

U3A

Third Thoughts

Castlemaine Inc (Est. 1988)

Volume 24 No 4

May 2012

Reg. A0017409G

AT THE APRIL COFFEE MORNING.....

which was held on the 30th March due to the early Easter, with Good Friday falling on our usual coffee morning date, Ailsa Longmuir invited us all to come and try Golf Croquet which is held every 4th Tuesday at 10am up at the Castlemaine Bowling Club in Berkeley Street, and Elizabeth Rider issued a challenge and an invitation to come and try Life Ball in the Stadium.

All good fun while gently exercising the body and brain too, with a cup of tea afterwards. Also there was a brief outline given by Wilson Bunton on the forthcoming Mystery Motoring Meander.

Heather Chapman from Mount Alexander Shire spoke briefly on her role as representative for the Ageing in our shire and invited us to a gathering with open discussion, in the Castlemaine Health Auditorium on Friday 4th May, 1-3.30 pm.

Then it was the turn of our own Course Coordinator Dick Mack who was guest speaker. He gave a talk on his recently published book "Triumph at Wattle Flat. When Castlemaine Beat the Poms".

This is a rollicking story of 22 knock-about local lads, all amateurs, who enjoyed playing cricket for relaxation from their daily grind as miners, shopkeepers or tradesmen.

In December 1861 an All-England team of twelve professional cricketers were invited to tour extensively round Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania and some regional areas. Castlemaine included. They played 15 matches and suffered only two defeats. One of them at the hands of the Castlemaine team in the March of 1862. The only *regional* team to do so. Was it the heat, the flies, the rough country playing areas? But beat 'em we did, and there is a plaque at Wattle Flat commemorating this fine achievement. Should you wish to read all about it, Dick can be contacted on 0411 244 103 or skills@impulse.net.au to purchase a copy of his book, direct from him.

COMING EVENTS

Friday May 4th – 10.00 am

Coffee Morning at the Uniting Church Hall
See page 11 for details of morning tea volunteer rostering.

Guest Speaker – Geoff Walker

One of the most intriguing aspects of the Australian Anzac Gallipoli campaign was the evacuation -- retreat -- withdrawal, from the war zone after six months of conflict in 1915.

Geoff will try to make sense of the event that has become so important in Australian folklore and history.

Wednesday May 30th

Mystery Motoring Tour leaving from the Uniting Church car-park

9 am for a 9.30 am departure.

See page 12 for details.

October 8th – 10th

Monday to Wednesday

Staying at Noval House, Halls Gap

See page 11 for details

1st June Coffee Morning

special meeting on

The Constitution

See page 10 for details

U3A Castlemaine's information Web Page: www.u3acastlemaine.com

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U3A OFFICE DETAILS

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Office Hours are:

Monday to Thursday 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm

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Web Page: www.u3acastlemaine.com

Current 2012 Subscription Fee

\$40.00 + \$10.00 for mailing of newsletter if required.

Members joining after June 30 pay 50% of the
subscription fee.

**PLEASE INFORM THE OFFICE
OF ANY CHANGE IN YOUR
CONTACT DETAILS**

Friday Coffee Morning Roster

Please note changes to rostering

See page 11 for details

Coffee Mornings are held on the first

Friday in the month at 10.00 am

in the Uniting Church Hall

Committee Meetings

are held on the third

Thursday in the month at 9.30 am

in the Kindergarten Room,

at the Uniting Church Complex.

From the President

As President I attend lots of meetings. Some are far more enjoyable than others. One I look forward to is the U3A Loddon Mallee regional get-together. Our latest meeting in Bendigo was held on 19 April. The region is huge, encompassing an area that extends from Mildura in the north west to Heathcote and Kyneton in the south. In an area this large the nature, size and make up of the different communities affect the nature of their U3As. As you can imagine cities the size of Bendigo and Mildura have thriving U3As while Echuca with competition from five Probus clubs, and Heathcote with its small population struggle to achieve a critical mass of members. The nature of the programs offered by the U3As also differ markedly. Some offer a large choice of classes while others have a much greater social emphasis. What we have in common are enthusiasm and a justifiable pride in our organisations. It is a pleasure to listen to the experiences of other U3As, to swap ideas and to provide and receive help. Thanks must go to Bendigo U3A who are always friendly and thoughtful hosts.

By the time you read this I will have also attended another U3A conference - the annual Briefing for Presidents in Melbourne. This is a much larger and more structured meeting and although informative not as enjoyable - not least because it is held in Melbourne and as many of you are fellow refugees from Melbourne you will understand my reluctance to return even briefly!

Because of the regional meeting our Committee meeting was postponed for a week. However, I will speak about it at our coffee morning.



New Member's Day at Buda Thursday 29th March 2012

ABORIGINAL HISTORY

FELICITY SAY 5472 1841

1st May

Today's class will be a visit to the Exhibition "Singing the World" - Western Desert Art from the collection of the Arts Centre in Melbourne. Steven Tonkin, Curator of Contemporary and Live Art will take us on a free tour of the paintings, along with tapestries (created from the paintings) from the Victorian Tapestry Workshop.

15th May

As we approach Reconciliation Week and the anniversary of the launch of the "Bringing Them Home" Report, it seems appropriate to shine a light on the life of the Aboriginal artist, Barbara Weir and follow her journey as someone removed from her desert home and family as a young child.

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

GEOFF WALKER 5470 6652

Our theme for this year is the study of old buildings in the Castlemaine area; it is the 150th anniversary for many of them. The Easter long weekend meant that we only had one gathering in April when Ailsa Longmuir gave us a fascinating insight into the secrets of the old Castlemaine jail.

The details for the May gatherings had not been finalised when the May Newsletter was due to go to print, but regulars should know when they attended the second session in April that for the May gatherings the group will meet at the home of Geoff and Beth at **2pm** on Monday **14th May**, and Monday **28th May**.

BALLET APPRECIATION

JOE SCOGLIO 5472 2396

April Session. This month we finished our look at the extraordinary career of Margot Fonteyn. Hailed as the British ballerina par excellence, her life was a mass of contradictions. She had the graciousness of English royalty, but had the determination necessary to shine in an exhausting and competitive field. Half of her childhood was spent in China. Held up as an icon of the commonwealth, she also was involved in gun running for her Panamanian husband who was trying to ignite a revolution in Panama. Fonteyn was arrested and then deported for that. It was not the only time when she was arrested. Together with Nureyev, she was arrested during an American tour because of being involved in a drug bust at an after-performance party.

It was Nureyev who rekindled her career when, in her early forties, she and he forged a brilliant partnership that has seldom been equalled in the ballet world. One could say of their partnership what was said of Astaire and Rogers. One provided class and the other provided sex appeal. Next month we will begin the exploration of the other half of this partnership, the life and career of Rudolf Nureyev.

BRITISH LITERATURE

DIANA COLLIER 5443 0137

The sessions on classics in British Literature has been deferred due to other commitments. It is possible the course - from Marlowe's and Shakespeare's period to 19th/20th century, may be resumed in the latter part of this year, on a different day.

FRIDAY MORNING GARDEN GROUP

SHIRLEY CURNOW 5472 1729

Our April experience was at the new home of Cath Polinelli in Kangaroo Flat. Cath was the course leader of the Group from the inception of Castlemaine U3A until she and Jack decided that they needed to retire. It was a real eye-opener to see how Cath has used the small garden area of their retirement unit to create such an attractive garden. We all appreciated the visit, and also the lovely lunch that she organised for us. Thank you, Cath!

Our outing in **May, Friday 18th**, will be to Just Ferns, in Eaglehawk. Please be at the UCA car park, shortly before **10am**. We plan to stop on the way home at the Ravenswood Pub, for lunch.

GOLF CROQUET

FRANK PEDERICK 5472 1017

The Castlemaine Croquet Club is on again, offering a short course in golf croquet for beginners. There are some good reasons to include this game in your enrollment choices for 2012. Please read the prospectus.

The course is an introduction to an enjoyable outdoors social game which exercises concentration, hand and eye coordination, decision making processes and memory. Qualities we all hope to maintain as long as possible.

For those who cannot remember the physics and maths of the laws of motion this is an excellent refresher. Statistical analysis could also be important in assessing the likely success of each of a number of possible shots. For those who misspent their youth at billiards and snooker this is a great opportunity to apply your skills on a much larger surface.

In reality this type of knowledge is not much help. You soon learn to apply lessons gained from playing the game. Some highly qualified local mentors are available to guide your introduction.

I think the social aspect of the game is most important as we share moments of triumph, despair, sheer luck and tough results with a laugh, or words of encouragement.

The main aim of the game is to have fun, and we do.

~ Frank Pederick (reprinted from the December 2011 Third Thoughts)

From the Course Co-ordinator

Classes continue to run smoothly, and a number of short courses have finished, with positive feedback being received.

At the new members' session last month, participants were challenged to share their knowledge, experience, and passion by offering to lead a course in future. A number of new members approached me afterwards with ideas for future courses. In addition, we have interviewed some local community residents who are interested in offering courses for U3A, either later this year or in 2013. Watch this space!

The Stonnington Symphony is returning to Castlemaine in November, and U3A is looking to promote their visit by sponsoring a pre-concert lecture on the orchestra and the program they will be presenting. More information will be provided later.

Dick Mack, Course Co-ordinator

Robyn Yeoman, Course Administrator

ISSUES OF CONCERN

CAROL DORMAN 5472 4429

We welcomed Ellen Gallagher to tell us of the work of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Melbourne. The ASRC began in 2001 using a small shop in Footscray with very limited resources and has grown to be Australia's leading asylum seeker resource centre. The Centre is funded by donations from individuals, philanthropic organisations and recently a grant from the Victorian Government. There is a Food Fund which uses donations to buy and distribute food to asylum seekers. Volunteers form the core of the ASRC and they help deliver 25 programs which include education, health and legal advice. To help raise funds the ASRC operate a catering service. For information on donating or volunteering go to www.asrc.org.au

The Health Services Union scandal has resulted in the union being suspended from the ACTU. It took Fairwork Australia 3 years to investigate the HSU and then it refused to release their report it. It's reasonable to ask - why? The answer may be because the last thing the Federal Government needs is a by-election in Craig Thompson's seat of Dobell.

Berrigan CWA are fighting to have broadband connection delivered to their town by the National Broadband Network. Berrigan has been told that because their population is less than 1,000 they will not be connected to the NBN. Instead they will be offered a combination of satellite and wireless connection which will deliver a speed of 12mb/second instead of the 100mb/sec they would have with the NBN. The Federation Government has said that if towns like Berrigan want high speed connections they can look to local or State Government to provide them. The CWA of Berrigan want high speed connections to encourage business and industry and to keep their young people in the town. Surely towns like Berrigan need and will benefit the most from the NBN.

It is of great concern that in a deal with the Laundry Hotel Group last November Woolworths increased its pokies venues to 334 hotels. The number of pokies now owned by Woolworths is more than 13,000. This is more than the combined number of pokies in the top five casinos in Las Vegas. The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission is investigating the deal to determine if Woolworths has too much power in the liquor and gambling industry. Monash University has just completed a report on problem gambling, commissioned by the Uniting Church, which reports that less gambling revenue is returned to the community as is thought. Another statistic revealed was that some poker machines can consume \$1200 per hour.

On Friday 25th May, Cam Walker, Campaign Co-Coordinator for Friends of the Earth, will be our guest speaker.

COME AND HAVE YOUR SAY!!

COTA, (the Council on the Ageing), the peak body in Victoria, is providing forums around the State. These open discussions will give seniors the opportunity to state their views and needs for Aged Care Reform in Australia. Mt Alexander Shire Council is hosting the forum in Castlemaine on Friday 4 May in the hospital auditorium.

The kinds of issues that can be discussed are pensions, health care facilities, housing and accommodation for when we get older, opportunities to stay fit and healthy, transport etc. Recommendations will go from COTA to the Federal Government before the next budget.

Heather Chapman, Positive Ageing and Social Inclusion Coordinator, Mt Alexander Shire Council, came to the last coffee morning especially to invite U3A members to the forum. Expecting the older population in our Shire to grow fast in the next few years, we should prepare for this.

Although it is on the same day as our May Coffee Morning, it will run from 1 – 3.30 pm, so it would be good if as many of us attend as possible. Afternoon tea will be provided. For catering, please let Heather know you are coming. Phone her on 54471 1802 or e-mail her on h.chapman@mountalexander.vic.gov.au

~ Elizabeth Rider

MOVIES OF MERIT

JOHN WALDIE 0400 858 581

Since the start of the 2012 year we have enjoyed – and analysed – 15 films at the Theatre Royal, where David Stretch continues to support U3A in providing free accommodation (although we have introduced a \$5 donation to offset his costs). The films so far screened - with their “approval percentages” - were:

<i>The General</i> 90.8%	<i>The Third Man</i> 90.4%	<i>Raise the Red Lantern</i> 88.1%
<i>The Barbarian Invasion</i> 87.3%	<i>M</i> 85.7%	<i>Seraphine</i> 84.0%
<i>Tokyo Story</i> 83.3%	<i>Steamboat Bill Jnr</i> 80.5%	<i>The Harmonists</i> 77.9%
<i>Loves of a Blond</i> 75.1%	<i>The Train</i> 73.8%	<i>Don't Look Now</i> 73.7%
<i>The Conversation</i> 70.6%	<i>In the Mood for Love</i> 65.5%	<i>The Vanishing</i> 62.5%

We asked all attendees to nominate their top three favourite films at the start of the course, and some clear pointers emerged. Most people liked:

- Films with a strong narrative
- Films with significant cultural or historical context
- Films with appropriate musical content – but not, generally speaking, musicals as a genre
- Films possessing comedic elements, although the comedy might be very dark in nature.

Themes not generally appreciated were horrors, Westerns and those based on war.

Some ten films were nominated which were not at all well-known - either by international reviewers or by myself. These will all be investigated and shown to the group if appropriate. Finding these “hidden gems” is a valuable output from this exercise.

We started the year with a total list of 47 attendees. Since then, eight have withdrawn due to class conflicts, medical issues or family restraints, and we have three new members. **We would be happy to accept further participants, particularly those who were attending short courses which are now finished.**

Movies of Merit is shown on **Monday mornings between 10.30 and 1.30**, and we are investigating alternative schedules due to conflicts with other classes on the same day and time, but it does not look promising.

OPERA – AN OCCASIONAL EVENING SERIES

VIC SAY 5472 1841

May 4th at 7 pm – Bellini's Norma on CD

June 1st at 7 pm – Donizetti's Maria Stuarda on DVD, the Met Opera production seen at the Theatre Royal a couple of years ago – wonderful !!!

We plan to listen to Weill's “Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny” (to a libretto by Bertolt Brecht) in **July** and watch Strauss' “Salome” in **August**. Both to be confirmed.

REQUIEM AND THEN ...?

VIC SAY 5472 8141

May 4th a Gregorian Requiem - a recording new to the group:

the 16 male and female voices of the group we will listen to are heard performing Gregorian chants on a daily basis as part of regular religious observances; known as "Gloria Dei Cantores Schola", they are acclaimed in both Europe and America.

May 18th Palestrina's Requiem of around 1591 - repeated by popular demand, this is one of the most frequently requested works we have shared.

Palestrina's Missa Pro Defunctis was published in 1591, just 3 years before his death. He was chapel master at St Peter's Basilica and one of many 16th century composers to set the requiem to music, whereas from the 15th century we have only one surviving setting, that of Ockeghem. The performance is by Chanticleer.

SINGING TOGETHER

RAE HAWKINS 5472 3446

Following on from the news about the U3A Massed Choir Concert in the Melbourne Town Hall on **October 9th**, at which twenty of our choir members will be taking part, we have received five of the songs, and will soon be sent the remainder.

This will mean a lot of work for all of us, but we feel very excited at the prospect of being part of a choir of some five hundred voices. Our travel arrangements will be made closer to the date. There will be more information in the June newsletter.

Thank you to choir members who have taken on some of the jobs involved in running the choir.

SOLO GROUP

BETTY HENCHMAN 5472 2139

Our **May** get-together will be at the home of Penny Garnett,
on Saturday the **19th**. **12.30 pm** as usual.

~ ~ O ~ ~

Say Hello and Welcome to these new U3A members

Veronica Byrne

Victor Collier

Philip Hopley

Alicia Illingworth

Greame Leith

Jane Phillips

Julie Reece

David Rigby

Helen Wakefield

UNDERSTANDING YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL

JANET CROPLEY 0419 539 142

It was a fairly modest but very interested group who attended this 8 week course on how our council works. I think we were surprised at the scope of responsibilities the staff undertake, and the vast area of land under its jurisdiction, e.g. over 250 bridges and hundreds of kilometres of roads which council is obliged to find funds for, as distinct from suburban councils who get so much free road maintenance, courtesy of VicRoads. Our 19,000 rate payers vs suburban councils 90,000 or more, and you can see why our rates are pretty high! Janet, who has had many years of experience in suburban councils, told us it was difficult for her to adjust to the much smaller number of 0's in MAS's budget!

We were also surprised at how much control the State Government has over Council activities in terms of regulations and reporting, and that Council pays the salaries of a number of senior officers who are answerable to the State only, not anyone in MAS.

I think if more members of the community took the time and trouble to actually understand the functioning of our council with its comparatively tiny budget, perhaps they'd be more understanding of the difficulties and stresses councillors and staff face on a day to day basis.

I could also add that Mayor Cropley managed to infuse the discussion with enough anecdotes and experiences from her previous roles in council to make the whole course highly entertaining and thoroughly rewarding. Thanks Janet!

~ Jennie Owen / David Sime



Pictured here round the table from left to right are: Janet Fitzwater, Janet Cropley, Eve Banks. Jennie Owen, John Waldie and Jenny Craig. David Sime behind the camera.

WAGNER'S RING CYCLE

VIC SAY 5472 1841

Because Walkure is a longer work we will have an early start, **5pm**, and everyone is requested to bring a contribution for a shared meal: finger food - savoury, salad or sweets.

Friday 18th May 5pm - Walkure - the CD recording, at Vic & Felicity's home.

Friday 15th June 5pm - Walkure - the DVD recording at Peter & Barry's home.

Friday 20th July 7pm - Solti & the Golden Ring - DVD at Peter & Barry's home, the documentary of the recording of Solti's Ring Cycle which we will be halfway through. It was a highly problematic and dramatic process. Wagner and Women - DVD at Peter & Barry's home.



U3A Writers recently enjoyed a writing workshop subsidised by Writers Victoria. U3A is a non-profit member of Writers Victoria, which is based in Melbourne. Through its Regional Partnerships program, Writers Victoria provided a successful professional writer and writing teacher, Lee Kofman, to present a workshop on 'From Memoir to Fiction'. Evaluations of the workshop were very positive and members learned some useful ideas to apply in both their memoir and fiction writing.

The 15 participants who benefited from the writing skills she shared were:

Left to right (back row): Daphne Edwardson, Merion Merry, Gavan McCarthy, Julia Scoglio, Val Case, Judi Appleby, Lee Kofman, Eileen Park, Jenny Coller, Elizabeth Rider, Rex Odgers and Ailsa Longmuir.

Left to right (front row): Monique Thomson, Isabel Kelly, Gloria Meltzer and Vivienne Robertson.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

U3A Castlemaine Inc.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at:-

Uniting Church Hall – Lyttleton Street Castlemaine

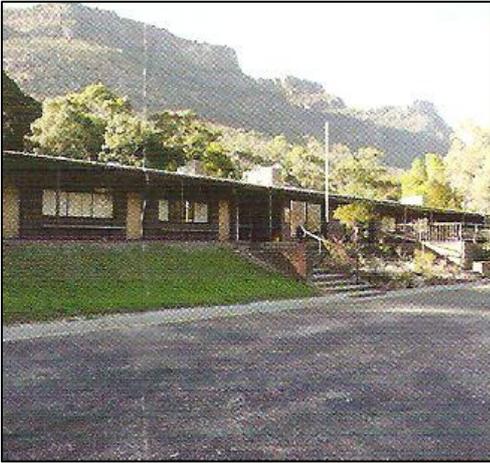
10am on Friday 1st June 2012

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

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

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

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



GRAMPIANS VISIT

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

DATES: Monday – Wednesday 8-10th, October

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

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

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

~ ~ O ~ ~

MAY 4th COFFEE MORNING VOLUNTEERS

Mollie Angel	Alan Bull	Lenore Bull	Shirley Curnow
Sally Kaptein	Grace McCaughey	Frank Pederick	Sue Turner

JUNE 1st COFFEE MORNING VOLUNTEERS

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

Deadline for the June 2012 Newsletter is 3pm Monday 21st May

Autumn Motoring Mystery Tour – Wednesday May 30th 2012

This year there are four small changes to previous years.

1. Up until morning tea is finished we all stay together and tour our town.
Morning tea is a B.Y.O. affair. There are no shops. There are good toilets, shelter from the elements, and some seating.
2. When morning tea is finished, sealed instructions, maps and a journal for your navigator to fill in as you motor along quiet secondary roads, through spectacularly beautiful countryside.
3. When we have finished at our destination, it should be 12.30 pm or so, journals will be collected and we will adjourn to the local R.S.L. club for lunch. Soup & roll \$8, or a more substantial meal costing a little more. The choice is up to you. Those who want to take their own will have to fend for themselves.
4. The winner will be announced at the June Coffee Morning when prizes and a trophy (yes folks, I said a trophy) will be presented.

NOTE: There is an entry fee of **\$5 pp** for the Homestead we are to visit and for this you will be welcomed to an open house with unique and interesting contents and spectacular gardens, lake and out-buildings. This entry fee will be collected at the Uniting Church car park before we set off, so correct weight will be appreciated. Departure time will be **9.30 am** from the Uniting Church car-park.

WANTED

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

Ladies or gents, both in fact,
who would enjoy getting together
to plan, and bring to fruition,
activities, events, publications and the like
telling the world about our
fast approaching **25th Birthday**
in 2013.

Gather your thoughts and let the Committee know a.s.a.p. what you'd like to see happen
for this most auspicious occasion, so that plans can very soon become reality.