to be more difficult than usual when I foolishly raised President Obama's statement on same sex marriage for debate. This resulted in a spirited exchange of information and opinion. Perhaps an indication that any decision taken on the matter by the Federal Parliament should be on the basis of a conscience vote by our representatives.

One of our members, 'Fred' van Amelsvoort has brought attention to the Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Tribunal. The tribunal convened a preliminary hearing on 19 November 2011 to determine the validity of charges that George W. Bush and Tony Blair committed crimes against peace and violated international law in the Iraq invasion (modelled on the 1967 Vietnam war crimes panel coordinated by philosophers Bertrand Russell and Jean-Paul Sartre.) The tribunal issued a unanimous verdict that found both George W. Bush and Tony Blair guilty of crimes against peace, crimes against humanity, and genocide as a result of their roles in the Iraq War. This matter has been ignored by the majority of the world's media, but more detail can be found on URL: <http://goo.gl/kSo7K>

We have discussed a wide range of other issues. John Leavesley talked on his recent trip which included South America and the Antarctic Peninsula. The line he travelled with has 103 ships and at any time has about 2 million people at sea. It is one of several similar lines. Some incapacitated people live almost permanently aboard ship as they are fully supported, which eases the stress on them and their principal carer. It is clear that glaciers near Cape Horn have retreated back from their terminal moraine. John & Beryl enjoyed a wide range of lectures from highly qualified authorities on subjects ranging from the formation of the earth, to the value of the Hubble telescope and specifically on the Antarctic and Arctic regions.

~ Frank Pederick

MOVIES OF MERIT

JOHN WALDIE 0400 858 581

Just announced is the Inaugural Castlemaine Classic Film Festival, to be held at the Theatre Royal on **July 6th, 7th and 8th**. The Festival will feature six films, all regarded highly by international reviewers, and which have not been screened previously at U3A "Movies of Merit" classes.

The six films are:

Tree of Wooden Clogs (Italy), directed by Ermanno Olmi, and screening on the opening night of the Festival (Friday 6th of July).

Kind Hearts and Coronets (UK), directed by Robert Hamer, starring Dennis Price and Alec Guinness.

Howards Way (UK), directed by James Ivory, and starring Emma Thompson and Anthony Hopkins.

The Red Shoes (UK), directed by Michael Powell, and starring Moira Shearer and Anton Walbrook.

Night of the Hunter (US), directed by Charles Laughton and starring Robert Mitchum.

Rififi (France), directed by Jules Dassin, and starring Jean Servais.

The last five films will be screened twice (at different times) on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th of July. These outstanding films are spread across a range of genres, so there will be something for everyone. A "season pass" for all six films will be available at a discount, and pass holders will be invited to an evening function on July 6th. Ticket prices have not yet been finalised, but should be available within two weeks. Depending on the success of this first festival, the provisional plan is to hold four festivals over the next 12 months.

MUSIC APPRECIATION

BRUCE BAUD 5472 4574

Our opening composer was J S Bach (1685-1750). As a lot of Bach's music was lost or not published, means that the music of Bach that we hear today has often been reconstructed by others. The work we heard was Concerto in d'amore and Continuo op.9 (harpsichord), which was a fine piece of reconstruction. Staying in the Baroque period we moved to Handel (1685-1759). Born the same year as Bach at a town not far from Bach's birth place. As far as is known they never met. Handel travelled and worked in Italy before moving on to England, and had this additional influence of the early English and Italian operatic composers such as Purcell. He became an English citizen and wrote dozens of operas, oratorios, cantatas, organ concertos and other orchestral music. We heard Concerto Grossi in B Flat. These works were considered the forerunner of the modern symphony. We completed the Baroque period with Guiseppi Torelli (1658-1709) and his delightful Concerto for Trumpet and Strings. We then moved on to the Romantic period with Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) and his variations on a Rococo theme for cello and orchestra. The cellist in this recording is the famous Rostropovich. A very enjoyable recording of this particular piece of music. The morning ended with another Tchaikovsky work, his violin Concerto in D Opus 35 composed in 1878. The work was harshly criticized and declared unplayable by critics and violinists of the day. Despite all this negativity it is now one of the most popular concertos in the violin repertoire. A fine morning of contrasting music.

OPERA – AN OCCASIONAL EVENING SERIES

VIC SAY 5472 1841

June 1st at 7pm: Donizetti's "Maria Stuarda" on DVD, not a MetOpera production but the La Scala production seen in that series at the Theatre Royal a couple of years ago - wonderful !!!

July 6 at 7pm: Weill's "Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny" (libretto by Bertolt Brecht) on vinyl, with the libretto to read for those who wish to have it.

PETANQUE BECOMES COMPETITIVE

The petanque group – approximately 14 in number are honing skills ready for a play off with the Maldon petanque group headed by George Forster.

The U3A group who meet each Friday 2pm at the 'Piste' in Campbells Creek (opposite Beard's Hardware) are delighted that our friends from Maldon come over to play with us. It was decided that on Friday 25 May we would play in teams of Castlemaine versus Maldon to decide on the grand winner. There will even be a silver cup appropriately engraved!

Petanque will continue informally on each Friday and all are welcome to come.

Sally Kaptein and Jenni Rutherford

WANTED

Bright, enthusiastic, willing, motivated, imaginative, fantastic, imperturbable,
enthusiastic, unflappable, brilliant, knowledgeable, forward thinking people.

Enthusiastic ladies or gents, both in fact,

who would enjoy getting together to plan, and bring to fruition,

activities, events, publications and the like for our fast approaching **25th Birthday**.

Just like old "Uncle Sam", **we need YOU!**

PHOTOGRAPHY/DI GROUP

TREVOR WHEELER 5476 2286

We have had excellent participation with this group and interesting photo/excursions.

I greatly appreciate that we have several members very willing to share their techniques, initiate projects and run interest groups.

(Portraits and Picasa are running now.) See the excursions on our web album.

<http://tinyurl.com/U3A-Photography>. This month we have had two valuable sessions learning from professional photographer Peter Ryan, organized by Brian Richardson.

Thank you to all our members for their input.



A TRIBUTE TO PAT MILLTHORPE who died on 5th May this year after a prolonged illness. A long standing and active member of U3A, becoming vice president in 2011. She was not only interested in further learning – she had come to Mount Alexander Shire to teach French at Castlemaine Secondary College where she was involved in debating and drama production, becoming College Principal from 1992-1994. She is famous for her school assembly “Termite Speech” which aimed at school trouble makers. On retirement she moved to live in Chewton. Pat had married late in life in 1985 and had no children.

After retirement Pat was very active in theatre circles mainly as a producer. She was convenor of the Residents and Ratepayers Association which was extremely active in local municipal affairs. More recently she was a champion of Mount Alexander Community Land Ltd and Abbeyfield housing projects. Her greatest disappointment was that there was no Abbeyfield House for her to move into when she felt life at Chewton was too isolating.

Pat was known for her enjoyment of good food and wine and reportedly patronised every restaurant in Castlemaine. She was also a great environmentalist and lover of nature, an appreciation she shared with friends young and old, and was also an enthusiastic sportswoman who played tennis and netball and was a great swimmer.

If Pat had one failing it was as a perfectionist, someone who never sacrificed her integrity or principles. Her Memorial Service at Chewton was widely attended by family, friends and acquaintances, and many members of U3A. As someone said “Pat had a sharp mind and was a helluva woman”. She will be sadly missed in this community.

~ Jill Leisegang

REQUIEM AND THEN ...?

VIC SAY 5472 8141

June 1st at 1-30: Requiem by Anton Rejcha. Born in Prague in 1770, Rejcha died in Paris in 1836 and it was in the French National library that this monumental work was rediscovered. Composed in Vienna, where he lived from 1802 to 1808, the work was his response to the invasion of Vienna by Napoleon's soldiers in November 1805, and to the subsequent occupation of Leipzig. "A work which transcends the compositional techniques of its era."

June 15th at 1-30: Requiem by Ferenc Liszt. Rarely heard, this work harks back to the Gregorian chant and Palestrina's style, but these archaic harmonies subsist side by side with neoromantic Wagnerian chords. "No lesser genius than Liszt would have been able to make these two worlds merge in a single style". Composed in the late 1860s he set out to provide a hopeful character to the thought of death, but there includes nevertheless, a formidable vision of the Last Judgement. (I expect this work to become a favourite!)

We are heading through Eastern Europe towards a very modern Russian Requiem to be followed by an ancient Russian Orthodox Requiem.

WAGNER'S RING CYCLE

VIC SAY 5472 1841

June 15: Walkure: the previous MetOpera production, on DVD at Peter and Barry's home.

5pm start with everyone bringing something to share for a light meal.

The **July** session will again be at Peter & Barry's but a **7pm** start and two DVDs:

the documentary of the recording of the Sholti conducted version of the Ring which we have been listening to and the program Wagner and Women

Please note we are moving the **September** session at Peter and Barry's **from 21st to 28th** at this stage, so please change diary dates for that session.

Also don't forget to put in your diary the possibility of seeing the new MetOpera documentary on the current production of The MetOpera Ring at the Nova in Melbourne. Please confirm the advertised dates of **June 2 and 3, 5 and 7**. Following this documentary some theatres will be screening the full Ring Cycle over a 7 week period.

IMPORTANT NOTE This comes from Secretary Betty warning of a scam that recently appeared via e-mail at the Octopus.

"There is a scam being sent to MontiMedia customers requesting your name, address, email and password. **If you receive this e-mail do not reply it.** I rang MontiMedia about it and they are aware of this scam and request that you are too. mmnet will only ever deal with their customers in person via phone. So manage your emails *carefully*".

~ Betty Johnson

SENIORS MEMOIR COMPETITION 2012

'Nothing in my life is interesting enough!'

Not so! Everyone's life is interesting and their experiences unique. It's the way you tell it that makes a good story. We all have stories about things that happened in our childhood, in our adult or working lives, people we have known, and places we have been. It could be a particularly vivid memory of your school days, falling in love, having your first child, your first car, or a big change in your life



This Inaugural Seniors Short Memoir Competition is open to everyone over 55 and who lives in Mount Alexander Shire. The winners will be announced at an award event during Seniors Week in the second week of October

Entry forms are available at the U3A office (open Mon to Thurs, 1.30 – 3.30 pm), at the Library, at the monthly Word Mine gathering in the Anglican Hall on the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm and at U3A Coffee

Mornings. You can also pick one up at the Market Building and the Castlemaine Mail office in Templeton Street. Entry forms can also be printed off the U3A webpage

www.u3acastlemaine.com.

You have until Thursday, 16 August, 5 pm, to post your story about an interesting person, event or incident stored in your memory. Give it a go! **Entry is free.** First prize is \$150, second prize is \$75 and third prize is \$50.

The shortlist judges will be Ann de Hugard and Rob Wallis, both successful writers from the Castlemaine Word Mine, an association of local writers and poets. They will choose ten entries as finalists. The judges of the winners from the shortlist will be Sally Berridge of U3A, who is a writing teacher, and Jeff Jones, editor of the Castlemaine Mail. ~ Elizabeth Rider

U3A Castlemaine Inc.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at:-

Uniting Church Hall – Lyttleton Street Castlemaine

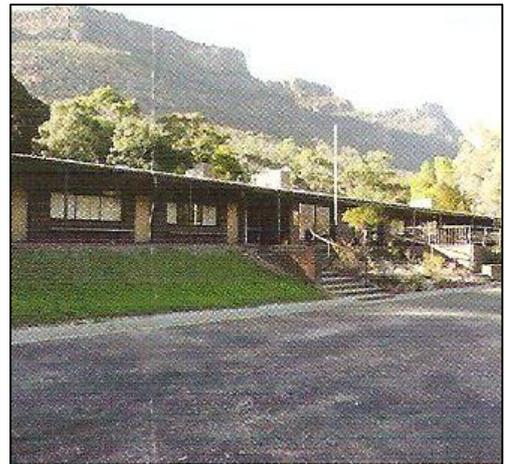
10am on Friday 1st June 2012

***To consider and vote on changes to the Statement of Purposes
and Constitution***

Proxy voting forms will be available from the Secretary and U3A Office.

***Depending on demand, one or more information sessions will be held before the
meeting.***

***The current constitution, proposed constitution and an explanation of the changes will
be available shortly on the U3A Website.***



GRAMPIANS VISIT

There are still places available for those wishing to share accommodation.

DATES: Monday – Wednesday 8-10th October

ACCOMMODATION: Noval House, Grampians Road Halls Gap
Noval House has four single beds and en suite bathroom to each room.

COST: \$220 which includes full catering.
This is the cost of a double room. Single supplement \$50.

DEPOSIT and PAYMENT: \$50 (\$25 non-refundable) deposit secures your booking. Should members prefer it is possible to pay in \$50 instalments at Coffee mornings or during office hours. Final payment must be made by **Thursday, September 13th**

JUNE 1st COFFEE MORNING VOLUNTEERS

Dot Henshall	Kevin Hurley	Joe Scoglio	Mary Willis
Anne van Gemert	Veronica Hurley	Julia Scoglio	Robyn Yeoman

JULY 6th COFFEE MORNING VOLUNTEERS

Joanne Brown	Eileen Park	Sue Spacey	Sue Turner
Janet Waldie	????	????	????

Please note: The *March 2012* Third Thoughts had a listing of 'Support for Fellow U3A Members'.

Will you please add Janet Waldie 5472 5411 to that list, and would you please remove Sally Kaptein's name. She is no longer available. Thank you.

~ Eva Haarburger