

We welcome your Contributions:

- Articles
- Interviews
- Poetry, Short Stories
- News of Courses and Events
- Letters to the editor
- Photographs
- Quotations

Deadline for inclusion in the next edition:

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Email:

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Reminder to All:
Membership Renewal notice is with this newsletter. Look out for it.

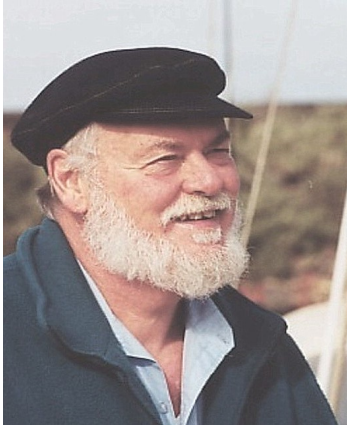
WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF U3ASP

*by Jock Fletcher ,U3A Vice President , at the
Morningson Shire Offices Rosebud on Thursday 29 September 2011*



The wide range of programmes offered within U3ASP, means new members can participate positively in life-long, late-life learning whilst developing friendships, where learners can actually be themselves and where it is also possible to relax whilst learning and to enjoy a freedom to express without being judged. By participating actively in U3ASP, new members will experience an atmosphere that features care, willingness and enthusiasm which is grounded in an inter-connected presence. Our purpose at U3ASP is to encourage a participative learning context in a variety of ways, at different locations including the Old Shire Offices at Dromana, Church Halls and homes. As a consequence there is a wide range of informal learning approaches within U3ASP, but all of them will encourage dialogue, interaction and expression. This is helped by the fascinating variety of people within U3ASP, which is also reflected in new members, in terms of style, culture, commitment and passion.

Continued on page 4



Presidents Message

David Bamford

We have recently put on a Morning Coffee/ Tea for our new members. These get-togethers are held in the committee room at the shire offices in Rosebud, a really nice venue. The intention is to allow the new members to meet and 'buttonhole' the tutors who attend to find out more about their courses and to see whether they coincide with your interests. It is easy to distinguish the tutors, not by their harassed expressions, but by the course name labels, which each wears. While a few courses are fairly solidly booked, most tutors welcome extra students. We all like to share our interests with others, & our tutors are just the same. They are ordinary people, but with extraordinary skills & knowledge. We have begun to distribute this newsletter by email to those who have that facility. (This will be stating the obvious to those members!) If you have Internet connection at home, I urge you to let the office know your address, so that you may also receive 'Third Age Times' through your computer. I know that the number of members increasing their computer literacy is growing

daily, as my 'Computers for Beginners' course is booked out until next March! On the other hand, if you have changed your Internet Service Provider, & thus your email address, don't forget to tell the office staff so that our records can be updated, & you will continue to receive this publication in glorious colour! When telling your friends about U3A Southern Peninsula, (as you do) you can also tell them that they can see our website, including Third Age Times, if they have a computer. (Go to <http://u3asp.org>) Our major funding from the state Government (through U3A Network) has been quite drastically reduced this year, so the reduction of postal charges which is achieved by distributing 'Third Age Times' by email is really a necessity, not just a fancy whim.

During the year, some of our members went to Prague, in the Czech Republic. This was to accept hospitality from Czech U3A members who had visited us. I have met with a couple of these members, & they struggle for superlatives when describing the hospitality which they received from the Czechs. Evidently it was 'a trip of a lifetime!'

Cheers ,

David

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.

Diane Beaumont, Judith Bickford, Sheryl Callanan, Barbara Clarke, Terry Crimmins, Mandy Di Marzio, Diana Farmer, Helen Gwynne, Graeme Hanigan, Belinda Harley, May Holliday, Joan & John Horne, Tina Hunt, Joy Lord,

Jenny Maddocks, Gaye Miller, Dan Milsom, Ron Musgrove, Athol Perryman, Barbara & Walter Philips, Alison Raymond, Peter Robb, Jillian Schroder, Ann Skinner, Shirley Tolley & Joseph Tumino.

COURSE UPDATES & INFORMATION

FREEHAND DRAWING & WATERCOLOURS

Unfortunately we were not able to find a suitable time and venue for our new tutor to run these courses. We will continue to seek another tutor for these courses and will let you all know when we find somebody.

NOTE:- GROUP NAME CHANGE

'Discussion Group.' Was previously known as 'Words of Wisdom'. The group meets in Villa 123 at 1.30 p.m. **not** 10.00 am in upstairs lounge. Contact Anne Hunt for information on 5982 3197.

U3ASP I.T. MANAGER

As our membership climbs rapidly towards 900 we have appointed office volunteer, Noel Tolley, as internal Information Technology manager. Noel brings a wealth of experience & has already made many changes to our system to ensure smoother operations on our computers.

TUTORS

Please send, or deliver, your "Continuing Course" forms for 2012 to the U3A office as soon as possible.

**They were due to be returned
by the 7th October**

History Lunches at the Village Glen

13th October: Barrie Follows

Barrie will speak on the subject "Defence of Nepean", a fascinating story on which he is the authority.

10th November: Robert Barnes

Dr. Robert Barnes is a distinguished historian. The title of his talk is "What actually happened on 26th January, 1788"

8th December: Ern Jennings

Ern Jennings, whose family has lived in Rye for a long time, will speak on "The History of Rye".

The History Lunch series will continue through next year, 2012, on the second Thursday of each month commencing on February 9th in the Craft Centre, The Village Glen, at 12 noon. The same format will be followed, with light lunch provided by the members of the class preceding the speaker. A Speaker has yet to be arranged for the first class.

The Physics of the World About Us

Dr Tony Heyes has begun his two-weekly course which will continue at 2.00pm on Fridays in the Craft Centre, The Village Glen, until December 9th, omitting December 2nd. The next in the series is on October 7th. Please note the amended time, 2.00 pm.

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 on 5981 8777

'Discussion Group' meets 1st & 3rd Wednesday at 1.30pm in Villa 123 at the Village Glen. For Information ring Anne Hunt on 5981 8777

Tutor Profile - Dorothy Rossiter



U3A Southern Peninsula Table Tennis Group started in September 1996. It was founded by Hazel Burke and was originally played in Hazel's carport. Founding members of this group include Hazel Burke, Dorothy Rossiter, Pat O'Brien, Barry Robinson, Michael Payne, Dianne South, Ray Miller, Len & Nan Evans, many of whom are still active today after some 15 years of playing and enjoying this activity.

Currently, Dorothy Rossiter leads and coordinates Table Tennis in the Tootgarook Community Hall every Monday from 1.00 pm. The average number of players these days varies between 16 to 20 per week.

Dorothy was born in East Malvern, and attended school in Lloyd Street Primary in East Malvern. Like many others in this period, after primary school, Dorothy attended Central School for 2 years before going on and enrolling at Bradshaw's Business College. She did well and came out with a diploma

in Dressmaking and Pattern Making. She then went on to teach these subjects at Bradshaw's for many years.

Dorothy is one of 4 children, two other sisters and a brother. One of her sisters also did Dressmaking & Pattern Making. Her brother attended Bradshaw's and qualified in Accountancy.

Like many others in the period after the war, Dorothy enjoyed dancing, which was a very enjoyable pastime, and of course you went to all the Town Halls on Saturday to dance to good bands, and meet other people. Dorothy told me that Town Halls she went to included Caulfield Town Hall, Malvern Town Hall, Hawthorn Town Hall and St. Kilda Town Hall. It was here she met Keith and they married some 50 years ago.

Keith & Dorothy lived in Nunawading for 29 years raising a family of four boys, three of whom live in Victoria and one is overseas. During this period, many a Christmas holiday was spent camping on the foreshore in Rosebud. It must have got into the blood. In 1984 they moved from Nunawading to a property in Main Ridge.

In 2001, Dorothy and Keith moved to Rosebud. Dorothy said they can see the spots where they used to camp when the family were growing up. Dorothy is to go to hospital soon for an operation which will see her have a hip replacement.

This should make life easier and enable her to get back to full strength for Table Tennis, a sport she thoroughly enjoys.

*Dorothy Rossiter, as interviewed by
Walter Keating, Editor,
U3A Newsletter*

*WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS
.....continued from front page*

It is interesting to reflect and to speculate, even, that we "Elders" with our accumulated experience, qualifications and wisdom, may be using more of our intuitive forces for our learning compared to our earlier years. This means the learning process itself can be very flexible and quite lateral at times. In this sense there is something unique about the U3A Movement.

For a number of our new members it is also an opportunity to become a tutor and to teach something you are interested in and dedicated to. It may mean a little bit of trial & error, but we are all comfortable with that and the outcomes can be illuminating. If you are interested contact the Office people or Alan Hawkins, our Course & Venue Co-ordinator.

With all of the above in mind, a warm welcome to you all and have enjoyable, active and positive learning as you seek out and test the available programme options we offer.

**UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
SOUTHERN PENINSULA**
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Vice President: Jock Fletcher
Secretary /P.O: Winnie Stewart
Treasurer: Angela Milsom
Newsletter: Walter Keating
Courses/ Venues: Alan Hawkins
Social: Rose Crossfield
Office Admin: Pam Blazsanyik
Property: Tony Edwards
I.P.President: Sue Weber
Committee: Amy Hanly

NEW COURSE SONGWRITING

Johnny Chester, well known singer/songwriter/entertainer, composer of "The World's Greatest Mum", "I Love you so Rebecca", "She's my kind of Woman", "Highway 31" and many other Top Forty hits, is prepared to run a course on mentoring of the basics of songwriting including lyrics, melody, score and structure of songs.

The classes will be held weekly on Wednesday afternoons from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in Room 7 at the Old Shire Offices at Dromana commencing on Wednesday 8th February 2011. First course will be for four weeks, but will continue if there is sufficient interest.

Songwriting can be fun and if you think you can write a song, come along and have some fun.

Please ring office to register your interest.

ARTS GROUP

Melbourne Symphony Series Visits
The Arts social Group organises bus transport to the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's Thursday Master Series. We get a group discount on A or B reserve seats for the B or C seat prices. You can take all 8 concerts in B reserve @ \$300 concession or you can choose 6 concerts. The bus leaves from the Village Glen and picks up at Rosebud & Mornington. Bus costs about \$20 depending on numbers. Organise yourself a program from the MSO on 9929 9600. When you have decided to join, contact Lyn Haywood on 5981 8777

ASTRONOMY

2012 course commences 15th February
Where: - Tutors home in Mornington.
Time:- 2.00pm weekly
Tutor:- Dr. Peter Norman

The course consists of 8 meetings each lasting 1½ hours. They are held in the tutor's home where the discussions are assisted by using many reference aids & items. A small fee is charged for printed notes. A dynamic computer sky program & small text book are available for sale.

The lectures essentially retrace the history of astronomy from early Greek & Arabs study, right up to current theories of the solar system. However, despite all the accumulated knowledge about the many and varied items that have been found, we become increasingly aware of the enormous magnitude of human ignorance of the complexity of our magnificent universe.

This course sets out to help all participants to understand and address this situation.

Richard Cotter, U3ASP tutor & member, has written a new book titled **"James Hingston Tuckey of the Royal Navy"**.

It's a biography of the first lieutenant on the *Calcutta*, the ship that brought 300 convicts to Sorrento in 1803.

Tuckey was born at Cork, Ireland in 1776. He spent his young adult years in India, South-east Asia & the Middle East as an officer in the Royal Navy. He returned to Ireland suffering from an illness - probably hepatitis - that troubled him for the rest of his life. In 1803-4 Tuckey was first lieutenant on HMS *Calcutta* which carried 300 convicts from Portsmouth England to Sorrento in Victoria. He surveyed Port Phillip and led a short expedition to Western Port. A year after the *Calcutta* returned to England, she was captured by a vastly superior squadron of French ships. Tuckey became a prisoner of war & stayed in detention at Verdun until 1814. In the following year he was appointed by the Admiralty to explore the Zaire (Congo) River in central west Africa. It was an unwise appointment. Tuckey died of exhaustion and fever near Muanda in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1816.

Intelligent, brave and able, Tuckey may have become an explorer & navigator of real distinction had he not suffered bad luck or misfortune.

The book is available @ \$22 from Antipodes, Sorrento; the Nepean Historical Society's bookshop at the museum, Melbourne Road, Sorrento & the 1803 Settlement Centre on the foreshore at Sorrento at Cameron's Bight. Or phone Richard on 5981 8777

What is to come we know not. But we know
That what has been was good – was good to show
Better to hide, and best of all to bear.

We are the masters of the days that were:
We have lived, we have loved, we have
sufferedeven so.

Shall we not take the ebb who had the flow?
Life was our friend. Now, if it be our foe –
Dear, though it spoil and break us! – need we care
What is to come?

(W.E. Henley)

WANTED OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

We need more helpers in the office. Can you spare us 3 1/2 hours, one day a week, perhaps fortnightly, or even once a month? U3A's Southern Peninsula membership is approaching 900. The office opens 9.30am – 1.00pm Tuesday & Thursday. Our office administration manager Pam Blazsanyik, would like to hear from you. Call her on 5981 8777 during office hours, or pop in and discuss how you can help. Pam will be glad to share a "cuppa" with you, while she explains what is required. The duties are not hard, the company is congenial & the office has just been renovated. Please give this some thought.

Call today, your help will be appreciated.



U3A SP LANYARDS now available!!

Yes, U3ASP now has its own lanyard with plastic card holder. These are great and make life easier to wear your membership badge without having to pin or clip it on. Very nice light blue background with "U3A Southern Peninsula" printed in gold. Available at the office for only \$2.00 each. They are selling fast!!!

New Patron for U3A Network

The Victorian Governor General,
The Honourable Alex Chernov AO, QC
is the new Patron for U3A Network.

LEARNING AND POSITIVE AGEING

By
JOCK FLETCHER

When it comes to perceptions of ageing we become familiar with media reports that often target, in an ageist fashion, the view that older people are an increasing burden. This perspective is a source of irritation to those of us who know how commitment is made through various groups and organisations, where learning is a sustained practice, & where such learning is a direct counter-balance to the economic argument that sees older people purely as financial burdens.

A key premise that applies to Positive Ageing and Learning is the inter-dependence of relationships involving an inter-play between; one- Learning and Education; two- Health and Well-being; and three- Development, where investing in any one of these three in the trio, creates subsequent flow-on effects to the other two. For example, investing in education [such as in U3A] has implications for health and well-being and also for development of the area where people live. In turn the investment in health and well-being in a locality or region would improve social inclusion and the capacity to participate, which in turn impacts on life-long learning and the sustainability of development through collective forces. Astute governments at all levels should use this integrative understanding in strategically investing in these relationships. However they tend not to.

Positive ageing itself is not about exclusivity because a whole of community approach is implied in the above trinity of relationships which is integrated for all ages. Active participation; such as the life-long learning that U3A facilitates, means a more active ageing as it enables both learning and well-being. In this regard it is interesting to realise that U3ASP has within its 'Statement of Purposes', clause [b] which states: "To actively promote the positive side of ageing and so enhance the quality and purpose of life in retirement."

The six aims which are specified within these 'Purposes' are about positive ageing and freedom of participation through a variety of intellectual, cultural, social and physical programmes and activities. In a study of education for the over 80's in the Mornington Peninsula Shire [September 2009], initiated by Delys Sargeant, it became quite clear that

these 'Top Enders' [as Delys calls this group] continue to use a variety of informal approaches to learning that have substantial impacts, especially when it is voluntary and self-motivated, but also when it is accessible and available. Within U3ASP, the learning that occurs in many of its programmes is probably related to more intuitive processes because of the personal history and the accumulated experience of the learners. Such learning processes would also be enhanced through closer links of U3A to libraries.

The Positive Ageing Strategy and Action Plan which has been developed by the Mornington Peninsula Shire [MPS] in 2011, in conjunction with PACE [Peninsula Advisory committee for Elders], reinforces the need for sustained relationships between MPS, PACE & U3ASP and it is strongly suggested this should be initiated as part of the action associated with Positive Ageing and Learning. Such an approach would be timely and very significant when changes are now being mooted.

The Productivity Commission Report, "Caring for Older Australians", has implications in regard to the shift to more home-centred services, and given the purpose of U3ASP, there is a role, in conjunction with libraries on the Mornington Peninsula, in providing a variety of voluntary learning situations on various themes, topics and interests. The range of programmes and membership of U3ASP is already substantial and the community networks are both wide-ranging and deep. However there could be a more inclusive role by U3ASP in linking into multicultural groups with specific programmes. Whilst these new directions would require some innovative thinking, it would endorse what many of us already know, that older people do heaps of learning, are very active, especially in being socially inclusive and have an array of relationships, organisations and institutions in place, which tend to be ignored when the economic and financial arguments are put up; many of which are ageist in their intent. It is quite clear that there are substantial socio-economic contributions being made already and there is a distinct lack of appreciation of the nature of their worth; hence the significance of the Positive Ageing Strategy [2011] of the Mornington Peninsula Shire, PACE and U3ASP and their relationships.

There will be a launch of the "Positive Ageing Strategy" for the Mornington Peninsula Shire soon.

Jock Fletcher, Vice-President U3ASP

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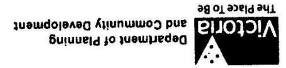
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Please Note: Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, from 9.30am, closing at 1pm sharp.

From time to time your Committee gives space in the Newsletter for a product or service which the Committee believes, in good faith, is worthy of
being brought to the attention of members.

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