



Third Age Times

Issue No. 131

June 2010

We welcome your Contributions:

- Articles
- Interviews
- Poetry, Short Stories
- News of Courses and Events
- Letters to the editor
- Photographs
- Quotations
- Websites of Interest

Deadline for inclusion in the next edition:

23rd July 2010

Email:

u3asp@satlink.com.au

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Dates to Remember
Tutors' Gathering
Friday 16th July

Senior of the Year
Closes—Friday 23/7

New President—Sue Weber

Hello Everyone,

The baton has been passed and I must thank our past President Walter Keating for his achievements during 2008/9.

During the next months I hope to meet with as many of our groups as possible. I have been a member of U3A Southern Peninsula for four years and am just beginning to grasp the skills offered in such a variety of courses. However several of our long term course leaders have indicated they may be stepping down in the next year or two. Therefore I wanted to emphasize the need for U3A Southern Peninsula to gain new tutors. If you can help please let me know. You will find more on this subject inside.

Another of my commit-

ments is to try to engage with other community groups on the Peninsula. By being pro-active and promoting our organization all ages gain awareness of the benefits we offer to senior citizens.

Network U3A President Ruth Hawley's address at our A.G.M. detailed the State Govn't requirements for funding to U3A. Ruth emphasized that funding is dependent on financial membership and the growth of U3A's throughout Victoria.

I realize it's easy to forget about paying your yearly subs but can I ask that everyone makes an effort to arrive at their class activity wearing the blue 2010 name badge.

One of my first duties was to attend the Anzac Day ceremony in Dromana which was well



Sue Weber with Network President Ruth Hawley at our March AGM

attended by young and old and I was proud to lay a wreath on behalf of U3A.

Our new members Morning Tea was a success - more details on page 2.

Enjoy your new look newsletter -

COMMENTS WELCOME

Sue Weber President

New Members

A big Welcome to the following New Members We hope you enjoy U3A

Marg Ashford, Cyril Austin, Jan Bond, Vera Bridge, Rob & Lorraine Carlton, Peter & Pat Castle, Julianne Dryden, Michael Franklin-Jones, Ken Hall, John Hayden, John Macdonald, Mirrie Masnjak, Frank Milano, Norm and Margaret Morrow, Sam & Carole Oddo, Elaine Newbould, Leonard & Beverley Potter, Ian Ray, Vicki Simmonds, Bruce & Fay Smith, Bill Tingate, John Tolar, Derek Williams.

From the Editor

Apologies to all those who sent articles for the this newsletter. The response was great. Unfortunately there was not enough room for all but I will keep them on file for another time. Just send them to the Office or Email:

Email: u3asp@satlink.com.au

Refer: For the Newsletter

If you are NOT Financial this is the last Newsletter you will receive. So make sure you have a BLUE Name Badge.

Information Day - 16th October

Planning is progressing well for the Bendigo Bank funded Information Day referred to in the last newsletter.

A Steering Committee comprised of members from our Vision Group and Management Committee is working on a program of displays, performances and talks which we believe will hold something of particular interest for everyone.

Responses from course tutors and group facilitators are rolling in and please keep them coming. Can you help your course tutor on the day, even for only an hour? It would save the tutor having to be on duty from 10am until 4pm if members could commit to an hour timetable for the day.

The event will also be an opportunity for interaction with the broader community and we are delighted that 3 local schools have already indicated their interest in participating.

Great outside speakers including, Police Senior Citizens Register and the Rye Fire Brigade.

To make this a truly memorable day we need lots of helpers – both in the months and weeks ahead, and for set-up and management on the day.

We would love to hear from you now about any way that you might be able to help. It should be more fun than work. Offers of assistance can be made by phone to:

Sue Weber - for assistance with community liaison.

Jack Pope - help with hall equipment or set-up on the day.

Val Leggett - to offer a display or performance.

Marjorie Johnson - for leaflet or poster distribution in your area.

New Members Morning Tea

U3ASp returned to one of its favourite venues recently for a get together with new members, committee and tutors. The Rosebud Library's rear room provided a friendly space for chatter and gave new members the chance to meet tutors and committee members.

Over 80 people have become members since January and those attending the morning tea were encouraged to study the course list as more than one subject can appeal. Our morning tea was made especially enjoyable by the efforts of our hospitality group who served fresh scones

biscuits and fruit along with tea and coffee. A wander through the library completed the morning for several guests with one lucky enough to pick up the long awaited Steig Larsson book,

“Girl who played with Fire”

Course Information

Needlecraft:

Our needlecraft class is a pleasant & rewarding class. It is very relaxing 2 hours from 1 to 3pm every Thursday at the Uniting Church Hall, Rosebud. A chance for you to finish those precious fancy goods you never did years ago. We are only a small group and there is plenty of room for more. How about it? Think about joining our happy sewers. You will be made very welcome.

Margaret Moormann

Current Affairs By 2 ??:

A great many of our members will know that Jack Ruffin's course “Current Affairs” is extremely popular and that as with several other courses we have a waiting list of people eager to engage in discussion on local and world affairs and how they view these matters. Jack, being a gentle soul has managed to keep the peace whilst allowing opposing views to be expressed. Each fortnight newspaper articles are placed on the table so that members can decide what they wish to discuss. There is always time for open discussion as well.

So the question is will someone start another CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASS? You may only wish to conduct the class once a month or perhaps like Jack you can manage a class each fortnight. *The good news is that Jack would be willing to assist you until you learn the ropes.* I'm sure that all those on his waiting list would welcome the chance to attend your class.

If you can assist please contact our Course Co-ordinator, Alan Hawkin.

NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN

*Story as told to Marjorie Johnson by
Anne Ashmore and Lyn Haywood*

Lyn Haywood, tutor in computers for U3A SP had a phone call from a Mr. Maxwell Good of Safety Beach asking if he could enroll in her beginner's course.

When told that it was full, but would be repeated again in October and she could put him down for then, he replied that he couldn't wait that long, because he was ninety-seven. Lyn went to his house and gave him a one on one lesson, but when she realized that his main purpose was to do his ancestry, she put him in touch with an English woman, Anne Ashmore, who had done quite a lot of this sort of research herself and was out here on a short term visit.

Anne volunteered to go to his home once a week for a while to help him trace his forbears. In the course of researching his ancestors they came upon one with an unusual French

surname. It being the same as Anne's name prior to marriage, she researched further, eventually finding that she and her new Australian friend were indeed related some generations back.

As an instance of indomitable spirit, generosity and extraordinary odds, human stories surely don't come much better than this.

Anne Ashmore

With her new found

Australian Relative

Max Good



Footnote: Anne Ashmore has now returned to England but before leaving said that Max Good could use more help and asked if any U3A SP member might assist him.

MAH JONGG

Anyone wanting to learn this very interesting game is invited to my home and have a go.

It will not be TOO hard but will stimulate the "grey matter" and will be fun.

Starting date will be 12 August and thereafter each Thursday from 2pm till 4pm with a break for a cupper.

TO A GOOD HOME

Sony 27 inch Television

Video Cassette Recorder (VHS)

In excellent condition

Available to a good home

Ring: **David Bamford**

Can You Help ?

Thank you to those people who completed the questionnaire regarding new classes they would like to attend.

The results showed that we have great interest in a TAI CHI class, closely followed by GENEALOGY, SKETCHING & WATER-COLOURS. Several people were interested in beginning, GERMAN, ITALIAN or FRENCH. BRIDGE & CHESS featured and yes people would like to learn to COOK.

Are you experienced in any of these areas and willing to take on a class? It could be that you only wish to take a class two hours a month, U3A SP can offer assistance with getting started and we are willing to run a course for new tutors if you think that would help.

We do have several rooms at the Old Shire Offices, available at certain times but it may suit you to run the course from your home.

One way of gaining new members is to promote classes through the "What's On" section in the local papers but of course this won't happen until we find **NEW TUTORS**.

Perhaps you know of a retired person with time on their hands, someone who may be an expert or with knowledge of a particular subject. If so we would love to hear from them because without tutors U3A does not exist. So please put on your thinking caps and help the future of this great organization

ANNUAL "LIBBY PINK" GOLF DAY

On 5th March we held our second golf day in memory of our dear friend Libby Aitkin who died of Ovarian Cancer two years ago. We collected gold coins to donate \$120 to Ovarian Cancer Australia.

We call this our "Pink" day as this was the colour Libby loved to wear. Everyone wears some form of pink, be it shirt, a hat, bright socks or pink bows. This year a beautiful pink boa floated around the course!

Our elegant glass trophy was this year won by John Clark. The Pro Shop donated shirt vouchers for our winners. Pink golf balls were won for Longest Drives, Nearest the Pin and Putting.

We were honoured to have Libby's father, Bill Potter, join us to present our prizes, her two brothers joined our group to play along with our

thirty golfers.

We completed the day with a pleasant lunch for 40 guests at Steeples.

Judy Clark



REDUX CYCLING GROUP



Riding the East Gippsland Rail Trail

Day 2: Taking a break at Wairewa Road Bridge

Riding under the highway.

Photos—thanks to Harold Pidwell

History Lunches at the Village Glen

10th June: Tony Webster

The End of European Empires in Asia 1945-1965

In 1950's Tony served with Royal Marine Commandos in Egypt/North Africa/Malta. From 1955—1968 he was in Malaya/Singapore/Brunei/Sabah

Came to Australia in 1968 with Cadbury after they acquired McRobertson's Confectionery.

Discussion Group 1st & 3rd Wednesday at 10am in upstairs lounge. For Information ring Anne Ray McMahan's final session on 'Antarctic Weather' on June 17th at 1.30 in the Craft Centre.

8th July: Kevin Taylor

Kevin was an executive in the Wheat Board for 35 years, traveling to 60 countries during the course of his career. He has many historical tales to tell.

12th August: Tim Phillips

History & Building of Couta Boats on the Peninsula.

Tutor Profile

PETER COCKRAM



Peter Cockram is in the process of publishing his first book, an historical novel based on the life of his grandmother, Inez. The Cockram family is rich in inspiration for a writer, since the family construction business, established by Peter's great grandfather, Thomas, was responsible for building the Windsor Hotel, the Eastern Hill Fire Station and the Princess Theatre. A little known fact about the latter is that, when first built, its roof could be opened for star gazing.

For the past three years, Peter has tutored U3A SP's *Creating Writing Course*, setting exercises for a group of from 12 to 20 and enjoying the companionship of the writing process. His interest in writing began when he retired in 1998, and being impressed with the author he was currently reading, decided to try it himself. After completing a TAFE night course in creative writing, he then took over from his tutor as facilitator of the Sorrento Community Writing Group, a voluntary role he continued for five years.

When Peter's father died serving in the Second World War, his mother went out to work, leaving her two children in the care of their grandmother. Later, deciding that the adolescent Peter was out of control, she sent him to board at Ivanhoe Grammar School where he matriculated. As the son of a war-widow, the Government met Peter's fees to enroll at Melbourne University where he completed a four year Bachelor of Building.

Then followed diverse construction jobs, the first as Project Officer on the new Geology School at Canberra University, for which he was responsible for administration and costings. Returning to Melbourne, he was appointed Planning Officer on the 2nd tower of the Commonwealth Offices Building, familiarly known as 'the Green Latrine.' Over the next four years he was on-site Administration Manager on the new State Government

Offices behind the Old Treasury Building. He worked for a further four years as Construction Manager for a cousin's company, then in the same role, on the new headquarters of the State Savings Bank in Flinders Street. In 1975 he was head hunted by a large company with major projects everywhere, to complete their works in progress. This done, the company was sold, and the new owner sacked all employees before stripping the company for profitable sale. It was now 1977 and Peter decided to go it alone, setting up his own company, first working out of his study, then his garage, and later an office in Were Street, Brighton, in the area where he had spent much of his childhood.

Following marriage in 1964, he and wife Lisa firstly dwelt in Elwood and then, with their son and two daughters, in Hampton East and Brighton. For some years owners of a holiday house in Blairgowrie, since 2000 they have lived permanently on the Peninsula, now in a house on two blocks of land in the heights above Blairgowrie.

Peter cites three fortuitous circumstances in his professional life as: the sacking which drove him to go out on his own; being asked to talk to a class at RMIT, and there meeting a representative from the Salvation Army for whom he subsequently became their major builder; and buying an old timber house in Brighton for \$40,000 because he had nowhere to store his equipment.

A few of his company's major constructions were a new nursing home 'Inala' for the Salvation Army, a new arts building for RMIT Bundoora and a series of milk depots for Pura Milk.

In 1998, the brother of a staff member made him an offer for his company which he accepted, staying on as Chief Estimator for twelve months before retiring.

After a life of action, what does this enthusiastic, engaging man, with the ready laugh, do in retirement? He and his wife are keen Twitchers, ie birdwatchers obsessed with finding new species of birds. After doing a BOCA course (*Bird Observers Club of Australia*) they bought a campervan and traveled widely throughout Australia. Their search has also taken them to numerous off-shore islands, including Christmas Island and Ashmore Reef. Peter's count of birds newly observed stands currently at 696. Tending his large indigenous garden is another delight, and reading – at the time of interview it was Thomas Keneally's *History of Australia*. He admits to spending a lot of time on newspapers and the Sudoku puzzles, supporting his team Essendon, and striving to improve his Footy Tipping score. From the splendid, enlarged photos of children and grandchildren adorning his walls, it is obvious they also feature largely in his reckoning on the joys of retirement.

Peter Cockram as interviewed by Marjorie Johnson

U3A SP Publicity Officer



Absolutely fabulous weather, brilliant organisation, terrific venue and superb company made a recent sojourn to Victoria's high country a most memorable adventure for all those U3A members that participated. Dinner Plains was our destination which was reached via Henrietta's coffee shop at Leongatha (4 stars), bakery at Bairnsdale (coffee 3 stars) and Omeo.

The accommodation was just brilliant despite two of us having to climb a ladder to the top bunk (a real challenge for a 70 year old and maybe the reason Sri got a shock to find one of them upstairs sleeping on the cushions when she went to make a cup of coffee at 6am the next morning Tony and Ray cooked a great BBQ first night and with pre dinner nibbles and some great salads prepared by the girls and one or two vinos everyone went to bed content but all reports were that sleep was hard to come by. Sleep deprivation did not prevent any of us starting out on one of the State's most difficult walks – the Razorback to Mt. Feathertop.

The walk commences near Mt Hotham and although very windy and cold, there was not a cloud in the sky, the view was so brilliant, and the emotions of the group were extraordinarily high. We were to soon find that the track was very rough and narrow and with the steep inclines and declines and the fact that much of the walk was along the mountain ridge with sharp drops, sometimes on both sides, the difficult classification was truly justified. The magnificent 360° views though kept us going and there were many photo opportunities on route.

The outward route to Federation Hut at Mt Feathertop was 10 kilometres, but about ¾ way through a couple of our group found that they were struggling on a very steep incline, so they wisely took the decision to return. The rest of the group continued on and reached the hut right on lunch time. A quick look at the gradient on the climb to Mt Feathertop convinced the group that they should give it a miss and return to Mt Hotham and it was indeed a great decision as the whole 20k was

Walking—Dinner Plains

very taxing on our aged bodies, but also because unfortunately one of the group had a fall which resulted in a dislocated shoulder so that for the last 3-4 k we had a very slow journey as we assisted a very distressed walker over a very painful but very courageous last part of the journey. A night in Wangaratta hospital and a replacement of the shoulder had the injured party back with us at Dinner Plains the next day. Interesting was her husband's reaction when he asked us to tell the hospital to keep her there for 6 weeks (We hope he was joking).

More wine and some lovely casseroles in front of a large log fire relaxed us that night, so much so that sleep that night was long and deep. After the exertions of the previous day shorter walks were planned for day 2 on the mountain, the first took us around the village and then down to the small but very beautiful Cartwright Falls. This was followed by coffee at Dinner Plains (2 stars). After lunch it was decided to undertake another short 3-4 k walk, but the numbers had dwindled somewhat, as the excuse (I want to finish my book) echoed around the lodge. It was interesting to note though the dropped heads and the closed eyelids meaning that the books were still unread. The super fit among us spent the afternoon walking the Montane Track, a new track only just completed. They did not walk far enough though to find where the walk went to.

The trip home took us through Bright where we had coffee at a café overlooking the delightful Ovens River (4 ½ stars), after which the guys did a short walk along the river while the girls walked through the town (retail therapy we believe). We had lunch at the cheese factory in Millewa (3 stars) and then after a long drive through Benalla, Seymour and Yea we stopped off for even more coffee in Yarra Glen (4 stars). 6 pm we arrived back in Dromana, a very tired and very sore group but all on a real high having achieved our ambition of walking the world renowned Razorback.

Our thanks to Graeme Smith who came up with the idea and did the entire organisation including leading the walks. Thanks to all the girls for the most delightful food, thanks to Tony & Ray whose talents with BBQ tools are unsurpassed, thanks to John P for his comic interlude and finally thanks to everyone for making this excursion a most enjoyable and most memorable one.

Mike O'Sullivan

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VALE—IRAS COLLINS

It is with regret that we report the passing of our Oil Painting tutor, Iras Collins. Iras had been very ill for a long period of time and perhaps her family will find relief knowing that she suffers no more

Iras had lead the Oil Painting group from the time the group shifted from Shoreham to the Community Hall, Dromana. Although a small band of painters they nevertheless produced a splendid display of their talents as had been witnessed at our Book Launch and the 20th year celebrations.

Iras was creative in a great many ways; as a writer, when at the age of 14 The Weekly Times printed her first article. Pottery was a great love along with spinning and weaving and the Peninsula Ramblers walking group. As is often the case Iras, a busy person found time to be a volunteer in the Rotary shop, and before her illness had taken up lawn bowls.

Wilma Weymouth who has kept the group together during the many months of their tutor's illness reported that her family conducted a private ceremony at home with family members coming from all parts of Australia to pay tribute to Iras. The family announced that to honour wife and mother, a rose garden will be erected in Iras' favorite spot in her garden.

Condolences from the U3A committee and all members have been sent to the family

IRAS COLLINS RESTING NOW IN PAINLESS PEACE

Letters to the Editor

A QUOTATION TO CONTEMPLATE

The attitude that living things are placed here for our benefit still dominates our culture, even where its underpinnings have disappeared. We now need, for purpose of scientific understanding, to find a less human-centred view of the natural world. If wild animals and plants can be said to be put into the world for any purpose ... it is surely not for the benefit of humans. We must learn to see through non-human eyes. In the case of the flowers ... it is at least marginally more sensible to see them through the eyes of bees and other creatures that pollinate them.

Quotation from *Climbing Mount Improbable* by Richard Dawkins. Submitted by Jill Jones

ISLAM WITH ROY BARCLAY

I joined Roy Barclay's course on Islam so that I might better sift through the plethora of prejudice and mis-information that abounds on the subject. In two-hourly sessions over three weeks, it covered the history of Islam from the birth of Muhammad in 570, and its great cultural and liberal strength as it spread throughout the Arab world. Roy described in fascinating detail the origins of some of the features which characterize Islam today, correcting false impressions and exploding myths. To study with a man who so thoroughly knows his subject and is able to expound on its every complexity was a rare privilege.

I was very sorry to learn that this was to be Roy's last Islam course, and I would like to thank him for the many times he has run it in the past and for sharing his extensive knowledge with me and so many others.

Marjorie Johnson oam

Are You Interested ?

U3A Office is looking for assistance. If you have some office experience and especially are computer literate and would be able to spare a few hours on a Tuesday or Thursday morning either weekly, fortnightly or even monthly we would love to hear from you. Two positions—**General Office** duties (Telephone enquiries etc.) and a **Computer Person** with experience in Quicken would be great. You would be working in a very happy and enjoyable atmosphere and helping our very worthy organization. Call the Office on 5981 8777 during office hours.

Disclaimer:

From time to time your Committee gives space in the Newsletter for a product or service which the Committee believes, in good faith, is worthy of being brought to the attention of members.

Please Note: Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, from 9.30am, closing at 1pm sharp.



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