

**U3A**

**Third Thoughts**

**Castlemaine Inc (Est. 1988)**

**Volume 24 No 11**

**November 2012**

**Reg. A0017409G**

**U3A Castlemaine is in  
crisis.**

**We urgently need a President and a Secretary by the time of our November coffee morning.**

If these positions are not filled our December coffee morning will be our last. To continue into 2013 would be both illegal and impractical. If you value your membership and your educational and social contacts **NOW** is the time to volunteer.

Details of what is involved are on page 3 of this newsletter. There are plenty of people on the Committee or in U3A willing and able to help you.

If you can help or want more information contact:

Peter Stephens on 5472 3904 or [u3acastlemainepresident@gmail.com](mailto:u3acastlemainepresident@gmail.com)

Betty Johnson on 5472 3834 or [u3acastlemaineseecretary@gmail.com](mailto:u3acastlemaineseecretary@gmail.com)

**November Coffee Morning will be held in the Anglican Church Hall**

*It is suggested that you enter from Forrest Street which is closest to the hall and safest.*

## U3A Castlemaine's information Website: [www.u3acastlemaine.com](http://www.u3acastlemaine.com)

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### U3A OFFICE DETAILS

The Office is at the Uniting Church Complex,  
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Office Hours are:

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Website: [www.u3acastlemaine.com](http://www.u3acastlemaine.com)

### Current 2013 Subscription Fee

**\$50.00** + \$10.00 for mailing of newsletter if  
required.

New 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 list of Volunteers  
on Page 3**

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.

## POSITION VACANT

### Presidents Role

The President is the leader and public face of U3A Castlemaine.

The role to an extent is what you want it to be. In terms of actual workload I have divided it up into things that I think are essential and those that can be delegated.

#### **Must dos are:**

Chair the Committee meetings including helping to shape the agenda and the debate and following up action items to ensure we do what we commit to do.

Build good working relationships with and between Committee members.

Being available to encourage and support the Committee, our volunteers and individual members. Attend Coffee mornings.

Some liaison with the U3A Network, regional U3As and local community groups

#### **Preferable but not strictly necessary:**

Convene or be a member of some Committee working groups.

Preside at Coffee mornings (this role could be rotated between a small group of volunteers) but the president must control the agenda and be present to answer questions if necessary.

Write a monthly report for the newsletter (a small number of volunteers might be prepared to do this) but the President should control the message. Also, some U3A and community liaison.

### Secretary's role

It is a great job on the Committee especially if you enjoy using your computer.

- The busiest time is usually at the beginning of the year for the first 3 or 4 months when there will be "New Members Welcome Kits" sent out.
- Drawing up the monthly Agenda for the Committee meetings.
- Collecting and sorting mail from the post box.
- Checking all emails from the Secretary's email address.
- Filing documents in folders held at the Office

So there you are – not all that onerous but it needs someone with a bit of time to spare. Here's hoping a member will be willing to take on this role.

I will certainly give that person all the help needed.

~ Betty Johnson

### **November Coffee Morning Volunteers**

**Elizabeth Rider**

**Sue and Mike Spacey**

**Joe and Julia Scoglio**

**Judy Sime**



**Deadline for the December 2012 Newsletter is 3pm Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

## CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR ALL

When: 7 December

Where: Uniting Church Hall

What to bring: Our theme is self catered lunch so please bring a festive plate enough for 4 people.

The menu is: salads, vegetable combinations (including rice, couscous or potato salads), quiches or other pies, desserts of all varieties, cheese and fruit.

**PLEASE NOTE: Would you email your preferred category (ie salad/dessert etc) to the office or nominate what you will bring at the November meeting. If you cannot attend please let us know that as well!!**

The committee will organise platters of cold meats, bread and cold beverages.

This is a very happy end of year event and we will have some stunning entertainment.

Do make sure you come!

Any questions: please ring Sally Kaptein or Tom Comerford



### Under the Christmas Tree – Christmas Giving Appeal

In the spirit of the festive season please make a donation to those less fortunate than ourselves. As has been a tradition of the past few years, at our December break up, a Christmas tree will be set up under/beside which members are requested to place a donation to this Christmas appeal. Whilst a monetary gift is preferred, if you wish to leave a present or food item that is equally acceptable. If you are donating money could you please put it in a sealed envelope.

All donations this year will be given to the Castlemaine Salvation Army for distribution among the local charities.

'U3A UKETTES',

The Beginners ukulele class, giving their maiden performance during Seniors Week.



## 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday October 2013

We have a theme '**Seize the Day**' and lots of ideas for the proposed debate with Castlemaine Secondary College. Speakers, music, a fabulous lucky draw prize and so much more.

Now we need a small team of enthusiasts to weave it all altogether.

### Would YOU like to be part of that??

If you would enjoy being part of the team please leave your name at the office or ring Sally Kaptein on 5470 6340

– and **NO**, you will not be overworked!!



U3A members and friends who had a great day out at the Seniors Race Day in Bendigo, thanks to the Shire Council who subsidised the coach trip.



### T. S. ELIOT

EILEEN PARK 5472 5213

Members of the T.S. Eliot short course, where there was much very interesting discussion of Old Possums Book of Cats, Murder in the Cathedral and Alfred J. Prufrock.

## **HOLIDAY PROGRAM JANUARY 2013**

The Committee has agreed that this year there should be a minimal holiday program, so that those of us who are not going to be minding grandchildren keep in touch.

I have prepared an empty calendar for the month and will pin this up at the next coffee morning. At the moment this shows those groups that will keep going during January, and lots of blank spaces for other imaginative things.

For example, although the film group will keep going, I am proposing to show a film one evening, at my home. Someone else might like to have a scrabble afternoon, a picnic at ???, an outing to ??? etc. etc. If you would like to do something, please enter your proposed group on your preferred date, or telephone me prior to 23 November so that I can enter it.

Traditionally, all groups are open to all members and their visitors, though I suggest that you ring Hans about a partner if you fancy playing Bridge during the holiday.

Ann Lodge

### OPERA – AN OCCASIONAL EVENING SERIES

VIC SAY 5472 1841

Fri November 2nd -7pm - Salome - on DVD -or you can listen in the other room and follow the libretto if you prefer. **Salome**, Op. 54, is an opera in one act by Richard Strauss to a German libretto by the composer, based on Hedwig Lachmann's German translation of the French play *Salomé* by Oscar Wilde.

The opera was infamous at the time of its premiere for its "Dance of the Seven Veils". It is now better known for the more shocking final scene where Salome declares her love to – and kisses – the severed head of John the Baptist.

We have two versions, the first which we intend to watch, is set in Biblical times; in the second, which seems to be set in something like a Nazi whore house, John the Baptist is beheaded by a naked swordsman, we can look at the final scene if people have the stomach for it (the version we are about to see in Melbourne, I understand, is set in a slaughter house, so maybe it would prepare us for the Melbourne production!).

### REQUIEM AND THEN ...?

VIC SAY 5472 1841

Friday 2 November 1.30pm- Britten's War Requiem

Friday 16 November 1.30pm- Sculthorpe's Australian requiem

Friday 7 December 1.30pm - to end the year for our program we will revisit the ever popular Faure Requiem - we will listen to a performance new to our group by Win's preferred European interpreter of these things, Philippe Herreweghe, in an "all French" production.

## WAGNER'S RING CYCLE

VIC SAY 5472 1841

Fri 16 Nov - DVD - Gotterdammerung - at Peter & Barry's - at 5pm -

Bring a plate with something to share for a light meal -

We plan to listen to and watch the whole cycle a couple of times next year before having a break in preparation for the live performances in Melbourne late in the year. We will program the full cycle on CD and on DVD, maybe on consecutive weeks. We will survey those interested to decide what is the best time of day to program these series in 2013, which will end our "short course over 4 years".

## SINGING TOGETHER

RAE HAWKINS 5472 3446

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, we had the exiting experience of singing in the Melbourne Town Hall, together with over four hundred other singers. A total of twenty-one U3A choirs took part.

We rehearsed all morning, and after too short a lunch-break, the long awaited concert began. We had a very good audience, enthusiastic and appreciative, and we were also able to catch up with our friends from the Hepburn choir. I am told that many of the audience had tears in their eyes when we sang Mozart's "Ave Verum".

A group of very tired but exhilarated Castlemaine U3A members climbed aboard the bus taking us home.

Some comments from our choir members:

*"Some went down by bus while others travelled privately, but we all came together at the Town Hall, and had a great time. The day flew". "A fantastic experience".*

*"What an uplifting experience and privilege, to have taken part in such a thrilling event. Who would have thought that by being part of U3A something like this would happen".*

On Cup Day, the choir will be singing several of the concert songs in Peggy Monro's garden, beginning at about 2pm, then our next job is to choose some songs for Christmas, and make plans for our Christmas break-up day. I think everyone is looking forward to next year. I know I am.

## SOLO GROUP

BETTY HENCHMAN 5472 2139

**Please note that the November gathering will be at the home of Dot Henshall on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> at the usual time.**

## FRIDAY MORNING GARDEN GROUP

SHIRLEY CURNOW 5472 1729

For our outing in October we went to the protea garden in Harcourt and had an interesting and enjoyable time.

We have a little problem in November; rather than meeting on the THIRD Friday we will gather at our normal spot in the UCA car park at 10am on the SECOND Friday (9th November) and then go as a group to several of the gardens in the Castlemaine Open Gardens programme. It should be a great day.

## BRITISH LITERATURE

DIANA COLLIER 5443 0137

The King James version of the Bible, published in 1611, is a translation of many translations of the Bible, of which William Tyndale's in 1525 is regarded as the most significant. Tyndale a devout follower of Luther in a reign in which to be a Protestant was likely to be fatal, was strangled and his body was burned at the stake. Henry VIII of course (when it was equally dangerous to be Catholic, endorsed the Tyndale Bible.

It is interesting to look at the King James Bible with its elegant English as literature Tyndale's mind and expression is behind most of it. It has been suggested that he may have been as creative a writer as Shakespeare.

In the latter part of James 1 (VI of Scotland) reign, and early 17th Century the Metaphysical School of poetry was cultivated. This group is characterised by a knowledge of foreign styles, depth of learning and above all, wittiness. These poets, of whom, the most outstanding is John Donne, specialised in a 'conceit' meaning a daring idea or concept, original and unique. The extravagance in the poetry has offended some, and Samuel Johnson says the "most heterogeneous ideas are yoked together by violence". Later and by contrast T.S.Eliot, arguably the greatest poet of 20th Century, described such poets as having an "undissociated sensibility". He it was who celebrated and vindicated the Metaphysical poets for the 20th century.

The last session in November is expected to be 7th Nov./ slight chance 14th Nov.

## OCTOBER COMMITTEE MEETING

Despite the critical vacancies of President and Secretary the Committee concentrated on the here and now and on early 2013. We welcomed Bev Orgill, George Gray and Martin LaFitte to the the Committee. Given the concerns with mounting costs we spent some time considering photocopier usage and better use of the Octopus.

The Special Events working group presented plans for our Christmas lunch and some of its plans for 2013 and for our 25th birthday celebrations.

Many will be pleased to hear that Ann Lodge has volunteered to co-ordinate a holiday program.

Due to time constraints the suggestion box items were held over.

On a sombre note the Committee concluded that it cannot continue in 2013 if the President and Secretary positions are not filled.

## ABORIGINAL HISTORY

FELICITY SAY 5472 1841

### ABORIGINAL HISTORY - OUR SHARED HISTORY

#### NOVEMBER 6th. - CUP DAY

As a consequence of the Public Holiday, there will be no class today.

#### NOVEMBER 20th.

Following an earlier postponement, we are fortunate to have as a guest speaker, the linguist, artist and illustrator, Jenny Green. Jenny has worked extensively in Central Australia for more than 25 years and has carried out much research on Aboriginal languages, ethnography and cultural history.

Most recently, she has embarked on a linguistics PhD project through Melbourne University to document sand talk among the Arrernte, Alyawarre, Anmatyeerre and Kaytetye people. Her early findings are that there are a variety of distinct traditional forms as well as a lively contemporary practice.

## U3A ART GROUP ACTIVITIES

PEGGY MUNRO 5472 2086

### Seniors Week

We gathered together on the sheltered side of ray Bradfield rooms to share our enthusiasm for our group. We made cards with printing techniques and collage. From our vantage spot we could see the BBQ, the stage and most of the crowd. Because it was so cold, not many visitors were going to try some activity of their own but we encouraged a few to join in as we had a good supply of our own members to man the table. We all had a chance to wander off and see what others were doing. I thought the Line dancing was great and that it would make a good physical activity for our own U3A but then I thought "Could we remember all the steps?"

My thanks to our artists who helped and to other U3A members who stopped and talked to us.

## CUP WEEK

**MONDAY:** our artists will be there making more cards and doing their own work, in the garden, the house and in the gallery space.

**TUESDAY:** about cup time, 3.30pm the U3A Castlemaine Singers will perform on the veranda. After their splendid efforts in the Melbourne Town Hall, they will be in fine form. Do join us for this event: a stroll around the garden, a glimpse in the gallery, a drink or afternoon tea.

**THURSDAY:** some card players will enjoy their game in the house. Perhaps the Photograph and Digital Imaging group will come to explore the possibilities in the garden.

**EVERY DAY** there is lots to see so do come. It's free for U3A members.

**CUP WEEK**  
**OUR GROUP WILL HOLD**  
**AN EXHIBITION**  
**AND SALE OF OUR**  
**WORK**  
**(WITH CARDS FOR SALE TOO)**  
**AT**  
**BURNETT GALLERY**  
**BURNETT ROAD,**  
**CASTLEMAINE**  
**10 TILL WHENEVER.**  
**5-11 NOVEMBER 2012**

## AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

GEOFF WALKER 5470 6652

In October we had an interesting presentation from Clive on the use of explosives in the business of goldmining in our area in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and the most interesting bit is that a good part of the old storage building is still in our midst. In the second session Geoff, using a set of slides that he prepared in the 1980s, to give an account of many of the public buildings that were built in Maldon in the gold days, and are still in use.

The sessions in November will be at 2.00pm on Monday 12th, and Monday 26th. At the first gathering, at the home of Geoff and Beth, Keith will let us into some of the secrets of the water systems in our area, a part of our local infrastructure since the gold days. At the second session Graeme will present a study and it will be held at the home of Graeme and Jane in Barkers Creek.

## ISSUES OF CONCERN

CAROLE DORMAN 5472 4429

Domestic security vs privacy came in for some discussion when the Australian Securities and Investment Commission requested that phone and internet data, including emails, social media posts and text messages, be made available to fight white collar crime. This, apparently is more power than the Australian Federal Police and ASIO have sought. A Parliamentary Inquiry is examining plans to force telecommunication companies to store details of the phone and internet use of every Australian for 2 years.

Who'd be a scientist in Italy? Seven scientists face 4 years each in prison for failing to predict the L'Aquila earthquake in April. They have been charged with manslaughter. In 2011 5000 scientists from around the world wrote to the Italian President criticising the trial.

In Iran women have been banned from taking any of 77 university courses which include physics and the sciences.

The Grameen Bank of Bangladesh was started by Professor Muhammad Yunus and has changed the lives of the poor, rural population by lending small amounts of money to allow them to start small businesses and lifting themselves out of grinding poverty. An attempt has been made recently by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (a woman) for the government to take over the bank. The Prime Minister sees Professor Yunus as a potential political rival because of his enormous popularity among millions of rural people. A few years ago the Professor said he would form a political party and seek office but he has not done so. Professor Yunus fears a government takeover would finish the bank that has helped so many people.

Some elderly people are shoplifting and driving unregistered cars because of cost of living pressures.

There is a panel of 20 people who decided what goes into the Diagnostic Manual for Mental Illness. Six of them work for pharmaceutical companies and researchers. Inclusions are likely to be biased in favour of drugs and research.

The next time you talk to telemarketer just remember that they are trained to say "yes" to every question you ask about the product they are selling.

Geese were transported in an aircraft to a location in Russia for a publicity stunt Mr. Putin took part in. The geese were expected to fly home under their own power but they refused so the aircraft had to take them back.

## MUSIC APPRECIATION

BRUCE BAUD 5472 4574

Today's music was made up of 10 short pieces with one major work to end the mornings programme. The first composer was Guiseppe Tarini (1692 - 1770) with his Trumpet Concerto in D Major originally written for violin, but often appropriated by trumpeters. Probably his best known work is the " Devils Trill Sonata". Next came an oboe concerto by one of the 2 Marcello Brothers, Alessandro born 1669 or Benedetto born 1686, both nobly born . It is generally thought the work was written by Alessandro. Following on was that wonderful Welsh song Land Of My Fathers sung by Paul Robeson with that great bass voice. Robson was an amusing film star, footballer, Shakespearian actor and an inspiration to his Negro- American race. Then we had the Irish tenor Josef Loche with his rendition of 'Goodbye ' from 'The White Horse Inn'. Loche had a distinctive tenor voice , and was a popular recording artist of the 1940s-50s. Camille Saint-saens (1851-1921) was next with the Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso, a very popular concert piece and a pleasure to listen to. Then followed Fritz Kreisler' s 'Caprice Viennois ', often used by violinists as an encore. Jussi Bjorling sang an aria from Tosca which was good to hear his beautiful tenor voice. Then there was a song from Father Sydney McEwan , 'Ho - ro my nut brown maiden'. This was followed by 'Today is the happiest day of my life' sung by Joseph Schmidt. To conclude the mornings music we had the Brahm's Violin Concerto in D Major Opus 77, first performed in 1897 with Brahms conducting and his good friend violinist Joseph Joachim as soloist. The Concerto is rated with the top 4 which includes Bruch, Beethoven , Menelsson. A very enjoyable mornings music. October 3/10/2012 Brian Willis

### Grampians Visit

18 members of U3A Castlemaine spent the first weekend in October at Halls Gap in the Grampians. Most of our members visited the Brambulk Cultural Centre and the superb wild flower displays at both Halls Gap and Pomonal. Many of us visited the Heatherlie Quarry site from whence came the stone to build Melbourne's parliament building and town hall - a site new to Christobel and me even though we must have visited the Grampians at least a hundred times before. Perhaps the highlight for us was the tour of orchid sites organized by the Friends of Grampians Gariwerd. We saw, amongst others, donkey orchids, spider orchids, leopard orchids, greenhood orchids and a unique native hybrid crimson sun orchid. We learned that orchids do best in disturbed soils and hence many of the best sites are at the roadside. Before leaving on Sunday most of group drove up to the McKenzie Falls and walked to the Broken Falls. We all found the accommodation at Norval House to be most comfortable and the food provided most appetising and more than we could eat. It was a most pleasurable experience for us all. Who knows we may even be able to do it again in 2013.

Tom Comerford



*Dear Members of the Castlemaine U3A,*

*Lenore was overwhelmed by the very many beautiful cards that she received in the weeks between her diagnosis of cancer and her death. I have also been very supported by the many well wishes that I have received since her death. Many messages recounted happy occasions shared and were very supportive of her involvement in the various classes and activities that she had participated in with U3A. These cards and letters were reread many times over and decorated the space around her bed in the various wards. It has given us great joy to hear the many tributes to her life as well as to hear of peoples responses to her Thanksgiving Service.*

*U3A was a very important part of her life and many friends that we have made within this group have helped to provide us with a great deal of support at a very traumatic time in our lives.*

*On behalf of our family, thank you for your support and sharing in the celebration of Lenore's life.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Alan Bull*



Members share a meal during the recent trip to the Grampians.

### **Dates for your Diary**

**Visit to Castlemaine by Stonnington Orchestra on Sunday 18th November**