

U3A

Third Thoughts

Castlemaine Inc (Est 1988)

Volume 25 No 1

February 2010

Reg. A0017409G



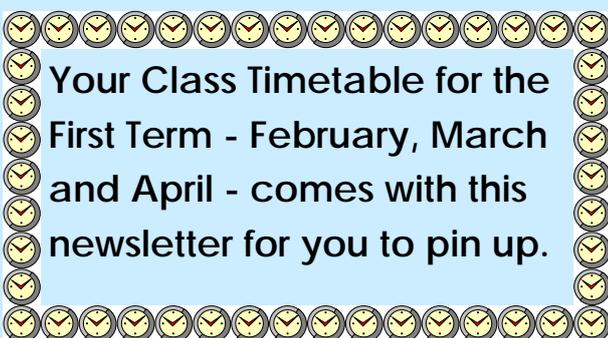
The Tai Chi Class under the trees in the Botanical Gardens. Dot Henshall (fourth from left) was nominated for a COTA Active at All Ages Award. See page 12.



Getting together at Vaughan Springs for an evening of murder and intrigue. The January Holiday program was a roaring success and attendances were high, See Page 11.

IN THIS BUMPER ISSUE ...

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- THE 2010 HOLIDAY PROGRAM
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- DOT'S NOMINATION FOR A COTA AWARD
- THE TRUTH ABOUT HATS


Your Class Timetable for the First Term - February, March and April - comes with this newsletter for you to pin up.



The 2010 Enrolment Days in January were buzzing! The Computer Classes table was popular. See Page 13.

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The Committee usually meets on the
second Tuesday each month.

THE MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS
MONDAY 22 February, 3 p.m.

Preferably, please email your contributions,
including photos to u3anews@aapt.net.au If
this is difficult, leave your article at the office
before the deadline.

FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING ROSTER

5 February 2010:

**Aboriginal History,
Art and Drawing,
Australian History,
Ballet Appreciation.**



5 March: **Ancient Rome
Apple Mac Computers
Between you and Me**

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Mondays 1.30 - 3.30 pm

Tuesdays 1.30 - 3.30 pm

Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S EMAIL

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$40.00 plus \$10 if
postage of newsletter is required. Payment
can be made by cheque or money order
payable to U3A Castlemaine Inc. and
posted to:

**The Secretary, PO Box 792, Castlemaine,
3450. OR paid in U3A office hours at the ,
Office, 12 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine.
(Note: cheque or money order only).**

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

~ PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ~

Welcome everyone to 2010, with a very special welcome to those who are joining us for the first time and a number of members returning after an extended break.

Much has happened already this year. We are especially grateful to Peggy Munro and her team for the varied and exciting holiday program. This was clearly evidenced by the attendance of members at the various activities.

Win Jodell has been working constantly over the holiday period to ensure that the main program of classes functions smoothly. The enthusiasm and camaraderie at the two enrolment sessions was testimony to her thorough preparation and the variety of courses offered.

I am sure that a similar sense of anticipation and excitement will be manifest at the Course Leaders Information Morning to be held on 28 January. At this gathering Bruce Caruthers, who has been constantly updating the website, will encourage leaders to make use of the website to publish class notes and information. For those of you with computers make a resolution to go into the website at least weekly.

Val Anderson and her team of volunteers have the Office open and efficiently functioning. Elizabeth is in the throes of producing this newsletter. I have had dialogue with the leaders of Castlemaine Secondary College concerning the possibility of some of our members mentoring a small group of year 8/9 students.

The above will give some indication of what a vibrant organisation U3A Castlemaine is. It will only remain that way if we all take a share in its organisation and be givers as well as takers.

I would make this plea to each member: if you are unable to attend any session of the particular class(es) for which you have enrolled, please inform the course leader of the your inability to attend. If you decide to withdraw from a class it

is helpful if you inform Win Jodell as well as your class leader.

If you would like to join any of our sub-committees in 2010, the lists can be found on the notice board or a quick call to the Office will ensure that you become a part of your chosen group.

I hope you will be able to come along to Coffee Mornings on the first Friday of each month at 10 am in the Uniting Church Hall.

Members who have joined U3A Castlemaine since April 2009, please list in your calendar our New Members Welcome Day to be held on Tuesday 30 March at 2 pm.

May your learning journey with U3A Castlemaine in 2010 be thought provoking, rewarding, enjoyable and abound in friendships.

~ Tom Comerford, President



SPECIAL EVENTS 2010

Narelle Stocks, Marian Taubman and Sally Kaptein have the challenge of coming up with some stunning special events for the year. Your ideas are very welcome – so do please contact anyone of us with your idea!

We hope to have a spread of events to match different interests and we also would like to promote casual get togethers when we share food and fun.

One idea is to meet on a monthly basis in the Botanic Gardens while the weather is pleasant and simply bring a light evening meal and enjoy each others company – we imagine we would meet about 6 pm and be home by 7.30 pm!



THOUGHTS FROM THE COURSE COORDINATOR

There was lots of hustle and bustle on the two Enrolment mornings.

People began arriving well before 10 am and the

number of new and returning members was noticeable and exciting. For me, at the end of the second morning, the task of collating the forms was formidable. There were just so many of them and they seemed to have so many boxes ticked!

With the correct kind of Excel sheet from my daughter and lot of help from two dear friends (U3A members), the work began in earnest. By Sunday night it was completed. Miracles must still occur!

Enrolments are very strong this year and most of the 58 courses offered will go ahead. There has been a tremendous interest in languages, cooking and writing. The new weekly German for Beginners class is full. New activities Pétanque and Croquet are well over quota and the old faithfuls, Bushwalking, Table Tennis, Tai Chi and Short Walks have all attracted good numbers. The number of people wanting to play Bridge is increasing also.

There has been large interest in classes at the Computer Center, particularly Photography and Digital Imaging.

Castlemaine Art Gallery is included in this year's Prospectus. Kate Stones, the Education Officer at the Gallery, will begin by giving members an opportunity to spend some hours with her in our Gallery looking at and hearing about Australian Women Painters of the 20th Century. A good number of members has enrolled and there is a chance Kate will be able to offer something ongoing.

Our enrolment numbers are not yet final and they will continue to dribble in during February I am sure. I would like to thank members for supporting their local U3A so whole heartedly. It has been a great pleasure for me to play a part in this vibrant organization.

~ Win Jodell, Course Coordinator

NEW MEMBERS SWELL THE RANKS (See page 13)

Over the enrolment sessions on 19 and 20 January, 185 people paid their annual subscription, with 36 of those being new members or previous members rejoining after a lapse of a few years. The mornings were great fun with good energy flowing around - and a lot of noise!

Quite a lot of members had already renewed over the last month and I guess a lot will bring their subscription up to date at the first coffee morning.

~ Sue Turner, Treasurer

PLEASE NOTE: The committee is very aware that many U3A members get by entirely on a pension, where every dollar counts. If anyone has difficulty in paying their \$40 annual fee (plus \$10 for newsletter postage if required) all in one go, our Treasurer, Sue Turner, is happy to discuss paying fees in a couple of instalments. Strict confidentiality is always observed. Sue's phone number is on Page 2 of the newsletter.

IS THIS YOURS?

There is a green drink bottle, a purple glasses case and a green umbrella at the office. If any of these belong to you, please call at the office and collect them. Lost Property is kept in the bottom drawer of the blue filing cabinet. Thank you.

~ Val Anderson, Office Coordinator

~ CLASS NOTES ~

ABORIGINAL HISTORY - OUR SHARED HISTORY

Felicity Say 5472 1841.

Tuesday, 2 February: We'll start the year by viewing a programme which looks at the first five years of white colonization in Australia as depicted in the journals, diaries, letters home and the paintings and sketches by those involved in the intrepid enterprise of establishing a penal colony in the "Great South Land".

Tuesday 16 February: For most people, little is known of the life of the Aboriginal woman, Truganini, other than that she was long regarded as "the Last Tasmanian Aborigine". Today's session will focus on her time in the newly established District of Port Phillip, when the settlement of Melbourne was just a few years old.

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

Geoff Walker 5470 6652

The theme for the year's course will be studies of the lives and works of famous or infamous Australians. Our first study will be to look at something of the life of David Syme, the founder of *The Age* newspaper.

We will meet this month on Mondays, 8 and 22 February at 2.00 pm at the home of Geoff and Beth, 9 Lyttleton Street. Looking forward to seeing you there!

BALLET APPRECIATION

Joe Scoglio 5472 2396

For the first class of the year we will look at the role of courtly dancing during the Renaissance and its place in the birth of ballet tradition. It was a time when dancing together with singing, declamation, music and scenic effects were used to create spectacles for political purposes. We will then look at how the aesthetics of ballet changed in the Baroque era with the introduction of such theatrical innovations as the proscenium arch.

Coming Events at Castlemaine Art Gallery

Friday, 19 February: Women Artists of the Early 20th Century. Join Kate Stones, the Gallery's Education Officer for a talk on works in the Art Gallery Collection by women painters of the early 20th Century including Clarice Beckett, Dora Meeson, Margaret Preston, AME Bale, Violet Teague and Ethel Garrick. There will be morning tea, and then a drawing workshop, using pencils and pastels to make drawings using the paintings that we have studied as starting points. No previous experience required. **Cost: \$15. Time: 10 am-1 pm.**

Wednesday, 3 March: Land and Sea— An art viewing excursion to the Bay. Join us on a day trip to see *John Ford Paterson: A family tradition* at the McClelland Gallery, Frankston, followed by *Master Landscapes of the Mornington Peninsula* at the Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery. We will arrive at the McClelland Gallery at 11 am for a one-hour guided tour, followed by a 12.30 pm lunch at the McClelland Gallery Café. Meals cost between \$12 and \$19. The Café menu can be viewed online www.mcclellandgallery.com Alternatively bring a packed lunch as there are no other shops in the vicinity. At 1.30 pm we will head to the MPRG for a 2 pm guided tour.

Time: Leaves from the gallery at 8 am sharp.
Cost: Gallery Members \$45/Non Members \$50, including guided tours at each venue. Cost does not include lunch.

Please Note: Tickets must be booked and paid for by 24 February. Strictly no refunds after the 24 February. Bookings: In person, Castlemaine Art Gallery, Lyttleton Street Castlemaine.

By phone: 5472 2292 or send a cheque or postal order made payable to Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum, to Castlemaine Art Gallery, PO Box 248, Castlemaine, VIC 3450

NB: Join us on Wednesday 31 March for our excursion to see RUPERT BUNNY AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA.

~ CLASS NOTES ~



Contact: Sally Kaptein
5470 6340

Last year in the second semester, two of us from U3A enrolled as audit students to attend lectures on Islam and the West, and, as with the first semester's Greek Mythology, I found it to be a terrific thing to do.

Admittedly, the thought of tackling the subject of Islam filled me with trepidation, but I was keen to gain some understanding and insight into the fastest growing world religion, and its relation to the West, especially in today's political climate.

The course, with a brilliant, comprehensive website, offered an exploration of the principles, practices and history of Islam, considered in relation to Western civilization, from its beginnings in the 7th century to the present day. Of particular interest to me was the idea of the self (the West) and the other (Islam), and the appeal of and reasons for the brief flourishing of Orientalism.

It's a privilege to be able to sit in on these lectures, and for anyone else considering it, well worth the trip to Bendigo once a week.

~ Susan Weste

U3A Castlemaine has an arrangement with the Bendigo campus of La Trobe University that allows our members to attend any lecture or series of lectures at the campus free of charge as audit students.

Program options exist in the Departments of Arts, Education and Science. Examples from the Arts include Australian and Contemporary Literature; Modern Myths, World Cinema; Development and Change; women in Greece and Rome; Contemporary Societal Issues; Philosophy of Work and Art and the Biblical World.

As an audit student, you will not be allowed to present assignments or sit exams.

LATIN WITH DAVID KENNEDY

Contact : Susan Mayfair 5470 5872



Our Latin breakup party for 2009. We are all looking forward to another year of speaking in Caesar's tongue and the seemingly endless conjugation of Latin verbs!

LET'S READ A PLAY

Trish and Barrie King 54 70 5514

Let's Read a Play will recommence for the year on Monday 22 February at 3 Saint Street, Castlemaine at 10 a.m. Our play reading days will continue as in previous years as the second and fourth Mondays of each month. We look forward to seeing you there.

INFLAMMATORY NOVELS (Calcutta

Gazette 9 April 1818.) Sir H. East summed up the evidence. He said that this was the second case of the kind to come before the court this session. The rapid progress of this vice was appalling. Those men who had seduced these women from the paths of virtue, and the bosoms of their family, to plunge them into vice and misery, must look on themselves as the murderers of domestic peace. He traced this laxity of female virtue to the system of female education, particularly to the pernicious habit of novel reading, which, instead of preparing a woman to resist the temptations she may meet in the world, sows the seeds of vice, which only need temptation to bring this forward. He gave damages at 8,000 rupees.

~ Sent in by Frank Pederick

~ CLASS NOTES ~

OPERA - AN OCCASIONAL EVENING SERIES (Fridays as notified – 7 pm)

Vic Say 54472 1841

We will start the year on 5 February after the coffee morning, with Bizet's opera *The Pearl Fishers*. It is a wonderful and easy-to-listen-to work. Parts will be familiar to virtually everyone.



Because Berlioz' *La Damnation de Faust* is on in Melbourne on 19 February (to be sung in French) for one performance only, and some U3A members are intending to go to Melbourne for that, I am considering sharing that work on Friday, 6 March

after the coffee morning.

It is a 'different' opera to listen to, but if there are French, Faust, Berlioz, opera or general music people who would like to share it we will do it, otherwise we will replace it with something more conventional. It is a most intimate work and absolutely NOT operatic in style.

We will listen to full operas, mostly selected from those being performed in Melbourne in 2010. We will listen to the full work in silence and then discuss comparisons of highlights from different performances of the same opera if we have them.

Copies of the words in the language being sung and in English translation will be provided only if you notify Vic each time that you intend to be there and want them.

Sessions will be at the home of Felicity and Vic Say at 2 Gainsborough Street, Castlemaine. Check that you know the way if you haven't been there before: limit is 16 seats. Bring a torch to use on the way out!

PHILOSOPHY

Geoff Walker 5470 6652

The course for this year will be similar to last year. We shall be looking at the teachings of prominent philosophers and thinkers, and spend time arguing, discussing, criticising, evaluating and trying to understand their teachings and working out how they are relevant to our ordinary everyday life.

The meetings for this month will be at 2.00pm on Thursdays 11th and 25th February at the home of Geoff and Beth at 9 Lyttleton Street.

You will be most welcome!

REQUIEM AND THEN ...

Vic Say 5472 1841

The year will start with a couple of old favourites and something completely new. After our February coffee morning we will hear again the magnificent Verdi *Requiem*, to be followed two weeks later with one we have not heard before: Palestrina's of 1591.

We will follow the March coffee morning with another magnificent favourite, the Berlioz *Requiem*.

We meet at 1.30 pm at 2 Gainsborough Street.

SINGING TOGETHER

Rae Hawkins 5472 3446

Our U3A choir is about to begin its sixth year, and has more than three times the number of singers than in the first year.

Now we also have male voices to add to the texture of our music, so I shall be busy finding copies of songs to accommodate those voices. We shall, of course, keep singing old favourites and dropping those songs not so much in favour with the singers.

The aim of the group is to be enjoyable for those singing and to give pleasure to our audiences.

Practices will begin on Tuesday 9 February at 3.30 pm.

HOLIDAY PROGRAM: A TRIP TO THE STARS

Ten starry eyed U3A members gathered at Castlemaine railway station for the trip to the Bendigo Planetarium at the Discovery Centre. It was very pleasant relaxing on the train instead of thundering up a boring highway behind the wheel of a car. There was a while to wait before entering the Planetarium so some of us tried out the interactive displays in the Centre and some of us went in search of coffee. The interactive displays were interesting and some were quite challenging. A favourite was the illusion created by mirrors - as you can see from the photo, Judith couldn't resist losing her head! (See Photo). Nobody was tempted to try the vertical slide.

At 11.30 we entered the Planetarium through the doors of the TARDIS, complete with revolving blue light - unfortunately David Tennant was not present. We were welcomed, however, by a friendly young man who invited us to find a seat among the bean bags! Most of our group did so while I cannily spotted a few chairs in the gloom for the less athletic. Soon we were journeying among the stars being told that Alpha Centauri was two stars although it was seen as one from Earth and that the only planet visible from Earth at this time of year was Jupiter. Being shown Earth's position in our galaxy was a very humbling experience.

The highlight of our excursion was at the end of the presentation when the bean bag occupants had to vacate their seats. Peg voiced the thought that the bean bag sitters might have to stay where they were. Varying degrees of dignity were achieved during their departure.

We had a great time and recommend the Discovery Centre as a place where minds and bodies can be exercised. ~ *Carol Dorman.*



Judith lost her head at the Discovery Centre

LOOKING FOR DVDS OR VIDEOS?

Here's a great resource available to us

U3A Castlemaine subscribes to the **Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI)**. Class leaders are welcome to borrow video and DVD resources from the ACMI lending library.

Felicity Say, phone 5472 1841, is our contact person for ACMI and can introduce interested class leaders to the processes involved in borrowing resources through her.

To learn more: www.acmi.net.au the web page for ACMI is worth exploring. Its bi-monthly magazine also provides details of their facilities and highlights a rich program available to the public with seniors discounts at ACMI in Federation Square, Melbourne. Using our seniors discount for a train trip makes a stimulating excursion to ACMI very affordable.

For example the February/March 2010 magazine features four exhibitions, four talks and live events, three creative workshops, details of ongoing research and resources, sixteen film festivals or features, a directory information for new visitors and the program of films in a timetable form.

FROM THE EDITOR: Members' contributions to the newsletter are always welcome. I try to include them if we have enough space. Please email your articles and letters to u3anews@aapt.net.au Have a happy and healthy 2010!

THE JANUARY 2010 HOLIDAY PROGRAM



Peggy and fellow U3A members enjoy one of the Holiday Program activities.

The organising committee of Dot, Joe and myself met a few times late last year to work out activities, times, dates and venues. The program proved popular, with good attendances. A rough count about half way through the program showed more than 100 attendances.

The U3A Committee supported the Holiday Program by allocating us a budget which made things much easier, and Val in the office very efficiently helped me print out the program. Many thanks.

We started with a bird watching breakfast and will end with a Grand Finale at Newstead. The train trip to Bendigo Discovery Centre and the planetarium was one of our out of town events. The other was the trip to Daylesford's Wombat Hill. It was a reasonably hot day but the air/breeze up at the picnic table was very refreshing.

Diana brought a young Afganistani friend who is studying at Bendigo TAFE, so that made our group an international one. We had another international visitor from Canada on the day we went to the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens. On a later occasion we had a French gentleman who dined with us at *The Good Table*.



A very good group went to the local Art Gallery and Museum to hear Kate Stones' talk and ten of us had lunch together at the Cumberland before we went home.

The music was lovely at Peter's and at Bruce's. It was a pleasure to just sit back and enjoy. Thanks so much, to Barry and Diana too.

We saw two films in air conditioned comfort at Ann's house - two nights with good films and good company. Thanks to Rhoda and Ann.

At Vaughan Springs there were 19 people and if we count the puppets there were 27. It was a great evening. The detectives asked some pretty curly questions. There were lots of interjections and I think we killed off three characters during the night. I'm not sure who actually *done it* but I do know it wasn't the butler. There had been a great amount of work done by Jan to make the scenario fit our situation and our puppets. Many thanks Jan and to all those who came and enjoyed the fun.

There is a lot of support and I'd like to have the Holiday Program again next year. (Sitting and watching the tennis and the cricket can be a bit boring.) I live in hope!

~ Peggy Munro 5472 2086

The Poetry Reading Group rehearsing at Peggy's home for a performance at the Grand Finale of the Holiday Program—a dinner at the Newstead Community Centre

THE JANUARY 2010 HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Midsummer Murders at Vaughan

SPIRIT OF THE SPRINGS, 18 JAN,

Imagine! A group of people muffled up in anoraks, scarves and beanies gathered together in the rotunda in the picnic-ground at Vaughan Springs, sipping their bubbly and enjoying their nibbles. This then is the setting for *Midsummer Murders*, a puppet play presented by U3A Art and Drawing class for the entertainment of their fellow U3A members.



Who killed Amelia Smithers-Rice? Jan with the suspects in *Midsummer Murders*, the Art Groups contribution to the 2010 Holiday Program.

The characters, based loosely (very loosely) on the BBC's *Midsomer Murders* were created and animated by the Art Group. They are: Charlie, a stockman/cook from outback Australia; Arabella Smith-Morton, a quiet, shy primary teacher; Herbert van Dieman, a welder who likes fast cars and women; Dudley Doolittle, a solicitor specialising in real estate; Will, gardener to various villagers, who knows a lot about other people's business; Cleo de Patra, an actress of Egyptian/French extraction; Tom the cat who loves Beethoven and fish-fingers, and constantly declares his total innocence; Lady Genevieve Mook, a much traveled lady who has the famous antique shop in the high street; AND Amelia Smithers-Rice, a model for the art group who has been murdered and whose body, clasping a valuable antique amulet, has been found floating in the river near a popular swimming hole.

We, the audience led by Detective Inspector Barnaby and Sergeant Troy, are given the task of questioning the group and discovering who did the dreadful deed and who stole the amulet.

There is great hilarity as all manner of suppositions and solutions arise. The three scenes are interspersed with our picnic tea as the night grows colder and bubbly is replaced by hot coffee from our thermos flasks. And finally all is revealed.....and who do YOU think committed the ghastly crime ???

It was obvious to us all that the Art Group had had great fun creating their scenario and their

very distinctive characters. Their enjoyment in presenting their play was matched only by the enjoyment of their participating and the appreciative audience. Well done, Art Group!

~ Dot Henshall.



Some of the 'detectives' at *Midsummer Murders* try to find out who done it from Jan, the script writer,



Members enjoying the games afternoon that was part of the Holiday Program.





Janine Truscott and Dot leading Tai Chi.

COTA ACTIVE AT ALL AGES AWARD.

The U3A Committee recently nominated Dorothy Henshall for this award. COTA recently wrote saying the standard was extremely high, and that Dot, although not the winner, has been highly commended and is invited to Parliament House in February to attend the award ceremony. Here are some of the tributes paid to Dot by fellow members of U3A which were included in the nomination.

☀ "Dot Henshall is a role model for all who want to make the most of their senior years. She is a vital, charming person who is involved actively in improving the quality of life for the community. I attend Tai Chi classes that Dot helps to run. There is a beginners and advanced group for Tai Chi and Dot is involved with the advanced group. In order to teach Tai Chi for Arthritis she had to attend training and continues to upgrade her knowledge at workshops.

Dot has an enquiring mind, engages in issues both local and more far reaching. She has helped to run the workshops for training women in U3A who want to be able to use tools for home maintenance and she also helped to build a solar oven to prove the effectiveness of the system. In conversation with Dot you realize here is someone for whom an age tag does not mean a thing. She would be a very worthy recipient of a COTA Active at All Ages Award."

~ Sally Kaptein, Immediate Past President, U3A Castlemaine Inc.

☀ "Dot Henshall was the President of U3A when I first joined in 1996, presiding over a lively group of about 80 people (by 2009, more than 300 members), Dot joined when it was first formed in 1987. She has always been an enthusiastic participant and efficient organiser of any class she was involved with. She is a person of many talents, such as spinning and weaving, gardening, home handyman, historical and botanical knowledge and has always found time to share them in spite of many commitments at home.

Having participated in Tai Chi and the 'short walks' programs, when a new leader had to be found in a hurry, she volunteered and found time for another responsibility in a busy life. Nothing seems beyond her and age is no bar; she is currently supplying ideas for a holiday program in January 2010, and is sure to make it a series of original and successful activities.

There could be no better example of an active Senior Citizen."

~ Penny Garnett, Member of U3A and of the Short Walks Group:

☀ "When I get to 86 in about 17 years' time, I hope to be like Dot - healthy, strong, clear minded and involved. Dot has not let growing older stop her from doing things she loves. She has inspired me to keep as physically, mentally and socially active and as independent as possible, and to enjoy life. I hope she finds the time to play Lifeball with us next year - she's a good player!

Dot worked actively for many years with young people and training Guiders in the Guiding movement. She also belongs to two spinning and weaving groups and is proactive in leaving a 'light footprint' in this time of drought and climate change. She's experimenting with water saving methods for growing good vegetables. She'll get us all growing our own vegetables with better water use. She initiated the U3A Women's Shed and she'll cook a lovely meal in the solar oven that she has made."

~ Elizabeth Rider, U3A newsletter editor and Lifeball player

☀ "Two years ago, Dot trained as a Tai Chi instructor with Arthritis Victoria. Since then she has co-led the Community Health (CHIRP) group now called the Tai Chi Community Group each week. This has been a wonderful development in terms of the extension of the Tai Chi program as we now have beginners and an experienced community group with valuable leadership and support from trained leaders.

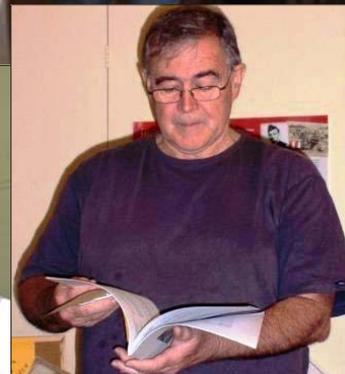
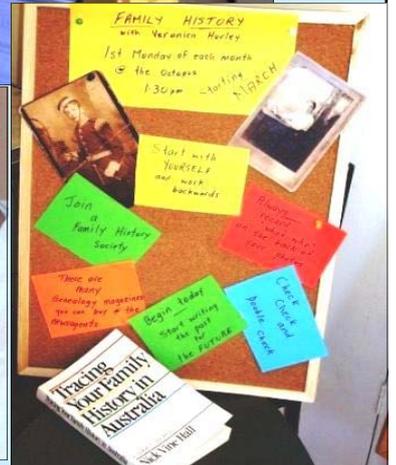
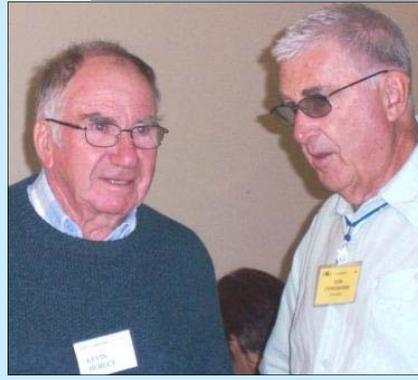
Recently she trained as a Lifeball coach and umpire with master trainer, Colleen Wilson-Lord and Dr Brian Lord. The aim is to prepare for the establishment of a Lifeball Club in Castlemaine next year. I have greatly enjoyed Dot's companionship and wonderful leadership skills while working with her in both capacities. I salute her wonderfully generous spirit as a volunteer for both CHIRP and U3A. The Castlemaine community is very much richer for Dot's presence.

~ Janine Truscott, Physiotherapist, Castlemaine District Community Health.



ENROLMENT DAYS , JANUARY 2010

A LARGE NUMBER OF MEMBERS AND NEW MEMBERS CAME TO ENROL. WITH MORE THAN 50 COURSES ON OFFER, THERE WAS A LOT OF CONVERSATION!



RUMINATIONS OF AN INSOMNIAC (III): HATS ~ *By Vivienne Robertson*

I deplore the passing of the hat as a compulsory part of men's daily dress. I am not talking about the ubiquitous cap worn these days by almost all men and often with the brim at the back. When I was young such a cap was worn only by jockeys and was called a jockey cap. Jockeys, for all their emaciated bodies, brightly coloured silks and smart boots, were not seen as fashion leaders. Somewhere along the line, this cap has spread through to all sports and then to daily wear. It won't be long before it is worn with the suit – although the suit is becoming more (and more) the dress of footballers going to court and less (and less) the dress of someone respectable going about his daily business.



The cap serves no purpose nor does it improve the appearance. If it protects the face from the sun, it exposes the neck and vice versa and the ears are exposed to the ravages of the weather. The cap has no character. Instead of categorising someone as a comic, a lover, a worker, a clown, a villain, a hero - as the hat did - the cap is a great leveler.

In the old black and white films of the 30s, 40s and early 50s, men's hats told most of the story. One knew immediately whether this or that character was to be trusted, ridiculed, feared, admired, loved or hated. The most obvious examples were in the early Westerns, where the villain always had a black hat and the hero a white one. It saved the script writer from having to create characters with dialogue or action. If someone rode into town wearing a white hat, you knew that the blonde barmaid with a heart of gold did not have to fear for her virtue or her life - at least not as far as the white hatted one was concerned.

Rather more subtle and much more evocative were the hats of all the men in the films of that era. Anyone wearing a hat with the brim turned up in the front, or worse, all the way around, was a comic or a fool. If he pushed his hat back, he was even more of a fool. This applied to everyone. Not even Sir Lawrence Olivier could look good with the brim of his hat turned up at the front. And can you imagine Olivier in a jockey cap? With the brim at the back?

To wear a hat with the brim turned down all the way round, was to put one into the category of either a vicar (usually on a bicycle) in an Agatha Christie film, or an explorer

(probably Peter Ustinov) somewhere in darkest Africa. In either case the character was rather quaint, perhaps eccentric but not stupid or absurd. He was to be trusted, but treated with slightly bemused tolerance and respected for his superior knowledge, be it religious, geographical or archaeological.

The way to wear a hat with style was to have the brim slightly turned up at the back and down in the front. It should be tilted slightly forward so that when you looked at someone straight on, the wearer's eyes should be just visible.



My Italian dictionary tells me that wearing one's hat on an angle was called *tenere il cappello sulle ventitre*. I assume this means to have one's hat tilted so that the highest part of the brim is at twenty three hours (or eleven o'clock, pm) on an imaginary clock face. But I am not sure if this means eleven o'clock for the wearer of the hat seeing himself in the mirror, or eleven o'clock for the viewer of the man in the hat. If it means for wearer of the hat in the mirror, it means that the hat would be tilted down to the right.

Frank Sinatra knew the power of a hat and was inclined to tilt his hat at a decidedly rakish angle to the right. This suited him and also said a great deal about him. Leslie Howard wore his hat almost untilted as Professor Higgins in *Pygmalion*, perhaps to reassure everyone that he was completely trustworthy and had no improper designs on Eliza Doolittle.

One of the great virtues of a hat was that it eliminated the advantage of a great mane of hair, or the disadvantage of thinning crown. With a hat, Churchill could have looked as impressive as Stalin, if the latter were also wearing a hat. But hatless there would be no comparison between the two. Now that I think about it, Churchill often did wear a bowler, which would have been unimaginable for Stalin. If Tom Cruise wore a hat, would he look any better than Bruce Willis in a hat? Some actors looked amazingly attractive in a hat and much less so when they took it off. Think of Ray Milland. He had a rather square head and sometimes, alas, parted his hair in the middle, but in a hat he was stunning. Charles Boyer had rather protuberant eyes, but with the hat brim low so that you could hardly see his eyes, he looked irresistible, as poor Ingrid found in *Gaslight*.

A panama hat can be very attractive. My husband wears one when we travel in Italy or anywhere hot. He looks rather like an eccentric Englishman in it, even with the brim



turned up at the back and down at the front and he firmly believes that when the waiters see him coming, they put up the price of the campari. He may be right but he looks stylish, so it is worth it.



The hat favoured by Lawrence Olivier was the fedora, which



the dictionary tells me is a "low, soft felt hat with a crown creased lengthways". There was also the bowler hat, called the derby in

America, favoured by businessmen and office workers in the city. There was the top-hat, worn by politicians and other dignitaries, but almost obsolete by the 1930s. There was the pork-pie, with a flat crown and the brim turned up all around, but this, as I have mentioned, was not ever worn by romantic heroes. It was more for men in the sporting world and somehow seemed to hint at a kind of untrustworthy slick sharpness.

The Stetson was the norm in Westerns. They could be very flattering, say on John Wayne, but on a shorter man like Alan Ladd, it could be rather disproportionately tall.



The hats worn by our fathers and grandfathers here in Australia were just "hats". Every man had one and every man wore one. I believe that they were, in Australia, made of rabbit fur. Where did they all go, and why? And exactly when? Perhaps their demise was due directly to the introduction of myxomatosis. Hats almost always lent a certain allure and gave a man something to do with his hands. He had to remember to raise the hat, put it on a table, collect it, and put it back on again.

Hats were, like caps, a kind of leveller, but they also allowed all men to hint at something attractive in their character. Why doesn't some influential fashion leader bring them back? President Obama – you could! © Vivienne Robertson, 2010.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT WHEN USING OUR NEW TECHNOLOGY

GPS: A friend told me that people she knew had their car broken into while they were at a football game. It was parked on the green adjacent to the football stadium and specially allotted to football fans. Things stolen from the car included a garage door remote control, some money and a GPS which had been prominently mounted on the dashboard.

When the victims got home they found their house had been ransacked.

The thieves had used the GPS to guide them to the house. They then used the garage remote control to open the garage door and gain entry to the house. They knew the owners were at the football game, they knew what time the game was scheduled to finish and so they knew how much time they had to clean out the house. It would appear that they had brought a truck to empty the house of its contents.

Something to consider if you have a GPS: Don't put your home address in it. Put a nearby address (like a store or service station) so you can still find your way home if you need to, but no one else would know where you live if your GPS were stolen.

MOBILE PHONES: A woman recently had her handbag stolen. It contained her mobile phone, credit card and wallet. Twenty minutes later when she called her husband, from a pay phone telling him what had happened, he said 'I received your text asking about our Pin number and I've replied a little while ago.'

They rushed to the bank.. The thief had used the stolen phone to text her husband, listed as 'hubby' in the contact list and got hold of the pin number. Within 20 minutes he had withdrawn all the money from their bank account.

Moral of the lesson: Avoid using names like Home, Sweetheart, Dad, Mum in your contact list.. When sensitive info is being asked through texts, CONFIRM by calling back.

~ Sent in by Hans van Gemert, who received it from Joan Webster.

Have a regular look at our webpage, which will always be a good way to keep up to date.

www.u3acastlemaine.com

U3A Castlemaine Inc. Third Thoughts, February 2010

Technology Bits & Bytes

Windows Computers

Greetings to all, welcome to another year of wrestling with the foibles and frustrations of using Windows computers! I was just saying to my wife Susan the other day that if we have much more trouble with the pesky things, I'm going to move over into the Apple camp! She agreed wholeheartedly!

We have decided this year to share this page between the Apple Mac and Windows enthusiasts, so below you will read the 1st news brief from Michael & Bruce, your Apple Mac tutors.

Also shown below is the course timetable for the Windows machine classes. We also hope to be offering a Microsoft Excel short course, to be run by a new tutor, Denis Upsall. Denis has been in the IT game since 1969—a bit longer than I was! Good luck with your classes! Shane Doyle, Computer Courses Convenor., Phone 5472 4017

COMPUTER CLASSES

2010

Day	Program	Starts	Tutor	Times	Phone	Email
Monday	Vacant Slot			9am-12.30pm		
	Family History/Genealogy	Mar 1st	Veronica Hurley	1.30pm-3.30pm	5472 1383	vronandkev@bigpond.com
Tuesday	Microsoft Excel	Mar 9th	Denis Upsall	9am-12.30pm	5473 3190	dupsall@gotalk.net.au
	Computer First Aid (1st & 3rd Tuesdays)	Mar 2nd	David Sime	1.30pm-3.30pm	5472 3756	daveju@gmail.com
	Introduction to Picasa (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)	Mar 9th	David Sime	1.30pm-3.30pm	5472 3756	daveju@gmail.com
Wednesday	More Microsoft Word	Feb 10th	Shane Doyle	9am-12.30pm	5472 4017	shanefromcastlemaine@gmail.com
	"The Computer Club"	Feb 10th	Shane Doyle	1.30pm-4.30pm	5472 4017	shanefromcastlemaine@gmail.com
Thursday	Vacant Slot			9am-12.30pm		
	Digital Imaging Group (1st, 3rd, 4th of the month Each 2nd Thur- Photography)	Feb 18th	Trevor Wheeler	1.30pm-3.30pm	5476 2286	trevorwheeler@westnet.com.au
Friday	Email/Internet/Word	Feb 12th	Betty Johnson	9am-12.30pm	5472 3834	beejay@mmnet.com.au
	Desktop Publishing	Feb 19th	Val Anderson	1.30pm-3.30pm	5472 1860	valone@mmnet.com.au

Apple Mac Computers

A New Year, a New Decade and Apple Mac is just about to start it's second year of Tuition and Help.

We intend to start the year with our very welcome Q&A (Questions & Answers) segment at each session and open with our Main Tutorial based on "E-Mailing" for the first few weeks using the Mac program "Mail". Think you know all about "Mail"? – you will be pleasantly surprised at how much more you will learn and become more professional in your approach.

Basically we will break this down into five sections based on the "Mac Help" listing in "Mail" plus a whole lot more and this will consist of sub topics as follows :-

- About "Mail", Communicating, Organising, Keeping messages secure & Solving problems

Some of the topics that you can expect to be covered :-

- Creating messages and attaching files and pictures
- How to change Computer spelling
- Marking messages as "junk" or "not junk"
- Colour coding messages for easy identification
- Creating Mailboxes
- About Keychain passwords
- Setting parental controls
- Solving problems based again on the "Mac Help" program, and looking at some of the 55 problem solving topics available for all Mac users

Come and join us for another very good and enjoyable year of companionship and learning

This page is maintained by Shane Doyle, if you have any contributions for this page, email to shanefromcastlemaine@gmail.com,