



Third Age Times

Issue No. 134

December 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 January 2011

Email:

u3asp@satlink.com.au

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Dates to Remember
The Office re-opens
January 18th



Art and Craft works displayed on the day.

Successful Information Day (were you there?)

The University of the Third Age, Southern Peninsula branch was thrilled with the number of visitors to the Rye Civic Hall on Saturday 16th October. Despite the cold blustery weather a great many people arrived and spent time talking with the various groups represented. These included Digital Photography, Crafts, Oil Painting, Book Clubs, Bird Watching, Historical Lunches, Table Tennis, walking and cycling groups. Visitors were invited to engage in discussion with the Words of Wisdom and Current Affairs groups or challenge the scrabble group to a game. The U3A choir performed several numbers, Ballroom Dancers took to the floor as did the beautifully clad

Scottish Dancers. Of particular interest was the talk on Free On-Line Learning conducted by U3A's Computer tutor, Lyn Haywood. Several members of U3A's Creative Writing group read their efforts at Humorous Fiction. In a further effort to engage with other sections of the community U3A.SP had invited organisations to provide guest speakers and these groups, Rye Fire Brigade, Rosebud Senior Citizens Register, Robert Austin Indigenous Elder and Naturalist Gidja Lee Walker provided information well appreciated by their audience. Point Nepean National Park provided literature for members and visitors. Visitors were also entertained by students from the Rosebud Secondary

College, whose musical director Mr. David Parker led the group through a number of popular musical pieces. Throughout the day the public and U3A members were able to enjoy coffee and a sausage sizzle. Amongst invited guests on the day were representatives from other Peninsula U3A's and our State Member for Nepean, Mr. Martin Dixon. The Committee of U3A.SP sincerely thank the Bendigo Bank whose grant made the day possible and thank all volunteers who helped with planning and implementation of the day and hope that those visitors who showed interest may become U3A members and enjoy the great benefits offered to senior citizens.

New Course

Film Buffs' U3A

Bob Thornhill

We would hook into ACMI's Seniors Cinema program which screens on a fortnightly cycle at Federation Square. The movies screen at 1.30PM. We would car pool to Frankston and catch the train to the city from there. Costs per participant are \$6.00 for the movie, concession train fare plus a contribution towards transport to Frankston. You can either bring lunch or buy it. I have a program of movies through to April 2011.

For more info call Bob Thornhill



Reporting in—Sue Weber President 2010

Dear Members,
The past two months have been very busy with a successful Information Day in October and currently the refurbishment of the Old Shire Offices. Painters will have completed their work shortly and we will soon have new blinds and hopefully new carpet. So expect great things when you next visit the office

As the reopening may not be before Christmas it would be most *helpful if people could pay their 2011 dues by cheque*. However if you no longer have a cheque book, just wait until next year and pay then.

U3A funding from the Government has been mentioned previously and it is gratifying that the Department of Planning & Community Development has entered into a further 4 year agreement with U3A Network. The Department has asked U3A's throughout Victoria to increase their membership, to attract culturally and linguistically diverse groups, reach into disadvantaged areas and to establish new programmes.

The Department of Adult, Community and Further Education will provide U3A Network with a grant for 2011 which will assist all U3A's in keeping fees to a minimum. Both the DPCD & ACFE have requested stories about U3A activities and in particular stories detailing the difference U3A has made to the lives of individuals. So, if you would like to provide a new programme (contact Alan Hawkins Course Co-ordinator) or have story to tell please forward to our Editor, Val Leggett.

It is sad to say that several tutors will no longer be providing classes next year. We do thank each of these people for their efforts over the years and hope that they will stay in touch with U3A members. Special thanks go to Roy Barclay, (Islam) Jill Jones, (History – Making a Difference) Edna Salisbury, (History Lunches), Yolanda Suttill (Italian Conversation) and Betty Kronenberg (Armchair Travel).

On behalf of the Committee and myself, we wish members of U3A Southern Peninsula a

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A SAFE NEW YEAR

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.

Dianne Evans, Lynn Heyes, Bill Higgins, Joan McDermott, Wendy Shaw, Irene Short, Geoff Simpson, Glennis Surgenor, Robin Tillard, Debbie Walsh.

Can You Help?

Is Italian your second language?

If so, would you consider conducting conversational classes for our members. A great many people visit Italy when on tour in Europe and being able to converse helps greatly.

The retirement of Yolanda Suttill means that we desperately need to find another tutor before next February. Currently the course is conducted weekly, at the OSOD, however if you would prefer to conduct this class from your home that would be fine.

Please contact Course Co-ordinator Alan Hawkins

Final Notice— 2011 Tour of Central Europe Deadline Tuesday 28th December



A reminder of the October Newsletter article that this tour (through the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Austria) starts in Prague on May 17, 2011 and finishes back in Prague June 7, 2011.

The cost at today's rates is approximately \$1900 per person (less that \$100 per day) and covers all land costs including accommodation, meals, site admissions, entertainment and coach travel. Travel to and from Australia is at own expense—however, Rick Hayllar (U3A Tutor) has a contact who may be able to help with group travel rates.

Please contact Alan Cuthbert.
email: alan.cuthbert@bigpond.com

State of the Nation and other ethical deliberations

Findings of our first discussion for the Group; Friday 6th September 2010.

Topic; Vegetation removal on properties with a dwelling and properties without a dwelling. (A dwelling is a permanent structure, ie: A caravan is not classed as a dwelling)

Properties with a permanent dwelling have, at present, a clear mandate, by state legislation, to remove "trees" up to 10m from the dwelling including undergrowth/shrubby vegetation, and up to 30m from the dwelling of undergrowth from the dwelling. Fence line/boundary may be cleared up to 4m or 2m either side. Most agreed it would be highly detrimental to our environment if taken to the "letter of the law", and that whilst some clearing is taking place, it appears most

residents enjoy and appreciate the environment they new live in.

However the same cannot be said for some larger properties—small acreages where there is much removal of native trees (the Council now recognizes Tea Tree as a Native species of the Peninsula) and, especially undergrowth. By what means has the determination of removal been assessed; That is by a "permit" issued by Council; a Fire Protection Notice issued by Council; or clearing by the owner without a permit or FPN being issued, we were unable to determine. But, by which ever means there is a serious loss of Flora, Fauna and thus—Habitat. The group believes there should be "qualified" ecologist/s, who specialize in Habitat, that are employed by Council that can assess each property that applies for a permit, or has a FPN issued, prior to any vegetation removal.

The assessment supplied to council, who has an educated and practical knowledge of the Flora and Fauna of the area, and "Habitat" requirements of any such fauna, must be taken in legal and binding account.

We also determined that there is a serious lack of "follow up" inspection of any such works undertaken to ensure correct removal has been undertaken. Also follow ups are necessary is any re-vegetation is required by the permit. We also determined that there needs to be much more education within the community on this issue.

As we degrade our Natural Environment—our future quality of life will also be degraded.

Join Andrew Raff in his class to have your say.



*Happy Faces at our
Christmas Tutors
Lunch*



Only You Know

I have begun a new project recently. I was talking with a friend about how much the world has changed in our lifetimes. I thought, "My grandkids wouldn't recognise the world which I knew when I was their age." They would also have no idea what experiences I have had, or that I may one day have been something other than the Old Man that I am now. At their young age they probably don't care, but there may come a time later on, perhaps, after I have dropped off my twig, that they may wonder how I could possibly have amused myself without complex electronic games.

So I decided to write (with my word-processor!) a combination of my memoirs with a description of what life was like 70 or so years ago. Did I do anything special during the Second World War? Were there sailing ships or dinosaurs when I was a lad? While my youth was as ordinary as most other people's, it was nothing like that experienced by my

grandchildren. Even my own children have never thought to ask what I used to do when I was young. It may come as a surprise to them to learn that I had a rich and full childhood even though were as poor as church mice. Heaven was a pen'th of broken biscuits in a paper bag from the grocer. Grocer? What's a grocer? Penny? What's a penny? Floating paper boats down a creek or gutter. Swinging on a knotted rope under a tree, perhaps over a waterhole. Climbing to the top of straw bales in a barn and hiding there. Mushrooming. For each of us, our life was quite unique. While our activities may have been shared by siblings, our passions and aspirations were ours alone.

Your humble, ordinary childhood is probably worth recording, even if it only gives you pleasure to remember all those little things which have now disappeared under the inexorable steamroller of 'Progress'.

David Bamford.

Census Register of Interest for 2011

The Next census of population and housing will be held in August 2011. Across Australia the ABS will be recruiting 43,000 field staff. In Victoria around 8500 people will be needed to carry out these valuable community roles. If you are interested in being an Area Supervisor or Collector next year, sign on now at the web site <https://secure.abs.gov.au/cascor/recruitment.nfs/6BB5A2FoEAB819EDCA256F2B00200080/9ADFB11FABAC9A10CA2577AE0009B527?OpenDocument> Register of Interest.

You will be sent information when the applications open in 2011.

Grandparents.

A little girl was diligently pounding away on grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."

I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colours yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what colour it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these yourself".

History Lunches at the Village Glen

9th Dec: Helen Gleeson & Fay Bilson

Helen & Fay will speak about and illustrate by film their experiences cruising in a 41' yacht around the Mediterranean and Adriatic seas visiting countries in this area. Will be a fun day to celebrate Christmas.

10th February: Dr. Tony Heyes

Tony has spent a lifetime working in science having received a PhD in physics from Cambridge, also a PhD in Psychology from Nottingham University. His presentation is "Outstanding view of science—An Historical perspective".

There is NO Lunch in January

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 Edna Salisbury

'Words of Wisdom' Discussion Group meets 1st & 3rd Wednesday at 10am in upstairs lounge in the main building at the Village Glen. Next meeting 2nd February. For Information ring Anne Hunt

Tutor Profile

JILL JONES



Jill is a life member of U3A Southern Peninsula. One of 14 people who in April 1989 met to discuss the possibility of forming a new U3A, Jill was instrumental in calling on friends and family to become tutors. The group had been told it would take at least 6 months to get classes going but within 5 weeks after a public meeting in the Shire Offices attended by 200 people 11 classes had commenced. Jill, holding a Diploma in Ceramics and a background in teaching was able to offer classes in ceramics; furthermore, she informed Lloyd (her Husband) that he was to hold classes in Musical Appreciation and edit a newsletter - which appeared shortly thereafter. As Jill remembers "it was the right time, people wanted the chance to enjoy learning."

Perhaps it was Jill's mother who instilled the love of learning? When her only daughter had completed 4th year at Murtoa Higher Elementary School, Jill's mother sent her to board at Firbank Grammar School for a further year of education.

Murrayville, where her parents were now living, was where Jill commenced a year as a student teacher at the local Consolidated School. Further training took place at Ballarat Teachers' College, but her father's ill health

meant that Jill returned to teaching at Murrayville.

Jill and her family moved to Melbourne and here she was employed to teach and assist handicapped children at Janefield Special School. Jill enjoyed this work and during her 2 years of teaching there she met Lloyd Jones. They married in 1951 and commenced a life which involved varied residences in country towns and the suburbs, as Lloyd was a bank employee.

Disaster struck shortly after the birth of their 3rd son when Jill was diagnosed with polio. Her mother, husband and in laws took charge of the children aged 3, 18 months and 2 months. Returning home after a 5 week stay in hospital Jill was a strange sight to her children, splints on legs and arms. It took a couple of years of determination and physiotherapy for Jill to regain her strength and finally dispense with walking aids.

The young family moved to their newly purchased home in Caulfield after their 4th son was born. Over the following years the family moved several times and Jill was able to work firstly as a kindergarten teacher and then as teacher/librarian.

More bad luck came in 1971. The family car carrying 3 of the 4 children was struck when a drunken driver ran a red light. Their youngest son was diagnosed with severe brain injury. Again family rallied and Jill had to overcome her fear of driving and manage the needs of her disabled son.

In 1978, encouraged by her family, Jill commenced a full time ceramics course at Caulfield Technical College which enabled her in later years to become one of U3A Southern Peninsula's first tutors. Whilst attending courses, such as French, Art Appreciation and History of Knowledge, Jill

held many U3A duties, including Accommodation Officer and also encouraged setting up the History Lunches for residents at the Village Glen. The U3A Public Speaking course gave Jill the confidence to take on the Presidency of U3A in 1993/4.

The Jones' hilltop home in Rye provides wonderful views back to Mt Martha. Lloyd continues to tutor his U3A music classes in their comfortable welcoming home and over the years Jill has tutored many subjects, ceramics, Australian history, 1066 - English history. A discussion group study of Geoffrey Robinson's book on the Execution of Charles the First, another on Eric Hobsbawm's "Age of Extremes - A Short History of the 20thC.", and recently, historical studies entitled "Making a Difference".

Apart from reading, Jill's passion is gardening, everything from foxgloves to vegetables.

Her children have convinced Jill that today's retirees have very different needs from U3A, looking more to Asian cultures and history, computer skills and a firm belief in fitness classes

In retiring from 21 years of tutoring for U3A.SP Jill will continue her other volunteering work, delivering library books to house bound people and from this Jill has an idea for U3A to consider. Gardening volunteers for those who no longer can manage their gardens.

Jill maintains U3A has enriched her life, provided support and wonderful friendship over the years. 80 years young, Jill is still keen to explore new interests and continue with life long learning.

***Jill Jones as interviewed
by U3A SP President
Sue Weber***

U3A Wednesday Bushwalkers

Trip to Healesville 2010

With the many great walks in the area of the Toolangi Forest, Black Spur and around Marysville, Healesville was chosen as the centre for our annual week exploring Victoria.

We all arrived at the Healesville Tourist Park where we were accommodated either in cabins or in our own caravans (4 this year – great to see). All were immediately surprised at the standard of the park, its layout and its delightful gardens. They have a fantastic meeting facility which caters for all needs, cooking, eating, games, TV watching etc. This we had to ourselves.

Our first afternoon, we visited the Maroondah Dam where we undertook a 6 kilometre walk to Donnelly's Weir and return or at least most of us did. There were 3 among our number who thought it was best to ease into the week by having coffee at one of the local restaurants.

The dam was at its best as not only was it full but in spring its feature rhododendrons and azaleas were in full bloom.

Day 2 was the highlight of the week and our hardest challenge. The walk was 18 kilometres in the Toolangi State Forest on the famed Tanglefoot Track. This walk was completely

obliterated in last year's bush fires and has been completely rebuilt. Even so recent storms have played havoc and we were forced to climb over or under a few fallen trees on route.

It was amazing to all of us the recovery of the vegetation and it really felt as though there had been no fire in the forest at all. The environment in which we were walking was absolutely fantastic and so, so beautiful, as were the leeches that invaded our boots, packs and bodies as we traversed the many creeks and water courses on route.

All survived the walk and the leeches except one. Whilst lunching in the shadow of Mt St Leonard we were visited by the Forest Ranger, who agreed to take one of our group back to the cars as she was feeling a bit jaded? We did find out after though that she was not that jaded that she could not accompany this handsome young man on his survey of the 2k boardwalk recently installed over Myrtle Gully Creek.

Because of the bush fires some of the tracks we planned to walk were still not available so we decided to do a 13k walk around Healesville itself. An hour or so into the walk down came the rain and the further we

went the harder it fell. By the time we reached Badger Weir, our scheduled lunch stop, we were all drowned. Luckily the park was not all that distant from the weir, so early afternoon, saw the showers really get a work over.

Our final walking day saw us travel to Marysville. The plan was to walk to Stevenson's Falls, another area destroyed by the fires. Unfortunately for us although the falls were open as we had heard, they were only open on weekends as they are still working there. Instead we did a circuit of the town reminiscing about our memories of the town and what used to be. Afterwards, all helped boost the economy by having lunch, coffee and undertaking some retail therapy.

It was really great week with some great walks but best of all was the evening conviviality, happy hour, fantastic meals, great conversation and much fun and laughter. Thanks to all for making a very memorable week

Mike O'Sullivan



That looks like Hard Work



A Well Earned Rest

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

Old Shire Office, Dromana

OFFICE: 359A Point Nepean Road, Dromana
(Open Tuesdays & Thursdays 9.30am–1pm)
POSTAL: P.O.Box 396, Dromana 3936

Phone: (03) 5981 8777
E-mail: u3asp@satlink.com.au
Website <http://u3asp.org>

Committee Members:

President: Sue Weber
Vice President: David Bamford
Secretary: Winnie Stewart
Treasurer: Angela Milsom
Newsletter: Val Leggett
Courses/ Venues: Alan Hawkins
Social: Margaret Green
Office Admin: Pam Blazsanyik
Property: Tony Edwards
I.P.President: Walter Keating
Committee: Amy Hanly
Public Officer: George Conrad

Publicity Officer Wanted

As mentioned in our last newsletter our wonderful Marjorie Johnson retired as Publicity Officer after helping greatly with the promotion of our Organisation. Letting the community, and in particular the many senior citizens who live on the Peninsula, know of the benefits we offer is vital to our membership and public profile.

The position entails joining our Committee at its monthly meetings, delivering our brochures to various organisations at your leisure, writing editorial for our newsletter and attempting to get stories into local papers.

Marjorie has kindly left all contacts and details for her successor. I'm sure there is someone out there who enjoys writing (Yes perhaps someone from our writing groups!!) and would enjoy getting to know members of the Committee, the office staff and our tutors.

PLEASE DON'T BE SHY – Contact Sue Weber

FROM U3A NETWORK

U3A Network Victoria requested that members are made aware of the following:

NETWORK VICTORIA CONFERENCE—May 9th , 10th, 11th, 2011

'Ageing with Interest: Vitality, Knowledge, Growth'
Venue: Historic Melbourne Town Hall (Swanston Hall)

3 days including Conference Dinner at William Angliss Restaurant

Costs:	Dinner:	\$55.00 pp
	Conference:	Two days \$80.00 pp
		One Day \$40.00 pp

GOVERNMENT HOUSE OPEN DAY

26th January 2011. Professor David de Kretser AC, Governor of Victoria and Patron of U3A Network Victoria, and Mrs. Jan de Kretser invite all citizens of Victoria and visitors to the State, to an Open Day at Government House. The furnishings and art works of Government House are quite remarkable and the gardens are certainly worth exploring. Visitors will be able to view the State Apartments, the Private Apartments and the Governor's study. Many of these rooms are not normally open to the public.