



U3A Castlemaine Car Ramble

We all grabbed our coats, packed a thermos and made sure we had a full tank of petrol. It was time for the annual U3A Castlemaine car ramble. Forty-four intrepid souls in 14 cars - I'm sure that was a record number - met on a cold and blustery Wednesday in early May to enjoy a meander through the goldfields and ghost towns of central Victoria. The roads were winding, the countryside out-of-the-way and the scenery gorgeously green. Why would you want to live anywhere else!

We left the footy ground at 9.15am in small groups and headed through Chewton, skirted the Expedition Pass Reservoir, then north of Castlemaine via some unmade roads to an old gold dredge, Maldon Cemetery and onto Mount Tarrengower where we had morning tea and discussed all we had seen. After the fabulous views from the top of the mountain we were under way again, by round about means, to Cairn Curran Reservoir and across the Moolort Plains to Tullaroop Reservoir and through the old and fascinating gold mining towns of Majorca and Talbot, onto Daisy Hill and finally lunch in Maryborough.

During the trip we were all busy finding the right roads, answering the many questions posed in our handout and just marvelling at old shepherd huts, lovely views and colonial architecture. And of course, working on our limericks, the real clinchers, when it came to deciding who would win the coveted *Graeme and Jane Quinn* trophy. Congratulations to the winners Tom and Christobel Comerford beating fierce

opposition from Peter Batten and Anne Bowditch, Carol Dorman and Norma Rantall. The rest of us can console ourselves that we didn't get lost (or at least not for long).

This was Allen and Colleen Smith's first time as ramble leaders and they did a fabulous job with the clear and detailed handouts, information packs, lunchtime catering and most importantly a scenic and history filled route (Wilson and Barb Bunton must have been good mentors). It was so enjoyable that some of us went around again about a week later! Roll on next year's ramble.

Peter Stephens



The winners are...

Go to page 5 to enjoy
the car ramble
limericks



Norma Rantall, Carol Dorman, Peter Batten, Christobel Comerford and Tom Comerford

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u3acastlemaine@gmail.com

www.u3acastlemaine.com

MyU3A: go to U3A Castlemaine website and click on MY U3A LOGIN At the top of the page

Friday Coffee Mornings are held on the first Friday of the month, unless otherwise advised, 10am at Church of Christ, Blakeley Road, Castlemaine.

June Speaker: Gill Miller – Head Gardener, Castlemaine Botanic Gardens

June Hosts:

Bush Walking, Photography and Digital Imaging

July Speaker: Darren Fuzzard, CEO, Mount Alexander Shire Council

July Hosts: *Choral – Singing Together*

August Speaker: Judy Coram - Medecins Sans Frontieres

Go to our website to read *Third Thoughts* in colour –

The deadline for the JULY issue is FRIDAY 23rd June

Send items to u3acastlemainenews@gmail.com

President's Report

Hello members,

We are all no doubt enjoying the mild autumn and our Botanical Gardens are glorious indeed. I find walking there at either end of the day is a great pleasure and I do meet some of you similarly delighting in our immediate environment. I am told the pair of powerful owls has been sighted in a big Stone Pine tree again, so my neighbours and I are wondering if they will nest nearby once more this year. What a wonderful prospect.

Despite several very frank calls by Robyn Yeoman and myself for more workers on the Courses Working Group there has been no response. The Courses Working Group is the engine of our whole organisation organising Course Leaders, courses, venues and timetables. The group also produces Our annual Prospectus, our much admired major document and promotional record of what we do. I know how rewarding an experience it is to take some responsibilities in "getting the show on the road" each year in terms of U3A Castlemaine courses. We are a highly respected U3A in Regional Victoria so please consider giving a little of your time for a couple of years to continue this good work. You will be well supported.



This year John Waldie (our U3A Victoria Network Rep) and I attended the annual President's Briefing. The announcement of changes to the ACFE (Adult Community and Further Education) funding was expected. Our Government funding had not changed for many years, the same \$175,000 is divided annually between each of the growing number of U3As in Victoria. The funding body is now TAP (T(AFE) and Participants) (not ACFE) and our funding will be project driven. Guidelines for applications have not yet been received, however I will include a list of Projects from the Education Department that will attract funding attached to this report. The funding will, I believe, be paid on the estimated number of volunteer hours the "project" will require, paid at \$25 per hour. I do not, myself, believe this sits well with the basic philosophy of U3A. Times are changing.

I would be most interested to hear from members. Please consider telling the Committee of Management and me what you think of these proposed changes to the funding: u3acm.pres@gmail.com. I will feed back your responses to Network management. Thank you in anticipation of your thoughtfulness.

Win Jodell

u3acm.pres@gmail.com

0423 423 247 or 5472 3792

Course Coordination Working Group

Places are still available in the following courses

Armchair Travel – Mondays 4th monthly, except July, 4pm to 5.30pm until 18th December

Bridge for Beginners - Wednesdays weekly 1.30 to 3.30pm until 12th July

Bridge - Tuesdays weekly 1.15 to 4.15pm year long

Chess - Thursdays weekly 10 to 11.30am year long

Choral: Singing Together – Tuesdays weekly 3.30 to 5.30pm year long

Fabulous Friday Flicks - Fridays 3rd, 4th, 5th of month, except July, 9.30am to 12.30pm all year

Movies of Merit - Thursdays weekly 10am to 1pm all year – **enrol at the Theatre Royal any Thursday**

Tai Chi (two groups) - Mondays weekly 9.30 to 10.45am all year

Warm Water Exercise for Arthritis - Tuesdays and Fridays weekly 11am to 1.30pm all year (separate groups)

La Trobe University Lectures - enrol now for Semester two.

Terms 3 and 4

Cosmic Philosophy and the 'Numinous'

The Ottoman Empire

Treasures of the Earth: Geology

Log on to MyU3A to enrol in any of these courses, or to obtain contact details for the Course Leader.

TAP* (ACFE) activities to June 2018

1. Policy and Research:

Conduct policy and research to develop appropriate training responses that meet the individual and social needs of senior Victorians. This will include resource development, tools, guides, frameworks and good practice methodologies for use by U3A organisations and their tutors. The report "Ageing is everyone's business" will be the key guide for much of this activity.

2. Capacity and Capability Building:

Coordinate and provide access to professional development for the managers, educators and other volunteers within the U3A network to improve the organisations and improve teacher quality.

3. Coordination and Integration:

Developing connectivity within the U3A community is integral to the long-term successful delivery of educational programs for senior Victorians.

Develop relationships and connectivity across all U3A organisations across the state to work together to share resources, expertise and knowledge.

Build partnerships with stakeholders within the community to develop pathways to meaningful participation through education (eg) volunteering.

4. Building Community Engagement and Awareness:

Coordinate marketing and promotions to create awareness within the greater population about the community and educational programs and the services that are provided. The brand needs to be developed to represent the consortium of organisations and explore opportunities to promote the brand as well as attract learners.

5. Pilot Educational programs:

Select or develop, fund, monitor and pilot educational programs with the focus of developing best practice methodologies that can be shared across the U3A organisations as educational responses to individual and social needs of senior Victorians (4 projects x \$15,000).

6. Monitoring programs:

Implement and manage a system to collect accurate data and measure impact and outcomes of educational programs across the U3A organisations.

7. Evaluation of the Program:

Conduct an evaluation of the program to measure the impact and outcomes. Including the effectiveness of the methodologies and activities.

*TAP, an acronym for our new U3A funding body: T(AFE) and Participants. It has replaced ACFE, Adult Community and Further Education.



Our May Coffee Morning Speaker, Remi Rauline informed us of a new eco village planned for development on a 1.4 hectare site in Reckelben Street Castlemaine.

The website has been launched, so for further information go to -

<https://www.thepaddockcastlemaine.com.au/>

ART & TEA

La Trobe Visual Arts Centre, View Street,
Bendigo

Wednesday, 21st June @ 10am

Speaker: Janet DeBoos, a ceramicist.

Janet has an exhibition at the Visual Arts Centre.

For further details please contact Val Wellings
on 5447 7076 (NB: new phone number)

Car Ramble Limericks

*There once was a miner from Chewton
Who slept on a sack not a futon
He didn't find gold,
But grew really old,
Dirt poor, only rags to put on.
(Tom and Christobel Comerford)*

*His daughter, her name it was Julie,
Her demeanour extremely unruly,
She fell in with a bloke
Who also was broke
Wedded bliss, long life, really truly?
(Tom and Christobel Comerford)*

*A likely young lassie called Frances
Wed a miner who fancied his chances.
The ring was pure gold
But the reef soon grew cold
And now down the pub Frances dances.
(Carol Dorman, Norma Rantall, Frances Knight)*

*Mary, a young digger's wife
Was full of care and strife.
Her work never done
Meant she had no fun
So she left for a better life.*

(Clive and Elizabeth Sharplin, Diane Thompson, Bob Rees)

*There once was a young man called Tigger
Who wanted to be a gold digger.
He put up his tent
But his poles were all bent
So he stood up and shouted, 'Bugger'!*

(Peter Batten, Ann Bowditch, Annie, Glennys, Ellie)

Can Do! Award for May

The application date had passed, the committee said "too late, no time or energy for this event", but our fearless Office Manager Hilary Becket said "we can do this – I'll organise it". And she did!

Thanks to Hilary we had a display in the Market Building, together with other voluntary organisations in the Mount Alexander Shire, for **National Volunteer Week 2017**. This was a good opportunity for networking and raising our community profile. Well done, Hilary and the handful of volunteers who staffed our display.



Cinema Museum at The Salvation Army's Heritage Centre

69 Bourke Street, Melbourne

Friday, June 30th at 10am

The Castlemaine 8.06am train gets to Southern Cross Station at 9.28am, enough time to get a tram along Bourke Street to the Centre, where we will meet.

Free entry, although a donation would be welcome on leaving.



For enquiries contact Max Clarke, 5475 1220 or mnc3463@gmail.com

Photographic Competition

U3A Network Victoria is looking at updating its marketing material. We would like to reflect what happens in our member U3As.

We extend to all your members the opportunity to take part in this competition. There will not be a prize as such, just the honour of their photo being used in state marketing and promotion of U3A.

We do not want general photos but rather photos of any classes, outings, events, etc. offered by your U3A, that will help promote U3A. Any member photographed will need to give their written permission for their photo to appear in U3A publicity. The competition will be open from 1st June to 22nd September.

A registration form is available from the U3A Castlemaine office or on their website. Each participant will need to complete a registration form and return to Network office along with a copy/copies of their photos. The photos will need to be of high quality and will become the property of U3A Network Victoria.

Elsie Mutton

Vice president, U3A Network Victoria
elsie.mutton@u3avictoria.com.au

Around the classes 2017

Solo Group

The next meeting for the Solo Group will be on Saturday the 17th June, at Anne Lodge's home. Anne's number is 5470 5915.

Apologies for any confusion regarding the mix-up about the May meeting.

Eva Haarburger 5472 3391

Over Eighties Luncheon Group

Our meeting for June will be at Togs Café in Lyttleton Street, (across from the Council building), at 12.30pm on Wednesday June 14.

Apologies to Eileen Park as below.

Eileen Park 5472 5213

Seasons for Thinking Gardeners

WINTER: the SEASON for THINKING GARDENERS

Do you have a list of winter jobs to do?

- By the month
- By the season
- By the year

Is there really any sense in planning, when the jobs we actually do are often not on the list!

Let's not think about the WORK but talk about **CLIMATE**

WEATHER

SOIL

Looking forward to our discussions on June 5th - public holiday, but can you still come to Leisterville? and then June 12th

Peggy Munro pjm2224@gmail.com
5472 2086

Friday Garden Club

Despite the threat of a downpour, twenty people attended our last Friday Garden visit before we take a few months off over winter. Rosalind and George Gray have a large block and have chosen to landscape the area closest to their house, with landscape gardener, Robyn Heylet's assistance.

Rosalind took us on a guided tour before providing us with morning tea and a slide show of the 'Before and After' garden make over. The garden has been made as drought proof as possible with mostly native plantings and mulch, and by adding a large tank that deep waters the garden beds when needed. Because they have to plant almost directly into rocky soil they have purchased a nifty device, which they swear by, called a "Power Planter" to drill the planting hole.

Garden Group will start again in August when we plan to visit *Buda* to see the bulbs and the veggie garden.

Bronwen Stephens pb.stephens@bigpond.com
5472 3904

Bush Ramblers

We started the year with a gentle ramble in the town. We have rambled along Barkers, Campbells and Forest Creeks. With the help of information from the local Tourist Office we have rambled the township of Campbells Creek with coffee and cake at the local Post Office cafe. We also visited the ruins of the Eureka Mine. We spotted many fungi in the Colles Road Pine Forest, have seen the first wild flowers and are looking forward to seeing many more.

Esme Gilbee



The Bush Ramblers

Popular Music

We haven't put anything in the newsletter for a while, but the group continues to meet each Thursday morning at the Manse. There are still a couple of vacancies if anyone would like to attend. Over the last few weeks we have listened to California bands, watched some very old clips of music hall and vaudeville artists and listened to protest songs (without Bob Dylan in earshot), complete with home-made protest signs. In the next few weeks we are looking forward to excerpts from pop concerts and then maybe some doo wop and soul to follow. So, you can see we cover a lot of territory.

Peter Stephens pb.stephens@bigpond.com
5472 3904

Playing Ukulele and Guitar Playing

We are progressing steadily and thoroughly enjoy our Friday afternoons playing together. It is so good to compare our first attempts at the start of the year and to hear the tunes now being played.

A small group have been invited to visit Langley School on 30th May to play for the children and show them the fun of playing ukuleles. We are looking forward to the outing and are preparing a program for the event.

The groups are most enthusiastic and practise every week, so progress is very good.

It is great to be involved in the music world.

Angela Sye 0434 201 701

More photos from our Bush Ramblers



Musicals Part 1

The April *Musicals* class was deferred to avoid a clash with the very popular annual Car Ramble.

We met on Wednesday 3rd May and enjoyed *Till the Clouds Roll By*. This 1946 musical was directed by Richard Whorf and is loosely based on the life and work of the songwriter Jerome Kern. It was illustrated by sumptuously restaging many of his hit songs, including several songs from the very popular *Show Boat*. The performers included Robert Walker, Van Heflin, Lucille Bremer, Judy Garland and Frank Sinatra who as a finale sang *Old Man River*. This was performed on an amazing set!

I thoroughly enjoyed the show, and many of the works were immediately familiar when I heard them. Several have continued to echo in my head. I think we all found it a very pleasant way to spend an afternoon. Our thanks to Peter Morris for inviting us to see and hear this show!

Peter Batten

Musicals Part 2

Due to cancellation of the April class we enjoyed a second film in May. *Easter Parade* was released in 1949. After a couple of accidents by two of the cast members Fred Astaire replaced Gene Kelly and Ann Miller replaced Cyd Charisse. We were all tapping our feet and silently singing along with wonderful tunes such as *A Couple of Swells* and *In your Easter Bonnet* and *It Only Happens When I Dance*. Judy Garland was always playing the female roll "Hannah Brown". Peter Lawford sang *A fella with an umbrella*. In June, we will have *Call Me Madam*.

Helen Wakeling



Judy Garland and
Fred Astaire in
Easter Parade

Photography and Digital Imaging

Our theme this month was autumn and *Maldon Machinery Museum*.

Our visit to Maldon was most interesting, seeing vintage machinery and vehicles in the museum. There was so much on display that we found it difficult to photograph individual items, but we produced some very interesting photographs.

The museum staff requested that we take many photos for them to submit for a display, and the winning photographer, voted by our group members, was presented with a gift voucher from Chapmans in Castlemaine.

We had an outing to Harcourt Oak Forest and Yapeen to catch a touch of autumn. Unfortunately, autumn was late this year, so we were very disappointed with our efforts, however the outings were most enjoyable. Greg was very intent on taking pictures of toadstools and was caught in action, as shown in the photograph.

There were multitudes of toadstools in the forest, we found no fairies, but there was one gnome.

Our project for June will be portraits, so we look forward to this.

Angela Sye



Winning Photo for Autumn

Autumn was late in Castlemaine this year which made it difficult in April to find nice Autumn scenes around town - I've seen some beautiful colours since! On Anzac Day I met up with family at *Lavendula*, near Daylesford, and autumn was further advanced. The photo is taken on the foot bridge, looking into weak morning sun that backlit the leaves. Technical details: ISO 400 to combine a good depth of field at f13 with reasonable shutter speed 125th sec for hand holding. I used LightRoom to remove the haze caused by pointing into the light and help the leaves to "glow".



Barb Guerin

**Contact: Pam Connell 5416 1203 or
0427 188 984**

Visit to State Library Victoria

328 Swanston Street, Melbourne (Cnr Latrobe Street)

Mirror of the World : books and ideas

An exhibit of old and rare books - discover the many rare and beautiful books held in the collections.

Friday, July 28th

This involves a one hour guided tour of the exhibit after which people are free to wander around other exhibitions. **Cost of entry:** Free **Meeting place:** The front foyer of the State Library, Swanston Street, Melbourne **Time of the tour:** 10.30 – 11.30am **Transport:** The 8.06am Castlemaine train should get one to Melbourne in time to catch a tram up Collins or Bourke Street and then a tram along Swanston Street. Maximum tour numbers: 25 people
Enquires: Babs McMillan cybasy@gmail.com