

December 2009

Issue No. 128

Third Age Times

From the 20 year celebration.



Left: Our scrabble experts pore away in mortal combat.

Right: The Creative Writers read their work, Linda Denman being the star performer when this was taken



Left: The choir performing during the celebration, under the baton of Iris Hardy.

Right: The ballroom dancers in action.



Photos by David Bamford.

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From The Editor. In addition to the group apology to Janet Parrette in the New Members section I have an abject personal one for a bad error last issue, and on the front page! The leader of the Happy Wanderers is John Barrett, not David Bamford. My apologies to both.

This edition is the BIG one—with the new courses listed. One course is already full, Ethics, which raises the question—is that ethical? I've had some funny material sent to me, but space is limited this edition —hopefully next year. I trust you find the Newsletter of interest, and season's greetings to all.

NEW MEMBERS. We are pleased to welcome the following new members:- Douglas Barbour, Carol Booth, Bryan Clothier, John Day, Natalie Donovan, Margaret Eastwood, Beverley Hunter, Denny and Doug Lee, Veronica Matijevic, Bob McPhee, Ray Preston, Corry Sage, Kate Smith, Charles Wells, Joe Valentino and FINALLY we remember to acknowledge a lady omitted from TWO newsletters. Sincere apologies and a belated warm welcome to Janet Parrette

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New Members, New Ideas

As the year draws to a close and our thoughts turn to Christmas, holidays, family and good times you may have time to read through the 2010 course list being offered for U3ASP members.

It's worth noting that some courses are very popular and you may find that there will be a waiting list when you ring the tutor. Please don't despair and if you haven't received a phone call to tell you a spot is available after some time (a month or two) – do ring again. However several of our long term courses are struggling for new class members so if you have an interest in poetry or art or table tennis do consider joining one of these groups. You can be sure of an enjoyable time and will meet friendly and interesting people.

Yes, we are looking for New Tutors and New Topics. Do you know anyone who could lead?:- Trivia, First Aid, Murder Club, Fitness and Balance, Historic Tours, Genealogy, Film Appreciation, Tai Chi, Superannuation, Retirement Home Issues, Alternative Energy, just to name a few. We are interested in your suggestions!

Sue Weber

(Editor's Comment—A Murder Club! —Experience Required?)



President's Report.

By the time you read this I will be home recovering from Open Heart surgery, therefore the report attached comes from our very willing Vice President Sue Weber who has been looking after things for me. I hope to be back on deck early in the New Year depending on my Surgeon and my wonderful wife and carer, Margaret. My Best Wishes to all our members. Have a very Merry Christmas and a fabulous New Year in 2010.

Cheerio for now, Wal Keating

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello Everyone,

Due to President Walter Keating's absence for the past weeks I have compiled a report outlining events within our organization. Walter will be back next year when he is fully recovered from a triple bi-pass operation; we wish Walter and Margaret all the very best for his full recovery and speedy return to Committee.

Our new members' morning tea held in the Community Hall was attended by an equal number of tutors and new members. Tutors obliged by wearing not only a name badge but also a badge giving the title of their course and this helped many new members to make enquiries. Our wonderful Bob Thornhill (Digital Photography) who had recently returned from Lake Eyre kindly showed amazing aerial photos of the Lake and surrounding countryside – all on the most up to date digital equipment! – as you would expect. Thanks to Bob, our hospitality ladies (beautiful scones!) and every one else who helped on the day.

Bob also helped set up a laptop so that the DVD produced by our late Committee Member, Graeme Wakeling could be shown. The DVD entitled "Our Peninsula, Our U3A" was the result of interviews with several tutors

and course participants and shows the scope and range of Southern Peninsula U3A.

This was the second new members' morning tea held in 2009 and it is interesting to note that again only around 25% of the new members attended. I guess people lead such busy lives these days!

U3ASP currently has 833 members and this figure has remained constant through 2009. Although each month we gain 15 or 20 new members we are obviously losing members as well. Perhaps some people join for one course only or perhaps they are looking for a course we don't offer. We are interested in gaining new tutors as several have retired over the past 12 months and new tutors and courses are welcome. To assist Committee with planning and expansion of courses could you please complete the questions shown on your renewal form. The form is enclosed along with the Course List for 2010.

In late October the U3ASP name appeared in an article of "The Leader" regarding Councillor Pittock's remarks about Seniors on the Peninsula having a Fortress Mentality and in our case refusing use of a school room offered by the Councillor. Whilst his offer was appreciated, the school is in fact about to demolish his suggested class rooms. U3ASP will continue to work with other tenants of the Old Shire Offices and the Mornington Peninsula Shire in the planned development of a new Community Hall. Our new Publicity Officer, Marjorie Johnson has been busy on our behalf with several articles in local papers but more importantly by gaining funding for a 2010 Information Day. More about this great event in a later edition.

Special thanks to those who enable U3ASP to continue; office volunteers, hospitality, committee members and of course the reason for our organisation - our Tutors.

The year has flown and so -

May you and your family enjoy a safe and Happy Christmas

Sue Weber

From Hildegard Harley.

Having enjoyed being the Tutor of the German class, I wish to thank all the participants, a fantastic group. Struggling through the reading and translations, you have come far. The laughter has always been there; may it continue with the new Tutor.

We shall meet at my house monthly for coffee and conversation.

My thanks also go to all the lovely, helpful crew in the office for the patience you showed to me, and the never-ending photo-copying you did so willingly. I know you will give the new Tutors all the help they may need. Hildegard Harley.

From the Wednesday Walkers—Report on their Annual Trip Away



The Wednesday Walking group spent the week 19th to 23rd October enjoying the hospitality of the Portland Claremont Holiday Park. 13 of the group arrived on Monday and commenced the weeks activities with a raucous happy hour plus an evening meal provided by group members. The aim of the week was to experience some of the challenging walks that constitute the Great South West Walk, a 20 plus day walk from Portland to Portland which takes in the Glenelg River, the township of Nelson and the beaches that abut the Southern Ocean.

On the Tuesday the group tackled the 15 km leg of the walk from Mt Richmond to Bridgewater Lakes. The first leg of this walk was downhill and relatively easy and the group was excited after spotting 2 koalas in the trees on the mountain. The second leg produced some anxious moments in that vandalism had caused the disappearance of some key track markers and doubt existed as to the correct track, but all turned out well and the cars that had been left there prior to the walk were reached mid afternoon.

Wednesday was designated a free day and whilst some took in the Cape Nelson Lighthouse and surrounds, the majority walked around the sights of Portland, took a ride on the Portland Tram and did some shopping. That night we were joined by two more of the Wednesday group and we all enjoyed an excellent BBQ cooked brilliantly by Ray and Tony.

Thursday was by far the best day as in beautiful weather we walked another 15 km on the coastal track that took in the spectacular coastline of Cape Bridgewater. Every turn introduced a new scenic view and we experienced such sights as the petrified forest, the freshwater springs on the rocks just above the coast, the fur seals surfing and diving on seal rocks, the huge waves spraying high above the rocks, the kangaroos grazing among the coastal vegetation and finally the large wind farm with its many turbines spread right across the cape.

Dinner that night was at Mac's Hotel, an old Victorian building which has retained its old world charm. The conversation on the evening, while enjoying an excellent quality meal, was of the week's experiences and the beauty of the walk we experienced that day.

All agreed that it was indeed a wonderful, wonderful week, brilliantly led by our organiser Tony Edwards, whose organisational and leadership abilities were again first class.

Mike O'Sullivan



TWENTIETH CENTURY AUSTRALIA An Interview with Richard Cotter.

Commencing February next year, historian Richard Cotter will run an Australian history course for U3A Southern Peninsula entitled *Australia in (much of) the 20th Century*. The course will be of ten week's duration with each week devoted to one decade. The first, 1900-09, will study the Constitution, immigration restriction (White Australia), while the last, 1990-99, will focus on Republicanism; Hawke, Keating and Howard, with the weeks in between covering issues and events as diverse as War, The Depression, Politics, 'The Stolen Generation', Women's Rights, Phar Lap and Bradman.

Many members will know that Richard's previous course for U3ASP, *The History of The Southern Peninsula*, has been so popular that he has had to repeat it 3-4 times a year for the last 4 years. He may well find himself running this new course for an equal number of years, but is quite prepared to do so, believing U3A to be a 'brilliant organisation.' When interviewed, he referred to 'the phenomenal achievement of running such an extensive range of courses and activities on an

entirely voluntary basis.'

Richard's career in education has been both in schools, and at University level, teaching Australian history, economics and accountancy. Since moving to the Mornington Peninsula ten years ago, he has concentrated on his writing, his classes for U3ASP and his work with The David Collins Settlement, Sorrento. He is currently President of the Friends Group for the Settlement.

Richard's writings include *No Place for a Colony* (about the David Collins Settlement), *History of Box Hill Grammar School*, *Boonwurrung*, and *A Short History of the Nepean Peninsula*. His various text books have all been well received but he takes particular pride in the *History of Box Hill Grammar School* where he taught when it was known as Kingwood College.

This new course will commence on Wed.3rd Feb. and then be held each Wed from 1.30 – 4.00 in the Old Shire Offices Dromana.

Marjorie Johnson (Publicity Officer)

NEW COURSES COMMENCING IN 2010

Here are some new courses commencing next year.

MEDITATION FOR MEDITATORS. An opportunity for those who already meditate to sit in silent meditation with those on a similar track and to talk with them. The focus is on meditation, and will not deal with religious or healing ideas. One hour per month.

SCIENCE OF LIFE. A look at the science behind life's phenomena, such as number and arrangement of flower petals, zebra stripes, rust, detergents, probability etc. No complex maths.

ARTS GROUP. This group will look at the Metropolitan Opera in HD at Rosebud Theatre on Saturdays, with coffee and/or a meal before or after the show. Also Melbourne Symphony Orchestra—Thursday Master Series. 6 or 8 concerts. Bus to venue, meal after show.

HISTORY OF 20th CENTURY AUSTRALIA. A decade by decade history of Australia in the 20th century. (See Description Above).

SETTING UP A FAMILY WEBPAGE. How to set up a family web page, using Google sites.

EMAIL AND INTERNET FOR BEGINNERS. Learn to use Gmail to attach files, pictures etc. as well as Internet Explorer and Google to explore the Internet. Also Google searching and Internet banking.

U3A CLASSES AT THE VILLAGE GLEN

DISCUSSION GROUP: 'WORDS OF WISDOM'

As usual, the Discussion Group meets at the home of Anne Hunt at the Village Glen, and is held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month in Anne's villa, at 10 a.m.

HISTORY LUNCHES:

Our final lunch for the year is on Thursday 10th December, at 12.30 p.m. in the Craft Centre, and it will be a relaxed day to celebrate Christmas. Members are asked to please bring a plate of finger food to share. Our speaker is Ann Summers who is the owner of a unique lace collection inherited from her mother, and dating back to the 16th century. Anne gives an interesting talk linking her lace collection to history. The History lunches are held at the Village Glen in Eastbourne Road, West Rosebud, and U3AS.P. members at the Village Glen, and those not living in the Village are very welcome.

There is no U3A lunch in January, and the first lunch will be on February 11th 2010, and we have Peter Day (ex. Navy) to speak. The title of his talk is on the Exploration of George Bass.

CHRISTMAS WISH

The oil painters of our organizations are seeking advice. Each Tuesday they meet at 1.30 until 4pm in the Community Hall and set up their tables, easels and proceed to paint. They talk as they work and admire each other's work but what they want is to advance their skills. This would be possible they feel if an experienced Oil Painter with teaching skills would join them.

So if you can help or know of someone who would be willing to take on the course leadership please do contact:

Course Co-ordinator:

TABLE TENNIS ANYONE?

Our table tennis group has been meeting for over 12 years now and currently play doubles at the Tootgarook Community Hall, Mondays from 1 until 4pm.

Skill levels vary but that's all part of the fun according to **Dorothy Rossiter**. You may have played table tennis years ago, so why not get back into the game? It's very relaxing, keeps you fit and the group has spare bats to help you get started. The weekly cost is \$1.50 and that covers the lovely cup of tea and the great company of like minded players.

The group will play the last round on Dec. 21 and start again January 18th 2010.

From the Creative Writing Group.

The Creative Writing Group reunion was held at the Old Shire Offices on Friday 16th October. The guests of honour were Edwin Leane, Christine Morton, Sheila Stibel, Pauline Henry, Jan Dwyer and Ian Ray. Christine showed what a truly remarkable voice she has with the singing of an English folksong, Edwin just happened to have a story to read and Ian amused everyone with a ghost story. There was a surplus of refreshments and all had a merry time.

Peter Cockram.

Parchment Art Group.

We have said goodbye to Jean, our tutor for ten years, and she is happily settled in at Somerville. I intend to organise the Parchment card craft group starting on the first Monday of February at 10am. I look forward to seeing all of the group again at the Dromana Community Hall. Any members who wish to join our group please ring me for details. **Janet Carter**

From the Poetry Group.

The Poetry Appreciation Group has membership vacancies, as several long-term members have left the area to be closer to their families. If you enjoy listening to or reading poetry you are warmly invited to join this friendly group. Please contact **Dorothy Wilks (Leader)**