



## MYU3A Goes Live! Member Registration & Enrolments Online



Left: Office volunteers have received training so they are able to assist members with online enrolments



Left: our hardworking Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer Peter Batten and Anet McDonald

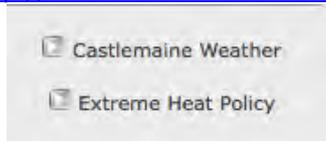


### U3A Castlemaine Extreme Heat Policy In a nutshell -

All activities must be cancelled when the forecast temperature for CASTLEMAINE is 38° or higher, as well as on a day of *extreme or greater fire danger*, regardless of the temperature.

The U3A Castlemaine website has a link to the weather forecast and to the Policy.

<http://www.u3acastlemaine.com>



Check at the bottom of the Index list on the left side of the welcome page.

**Heat kills more Australians than any natural disaster**

Thank you to all those people who made the new style 2016 course enrolment procedure work as smoothly as the weather allowed. All enrollees appreciated the advice, computer help, friendly service and encouragement you provided.

Due to a forecast of 38° for Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January the enrolments for that day were cancelled in line with our Extreme Heat Policy. On the day the temperature was actually 40°. People were directed to the office on Thursday and Friday of that week for enrolments.

### Still not enrolled in your 2016 Courses?

The U3A Office is closed until 1<sup>st</sup> February: BUT 2016 enrolments are still being accepted. You can enrol in the following ways:

- Online at the U3A Castlemaine website;
- By mail, or put your forms through the mail slot in the front door of the U3A Office;
- At Coffee Morning on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January.

For more information refer to page 50 of the 2016 U3A Castlemaine Prospectus.

Continued on page 4

## U3A Castlemaine — Contact Information

### Committee of Management - 2016

President	Max Clarke	5475 1220	u3acm.pres@gmail.com
Vice President	Vacant		
Secretary	Rob Murdoch	0418 397 400	u3acastlemainesecretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Peter Batten	0413 530 621	u3acm.treas@gmail.com
Course Coordinator	Colleen Smith	0409 084 620	u3acastlemainecourses@gmail.com
Course Coordinator	Bev Orgill	5474 3050	u3acastlemainecourses@gmail.com
Immediate Past President	Dick Mack	0411 244 103	u3acm.rdm@gmail.com
Office Coordinator	Hilary Beckett	0418 287 065	u3acm.office@gmail.com
Events Coordinator	Joe Scoglio	5472 2396	u3acm.events@gmail.com
General Member	Robyn Yeoman	n/a	robyn.yeoman@gmail.com
Minutes Secretary	Diane Vits	n/a	dmvits@bigpond.com

### Other Positions

Network Representative	Dick Mack	0411 244 103	u3acm.rdm@gmail.com
Course and Venues Administrator	Russell Annear	0407 346 334	n/a
Assistant Secretary	Vacant		
Assistant Treasurer	Anet McDonald	5470 6497	anetandme@gmail.com
Membership	Hazel Annear	0407 000 054	hpannear@bigpond.com
Newsletter Editor	Robyn Yeoman	n/a	u3acastlemainenews@gmail.com
Property	Peter Benson		benpj59@yahoo.com.au
Cake Roster/Raffle	Beryl Leavesley	5472 3182	berylleavesley@hotmail.com
Trading Table	Audrey Richardson	5472 3867	keithaud@gcom.net.au
	Bev Orgill	5474 3050	philandbev@hotmail.com
	Harvey Jacka	5470 5079	marionandharvey@gmail.com
Celebrations/Tributes	Barbara Bunton	5472 3186	wil2bar@impulse.net.au
IT Support	Vacant		
MyU3A Support	Hazel Annear	0407 000 054	hpannear@bigpond.com
Website Manager	Bruce Carruthers	5472 3900	bruce@keepingitsimple.com.au

### U3A Castlemaine Office Details

P.O. Box 792, Castlemaine  
 The Office is located at the 'Octopus' opposite  
 the Castle Motel in Duke Street, Castlemaine  
**Office Hours:** Monday to Thursday 1.30–3.30pm  
**5472 2249**  
 u3acastlemaine@gmail.com  
 www.u3acastlemaine.com  
**MyU3A:** go to U3A Castlemaine website and click  
 on **MEMBER LOGIN** under **INDEX**

### Friday Coffee Morning

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

**The Host class for March is 'Movies of Merit'**

**The guest speaker** will be  
 Jacqueline Dinan on Australian  
 women in World War II



Do you realise that you can read *Third Thoughts* in full colour on our website? Go to  
<http://www.u3acastlemaine.com/newsletters.html>.

Not just this issue, but you can go back as far 2009.

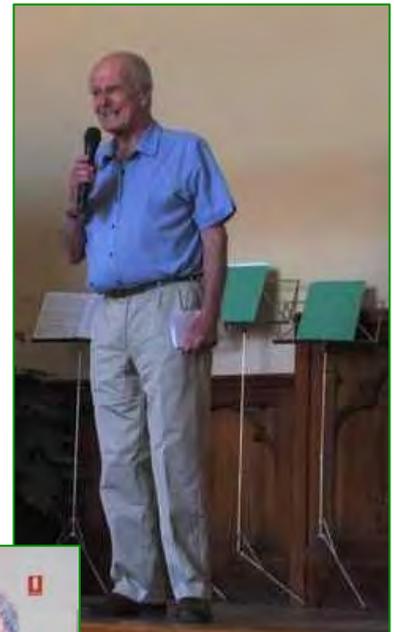
**DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE OF *THIRD THOUGHTS* IS MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY**

## Remember Christmas? Photos from our 2015 Christmas Coffee Morning & Luncheon



Ian Edwards, Jeanette Johnston, Elizabeth Rider, Trevor Phillips, Sylvia Phillips

Tony Morton



Above: An attentive audience



Left:  
Dot Henshall and  
Molly Angel  
In background  
Christobel Comerford  
and Kevin Hurley

Below left - Veronica Hurley, Alan Bull and Pam France.

Below right - Algie and Muriel Alexander who enjoyed the camaraderie at our Christmas coffee morning. They're from Hampton, London and were hosted by John and Janet Waldie, who have stayed with them while travelling. Muriel was sufficiently impressed that she's joining U3A in Richmond, London, where she hopes to find the same community spirit.



## President's message from the cool room

Max Clarke 5475 1220



New Years Greetings to all members, new, renewing and returning. I seem to remember some time ago, a really good U3A Castlemaine Christmas coffee morning, an interesting variety of entertainment and a great Luncheon. Special thanks go to the many people involved in making that such a seamless success.

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas celebration and saw in the New Year in style. I watched the fabulous Fireworks in Melbourne, but then due to the total muck up of announced 'free' rural transport, which did not happen, I slept on the floor at Southern Cross, (known to us as Spencer Street Station) until the 7.19 am train home. Not happy Jan, and a letter to Maree & Jacinta our local Pollies!

From early January many people have been very busy getting enrolments done and entered onto the MyU3A system, then getting the Course Leaders Handbook re-written, printed, and ready for the Course Leaders Information session. U3A Castlemaine has been very creative, 112 courses/activities loaded into the Website, and already over 430 financial members, of which 91 are new to our U3A as at 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

I must remind members that the Heat and Severe Weather Policy is to protect us all, and whilst it might be annoying to some that activities need to be cancelled, I'd ask the complainers to keep their thoughts to themselves. If you don't like the Policy join the Committee and fight to change it, but don't abuse the hard working volunteers. Sermon is over.

Please enjoy our first Coffee morning for 2016 and a new year of classes and activities ahead.

Continued from page 1

### Are You Waiting?

If you have paid your membership and requested a place in a class, your MyU3A record will show 'Enrolled' or 'Wait Listed' against each class selected.

Some courses have a maximum number of places due to room size, course leader request, nature of the course, and so on. When the number of requests for that class reach the maximum number the following requests are 'wait listed'. This starts a process of review of all requests by the course coordinator and/or the course leader. The review may happen in a number of ways, but you can expect to be asked, for example, if you are still interested in attending the class. Often the member will decide to withdraw due to over commitment, or personal issues. As one person withdraws another is 'Enrolled'. Another outcome of the review is that the course leader may decide to repeat the course at another time during the year.

If you notice 'Wait Listed' against a class please do not contact the course leader unless you have decided to withdraw from the class.

## Thank you to the Walkers of Lyttleton Street

For more years than anyone can remember Geoff and Beth Walker have been custodians of our keys to the Uniting Church hall and Manse.

We now have a new home for the keys - a key lock safe attached to the wall at the rear of the Manse, near our entry door.

In appreciation for the care of, and often worry about the keys, Max Clarke presented a gift of a standard Lilac Rose to Geoff and Beth on behalf of the Committee of Management and members.



# Around the classes

## The Evolution of Humankind

My holiday research program has uncovered even more previously undisclosed relatives including 'Twiggy'. Yes she was skinny and flat chested with a small brain, but was she human? Come and find out.

Those who have enrolled in this course should look out for relevant newspaper articles. *The Age* of Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January, included an intriguing report on modern human allergic reactions and their links with Neanderthals other extinct relatives whose DNA has now been isolated.



Keep looking!

**Christobel Comerford**

'Come and Meet Your Relatives' Tuesdays 1—29<sup>th</sup> March, 1pm -2.30pm

## Over Eighties Luncheon Group

Welcome to 2016!

Our first meeting will be at the Dove Café on the corner of Hargraves and Doveton Streets, on Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2016, at 12.15pm.

Members are requested to phone me by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> for catering numbers.

**Eileen Park** on 54725213

## More Prospectus Copies Now Available

Due to popular demand, new copies of the Prospectus are now available – at the Office and other locations as before.

### DON'T FORGET!

To check on the U3A website for the most up to date courses and timetable information. It is all there (see Contacts p2).

## Sex, Myths and Madness

Well that got your attention! I've been looking through the timetable of courses at La Trobe University in Bendigo to see what I would like to sit in on this year. And I've been looking at courses in Education, where I found *Relationships, Gender and Sexuality*, and Psychology, which includes *Mind, "Madness" and Society*. I previously did a course in History called *Sex, Crime and Scandal*. Good things, as you see, come in threes.

*Myth, Legend and History* looks interesting, so I'm disappointed to see that it's being delivered in 'blended mode' – a splendid euphemism for a disappointingly growing number of courses being beamed into Bendigo while only the Melbourne students get a face-to-face lecture. I'm skimming past Media and Visual Arts, because their lectures are too closely related to the practical workshops and studio elements we can't join. I think I'll look at Planning and Education courses, because I know they have lecturers at Bendigo. What about *Australian Children's Literature* or *Understanding Autism*?

Most of the courses I've been to over the last few years have been in Aboriginal Studies or History, so perhaps it's time to branch out into Literature. There's a course on *Postcolonial Reading* with six books from six different countries on the reading list. There's so much choice I hope at least one other member will take up whatever I choose so we can car share and talk about the lecture on the way back. Interested? Phone me!

**Bridget Leach**, 0434 971 451

La Trobe University allows members of the U3A to sit in as audit students on undergraduate lectures at the Bendigo campus for no fee. Choose your courses from: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/timetable/table.php?y=2016&c=BE>

**More details** on our U3A website at:

<http://www.u3acastlemaine.com/forms/LaTrobeForm2016.pdf>

## Adventures in Classical Music

During 2015 we had a total of 13 different courses involving music ranging from Popular Music to Opera, and from playing an instrument to musical theory, and from short courses to all year courses.

The title of my course is intended to remind everyone that listening to classical music can be enjoyable as well as surprising. During the first session on Monday 15 February 2016, a set of general course objectives will be proposed and amended if required. In my opinion, each session or program should have one major theme with a number of subsidiary or minor themes so that over the course of a term a wide variety of periods, genres and styles can be covered. A brief survey of class participants will be conducted to establish if there is a preference for a particular period, or genre or style.

I have access to a large collection of recorded music covering most genres and periods, but if class members are keen to share their favourite version or performer, that will be encouraged. During the course of the year I am also hoping to inspire a greater understanding and knowledge of Australian composers since we are fortunate to have a large number of composers of international standing in this country.

**Hans van Gemert** 5472 1082

## An Overview of Australian Design

I hope that those U3A members who came to my two sessions last year will enrol again this year. For those who are new to the course I will give a brief overview of the history of industrial design promotion in Australia and why it was (and still is) an important, but not clearly understood issue at government level.

This year two former industrial designers will join me. Geoffrey Putman, former industrial designer and design lecturer (now of Maldon Radio FM), and Jeffery Newman, an industrial designer.

As design affects everybody from the newborn to the very old it is my intention to start each session with an introductory talk, and open the session to a Questions and Answers panel format.

**David Terry** 0419 875 627

## Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Have you -

- ✓ had experience in the health sector,
- ✓ had OH&S experience,
- ✓ have First-Aid qualifications,

or have an interest in the health, safety and well-being of members participating in U3A Castlemaine activities?

If so, the Governance Working Group would be delighted to hear from you. Your contribution would be as a consultant on health and safety policy issues as they arise. You would be required to attend meetings on an occasional basis.

For further information, or if you would like to be involved please contact Marilyn Sedgman. [marilyn.19@bigpond.com](mailto:marilyn.19@bigpond.com)



## Pensioners and ambulance transport

Under the **State Concession Scheme Victorian's eligible for concessions** receive free clinically necessary ambulance coverage throughout Australia. This coverage provides free emergency and medically authorised non-emergency ambulance transport to the nearest and most appropriate hospital.

### Who is eligible for free ambulance transport :

- A person holding a current Pensioner Concession Card (including dependent children as listed on the card, but excluding spouses).
- A person holding a current Health Care Card (excluding holders of a Health Care Card for Carer Allowance and Foster Care issued in the name of the child) and their dependents, including spouses as listed on the Card (in circumstances where the dependant is the patient).

The benefits that adhere to your Pensioner Concession Card vary from state to state.



For more details go to the website listed below.

<http://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/Membership/FAQs>

## Our champion bridge players

At the end of 2015, a number of our players were ranked in the top 10 within Victoria for their ABF Master category (determined at 1 January 2015 – they are higher ranked at 31 December 2015). There are about 5,000 registered players in Victoria, so these players have made a significant achievement.

Lorraine Dullard	(Local now **Local Master)
Merlyn Pritchard	(*Local now **Local Master)
Denis Upsall	(*State now *National Master)
Barb Evans	(National now *National Master)
Faye Symons	(National now *National Master)

Lorraine, Denis and Faye were also ranked in the top 50 most improved players in Victoria.

Paul O'Hare (\*\*Local now State Master) was in the list until October, and did not miss out by much even though he has not played since July. Ken Simpson (Club now Local Master) was also in the list until the last 2 months of the year. It was only in 2014 that Ken came to us raw, and with no bridge experience, well done Ken. Bernhard Boulton who many would remember from a couple of years ago also made it into the top 10 for his Master Category.

I know we play for enjoyment at U3A Castlemaine, but it is nice to reflect on what our U3A people are achieving in the wider (and more serious) world of bridge outside U3A.

Well done everyone, and especially to those players who started playing with, and have been nurtured by U3A Castlemaine before venturing up to play at Bendigo Bridge Club. The Bendigo Club gives our U3A Castlemaine group fantastic support through dealing cards, easy access to supplies and web based scoring, as well as being an excellent home club to play bridge.

### Denis Upsall December 2015

About the asterisks - these are significant because the ABF ranks have a base rank and then the asterisks are an intermediate step between the base and the next level. So the asterisk implies extra step-wise achievement in terms of "masterpoints".

NB: Barb Ashworth was not available for the photo.



Merlyn Pritchard



Faye Symons



Denis Upsall



Lorraine Dullard

## Coming up in 2016 Joe Scoglio, Events Working Group

### Speakers at Coffee Mornings & events

- March 4 - Jacqueline Dinan on Australian women in World War II
- April 1 - Hetty Veldman on ANZAC nurses
- May 5 - Maree Jones on Landcare
- May 31 - A Walking Tour of Melbourne's CBD looking at some notable buildings

April 29 - The Car Trail

Other events not yet organised will be tours to art galleries and gardens.

We are also looking into the possibility of a group trip to see MONA (Museum of Old and New Art) in Hobart.

## *The Antiques Roadshow* Italian style

At the end of last year Vivienne Robertson, course leader of the Italian 111 class, produced an 'Italian' version of the TV series *The Antiques Roadshow*. We each wrote and presented our own segments. We all enjoyed the process and the audience showed their appreciation with lots of laughter and applause. **Jacqui Turnbull**



John Denton



Jim Blain, Liz Caffyn, and Gerry Egan in background



Vivienne Robertson & Jacqui Turnbull



Joe Scoglio, Gerry Egan, Julia Scoglio

## Extreme Heat and Fire Danger

We had an early start to the fire season and the first day classified as presenting 'Extreme' Fire Danger was in November. The Department of Health has issued a number of heat health alerts this summer. VCOSS (the Victorian Council of Social Service) points out:

*Heatwaves cause more deaths in Australia each year than any other natural disaster, and have a greater negative impact on population health than any other natural hazard.*

As our hot, dry summer continues, we need to ensure the safety of U3A members and that every member understands our Extreme Heat Policy, which applies when heat threatens health, and /or fire would spread rapidly.

Activities are cancelled automatically, without any need for course leaders to contact the members in their group. The point of the 'automatic' policy is that no individual decisions need to be made; no one needs to out-guess the forecasters, or decide when 'the change' might be coming, and so on. The policy is designed to ensure safety not only during the activity but also travelling there and back – and therefore the presence of air conditioning at the venue is irrelevant. **Hot cars kill.**

The policy of course applies to all our activities, but clearly some put members in more vulnerable places than others. The Parks Victoria advice is

*On days of Extreme and Severe Fire Danger Ratings you should reconsider plans to visit parks and forests, and if you are already within a park or forest the safest option is to leave the night before or early in the day.*

Members like to make their own decisions, but so that no one misses a class, and no one is tempted into a potentially dangerous situation, or might have difficulty getting home, the Committee took the decision to have a simple policy that would apply to all U3A Castlemaine activities when Extreme or Code Red Fire Danger was declared, irrespective of the predicted temperature.

- 1. U3A activities must be cancelled when the forecast temperature is 38 degrees or over. U3A activities include all classes, office attendance, administrative meetings and coffee mornings.***
- 2. Classes must be cancelled on a day of extreme or greater fire danger, regardless of the temperature.***