



THIRD AGE SEMINARS

August 2009
Issue No. 126

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STOP PRESS See Page 6 - New Course Meditation for Beginners

GRAEME WAKELING:

U3ASP Committeeman;
Passed away suddenly in July.
Read a tribute to Graeme and a
summary of his extraordinary life
On page 5.



NUCLEAR POWER—Is it the way to go?

On August 24 at 1pm hear Andrew Raff
discuss this vital topic in depth.
See details of his talk on page 2.

Right: What a nuclear power plant looks
like. Here is one in operation in Ger-
many.



Can you pick the backs of heads? These are pictures of the very success-
ful seminar for tutors held late in June, followed by the traditional simple
and tasty luncheon. See President Wal's report on page 3 for details.

SURPLUS: U3ASP has a very good Canon MPC190 printer available - FREE!
Ring the office for details. -5981 8777
We have also purchased a new telephone system for the office. The previous Unidex was excellent
BUT too quiet for a noisy office. It is therefore available for sale at \$50. Once again, ring the office
during working hours.

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From The Editor.

Once again, a packed issue, my thanks to all contributors. I was hoping that I'd get a few words about Jean Cochrane, who is leaving as a tutor after 10 years—a remarkable effort. Let's have a tribute for next issue. I am unashamedly fiddling around with the newsletter layout, so please let me know if you think it's better OR worse! Two limericks appear on page 4. Next deadline 21/9/09.

NEW COURSES TO COMMENCE

Perhaps one of these classes may be of interest to our members:

Nuclear Power Cycle – this introduction to the Nuclear Industry will be delivered in a non technical way by Andrew Raff on MONDAY – AUGUST 24TH from 1 – 4 pm in ROOM 8. Andrew will give a good, factual overall perspective of the Industry and may conduct another course if there is interest. Sections to be covered are: Mining, Milling, Conversion, Enrichment, Fuel Fabrication, Waste, Re-processing, Transport, Costs and Subsidies, Insurance, Safety, Security, Types of Reactors, Uses of Nuclear Fuels, and The Future.

Please contact **Andrew** to book for this afternoon course.

History of the Southern Peninsula -

Richard Cotter conducts this popular course.

Classes begin on 7 OCTOBER 2009 and conclude on 9 DECEMBER. EVERY WEDNESDAY at 1.30 to 3.00 p.m. at OLD SHIRE OFFICES. Class size limited to 10.

Topics include: The Boonwurrung people, British discovery and early exploration of Port Phillip, The Collins settlement at Sorrento 1803-4, Limeburners, Shipwrecks, Quarantine, Defending Melbourne, Italians and Kosovars. Contact **Richard Cotter**

Cyber Surfing

Mondays 2 - 4 p.m. for 3 - 4 weeks in Rosebud Library. Beginning on MONDAY the 14th SEPT. Check out what is on the web and develop or extend skills in E-mail, webmail and web searching.

This is an opportunity to explore what is on the web e.g. free computer training sites, research material, using Skype for cheap international phone calls, Banking, E-bay and Bpay etc.

Bring your own Laptop or use a library computer. Participants will be encouraged to do some follow up activities between classes.

A separate 2 week course will be held for people who DO NOT have the internet at home, but do have family overseas. Contact **Lyn Haywood**

Lhay9636@bigpond.net.au

Definition: An Egotist: One who is me-deep in conversation.



Presidents Reflections

Hasn't the year rushed by. Here it is July already and it has been very cold too, but we cannot complain too much, it is winter.

It was great to attend the Tutors meeting and luncheon gathering on June 26th. This was an opportunity for all who attended to have a chat with other tutors & committee members and air their views to achieve better inter relations of all the groups who make U3ASP what it is. After the coffee break Alan Hawkins and Jock Fletcher, our Course Coordinators, talked about many changes to the administration and highlighted the new council booking system which began on July 1st. We hope this will lead to a smoother running of all classes held in council venues. At the conclusion all attendees mixed and had a very nice luncheon.

Our membership continues to grow and we now have some 805 members on our list.

We celebrate our 20th year anniversary with a big gathering on Friday September 11th. All U3A Southern Peninsula members are invited to come along to the area around the Community Hall adjacent to the Old Shire Offices on the Foreshore from 10am onwards. There will be lots to see and enjoy, a full rundown is listed inside below.

On a sad note, it is with regret that I note the passing of Graeme Wakeling, Committee Member, our OH&S Coordinator, Tutor and a wonderful person to know. Graeme passed away on Friday July 3 after a long battle with cancer. His time on the committee was always lively, and his organised way of doing things was fabulous and brought results. From all on the committee and many U3A members, we will miss you. Vale Graeme.

This is my last reminder about our 20 year celebration day on Friday, September 11th 2009. Yes, 20 years ago a group of very wonderful people gathered and started our U3A down here on the Southern Peninsula. You are all warmly welcome to come along on September 11th. There is detailed information on the times and activities inside this issue of the newsletter. All please come along and make yourselves known to committee members, tutors, other members and myself. Look forward to seeing you there.

Cheerio for now

Wal Keating

20 Year Celebration Happenings Diary

The Newsletter will be kept up to date on activities that are planned to celebrate U3A's 20 years of operation on the Southern Peninsula.

Remember to wear your U3A Southern Peninsula badge to all our activities.

September 11th – Our big 20th year celebration.

Join us at the Community Hall & surrounding park area, commencing 10.30 am. All U3A Southern Peninsula members and friends are welcome.

Many groups will be displaying their wares and talents. Free coffee and biscuits will be available for all members during the day, as well as a sausage sizzle from noon onwards. This is your opportunity to meet other members and see many of our static and live displays. The Choir will be performing in the Hall, and both the Country Scottish Dancers and the Ballroom Dancing Group will be in action.

Come along and be part of a great day for U3A.

September 14th – Another 20 year celebration activity.

Table Tennis. 1.00 pm onwards

Tootgarook Community Hall, Barry Street Tootgarook.

See the players in action and try it out for yourself. There will be a table with a member who will be willing to have a hit with you. All welcome.

The Happy Wanderers

When I retired three years ago, my aims were fairly basic – get a dog, perform some volunteer work and become acquainted with the Mornington Peninsula on foot instead of enjoying it through the window of a car.

I must be honest, I had never heard of U3A at that stage and it was only after a discussion with a fellow dog lover on the beach at McCrae one morning that the seed was planted.

I was told about all these wonderful activities and courses that were available and it didn't take long to realise that U3A would help fill the void that occurs when you suddenly stop working.

My wife and I subsequently joined U3A and started walking with the "Happy Wanderers" walking group during 2007 and it didn't take us long to appreciate all the great walks around the Peninsula!

The "Happy Wanderers" walks are long enough to get the heart pumping (about 7k – 8k with varying degrees of difficulty); however they don't tire you to exhaustion. While the walks are not too demanding, we do ask that newcomers take responsibility and assess their level of health and fitness before starting.

As well as our beautiful walks, we include other activities throughout the year and during the next few months, excursions will include a bus trip to Churchill Island, a tour of French Island (the only un-incorporated area in Australia) and a visit to Dame Elizabeth Murdoch's Cruden Farm, just to name a few.

The "Happy Wanderers" get together each Thursday at 9.45am for about two hours and the aim is to enjoy all that the Peninsula has to offer, while getting valuable exercise with some lovely, friendly people.

John Barratt, Co-coordinator.

ASEAN & ITS TEN MEMBER NATIONS - Resumption of Classes

Beginning on Monday 14th September 2009 classes for this course will resume between 2p.m. and 4p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of September, the 4th Monday of October, and the 2nd and 4th Monday of November in Room 8 at the Old Shire Offices, Dromana. (That is Sept. 14th and 28th, Oct 26th, and Nov. 9th and 23rd).

Previously we had dealt with the nature and history of ASEAN itself, and with its member nations of Brunei, Myanmar, Cambodia and Thailand. On 14th September we will begin to look at Laos, and when we have finished with that nation will go on to deal with Vietnam.

All U3ASP members who were participating in this course before it was "unexpectedly interrupted" are most welcome to attend these classes, as are any new members who might be interested in the subject.

Hoping to see you at these new sessions - and don't forget to bring along any interesting information about Laos that you have been able to find. Sorry about all the cancellations in recent months - and hoping very sincerely that there won't be any more.

Pat Sharples (Tutor)

P.S. Many thanks for all the good wishes I've received by phone and mail. It wasn't my usual bad manners that prevented me from replying to each one - just lack of time and energy.

U3A Southern Peninsula 20 Year Celebrations

Don't forget our big celebration on Friday 11th September at the Shire Community Hall, Nepean Highway, Dromana. This event commences 10.30am until 3pm and we promise free tea/coffee and biscuits ALL DAY to our members and friends. Also we will have BBQ sausages available around lunch-time.

*Entertainment in the hall will include, Ballroom Dancing, Scottish Dancing and our Choir will offer items—all this between 11until 1pm. Static displays contributed by various groups will be shown in the hall. **YOUR PARTICIPATION WILL MAKE THIS A GREAT DAY***

Limericks—

**Our Doris was sick, was our Doris
And drove to the Doc's in the Morris
He overlooked Doris; Examined the Morris
And told Doris the Morris had a vorus! (Anon)**

**The young butchers action was crude
His cleaver crashed down grossly skewed
He lost fingers and thumb
And his boss said, ' How come
I want chops and I get *finger food?*'**



VALE GRAEME WAKELING

Sadly we report the passing of Committee Member Graeme Wakeling who joined U3ASP in November 2004. Graeme, in his inimitable style, saw an opening for his passion with filming and editing & organised a class on this subject. Those that attended his class were amazed at his passion, meticulous organisation and help to all.

Later he was asked to join the committee and he happily and enthusiastically came on board. His knowledge

of Occupational Health and Safety was a valuable asset when he was asked to draft a Risk Management Manual. This eventually came to fruition, after much work by Graeme, Vivienne Woodhouse and Angela Milsom. We now have a manual that will always be a reminder of his work and effort.

Also during his time with U3A he put together a DVD covering the many activities of our U3A which was great for all to see. He later undertook to revise, update and put together another DVD covering all the activities of U3A for the 20th Year Celebrations. As many members will attest, he attended most classes and activities, even though his health had started to go downhill. He finally filmed all that he thought should go in and edited the material to come up with his final cut.

Unfortunately, he lost his battle with blood problems and cancer, and on Friday July 3rd 2009 passed away. His funeral service was held at Rosebud Funeral Services chapel on Thursday July 9th 2009. Many U3ASP members attended the service. Those there heard about a man that lived life to the full, ex army officer, ex pilot, ex mining geologist, ex rally driver, Redex trial participant, a wonderful parent to his family and an all round great person. His partner Val, who was with him for some 21 years, has lost a very special person in her life.

We offer our sympathy to Val, his son and daughter, plus grand children. His many friends from all walks of life who attended the service attested to his drive and love of life.

From us all at U3A Southern Peninsula, We will miss you Graeme.

Cheers, special friend and colleague.

NEW MEMBERS. We are pleased to welcome the following new members:-

John Fitton, Howard Ross, Chris Barton, Marg Clode, John Fairfield, Maria Grosso, Les Hawke, Liz Holland, Joan Hoskins, Julie King, Judy McLaurin, Roger Mead, Glenda Savage, Brian Wainwright.

HISTORY LUNCHES: The next History Lunch is on Thursday 10th September, and we are fortunate to have Prof. Rhys Isaac as speaker. Prof. Isaac's late brother was a well known archaeologist, and worked with the famous Leakey family, and Rhys cover their discoveries in Africa.

On the 8th October we have Ray McMahon, who will speak on the "History and Discovery of the Antarctic". Ray has travelled there many times. He was on the icebreaker "Nella Dan" with Prof. Law, and in 1963 led the 9th Australian Antarctic Research Expedition heading for Mawson Station.

History Lunches are always on the second Thursday of the month at 12. 30 p.m. They are held in the Craft Centre at the Village Glen, and we all bring a plate of finger food to share. Lunch is followed by the speaker. NOTE—OUR LUNCHES ARE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF U3ASP.

For further information please ring **Edna Salisbury**

He'll do nothing to help raise his offspring.

To paraphrase Banjo Patterson "The twitcher's life has pleasure that the others do not know."

At dawn we sit quietly beside the water hole at Trepine Gorge in the East McDonnell Ranges waiting for the show to start. The orange-red cliff face, like a backdrop at the opera, reflects across the mirrored surface of the water. An overture of Zebra Finches buzzes down to the water's edge to drink. In ones and twos, ruby-red Painted Finches nervously join them before retreating to the safety of the cliff.

A synchronised flock of yellow and green Budgies whirr overhead, inspecting the waterhole, too nervous to land. They circle, slow, almost land before accelerating again. Several times this manoeuvre is repeated before they settle to drink for a second. With a whirl of wings they are gone, leaving the stage empty and the audience able to breathe once more.

Mist shrouds Sherbrooke Forest. The lyrebird's fanned tail feathers shimmer in the early morning light. Pure strong notes fill the mountain auditorium. His repertoire is prodigious and no bushland sound is overlooked. Calls of Whipbirds, Whistlers, Kookaburras and Cockatoos are all perfectly presented. Encores are freely given before the maestro bows and steps off his display mount; the world's greatest song and dance male.

On a platform perched high in the Cape York rainforest the male Riflebird raises his head and calls his wares. He calls again. A fawn-coloured female appears at the far end of the bough, shy and hesitant. His jet black breast feathers rise and glisten blue/green. No prince in all his glory was ever more be-jewelled. Like two satin fans he flicks open his wings, holding them high above his head. Flamenco style he prances forward. She retreats. He prances back. She follows. They mate, the baton of life passes on. How many eons of evolution have we just witnessed? She flies off and within seconds the male bird is calling his wares again. What a gigolo, *he'll do nothing to help his offspring!*

At dusk we sit on white coral sand. Palm fronds rustle. Already a full moon has risen, tugging at the tide as it has done daily for the last three and a half billion years. We are dots on the beach on a coast that stretches to infinity. We gaze through binoculars at the small island 500 metres off shore. A flock of Metallic Starlings wheel in formation in the last rays of the sun. They swoop low, bank and climb with a precision that would make any water ballet team weep. More and more birds join the flock which continues to circle, climb and swoop over the island. Thousands of dots swirl; a cloud of birds, a galaxy, swelling, stretching, soaring. I raise my binoculars to the moon's sea of tranquillity. This is how Galileo must have seen the moon those few short years ago. Still the Starlings swirl as we fade into darkness.

To all you non-birdo's sitting back in front of the blazing fire listening to Mozart or Mahler;
 To all those spreading a starched linen napkin and taking their first sip of chilled Moet;
 To those standing in a gallery contemplating a Monet or a Streeton;
 To those sitting hushed in a theatre as the overture dies away and the curtains slide open;
 To those snuggling up under a fleecy doona with a David Malouf, a Richard Ford or, if you are inclined that way, with an Elizabeth Jolley;

To all I say, "**You don't know what you're missing.**"

(Peter is the convenor of the Creative Writing Group when he's not bird-watching.)

STOP PRESS**STOP PRESS****STOP PRESS****STOP PRESS**

MEDITATION FOR BEGINNERS If you have thought about doing meditation, but didn't know how to start, this 8 week beginners course could be the first step.

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

WHEN: Every Tues. for 8 weeks beginning September 8th 2—4pm

WHERE: Tutor's home in Rosebud.

To register please ring **Lynne Black**

An anonymous contribution (and rightly so): Into a Belfast pub comes Paddy Murphy, looking like he'd just been run over by a train. His arm is in a sling, his nose is broken, his face is cut and bruised and he's walking with a limp.

"What happened to you?" asks Sean, the bartender.

"Jamie O'Conner and me had a fight," says Paddy. "That little O'Conner," says Sean, "He couldn't do that to you, he must have had something in his hand." "That he did," says Paddy, "a shovel is what he had, and a terrible lickin' he gave me with it." "Well," says Sean, "you should have defended yourself. Didn't you have something in your hand?" That I did," said Paddy, "Mrs. O'Conner's breast, and a thing of beauty it was; but useless in a fight."

Truth is often as strange as fiction. George Wood.

The story begins and ends on a chilly mid winter morning. The setting is the Shoreham Hall (once the local primary school). The characters are members of the U3ASP 'Issues in Ethics' group. There were ten of us sitting around three sides of a rectangular table, leaving the fourth vacant and so allowing a warming fire to be visible to all.

Our task was untangling one of the philosophical knots provided by Raimond Gaita in his book 'The Philosopher's Dog'. We were in the realm of meaning: how stories, philosophy and science contributed to our understanding of ourselves and the world. Gaita made reference to the place of wisdom and lucidity in this.

"So what is wisdom?" Diedre asked. I attempted an explanation, at the end of which I referred, as examples, to the place of some teachers in our lives. Geraldine, a member of the group for some years now, was reminded of one of her primary school teachers, appropriately named Mr. Wiseman. Dorothy, rising from her chair in excitement, responded, 'Were you at Hartwell State School, too?' Names before marriage were exchanged. Recognition followed as did chaos in the class.

Order was eventually restored although I was aware both Geraldine and Dorothy still had many memories to exchange. However, before we could resume our journey into the depths of philosophy Peter, sitting next to me, announced that he, too, had been in Mr. Wiseman's class at Hartwell State School. Peter's memory of Mr. Wiseman had little to do with that quality suggested by the teacher's name; rather, Peter's most vivid recollection was of a heavy strap that Mr. Wiseman frequently applied to the outstretched hands of errant boys.

We did get back to Gaita's book but I suspect the most memorable event of the morning was the event described above. Three out of ten sharing a very particular experience! Extraordinary coincidence? You be the judge. I'm not sure how we finished up on wisdom, but the incident suggested that the coincidences and connections in stories, sometimes quite implausible in themselves, may reflect reality more than we often allow.

A Tribute to Hildegard Harley

The German Conversation Group is losing its enthusiastic leader, but not its enthusiasm. Hildegard Harley sadly is stepping down for health reasons, and we will all miss her greatly. However, she has made our weekly sessions so enjoyable and stimulating that we are determined to continue, but will now need two to share the leadership responsibilities.

Hildegard was born in Zagreb and grew up speaking German. She later moved to Graz in Austria, and then to Australia as a young woman. Here she married an Australian, raised a family, ran a successful business with her husband, but spoke no German. Many years later with her family grown up she decided to "reactivate" her German language skills. She joined U3A at Dromana in 2003, and was at first very rusty and rather diffident, but it all started coming back. Very soon she was sharing her native speaking insights and helping the other Group members. The following year she became joint leader with Anne Whittenbury, and when Anne moved to Melbourne early in 2007 became the sole leader.

Much as we shall miss Hildegard's guidance and encouragement in Class, we shan't be losing touch as we plan to meet at Hildegard's home from time to time for "Kaffeeklatsch". We all wish Hildegard the very best for the future.

U3A 20th Anniversary Celebrations - TABLE TENNIS OPEN DAY

Monday 14th September at Tootgarook Hall

Carmichael Street, Tootgarook

1 pm to 4 pm.

Bring some rubber soled shoes and enjoy a game of table tennis

Players of all standards are welcome

Afternoon tea provided

Quotes: Old masters are worth more than old mistresses.
Atheism is a non-prophet organisation
Don't join dangerous cults—practise safe sects.