



Volume 25 No 10

November 2011

Reg. A0017409G

*AT THE OCTOBER AGM*

*COFFEE MORNING...*

After the official business had been dealt with President Peter introduced those new members to the Committee who have gallantly offered their skills and help for the next year. Dick Mack Course Coordinator, Kit Morris Treasurer, Beryl Leavesley Vice President, Jenny Craig Publicity Officer, Jo Orgill Minute Secretary and Eva Haarburger Member Assist. Also the pleasing task of presenting Life Membership to two very worthy chaps, Geoff Walker and Graeme Quinn.

Peter then introduced Ruth Hawley Network Representative who spoke with enthusiasm on the rapidly growing popularity of U3A, enabling folks of our (third) age to develop latent skills and wide ranging interests. She told of the thousands of members now enjoying social and educational pursuits within the 98 current Victorian U3As.

Then Peter welcomed and introduced Janet Cropley, Mayor of Mount Alexander Shire who after acknowledging that we were on Jarra land, gave a thumbnail sketch of her own background and how she came to be involved with local government and about the recent history of our shire.

She was not taking questions from the floor but spoke at length giving her own opinions on what she saw as the optimistic future of our Shire. That is if Council live within its means and has a strong focus on future planning, though it has been hard going for some years, especially after the amalgamations under the Kennett government where 135 local governments were reduced to 79 and all local govts. were told to reduce rates by 20%. Fine for metropolitan councils but for rural areas it didn't work. Mt Alexander struggled badly when there were not many opportunities to find revenue and with over 3000 kms of roads, 222 bridges to maintain and only 18,000 people. Compare that to say, Port Phillip with 96,000 people, 211 kms of roads and no bridges.

Aware also of our growing organisation's continuing hunt for bigger accommodation, perhaps even a permanent home of our own, but with so many other organisations in the shire, all with much the same problems, she was not able to offer a solution other than maybe joining forces with one or more of them. With the shire's elderly population now reaching 40% these are ongoing challenges for the future. ~ Barbara Bunton

**COMING EVENTS**

**Friday November 4<sup>th</sup> – 10.00 am**

**Coffee Morning**

**at the Salvation Army Hall**

**Kennedy Street (in front of the Rail Station)**

**Dean Bridgfoot - MASG**

Talking about global warming: facts, myths and challenges

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**Tutors please note the Uniting Church Hall will not be available for classes from Thursday November 3<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> incl. due to it being used for school exams.**

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**Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup> – 10.00 am**

**Coffee Morning**

**Christmas theme with entertainment**

**at the Uniting Church Hall**

Please bring a monetary gift donation in a sealed envelope to be given to the Uniting Church Christmas charity distribution.

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**2012**

**Registration and Enrolment Days**

**Tuesday January 17<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>**

## U3A Castlemaine's information Web Page: [www.u3acastlemaine.com](http://www.u3acastlemaine.com)

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| ACMI Representative    | Felicity Say                                         | 5472 1841                           | <a href="mailto:sayvf@castlemaine.net">sayvf@castlemaine.net</a>                                                                                                                                             |
| Cake Roster/Raffle     | Marie Twyford                                        | 5474 2739                           | <a href="mailto:bobtwy@hotmail.com">bobtwy@hotmail.com</a>                                                                                                                                                   |
| Caterer                | Jenni Rutherford                                     | 0402 776 194                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Coffee Supplies        | Lyn Hall                                             | 5472 2316                           | <a href="mailto:lynypoodle@gmail.com">lynypoodle@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                                                               |
| Celebrations/Tributes  | Barbara Robinson                                     | 5474 2121                           | <a href="mailto:arob@mmnet.com.au">arob@mmnet.com.au</a>                                                                                                                                                     |
| Property               | Hans Van Gemert                                      | 5472 1082                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Trading Table:         | Marie Twyford/<br>Audrey Richardson/<br>Harvey Jacka | 5474 2739<br>5472 3867<br>5470 5079 | <a href="mailto:bobtwy@hotmail.com">bobtwy@hotmail.com</a><br><a href="mailto:keithaud@chewton.vicmail.net">keithaud@chewton.vicmail.net</a><br><a href="mailto:sharval@dodo.com.au">sharval@dodo.com.au</a> |
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| Octopus                | Castlemaine                                          | 5472 1147                           | <a href="mailto:octopus@mmnet.com">octopus@mmnet.com</a>                                                                                                                                                     |

### U3A OFFICE DETAILS

The Office is at the Uniting Church Complex,  
Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine

Office Hours are:

Mondays, 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm

Tuesdays, 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm

Wednesdays, 10 am – 12 noon

Phone: 5472 2249

Web Page: [www.u3acastlemaine.com](http://www.u3acastlemaine.com)

### Current 2011 Subscription Fee

**\$40.00** + \$10.00 for mailing of newsletter if required.

Members joining after June 30 pay 50% of the  
subscription fee.

**PLEASE INFORM THE OFFICE  
OF ANY CHANGE IN YOUR  
CONTACT DETAILS**

### Friday Coffee Morning Roster

**4<sup>th</sup> November:** Occasional Opera, Eng. Lit.

**2<sup>nd</sup> December:** See page 4

Coffee Mornings are held on the first  
Friday in the month at 10.00 am  
in the Uniting Church Hall

### Committee Meetings

are held on the second  
Tuesday in the month at 1.00 pm  
in the Kindergarten Room,  
at the Uniting Church Complex.

## From the President

I have heard mixed views from members of the mayor's speech at our AGM. On one hand some were impressed by her frankness and explanation of the financial problems faced by the MASG and rural councils generally. Others felt her speech lacked empathy and was tinged with "lecturing". I'm inclined to the first point of view. It would have been easy for the mayor to make all the right but meaningless noises in front of what could have been a critical audience. I am pleased she told it as it is. It confirmed that the council can offer no financial help and little help in kind. It also confirmed that we must continue to find strength in our independence. This is no bad thing - we are a diverse and creative group and we will continue to prosper as we have in the past. We will of course continue to try to build healthy relationships with council and with other community groups because these links will be good for us and for our community.

Special thanks to all those who attended our AGM. Like many of you I find the formality a little wearing but unfortunately necessary. Importantly we now have a full committee for the first time in 12 months and most of our volunteer positions are filled. However, just when the sun starts to shine a dark cloud appears. Judy Sime has resigned as Office Manager effective from around the end of November as she has a number of family commitments and absences next year that make it impossible for her to do the job justice. Judy has done a fantastic job and will be badly and sadly missed. I hope a well earned sabbatical will see Judy raring to go again in 2013.

A notice about the Office Manager's role is in the newsletter. As you will read it can easily be divided into two roles which will not only decrease the workload but give the volunteers more flexibility with their time commitments.

Peter Stephens

## SUMMARY OCTOBER COMMITTEE MEETING

Tom Comerford conducted an induction for the new Committee. For this reason the meeting concentrated only on essential business such as allocating roles and changes to bank signatories. One other decision was to revive a tradition of bringing a donation in an envelope along to the December meeting. The Committee decided to give the money to the Uniting Church who will donate it to local people on a non-denominational basis.

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*Say 'Hello' and 'Welcome' to New Members*

Julianna Hart ~ Martin Lafitte ~ Margaret Rappolt

# OFFICE MANAGER

## HELP WANTED

We need an Office Manager to supervise our office administration and co-ordinate the work of our office volunteers. It would be great if we had 2 volunteers (even better with 2 assistants) so that the Office Manager can take a break or deal with unexpected hiccups without distraction.

The role could be split into two:

### **Office Administration Manager and Volunteer Co-ordinator**

This role concentrates on training and rostering office volunteers and allocating jobs to them. Ordering office supplies, printer toner and cartridges, maintaining a register of PIN numbers for the photocopier use and keeping the office tidy are other tasks.

This role requires organisational skills and a degree of comfort with working with technology such as photocopiers.

### **Computer Administrator**

This role checks office e-mails, sends out bulk e-mails to members and maintains office e-mail addresses. You will also save U3A documents to the office computer, do some word processing and form design and back up the office computer to an external hard drive every month. You would also share the task of keeping the office manual up to date.

This role requires good computer and internet skills.



*Geoff Walker (L) and Graeme Quinn (R) admiring their framed Life Membership Certificates.*

## Duty roster for December Coffee Morning

**Apple Mac** (Drinks and Nibbles) – **Aboriginal History** (Salads) – **Bloggers** (Tea/Coffee)  
**Gardening in Castlemaine** (Desserts)

We ask that each member bring a plate with enough to feed four people. The **Committee** will provide cold meats. **Science** based short term courses, please bring a bottle of liquid refreshment each. For those who attended the **Buda** based talks, the **La Trobe University** lectures, **The Leopard** and other humanities short term courses, we ask that you bring a dessert. Those of you who feel disposed to contribute, even though your group has not been designated, please bring a plate of sandwiches.

## From the Course Co-ordinator

Your new course co-ordination team of Robyn and myself has sprinted out of the starting blocks to organise the Prospectus for 2012 courses. From the applications received so far, there is a mixture of old favourites, some revamped courses, and some fresh ideas. Because feedback from members has suggested that shorter courses are wanted, some courses have been repackaged into Term-long units, while other courses will be running for only a few sessions. We are also negotiating for some courses from new presenters. Of course, we don't want to give too much away – you'll just have to curb your excitement and wait for the Prospectus which will be issued at the December coffee morning.

~ Dick Mack & Robyn Yeoman

### STAMPS AND CORKS

With the festive season coming along rapidly, you may wonder what to do with all the used stamps you receive. If so, you may like to pass them on to me. Many thanks to U3A members who have been doing so. Just a reminder: please leave at least a cm of envelope around the stamp or tear the envelope in half and pass on the stamped half to me if that is easier. The stamps eventually find their way (via the Uniting Church) to collectors who would prefer to have plenty of envelope around the stamp.

Please also save corks and pass them on to me – the elephants at the Zoo benefit. You will usually find me at the Trading Table.

### TRADING TABLE NEWS

Many thanks to all members who supported our "Lucky Bags" – I am sure you were pleased with the contents! Thanks also to those who support the Trading Table by bringing produce, good books, etc.

As we are having our November meeting at different premises, there is no Trading Table that day, but we are looking for extra special contributions for our **December** meeting back at the Uniting Church Hall. We will be set up under the verandah to allow extra room for activities inside.

### CAKE RAFFLE

At our **December** Coffee Morning, we will be having a special raffle – as well as the cake, we will have a bowl of fruit and a basket of toiletries. Tickets will still be 50cents each.

Many thanks to all those who baked cakes and/or sold tickets this year; your assistance has been very much appreciated. I am still looking for cake-makers – you are likely to be asked only once every two years, depending on the number of volunteers. Please see me at the Trading Table or phone me, Marie Twyford, on 5474 2739 (email [bobtwy@hotmail.com](mailto:bobtwy@hotmail.com)).

**Deadline for the December Newsletter is 3pm Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November**

## AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

GEOFF WALKER 5470 6652

For the last series for the year we are looking at the historical evolution of the Australian Constitution.

At the October sessions Geoff gave us a timeline view of the constitutional development of the government of the states and territories, and the growth of the development of the national Australian government structure.

At the group meetings in November we shall be having biographical studies of several of the Australian Prime Ministers, e.g., Alfred Deakin, William Hughes, Joseph Lyons, Robert Menzies. These sessions will be at **2.00pm on Monday 14th and Monday 28th November**, at the home of Graeme and Jane Quinn, Barkers Creek, a couple of doors before you get to the Old England Hotel. It will be good to see you there.

## DABBLING IN HISTORY

PETER STEPHENS 5472 3904

The November meeting of Dabbling in History which will probably be our last will be led by Fred van Amelsvoort and the topic is a history of propaganda. If you would like to attend please bring an example of propaganda along to discuss.

## COLD WAR

TOM COMERFORD 5470 6230

The final session of the year will be on **November 16**. Its focus will be on 'Tearing Down the Curtain' - the people's revolution in Eastern Europe.

Each member of the class has been asked to prepare some notes for the respective East European countries which were influenced by the policies of President Gorbachev of the USSR. Any one who would like to join the discussion would be made very welcome. The group meets at Kevin Hurleys Castlemaine home at **10.00 am**. Ring Kevin for directions if you are new to this course.

## FRIDAY MORNING GARDEN GROUP

SHIRLEY CURNOW 5472 1729

The outing in October was to see the irises at Richard Lay's place at Lockwood and what a fantastic experience it was to see those beautiful blooms, even though it was a bit damp. Several of our folk were unable to come.

The programme for November, our last outing for 2011, will be a visit, and experience of, the garden at the home of Peter and Sandie at Woodend. We shall meet in the UCA carpark, a little before **10.00am on Friday 18th November**. Please bring a lunch -- tea, coffee will be supplied.

## ISSUES OF CONCERN

CAROL DORMAN 5472 4429

A new member joined us this month - welcome to Martin.

Subjects have been varied, as usual. Gina Rinehart, Australia's richest person, wrote a piece in the Australian Resources & Investment magazine outlining her vision for northern Australia as a free trade zone. As well as free trade she sees this zone as free of taxation and populated by plenty of temporary labour from overseas. Her arguments are:

- (1) That new taxes from the federal Labour government are killing investment in mining forcing companies offshore and slowing down the mining boom.
- (2) To encourage Australians to move north we need to tax them less, cut payroll and company tax, and stamp duty. Failing that we should offer very poor people in neighbouring Asian countries the opportunity of guest labour work in Australia.

Her second point seems to ignore that incentives to work in mines are already extremely generous - the average wage in mining is \$149,000 and tradesmen can often earn more.

An interesting pie chart in Spiegel Online revealed that the world's largest weapons exporters are USA - 34.6%, Russia 24.2% and Germany 9.4%. Even more interesting was that the largest importers of German weapons were Greece and Turkey followed by South Africa, South Korea, Australia and Spain.

Two researchers from Curtin University suggest that population growth and sustainability might be complementary. Their proposal is that population growth plus the consequent economic growth might lead to the creation of low-carbon technologies and more efficient infrastructure. The question is not "how many people are sustainable?" but "how can any number of people live more sustainably?"

Protests against coal seam gas mining are increasing with a rally occurring in the Illawarra on October 16th which called for a moratorium on and a Royal Commission into the coal seam gas industry. With Sydney's radio shock jock, Alan Jones stating his opposition to CSG mining, the protesters have a powerful spokesman.

Qantas CEO, Alan Joyce clearly wants to move Qantas operations offshore. One worry is that maintenance manuals are written in English but the manuals from the US are written in American English. The different types of English may be interpreted differently - could lead to problems.

We were all shocked at the suicide of a 27 year old Sri Lankan refugee and the callous attitude of the Immigration Department towards his requests to be allowed to celebrate a religious festival. The GetUp website has a petition which can be signed by anyone who wants to try and stop these tragic events happening.

## CHRISTMAS TREE GIVING

A Christmas tree will be set up at our December meeting and we ask that you bring a gift for those less fortunate than ourselves. This year the Committee has elected to support the local Uniting Church Charity. We have been advised by them that the best way in which we can contribute to a Christmas Appeal is to place money in an envelope rather than give goods. Members are asked to contribute whatever they can afford to support this group that gives Christmas charity and cheer to those in need, irrespective of the denomination or creed.

## MOVIES OF MERIT

JOHN WALDIE 0400 858 581

This course continues to be well supported, but a number of attendees have left due to illness or conflicts with other courses. We now have a smaller but very dedicated group of around 20 and we're delighted that David Stretch has continued to allow us to attend his theatre despite closing it on Mondays and Tuesdays to the general public.

Since the September newsletter, we have seen nine films, all chosen for their high ratings by international and local reviewers and their ability to stimulate the audience. It's not easy to look at a film simultaneously as a viewer and as an analyst, but we are succeeding!

The titles shown (with our respective approval ratings in brackets) are *Battleship Potemkin* (81.8%), *Forbidden Games* (65.6%), *La Strada* (66.8%), *Mephisto* (81.3%), *It Happened One Night* (75.7%), *Aguirre, the Wrath of God* (67.2%), *The Road Home* (78.9%), *The Battle of Algiers* (81.3%) and *Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter...and Spring* (84.8%).

The last showing this year will be on **December 5<sup>th</sup>**, and we're delighted to announce that this course will run in 2012, starting in January. More information will be given in the December newsletter.

## MUSIC APPRECIATION – 3/8/11

BRUCE BAUD 5472 4574

Today there were just 2 composers, Mozart (1756 - 1791) and Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847). We started with Mozart's symphony No 41 in C, K551, known as the Jupiter Symphony. This was the last of a final group of 3 symphonies that Mozart wrote in 4 weeks during the summer of 1788. The symphony is in 4 movements, about 37 minutes in length, and a pleasure to listen to. The next was Mendelssohn's Wedding March from 'A Midsummer Nights Dream'. Unlike church weddings, we heard the complete march. The rest of the program was all Mendelssohn, which included the next work, a Sonata for violin and piano in F Minor opus 4. This remarkable work was written when he was 14 years old. After coffee break we heard The Overture to a Midsummer Nights Dream. He wrote this 3 years later. Discussing the work with Bruce it was decided the complete Work would be played at the **November** meeting. It is about 44 minutes in length and you do wonder how a 17 year old could write such a complex piece of music. The morning concluded with the Symphony No 4, known as 'The Italian'. Mendelssohn at this stage was 24 and had an international reputation as a pianist, conductor and composer. The 'Italian' though listed as his 4th symphony is actually his 16th. He did not consider the other 12 worth numbering. This was a fine conclusion to the morning's music and much more can be written about Mendelssohn.

~ Brian Willis

## RENAISSANCE FAMILIES

TOM COMERFORD 5470 6230

The Orsini's of Rome form the basis of our current study. The Orsini were particular rivals of the Colonna family and the intrigue between these two families will be highlighted as we look at significant political members, the many cardinals, the women and the significant scientists, artists and poets of each family. We now meet each **Friday at 10.00am** at the Castlemaine home of Tom and Cristobel Comerford. In the month of **November** the group will **not** meet on November 11 and the final meeting for the year will be **Friday, November 25**.

## SIGNPOSTS IN ENGLISH: HISTORY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

DIANA COLLIER 5443 0137

Spelling, pronunciation became marks of literacy, of education and learning (and later derivatively of social status/class) during Renaissance schooling. Today's similar preoccupations are a direct descendant of the idea of "correct spelling" invented by the pedants and pedagogues of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Is language a reflection of society? Where does a 'native' word and a 'foreign' adopted word clash in spelling, in pronunciation and eventually in meaning. Are there standards? If so, who sets them? - Perhaps journalists, poets, (Shakespeare?), philologists (S.Johnson?). --- Following discussion of these pertinent questions, we will look at why language changes and why words change in meanings, and how some dictionaries reflect a hierarchy of meaning.

**Convenor:** Diana Collier 5443 0137 – **Place:** U3A Office – **Time:** 10.00 am to 11.30/12.00 m/d

**Dates:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in the month (3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Nov.)

## SINGING TOGETHER

Rae Hawkins 5472 3446

As usually happens in November, the Uniting Church Hall will be required for school exams. There will be no singing on November 1<sup>st</sup> as this is Cup Day, and an alternate venue will be arranged for November 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Singers will be informed about this via e-mail and phone. We will be back in the Uniting Church Hall on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

Our last Singing Together for 2011 will take place at the Uniting Church Hall on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, and following our usual Christmas Plan, sing for the first half of our time and then have a shared afternoon tea. Could all members bring a **small** plate to share.

Many thanks to all in the choir for their continued enthusiasm. Singing Together will resume in 2012 on the Tuesday following the February Coffee Morning i.e. 7<sup>th</sup> February. See you all next year.

## SOLO GROUP

BETTY HENCHMAN 5472 2139

Our next get-together will be at the home of Marie Anderson on **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 12.30 pm.**

Please ring Betty Henschman for directions to Marie's home.

An old man visited his solicitor to make a will. "What exactly do I have to do?" he asked. "It's perfectly straightforward", replied the solicitor. "Just answer a few questions and leave it all to me". The old man looked worried and said, "I do quite like you", "but I was planning to leave some of it to my wife".

*The old and the new Committee Members. L to R: Tom Comerford, Kit Morris, Sue Turner, Dick Mack, Win Jodell, Val Case, Jenny Craig, Beryl Leavesley, Betty Johnson, Peter Stephens. In front L to R: Lyn Hall, Eva Haarburger and Barbara Bunton. Missing from photo are Jo Orgill and Elizabeth Rider.*



*Photo taken by Elizabeth Rider*

## *Our Day at the Races*

*U3A has many avenues of learning for enjoyment as well as social events which take us to places we wouldn't normally visit.*

*One such recently was organised by our own Elizabeth Rider in conjunction with the Castlemaine Council's program for Seniors Week. A Day at the Races. Bendigo races. Not something I'd usually do but decided to be part of it just the same.*

*At the appointed time we all gleefully boarded the (free) bus under the guidance of our jovial local driver, Tony Tognolini, and, making good time, seemed to be the first there. Then, like Mr Brown's Cows following the leader, trooped into the spacious 'Silks' restaurant where reservations had been made for us. A good, substantial cheap lunch, and then the excitement began.*

*First race! Woohoo! \$2 on the nose! Not one nose but three! Did I win? – No way. Next race, more circumspect this time. \$1 to win and \$1 to place. One horse only. Did I win? – No way.*

*Race 3. Race 4. Race 5 the same. But that didn't matter. It was the anticipation and excitement of being so close to those beautiful creatures, the horses I mean, as they paraded for our admiration. Knowing by body language those which knew what they were there for and eager to get going, and those such as 'Whisky Galore' who didn't want to be there and was not going out there "with all that lot". His spectacular tantrum proved his point. Was that a triumphant smirk I saw as he was led back to his snug box? What a comedian he was.*

*There was the 'scientific' method of picking a winning jockey by the colour of his silks. That didn't work either but all was forgotten in the thunder of the horses hooves as they flashed by the winning post. Maybe the grey would win next time?*

*All made for a wonderful day at the races and one that I hope will be repeated next year. Before what seemed a very short time, the last race had been run and we were back on the bus comparing wins and losses. A very good day. Thanks Elizabeth.*

*~ Barbara Bunton*

# PHOTOGRAPHY

TREVOR WHEELER 5476 2286

## SENIOR'S DAY AT THE BENDIGO RACES



Brave Girl!

At the Barrier - "And they're off"



## NOTES

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### A PRAYER FOR COMPUTERS

Spirit. Empower my computer, enliven it. Make its pixels glow. When I throw its switch, boot it righteously up.

Give silicon strength to bear its burden of bits and bytes and pacify its parts; reconcile printer and modem, scanner and sound card. Quicken its CPU and bring its hard drive home. Maintain its circuits in tranquility, its buses clear, its latches clean. Gore not its box.

Shepherd it as it grazes on the net; protect it from corruption, from viruses and worms. Let it browse in peace.

Constrain its temperament by physics, forbid it surliness and mood. Preserve its innocence. Save the soul of it as a new machine, only lend it the intelligence of a newt that knows to come out of the rain, to realize I meant to type save instead of shut down.

Mel Reichler 2002.

~ From Carol Dorman

*Christmas is coming around again!*

*Are you looking for extra stocking fillers?*

*We have just the very thing for you*

***“As If It Were Yesterday”***

Memoirs written by our own U3A members

*Quick! Get your copy while stocks last, from the office.*

*You'll be so glad you did.*

