

U3A

Third Thoughts

Castlemaine Inc (Est. 1988)

Volume 25 No 2

March 2011

Reg. A0017409G



Happy Hour, February 2011.
See you all for the March one!!

U3A CASTLEMAINE'S INFORMATION WEB PAGE: www.u3acastlemaine.com

President	Peter Stephens	5472 3904	u3acastlemainepresident@gmail.com
Vice-President			
Secretary	Betty Johnson	5472 3834	u3acastlemainesecondary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sue Turner	5472 1015	u3acastlemainetreasurer@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Barbara Bunton	5472 3186	u3acastlemainenews@gmail.com
Course Co-Ordinator	Win Jodell	5472 3792	u3acastlemainecourses@gmail.com
Past President	Tom Comerford	5470 6230	tomchris@mmnet.com.au
Committee Member	Val Case	5472 1656	valericase37@yahoo.co.uk
Committee Member	Prue Cole	5472 5054	pruecole@gcom.net.au
Committee Member	Elizabeth Rider	5470 5681	anneliz123@aapt.net.au
Committee Member	Lyn Hall	5472 2316	lhall@mmnet.com
Committee Member			
Office Manager	Judy Sime	5472 3756	daveju@gmail.com
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.au
Cake Roster/Raffle	Marie Twyford	5474 2739	bobtwy@hotmail.com
Caterer	Jenni Rutherford	5472 3468	
Coffee Supplies	Lyn Hall	5472 2316	lhall@mmnet.com
Celebrations/Tributes	Barbara Robinson	5474 2121	arob@mmnet.com.au
Property	Hans Van Gemert	5472 1082	
Trading Table	Marie Twyford/ Audrey Richardson	5474 2739 5472 3867	bobtwy@hotmail.com keithaud@chewton.vicmail.net
Webmaster	Bruce Carruthers	5472 3900	bruce@keepingitsimple.com.au
Office	P.O. Box 792	5472 2249	u3acastlemaine@mmnet.com.au
Octopus	Castlemaine	5472 1147	octopus@mmnet.com.au

U3A OFFICE DETAILS

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

Office Hours are:

Mondays, 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm

Tuesdays, 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm

Wednesdays, 10 am – 12 noon

Phone: 5472 2249

Web Page: www.u3acastlemaine.com

Current 2011 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

4th March: Photography & Digital Imaging,
and Solo Group

1st April: Short Walks and Solo Whist

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 second
Tuesday in the month at 1.00 pm
in the Kindergarten Room,
at the Uniting Church Complex.

From the President

The first term is well underway and I hope all participants are enjoying the challenges of learning and Class Leaders of teaching. Several of our classes were oversubscribed but these difficulties have been overcome by members voluntarily opting out or leaders finding new venues.

Our big challenge is finding suitable venues. It would be heaven to have a couple of ground level, secure, carpeted rooms with heating and cooling in a reasonably central part of town. If anyone can help please contact me, Win Jodell or Sue Turner. We would be able to pay some rent.

Volunteers for the Committee is our other problem. Unfortunately, since the February coffee morning our Vice-President, Pat Milthorpe, has had to resign because of ill health. Those of you who know Pat will know that she has not enjoyed good health for a long time but this has not stopped her from volunteering or attending classes whenever possible. Losing Pat's talent and experience is most unfortunate as she was just making inroads into a number of tasks that, although not affecting the running of our classes, need urgent attention. We now have two vacancies on our Committee, so if you have ever felt the urge to volunteer now is the time. To find out more before venturing into deeper water I'm sure any of the Committee would be pleased to talk with you.

Thanks to the Special Events working group for organising the February Happy Hour in the Tea Room at the Botanic Gardens. The weather was balmy and the company cheerful. What a good venue the Tea Room would make for some of our classes. We get a chance for another informal gathering at the next Happy Hour at **5pm Friday, 18th of March.**

Just a couple of reminders:

- If you wish to attend the Tutankhamun exhibition please put your name on the list and pay as soon as possible. Sue Turner can take cash or cheque at the coffee morning or pay at the office by cheque only.
- The Committee hope to meet as many new members as possible at the New Members Welcome Day, to be held on the **30th of March at Jane and Graeme Quinn's home.**

...Peter Stephens

~~~~~

## Say 'Hello' to these new U3A Members

Jacky Angus  
Max Beyer  
Ron Brown  
Alice Berridge  
Robyn Butselaar  
John Butselaar  
Jock Clutterbuck  
Jenny Collier  
Sally Dear  
Margaret Cromb  
Beth Duff  
Angelina Evans  
Barbara French  
Teeshia Fitzgerald  
Liz Grainger  
Geoff Hannon  
Anne Hamilton  
John Hart  
Peter Harding

Patricia Healy  
Suzanne Ingleton  
Irene Jacob  
Bob Johnston  
Jeanette Johnston  
Jan Kay  
Isabel Kelly  
Hanne Lau  
Werner Lau  
Ailsa Longmuir  
Dick Mack  
Meg McBean  
Janice Martin  
Anthony Martin  
Anabel Macdonald  
Loreto McMahon  
Jenny Morton  
Jo Orgill

Beth Parnaby  
Sylvia Phillips  
Jacky Pickering  
Alan Pickering  
Gillian Pinnis  
Brian Richardson  
Peter Saunder  
Margaret Seedsman  
Alan Smith  
Colleen Smith  
Liz Stayner  
Graeme Swanson  
Julie Trimble  
Roslyn Stevens  
Elaine Templer  
John Widdicombe  
Sue-Anne Williams  
Ken White  
Robyn Yeoman

## From the Course Co-ordinator

Our enrolment numbers are not yet final, nor will they ever be I suppose! However I would like to thank our members for supporting their U3A so wholeheartedly. It has been a pleasure once again for me to play my part in this vibrant organisation.

Beginning Term I there were **62 courses active** and another **4** will commence in Term II.

Number of enrolments so far is **297**. I have asked Course Leaders to accept people not on their first class list. There will be an updated class list sent to Course Leaders soon.

So, I have nearly **1000 entries for 66 courses by 297 members**.

To my knowledge **no courses were cancelled** because of insufficient numbers. Nor were courses cancelled for any other reason.

Regarding venues, numerous courses are held in private homes and for this the Committee are very grateful. As you will be aware our biggest expense is rental because we do not have a "home". Many classes are held in the Uniting Church Complex and U3A office. One in the Salvation Army meeting room and Leisterville Hall is used for two classes. Sue Turner has a list of venues where we pay rent should you be interested.

**Many courses appear to be oversubscribed** however it does seem Course Leaders have made some arrangements satisfactorily to both them and their participants. Several classes have been declared "fully subscribed" and will not be taking more people until spaces occur.

Among the **most popular courses** are: **Aboriginal History**, taken by Felicity Say for more than 10 years now. Both **writing** groups. Both **photography** groups, which include instruction about digital and related computer programmes. **Before Castlemaine**, a new course taken by Dr Julian Hollis looking at the geology of the area. **Ethics** with Karen Mather. **Gardening in Castlemaine** with Harvey Jacka. **Let's Read a Play** with the Kings. As well as others with 20 or more enrolled in each.

**Total** number of course leaders is **46** and they come from all about including Bendigo and Melbourne. Such is the reputation of U3A Castlemaine it seems. There would be no U3A Castlemaine if it were not for the generosity of these people who have a passion for their subject.

So if you have thought about joining this lively, actively engaged group, please do call into our Office, look at the Prospectus and talk with one of the many volunteers. Or if you are a member already, do keep your Prospectus and look at it again later in the year to see what you might like to join when there is more time and the weather is perhaps gloomy, there is nothing quite like engaging the mind to cheerfully pass the time.

Win Jodell – U3A Course Co-ordinator

\*\*\*\*\*

*Passion, Achievement, Comradeship, and most of all Friendship!*

*Great deeds accomplished, and the respect of your peers!*

*Plus (yes, there's more), in a quiet reflective moment, a pleasing feeling of knowing that you are contributing in a very meaningful way to society in general, but especially to your U3A.*

*How can you get a piece of the above? This once in a lifetime offer?*

**The answer is simple - apply now to be a part of your U3A Committee!!**

## APPLE MAC COMPUTER CLASS

Mike Smith 5470 6638

Some of the 23 class members of the Apple Mac  
Computer Class at the Opening Day of Term 1, 2011



## ART DRAWING GROUP

PAULA PAAS 0438 657 588

The group had an interesting start to the year with new member Jill Kromkamp (standing) demonstrating techniques learned at a Summer School she had attended. We all tried these methods where charcoal drawings combined with acrylic washes are rubbed back, thus producing some exciting results. Next we are exploring some relief printing

methods making lino cuts and wood cuts and hand printing with both black and coloured ink. If any U3A members are interested to see us at work you are welcome to drop in during our lunch break any Monday between 12.30 and 1 pm at Leisterville Hall on William Street.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ON Second Thoughts .....

Thank you for all your contributions to this month's newsletter. And thank you to Bruce and Elizabeth once again for all your help.

Looking down Win's list of courses available to you through your U3A there is a staggering amount of activity to engage in isn't there? You need never be bored or lonely with so much on offer.

Lyn Bird's Armchair Travel caught my eye as I know so many of you have in the past done quite a good deal of travelling about, be it in and around Australia or overseas. For those of you who are heading for the U.K. some time soon it wouldn't be a complete trip I'm sure if you didn't spend some time in the capital, and often that means a shopping sortie into Harrods or tea at Fortnum and Masons. I know we did when last we were there.

So when you are next in Piccadilly think about the hardworking "Fortnum Bees" that have lived high above you in four palatial homes – Roman, Mughal, Chinese and Gothic, since 2008. Actually huge hives for those most industrious little creatures, *bees*. Bees which range as far afield as three miles in and over London's famous parks and gardens, gathering the nectar for the famous Fortnum and Mason honey produced twice a year from exotic flowers they come into contact with.

Travel takes one away to so many interesting places and one trip I've always wanted to do but haven't yet, is to New Zealand. A beautiful country so I'm told, and so it saddens me, and you too I have no doubt, to see how much devastation and loss of life has occurred in Christchurch this week. Tears won't help, and adequate words fail me. ~ BarB

## Aboriginal history – Our shared history

Felicity say 5472 1841

### 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH

We continue our story of the Arrernde People in Central Australia with the establishment of the Hermannsburg Mission, and the role it played in their lives for 100 years.

### 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH

In “Mr Strehlow’s Films”, we’ll follow the life of T.G.H. Strehlow, son of Pastor Carl Strehlow of Hermannsburg Mission.

Growing up speaking Arrernde from birth, Ted Strehlow became intimate with the cultural stories of the people who were central to his formative years and which became the focus of his life’s work.

**Please note:** *This class is full at the present time. Members of U3A interested in joining should ring Felicity who will create a waiting list. Should a space in the class become available, they will be notified.*

## Australian history

Geoff Walker 5470 6652

In February we began a series on the New South Wales colony during the term of Governor Macquarie. In the first session we considered something of Macquarie’s life and experience before he became governor and some of the achievements of his term. In the second session we studied the drama of the Bigge report that brought his administration to a close.

At the sessions in March we shall focus, first, on the rise and decline of the convict nature of NSW during Macquarie’s governorship, and secondly, a study of the development of building and infrastructure which was a feature of his term and many of which still are prominent features of the Sydney landscape.

The March sessions will be at **2.00pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> and Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March**. The gathering spot is a little uncertain, but if new folk wish to attend, and you will be most welcome, please contact Geoff on 5470 6652.

## Cooking for men

sue Turner 5472 1015

Thinking of joining the *Cooking for Men* course? There are still a few spots vacant for this new course. If you are interested in adding to your repertoire, or would like some inspiration and ideas to start cooking, then why not join the fun!

Sue and Sally are looking forward to giving you some tips, getting you to taste some new dishes and learn some tried and true techniques.

We want you to relax and enjoy these cooking sessions, ask questions and swap food ideas – and you get to eat what we have cooked. Recipes provided.

There will be three sessions: Tuesdays, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 12<sup>th</sup> May and 26<sup>th</sup> May, starting at 10am. Call Sue on 5472 1015 or enrol via e-mail to Win on [winj@tpg.com.au](mailto:winj@tpg.com.au)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Front Cover:** U3A members enjoying “Happy Hour” in the Tea Room at the Castlemaine Botanic Gardens. Next one is Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March hosted by *Art Drawing and Dabbling in History* 5pm – 6pm. Bring a plate of food to share, beverages of your own choice, a big smile, and a chair.

## Dabbling in history

Peter stephens 5472 3904

We meet at **10.00am on the first Wednesday of each month.**

Our February meeting dealt with the aftermath of World War 1, with particular emphasis on the cultural, political and economic legacies it left us as we grew up.

Our March meeting will deal with the generation born in the 1920s and 30s – were these, contrary to first thoughts, a lucky generation? There is information on our website if you are looking to find out more.

In April we will look at Chinese immigration to Australia.

## Friday morning garden group

Shirley Curnow 5472 1729

The Friday Morning Garden Group held its first meeting for the year on 18<sup>th</sup> February in the UCA Sunday School room. We were a small but enthusiastic group and all had good ideas for the coming months. We meet on the **third Friday** of each month.

For our March meeting we shall be going to a nursery in Malmsbury, and in addition to looking at lots of plants, Peter will give us many ideas and good advice on how to cope with the weather conditions we have been having, particularly as we move into autumn and winter. This will be on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March**, when we will be gathering in the Uniting Church car park at 10.00am. New members will be most welcome and transport will be available.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Julian Burnside in Castlemaine**

**Under the auspices of U3A Castlemaine there will be a public meeting with Julian Burnside AO QC at the Town Hall on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm.**

Entry by gold coin donation.

The proceeds will be given to a charity of Julian's choice.

Our Mayor, Janet Cropley, will open the meeting and welcome Julian Burnside to our town and shire.

Julian Burnside is a barrister and author widely known for his staunch opposition to the mandatory detention of asylum seekers and his campaigning work on other human rights issues. He was elected as Living National Treasure in 2004, and in 2009 was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for his work as a human rights advocate, and for his services to the arts and the law.

We have particularly invited teachers and VCE students from the Secondary College, and through Ron Moore at the Community House, are ensuring that women and men from the East African refugee community are invited. U3A members can help by publicising this meeting and this wonderful chance both to hear and to ask questions of Julian in Castlemaine.

This meeting will be advertised in the local papers and we hope there will be a good turn out. **U3A members will be asked to come early to the meeting as several rows of seats near the front will be reserved for you all.**

**Please put this date in your diary and invite your friends also.**

## Issues of concern

carol dorman 5472 4429

*Issues* welcomed one new member at the first session – welcome to Jenny. The re-introduction of cattle on the Victorian High Plains under the guise of “scientific research” raised our hackles. A New South Wales academic has been charged with finding out if the presence of cattle reduces the fire risk. Before his research was set up the cattle were put on the High Plains. He denies knowing that the cattle were there before he could begin his research. Anyway, hasn’t this research already been done? All who are concerned are urged to write to the Premier, Mr. Baillieu.

The revolutions sweeping through the Middle East came in for some discussion. The hope is that the countries seeking change can follow Egypt’s example and bring change without civil war.

Business leaders are threatening the Federal Government with a damaging public battle over compensation to companies affected by the introduction of a carbon price. These leaders want the \$7.3billion dollars compensation promised in Kevin Rudd’s emissions trading scheme which has been abandoned.

The mining companies that opposed and beat the introduction of a super profits tax have increased their profits substantially in 2010 – e.g. Rio Tinto’s profits have tripled and Xstrata’s profits are up 86%.

Holden is to establish a company to turn refuse into fuel. The site is likely to be in outer Melbourne.

Piracy on the high seas is increasing alarmingly – why is nothing being done? An *Issues* member offered the opinion that pirate gangs are run from places like Singapore and Hong Kong. Pirate “mother ships” off Somalia have captured two \$200million oil tankers this month with more than 700 sailors being held hostage. These pirates threaten an area of sea the size of the USA.

Medical tourism is developing in Australia with wealthy people from developing countries willing and able to pay for medical treatment. Will this compromise medical treatment delivery to Australian citizens?

## Music appreciation

bruce baud 5472 4574

Apart from Bruce providing a morning of fine music on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, it was also a special occasion. Bruce, with the help of Dianna has had this course running continuously for twenty years. I know of no other U3A programme that has lasted this long with the same course leader. Congratulations Bruce from everyone in the group. Thank you Dianna for all those enjoyable morning teas. Also, one of our class, Peggy, has attended this course since its inception.

The music began with a symphony which is not often heard, “Symphony on a French Mountain Air”, written by French composer Vincent d’Indy (1851-1931). This work, also known as “Symphonie Cevenole” from the source of its inspiration The Cevennes, was written in 1886. The work uses a folk song theme as its primary theme. The Symphony has three movements and uses a solo piano as part of the orchestra. It is an unusual symphony but is delightful listening.

The rest of the morning was devoted to Beethoven (1770-1827). Firstly one of his piano sonatas, the No.4 in E Flat Major Opus 7. This was written in the years 1796-7, with four movements, and like all Beethoven Piano Sonatas, great music. The morning concluded with the Beethoven Symphony No.3, “Eroica”, written in 1804. This symphony has a number of original features, including the substitution of a funeral march for the slow movement, a Scherzo for the minuet, and a set of variations for the Finale. A wonderful and popular symphony. A fine way to complete the morning and celebrate twenty years of Music Appreciation.

Brian Willis 5472 1429

Deadline for the April Newsletter is Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 3 pm.



## Opera – An occasional evening series

Vic say 5472 1841

We meet on the evenings of the U3A coffee mornings at **7pm** (usually the first Friday evening each month).

*Our enrollment list is currently full. U3A members interested in joining should ring me and I will create a waiting list. Should a space in the class become available I will notify people on the waiting list. Anyone who has enrolled and has not been contacted by eMail or phone should contact me urgently.*

We will start the year with three operas from this year's **Opera Australia** series:

4<sup>th</sup> March – La Boheme    \*\* 15th April \*\* – Macbeth    6<sup>th</sup> May – The Pearl Fishers

**Please note the change of date for April**

**This is to avoid clashing with the Castlemaine Festival**

Words for the libretto will only be provided to those who contact me by the Friday one week before the session, to allow time for checking on the number of copies available and any photocopying which may need to be done. Those who expect to be at the session and would like me to provide a copy of the words on the night will need to contact me each time. If you have words from your own record or CD sets which can be brought and used **please bring them, and bring them for others to use** if you have more than one copy or if you prefer not to follow the words.

## The Ring of the Niebelung

### Wagner's Ring Cycle

Vic & Felicity Say 5472 1841, Peter Morris 5470 6593

Planning for this series is under way and all those enrolled will be contacted during February/March ready to get under way in April/May. People who have enrolled and not been contacted by the beginning of March and any new enrollees after the beginning of March should contact Vic to ensure they are added to the eMail\phone contact list.

We currently plan to convene our sessions on "Das Rheingold" (which many of us saw at picture theatres last year when the Metropolitan Opera's production was screened) before the scheduled theatre screenings of the Met's "Die Walkure" at the end of June.

We will follow up that with our sessions on "Die Walkure" and currently plan to deal with the third and fourth operas next year before the live performances in Melbourne in 2013.

### **BACK TO SCHOOL**

Every name is called a NOUN as *field* and *fountain*, *street* and *town*;

In place of noun the PRONOUN stands, as *he* and *she* can clap their hands;

The ADJECTIVE describes a thing, as *magic* wand or *bridal* ring;

The VERB means action, something done – to *read* and *write*, to *jump* and *run*;

How things are done the ADVERBS tell, as *quickly*, *slowly*, *badly*, *well*;

The PREPOSITION shows relation, as *in* the street or *at* the station;

CONJUNCTIONS join in many ways, Sentences, words *or* phrase *and* phrase;

The INTERJECTION cries out "Hark! I need an exclamation mark!"

A very useful mnemonic that I wish I'd known when I was at school ~ BarB

## Papier Mache

Diana Collier 5443 0137

The group began with an explanation of the materials required and the techniques employed. Diana had brought some very attractive examples of the craft to show us, and these were closely examined and admired by those present, and one member told of a child's bath made of papier mache.

This inspired speculation as to the possible uses of the medium, and someone suggested that it could be possible to make one's own coffin; another suggested that this was perhaps an activity more suited to U3A than groups of 30- to 40-year-olds.

A lively discussion ensued around the relative merits and drawbacks of constructing the papier mache coffin until one member reminded the group of Diana's initial piece of advice – start small. The group will, therefore, be making bowls, plates and the like. And coffins? Who knows? At Castlemaine U3A many things are possible. Watch this space.

Robin Rebbechi

PAPIER MACHE sessions began with lots of enthusiasm so it was decided to hold sessions weekly (instead of fortnightly).

Thanks are due to Jean McKenzie for her helpful suggestions and for showing us samples she has made, and for her very interesting book of photographs of articles, some far too big to bring along to show.

We are starting small, but the inspiration is there to make large pieces of furniture with decorative "carvings", or large vases, or book-ends, or even picture frames. We have begun with a platter, bowls, a jam/nut dish and are in the second stage of layering them with strips of paper, layering each article each way for at least eight times, but more for large, heavier articles

We are learning how important it is to make each layer flat, tightly smooth without any air filled cracks making 'bubbles' which cause problems later, also making the article weak – for example, if in a leg it, could buckle.

When these layers are dry we will sand them and then gesso them, and sand them again. Then we shall paint the articles, and glaze them. Then sand, and glaze again and repeat to the desired degree of gloss, or perhaps add decoupage "cut-outs", then glaze and sand .... One may repeat sanding and glazing 70 times, but ....

Diana Collier, Convenor – e-mail [collierd@vic.chariot.net.au](mailto:collierd@vic.chariot.net.au)

Classes held in the AA room beside the Kindergarten hall in the Uniting Church Complex

Weekly on Tuesdays 2pm – 3.30pm

~~~~~

Do you love History? Do you enjoy writing? Could you turn your hand to research?

Castlemaine U3A is looking for a Historian to write up our history.

Talk to our President if this project meets with your secret ambitions – he's waiting to hear from you.

~~~~~

### **Smile**

*Because they had no reservations at a busy restaurant, an elderly couple were told there would be a 45 minute wait for a table. "Young man, we're both 90 years old" the husband said, "We may not have 45 minutes". They were seated immediately.*

## requiem and then...?

Vic Say 5472 1841

Fridays at 1.30pm on the afternoon of the coffee morning and again two weeks later.

***Please note:** that the enrolment list for this course is currently full. Members of U3A interested in joining should ring me and I will create a waiting list. Should a space in the class become available I will notify people on the waiting list.*

Britten's War Requiem welcomed the group to the new year's program. The work was chosen partly to bridge the emotional journey of my return from South Sudan where I participated in the gathering together of members of a massive extended family after 24 years of separation due to the war there. It was an amazing experience to bring someone home after that time and have his arrival bring people from distant places to be together again as adults and elderly survivors who had last been together as children and parents before the burning and looting, the raping and killing of those times.

One brother had spent over 20 of those years as a slave in the north, having been taken by one of the militia fighters as a 7 year old. The Requiem Mass was juxtaposed with the voice and music of a young Sudanese man who was also a child in the 80s and his exploration of his trauma and his use of music as a survival strategy.

In the next few sessions we will listen to requiem from early, classical, romantic and modern eras which we have not heard before, after which we will listen to some liturgically related choral works and some works heard last year (sometimes different performances of them) as suggested by the group in a survey to be shared soon.

## SINGING TOGETHER

Rae Hawkins 5472 3446

When I received my updated information on the Course Leaders' Day I was thrilled to see so many new names on the list of people interested in being part of the U3A choir. Our numbers are growing by leaps and bounds.

I am fortunate that there is no limit to how many singers I can have. For a choir it is a case of the more the merrier. We shall always have room for one more.

We shall be learning some new songs, and of course keep up with our old favourites.

Plans are already afoot for the Scottish Theme "Happy Hour" in the newly renovated Tea Room (Pipe Band practise room) of the Botanical Gardens on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April. 5pm to 6pm.** If the weather is kindly, I hope that perhaps people might like to bring their meal and finish off the evening with a picnic in the park.

I am so lucky to be part of this wonderful group of people.

## Solo group

Betty henchman 5472 2139

Our group will be meeting at Peggy Munro's home at **1.00pm on the 19<sup>th</sup> March.** If you are new to the group please ring Peggy on 5472 2086 for directions.

~~~~~

A full list of "Support Group" members will be published in the April newsletter.

In the meantime if any Castlemaine U3A member should require assistance from this group, would you refer to the list published in the October 2010 Newsletter.

Signposts in English:

History of English language

Diana Collier 5443 0137

The invasions and migrations across Europe over the BCE and early C.E. era, affected the languages spoken by and amongst the 'tribes' (small nations). Many of these tribes were 'pushed' into the region now known as Germany – Germanic tribes of Germania. Some of these tribes pushed further west and into early Britain. The Germanic languages spread into the Celtic and Breton language regions and the result became what we call Early English (Anglic).

The structure of the language was formalised: syntax and semantics along Germanic lines with relevant meaningful prefixes and suffixes of considerable importance. There is a view that suggests the syntax has in fact been inherited from Celtic or Breton languages, but many factors are involved.

Literature – poetry, sagas, history, stories – was oral and very rich in descriptive and emotive power. We will glance at some examples (here printed, though much can be seen in manuscript in special British and Irish libraries) such as "The Battle of Maldon", an account of a raiding sally by Norse/Nordic/North or Viking men ('vicing' meaning raider), who sailed up the estuary of the River Blackwater towards Maldon. (You can find it east of Chelmsford, south west of Mersea Island).

If there is time, we will look at shorter poems, "The Dream of the Rood", "The Wanderer" or "The Seafarer", each in its way indicative of social life and custom, and if anyone has knowledge of Early English texts or knows the language, please feel free to join us. Your company will be much appreciated. **We meet in the U3A office each 4th Tuesday every month at 12 noon – 1.30pm** and we suggest bringing your lunch (to share).

~~~~~

## International Women's Day 2011

### **A special Castlemaine event will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> worldwide anniversary.**

Women in western countries have come a long way towards gaining legal equality and voting rights since 1911. In Australia at present we have a woman Governor, a woman Prime Minister and two women Premiers. Our chief Scientist is a woman. In our Shire we have a woman Mayor.

To celebrate women's achievements on International Women's Day in Castlemaine this year, the VIEW Club, which has about 75 members in Mt Alexander Shire, has gained a grant to cover the costs of a splendid evening in the **Castlemaine Town Hall on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March from 7pm – 10pm**. Cold drinks will be available in the Town Hall foyer from 7pm for a 7.20pm start.

Working with Castlemaine District Community Health (CHIRP), VIEW has invited representatives from Castlemaine U3A, CWA branches in the Shire, and Red Cross to support and share the evening. VIEW members from Bendigo and other centres will come to the town for the evening.

At least 200 people are expected to attend. Men are most welcome too. Speakers will include Dr Georgina Heydon, lecturer in Criminal Justice at RMIT, an expert in languages and forensic linguistics, and Eliza Tree, a local artist who has recently retraced Major Mitchell's expedition. There will be women's music and a light supper at interval supplied by the ladies of CWA.

Entry is by gold coin donation. Proceeds will go to United Nations programs that facilitate leadership training for women in developing countries.

U3A will provide the soft drinks and do **not** need to provide snacks. Participating organisations and U3A will have information tables in the foyer. Please contact Elizabeth Rider on 5470 5681 if you are prepared to help, or would like more information.