

U3A

# Third Thoughts

Castlemaine Inc (Est. 1988)

Volume 25 No 9

October 2011

Reg. A0017409G

## *AT THE SEPTEMBER COFFEE MORNING...*

Our invited guest Diane Thompson, Curator of Castlemaine's historic Buda gardens, told us of her "labours of love". With help from 60 or so passionate, active gardening volunteers she works in and restores the gardens surrounding the charming 19th century gentleman's residence. Volunteer Rhonda Cross is a fourth generation Buda gardener. Diane described how Castlemaine is managing to keep Buda going, while attracting a steadily increasing number of appreciative visitors. Local tradesmen have done a remarkable job of restoring old drainage lines, electrical wiring, outhouses, and old Victorian aviary.

Diane and her band of volunteers have made vast inroads eliminating invasive weeds such as Bridal Veil, Vinka, Cape Broom and Onion Weed while opening up Miss Hilda's walk under the old Bay trees, and the steps built by Clive Winmill. Several large trees came down in the recent storms and were made safe by local arborists Natasha Harris and her husband. The old Sugar Gum at the front had become dangerous and it had to go. The enormous cypress hedge dominating the front of the house, having struggled to survive the many years of drought, was brought down by recent heavy rains and high winds. Every disaster has a bright side and the southerly vistas beyond the boundaries have opened up with lovely views over the swathes of restored garden beds and formal garden. Its removal is also saving the Trust the cost of clipping and maintaining the hedge, somewhere in the region of \$5,000 each time.

The house was built for Reverend James Smith, who sold his home in 1863 to Ernest Leviny, a notable Hungarian gold and silversmith. The Leviny's brought up their family of several daughters, who all became talented artisans in their own right. In 1981 the house, contents and grounds passed into the trusteeship of the Castlemaine Art Gallery.

(more on page 12)

~ Barbara Bunton

## *COMING EVENTS*

**Thursday 6th October – 10.45am to 6pm**  
**Seniors Race Day at the Bendigo Jockey Club**  
**Free** bus leaves from in front of the Market Building at 10.45am and will return approx 6pm.  
**Free** entry and Race Book for those with a Seniors Card. There is a two course dining package available for **\$20** through the *Silks Restaurant*, or you can take your own picnic lunch. **Bookings are Essential.** Add your name to the list in the Office, and you must ring 5448 4209 to reserve your place on the Castlemaine table if you choose to dine in *Silks*.

**Saturday 8th October – 10.30am**  
**BEFORE CASTLEMAINE - FREE**  
A 3km walk that is expected to take 2-3 hours, guided by Dr Julian Hollis through local geological highlights within the town, including the Anticlinal Fold and Kalimna Point. Ask your friends and family to join in with this unusual and interesting outing. Meet at the Castlemaine Railway Station at 10.30am.

For enquiries contact U3A on 5470 5022

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**FRIDAY OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup> – 10am**  
**Coffee Morning at the Uniting Church Hall**  
**and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Guest Speaker:**  
**Castlemaine Mayor Janet Cropley**

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**Friday November 4<sup>th</sup> – 10.00 am**  
**Coffee Morning at the SALVATION ARMY HALL**

Kennedy Street (in front of the Rail Station)

Guest Speaker: **Dean Bridgfoot**

**Mount Alexander Sustainability Group**

Dean will talk about global warming:  
facts, myths and challenges

## U3A Castlemaine's information Web Page: [www.u3acastlemaine.com](http://www.u3acastlemaine.com)

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| Caterer                | Jenni Rutherford   | 0402 776 194     |  |
| Coffee Supplies        | Lyn Hall           | 5472 2316        | <a href="mailto:lynypoodle@gmail.com">lynypoodle@gmail.com</a>                           |
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### U3A OFFICE DETAILS

The Office is at the Uniting Church Complex,  
Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine

Office Hours are:

Mondays, 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm

Tuesdays, 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm

Wednesdays, 10 am – 12 noon

Phone: 5472 2249

Web Page: [www.u3acastlemaine.com](http://www.u3acastlemaine.com)

### 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

7<sup>th</sup> October: **AGM - German, Latin**

4<sup>th</sup> November:

Coffee Mornings are held on the first

Friday in the month at 10.00 am

in the Uniting Church Hall

**EXCEPT NOVEMBER** – see above

### Committee Meetings

are held on the third

Tuesday in the month at 1.00 pm

in the Kindergarten Room,

at the Uniting Church Complex.

**Robyn Yeoman has produced and edited the October issue of *Third Thoughts* as  
Barbara Bunton is away for this issue.**

## From the President

Because many members choose not to come to coffee mornings - which is a pity as they don't experience the diversity and energy of our U3A - I am going to acknowledge several of our retiring Committee in this newsletter.

Elizabeth Rider, Sue Turner and Val Case have decided not to re-nominate once their terms expire.

Elizabeth Rider, our Vice President stepped in when Pat Milthorpe resigned due to ill health. Elizabeth has done a terrific job convening the Governance working group. Members don't see the result of this group's work, but the Committee benefit from clearer direction and improved position descriptions, policies and forms.

Sue Turner, our Treasurer, is taking a well earned rest. Sue is a human dynamo who puts her hand up for every task. She will be irreplaceable. I hope we can have Sue back after a sabbatical.

Val Case has capably looked after Member Support for the last 12 months, but will probably have to repeat her experience of 2011 and be overseas for a good part of next year.

And then there is Win Jodell, who as our Course Co-ordinator has admirably scheduled a record number of courses and enrolments in 2011 over multiple venues and, of course, arranged the town hall talk from Julian Burnside. Fortunately Win is intending to continue on as a Committee member and take on another role.

To all our other Committee members and all our volunteers "thanks" for jobs well done.

At our October meeting we will be awarding life memberships to Graeme Quinn and Geoff Walker. Both are past Presidents and have held other roles on the Committee and been active for many years in class or social roles within U3A.

I hope to see everyone at our AGM!

~ Peter Stephens

~ oOo ~

## ***Say Hello and Welcome to New Members***

Abbie Heathcote - Kate Caraher

~ oOo ~

## **September Committee Meeting**

- ◆ The Committee dealt with the AGM and end of year matters.
- ◆ As you know the Mayor will speak at our AGM and we have asked her at the end of the talk to respond to U3A related questions rather than take questions from the floor.
- ◆ The Committee decided on fees for private use of the new photocopier and to insure the photocopier as it is leased, and possibly insure some of the office assets.
- ◆ The events calendar for the first term of 2012 was agreed. It was decided that the office will close on the 7th December and re-open on the 6th February.
- ◆ It was also decided to ask members to bring a donation in an envelope to the December coffee morning for distribution to local people through a local charity.
- ◆ The Accommodation working group presented its assessment of 16 potential teaching or office venues. This will hopefully form a basis for future investigations of our accommodation options.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2011

at 10am in the Uniting Church Hall  
Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine

Guest Speaker Mayor of Castlemaine Janet Cropley

Reports by the President, Course Co-ordinator and Treasurer

Election of new Committee for the ensuing year followed by the usual refreshments

'Proxy' voting forms and 'Nomination for Office' forms will be available from the Secretary or from the Office.

At the Annual General Meeting we will be looking for willing help in the areas of Treasurer, Course Co-ordinator, Vice-President and at least two new Committee members.

Help is always at hand to ease you into any position and you will be welcomed with open arms. It is rewarding, satisfying, not at all time consuming and fresh ideas are always welcome. It's your U3A and you are what keeps this U3A ticking along so very nicely.

~ oOo ~

## Thanks!

Thank you to the members of U3A, especially the Committee, for their support and encouragement over the past three years, the first two as Newsletter Editor, and this year as Acting Vice President. I stepped in to this position when the elected vice president, Pat Milthorpe, had to resign for health reasons.

The Vice President's main task is to convene the Governance Working Group to review our Governance and Operations Manual. The Manual details the Position Descriptions of members who take the active roles essential to keep our lively organisation running. It is an admirable Operations Manual – the result of much thought and the hard work of members over the past few years. It contains the organisation's constitution, policies and procedures, current prospectus, class leaders and much other information.

The Manual may sound bureaucratic and boring. Not so! It is a valuable resource for Committee members. All members should have a look at it. Our organisation has grown phenomenally, and we need clear policies and guidelines to function for the maximum benefit of all members.

I especially want to thank members of the Governance Working Group: Peter Stephens, Betty Johnson, Tom Comerford and Sally Kaptein. They have spent many hours this year going over all the Position Descriptions with a fine-tooth comb, and adding procedures for orienting new committee members. Thanks, particularly to Betty who put her computer skills to good use and added all the revised material to the updated manuals to hand over to the new committee after the AGM in October.

I wish the incoming vice president as much satisfaction as I have had in the position.

*Elizabeth Rider.*



~ oOo ~

**Deadline for the November Newsletter is 3 pm Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October**

# NOTICE BOARD

## Come and Try Table Tennis

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October at Table Tennis Centre  
Forest Street, Camp Reserve, Castlemaine  
10 am to 2.30 pm

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There are several lists in the U3A Office for you to add your names as an expression of interest in upcoming courses and events.

They are:

- Living Cell - The spice of life*** with Christobel Comerford
- Before Castlemaine – How our land was formed*** with Julian Hollis
- Electromagnetic Pollution Issues*** with Janobai Smith
- Hypothetical – Australia on the Dole 2041*** with Michael McNeill
- Movies of Merit waiting list*** with John Waldie
- Free Bus to Bendigo Race Track during Seniors Week**

Call in to the office during designated hours, phone 5472 2249 or email [u3acastlemaine@gmail.com](mailto:u3acastlemaine@gmail.com) to make sure your place is assured.

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## SENIORS WEEK—3-9 OCTOBER 2011

See your Castlemaine Program on the U3A website - [www.u3acastlemaine.com](http://www.u3acastlemaine.com) or pick up one at the Visitor Centre or the Shire Council. There are many interesting events on offer.

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## SUGGESTION BOX

A request was made at the Coffee Morning that members use the Suggestion Box if they have anything constructive to offer by way of courses or help in any capacity.

~ oOo ~

## SENIORS ONLINE

Seniors Victoria is proud to announce the launch of a new Victorian Government website for older people, Seniors Online.

Seniors Online aims to be a first port-of-call for Victorian seniors looking for information online. Content ranges from information on relevant Victorian Government programs and initiatives, to community contacts and links to relevant organisations and will continue to grow as the website matures. You can find Seniors Online at [www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au](http://www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au)

Please send us your feedback via the feedback form on the homepage.

## From the Course Coordinator

All details of dates, time and venues for, "Before Castlemaine" and "Electromagnetic Pollution Issues" can be found separately in this newsletter. These courses are being offered a second time in Term IV because they were so popular in Term I. Please add your name to the list in the U3A Office if you would like to attend.

After the AGM requests for course descriptions for the 2012 Prospectus will be sent out to this year's tutors. Now is the time to think about offering something different, or perhaps running your sessions by topic so they can be offered as Short Courses. You will be aware Short Courses have been very popular in the past two years. For tutors it would make more work in the initial setting up, but could work towards avoiding what I see as a worrying degree of attrition in many classes. I think our membership needs more choice and this is an area that needs discussion in 2012. I ask the language teachers to once again think about how to manage "beginners" in 2012. The past two years have been very successful in this regard.

**A most important reminder is for classes using the Uniting Church Complex.**

**The Uniting Church rooms will not be available for U3A classes**

***Thursday 3rd November to Thursday 24th November*** because of exams.

Classes held in UCC rooms or the hall will need to find alternative accommodation during these three weeks. Should you not be able to find other accommodation for these dates please get in touch with me. It does once again highlight the need for our own premises, or at the very least two class rooms for our own exclusive use.

~ Win Jodell  
Course Coordinator

~ oOo ~

## Table Tennis – Come and try day

On Wednesday 5th October, in Seniors Festival week, the Table Tennis group are having a

**'Come and try day'**

Open to everyone, regardless of age or ability. Bats are available on the day

**Bring \$2 and a plate for shared lunch, tea and coffee are supplied**

Members of the Table tennis group play every Wednesday morning from 10am.

Everyone welcome



The venue has nets dividing well lit tables



Dennis serving



Morning tea: John, Fergus (celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday), Grace and rob

## AN APPRECIATION OF SHEILA BOX

I was shocked and saddened to hear at the September coffee morning that Sheila Box had died. I knew that she had ceased to attend coffee mornings, and that she was rather frail, but had not realised the end was so near.

I first met Sheila in June 1995 when I came to Castlemaine and she suggested that I join U3A, which I did. At that time the organisation was much smaller and most people knew many other members. She was among the founding members of the organisation and very active within the organisation.

At that time, Sheila held the position of Treasurer and later she became Secretary. Prior to my arrival, she had also arranged a very successful holiday programme. I remember her as being very active in several U3A groups, such as the Walking group, Music Appreciation, Books and People, etc.

I later found out that she was born in England and lived there for her early years. Her father, who worked for BP, was asked to move to New Zealand, and the whole family went there, and she grew up and went to school and a tertiary college there. Later they all moved to Australia and she had a successful business career in Australia, working for various large organisations.

She retired early, and opened an antiques shop in Malmsbury, but preferred to live in Castlemaine. She ran her business for many years and was very knowledgeable about antiques, but had sold it before I knew her. On one occasion, she held a discussion about antiques within U3A.

In addition to all this, she was a successful author and published at least three books, which can be borrowed from the Castlemaine library. She also wrote poems and other pieces for our U3A newsletter. Of recent years, she confined herself to music appreciation, as walking became too much for her. Nevertheless, older members will remember her efforts in the early days of the organisation.

Vale, Sheila  
Ann Lodge

The three books that Sheila wrote are:

***Big Smoke to Cat Country*** Illustrated by Geoffrey Stocks.

The story of an escape, of a weekend antique shop, two cats and a cottage.

***A Ghost in the Lavender***

The mystery of Cuthbert Clarke, an artist of the Goldfields, with acknowledgments to Peter Perry, Director of the Castlemaine Art Gallery and Robyn Annear.

***The Real George Barrington?***

The Adventures of the notorious London pickpocket, later Head Constable of the infant colony of New South Wales, with acknowledgments to her friends in Castlemaine's U3A, including Peter Laycock and Alan Robinson.

Sheila was very talented, charming and industrious lady. I remember meeting her in the mid 1970s when she was a great help identifying antique china for us after we had opened our own shop in Barker Street. She will be sorely missed.

*Barbara Robinson, Audrey Richardson and Barbara Bunton*

## U3A COMPUTER CLASSES for 2011

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Monday   | <b>Apple Mac Computer Help</b><br>Coordinator <b>Michael Smith</b> ..... 5470 6638<br>Presenter <b>Bruce Carruthers</b> ..... 5472 3900   |
|          | Every Monday of the month 10 am – 11 am<br>Weekly topics are listed on the U3A web page: click on the heading <b>Apple Mac Computer Help</b> to find details (see <b>Computers</b> under <b>Subjects 2011</b> ) |
| Monday   | <b>Family History/Genealogy</b> with <b>Veronica Hurley</b> ..... 5472 1383<br>Fourth Monday of the month 11 am – 4 pm  |
| Tuesday  | <b>“How Do I Do That?”</b> with <b>Shane Doyle</b> ..... 5472 4017<br>9.30 am - 12.30 am (by Appointment)   |
| Tuesday  | <b>Picasa</b> with <b>David Sime</b> ..... 5472 3756<br>1.30 pm - 3.30 pm   |
| Thursday | <b>Digital Imaging Group</b> with <b>Trevor Wheeler</b> ..... 5476 2286<br>1.30 pm - 3.30 pm (1st, 3rd, 4th Thursday of the month)  |
| Thursday | Photography with <b>Trevor Wheeler</b> ..... 5476 2286<br>1.30 pm – 3.30 pm (2nd Thursday of the month)   |
| Friday   | <b>E-Mail/Internet/Word</b> with <b>Lyn Hall</b> ..... 5472 2316<br>9 am – 12 noon  |
| Friday   | <b>Microsoft Word</b> with <b>Betty Johnson</b> ..... 5472 3834<br>9 am – 12:30 pm, <b>excluding</b> Coffee Mornings  |

Apple Mac classes are held in the Salvation Army Hall, Kennedy Street (adjacent to the Railway Station)

All other computer classes are held in ‘The Octopus’ (the old Information Centre), Duke Street (opposite the motel)

~ Shayne Doyle  
Computer Convener

~ oOo ~



### Electromagnetic Pollution with Janobai Smith

TUESDAYS at 10 am to 12 md

18th and 25th October 2011

Fellowship Room, Uniting Church Hall

~ oOo ~

### Are you interested in improving options for transport in your community?

Mount Alexander Shire Council would like to hear from residents who are interested in continuing to work towards improving public transport along with community alternatives to public transport to custom fit each community. This could be car pooling programs, taxi sharing, volunteer drivers and other innovative programs that could be developed through existing community groups or residents working together specifically for the cause.

For further information please contact Sue Moses, Transport Connections Project Officer, Mount Alexander Shire Council on 5471 1877 or 0458 019 768 Wednesday to Friday or email [s.moses@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:s.moses@mountalexander.vic.gov.au)

## ABORIGINAL HISTORY – OUR SHARED HISTORY

FELICITY SAY 5472 1841

### October 4<sup>th</sup>

We return to the excellent "First Australians" series, the Indigenous produced series, which depict the true stories of individuals, both black and white, caught up in epic dramas of friendship, revenge, loss and victory in Australia's most formative period of history. Today's episode deals with early black/white conflict in the Kimberley region and moves onto the treatment of the increasing population of mixed race children which, at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century was viewed with positive alarm.

### October 18<sup>th</sup>

This session will include a dramatisation of the final stage of Australia's invasion on the lands of the Bunaba people in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. It tells the dramatic story of the almost mythical character of Jandamarra who fought for the freedom of his people.

## AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

GEOFF WALKER 5470 6652

During the past couple of months we have had a series on travel and transport; Arthur on Cobb & Co Coaches, Geoff on railways, Chris on Clipper sea transport, and Graeme on the Murray River boats. This has been a very interesting series.

During October and November we shall look at the story of the development of Australian constitutional history, with the evolution of the State Governments and the Federal Government. In October the sessions will be at 2.00pm on Monday 10th October and Monday 24th October at the home of Geoff and Beth at 9 Lyttleton Street.

Yes, you will be most welcome to join us.

## DABBLING IN HISTORY

PETER STEPHENS 5472 3904

Dabbling in History this year has concentrated on comparatively recent events. Inevitably we have looked at the role the superpowers of the day played in influencing those events. So this month we are going to look more closely at superpowers - their characteristics and their legacies.

## FRIDAY MORNING GARDEN GROUP

SHIRLEY CURNOW 5472 1729

Our outing in September was to Maldon when we visited two gardens and were made most welcome. The first one was on the Castlemaine road as we entered the town, and the second was on the Bendigo road as we left Maldon. Of course there were differences, but the common feature of each was the variety of colour in the rich display of succulents in the gardens.

In October we shall make our way to Lockwood South where Richard Lay will show us, and talk to us about, his tall bearded irises and day lillies. If you would like to join us on Friday 21st October, please be at the Uniting Church car park a bit before 10.00am. We may drop in to a spot for some lunch afterwards! You will be most welcome.

## ISSUES OF CONCERN

CAROL DORMAN 5472 4429

I would like to thank Eva Haarbarger and Frank Pederick for running the Issues sessions during my absence.

There's been a fair bit of head shaking regarding the federal government's refugee policy. Who advised that sending refugees to Malaysia would work? Who thought that the Malaysian Government would treat refugees humanely when they were not bound by the UN Convention to do so? The federal government is being badly advised on this matter. but sadly the Government is listening.

Australian honey producers are having to spend time and money on trying to prevent invasion of the Asian honey bee of Australia after the federal government withdrew funding for an eradication program earlier this year. The Asian honey bee competes with the European honey bee for nectar and has already wiped out 90 percent of the European bee in the Solomon Islands. The Asian bee also hosts the varroa mite which lays its eggs in the wax cells of the European bee and destroys hive populations. Not only is honey production threatened but, as importantly, pollination. A 2010 federal government report says about "65 percent of agricultural production in Australia depends on pollination by European honey bees".

The State government has cut co-ordination funding for the VCAL program that allows students to study for a alternative leaving qualification to the VCE. This funding cut will jeopardise the ability of vulnerable students to remain at school after year 10.

The State government has also abolished wood collection permits which, in the past, have controlled the amount of fire wood that can be collected from State forests.

Coal seam gas mining is causing increasing concern among farmers in NSW & Queensland. Diesel fuel is used to split the coal to release the gas and farms in the vicinity of mining are concerned that this will pollute water sources. Mining companies are planning on drilling thousands more wells to exploit this resource.

Wikileaks has revealed that an important environmental protection for the Great Barrier Reef was subject to a compromise to avoid a diplomatic argument with the US and Singapore. These countries objected to the Howard Government's compulsory pilotage scheme developed to reduce the risk of oil and chemical spills at the northern end of the Barrier Reef. Now ships travelling through the Torres Strait will not incur penalties for not having a pilot on board as long as they do not call at an Australian port.

What with all the current news of some European countries not able to service their loans it's interesting to learn that Argentina's economy is forging ahead since it defaulted on its loans in 2001.

## SOLO GROUP

BETTY HENCHMAN 5472 2139

Our next get-together will be at the home of Penny Garnett  
on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 1.00 pm.**

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

## SIGNPOSTS IN ENGLISH: HISTORY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

DIANA COLLIER 5443 0137

Following the Great Vowel Shift – perhaps the biggest single influence separating Old English from Early and Modern English, and the remarkable rise in the vocabulary between 1500 - 1700, scholars, readers, writers began developing tools, guides or interpretive matrices for those new and many words. Meanings also were changing according to needs.

We will hear about some of the earliest dictionaries and their characteristics, different purposes, types. Professed reasons today, for a specific aim of general dictionaries will be discussed. Participants might like to look at the treatment of words in different dictionaries in the Castlemaine Library. They might also like to bring to the session their own dictionaries, technical or general, for comparisons.

Values, words and modernity will be aspects in the second session “Words mean more than they ever meant before”. DVDs will bring out these points.

## WAGNER’S RING CYCLE – A SHORT COURSE OVER THREE YEARS

VIC SAY 5472 1841

**Friday, October 21 at 7pm:** An Introduction to 'The Ring' via what Georg Solti calls, "a comprehensive illustration of the vital leitmotifs, which are the musical bricks and mortar of the cycle", in 5 sides of the 3 LP records, **at Vic and Felicity's home.**

On these recordings Deryck Cooke provides an explanation and analysis of Wagner's system of leitmotifs with 193 musical examples either extracted from the complete Solti recording or especially recorded for this production.

**Friday, November 18 at 7pm:** “Wagner and me” DVD **at Peter and Barry's home.**

From a Jewish perspective, does Wagner's music triumph over the pall caste over it by the association it came to have with Nazism and Hitler?

Stephen Fry explores his passion for the music against the backdrop of the annual Wagner festival in Bayreuth and his family having been a victim of the Holocaust.

To a soundtrack of the music, Fry follows the Wagner trail to Switzerland and Russia in search of the origins of the music; in Nuremburg he explores how Hitler appropriated it.

The DVD includes 36 minutes of interviews not included in the TV version of this journey.

## SINGING GROUP

RAE HAWKINS

We are currently learning more of the lovely John Wheeler/William James' Australian Carols, and also another of the Beatles' songs - 'Let it Be'.

We shall continue to develop this year's Christmas programme as well as polishing up some of the old favourites so that our repertoire continues to grow.

I am very grateful to all my choir members for the help and support I have received during the past two months. Thank you to everyone.

Don't forget, new members are always welcome, so why not come along and see if this is for you.

## MUSIC APPRECIATION

BRUCE BAUD 5472 4574

Today we had 3 composers, Beethoven, Ponchielli and Felix Mendelssohn. We started the morning with some delightful Jewish folk tunes. This was a disc Bruce discovered in the Library. Jewish families have contributed an extreme amount to music. The musical selection from this disc were well worth listening to. Next we heard Beethoven's Fifth Symphony No 5 Opus 67 in C Minor. This is the famous symphony with the four note start has been described as 'fate knocking on the door'. This Symphony has enjoyed enormous popularity, not one you would become bored with. We then heard Beethoven's Fantasia Opus 80, for piano, chorus and orchestra. This work was composed in 1809 and included Schiller's 'Ode to Joy', which was to reappear many years later in the final movement of the Ninth Symphony. The Choral Fantasia is surprisingly not often played; it is a great piece of music.

After morning tea Bruce introduced a composer new to our music sessions, but well known due to one piece of music 'Dance of the Hours' by Amilcare Ponchielli (1834-1886), he was born at Paderno in Italy. The Dance of the Hours is a ballet movement from his opera 'La Gioconda', which was first performed in 1876. This ballet movement was also made popular in the Walt Disney film 'Fantasia'. The final work for the morning was the Concerto in E Major for two piano and strings by Felix Mendelssohn. This work was first performed by Felix and his sister Fanny on her nineteenth birthday in 1824. It is a great piece of music. He also wrote a second concerto for two pianos, but strangely neither work seems to have an Opus number, unlike most of his music. It was a completion of a great morning's music.

~ Bruce Willis

## OPERA – AN OCCASIONAL EVENING SERIES

VIC SAY 5472 1841

|                          |       |                       |
|--------------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| October 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 7pm - | Beethoven's Fidelio   |
| November 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 7pm - | Mozart's Don Giovanni |
| December 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 7pm - | Verdi's La Traviata   |

## REQUIEM AND THEN...?

VIC SAY 5472 1841

We decided to postpone the joys of the Krzysztof Penderecki requiem planned for October 7<sup>th</sup> until November, so we still have that to look forward to. Meanwhile our plan is:

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| October 7 <sup>th</sup> -   | Andrew Lloyd Webber's work of 1985 which we first listened to last year                             |
| October 21 <sup>st</sup> -  | Campra's requiem, a delightful work from about 1700, new to the group                               |
| November 4 <sup>th</sup> -  | We are juggling - maybe the Liszt - or the Schumann - or the Gounod - all requiems new to the group |
| November 18 <sup>th</sup> - | The Penderecki  |
| December 2 <sup>nd</sup>    | To be decided   |

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**September Guest Speaker** continued from page 1

Reverend James Smith, a Baptist minister who had settled in Castlemaine after some years serving with the Colonial Army in India, had the house built in a style known as a Delhi Villa, with quite a marked Indian influence. He sold his home in 1863 to Ernest Leviny and when the last daughter passed away in 1981 the house, contents and grounds passed into the trusteeship of the Castlemaine Art Gallery.

Miss Leviny, as she was respectfully known to local residents, was an awesome sight as she drove her stately old Humber Hawk down to the shops. Most people made sure she was given a wide berth while she manoeuvred her way at her own leisurely pace. The little wooden garage at Buda, where this vehicle was housed, has become derelict over the years. It is now being restored as part of the continuing up-keep of the gardens. Unfortunately, Diane had to remove an ancient climbing Lorraine Lea rose in order to begin work. The rose was probably holding up this old wooden structure, but cuttings have been struck from it to be replanted at a later date.