

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 May 2011

Email:

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Dates to Remember



Delys Sargeant

**2011
AGM
Speakers**



John Barratt



Ray Preston

**GUEST SPEAKER ENTHRALLS
ALL AT AGM**

Guest speaker, Delys Sargeant AM, was absolutely fascinating and the large number of attendees who came along were enthralled with her talk on “Ageing – ‘can be an awful Time – but Great’”. at the 2011 Annual General Meeting on March 25th

As background research on Delys shows, she has always been inquisitive and these days, as she’s become older, she has become more and more fascinated at what “old” means and how older people feel about themselves. This came through loud and clear in her talk to us. Everyone enjoyed her talk and she had the audience in the palm of her hand, so to speak, while she spoke clearly and articulately on her subject.

Our special thanks to the U3ASP Choir, led by Iris Hardy, performed three numbers. They were cheerful and uplifting.

Two tutors spoke also on their groups activities.

John Barratt chatted about the Happy Wanderers Group and told the audience, with a great deal of self effacing humour, about the 45 or so who come along weekly for walks, rambles and even excursions. Getting to Parliament House recently was an excursion in itself for the 25 or so, who went on the visit.

Ray Preston also chatted about – Psychology - and how he operates the group and the various segments he includes within his two classes. While he has a basic curriculum, this is always changeable, depending on his group’s viewpoints, ideas and the day’s discussion points. He was glad to see Delys again. Earlier in his career, he had previously been in a group that she had talked to, and to see her again after many years was very touching and heart warming.

At the conclusion of the meeting, all attendees enjoyed a wonderful lunch, put on by the hard working catering team. Thanks again to all.

Final Notice – If you are un-financial this will be the last Newsletter you will receive.

Don’t let this happen—pay your subs now.....



Handing Over - Sue Weber to David Bamford

Dear Readers,

In this my last report before handing over to David Bamford, I must say how much I have enjoyed my year as President of U3A Southern Peninsula. It has been wonderful to catch up with several groups and gain a greater understanding of the work put in by Tutors/Activity Leaders. A great deal of research goes into creating an interesting programme for members. I must apologise to those groups whom I didn't manage to meet with but am glad that several of our groups are enjoying record numbers – please don't despair if you are on a waiting list – your Committee is looking at ways of overcoming this problem.

One way will be to increase the number of classes and tutors but of course there is the need for new tutors to be found. As I mentioned at this year's recent AGM our courses have reduced from over 60 twelve months ago to 52 with another group and tutor finishing last month after meeting together for several years. Special thanks to Dorothy Wilks for leading the Poetry group and we are sad to see the group dissolve. If you have knowledge in a particular area and would like to become a tutor please let us know. The Committee has recently approved an update of the Tutor's Handbook which has

been sent out to all tutors and would be a help in getting started.

Several of our craft groups attended the Dromana 150 year celebrations on March 13th and the work on display along with marvellous paintings shows what talent seniors have. Also attending on the day was newly published author Peter Cockram (Creative Writing tutor) with copies of his family historical novel Inez. I am enjoying the book as it brings many past customs to light. Peter will generously donate half of his sales earnings to U3A. SP.

Please take the time to read the report on our recent Annual General Meeting with the highlights being the wonderful speakers who entertained on the day. The Committee were grateful to Delys Sargeant AM, "Ageing", John Barrett "Happy Wanderers" and Ray Preston "Psychology". Our choir gave voice and the 60 odd attendees enjoyed a great lunch.

I am looking forward to attending more classes in the future and would like to thank the Committee for their support over my twelve months and wish David Bamford all the best for his year as President.

Regards

Sue Weber

Welcome to New Members

A big welcome to the following new members of U3A Southern Peninsula.

We hope you enjoy the many classes on offer to you.

Doug Algie, Ralph Althorp, Merle Baring, Maly and Speros Boursinos, Joy Briant, Helen Brown, Ann Cayless, Gwen Couley, Lorraine Dalton, Travis Ellis, Robyn Falconer, Joy and Dennis Fryer, Helen Gleeson, Jo Hardham, Carol Hayllar, Caroline Healy, Tony Heyes, Jean Holden, Michael Horozidis, Philip Hunter, Paula Hutchinson, Keith Jefferson, Christine Johnson, Elizabeth Kocsis, Audrey Lee, Kay Lipman, Betty Madeley, Anne Martinucci, Bruce McRae, Robyn McAleer, Meg Merton, William Nelson, Bev & Rudi Pauli, Margaret Penglis, Bronwyn & Robin Pryor, Rene Pucci, Brian & Heather Shakes, Stephen Smith, Thelma Stuart, Pamela Walker, Glenda & Jeff Walton, Carol Watson, Avril Webster, Shirley Wise, Therese Woodcock, Irene Wright.

Course Updates

Chess for Fun

For those who play chess, would like to play and enjoy the game.

When: Every Friday 1.00pm - 3.00pm for 8 weeks, beginning 29 April

Where: Room 4, Dromana U3A. Old Shire Office

Bookings: Ring Jack

Meditation for Beginners

Tutor: Lynne Black

If you've thought about doing meditation but don't know how to start, this 8 week beginners' course could be the first step.

Based on Buddhist principles, this method of mindfulness aims to develop concentration, awareness and a calm and peaceful mind.

When: Every Friday 1.30pm - 3.00pm for 8 weeks beginning 29 April

Where: Tutor's home in Rosebud

Bookings: Ring Lynne

Australian History Course

For 10 weeks beginning 27th April classes will be held at the 1803 Settlement Centre on the foreshore, Leggett Way, Sorrento, 50 metres from the 1803 monument on Point Nepean Rd. Wednesday afternoons, 1.30 - 3.00 p.m. Phone Richard Cotter

Antarctic Course.

Ray McMahon, just returned from the Antarctic, will begin his series of six illustrated lectures on the Antarctic and Arctic. These will be at the Craft Centre of The Village Glen on the first and third Fridays of the month, beginning in Friday April 1st at 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm, and finishing on Friday 17th June. The topics are as follows:

"MAWSON STATION 2011"

"SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION"

"ANTARCTIC SNOW DOGS"

"THE SEARCH FOR A NORTH WEST PASSAGE ARCTIC OCEAN"

"ANTARCTIC-ARCTIC - THE DIFFERENCE"

"FAMOUS AUSTRALIAN EXPLORERS"

Further Info ring David Scaife

History Lunches at the Village Glen

14th April: Ray McMahon

Ray has returned from the Antarctic, and will talk on the subject "Arctic & Antarctic—viva la difference". His expertise and enthusiasm are well known to U3A members.

12th May: Meg MacMillan

Meg will give a presentation titled "Epic Journeys". This describes the age-old migration of bird species to and from Australia, and the remarkable skills and endurance shown by these birds.

9th June: Hans Eisen

Hans will give a presentation titled "Two years in Taiwan". He will tell us something of the long history of the island and its rise to its present state of great technical prowess.

14th July: To be announced

11th August: Harry Breidahl

Harry will give a talk titled "Ocean Exploration". He is the author of over 100 natural history books, with emphasis on marine conservation around the coast of Australia. He has also been engaged in deep sea exploration

History Lunches are on the second Thursday of each month at 12 noon in the Craft Centre at the Glen. We welcome new members from both in and outside the Village Glen. Please bring a plate of finger food to share. For further information please ring David and Elizabeth Scaife

'Words of Wisdom' Discussion Group meets 1st & 3rd Wednesday at 10am in upstairs lounge in the main building at the Village Glen. For Information ring Anne Hunt

Tutor Profile

BOB THORNHILL



Bob joined U3ASP in 2003/04. He currently tutors Digital Photography split into two areas – Discovering Digital Photography & Adventures in Digital Photography. His hobby is photography and underwater landscape photography which is now his big passion. He speaks with a voice of authority. Having seen some of his work you can see it is a labour of love and enjoyment.

He is also in the Walking Group led by John Barrett. Classes he has attended in the past include Coastal Navigation.

As well as photography, Bob manages to fit in writing fiction, novels etc. He is still hoping to see a financial return on his writing. He is a member of the Victorian Writers Circle and

enjoys their gatherings. Another club he enjoys is the fledgling Nepean Camera Club.

Bob and wife also enjoy caravanning. With their caravan behind the car, it gives them the freedom to stop where they like, when they like. As Bob stated, retirement is for relaxation and they are doing just that. They have explored many areas up the east coast of Australia in the past few years and in June this year, leave to go up through the centre, then down the west coast before coming home, somewhere in September. Exmouth and surrounding areas, including the coral reefs, will be checked out. Bob is hoping to get some great underwater shots.

Bob was born in Camberwell in the 1940s, one of three children, 2 boys and a girl with Bob being in the middle. Married to Bev, they have 3 children, all living in Victoria. Two grand children keep them on their toes.

His love of photography was generated when he was with ABC TV working on capturing and retaining electronic images for some 14 years. Other jobs followed, all relative to electronics and or computers or both. His expertise in these fields has been very helpful to U3ASP, when we have had problems with the office computers and allied areas.

Also, he has helped U3ASP on many display days, co-ordinating photographic displays with many of his past and present learners. All have drawn favourable comment from the many attendees to these days.

He does subscribe to Dr Christian Barnards edict that a glass of nice red is medicinally good for you and it does taste nice after a hard day.

He says that we live in an age where the creators of our past images were few and far between. Today we all have ability to capture images of a multitude of things quickly and easily. In this way we can contribute to recording our age and times far easier than our predecessors.

**(Interviewed by Walter Keating
Immediate Past President of
U3ASP)**

BALLROOM DANCING CLASS WALTZ'S TO NEW VENUE

Ballroom Dancing has changed its venue and day of the week. The new venue is the Catholic Church Hall, Foote Street, Dromana. The class will be held weekly on Tuesday, starting March 29th 2011

Time 1.30pm to 4.00pm.

All enquiries to Leader Julie Hamilton

WEDNESDAY BUSHWALKERS

New Coordinator -

Graeme Smith

HAPPY WANDERERS WALKING GROUP BIG DAY OUT

During our open day last October, our State Member - Martin Dixon suggested to Betty Riley (one of our walkers) that we should have lunch at Parliament House and then a guided tour of the building. After a bit of negotiating with Martin Dixon's office in McCrae, Betty and I arranged a lunch and tour for 17th March 2011, however we were not sure what response we would get from our group.

We shouldn't have been concerned, as we had 29 acceptances who all ventured off into the city for lunch and tours of Parliament House and the Old Treasury Building (a later inclusion).

After arriving at Richmond Station and ensuring that we had all arrived safely, we walked to Spring Street arriving in time for lunch in one of the beautiful Parliament House dining rooms.

After lunch we were taken on a private tour of the building by "Trevor" who managed all the questions put to him with the ease of a politician, although Public Relations was clearly his expertise.

Although we spent an hour on our tour, it was not nearly enough as there was so much to see.

We learnt about the Speakers of the House and spent some time in the Legislative Assembly Chamber – "the green room" and soaked in the atmosphere and the wonderful architecture. It seemed very appropriate to be in "the green room" on St Patrick's day!

By the time we had visited the library and the Legislative Council (the red room) and tossed up a few "more curly ones" to Trevor, it was time to go because of our tight schedule.

It was then a three minute dash to the Old Treasury Building as our guided tour was due to start at 3pm – lucky our group are good walkers and can move quickly when they have to!

This time we broke up into two groups with a tour guide for each group.

Once again our tours lasted about an hour and were very educational – it was great to hear about some of Melbourne's early history and the wealth of Victoria during the gold rush days.

It was good to know that individuals can tour the Old Treasury Building free of cost (without a tour guide), so if anyone is in the city it's well worth a visit.

Finally, we headed home after a great day out.

JOHN BARRATT



U3ASP Parliament in Session and at Lunch

PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN AUSTRALIA

The Mornington Peninsula Human Rights Group together with the Mornington Peninsula Shire invite you to

A PUBLIC DEBATE between Mark Dreyfus, Labor Member for Issacs and Greg Hunt, Liberal Member for Flinders—To be followed by a panel discussion and audience participation.

PENINSULA COMMUNITY THEATRE—Thursday 9th June 2011 from 7.30—9.30 pm.

ALL WELCOME - ADMISSION FREE - Enquiries: Helen Howells,

The 10 Commandments of Creative Writing (By a late learner)

1. Thou shall use a title and opening sentence that will cause the reader to read further. Damn it, if they don't read on, what is the point of writing to the "xxxx,s" anyway! Lie about not being too long. Suggest a prize to those who continue. Use a titillating title, a salacious opening sentence, or some erotica to tempt them to read the lot.
2. Thou shall avoid elaborate adjectives and adverbs. Hyperbole and superficial descriptive words should not be used if simpler words will do. Why say "It is manifestly apparent that the chef did not know his culinary craft", when you mean "Who called the bastard a cook?"
3. Thou main character should change, or be changed in your story. Most stories revolve about the physical, mental or moral changes in one or more of the main characters, which may be a problem in a short story. Excepting yourself, if in doubt, kill them all!
4. Thy supporting characters (less than 5) should remain unchanged. Sounds boring but as they may be relatives this cannot be argued with. Incidentally, use the vernacular of your characters. It adds colour and is a cloak for your grammar.
5. Thou shall use alliteration carefully - if at all. "Fly Fleeting Fawn Fox, and Float Further o'er Frowsy Furry Fidos" will always sound more tempting than "The Quick brown Fox Jumped over the Lazy Dog."
6. Thou shall never open successive sentences with the same word eg. "I". "Me" is also not acceptable and "You" is likely to be downright patronizing.
7. Thou shall never use cliches! In fact avoid them like the plague.
8. Thou shall avoid long sentences, or if used, follow with a very short one. Amen is preferred. War and Peace was once read in a day by an expert in Speed Writing. He was later asked to give a synopsis of the story. His reply was "It's about Russia."
9. Thou shall hold the readers attention. Do not confuse them with too many complex characters. However an auto biography of less than one can be too brief.
10. Thou shall always beware the apostrophe! If they don't own it, don't use it! If they are plural don't use it and if they do not do it, don't use it. However if the final word ends with "s" use it with care - it also happens! Be encouraged by the fact that most of your readers are as confused as you are!
11. Thou shall try for an unexpected ending, as this does. Slam them with a completely unusual conclusion. It will probably be as much a surprise to you as to your readers. Above all enjoy yourself.

(Written by Ray Greenwood)



Jean Black A Crochet Ladies Celebration

The Crochet Club celebrated the 90th birthday of Jean Black with a special surprise party planned by tutor Judy Bell. A wonderful time was had by all and Jean was presented with a birthday cake, card and flowers. Morning tea was delicious. As well as the crochet group, we had visitors from England and Walpeup, Victoria & many photos were taken.

Assistant tutor Janet Carter

Our Very Own Author

Peter Cockram, Our Creative Writing tutor, has written a novel "INEZ" set in the period 1885-1975. Come on a journey into a world of no electricity, no telephones, no votes for women, where divorce is a scandal, the world is divided by religion and lots more.

Copies available at the U3A office for \$20.

(\$10. for U3ASP & \$10 for the author.)

**UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE,
SOUTHERN PENINSULA**

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Courses/ Venues: Alan Hawkins
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Property: Tony Edwards
I.P. President: Sue Weber
Committee: Amy Hanly
Public Officer: Winnie Stewart

Thank You

A very big Thank You to Pam Blazanyik,
June Jay, Barbara Livett and
Joan Hamilton for manning our
**U3A SP Information Stand
at Rosebud West
Neighbourhood Day**

U3A Network:

Conference 2011

**9th–11th May, 2011
MELBOURNE TOWN HALL
90-120 Swanston Street
Melbourne**

**'Ageing with Interest:
Vitality, Knowledge, Growth'**

Enquiries: Elsie Mutton
National Conference Convenor
Email: u3anuna@bigpond.com

Communicating

I grow old I grow old....

I shall wear the bottoms o my trousers rolled.

(Apologies to T.S.Eliot)

Do I dare eat a peach?

Shall I knit a sock, a new tea cosy?

Shall I paint a landscape, draw a nude?

Shall I write a book?

Shall I read the obituaries?

Or ... join U3A ?

Communicating – this is something we do in abundance at U3A. We listen, we speak, we sometimes sing. We learn new languages and cultures and philosophies. We learn new skills and we dance and exercise our stiffening bodies. We walk and talk and explore nature: some bicycle, some camp. We learn from one another as we share and build new friendships. We grow and we run it ourselves!

For the last six years I have been learning Italian conversation (with appropriate gestures). Our class, under the warm, guiding wings of Signora Yolanda Suttill, expands and contracts from ten to six and back again as students take off on their long awaited holidays in Italy. However, there has always remained that core of 'odds and sods' who can't keep away and are always there for one another.

We have learned so much more than a language. We have discussed Italian history and sociology, family life in cities and in the country and, of course, always cooking and wining and dining. We have raved and argued about politics, football, music – especially opera – and art. We have become our own unique social group, a mix of ages, gender, nationalities and professions. In this nomadic world of ours what could be a better contribution to peaceful co-existence than being able to communicate and to understand, to be 'simpatico'.

Thank You, U3A, for the opportunity and, now, what should an 83 year old tackle next?

Margaret Mackie.