



U3A

Third Thoughts

Castlemaine Inc (Est 1988)

Volume 24 No 7

August 2009

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CLASS LEADERS' TRAINING DAY

In July 16 of our Class Leaders gathered in the Kindergarten Room for a full day workshop on PowerPoint 2007 very capably led by Sarah Phillips from Bendigo Continuing Education. Sarah was quite surprised to see her old Grade 5 teacher in the room in the form of Vic Say so this kept her on her toes!

Seven computers, monitors and laptops had been set up by David Sime and Hans van Gemert – no small task! Well done and thanks to David and Hans. Two people shared one computer which worked well as we proved that two heads are much better than one when it came to designing a PowerPoint show using software which was new to most of us. Initially we learnt that the blue section at the top of the screen is referred to as “the ribbon” and is set out much like a web page with tabs. It is different to Office 2003 but contains the same functions with easier access

Sarah was very patient and led us down the maze of designing a PowerPoint Show which would hold the attention of the audience. We all agreed that we had sat through some very boring PowerPoint shows but by the end of the day we had learnt how NOT to do certain things in order to maintain audience interest. Some of these were choice of font and colour, choice of pictures, not to use too many bullets, not to put too much information on one slide, not to talk to the screen with your back to audience, and much more.



'PowerPointers' (left to right) Anne van Gemert, Peggy Munro, instructor, Sarah Phillips, and Graeme Quinn at the training day. Photo: Trevor Wheeler.

We were given two minutes to put together our own PowerPoint show which we then had to present. The presentations included a trip around Tasmania using maps, arrows and beautiful photos, gardening, bushwalking, art with very interesting animation (courtesy of Peggy and Marion); and one on U3A Castlemaine itself.

It was a long day to take in so much information and some participants probably will not use it in their classes but it was also a great exercise in becoming familiar with the layout of Office 2007. We enjoyed a wonderful lunch of sandwiches and fruit provided by the Coffee Bean but decided that next time we would end the day with a relaxing glass of red!

~ Val Anderson

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~ Committee Members ~

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**The Committee meets after the Coffee Morning
on the first Friday of each month.**

COFFEE MORNING ROSTER



**7 August: Bushwalkers, Short
Walks, Table Tennis**

**5 September: Musicals, Requiem,
Music Appreciation**

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REMINDER



DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER
NEWSLETTER IS
MONDAY 24 AUGUST, 3 pm

Please let the office know of any change
in your e-mail, postal or other contact
details.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS AND FIGURES

Each year, at the end of May we are required to lodge with U3A Network Victoria details of our membership numbers. This forms the basis for our subscription to the Network and is also used to calculate the size of our grant from the Department of Planning and Community Development. This year our total membership at 31st May was 288 compared with 287 at the same time last year. This is a satisfactory number considering that last year our numbers were boosted by a number of short courses on offer and by the 20th Birthday Celebrations. In fact, during the period June to August 2009, our numbers continued to climb to just over 300.

Since the beginning of June this year, we have had an additional eight new member applications making our total now 296.

We also experience a sizeable attrition each year. For example, this year our membership includes 49 people who have joined for the first time or in a few cases after an absence of some years. This is of course due to the nature of the institution and the service it offers. Interests vary with time and our program tries to recognise that.

Where are the men?

We were also asked to provide for the first time a breakdown into male and female membership numbers. It turned out that we have 70 male and 218 female members or 24%/76%. A degree of imbalance is expected simply from the difference in life expectancy, but it would seem that other factors are operating also. For example, are women more likely to engage in studies, hobbies and activities than men in the same age group? Does anyone care to speculate or further research this area?

~ *Hans van Gemert*

VOTE FOR THE BEST LIMERICK!

Members will choose the winner of the light-hearted limerick competition. The limericks appeared in the July newsletter. Each limerick has been given a number. You will have the chance to vote at the 7 August Coffee Morning.

FROM THE COURSE COORDINATOR

A Busy July: July has been a busy month with the Pompeii Exhibition and the trip to Ballarat to view the work of Hans Heysen. For Class Leaders there was the successful training day on PowerPoint presentations. The wonderful organisation of Hans van Gemert, David Sime, and Sally Kaptein saw an excellent day roll out for participants. Next up is the Course Leaders Breakfast at Buda on 8 August at 8.30 am.

New Members Please don't be shy in getting started on the courses of your choice. All you need to do, once you are an approved financial member, is to contact the Class Leader listed on the timetable to confirm the details, and join in the excitement of learning with new friends.

~ *Carole Ingersoll*

TRADING TABLE RAISES GOOD \$\$\$

Our Trading Table at each Coffee Morning has been raising good amounts recently, Thanks to all who bring produce, plants and books. Many of the books had been on the table for some months and we decided to have a clean-out, with the Op Shop as the recipient. The Trading Table could look bare this month, so please donate any good books you have. However, we do not want to be overwhelmed as all these need to be stored if they are not sold when first donated.

Home made and garden produce is always in demand. It helps us if you could ensure your contribution arrives early. And of course plants are very acceptable. ~ *The Trading*

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Rosalie Jacobs
Shayne and Susan Doyle
Jan Duff
Geoffrey Harris
Peter Harris
Mary Nanscawen
Judith Rintoull



~ PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ~



How enriched our learning program has been throughout June and July, with visits to the Archibald

Exhibition in Bendigo, to the Heysen Exhibition in Ballarat, and our much anticipated visit to the Pompeii Exhibition. We have also held a Class Leaders' training day, spent probing the possibilities of PowerPoint presentations. Thank you to Sally and to Hans for making these events possible.

Breakfast for Class Leaders

The excitement of June/July is about to be translated into August. Carole and Sally have organized a Breakfast for the Class Leaders, at which it is planned to review this year to date and to float some ideas for the organisation of the program for 2010. If you are someone who is planning to offer a course or an activity in 2010 we would very much like you to come to this event at Buda on Saturday, 8 August at 8.30am.

We Need your Input at Fresh Ideas Day

At the end of the month, Monday, 31 August, Fresh Ideas Day will be held. We urge as many as possible of our members to attend. It is the planning day for 2010.

We have invited members of the surrounding U3A's to share the day with us. Marie Collins from Maryborough U3A will speak of her experience in running classes initiated from the Network website. We have chosen Buda as a venue partly because it has carpet on the floor which helps to reduce noise level when small group activities are being conducted.

We'll Review How We Are Functioning

As part of our activities we shall be asking members to comment upon the decisions which were taken at the Planning Day 2004 for implementation in 2005 and have never really been properly reviewed. These decisions included the following resolutions:

- * that more short term "once off" activities be included in the program**

OUTCOME TO DATE: Tried but required many

more presenters and has evolved to the special program of excursions organised in the main by Sally.

- * that holiday programs be held in January & July**

OUTCOME TO DATE: Poor attendance at the January program led to the resolution that holiday program be abandoned. July never happened. The current position is that if there is a volunteer to organize the January program it can happen. Peggy Munro is that volunteer.

- * that the program allow for "theme" activities**

OUTCOME TO DATE: It happened for two activities. The Moors and the visits to business places were really successful. But it is a lot of work and not enough people willing to be involved in the organization.

- * that the regular program be divided into 8-week terms**

OUTCOME TO DATE: Our organisation practice has shown that ten week blocks are better and this is what has happened in 2009

- * that the program as outlined be tried in 2005**

OUTCOME: Presenters are reluctant to divide their courses into term blocks: It could be administratively time consuming and expensive as it could require prospectus each term. It does call for a larger Program Sub-committee. In the end it is what commitment the elected Course Coordinator can make to the program.

Many of you will have noticed that the attendance at your classes has dropped a little more than might be expected. In seeking reasons for this, discussion has revealed three predominant factors: ill health, baby-sitting and the difficulty in keeping commitments made in February.

Those associated with developing and administering our program are convinced that our program should be unitised in blocks of no more than ten weeks. This will involve a different mind set for many of us, but if we closely examine what many of the U3A are doing, they have a

predominance of half or one day events, and courses which are confined to within one week. Few have courses which are seen as year long.

I believe courses can run for a year, but that it is possible to divide them into unitised segments which would allow members to move in and out of them on a commitment of a term. I am going to try this with Stuarts in England in Term 4 and offer as a unit of study *The Stuart Pretenders* – a study of James the Old Pretender and Bonnie Prince Charlie.

Our offerings in Seniors Week are a golden opportunity to trial a shorter form of presentation particularly as it follows on from the planned Alternative Program scheduled for September 23 – 30.

I write these remarks in the hope that it will open up debate and in the hope that all members will exercise their right to decide the type of program they want and give direction to the Committee as to how it might be implemented. Let us all work together to develop a program which meets the needs of our members and provides an inspirational challenge and satisfying enjoyment in our learning.

~ Tom Comerford

Breakfast at Buda For Class Leaders

In recognition of the contribution Class Leaders make to U3A Castlemaine the Committee has planned a *Breakfast at Buda* on Saturday 8 August 2009 at 8.30 am. Please put this date in your diary and come along and join your colleagues at this pleasant social gathering. We look forward to seeing you there.

It is important for catering purposes that you RSVP by Wednesday 5 August to myself caroleingersoll@yahoo.com.au

phone 5472 2372, OR Sally Kaptein walmer@castlemaine.net phone 5470 6340.

~ Carole Ingersoll

~ CLASS NOTES ~

ABORIGINAL HISTORY - OUR SHARED HISTORY

Felicity Say 5472 1841

We will meet on Tuesday 4 and 18 August. In August and for the rest of the year, we will take a close look at the arrival of the English colonisers at Sydney Cove in 1788, and focus on the impact their arrival had on both the land and its peoples. We will view programs originating from both indigenous and non-indigenous historians and follow the process as the colonisers spread out across N.S.W. and Tasmania in the late 17th and early 18th centuries.

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

Geoff Walker 5470 6652.

For the sessions in July the interesting studies were about Francis Greenway, convict architect, led by Barbara Robinson, and Henry Parkes, politician, editor, etc, etc, presented by Alan Robinson.

Our two studies in August are something to look forward to. The first one, on Monday 10 August will be about the man/priest/teacher, Father Joseph Slattery, who was the first one in Australia to use X-Rays in c.1895. Joan Casley will be our inspirer. The second session on Monday 24 August will be an intriguing study of Dame Nellie Melba, with Shirley Curnow as the presenter. Both sessions will be at 1.30pm at the home of Geoff and Beth at 9 Lyttleton Street.



BALLET APPRECIATION

Joe Scoglio 5472 2396

Continuing our exploration of twentieth century choreographers, in August we look at the work of John Neumeier. Like William Forsythe, he is an American who has made his career in Germany. Unlike Forsythe, his ballets are very accessible. He was artistic director of the Frankfurt Ballet from 1969-73. He took over the Hamburg Ballet in 1973 where he remains as a very popular director and choreographer.

BUSHWALKING *Carole Ingersoll 5474 2372*

As it is now winter, a small but dedicated band bears the cold of the morning to walk in the beauty of the local environment. In no time, heart and lungs are working and warmth and laughter are in the air. We see sun glistening on grass, kangaroos munching, even eagles soaring on the last walk.

Last month we went to the Garfield Wheel, Mt Tarrengower and the Great Dividing Trail south of Castlemaine. Our August walks will be around the Chewton Reservoir and up to the Dog Rocks, Harcourt. To end the walk we put in a coffee as an added incentive. Hope you can join us. It's worth the effort!

GARDENING *Cath Polinelli 5476 2402*

As our notes were not printed last month this is what we did. On Friday 17 July we pruned roses at Victory Park. Once again thank you to all who turned up. Many thanks to M Oliver for the lovely morning cuppa.

A reminder to all U3A members – if you are pruning plants that will grow from cuttings please think of our group. We are trying to get a collection of different plants to give to the people in the Redesdale area who were affected by the fires. Your contribution would be gladly received. Arrangements will be made later nearer pick up time in October. Our next meeting is at Peggy Munro's house at 10 am on 21 August to do some weeding. If you have any garden tools that in good condition and that you do not use, they will also be collected. Till next time good gardening.

Editor's Note: Sorry if you missed your Gardening Notes in the July issue of *Third Thoughts*. They were there on Page 9.

The Guest Speaker at the 7 August Coffee Morning will be the CEO of Mount Alexander Shire Council., Phil Rowlands. He may have some interesting things to say about the Shire's projected future

~ CLASS NOTES ~**HISTORY** *Tom Comerford 5470 6230***DABBLING IN HISTORY**

This group had great fun reviewing the life style of Australia in the 1920's at our July session. Pictures, cartoons, advertisements all helped to recall passed on memories. They served also to note similarities and total contrasts with today.

Our August session will focus on the Medieval period and will include some role play activities. The September session will review the French Revolution as depicted by Baroness Orczy's *The Scarlet Pimpernel* and Charles Dickens *A Tale of Two Cities* and compare these tales with documented evidence.

FRENCH HISTORY THROUGH ART

We have reached the French Revolution and this month's session will focus on the way in which artists have portrayed the Revolution, a study of the Queen's Necklace Affair and the perceived role of Marie Antoinette as a cause of the Revolution. The artist under study will be Jacques-Louis David.

STUARTS IN ENGLAND

This program will end with a study of the last two reigning Stuarts, Queen Mary and Queen Anne. The study of Queen Mary will be linked to that of her husband King William and their accession to the English throne. The study of Queen Anne will be linked to the tragedy of her lost children and her relationship with Sarah Churchill.

Stuarts in England will be in recess in August and September and will return as a short course in October – November as a study "The Stuart Pretenders".



Sarah Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough (1660-1744) rose to become one of the most influential women in British history as a result of her close friendship with Queen Anne of Great Britain.

HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Diana Collier 5443 0137

Spoken and written English in its many variations stretching over 14th and 16th centuries continues to interest members of the group. The spread to America of a distinctive but complex dialect is shown in one of Melvyn Bragg's DVDs.

In England we notice the different styles of writing by contemporary writers, according to both the social level of the author and to the audiences/readers for whom he is writing.

There has been a rekindled interest in the (primary) source of language—ways of communication—amongst humans. This has meant a bit of searching in local libraries.



In the Burchert Garden in Vancouver

Usually someone on our group has something special to 'Show and Tell'. Merlyn gave us a computer slide show of a wonderful garden in Vancouver—the Burchert Garden, which was made in an old quarry and is world famous. At the time of Merlyn's visit tulips were in full colourful explosion. Then Dot gave us a profile (with snaps) of her garden. Great changes have been made!

We welcomed Barbara Sparks, a new member, to our group. If you would like to join, please do.

HORTICULTURE

Peggy Munro 5472 2086

In June we visited the Yellow House and saw a Mediterranean idea in action in our own region. Plants for this climate had been chosen and seemed at the extremities of the garden to merge into the native bush well.

Perhaps the greatest impact in large Italian gardens is the use of hedges and clipped trees and shrubs. Following this theme, in July we looked at hedges. A memory test of the examples in the streets of Castlemaine was quite challenging and then we tested our knowledge of horticultural matters by unmixing jumbled names of plants that can be clipped and used as hedges. What a surprise to open Saturday's Age to see that Michael McCoy was on the same wave length as us!

Some of us had a story to tell or picture to show. So for August we'll pursue this theme and look at extensions of the clipped idea: topiary, pleaching, coppicing, espalier, grafting. (What about natives in this area of horticulture?)

Each month we discuss garden tasks that should be, could be, may be done in our gardens.

The Amzanig Human Mnid!

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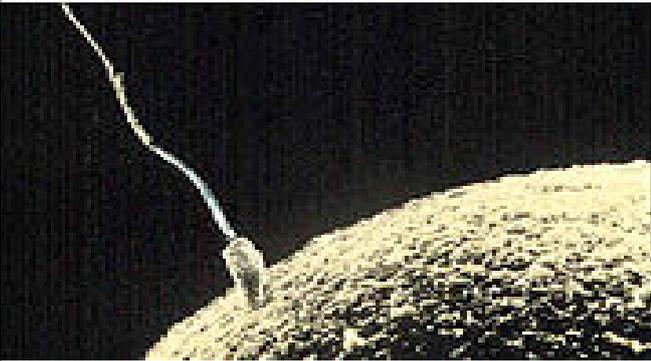
~ sent in by Graeme Quinn

ISSUES OF CONCERN

Carol Dorman 54724429

With school holidays, the Issues group has only met once since the last newsletter so there were three weeks of Issues to catch up on! Some of the issues we discussed were:

- * Peter Garrett's decision to approve another uranium mine led to discussion on the mining methods used to bring uranium to the surface which involves using sulphuric acid and caustic soda and possible contamination of the water table in the vicinity of the mine.
- * Permitting bottled water producers to fluoridate their product to increase consumer choice was questioned.
- * What would creating male sperm out of stem cells lead to?
- * Compensation to big carbon polluters may be



financed from health and education budgets.

- * The decline of water flow in the Jordan River may lead to a pipeline from Northern Turkey to bring water to the Middle East. Could this lead to co-operation and eventually peace between Palestine and Israel?

MEMOIR WRITING

If you are interested in participating in a short course (4-6 weeks) in last term of 2009, or the first term of 2010, please phone Elizabeth 5470 5681 to talk about it, or email: u3anews@aapt.net.au

The group would be kept small so each member could participate fully.

LET'S READ A PLAY

Barrie and Trish King 5470 5514

In June we enjoyed a 'thriller' with some good twists and turns. For our two July meetings we chose a comedy and a farce. We look forward to seeing you at 3 Saint Street, Castlemaine every second and fourth Monday at 10 am.

MUSIC APPRECIATION

Bruce Baud 5472 4574

In July we spent about fifty enjoyable minutes listening to Mozart's *Gran Partita* played by a wind-band of thirteen instruments. A typical wind-band of that time had eight instruments: two each of oboes, clarinets, bassoons and horns. For this work, he added two basset horns, two extra horns, and either a string (double) bass, or a contra-bassoon - the great big one! This was first performed at a concert on 23 March, 1784 in Vienna. It was quite unfamiliar to us, and we all loved it. None of his symphonies are as long as this work! This was followed by a lovely melody played by Rostropovich on the cello, called *Vocalise*, because it is a song without words. Quite lovely! (Mendelssohn was not the only one to write 'songs without words'!)



A contra-bassoon

Next another Sibelius, Symphony No. 7, unusual in that it is short, with exceedingly short movements which just lead from one into the next without noticeable pause.

The traditional Mozart was then honoured in the form of a sonata for violin and piano in B flat major, K. 378. This is what we expect Mozart to sound like – melodious and very pleasing indeed. Such a contrast to the first work today in its whole form and approach! A quarter-hour of sheer delight!

The morning ended with two items from the sacred repertoire – the 'Old 100th' form of the 23rd Psalm, in a dramatic form which some of us found a little alarming, and finally the hymn "*Be still, my soul, the Lord is on your side*" to the Sibelius tune *Finlandia*.

PASSENGER TRANSPORT

John Levesley 472 3182

We started this new program on the 16 July at 10.00 am in the Kindergarten Hall. We were a few people short due to the time-tabling issues. We are now settled on time, dates and venue, so hope it is all full steam ahead.

In our first week we looked at a number of introductory issues such as the nature of demand, the value of transport, its contribution to society, economic infrastructure and a transport operations model that will allow us to compare different modes of transport.

Our next meeting will continue to discuss road transport issues, particularly the passenger perspective. Our next meeting will be on the first Thursday in August, 6 August followed by the third Thursday, 20 August.

We'll continue to meet in the Kindergarten Hall. On the 6 August we'll meet half an hour earlier, at 9.30 am so that the members that were unable to come to the first meeting can catch up with



the material we discussed at the first meeting.

That also means new members will be welcome.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND DIGITAL IMAGING

Trevor Wheeler 5476 2286

Having taken "functional" photos for publication over a number of years the idea of learning and applying Photoshop skills led into the weekly U3A photography sessions. Then came the first of the monthly snapping excursions. That one day (and several hundred photos) in Bendigo taught me more about my camera's capabilities than two year's of usage had. Having the time to explore the extensive camera menus and watch how others in the group approached the same environment was a great learning experience. The Fryerstown environs provided a different set of challenges the following month. My camera and I have a new relationship now.

~ John Ellis

PHILOSOPHY

Geoff Walker 5470 6652

In July we discussed the ideas and views of Wright and Wilbur, a couple of fairly modern philosophers, and it is interesting to be involved in the discussion that takes place during the sessions. There will be two sessions in August. The first is on Thursday 13 August when Ann Lodge will entrance us with a dissertation on the Evolution of Scientific Philosophy. Where will that one lead us in our thinking? On Thursday 27 August it will be Eva Haarburger's turn and she will be helping us to understand the thoughts of Hildegard von Bingen. We would love to welcome you to these sessions.

Each session starts at 1.30 pm at 9 Lyttleton St.

A friendly pet pig. This photo was taken by Paula Paas when the Photography Class recently visited Fryerstown.



CURTAINS FOR THE STREETLIGHT. *John Ellis explains his intriguing photo. "The 'curtain' is the LaTrobe gallery in View St, Bendigo, almost directly opposite the Art Gallery. You can see the vertical joins in the glass (I presume it is glass). It is quite eye-catching and was controversial when it opened a few years ago. Did it fit in a heritage precinct was the big debate. This photo was taken from some distance away which shortens the apparent distance between the light and the 'curtain'.*

SINGING TOGETHER

Ray Hawkins 5472 3 446

We have been asked to perform again in September for the Central Victoria CWA Group Fun Day. We must get busy and work out a program. We sang for a number of groups in the time leading up to Christmas last year, so this year may not be too different.

Thanks to John Tungyep, our accompanist, for taking over the choir for two weeks last month when my husband was having chemotherapy. John is a very talented musician who seems to have endless patience.

The songs we sing range from the Australian ballad, *The Shearers' Cook*, Brahms' *Wiegenlied*, the traditional *Scarborough Fair*, Vaughan Williams' *Linden Lea*, *We'll Gather Lilacs* by Ivor Novello, and *The Gas Man Cometh* by Flanders and Swann, and that's only some of what we are practising at the moment.

Everyone works very hard, but there are always a lot of laughs along the way, and what a wonderful feeling when we finally conquer a particularly difficult passage in one of our songs.

We welcomed another male singer. The more, the merrier!

From the Editor

There were articles and members' contributions that I simply could no longer resist including, hence this month's bigger-than-usual newsletter. AND there are many exciting upcoming events, all of which the newsletter tells you about.

A couple of Class Leaders have let me know they are willing to be active during Seniors Week. Thank you! I'll keep you informed. Sally Kaptein will be letting you know about our CARNIVAL OF LEARNING in the Market Building, coinciding with the Farmers Market on 4 October, when the week-long festival starts.

USA will have the opportunity to field a team for the first Castlemaine RELAY FOR LIFE in November, a statewide event to raise money for cancer research. More in next month's issue.

~ Elizabeth Rider

SOLO GROUP

Marie Shaw 5472 4346

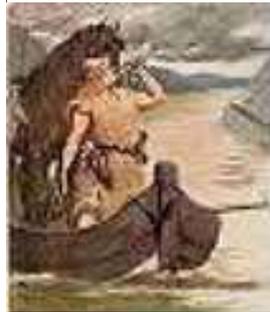
The SOLO GROUP will meet at the home of Kaye Middleton at 96 Lyttleton Street on Saturday 15 August at 1.00 pm. Phone 5470 5933.

A full contingent of group members gathered at Penny's on 18 July where we had an orientation tour of not only the house, but her wonderful tool shed and the newly planted garden.

UNDERSTANDING OPERA

Peter Morris 5470 6593

Our group saw highlights on DVD from Siegfried and Gotterdammerung from the Metropolitan Opera and this completed a two class viewing of highlights from Wagner's Ring Cycle. Again it received a great response from those that came to see it.



There will be no Opera for August and the next class will be the second Monday in September.

SPECIAL RAFFLE FOR OCTOBER

All the cakes made for the Coffee Morning raffle each month by our volunteers are special. Our sincere thanks to you all. There are many disappointed members each month because there can be only one winner.

The same thing will happen in October. Rae Hawkins has donated a lovely platter and Heather Maxfield is the rostered Cake Maker for that month. Heather will be doing something extra special for our raffle that month. It may not necessarily be a cake. Make sure you don't miss out!

~ Marie Twyford, Cake Raffle Coordinator



FRESH IDEAS DAY

On Monday 31 August from 10am – 1.30pm we will have an opportunity to pool ideas with each other and with U3A representatives from our immediate region at our Fresh Ideas Day.

Those of you who met the enthusiastic Ballarat U3A members who co hosted our tour of the Hans Heyson exhibition will agree it is stimulating to hear how other groups make their organisation special.

We are inviting representatives from Bendigo, Maryborough, Ballarat, Kyneton, Heathcote and Daylesford but there is still plenty of room for you, our members!

We'll be exploring ideas for innovative courses and different ways of offering courses. If you have topics you would like covered please send them in to the office for the programmers to consider.

Lunch will be provided. Those of you who enjoyed Lela's food at our 20th birthday will recall the excellence of the food! Book in NOW! Give your name to us at the coffee morning or leave it at the office.
~ *Sally Kaptein*

The Annual General Meeting of U3A Castlemaine will be on the same day as the Coffee Morning on Friday 2 October. Consider nominating someone, or yourself, for a position on the Committee. Both the positions of Secretary and Treasurer will become Vacant.

U3A Castlemaine Volunteers List

The following people have offered to assist fellow U3A members in a time of need. Particularly if you are living alone or are unable to call on family for immediate help, you can contact one of the people listed below.

We have provided phone numbers and the general area where these volunteer live, so check if there is someone close to you and try them first.

- * Eva Haarburger, 5472 3391, Duke St, C/Maine.
- * Grace McCaughey, 5472 1128, Yeats St, C/Maine

MARION'S TIME AS SECRETARY WILL SOON BE UP.

In October once again we hold our AGM and several committee positions including that of Secretary become vacant. The rule is nobody should stay in a committee position for more than two years. The Secretary's position is not particularly onerous and one doesn't need to have been trained or worked in this type of job in a previous life. I haven't.



The main duties are to check incoming correspondence, write replies as necessary and organise the circulation of information to the committee and the wider membership as necessary.

The other aspect of the job is being part of a team, the committee, which has to ensure that classes are organised, accommodation booked and members are aware of changes or forthcoming events. All in all it is fun. You are not tied up every day doing stuff but you do have to keep up with correspondence etc. I prepare the agenda for committee meetings seeking input from all but I don't do the minutes as Tom is rather brilliant at this.

If anyone is interested in becoming our secretary and would like to talk to me let me know.
~ *Marion Taubman*

- * Dorothy Bessant 5472 5079, Campbell's Creek
- * Elizabeth Rider, 5470 5681, Campbell's Creek
- * Beryl and John Leavesley, 5472 3182,
Pyrenees Highway
- * Sally Kaptein, 5470 6340, Weynton Rd C/Maine
- * Marion Taubman and Harvey Jacka, 540 5079,
Hunter St, C/Maine
- * Susan Mayfair, 5470 5872, Camp Cres, C/Maine
- * Mike Smith, 5470 6638, Munro Crt, C/Maine
- * Carole Ingersoll, 5474 2372, Harcourt
- * Dot Henshall, 5472 2086, Maldon Rd, C/Maine
- * Peggy Munro, 5472 2086, Burnett Rd, C/Maine
- * Win Jodell, 5472 3412, Munro Crt, C/Maine
- * Janet Fitzwater, 5472 3412, Yandell St, C/Maine.

GRANDFATHERDOM

As one's children grow inescapably older, it seems inevitable that one has grandchildren imposed on one, usually without a by-your-leave or any explanation. At least we *chose* to have our own. But we have to accept them, warts and all. During recent years I have been forced to inspect many new-born grandchildren belonging to others, a few of them looking surprisingly human, but all rather frightening. Reluctantly holding them, I was reminded of youthful days on the range practising handling grenades. Here was something that could go off at any minute. There cannot be much of a future for these unfortunate scraps, born into an evil world which is rapidly becoming more evil, and to a species that grows more and more vile, or so it seems to this Senior Citizen.

Nor did I feel any different when my turn came, though friends assured me that I would. The same friends tell me what jolly little chaps their grandsons are, how extraordinary their talents. I notice, however, that during their visits to the young family, these friends seem rapidly to age, recourse to the bottle becomes more and more frequent, lips grow thinner, the smile is more forced, a grim determination sets in which is only relieved as the end to the visit draws near.

Some friends of ours, happy country-dwellers, were kind enough to visit their new grandson in the city and found themselves immured there for several weeks under the most dreadful conditions. It seems that there was an older grandson who slept right through to 6.30 a.m. The new child woke at 5 a.m. and started bawling for breakfast unless fed within thirty seconds of wakening. Colic or something always smote it at 5.10 a.m. and set it off again. It was essential to avoid waking up grandson no. 1, so it devolved upon the innocent grandparents to take no. 2 for a walk in his smart new vehicle to keep him out of the way. Imagine the two abused oldies, dragged from their well-deserved sleep and cast out of the warm house upon the cold, drizzly, wind-swept streets of suburbia *before dawn*, there to stagger along pushing the infant on its wheels for over an hour without even a cup of tea to cheer them— doesn't

bear thinking about. It's Dickensian, with generations reversed. It reminds me of the poor Flying Dutchman.

It seemed so much simpler with one's own children. They came along, planned or not as the case may be. My two I remember as a total delight. We were in our early twenties. They were in bed waiting for a story and, if they'd been particularly good, a song, when I got home from work, and were inevitably civilized and presentable at breakfast. I don't think they even had to be potty trained.

At weekends, they gurgled happily in their pram, or footled around, walled up safely in the playpen (that damned instrument of future psychological damage) or bounced blissfully, strapped into that device that was so popular then but is now seen as a sort of infant rendition. Damp facecloths were always at hand, the floor of the playpen was suitably covered with thick towelling in case of accident. Turkish rugs could not be puked upon, sticky fingers could not smear suede upholstery. Staffordshire was safe, PCs (if we'd had them then) would not have to be expensively reprogrammed and keyboards disinfected, as happens now after visits. The RACV never had to be called to unlock the car.

How different things are now. I imagine one could be locked up for strapping a child into a bouncinette. Parents smile pityingly at my ignorance when I mention that a playpen cuts down enormously on the exhausting work of leaping up to drag toddler away from things often dangerous. My two grandsons were OK when they couldn't move, up to a point, although they never seemed actually to go to bed. Once mobile they were like mini-tornadoes. I suggested putting straw on the floor and bringing in a movable electrified cattle-fence but the Frau vetoed this immediately.

Once they staggered to their feet, things deteriorated further. Privacy was a thing of the past. I have been inspected (and probably found wanting) at disturbingly close range while peeing.

They peer at my hairy ears and scaly scalp with the absorption of endocrinologists, muttering the while. They compare notes on the number of wrinkles they can persuade the superfluous skin of my elbows to produce. I feel used. I dread the inevitable onset of adolescence. The mind boggles.

Children nowadays demand instant attention from their parents. They seem to interrupt all the time, in fact, they wait until you are having a really interesting conversation and *then* interrupt. I don't think I've had a sensible conversation with my daughter since her kids were born, at least, not while they are around. And some parents aid and abet this by *never* telling child to put a sock in it! Parents are terrified of doing the wrong thing with their children from the day they are born, it seems to me. They're much older, too, of course. The parents, I mean. I expect this is the reason.

Have you had the awful experience of going to a children's party recently? I advise you to avoid them like the plague. The children seem to vie with each other to see who can be the most badly behaved, while the parents, who have been invited too and are swigging wine themselves in a rather depressed group, never admit to owning any children, or, if ownership is pinned on them, smile sadly and shake their head as if to say: 'Ah, he's a tiger!', or words to that effect.

I despair of the children's literature of today. We had a wonderful time reading lots of Enid Blyton, T.H. White, some Biggles (with the odd Worrals, too), all Tolkien, most of C. S. Lewis to the kids, especially on long car journeys when I was pursuing butterflies. If I look at a selection of Kids' (*sic*) Books, what do I find? Large slim volumes of cartoon-like illustrations with very few words on each page. Often they have won prizes, awarded presumably by a panel of childless child psychologists. They have titles like *The Green Goblin's Bogies* or *The day I tricked Teacher*. I think Lemony Snickert's books OK, or at least one of them, apart from his (or is it her?) name, which I mightn't have spelt right - but I mustn't get going on modern names!

It's interesting to consider why Harry Potter has been such a success. This author is literate, thank goodness. She knows the difference between *lie* and *lay*, for instance. But why has a story of a boarding school with dormitories, houses house points and house competitions, detentions, lines, bullies, teachers' favourites, teachers' hates, inter-house sport, tiffs between friends – in fact the whole range of 19th and early 20th century school stories – captured the imagination of a 21st century generation when all these things are as under investigation or as scorned as, say, patriotism?

The magic and myth is different, but even they are largely derived – especially from Tolkien, the Master. But its popularity must tell us something of what modern youth would like to happen, mustn't it?

I find that I've depressed myself so much that I'll have to stop before I do myself an injury.

~ Tony Morton

~ Committee Profiles ~

I am an Austrian-born Australian and have lived in Australia for 55 years. I have worked in industry, small businesses and health and have always been a keen activist for environmental issues and social justice.

I would like to help develop U3A to have more interface with the general community in terms of skills sharing and practical support and a higher profile for our ageing population.



Eva Haarbarger

Eva has been the driving force behind the establishment of the special support group for U3A members who may need support for a short time after a minor medical procedure or in other circumstances.

Keep the names and phone numbers of those offering support near your phone.



See Page 11

~ Committee Profiles ~

New Member—Win Jodell



Maritsa Gronda

I moved to Newstead two years ago after living on a sustainable bush property for fifteen years in Strangways. So, lots of experiences with solar power, water pumps, composting toilets, making mud bricks etc.

My professional background is nursing and social work and I still do a little bit of district nursing in Daylesford.

I was born in Greece on the island of Samos., My family migrated to Australia in 1955. I remember arriving at Port Melbourne on 1st January, 1955. It was stinking hot and the bush flies were at their peak when we arrived in Bonegilla. I was nine years old.

Apart from my inherited knowledge of 'things Greek', language, music, dance and cooking, I completed studies in Modern Greek at University level, so if there is interest, I would be happy to start a language class in Modern Greek.

In the short time I have been a member of U3A in Castlemaine I have met many superb people. I have been involved in bridge and table tennis and, of course, the hard working members of the committee, which I recently joined.

I look forward to many more enjoyable encounters in the future.

Three pensioners, each with some hearing loss, were playing golf one day. One remarked to the other, "Windy, isn't it?" "No, it's Thursday," the second replied. The third chimed in, "So am I. Let's have a beer."

In 1997 I moved, with my partner, from Omeo to Oxford - an astounding contrast. I eventually found work and a new life gradually emerged. Travel was a large ingredient.

Extensive expeditions to Spain during my 12 years away were quite captivating. It is a large country divided into distinct regions with great cultural diversity. Spanish art, history and its people continue to be of great interest. There are still places I had intended to visit. I hope to return!

Cádiz in Andalucia, where I lived for four years, is the oldest continuously inhabited city in the Iberian Peninsula and possibly of all south western Europe. There is evidence of Phoenician occupation before the Romans arrived. It is a unique site on a rocky outcrop at the end of a narrow spit of land, hemmed in by the Atlantic and the Bay. The Old City's street plan consists largely of narrow winding streets connecting to attractive plazas. Buildings of significance are many and include palaces, churches and civic buildings. In addition, the city has numerous parks where exotic plants, including giant trees supposedly brought to Spain by Columbus, flourish.

La Habana in Cuba is supposed to have been modeled on Cádiz and has some distinct similarities. Fortifications to keep out French, Dutch and English pirates and narrow streets always giving some shade in the hot summers. Both cities have some grand buildings.

During my four years living in Spain I obtained an ESL qualification and taught English. It was very rewarding and I made many friends. Proximity to Madrid and the rest of Europe was a huge bonus too. Cheap flights were easy to find.

However it was finally time to come home. My daughter had her first baby shortly after my



return. Recent travels in Australia have revealed to me again the country I love. Country of birth is important and I am fortunate to have been able to return to mine. Living in Castlemaine is a total delight.

Win Jodell

COMPUTER NEWS

August 2009

Mobile Phone Workshop:

The mobile phone workshops are still being held for members. The workshops have smaller classes for more individual attention. No more than 6 people. To place your name on the list please contact Betty.

Weekly Computer Program

For all enquiries regarding the weekly computer program.

Courses available,
Upcoming programs,
and also Short Courses

Please contact Betty Johnson

Computer Convenor

Ph: 5472 3834

EXCEL Spreadsheets A 6 week tutorial for Spreadsheets will be held in August/September.

Starting on **Thursday 21st August** at **10am**.

This course will be taught using Excel 2003. It will include -

- Starting Excel 2003
- Moving Around the spreadsheet
- Entering Data into Spreadsheet
- Widening columns
- Aligning Cells
- Saving Spreadsheets

To participate in this Course,
please contact Betty

Phone: 5472 3834 (After 4pm)

Email

beejay@mmnet.com.au

Getting Online with your Wireless Laptop or Netbook computer

We can now teach you how to get connected to a wireless network with your laptop or netbook computer. Useful know-how for when you are travelling either within Australia or Overseas. This will be an "at request" session of one hour's duration, at the Octopus.

If you are interested in attending one of these sessions, please contact **Betty** on the above number.



U3A Castlemaine Timetable, August 2009

Subject	Day	Week	Time	Venue	Class leader	Phone
Aboriginal History	Tuesday	1 st and 3 rd	10.00am	U3A Office	Felicity Say	5472 1841
Art Drawing	Monday	Weekly	10.30am	Leisterville, William Street, Castlemaine	Marion Cooke	5473 4050
Australian History	Monday	2 nd and 4 th	1.30pm	Private Homes	Geoff Walker	5470 6652
Ballet Appreciation	Wednesday	3 rd	1.30pm	30A Parker Street, Castlemaine	Joe Scoglio	5472 2396
Between You and Me (in recess)	Wednesday	3 rd	2.00pm	Private Homes	Eileen Park	5472 5213
Bluestocking: Brilliant Women	Thursday	2 nd	10.00am	Kindergarten Hall, Uniting Church	Tom Comerford	5470 6230
Bridge	Thursday	Weekly	1.30pm	Kindergarten Hall, Uniting Church	Hans Van Gemet	5472 1082
Bushwalking	Wednesday	2 nd , 4 th & 5 th	9.00am	Uniting Church Car Park	Carole Inversoll	5474 2372
Collectors	Wednesday	2 nd	2.00pm	Private Homes	Merlyn Pritchard	54724434
Dabbling in History	Wednesday	1 st	2.00pm	Castlemaine Senior Citizens Room	Tom Comerford	5470 6230
English Literature	Friday	2 nd	10.00am	Leisterville, William Street, Castlemaine	Denise Jepson	5473 4470
France: A History in Art	Wednesday	1 st	10.00am	Castlemaine Senior Citizens Room	Tom Comerford	5470 6230
French Conversation	Tuesday	2 nd and 4 th	1.30pm	8673 Midland Highway, Barkers Creek	Jane Quinn	5474 2320
French Language and Literature	Monday	1 st and 3 rd	2.00pm	Kindergarten Hall, Uniting Church	Tony Morton	5473 4425
Gardening at U3A	Friday	3 rd	10.00am	Different Venues	Cath Pollmell	5476 2402
History of the English Language	Thursday	Fortnightly	10.00am	U3A Office	Diana Collier	5443 0137
Horticulture Castlemaine	Friday	3 rd	1.30pm	Kindergarten Hall, Uniting Church	Peggy Munro	5472 2086
Italian Conversation	Thursday	Weekly	9.30am	19 Bowden Street, Castlemaine	Vivienne Robertson	5470 6499
Italian Language	Tuesday	Weekly	9.30am	10 Vincent St Castlemaine	Norma Rantall	5472 4125
Introduction to Apple Mac	Monday	Weekly	10.00am	Kindergarten Hall, Uniting Church	Michael Smith	5470 6638
Issues That Concern	Friday	2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th	1.30pm	Leisterville, William Street, Castlemaine	Carol Dorman	5472 4429
Latin with David Kennedy A	Thursday	2 nd	1.30pm	U3A Office	Penny Garnett	5472 3142
Latin with David Kennedy B	Thursday	2 nd	2.30pm	U3A Office	Penny Garnett	5472 3142
Latin Revisited	Thursday	4th	3.30pm	U3A Office	Penny Garnett	5472 3142
LaTrobe University Lectures		As appropriate		LaTrobe University, Bendigo Campus	Sally Kaplen	5470 6340
Let's Read a Play	Monday	2 nd and 4 th	10.00am	3 Saint Street, Castlemaine	Barrie King	5472 5514
Music Appreciation	Wednesday	1 st	9.30am	3 Stewart Street, Castlemaine	Bruce Band	5472 4574
Musicals (in recess)	Monday	4 th	2.00pm	34 Bowden Street, Castlemaine	Peter Morris	5470 6593
Passenger Transport – July 16 Start	Thursday	1 st and 3 rd	2.00pm	Kindergarten Hall, Uniting Church	John Levesley	5472 3182
Philosophy	Thursday	2 nd and 4 th	1.30pm	Private homes	Geoff Walker	5470 6652
Photography & Digital Imaging	Thursday	Weekly	1.30pm	Octopus, Duke Street, Castlemaine	Trevor Wheeler	5476 2286
Reading Poetry for Fun (in recess)	Tuesday	2 nd and 4 th	2.00pm	3 Saint Street, Castlemaine	Eileen Park	5472 5213
Requiem and Then Some...	Coffee Morning & Friday a fortnight later		1.30pm	2 Gainsborough Street, Castlemaine	Vic Say	5472 1841
Short Walks	Wednesday	Weekly	10.00am	Parking Lot Uniting Church	Dorothy Bessant	5472 5050
Singing Together	Tuesday	Weekly	3.30pm	Kindergarten Hall, Uniting Church	Rae Hawkins	5472 3446
Solo Group	Saturday	3 rd	1.00pm	Private homes.	Marie Shaw	5472 4346
Solo Whist	Thursday	1 st and 3 rd	1.30pm	Kindergarten Hall, Uniting Church	Dorothy Hookey	5442 9793
Stuarts in England (in Recess)						
Table Tennis	Wednesday	Weekly	10.00am	Table Tennis Pavilion, Camp Reserve	Bernadette Fraser	5472 2634
Tai Chi	Monday	Weekly	9.30am	Kindergarten Hall, Uniting Church	Dor Henshall	5472 5108
Understanding Opera	Monday	2 nd	2.00pm	34 Bowden Street, Castlemaine	Peter Morris	5470 6593

Class Leaders: If there are any changes to the timetable, please notify the Course Coordinator by the SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH. Members, if you are unable to attend any session of your class, as a courtesy, please phone or e-mail your Class Leader.