



# Third Age Times

June 2009 - Issue No. 125



## Presidents Reflections

I was very glad to be a visitor at the U3A 20<sup>th</sup> Year Golf Day at Mt Martha and afterwards at Steeples Restaurant for lunch on Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was a fabulous day, shame about the rain, but all the golfers enjoyed themselves immensely. The presentation afterwards showed what a happy group they are. Heartfelt thanks to Judy Clark, Harold Pidwell and others who worked hard to ensure that things ran like clockwork.

On Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup> "Pens and Pixels" was held in the Dromana Community Hall. This was a combined effort by the CAE Book Group, Creative Writing and Digital Photography and a grand day it turned out for the 60 members who came along. The short stories were great; the chats with authors Jackie Hartnell and Tricia McGill were informative, while the photographic display was terrific. Congratulations to Bob Thornhill, Peter

Cockram and especially Jenny Williams who ran and co-ordinated the whole show.

The Dept. of Consumer Affairs presentation on Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup> in the main hall was very well presented and those members that attended heard a very rewarding talk by Debbie Moon gaining insight into many topics that will prove invaluable now and later. Thanks Debbie for a most rewarding talk.

Our membership numbers have stabilised at 700 approx for this year so far. It is very satisfying to the committee to see our numbers increasing each month. In May we had some 18 new members who have all seen classes that are of interest to them. Welcome to all our new members; enjoy your time with U3ASP.

Among the new members we sometimes find a potential new tutor. We are always looking for new tutors and new classes for U3ASP. If you would like to take a class or activity, give the office a call, leave a message and either our Vice President or myself will get back to you and follow up. We can assist with training to help you get that confidence you may not have and get that special class going that is dear to your heart.

Our website is always open and you can obtain a lot of information about classes and general information about U3ASP.

Sincerely  
*Wal Keating*

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#### From The Editor.

Last newsletter I was short of material, this month is a real *squeeze* job. As a result a story from Peter Cockram that I specifically requested is left out, and he'll be left 'twitching' until next time. Angela's 'If' is also deferred, and I couldn't even squeeze in a limerick. Never mind, there aren't any funny ones left. Thanks to all you energetic contributors, and please don't miss the Eastbourne School article.

**URGENT: IF Your 2009 subs aren't paid—this is your LAST newsletter!**

#### **FUTURE COURSES both by Roy Barclay.**

"Isaac Newton" Friday 28th August. 10am to 12noon. Room 4 at OSOD.

"Islam" Three sessions on Fridays 18th and 25th September and 2nd October. 10am to 12noon. Room 4 at OSOD.

#### **COMPUTERS FOR BEGINNERS Wednesday, 2-4pm, Room 4, OSOD.**

The courses are going well, with a continuing waiting list for places. Each course takes usually 4 weeks, occasionally 5. The courses are intended for those members who have either inherited a PC from their children (a very common practice) or who have decided to buy one and get into the computer age. In either case, the member usually has had no previous contact with computers at all. For them a programme is something that you watch on TV and a mouse is a furry pest.

The course has recently gained the valuable help of Lyn Haywood, who is able to give personal attention to members who have 'lost the track' through missing some point, and have fallen out of step with the progress of the lesson. This happens so easily, so I am particularly grateful to Lyn for stepping forward to help.

I was recently able to purchase a number of books about computers and beginners, or computers and the Older Generation. Most of us will fit into one category or the other! The plan is to lend a copy of one of the books to members for a couple of weeks to help with their familiarisation with the subject. If the member needs the book for a longer time, then the borrowing may be renewed if there is not someone waiting for a copy to be returned. We have a number of copies of books dealing with the operating system "Vista" which is currently being sold by computer retailers. This operating system is less user-friendly than the earlier Windows XP, and there is very little in print on it that is affordable. I hope that these books will fill a need in this area.

As there is a lot of subject material in the course which is totally unfamiliar to the students, I have been telling members lately to not be too disappointed if they feel overwhelmed by it all. I am recommending these people to come back for a second round after a month's rest and practice. By then they will have gained enough knowledge to be more confident in their use of computers, and ready to take in some of the information which they may have missed on the first time around.

David and Lyn.

## 20-Year Celebration Diary

Look for the diary in the Newsletter issues during 2009. It will be kept up to date on activities that are planned for the celebration of 20 years of operation of U3A on the Southern Peninsula.

June 26<sup>th</sup> - Tutors Luncheon Room 8, OSOD 10.00am

August Multi group activity highlighting 20 years (Date TBF)

September 11<sup>th</sup> – 20 year celebrations. Community Hall & Old Shire Offices, Dromana.  
Many groups will be on display showing their wares and talents. There will be free coffee and biscuits for all members during the day.

### Stephanie Alexander Program — Eastbourne Primary School

From Margaret Keating

You will recall from last newsletter that the Eastbourne Primary School had asked for our help with their Stephanie Alexander program. The school has adopted this program, in which the children are helped to plant vegetables, watch them grow, do the weeding, cook their veggies in a class, set tables and, above all, learn to work together. They then they sit down to share the meal. It is wonderful seeing how they enjoy what they have cooked - *even the vegetables!*

I have been helping with the cooking, and what great joy it is to talk about my time spent with the children. I would recommend this program to anyone who likes working with schoolchildren. You can either help in the garden or in the kitchen with the cooking. There are number of times and days available.

If this interests you, please contact the office on 5981 8777 and leave a message.



### NEW MEMBERS MORNING TEA

The beautiful Main Ridge Estate winery provided the perfect setting for a gathering of new members of U3A Southern Peninsula on a recent wintery morning in April. Luckily the rain cleared and the sun appeared for a while, enhancing the view of many rows of vines and the surrounding bush.

Hosts Rosalie and Nat White ensured a warm welcome with a roaring fire, hot tea and coffee and a wonderful spread of food provided by our Hospitality Officer, Margaret Keating and her helpers.

David Bamford, our “Computer for Beginners” tutor, gathered people in groups of twos and threes for a photographic record on the morning. (see below)

Guests were able to mingle freely in the dining area, admire the great range of paintings hung around the room and meet with several Tutors and Committee members. President Walter Keating, thanked the hosts, welcomed everyone and encouraged new members to engage in and enjoy the many courses offered by U3A SP.

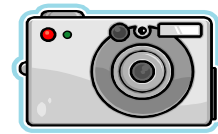
Many new members enquired about the Computer for Beginners course and also the walking groups varied trips around the Peninsula. Host Rosalie White had originally joined U3A SP to improve her ability with the French language and

this skill has no doubt helped with her research visits to France and Europe. A very convivial atmosphere prevailed and discussions continued unabated until guests drifted out to admire the gardens and head for home.





## PENS & PIXELS



**What do writers and photographers have in common?** That question was answered at the recent Pens and Pixels expo held in the Community Hall at the rear of OSOD. Seventy or so members and family friends gathered to listen to and admire the work of members of two courses -- Creative Writing and Digital Photography.

President Walter Keating and Co-ordinator Jenny Williams welcomed guests, and Jenny invited everyone to take a seat while three of the Creative Writing group read their short stories. Jenny then was joined on stage by two local authors Jackie Hartnell (Travel) and Tricia McGill (winner of Best Romanic Writer Award) and over the next hour discussion centred on how each writer, researched, collected material and drafted and re-drafted their book. Each spoke of the many rejections received and the joy on finally being published.

Course leader Bob Thornhill, (Digital Photographer) spoke of the wonders of photography and the constant quest to take the perfect picture. With today's sophisticated cameras many people struggle with the technology contained within a small digital camera. Bob's course has helped many people to not only understand their camera but through practice improve many of their photo album's collection. Bob encouraged guests to study the many photos displayed, the prints mounted on display boards, the electronic images as a slide-show on the big screen.

The inspiration for the expo came from the (CAE) Book Group. The original idea was to invite an author to talk about the creative process of writing a book. It grew from there to include the participation of the other groups, as part of the U3A's Twenty Year celebrations. The Book Group is to be congratulated on their overall organisation and the splendid afternoon tea which they served for the guests.

And so what do writers and photographers have in common? The afternoon's speakers clearly indicated to those in attendance that to succeed as either a skilled photographer or writer, they would need enthusiasm and endurance! These are qualities which many retired people and U3A members, in particular, practice. Thus, the final message from the day might be "You can do it, too!"

### **TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS WANTED**

EVERY MONDAY AFTERNOON FROM 1PM TO 4PM

TOOTGAROOK HALL, CARMICHAEL STREET, TOOTGAROOK (MELWAYS 169D4)

Come along and enjoy a few games of table tennis, a good laugh and plenty of interesting conversation. Players of all standards more than welcome, especially beginners. Bats, balls, tables, coffee and biscuits all provided

Ring the office or just turn up on any Monday afternoon

**The Feng Shui and Health Seminar** has been confirmed for Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2009  
10am to noon in Room 8 OSOD.

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS PRESENTATION

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May at the Community Hall, a very small group of U3A members listened while Debbie Moon from the Justice Department's Consumers Affairs provided extremely interesting and valuable information.

Debbie firstly assured everyone that if you have cause to ring Consumer Affairs you will be given several options (Press 1 etc.) However once you have selected your option, you will find yourself assisted by someone in Victoria (not overseas as happens with some organizations) .

Quite a number of brochures on several of the topics discussed were available to take away and everyone was given the opportunity to put questions during the one and a half hour presentation.

Topics covered included reverse mortgages, retirement villages, advertising and various types of scams.

President, Walter Keating thanked Debbie on behalf of U3A Southern Peninsula and presented her with a copy of our 20<sup>th</sup> year Book "U3A on Display". Consumer Affairs can be contacted on 1300 55 8181 or [www.consumer.vic.gov.au](http://www.consumer.vic.gov.au) .



## GOLF's THE GO

*Which famous golfer said,  
"Golf, it can spoil a good walk!?"*

*Golf... An all-demanding endeavour that has no beginning and no end.  
It can devour a person with its insatiable appetite, or slowly torture and destroy  
as surely as a disease.*

The Golf group was the first to celebrate our 20 years of activities when a golf tournament was organised for late April. Invitations were sent to other U3A's in the area, Mornington, Hastings and even as far away as Glen Eira.

A very hardy group of over 40 U3A members arrived at the Mt. Martha course on a bleak and blustery morning to compete for the many prizes. Unfortunately the weather conditions did not permit filming for our 20<sup>th</sup> year DVD as producer Graeme Wakeling felt the dim light and windy conditions were not conducive to clear film footage. The Mt. Martha course is considered by some golfers to be fairly difficult and the hills ensure fitness is maintained.

On completion of 9 holes all golfers and several of their wives and partners were invited to a celebratory luncheon at Steeples restaurant at the Mornington Race Course. Judy Clark, the very dedicated Activities Leader for this group had worked hard to guarantee the day was a success, and invited Walter Keating, President to present prizes to winners. The awards given out included winners of Stableford, Least and Most Putts, Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin.

Golf is by far the most popular activities of our U3A Southern Peninsula. Currently there are 55 members and around 25 players arrive Tuesday or Friday mornings (or both) for a brisk and enjoyable game of golf.

<b>TUTORS LUNCHEON MEETING</b>	<b>FRIDAY 26th JUNE 2009</b>	Room 8, Old Shire Offices, Dromana
AGENDA	10.00am	Morning Tea
	10.30am	Welcome – President Walter Keating
	10.40am	Briefing – Course Co-ordinator, Alan Hawkins
	11.00am	Briefing – Venues Co-ordinator, Dr Jock Fletcher
	11.30am	Question and Ideas Time
	12.00pm	Luncheon
	1.00pm	Close



### **The Redux Cycling Group of U3A Southern Peninsula**

18 Members enjoyed a wonderful 3 days of cycling and getting to know each other within the beautiful Gippsland area of Foster and surrounding areas.

We met up at the Caravan Park, occupying 5 caravan sites and 3 cabins, on Monday 20th April. After settling in and relaxing within the lovely surrounds, we came together for an evening BBQ. The following morning we assembled for group photos before mounting our trusty bikes and cycling to Fish Creek, quite a long gradual climb (7.5km up, 5.5km down) but very enjoyable and were rewarded with wonderful coffee at the Flying Cow cafe. After a picnic lunch, the return journey coasting back to base was certainly appreciated. The next morning our cycling began at Fish Creek for some and Buffalo for others, to Meeniyah and on to the New Trestle bridge near Koonwarra. A great meal was had at the Foster Golf Club for our final night.

We were certainly blessed with perfect weather and have to say a very big "thank you" to Patricia Rayner for all the organising; these wonderful events just don't happen! Thanks Pat.

## **STOP PRESS!**

### **U3A Office declared part of Dromana's Heritage Precinct**

Our quaint little office building has become part of a Heritage Precinct. The large sign out front declares it so. Neighbouring Tenants, Dromana Historical Society and the Mornington Peninsula Shire have recently had the sign erected and it details points of significance within the triangle of land bordered by Point Nepean Road, Hodgkinson & Verdon Streets.



Our building was designed in the Spanish Mission style by architect, Stuart Calder (the Calder Highway is named after him). A grove of Canary Island Palms were planted to emphasis the Spanish Mission style. The building served as the Shire Offices from 1928 until 1988 when it became an Arts & Cultural Centre.

**On your next visit take the time to read details** about the Boonwurrung people, the arrival of British ship the "Lady Nelson", the early explorers' monument, the pioneers pathway, the Lone Pine Tree and the Cenotaph. There is a great amount of interesting information shown on this sign, and it's *graffiti resistant*.

## **CREATIVE WRITING**

### **Local Radio:**

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April Linda Denman, Don Leggett and Jim Murphy each read a story on 3RRR's morning show. Don kicked off with an intriguing hatchet job on George who gets his come-uppance at a nursing home. Linda followed with a charming fantasy piece on an art gallery employee who loves his work and Jim finished with his modern 'Little Red Riding Hood', the wolf ending up as Grandma's well-fed pet.

### **Reunion:**

A reunion of past and present Creative Writers will be held on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at 10am in room 8 at the Old Shire Hall. All U3A members are welcome. This function is part of the 20-year celebration.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Welcome to the following new members—David Atkins, Alice Barbour, Pauline & Mal Castling, Faye & Chris Dyball, Sue Ellis, Bev Grey, Eddie Hayes, Loan Hoskings, Inge House, Maureen Iliopulos, Terry Jackson, Vivienne Maughan, Jean Mott, Carole & Michael Owen, Paula Polson, Serena Wells, Claire Wilkinson, Carol Wilson, Josephine Wood, Noel Slaven, Jenny Shugg, Carmel Speranza, Trish Stanway, Peter Renkin and Pina Telera. We hope you enjoy everything that U3A Southern Peninsula offers to all our members.

## **U3A CLASSES AT THE VILLAGE GLEN**

(1) HISTORY LUNCHESES: Programme for the rest of the year.

11th June: Calvin Johnson has a family connection with the 1st Fleet, and will give us a talk on his family history research. (Craft Centre)

9th July: Martin Dickson M.P., our local member for Nepean, will speak on the "History of Parliament House". (Craft Centre)

13th August: Helen D'Riffle will speak to us on her experiences whilst teaching in Saudi Arabia. She will give us a glimpse of day to day life there. (Craft Centre)

10th September: Prof. Rhys Isaac will speak about the work of his late brother Glyn Isaac, who was an archaeologist, and worked with the well known Leake family. (Craft Centre)

8th October: Ray McMahon - (Antartic Explore), is to speak on the History and Discovery of the Antarctic. Ray has travelled to the Antarctic with Prof. Law on the icebreaker "Nella Dan", and in 1963 was Leader of the 9th Australian Antarctic Research Expedition heading for Mawson Station. (Craft Centre)

12th November: Donald Ede has conducted classes in Marine History for U3ASP, and will speak to us on the "Voyage of the Beagle". (Craft Centre)

10th December: Ann Summers has an antique lace collection that is linked to history, and was passed down to her by her mother. Ann is going to show us her collection, and will be our speaker for the final meeting of the year. This meeting will also be our Christmas Party, and will take place in the Craft Centre.

Our history lunches are always on the second Thursday of the month, and begin at 12.30 p.m. Please bring a plate of finger food to share. Please note that our history lunches are open to all U3A members, not only to residents of the Village Glen.

(2) DISCUSSION GROUP: "WORDS OF WISDOM"(?? )

This group meets at the Village Glen, and is held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 10 a.m.