

U3A

Third Thoughts
Castlemaine Inc. (Est 1988)

Volume 25 No 11

November 2010

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Outgoing Committee members attended their first meeting after the AGM to welcome the new Committee Members for October 2010 to October 2011 to the first Committee meeting. They are (left to right) Win Jodell, Course Coordinator ; new member, Barbara Bunton; new Vice President, Pat Milthorpe; new President, Peter Stephens; new member, Val Case; outgoing Eva Haarbarger, who has coordinated the U3A Support Group; new Secretary, Betty Johnson; Treasurer, Sue Turner; outgoing Joe Scoglio, who acted as office manager for most of 2010 year and coordinated the Winter Holiday Program; and Marion Taubman, a past secretary, who stepped in to take on secretarial duties while Judy Sime, who has been secretary for the past year, has been overseas. Not in the picture are Judy Sime, who was still away, and Elizabeth Rider, who is the outgoing newsletter editor, and who will stay on the Committee. Tom Comerford, the immediate Past President, took the photo. Tom remains on the Committee.



Frank Pederick, Grace McCaughie and Peggy Munro put their hands up to help with the newsletter until a new Editor is in place.



CHANGE

**OF VENUE FOR COFFEE
MORNING, 10 am
FRIDAY 5 NOVEMBER**

**We will meet at the Senior
Citizens Centre, Chewton.**

**THE TRADING TABLE AND THE
RAFFLE WILL BE THERE!**

You can see the newsletter in colour on the webpage www.u3acastlemaine.com a few days before the U3A Coffee Morning on the first Friday of each month.

Committee Members

President: Peter Stephens 5472 3904
U3acastlemainepresident@gmail.com

Vice President: Pat Milthorpe 5470 5050
U3acastlemainevicepresident@gmail.com

Secretary: Betty Johnson 5473 3834
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Treasurer: Sue Turner 5472 1015
U3acastlemainetreasurer@gmail.com

Course Coordinator: Win Jodell 5472 3792
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Newsletter Editor: *Still to be appointed*
u3acastlemainenews@gmail.com

Past President: Tom Comerford 5470 6230
tomchris@mmnet.com.au

Barbara Bunton 5472 3186
bunwilbar@gmail.com

Val Case 5472 1656
valeriacase37@yahoo.co.uk

Prue Cole 5472 5054
pruecole@gcom.net.au

Elizabeth Rider 5470 5681
anneliz123@aapt.net.au

Members are welcome to contact the Secretary if they want to include an item on the Committee meeting agenda.

Special Responsibilities

- *Office Manager – Judy Sime 5472 3756
- *Webmaster – Bruce Carruthers 5472 3900
bruce@keepngitsimple.com.au
- *U3A Network Rep - Sally Kaptein 5470 6340
- * Membership Officer - Veronica Hurley 5472 1383
- *Computer Convenor - Shane Doyle 5472 4017
- *Acmi Representative – Felicity Say 5472 1841
- *Cake Raffle Roster – Marie Twyford 5474 2739
- *Coffee Morning Supplies – Lyn Hall 5472 2316
- *Tributes – Barbara Robinson 5474 2121
- *Trading Table – Bev Potter 5472 3950

THANK YOU TO YOU ALL!

U3A CONTACT DETAILS

The office is at the Uniting Church Complex, Lyttleton Street.

Office Hours are Mondays, 1.30 – 3.30
 Tuesdays, 1.30 – 3.30
 Wednesdays, 10– 12
 Phone: 5472 22349.

Webpage: www.u3acastlemaine.com

The Deadline for the December newsletter is Monday, 22 November at 3 p.m.

THE email ADDRESS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS
u3acastlemainenews@gmail.com

If this is difficult, leave articles at the office before the deadline.

Friday Coffee Morning Roster

5 November Solo Whist, Table Tennis, Tai Chi
 Note: The venue is the Chewton Seniors Citizens Centre

3 December Christmas break up. Prospectus 2011 is issued.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Dick Turner

Jacqui Turnbull

John Harris,

Gretchen Gosling.

Membership for 2011 is now open

PLEASE INFORM THE OFFICE OF ANY CHANGE IN YOUR CONTACT DETAILS. The Membership Officer keeps the database up to date so we can communicate with all our members and keep you up to date.



Hello fellow members!
 Many of you will be asking "Who is this new president and what are his hopes for the organisation?" Fair questions given that this is only my second year as a member and that I have, as yet, still to meet many of you .

~ PRESIDENT'S JOTTINGS ~

I joined Tom's Dabbling in History class in 2009 and convened that group this year.

Apart from these my other interests are reading and gardening, although Bronwen does most of the work in the garden while I enjoy the benefits.

My experience is in administration and management and I was fortunate at 40 to have a career change and be part of the establishment of the corporate trustee of superannuation schemes for Telstra employees. My final role there was Corporate Services Manager but at various times I did most roles in the company except the specialised roles of finance and investment management. Bronwen's career between rearing children was midwifery.

By nature I am a team player and my experience is that teamwork is the only way to successfully run any complex organisation. Good teams can be slow to deliver results as they can take time to coalesce, but in the longer term outperform brilliant individuals or demanding autocrats. To achieve this I will look to encourage and support your committee and our volunteers and I hope you do too.

Like me , many of the committee are new but we are all determined to do our best and we have some experienced wise heads to help us. If we make mistakes be positive in your criticism and gentle in your correction .

I hope the next 12 months is rewarding and enjoyable for us all.

~ Peter Stephens

I moved to Castlemaine in May 2008 with my wife, Bronwen, having long ago fallen in love with the landscapes, history, architecture and small towns of the Goldfields region. Castlemaine seemed, and has proven to be, a great place to retire to (although since taking on the presidency, retirement already seems a distant memory). I guess we are typical of the new wave of settlers, city slickers looking for tranquility and a sense of community that big cities lost long ago but close enough to Melbourne to visit family at a moment's notice.

We joined U3A, I suspect, for the same reasons many of you joined - to pursue our interests with like minded people. And if my hopes for U3A Castlemaine can be summed up in a few words they are to maintain a vibrant and friendly learning organisation.

U3A has enabled me to follow two of my great interests. Firstly the English Language , particularly its development and the twists and turns it makes exemplified by changes in the meaning and the spelling of words (a dictionary is my favourite book). Secondly history - with a fascination for ancient Mediterranean civilisations (so much of Western civilisation comes from the fertile intermingling of the Near East, Egyptian, Greek and Roman ideas and practices) and European history from the Middle Ages onwards.

FROM THE COURSE COORDINATOR

This is a busy time of year with a new Committee learning the ropes and preparations for the Prospectus 2011 under way. Applications to join our team of U3A Course Leaders have revealed some new and interesting sessions. Most of the favourite courses will continue. At the time of writing there are some tutors who need to be chased up for their applications and I will phone them in the days ahead.

Let me remind you the Apple Mac sessions now include a separate hour of photography tuition; all PC classes continue at the Octopus; Jill Loorham is looking for members who would like to reacquaint themselves with past tennis skills! Phone her on 5474 3206.

Please remember the Uniting Church Complex is not available from 29th October until 17th November due to examinations.

~ Win Jodell

POETRY READING

This has been a long running U3A group for poetry enthusiasts. Eileen Park, who has been Class Leader, is standing down at the end of 2010. Thank you Eileen for conducting this course over the years.

This presents an opportunity for another person to lead a U3A Poetry Group. And the emphasis could change. For instance Women Poets for one term; Shakespeare for a term; Romantic Poets; Metaphysical Poets; Poems with themes such as: ships and the sea; nature's splendour; city living; love poems. The list is endless. And it is all up to you.

Don't let this opportunity pass, put your thinking cap on, discuss it with a friend.
Try something new!

Please contact Win Jodell on 54723792 so she can include Poetry Reading in the 2011 Prospectus.

Third Thoughts Needs an Editor

This issue of *Third Thoughts* is done in the WORD program, but it can be put together in any way that suits you.

We won't pretend it doesn't take time and some computer skills, BUT it's fun to do, and it's rewarding to see a useful, concrete result each month.

You will have plenty of support!

If you are interested please contact the President, Peter Stephens.

NOTE A detailed list of Income and Expenditure is on the next page.

Look for Sue's wonderful coloured pie chart on the webpage!

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2009- 2010

In the year to 30 June 2010 we have seen a steady growth in our membership so subscriptions yielded 50% of our total income. There has been an increase in funds raised from the trading table and cake raffle at our monthly coffee mornings. Sales of our history book raised over \$1000.

We made fewer applications for grant money in this financial year so there was a decrease in total grants received. Our membership increase and the expansion of the range of classes resulted in greater class expenses and room rental costs.

More than 30% of the outgoings were administration costs. In the year ahead we will look at this complex section and separate specific class expenses from office expenses. The \$500 bookkeeping cost was the result of setting up a new way to handle our financial records. This item will be much reduced in the next financial year now that the system is in place. The challenge to find more suitable and less expensive venues for our increasing numbers of courses is ongoing.

At 30 June, 2010, our members' equity, ie the wealth of U3A Castlemaine, was \$25,280. This is made up of monies in the cheque account, the investment account, petty cash on hand and the term deposit of \$16,764.

U3A Castlemaine has a major asset sitting in our office – 448 copies of our history book. We have paid all the costs of producing this book so every single sale now is money in the bank. I believe that we should all consider coming up with creative ways to sell this book in the next financial year as a major fundraiser for our organisation.

I wish to thank our former treasurer Hans van Gemert for his guidance and patience at our changeover time last October and our auditor Brenda Envall for her support and advice to me in my first ever treasurer's position.

~ Susan M. Turner, September 2010

U3A Castlemaine Inc. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 30/9/2009 - 30/9/2010

INCOME	
MEMBERSHIP	12,658
GRANTS	4,609
CLASS LEVIES	2,235
SPECIAL EVENTS	1,875
FUNDRAISING	1,342
HISTORY BOOK SALES	1,164
OTHER INCOME	1,281
TOTAL INCOME	25,164
EXPENDITURE	
ADMINISTRATION	8,422
RENT	8,170
SPECIAL EVENTS	3,980
CLASS EXPENSES	3,360
NEWSLETTER	2,032
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	25,964

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A DAY AT THE RACES IN SENIORS WEEK

The parking was free. The entrance was free. A race book for everyone was free. The lunch and the drinks were very reasonable, and I think that we paid for those with our winnings!

It was a great day, with lots of give-aways, excitement, colour and noise. Most of the people at the track that day were Seniors and by making a booking for lunch we had an upstairs view of everything. The balcony just outside the window was almost directly above the finishing line and so we had a good opportunity to see our horses come home. Everything was conveniently right there - the bar, the toilets, the TAB.

On the way up to Bendigo Betty and I bought the Bendigo "Addie" so we could pick our horses for the day. I guess we all had a different system (or none at all) because we seemed to make different bets and had different successes on different races. I did really well on the last race and recouped my money for the day. This was an exciting occasion and we will look forward to next year's event as we plan to go again.

~ Peggy Munro

We watched the horses coming in from the Silks Restaurant balcony - all part of a memorable day at the races. It was most enjoyable - especially winning enough on the first race to finance the rest of the day and get home with some in my pocket! Sponsored by APIA, Australian Pensioners Insurance especially for Seniors Week, \$20 included entry, a race book, and good lunch with a wonderful view of the racetrack. Six of us went from Castlemaine U3A. I hope that next year, a lot more of us will go and have a good time at Seniors Race Day.

~ Elizabeth Rider

'What Size Australia? The Role of Regions in Australia's Growth'



Tom Comerford (second right) our immediate past president, organised a well attended symposium as a joint contribution from U3A and Buda. The discussion, backed with thoroughly researched facts and figures, gave real food for thought on population and planning trends for the future. What will Castlemaine look like in years to come? Will there be significant migration to country towns from the cities? Who is moving? What will we be looking for in our health services and in education for our young people, what kind of planning schemes will the council implement for new residential areas? On the panel were (left to right) **Fiona McMahon**, Mount Alexander Shire's Manager of Sustainable Development, **Mary McPherson**, principal of Castlemaine Secondary College, **Graem Kelly**, CEO of Castlemaine Health, and Associate Professor **Trevor Budge** of La Trobe University, whose field is urban, rural, regional and strategic planning.

ABORIGINAL HISTORY - OUR SHARED HISTORY Felicity Say 5472 1841.

2nd. NOVEMBER- MELBOURNE CUP DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY - THERE WILL NOT BE A CLASS TODAY.

16th. NOVEMBER We will listen to a program which focuses on Melbourne's inner city urban area of Fitzroy which became a hub for Aboriginal people from the early 20th. century on, as they were either banished or fled from the missions across the state, many of whose lives we've traced in our class, in recent months.

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY Geoff Walker, 5470 6652

For the sessions in October, Geoff followed the journey of David Fletcher Jones and the growth of Warrnambool, Lisa Hales traced the story of John Hepburn, who has left a name that is well known in Central Victoria.

At our first meeting in November Geoff Walker will present a study of Henry Bastow, who was the architect of many of the state schools that were erected around Victoria after 1872. At the second meeting Graeme Quinn will unveil some of the secrets about a former Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser.

The sessions will be at 2 pm on Monday, 8 and 22 November at the home of Geoff and Beth, 9 Lyttleton Street. You will be most welcome.

ART/DRAWING



Members of the Art Drawing group caught busy preparing for their public exhibition. They will exhibit their work at Peggy Munro's Studio in Burnett Road during the Festival of Gardens, which goes from 30 October to 7 November, when Peggy's garden will also be on show.

The U3A choir will sing at Peggy's property on Wednesday, 3 November, and on the Thursday, there will be card games.

Get in touch with Peggy on 5472 2086 for more information or go along to 22 Burnett Road, Castlemaine.

DABBLING IN HISTORY Peter Stephens 5472 3904

In October we continued our look at Europe in the 1930s with a particular focus on the causes and progress of the Spanish Civil War. The concept that Spain was a battlefield between two powerful ideologies of the time, fascism and communism, and in some ways the opening stages of World War 2, was discussed in depth. We also had time to discuss a group often overlooked - the Republican refugees who fled to France when the war ended. It is strange that this period in history always arouses great interest and discussion, perhaps because it almost happened in our life time and we have strong memories of it through books, films and our parents.

In November Fred will be leading us in a history of Surinam, a former South American colony of the Netherlands. His parents almost migrated there at the end of World War 2.

Our group has decided to continue in December and we will finally look at the exploration and colonisation of New Zealand or, perhaps, the history of modern Cyprus.

FAMILY HISTORY/GENEALOGY**Veronica Hurley 54721383**

Family History has finished for this year but if any members wish to pursue a particular line I'd be happy to work with them at the Octopus. Just phone me.

HORTICULTURE**Peggy Munro 54 722 086**

For our penultimate outing the group is going to the Trentham area to visit Dennis Norgate's field nursery. All the plants are growing in the ground and Dennis is usually very generous with the plants he digs up for his customers. The soil his plants are growing in is very different from Castlemaine soil and everyone needs to be reminded that that soil must be washed off all plants before they are planted in our gardens. There is usually a very good selection of perennials to choose from and they are not too expensive.

While in the Trentham area we hope to find a couple of topiary nurseries too, so we should have a good afternoon.

We will meet at the Uniting Church at 1.30 to car pool, so look forward to our group being there for this excursion. If other U3A members would like to go with us, roll up on Friday, 19 November. Everyone is welcome to come.

ISSUES THAT CONCERN**Carol Dorman 5472 4429**adorm@netcon.net.au

October has been an unusual one for us. Early in month our groups visited Kyneton to hear Professor Ross Garnaut speak. His talk ranged from the 19th Century trade between Britain and China to present trade, finance and the military situation.

On 22 October we attended a symposium at Buda, where we heard about change in our society based on information from the last census. It was organised largely by U3A as part of the Seniors Festival. With 30 years experience analysing census figures, graphs and charts, Trevor Budge of La Trobe University, helped us gain an overview of where we have come from, where we are now and a guess about the future. One of the stories he told was of a town in population decline but experiencing a building boom. How come? The kids had left home and Mum and Dad wanted a smaller home.

Representatives from Castlemaine Secondary College, the Council and our hospital provided interesting local information and stories. Other sessions in October followed our usual discussion format. Topics included factory farming, possible solutions for the problem of the Old Castlemaine Goal and government finances.

~ Alan

Bull

MEMOIR WRITING**Elizabeth Rider 5470 5681**

When members read their contributions to the weekly group sessions, some make us laugh, some draw exclamations at the unexpected twists of life, and we wipe away a tear at some. We aim for writing that engages us, makes us feel with the characters, takes us into the story, even if it is of everyday events. Everyone's experiences, even if they feel ordinary, can be intriguing. We are each building up a folder of work of our own stories that are a record of parts of our lives. We are trying to develop the skills, thought and craft that goes into writing well. Part of the pleasure and pain of writing is the concentration and effort involved.

What will we do with the writing we have done? Each of us has different ideas about who we are writing it for and when we want them to read it! Some of us are writing for the family. Some of us may have secret ambitions to be published authors – best selling of course! Now and then some of us enjoy stepping out of memoirs into fiction. It is an interesting challenge to use memoirs as a basis for fiction.

U3A Castlemaine Inc. Third Thoughts, November 2010

OPERA - AN OCCASIONAL EVENING SERIES **Vic Say 5472 1841**

Operas for the Friday evenings of the U3A the coffee mornings, at 7pm:

Friday, 5 November: Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro

Friday, 3 December: Verdi's Rigoletto.

REQUIEM AND THEN ? **Vic Say 5472 1841**

5 November: Faure's Requiem; 19 November: Gounod's St Cecilia Mass

4 December: Saint-Saens' Oratorio de Noel

We meet on Fridays, at 1.30 pm after the U3A coffee morning and again two weeks later.

SINGING TOGETHER **Rae Hawkins 5472 3446**

As part of the Festival of Gardens, the choir will be singing at Peggy Munro's home on 3 November, beginning at about 1 pm. We have a program of 16 songs ranging from gospel to the Beatles, and we include calypso and one of the Australian carols.

Because of the school exams, we shall be singing at the home of one of our choir members on 9 and 16 November, but back in the Uniting Church Hall from 23 November until our Christmas break-up early in December. Past choir members would be welcome at the break-up on 7 December.

Singing Together will start up again in 2011 on the Tuesday after the February Coffee Morning.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON COMPUTER GROUP **Shayne Doyle 5472 4017**

This is a very friendly group where members learn from others' experiences as well as having expert tuition from Shayne.

We have covered: Some things I didn't know, that I needed to know; How to bid at the last second at an internet auction; How to compress a 'talking book' to one CD; How make to calls for free on the computer.

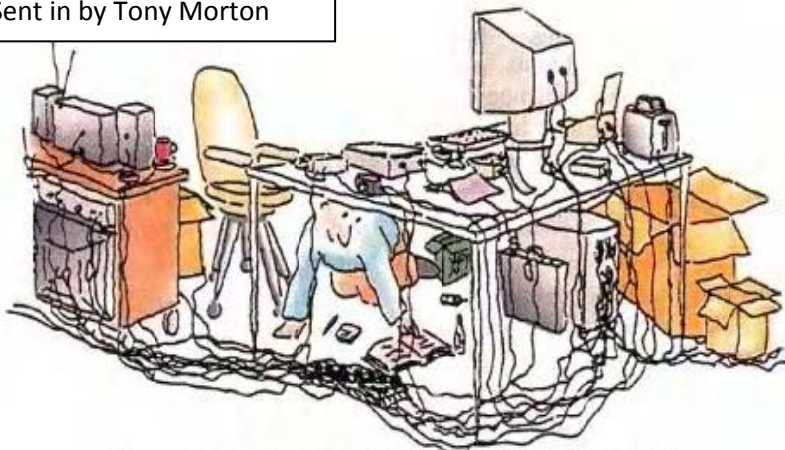
Thanks to Shayne for organizing this group throughout the year. I hope the group continues in the coming year. We will have less in common with the infamous, "We don't know what we don't know" Donald R.

We can still "Learn to say 'I don't know.' If used when appropriate, it will be often."

<http://politicalhumor.about.com/cs/quotethis/a/rumsfeldquotes.htm>

~ Trevor Wheeler

Sent in by Tony Morton



"Now, if you can find the power switch, flip it on."

