

U3A

Third Thoughts

Castlemaine Inc (Est. 1988)

Volume 24 No 7

July 2012

Reg. A0017409G

Dates for your Diary

July Coffee Morning Friday 6th @ 10 am

Guest Speaker: Dr Michael Bascombe – “Following the Inner Voice, a seeking Veterinarian whispering with animals”

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Cranbourne Trip

There are a few seats still available!

Friday August 31st An all day excursion to these magnificent gardens.

Cost: \$50 pp (includes coach, lunch and guided tour).

Please pay at the July Coffee morning or at the Office by July 6th.

Leaving Castlemaine at 8am sharp from IGA car park near the toilet area.

E.T.A. back at Castlemaine between 5 and 6 pm

Wheelchairs can be arranged should they be required.

Contact Sally Kaptein on 5470 6340.

Grampians Visit

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

Monday – Wednesday **8-10th October**

Noval House, Grampians Road, Halls Gap

Noval House has four single beds and en suite bathroom to each room.

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

\$50 (\$25 non-refundable) deposit secures your booking.

Should members prefer, it is possible to pay in \$50 instalments at Coffee mornings or during office hours.

Final payment must be made by Thursday September 13th

Visit to Castlemaine by Stonnington Orchestra in October

more information in coming newsletters.

Seniors Week October 7th – 14th

U3A Castlemaine's information Web Site: 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:

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 5 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

Thanks to everyone who attended the Special General Meeting and especially to those who spoke in support or against the constitutional changes. It is important that we provide a forum for all opinions at these types of meetings.

At the last Coffee Morning I briefly spoke about the need for new Committee members. The following office holders have decided to retire at the October Annual General Meeting:

- Barbara Bunton - Newsletter Editor
- Betty Johnson – Secretary, and
- Peter Stephens - President.

One or two Committee members will also step down. Even though the Committee is now reduced from 12 to 10 members there will be at least three vacancies. If you have an interest in joining the Committee please talk to a Committee member to get a realistic picture of the work involved or attend one of our meetings. Time and place of meetings are notified in each newsletter.

Apart from any special skills or experience you may have, I suggest you should also have the following attributes:

Reasonable health - we can't guarantee our health at retirement age but if your health is already compromised please don't jeopardise it further by volunteering for one of the more taxing roles such as Newsletter Editor. There are many other ways that you can contribute.

Time - you must have time to attend monthly Committee meetings (2-3 hours), convene or attend one or more working groups or supervise or participate in some U3A activity. Ideally you should also attend monthly coffee mornings.

Commitment - each Committee Member has some role beyond simple Committee attendance. The Committee will try to match your skills and preferences with an activity.

Co-operative Spirit - Like any team, the Committee works best when it works together.

If I haven't frightened you off there are two benefits that I can guarantee. There is no quicker or better way of turning acquaintances into friends and there is a great deal of enjoyment and satisfaction in making a contribution.

Perhaps you don't like the idea of being tied down, doing something on a whim without having to worry about U3A tasks. Have you thought of sharing a role with another member? Most U3A jobs can be shared. The splitting of the Course Co-ordinator into two roles this year has been a great success. The Treasurer's role is another that can be easily broken into two or even three jobs.

Please give this request thought. U3A can only be strong, vibrant and meet your expectations if it has a full complement of enthusiastic Committee members.

JUNE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee, at the June Meeting spent some money! It agreed to bundle and upgrade communications at the Office and the Octopus. It also agreed to replace the office TV, the obsolete Office computer and one of the Octopus computers. It was recognised that all computers at the Octopus need replacing and we are investigating funding options for this.

The Committee also agreed to contribute \$50 to the Seniors Week short memoir competition, subject to other organisations approached by the organisers making a contribution.

The Committee decided not to participate in an expression of interest to purchase and redevelop the Old Gaol, believing that at this time the plan is unrealistic for a consortium of community groups to undertake given the cost and scope of the work involved.

Deadline for the August 2012 Newsletter is 3pm Monday 23rd July

From the Course Co-ordinator

We are approaching the end of Semester One and some courses are going into hibernation for the winter. But, new courses will start and a popular course from Term 1 is being repeated. ***Understanding Your Local Council*** with Janet Cropley will return on Wednesdays 1 August to 19 September, 1 pm to 3 pm at the Uniting Church hall. The course looks at local government generally and Mount Alexander Shire specifically. Read Jennie Owen and David Sime's article about the course in the May Newsletter. ***Renewable Energy Efficiency in Your Home*** commences Friday 13 July facilitated by Michael Reeves and Jarra Hicks from Mount Alexander Sustainability Group (MASG), and our own Hans van Gemert. It will continue on Fridays until 10 August from 10am to 12noon at the Uniting Church hall. In October there is a four-session course on ***Sustainable Food Production*** also in conjunction with MASG, from 8 October at 11.30am to 1pm. New art courses commencing in Semester Two on Tuesdays are ***Tonal Exercises*** with Peggy Munro, 16 July to 20 August. ***Still Life Using Collage Techniques*** with Paula Pass, 27 August to 1 October; ***Portraits – Getting a Likeness*** with Marion Cooke, 8 October to 5 November; and ***Realism to Abstract*** with Paula Paas, 23 November to 10 December. All art courses are held at Leisterville in William Street Castlemaine from 10.30pm to 2.30pm. Tom Comerford is back and presenting ***Great Women in History – The Entertainers*** on four Wednesdays from 10am to 11.15am, 11 July to 1 August in the Uniting Church hall. ***Craft of Writing*** continues with Elizabeth Rider – ***Using Different Devices in Fiction***, 18 July to 5 September; and ***Complete Two Stories***, 17 October to 21 November. Both courses are from 1.30pm to 4.30pm.

The regular ongoing classes continue in languages, music, ballet, film, play reading, literature, gardening, table tennis, golf croquet, bridge, singing, social groups, ukulele, walking and tai chi, so there is plenty to keep your body and brain active through winter. **Plus ...** Latrobe University Semester Two commences 23 July. <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/>

NEW COURSES *not* listed in the 2012 Prospectus

Earth, Energy and Healing In her course Bronwyn Bain encourages us to think outside the square and to comprehend other ways of knowing; to consider the interconnectedness of all living matter – nature, country, stone, river, mountain, cloud, tree. There are six sessions on Tuesdays, 10am to 12noon from 17 July at the Castlemaine residence of Julian Hollis. Phone Bronwyn on 0412 357 776 for details.

Write Your Own Personal Manifesto with Fred van Amelsvoort. He says the word manifesto traces its roots to the Latin *manifestum*, which means clear or conspicuous, and that a manifesto is a statement of principles and a bold, sometimes rebellious, call to action. Have you ever thought about or written down a statement of your principles? Join Fred on Tuesdays from 1pm to 3pm commencing 9 October for 8 weeks to work through it all.

Pets and People in Harmony is for you and your pet or pets, and will happen on Thursdays over eight weeks from 11 October, 2pm to 4pm. Michael Bascombe is a relatively new Vet to Castlemaine and is offering this course on an alternative way of being with our pets. Come along and learn how Dr Edward Bach's flower remedies can be used to benefit your pet.

Attention Photographers..... Are you keen to take your digital imaging skills to another level of creativity? YES? We have an opportunity to develop a course that will go beyond the basics offered by Picassa and other such worthwhile programs.

Email your course coordination team to express your interest or to enrol in any of these courses. For more information contact CC Dick Mack or CA Robyn Yeoman at u3acastlemainecourses@gmail.com or phone Dick on 0411 244 103.

Robyn Yeoman on behalf of Dick Mack

From your Editor

Here is a little memo from Bruce Carruthers, our Website Manager, to let us know that he has added a 'search box' to the Newsletters page on our website. This will allow anyone to search for something specific in any of the newsletters and should prove useful for finding all sorts of things, even articles by particular people. You may like to give it a try - eg. Type your surname in the search box and note all the newsletters it finds with your name mentioned!! This is a new feature by Bruce that may make finding old newsletter entries that bit easier. He has also put a similar search box on the 'All Forms' page to search documents on that page. Thanks for that Bruce. I tried it out and it works. Gosh I didn't realise I had so much to say!

Recently I had an e-mail telling me that "Here it is, June, and I haven't had a newsletter yet !!" I was nonplussed to say the least. No, this was not a new member. So on further enquiries and some pertinent questions asked like:

Had this person paid to have the Newsletter posted?.....No

Does this person come to the monthly Coffee Mornings?.....No

Does this person look at the current newsletter on line?.....No

Well!! The best advice I could offer in this case was, *either* to come to the Coffee Mornings and collect the current newsletter from there.

Pop into the office during our opening hours and collect one from the office volunteer on duty there.

Pay the required \$10 to have it posted. This way the current newsletter will be in that persons letter box at least four days before the Coffee Morning.

Look on the web-site. That way one can see the current newsletter in full colour at least five days before anyone else.

OR if none of these solutions suffice, one can read the current newsletter for free in our local library.

OR a copy can be picked up from the Castlemaine Market Information Centre, or the Citizen's Advice Centre in Barker Street.

And may I offer many apologies for any inconvenience caused on my part.

Barbara Bunton (Ed.)

Say Hello and Welcome to these new U3A members

Heather Bradley

Anna Denton

John Denton

Judy Hill

John Howell

Gabriella Posetti

Julie Reece

Susan Richmond

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JULY 6th COFFEE MORNING VOLUNTEERS

Joan Brown
Eileen Park

Trish King
Sue Spacey

Jill Leisegang
Sue Turner

Grace McCaughey
Janet Waldie

AUGUST 3rd COFFEE MORNING VOLUNTEERS

Mollie Angel
????

Enid Chapman
????

Wilf Savage
????

Anne van Gemert
????

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.

ABORIGINAL HISTORY

FELICITY SAY 5472 1841

JULY 3rd.

Our theme of protest for Aboriginal rights in the 20th Century continues and this time we consider the situation existing in Western Australia in 1946 where a state of virtual slavery existed. The Native Administration Act denied Aborigines freedom of movement in their original lands and made it illegal for them to leave station employment, employment which was determined by the local 'native protector' who was often the local policeman. Housing conditions were dreadful and food had to be bought out of meagre wages. The situation was brought to a head with an extraordinarily well organised strike on May 1st. 1946 when 800 Aboriginal station workers walked off sheep stations in the north-west of Western Australia, beginning a strike that was to last more than 3 years.

JULY 17th.

A diversion from our current theme today as we have the opportunity of having as 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, Alyawarr, Anmatyerre and Kaytetye people. Her early findings are that sand talk varies from something half-unconsciously done to a consciously composed art, and that there are a variety of distinct traditional forms as well as a lively contemporary practice.

APPLE MAC COMPUTER HELP

MIKE SMITH 5470 6638

Please be advised that the above class will go into recess from the end of June until September.

Further information will be posted prior to the date of resumption.

Very big thanks to all those members who have regularly attended classes. Enjoy the Winter break.

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

GEOFF WALKER 5470 6652

At the June sessions we had two very interesting presentations – Clive Carmichael gave us the story of the Kaweka estate, and Barbara Robinson outlined the history of Christ Church Anglican Church. There were many questions and comments from group members.

In July the sessions will be at **2.00pm** on **Monday 9th and Monday 23rd**. At the first session Ailsa will give us an insight into the early banking systems in Castlemaine. Geoff told the story of the ANZ bank a few weeks ago. Ailsa will let us into the background of the other major banks in the town. This session will be at Geoff and Beth's place. At the second session Barbara Bunton will let us into the secrets of the Telegraph Station and Faulder Watson Hall in Barker Street, just up the hill a bit from the P.O. The gathering will be **in the Telegraph Station**. Yes, you will be most welcome.

SINGING TOGETHER

RAE HAWKINS 5472 3446

By the time you are reading this, I and several of our choir members will have been down to Melbourne to meet with Andrew Wailes, who is the conductor for the massed U3A Choir Concert which is to be held during Seniors Week in the Melbourne Town Hall at 2pm on Tuesday October 9th.

This was very much a working meeting to ensure that all the choirs will be practising all thirteen songs we have been given in the same way, as well as sorting out any queries we had.

The Castlemaine U3A choir continues to grow, and we welcomed two new members in June. A very big "thank you" to Shirley Collier, Vic's wife, who generously gave of her time to help us out while John was away on his holidays.

BALLET APPRECIATION

JOE SCOGLIO 5472 2396

In June we viewed another documentary on Rudolf Nureyev and a video of him dancing in Petrouchka with the Robert Joffery Ballet Company. Petrouchka was choreographed in 1911 by Michel Fokine for le Ballet Russe. The part played by Nureyev was of a rag doll puppet, not a role one associates with him. The role, originally danced by Vaslav Nijinsky, calls for a freer form of movement from that demanded in classical ballet. Nureyev's choice here demonstrates his catholic taste in dance. He wanted to dance in as many styles as possible and as often as possible. As someone on the documentary said, it seemed that he only fully felt himself when he was performing. He pushed his body to the limit, so much so that he eventually needed to have a personal masseur in the wings during performances to massage his tight muscles between entrances on the stage. This month we will look at the last years of his career.

Castlemaine's Theatre Royal will be screening one of Petipa's last ballets, Raymonda on Saturday July 21, and Sunday July 22. It is performed by the Bolshoi Ballet.

CRAFT OF WRITING

Many of our class members are working towards entering the Seniors Short Memoir Competition, for which the deadline is Thursday 16 August. \$150 is not bad for a first prize! Thanks to our Committee of Management, U3A Castlemaine is one of the seniors' organisations in the Shire that will contribute to the prize money. We hope this inaugural writing competition will be the first of many successful writing competitions. (See the article of Seniors Week in this newsletter, and see our Webpage Noticeboard for details.)

Early in the second term the size of the class encouraged us to break into two groups, so we now have a Memoir class and a Fiction-writing class. Both classes are fully subscribed, with nine members in each. During the term we have met in private homes on alternate weeks, writing short stories in both the memoir (creative non-fiction) and the fiction genres. The writing has been lively and entertaining and class members are progressing really well.

Next term, starting on Wednesday 18 July, the two classes will return to weekly meetings. I will facilitate each class on alternate weeks, and members of each class will facilitate their group themselves when I am not there. We will continue to meet in private homes – it is much cosier and more intimate, which is always an asset for a writing group.

U3A was successful in gaining a grant for us keen scribes to be able to increase our writing skills in a second five-hour workshop with a professional writer, Lee Kofman, on 8 August. She gave us an excellent workshop in March, and will return to present on effective writing, including character development, narrative voice and plot. Lee is passionate about words. We are really looking forward to her return. The workshop can only take a limited number, and is already fully booked.

I thank all the members of the classes for their enthusiasm and imagination, and for building an atmosphere in the class that encourages good writing and the ambition to become even better.

FRIDAY MORNING GARDEN GROUP

SHIRLEY CURNOW 5472 1729

At the June gathering we all met at the Bold Garden Nursery in Wesley Hill. Jenny gave us an excellent presentation on many aspects of gardening in winter including pruning, seedlings, planting, and mulching. There was much discussion, questions, and exchangeing of ideas. Thank you Jenny you inspired everybody! After an enjoyable lunch in the Bold Cafe we all departed carrying bags of plants!

The July gathering will be a working one. Our volunteer task for the year is the pruning of the roses in Victory Park. We shall meet at the Park as early as possible (!!??) on Friday morning, **20th July** laden with gardening tools and gloves, trusting that it will be a fine morning. You will have the opportunity to learn how to do some pruning.

MUSIC APPRECIATION

BRUCE BAUD 5472 4574

The mornings music began with a very enjoyable mistake. Bruce intended to play Bach's Prelude and Fugue in E Flat but hit the wrong track. Instead we heard The Toccata and Fugue. No one complained because this is a very popular work. The organist was Helmut Watcha playing the organ of St Laurenskerk in Alkmaar, a Dutch town famous for it's cheese market. The next piece was from Tchaikovsky, his well known 1812 Overture, commissioned to be performed at an Industrial Art Exhibition in Moscow. The work was completed in 1880 as a celebration of the Russian victory over Napoleon's invading army. Our music remained with Tchaikovsky, with the lovely "Andante Cantabile" being part of his String Quartet No1 composed in 1871. Then we heard Mozart's "Gran Partita" from his Serenade No 10 in B Flat. The morning concluded with Dvorak Cello Concerto in B Minor Opus 104, completed in 1894-5 for his friend the cellist Hanus Wihan. Dvorak was reluctant to write the work as he did not consider the cello a suitable solo instrument to be used in a concerto. Now it is one of the most popular concertos in the repertoire. Everyone enjoyed the music Bruce selected.

~ Brian Willis

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Here is the winning poem by the "Italian Mob" written while on the recent Magical Mystery Tour. All participants were asked to write a two verse poem, Banjo Patterson style rather than a Limerick as in past years.

The sun was shining brightly and the group was packed in tightly

We saw the vision splendid of the viaduct extended

As we drove along the track that went to Expedition Pass.

O'er verdant hills and paddocks in a shiny winter light.

Our leader, called Boss Cocky, was tall and rather stocky

We drove on through the finery of whipsticks, scrub and winery

And sent us first to Chewton while the frost was on the grass.

To Metcalf Hall and columns made of granite polished bright.

The water there reflected all the trees that it protected

Past stones arranged in order we approached the Kyneton border

Beside it Major Mitchell's cairn stood bravely on the verge.

And we saw the classrooms dying in fields of golden corn.

At Taradale we rested and heard the tale attested

At Sidonia we faltered till at Bringalbit we halted

Of the Faraday abduction, of children years ago.

And we saw the Highland cattle with their broad and graceful

horn. ©

THIS YEAR'S MAGICAL MOTORING TOUR has come and gone, with praise all round for the fun, the sun, and the gorgeous country vistas to be seen as we made our round-about way to the grazing property and homestead called Bringalbit, owned by our hostess, Sue Fox.

Sue welcomed us all with an open house and tales of early history; hers, and of the homestead which she now runs as a Bed and Breakfast Country Retreat. Some members had been there before but for the others who hadn't, it proved to be a delightful surprise.

Afterwards we made our way back into Kyneton and the RSL Club where 36 of our group enjoyed a substantial lunch before the time came to head for home, about 4 pm. We'd had 40 members participating in 14 cars, no mishaps, a lot of fun and a great day out, so over-all it was deemed a successful day.

This year's Motoring Tour was organised and run by Wilson Bunton, and was renamed the Inaugural Jane and Graeme Quinn Trophy Run, in recognition of their many touring successes over the past several years for our U3A.

Instead of participants being asked to write a Limerick, this year the challenge was to write a two verse poem, Banjo Patterson style, describing the day's magic moments. Here is the winning poem from, you guessed it, The Italian Mob! namely: Driver John Watson and Navigator Norma Rantell. Vivienne Robertson, Lynda Prest, and Lois Golding,

Graeme presented the Perpetual Trophy, made of chestnut by Wilson Bunton, to the winning navigational motoring team at the June Coffee Morning.



The photo (taken by Elizabeth Rider) shows the happy and disbelieving winning group receiving the Perpetual trophy from Graeme Quinn, with Wilson Bunton looking on. They are Carol Dorman, Judith McKenzie-McHarg, and driver Janet Fitz-Water. Missing from the photo, Eileen Park.

A Tribute to Pat Milthorpe as read to us at the June Coffee Morning by Joe Scoglio with translation by Julia

Je voudrais parler de Pat Milthorpe et de sa joie de vivre qui était souvent exprimé dans la langue qu'elle adorait, le français.

Come vous savez, elle était professeur de français. Quand elle était jeune elle a travaillé en France pendant plusieurs années, où elle a rencontré Francis, un autre jeune prof. L'amour entre eux s'est épanoui - toujours la meilleure façon d'apprendre une autre langue.

En rentrant en Australie c'était sa joie d'enseigner cette langue d'amour, le français.

Ces dernières années elle s'engageait dans des activités françaises ici à Castlemaine. Il y avait la classe U3A de Tony Morton dans la littérature française. Il y avait ses propres classes de grammaire française chez elle.

Et aussi, il y avait le groupe de Francophiles qui se rassemblait chaque semaine pour la bonne bouffe et la conversation française. Dans ce groupe nous parlions des affaires du monde et des affaires du coeur. Quand c'était le tour de Pat d'être l'hôte de la réunion elle a cuit toujours son fameux gâteau au gingembre.

Dans la classe de Tony Morton nous avons passé trois ans à lire Bel Ami, roman de Guy de Maupassant. Pat était renommé pour ses lectures à la classe avec passion et des exclamations dramatiques. Pat était une comédienne naturelle. Elle avait beaucoup de force, beaucoup de courage et beaucoup de joie.

Et c'est comme ça que nous nous la rappelons. Adieu Pat.

I would like to speak about Pat Milthorpe and about her joy of life which was often expressed in the language she loved, French.

As you know, she was a French teacher. When she was young she worked in France for a few years, where she met Francis, another young teacher. Love blossomed between them - always the best way of learning another language.

On returning to Australia, it was her joy to teach this language of love, French.

During these last years, she got involved with several French activities here in Castlemaine. There was Tony Morton's U3A class in French literature. There was her own French grammar classes at her home.

And also, there was the group of Francophiles who met every week for some delicious food as well as the French conversation. In this group we spoke of world affairs and affairs of the heart. When it was Pat's turn to be the host of the meeting, she always baked her famous ginger cake.

In Tony Morton's class we spent three years reading Bel Ami, a novel by Guy de Maupassant. Pat was renowned for her impassioned readings to the class, full of dramatic exclamations. Pat was a natural actor. She had great strength, great courage and much joy.

And that is how we remember her. Adieu Pat.

Thanks go to Frank and Eva who ran Issues while I was away. We had Cam Walker as our guest on 25th May. Cam is Campaign Manager for Friends of the Earth and he told us of the current campaigns that FoE is running. There is a wide range of campaigns that include Climate Justice where FoE supports the rights of those at risk of climate-induced displacement; supporting communities who want to take up renewable energy alternatives. Nanotechnology: FoE wants to generate debate about this new technology as there are serious questions about the affects on health and the environment and the social and political implications of such a powerful technology. Nano materials are not tested or regulated in Australia. Other campaigns include Pesticides and toxic chemicals, population and justice and food and agriculture. Take a look at FoE's website for more information.

The Victorian government has introduced a fast track system called VicSmart for planning applications. VicSmart will apply to 5,000 applications a year that involve sub-divisions, tree removals and minor alterations to buildings in heritage overlay areas. Local planning rules will be used to outline types of applications to proceed through VicSmart. In some cases there would be a reduction in appeal rights and community notification.

The idea of subjecting toddlers to mental illness checks is alarming but if done properly could prevent untold misery caused by undiagnosed mental illness. The checklist of troubling behaviours includes difficulty with impulse control, easily frustrated, trouble interacting with other children, won't go to bed with the light off. These behaviours are part of childhood and most children grow out of them. The mental checks may help children who do not grow out of these behaviours.

A really important issue arose when an Issues member went to buy Dick Smith's Crunchy peanut butter and found none on the supermarket shelf. He asked a nearby staff member why he could not buy his favourite spread. He was told that only a certain amount of this item could be made because of Dick's insistence of using Australian grown peanuts and that Coles and Woolworths often bought the entire production between them leaving nothing for anybody else. BUT an alternative reason is possible - another Issues member had a rodent infestation and was using peanut butter in the traps. There was a spirited debate on this vital subject.

SOUTH SUDAN - THE PROSPECTS, ONE YEAR AFTER INDEPENDENCE?

A one off session at 1-30 in the U3A office on Friday 13 July - all welcome.

Vic Say will present this session after spending Saturday July 7th celebrating and commemorating the first year of independence and all the losses of the 20 year war, with the South Sudanese-Australian community in Melbourne.

So what is the realistic outlook for this new born nation which, in the 2012 Failed States' Index to be launched in July, will be listed notionally, 4th from the worst in the world after Somalia, Congo D.R. and Sudan, and with Chad, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan and Haiti, Yemen and then Iraq, in that order, in less dire situations? Compare it with Timor Leste which is number 28 from the worst.

Australia sits on the other hand, number 13 from the most stable amongst the 178 nations ranked, with Finland regarded as the most stable.

We will try to look at the threats, strengths and opportunities realistically so please bring any information, and current doubts, opinions and expectations along to share in an open forum as we look at the country through these 3 lenses. Where do we expect to find South Sudan on the list of rankings this time next year. Thanks to the Issues of Concern group for hosting this session.

Friday July 6 at 7pm - Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny

Kurt Weill was born in 1900 and with his family suffered financial hardships after World War 1. Already a musician however, he continued his studies and taught music theory and composition to private students from 1923 to 1925. He first met the actress and his future wife, Lotte Lenya, in 1924. The couple married twice, in 1926 and again in 1937, following divorce in 1933.

His best known work is *The Threepenny Opera* of 1928; it is a reworking of John Gray's, *The Beggar's Opera* and was written for a libretto by Bertolt Brecht, as was *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*. (*The Threepenny Opera* contains Weill's most famous song: "Mack the Knife".) Weill's working association with Brecht, although successful, came to an end over politics in 1930. Although Weill associated with socialism, after Brecht tried to push him even further left, Weill commented, according to his wife Lenya, that he was unable to "set the communist party manifesto to music".

As a prominent and popular Jewish composer, Weill was officially denounced for his socialist views and populist sympathies by the Nazi authorities, who criticized and interfered with performances of his later stage works, such as *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*. Composed 1927-30, this political-satirical opera was performed in Leipzig in 1930 and in Berlin at the end of 1931 with Lotte Lenya who we will hear on the recording we listen to. In 1933 the Nazis banned the work and Weill fled Nazi Germany, eventually settling in New York. The work is still regarded as a work of stature with a haunting score.

REQUIEM AND THEN ...?

VIC SAY 5472 1841

Friday 6th July at 1-30 pm. *Requiem* by Karl Jenkins born 1944. Jenkins is a well known Welsh composer and instrumentalist who delights in music which crosses boundaries between music styles and appeals to a very wide audience. A professional musician, he has specialised in jazz, rock, popular, commercial, soundtrack as well as classical music. It seems to me he likes to challenge, whether it is the boundaries of musical styles, constraining structures or fixed ideas. His requiem, which we listened to once before in 2010, highlights the cyclical nature of life - death - birth. Jenkins incorporates 5 Japanese Haiku Death poems, each emphasising the transience of being: eg, Banzan's "*Farewell I pass as all things do like dew on the grass*". Himself a saxophonist and oboist, here he writes for the shakuhachi. He also uses ethnic drums, the Arabic darabuka and the Japanese daiko and a hip-hop rhythm in the *Dies Irae*. The work is dedicated to his late father and teacher, who was an organist and choir master. This recording by the West Kazakhstan Orchestra in 2005 was conducted by Jenkins himself, in London, in the year of its composition.

Friday 20th July at 1-30 pm. *Requiem* by Vyacheslav Artyomov born 1940. Interested and influenced by the Polish avant-garde, he is a believer in the transfiguration of the created world through music. He sees himself as a participant in the spiritual aspirations of Russian culture, which were interrupted by the catastrophe of the 1917 revolution. It was premiered in 1988 when one commentator greeted it with the assessment that it surpasses even the requiems of Mozart and Verdi.

The work is dedicated to the memory of the martyrs of a long suffering Russia. One commentator calls it a monument to the tragedy of the Russian people and a symbol of national penitence. *Requiem* was composed 1985-88 and was greeted with critical acclaim and great publicity. It follows the traditional requiem text in Latin. Our recording was made in 1989, in the flush of excitement soon after its premier and is an all Russian version with the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra.

SOLO GROUP

BETTY HENCHMAN 5472 2139

Our **July** get-together will be at the home of Rae Hawkins,
on Saturday the **21st**. **12.30 pm** as usual.

FAMILY HISTORY

VERONICA HURLEY 5472 1383

This very popular weekly short course has now finished for the time being although class members are reminded that there will be a one-off get together at Veronica's house on **Monday July 16th** time tba, and that there is to be an open day for those interested in F. H. during Seniors Week in October.

So popular has this course been that Veronica had to break it up into four sessions. Three on a Monday and one on Wednesday mornings for the U.K. searchers after 1837. Those of our members who found a match for their ancestors were guided to "our man in New South Wales" whose business it is to obtain corresponding Birth, Marriage and Death certificates. Very important when working back from oneself, to prove the right family as yours.

Some members were searching for family only in Australia but eventually these searches will take you overseas to either U.K., Ireland, Scotland or even Europe, and we always enjoy the triumph of success when a member finds an ancestor. But for those who are just getting started, remember there is a wealth of information to be had from fellow members, in the books, publications, and experience, to help guide you through the census and many other various records.

Searching for Irish ancestors has been very daunting until now, but things are looking up. Recently one of our members e-mailed the National Archives of Ireland to see if any records exist before 1854 and promptly received this reply:

For the period before 1864 parish registers recording details of baptisms, marriages and burials provide the only source of information relating to B, M and D. Prior to making use of these records it is necessary to be aware of an ancestor's religious affiliation and often even the place of baptisms, marriage and burial.

Roman Catholic parish registers are normally still held by the parish priest, but there are microfilm copies of most of them for the period up to 1880 in the National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. (Web: <http://www.nli.ie>)

Church of Ireland (Anglican) parish records for the period up to 1870 are public records. Registers are available for about one third of the parishes. Most are still held by the local clergy although some are in the National Archives (Web: <http://www.nationalarchives.ie/>) and others are in the Representative Church Body Library, Braemor Park, Dublin 14, (Web: <http://www.ireland.anglican.org/genealogy>)

The Irish Family History Foundation online research system (ORS) allows you to search an index of early genealogy records free and pay to view the records: Online records for south Tipperary: <http://tipperarysouth.rootsireland.ie/>.

He also included a list of genealogy websites and a list of microfilm copies of RC parish registers held by the national Library of Ireland. These lists may be of interest to people researching Irish Heritage. More information will be available from Veronica by e-mail at vkhurley@bigpond.com. And one more path into Irish ancestry you will find on <http://www.findmypast.ie>.

For those interested in Family History there is to be a "Family History Feast" at the State Library of Victoria on **Monday July 30th, 10am to 3.30pm**, showcasing free information sessions for researchers and is organised jointly by the Public Record Office Victoria, National Archives of Australia (Victorian office), Victorian Registry of Birth, Deaths and Marriages, the Immigration Museum, Victorian Association of Family History Organisation and the State Library of Victoria. Bookings for this opened on 18th June and can be done via the State Library of Victoria or Public Record Office Victoria websites.

So there is much here for you Family History buffs to keep you warm and busy over these coming cold winter days. Happy researching.

~ Barbara Bunton

WAGNER'S RING CYCLE

VIC SAY 5472 1841

July 20 - 7 pm at Barry & Peter's: 2 DVDs

The Golden Ring - the documentary of the recording of the Sholti conducted version of the Ring which we have been listening to on CD at Vic & Felicity's

Wagner and Women - the documentary.

August 17 - 5pm at Felicity & Vic's: Siegfried, the Sholti CD

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

September 28 - 5 pm at Peter & Barry's: 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

There will be a full and interesting program in Mount Alexander Shire in Seniors Week, 7-14 October this year. Like other U3A branches over Victoria, U3A Castlemaine will contribute events to the program, which will be published by the Shire Council well before the week so you can plan for it. There will also be a program published in Melbourne detailing events around the state.

The local program includes a concert with a very well-known performer, films and lunch with the Metcalfe Seniors, a hoy day, a winery tour, and very popular old time dance, with band, on the Sunday. Most events are free.

Seniors' Memoir Competition

For Seniors Week this year, U3A Castlemaine, together with Castlemaine Word Mine (an association of local writers), our Shire Council and the *Castlemaine Mail*, is running a writing competition for seniors in Mt Alexander Shire. Seniors who are members of U3A Castlemaine or the Word Mine but who do not reside in Mount Alexander Shire, are also eligible to enter. ENTRY IS

FREE.

It will be a short memoir competition of up to 1,500 words with prizes of \$150, \$75 and \$50. Entries must be posted by Thursday 16 August to: Short Memoir Competition, P.O. Box 7, Castlemaine, Vic, 3450.



The prizes will be given at the launch of the Festival in the Castlemaine Art Gallery on Tuesday 8 October. Well-known writers will be the judges. Entry forms, the rules of the competition and other information are available on the NOTICEBOARD on our WEBPAGE www.castlemaineu3a.com and at the *Castlemaine Mail* office in Templeton Street, the Library, the U3A office, and at the Market Building.

Seniors Race Day

The Shire Council is sponsoring a coach for up to 50 seniors to go to the FREE Seniors Race Day in Bendigo on Thursday 4th October. It will take us from the Market Building, Castlemaine, right to the racecourse and return us at 6 pm. The coach trip will cost only \$5. A good \$25 two-course lunch, including a free race book, is available in the Silks Restaurant. You can also have a flutter with a bookie right in the restaurant, and you also get a wonderful view of horses and race track from there too.

- To secure your seat on the coach, write your name on the booking form at the treasurer's table at Coffee Morning or in the office, or phone Elizabeth on 5470 5681. The \$5 coach fee will be collected on the day.
- To book your \$25 Silks Restaurant lunch at a Castlemaine table phone 5448 4209. Tea and coffee is available all day.

Seniors Week in Victory Park

Several organisations will participate in an event for seniors in Victory Park in the centre of town, on Friday 12th October. There will be a range of activities - music, line dancing, petanque and more. Lunch will be provided by the Lions Club. U3A Castlemaine's contributions on that day will include Dot Henshall organising a Tai Chi demonstration, a short concert from the U3A Ukulele Players, and come-and-try Art In The Park, which will be organised by our inspiring U3A artists. Get in touch with Peggy Munro to find out more about Art in the Park.

~ Elizabeth Rider