



U3A

Third Thoughts

Castlemaine Inc (Est. 1988)

Volume 24 No 8

August 2012

Reg. A0017409G

Dates for your Diary

August Coffee Morning Friday 3rd @ 10 am

Guest speaker our own Win Jodell with jottings from her years living in Spain

Cranbourne Trip Friday August 31st

This is an all day excursion to these magnificent gardens. There are a few seats still available! Cost: \$50 pp (includes coach, lunch and guided tour). Leaving Castlemaine at 8 am sharp from IGA car park near the toilet area. Back at Castlemaine between 5 and 6 pm.

Wheelchairs can be arranged should they be required. Please pay at the August Coffee morning or at the Office. Contact Sally Kaptein on 5470 6340.

September Coffee Morning Friday 7th @ 10 am

We invite you all to a café style coffee morning where we will provide a great atmosphere and a chance for people to meet and share ideas. We also want to show you a draft for the 25th anniversary we will be celebrating and welcome your creative ideas. This will be a fun and very social coffee morning – don't miss it!!

Napoleon and Empire at the NGV Thursday 13th September

Day trip and tour organised by Castlemaine Art Gallery.

Cost \$65pp

If interested please contact the Gallery for bookings by 23rd August.

Or you could pop in and while there have a look at the art work displayed by local school children until the 12th of August.

Visit to Bendigo gardens with Bendigo U3A Friday 14th September

We will share drive to visit 3 gardens from 10am until 12.30 pm (approx). Morning tea provided but bring your own lunch, cup/mug and a chair. Visit to Mandurang Nursery (optional) after lunch. Only 24 places so book early. Put your name down on the sheet in the office or book in at coffee morning with Sally – Those who have already indicated their interest please confirm you are going.

Seniors Week October 7th – 14th

Visit to Castlemaine by Stonnington Orchestra in October

A second Film Festival 9th, 10th and 11th of November at the Theatre Royal

Grampians visit has been postponed

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

President	Peter Stephens	5472 3904	u3acastlemainepresident@gmail.com
Vice-President	Beryl Leavesley	5472 3182	u3acastlemainevicepresident@gmail.com
Secretary	Betty Johnson	5472 3834	u3acastlemainesecretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Brian Richardson	5423 2526	bprbob@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Barbara Bunton	5472 3186	u3acastlemainenews@gmail.com
Course Co-Ordinator	Dick Mack	0411 244 103	u3acastlemainecourses@gmail.com
Course Administrator	Robyn Yeoman	0412 565 559	robyn.yeoman@gmail.com
Past President	Tom Comerford	5470 6230	tomchris@mmnet.com.au
Committee Member	Jenny Craig	0400 990 146	jennifer.craig3@bigpond.com
Committee Member	Lyn Hall	5472 2316	lynypoodle@gmail.com
Committee Member	Eva Haarburger	5472 3391	ehaarburger3450@gmail.com
Committee Member	Win Jodell	5472 3792	wini@tpg.com.au
Office Manager	George Gray	5472 5334	gnggray43@sctelco.net.au
Network Representative	Sally Kaptein	5470 6340	walmer@castlemaine.net.au
Membership	Veronica Hurley	5472 1383	vkhurley@bigpond.com
Computer Convenor	Shane Doyle	5472 4017	shanefromcastlemaine@gmail.com
ACMI Representative	Felicity Say	5472 1841	sayvf@castlemaine.net
Cake Roster/Raffle	Marie Twyford	5474 2739	bobtwy@hotmail.com
Caterer	Jenni Rutherford	0402 776 194	
Coffee Supplies	Lyn Hall	5472 2316	lynypoodle@gmail.com
Celebrations/Tributes	Barbara Robinson	5474 2121	arob@mmnet.com.au
Property	Hans van Gemert	5472 1082	elouera3@bigpond.com
Trading Table:	Marie Twyford/ Audrey Richardson/ Harvey Jacka	5474 2739 5472 3867 5470 5079	bobtwy@hotmail.com keithaud@chewton.vicmail.net sharval@dodo.com.au
Website Manager	Bruce Carruthers	5472 3900	bruce@keepingitsimple.com.au
Office	P.O. Box 792	5472 2249	u3acastlemaine@gmail.com
Octopus	Castlemaine	5472 1147	octopus@mmnet.com

U3A OFFICE DETAILS

The Office is at the Uniting Church Complex,
Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine

Office Hours are:

Monday to Thursday 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm

Phone: 5472 2249

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 see lists of Volunteers
on page 3 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

For many of us coffee morning is a highlight of our month. It's an opportunity, over a cuppa to chat with friends and acquaintances that we might not have seen in a class, and to listen to an interesting speaker.

But it's the cuppa that is the problem. I think everyone agrees that morning tea is starting too late but it's what to do about it that is exercising our minds. There are various schools of thought ranging from starting the meeting earlier, to having morning tea first, to having morning tea before the guest speaker or to continue as we are now. There is a separate, but related issue, of replacing our delicious spread with simple tea and biscuits.

There is no obvious answer as our Committee discovered when we discussed the issue in July. An earlier start to the meeting means an earlier start for our volunteers and may simply lead to even longer meetings if not rigorously monitored! Morning tea before the meeting again means an earlier start for our volunteers and interrupts set-up of the hall. Morning tea during the meeting is clumsy and makes it difficult to get people to return to their seats and to quieten down.

I'm not in favour of any changes. I think the present order of proceedings is logical and I like the sense of "occasion" that volunteers bring with their cakes and sandwiches.

As I have only a few meetings to go I intend to leave things as they are, but I will try to speed proceedings along. This unfortunately is a problem for the next President and Committee to wrestle with.

Say Hello and Welcome to these new U3A members

Michael Bascombe

Caroline Bellair

Jim Blain

Mary Blain

Christine Henderson

Helen Leyshon

Michelle Robie

Dianne Singleton

AUGUST 3rd COFFEE MORNING VOLUNTEERS

Mollie Angel
Val Case

Enid Chapman
Rosalie Young

Wilf Savage
????

Anne van Gemert
????

SEPTEMBER 7th COFFEE MORNING VOLUNTEERS

Betty Johnson
Rosalind Grey

Jennie Owen
????

Mary Willis
????

Diana Collier
????

Please wear your name badges at all U3A events and classes so that we can all get to know each other as well as having your I.C.E. details on hand should they be needed in an emergency.

From your Editor

To the *next* Newsletter Editor, here is all that is involved in your job.

E-mail site for the newsletter is put on your computer.

Copy comes to you on that site (or left in the office filing cabinet for you.)

Deadline for copy is usually 12 days before the Coffee Morning, giving you a week to finish putting the newsletter together.

When finished, it is transferred onto a USB for printing purposes.

Send the finished newsletter as a PDF file via e-mail to Bruce Carruthers our web-site Manager.

Veronica has the envelopes already addressed for you by this time.

Printing of the newsletter is done on the Monday before the Friday Coffee Morning (with the USB on the office computer and photo-copier.) Or in an emergency, taken to the Copy Centre in Lyttleton Street.

Stapling, folding and posting is usually done this day (or Tuesday, depending on your time restraints) with a team of helpers of your choice.

Distribution of newsletters around the town is done by Tuesday or Wednesday.

The rest are held for the Friday Coffee Morning and any left over are then put in the stand in the office. (One copy held for Office Archives.)

Job done !!! Easy Peasy.

I will be very happy to give you the initial details to get you started, and there are many obliging helpers with the technical stuff, as was always willingly given to me. Of course, to you who are familiar with editing and computers this will be a breeze. You do not need to follow my style or any previous editor, in its composition. I'm sure you will quickly find your own style.

Come the AGM in October, this two year stint of mine has literally flown by, but now I am moving on to other areas of interest, so the time has come to hand on to the next Third Thoughts Editor. YOU!

~ Barbara Buntton

Our Greatest Fear by Marianne Williamson

Our greatest fear is not that we are inadequate, but that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness, that frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, handsome, talented and fabulous?

Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God.

Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God within us. It is not just in some; it is in everyone.

And, as we let our own light shine, we consciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

"Our Greatest Fear" was popularised by Nelson Mandela during his acceptance speech of the South African presidency. Marianne Williamson's words changed my life - and continue to do so.

~ From Fred van Amelsvoort via Dick Mack

From the Course Co-ordinator

Second semester is now underway, with a number of new courses commencing or planned, as well as the regular courses. Attendance at classes seems to be down, no doubt a result of winter ailments and escapes to warmer climes.

A number of new courses have recently commenced, including Great Women in History: The Entertainers (Tom Comerford); Energy Efficiency in your Home (MASG and Hans van Gemert); Tonal Exercises (Peggy Munro); Craft of Writing III (Elizabeth Rider), and Earth Energy and Healing (Bronwyn Bain).

Some of you might have heard Bronwyn, Michael Bascombe, and Fred van Amelsvoort interviewed on WMAfm 94.9 recently. I've had a number of people pass on positive feedback, and the Committee might look at using local radio more regularly in the future. Michael created a great deal of interest with his talk at the July coffee morning.

Janet Cropley is looking to present 'Understanding your Local Council' again, and Christobel Comerford is gearing up to repeat 'Introduction to Human Genetics'. Both will be offered in September.

Fred van Amelsvoort is proposing to lead two walks later in the year. One is the Capital City Trail, a 30 km two-day walk circling Melbourne's city centre and eastern and northern suburbs. The other is the O'Keefe Rail Trail, an easy one-day walk of 19 km between Axedale and Bendigo. Fred is an enthusiastic walker, as those who attended his El Camino session earlier in the year can testify, and these walks promise to be most enjoyable and healthy! See next month's newsletter for more details.

Sally Berridge has advised that she will not be able to present her Art of Colour course this year. She apologises to those who were looking forward to it, and hopes to offer it in 2013.

Robyn Yeoman is recovering well from her recent operation, and looks forward to getting back to monitoring the timetable and venue use.

~ Dick Mack, Course Co-ordinator

Two repeating courses:

Understanding Your Local Council - 8 sessions Course leader: Janet Cropley - This discussion group will cover the operations of Mount Alexander Shire Council: what regulations it works under; the annual processes; the budget and where it goes; how rates are set and how to appeal; State required work by-laws, planning, building health, emergency management; gauging community input; developing strategic plans for areas of interest, sport, arts, environment, heritage; how council works with other organisations and governments. Entry criteria: An interest in local government and active discussion. Note: This is not a vehicle for debating issues.

1 pm to 3 pm, Mondays, 10 September to 17 October in the Kindergarten Room, UCC Castlemaine.

Human Genetics – Introduction - 4 sessions Course leader: Christobel Comerford - Course outline: It's all in your genes. The four-week course will include a brief history of the Science of Genetics and studies of the mechanism of inheritance, the structure and function of chromosomes, the significance of the DNA molecule, patterns of genetic inheritance and the nature of various human genetic disorders. Entry criteria: No previous knowledge required. Members of the group are encouraged to participate in class discussions. This course is limited to 16 participants.

10 am to 11.30 am Wednesdays, 5 September to 26 September. Kindergarten Room, Uniting Church Complex, Castlemaine

If you are interested, call the office (5472 2249) or contact Dick Mack, Course Co-ordinator (0411 244 103 or u3acastlemainecourses@gmail.com).

Deadline for the September 2012 Newsletter is 3pm Monday 27th August

A Tribute to Wendy French

Spoken by Vic Say at the July Coffee Morning

Wendy was very much a Maldon person – but she was also a member of our U3A. Wendy attended Felicity, my wife's, Aboriginal History sessions. In fact Wendy was at Felicity's class the day before she died, and two comments she made during our session come to mind – the first relating to the shame she felt regarding aspects of the shared history between Aboriginal and colonial Australians – the other, about looking forward to attending Banggarra, the Aboriginal ballet which she and Felicity had booked for, in order to celebrate – both typically passionate contributions from Wendy.

I wouldn't attempt to encapsulate Wendy's life, it was far too big for me to do that – and I was mostly an observer of, and occasionally participant in, her friendship with Felicity and others, but I want to relate to you some of Wendy's own words, written in a letter about one part of her life.

“How I have adored every one of my passions. Some might say I'm flighty, but in fact they've all been relevant for the time and place.”

I would like to echo those words as applying to the whole of Wendy's life. And typical of passionate people, she was sometimes in your face and up your nose. But equally she was joyful and laughing. In a wonderful tribute to his mother, one of her sons described the source of some of her passions in terms something like, “she was a left wing pinko social justice activist and a tree planting, tree hugging greeny”.

Wendy was buried in the new bush section of the Maldon cemetery where it was said she would be happy to think she was “first in”. She was living with MS and I believe she was pleased to avoid her future with MS and to rest amongst the roots of the gum trees where she now lies. In farewelling Wendy I would like to share with you something I've adapted from the words read at her graveside:

You can shed tears that Wendy has gone,
and you can smile because she has lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that she'll come back,
then open your eyes and see all that Wendy has left.

Your heart can be empty because you can't see her,
but it can also be filled by the friendships and passions she shared.

When you turn your back on tomorrow and relive yesterday,
always remember to re-turn, to a tomorrow richer and happier because of yesterday.

You can remember Wendy and that she is gone,
and you can cherish her memory, her passions, and help them live on.

After you cry and close your mind – feel empty and turn your back (for a while).
Always do what she'd want:

Smile, open your eyes and your mind, love, live life with passion, and go on.....

Thank you Wendy for sharing our lives.

ABORIGINAL HISTORY

FELICITY SAY 5472 1841

7th AUGUST

Today's session will focus on "The Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders" (FCAATSI) which played a vital role in Aboriginal affairs between 1960 and 1972. Made up of people committed to bringing about change in the living conditions of Aboriginal people as existed in the 1950's, its energies came to be focused on a petition towards having a constitutional referendum.

21st AUGUST

In August 1966, the Gurindji withheld their labour from the Wave Hill cattle station and ensconced themselves in a makeshift settlement in close proximity to the most important of their sacred sites at Wattie Creek. Initially their action was misinterpreted as purely a strike against the appalling work conditions of the Aborigines in the cattle industry, but in fact was the beginning of a developing politicisation of their demands for rights to their land.

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

GEOFF WALKER 5470 6652

In July, for the first session, Geoff presented a slide show about many of the old buildings in Maldon. It was from a school excursion kit that he had prepared back in his working days. For the second session we all met in the main room at the old Telegraph Station next door to the Post Office in Barker Street. Barbara Bunton gave us the great story behind the development of communications in and out of Castlemaine beginning in the 1850s, a fascinating story!

In August the first session, **Monday 13th**, will be a look at some of Chewton's buildings. We shall meet in the **Chewton Town Hall at 2.00pm**, when Ken McKimmie will present the stories. For the second session, **Monday 27th August, at 2.00 pm**, we shall meet at Geoff and Beth's place, when Keith will trace the development of the Castlemaine Hospital.

FRIDAY MORNING GARDEN GROUP

SHIRLEY CURNOW 5472 1729

It was hard work for the group at the July session. We met at the Victory Park gardens in Mostyn Street and performed our good deed for the year in pruning the roses. There was a good attendance, including Cath Polinelli who made it all the way down from Bendigo to be with the group she had led for over twenty years. Thank you Cath!

On the third Friday in August, the **17th**, please meet in the UCA car park at **10.00am**. I'm still working on the day's activity as there are several to choose from. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

ISSUES OF CONCERN

CAROLE DORMAN 5472 4429

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child are concerned about the spread of "baby boxes" in Europe. These are special receptacles placed outside hospitals to allow abandoned babies to be left and cared for. In the past 10 years 200 have been installed across Europe in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Poland, Czech Republic and Latvia. Since the year 2000 four hundred children have been abandoned in hatches. Faith groups and right wing politicians are leading the revival saying they are protecting a child's right to life. The UN would prefer to see the hatches replaced with better access to family planning, counselling and support for unplanned babies.

We had an update on South Sudan from Vic Say on the 13th July. Vic began by asking whether the feelings of those who attended were pessimistic or optimistic of Sudan's future. The pessimists outnumbered the optimists but not by many.

The UN presence and oil revenue are the plusses but South Sudan stopped oil production in January this year because Sudan wanted \$32 for each barrel of oil that went through their pipelines to the Red Sea. This has resulted in an income loss of about \$2billion. There is an increasing refugee problem of people fleeing across the border from Sudan because of hunger and conflict. Tribal conflict will take years to overcome but the UN is able to intervene to help settle disputes.

In May this year 200 Sudanese troops defected to South Sudan refusing to attack disputed oilfields in South Sudan. Many of the troops were from South Sudan. The South Sudanese government is introducing legislation to make mining successful and transparent in an attempt to avoid corruption. Access to education is increasing but there are classes of 200 students and there are no schools outside the capital of Juba. Vic took another vote at the end of the session and one pessimist had graduated to cautiously optimistic.

Alan Fel's report on the taxi industry is welcome but the feeling is that the recommendations are relevant to Melbourne and should not be applied to country areas where it was felt that service is much better.

Are we supposed to admire Clive Palmer's statement that he considers it his moral duty to ban pensioners from gambling on the Titanic 2 he is planning on building? It may not matter, as a writer to the Age is planning on building a replica iceberg.

OBE LUNCHEON CLUB (OVER EIGHTIES)

EILEEN PARK 54725213

Our **August 8th** luncheon will be held at Skydancers' Café and Gardens at Harcourt. Members are requested to contact Eileen for bookings by August 6th, and for transport if necessary.

On **September 12th** we will have lunch at a nearby café and then visit the Art Gallery. Anyone wishing to join us at these events are welcome. Contact Eileen on the above phone number.

OPERA – AN OCCASIONAL EVENING SERIES

VIC SAY 5472 1841

Friday 3rd August 7 pm – Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny – As this work was listed for July, we will listen to it in August. For notes, please see the July Newsletter.

REQUIEM AND THEN ...?

VIC SAY 5472 1841

Friday 3rd August 1-30 - Russian Orthodox Requiem and Liturgy

If you love the deep, dark tones of Russian male voices this is one to sit and listen to - it is the first time we have heard this work together.

Friday 17th August 1-30 - Antonio Lotti 1667 - 1740 - Requiem in F major

Another first for our group, this requiem is regarded as remarkable for its sheer abundance of invention, sometimes involving eight-part harmony. Many of his works are not yet available in modern editions, but are to be found in libraries all over Europe. Although his career revolved around the Cathedral of San Marco in Venice, he was also in Dresden for a period.

SINGING TOGETHER

RAE HAWKINS 5472 3446

Our choir is continuing to practice the music we have to sing in the October combined U3A Seniors Concert in Melbourne Town Hall. Those choir members who were able to attend the meeting with director Andrew Wails on July 3rd in Melbourne, reported that it had been well worthwhile, being a very busy and informative day. Much information was gained. Arrangements are being made to practice with the Hepburn U3A choir, both in their venue and ours in Castlemaine. Altogether a very interesting time to be with the choir. Thanks to everyone for their enthusiasm and much needed assistance.

From Frank Pederick's Church Bulletins

(with apologies to our prestigious U3A choirs)

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

SOLO GROUP

BETTY HENCHMAN 5472 2139

Our **August** get-together will be at the home of Betty Henchman,
on Saturday the **18th** - **12.30 pm** as usual.

WAGNER'S RING CYCLE

VIC SAY 5472 1841

August 17th – 5pm at Felicity and Vic's home: Siegfried, the Sholti CD

Bring something to share for a light meal break and a torch to light your way going out.

September 28th – 5pm at Peter and Barry's home: Siegfried, the MetOpera DVD

Bring something to share for a light meal break. Note the change of week for this month.

TO KEEP YOU UP TO DATE ON SENIORS WEEK 2012



ENTRIES DUE IN BY THURSDAY 16TH AUGUST

Our free entries for the inaugural Seniors Short Memoirs Competition as part of the annual Seniors Festival are due in by Thursday 16th August. The maximum length for a story from your life is 1,500 words. It can be about a person important to you, childhood or school days, family, experiences in your working life, travel. You may have already written the story. Prizes are \$150, \$75 and \$50.

Full details of the rules of the competition and entry forms are available on the Noticeboard section of our webpage www.u3acastlemaine.com Entries should be posted by 5 pm, 16th August, to Short Memoir, P.O. Box 7, Castlemaine 3450. Entry forms are also available at the Library and the Castlemaine Mail office in Templeton Street. For more details, phone 5470 5681 and say you are calling about the Memoir Competition.



COME AND HAVE A FLUTTER!

Book your place in the coach for the Seniors Day in Bendigo on Thursday 4th October by phoning Elizabeth Rider, 5470 5681. The coach trip from the Market Building is being sponsored by the Seniors Week Planning Committee, and costs only \$5 (to be collected on the day) to the race track and back. Entry to the race day is free for Seniors.

A two-course lunch in the Silks Restaurant with a great view of the horses, costs \$25.

Phone the restaurant to book a place at the Castlemaine table – 5448 4209.