

HAWTHORN CAMPUS NOTES X

AUGUST 1987

JUSTICE & EQUITY FOR ABORIGINALS

Many may not be aware that Aboriginal life expectancy is 20 years less than for other Australians and 32% of Aboriginal children aged 0-9 years, as against 1.6% of non-Aboriginal children, have some form of trachoma. Also, unemployment is six times the national rate; on average Aboriginals earn only half that of other Australians; and imprisonment rates of Aboriginals are up to 16 times that of the total population.

These were some of the points made by Gordon Bryant, guest speaker at U3A Hawthorn's Social Forum this month.

In a wide ranging address, Mr Bryant spoke of the problems he faced when he was Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in the Whitlam Government, the gains that have been made and the problems that still exist for Aboriginal people in Australia. In so doing, he demonstrated that much needs to be done before Aboriginals achieve a situation of justice and equity in the Australian community.

On the subject of land rights, he pointed out that European Australians are quite happy to let Aboriginals have tenure over land which they think is worthless. When they discover there is oil, uranium or some other mineable resource in the area, it is a different story. Mr Bryant cited the situation at Kakadu where the Aboriginals are now having to fight to retain control over their natural hunting grounds. He made the point that in a country like Australia, which is so rich in resources, we should not have to intrude into the small areas which have been left exclusively to the Aboriginals.

The Forum was held for the first time at Swinburne College where a compact lecture theatre and effective public address system meant everyone was seated comfortably with a good view of the speaker and able to hear him. Sandwiches and coffee were served afterwards and it is hoped that this will be a regular venue for Forums in the future.

U3A Hawthorn, 24 Wakefield Street. Tel. 819 8824, 818 7371

INFORMATION FOR ALL MEMBERS

Some of us feel that the time has come for an overall review of what our Hawthorn U3A is all about. New members are coming in all the time, and now, as we are into our third year, it would seem useful to think seriously about some of the basic responsibilities of belonging to such an organization.

We are, as you know, an entirely voluntary body, and this is, of course, the reason why for only \$15 per year we can enter as many courses as we like (where vacancies exist), receive four each of Campus Notes and Network Newsletters per year, and have the advantage of association with people of like interests.

Producing this material, and communicating so often with you by telephone is increasingly costly, as are the many other needs associated with managing our affairs. There are two main areas where we have some concern:

1. Many of our tutors have been with us since the beginning; others have joined along the way. They are a great body of people, but we find that the number of offers to teach has been minimal over the last twelve months, and we cannot expect our original ones to go on forever. So would you think seriously about reviewing your skills and interests for teaching or organizing discussion groups? We feel sure that some of you could help in this way or you might know of someone among your friends. Some special needs are French, Italian, German, Latin, Practical Art, to mention only a few. Offers in other areas could almost certainly be taken up.
2. Office Management: We have a fine group of workers who come in one half-day per week, although we need more to fill in on times when these people are away. In other words, we need people to come in and learn the ropes, because the few who have key administrative jobs will not be able to go on forever. Or do you have special skills like computing, use of very large and complex photocopiers (like the Hawthorn Town Hall variety) or a flair for general organization; or arranging social contact activities? Some of these jobs, and others still to be developed, could make a real difference to the effective management of our affairs. Have you any ideas?

In general, we look to you to recognize the value of U3A, and to make your contribution to its continued success.

Margaret Drake

COMPARING NOTES

Cards of various kinds do seem to be 'in' these days and most of us don't want any more cluttering up our lives, but is there a case for a general U3A membership card?

This was just one of the ideas raised when members from Ballarat, City, Frankston, Hawthorn, Monash and Yarra Valley Campuses met in early May to compare notes on various aspects of office routine and discuss progress. The older campuses (aged all of 2 1/2 years!) compared notes on the patterns of operation they have developed to suit particular circumstances, picking up ideas from each other and from the newer campuses which are well on their way to catching up.

The result for those participating was a good overview of the U3A experience on each campus which should be helpful when considering current developments and future direction, which after all must come from the grass roots in a movement which is run entirely by the members. The main areas for discussion included ways of recruiting tutors and also involving more people in the running of the office.

Another matter to come up was the confusion caused when members of one campus pay their yearly subscription at another campus because they happen to be there for a particular course. It was suggested that all members may not be aware that each campus is quite autonomous and depends on its members' subscriptions financially. It was agreed that before accepting subscriptions, each campus should make sure members from other campuses really wished to transfer their membership. Ways of cutting costs were considered. At some campuses the 'Network Newsletter' and 'Campus Notes' are distributed through classes, thus considerably reducing postal charges, but this is not so easy at Hawthorn where our class venues are spread over a wider area.

The Summer Sample programme is very popular on all campuses and provides a good opportunity for members to visit other campuses. There is already a healthy interchange of students between City, Monash and Hawthorn and it was suggested that the issuing of a yearly membership card could be useful for members when enrolling in a course at another campus. Which brings us back to where we started. The newest campus represented at the meeting, Ballarat, has already issued its members with a membership card at comparatively little cost. Another card yes, but would it be useful? Comments from individuals or classes and groups would be welcomed.

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

The Executive Committee, which deals with the overall management of Hawthorn U3A, as well as its place in the Victorian Network (and beyond), meets on the 2nd Monday of each month. The meeting is held at 3 p.m. at Wakefield Street, and considers basic philosophy, as well as general directions and organization of Hawthorn's affairs.

If you would care to come and sit in as an observer at one or more of these meetings, you would be welcome. We think it would help people to know more about how things are developing, and to make their membership more productive. Let us know if you would like to do this at any time, so that we do not have too many present at a particular session.

VISIT TO UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES IN CHINA

In 1986, following a teaching visit to rural centres - Huaiyin and Yancheng - an invitation was extended to Colin McCallum to visit the campuses again with any interested people. The group would live on the campuses and participate in cultural exchange. This will involve the visitors in English language activities with the staff and students and opportunities for those wishing to present short talks on topics of special interest to them.

It may also be possible for the visitors to attend introductory classes on a range of Chinese cultural activities such as Chinese language, Tai-ji, martial arts, calligraphy and music.

It is envisaged at the moment that the visit would cover about 27 days and as the group will live on campus and contribute to the learning experience of the students, the overall cost will be considerably less than for more formal tours.

Those who are interested in joining a friendship visit led by Colin McCallum to the campuses of Nanjing, Huaiyin and Yancheng, possibly in the Autumn of 1988, should contact Jill FitzGibbon.
(See Page 6).

SHARING RESOURCES

U3A members will be aware that Swinburne provides accommodation for us at 24 Wakefield Street, but the other facilities of such a large educational institution are at times under utilised. Opening of these facilities further for the Community Education Centre and its people is an economical pragmatic approach directly in line with the broad Social Justice objectives which have been articulated by the Victorian Government.

Over the past few months the staff of the Hawthorn Community Education Centre have consulted with the Social and Applied Science Division of Swinburne TAFE to bring about further sharing of resources. Those members who attended the Social Forum recently benefited from the first of these new arrangements. The comfort and convenience of the lecture theatre venue added considerably to the occasion. It is anticipated that this will be the forerunner of other such functions to be held at Swinburne and hopefully other resources such as the library facilities will be made available to us as times goes on.

In return, the Hawthorn Community Education Projects, which include U3A, will have opportunities to assist and act in an advisory capacity, especially in the area of older person' affairs. We have already been involved in developing a course for local council home-help workers, and other courses in the community field are envisaged in the future in which we may be called upon to assist.

This sharing of human and physical resources between a small community educational centre and a large educational institution will hopefully lead the way for similar arrangements elsewhere.

Judith Elsworth

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret we advise that Nan Brown died suddenly on Monday, 3rd August. Nan was a foundation member of the Hawthorn Campus and a tireless and a wonderful worker for the U3A movement, serving on our own Executive Committee as well as the Network Committee. We shall all miss her friendly smile very much. We extend our sincerest sympathy to Nan's family.

COURSES COMMENCING SOON

U3A IN CHINA Convener: Colin McCallum

An introduction to teaching and travelling in China and the People's Republic of China's equivalent to U3A: "The psychology Association of Old People". The proposed course will be given by Colin McCallum who visited China with his wife in 1983. They lived on the Nanjing Teachers' University campus from February 1983 until January 1984. They revisited the University from March - July 1985 and August - December 1986. The course will be held on Friday mornings at Wakefield Street, commencing October 16, for 6 weeks. (See Visit Page 4).

ANTHROPOLOGY Convener: Judy Lee

A new course covering Chinese, Indian and Mexican peasant societies, and Australian Aborigines from settlement to the present time. Friday mornings at Wakefield Street, commencing September 11.

ART APPRECIATION (Class II) Convener: Martin Merchant

The history of art from the Primitive, Greek and Roman through the Italian Renaissance to the present day, covering architecture, painting and sculpture. Mondays at Wakefield Street, commencing September 7.

ARTS OF ASIA Convener: Ernestine Lobb

A 7-week course which will concentrate on selected arts of China, Japan and India, such as porcelain, miniature paintings and netsuka. Commencing Wednesday, October 7.

ECONOMICS for EVERYDAY LIFE Convener: George Charles

This discussion group emphasises the natural economic forces which influence day-to-day living and current affairs with the aim of creating a greater awareness of the world about us. Thursdays at William Tresise Centre, commencing October 1

GENEALOGY Convener: Marjorie Stone

Interested in tracing your origins? If so, then this beginners' workshop in genealogy would be a good place to start. Bring along any early details you have of your family history for the first class. Tuesday afternoons at Hawthorn Recreation Centre, commencing October 6.

HISTORY, AUSTRALIAN Convener: Gordon Wilson

A look at some aspects of the social and cultural history of Australia. Topics to be decided in consultation between students and tutor. Monday afternoons at the Hawthorn Library commencing September 7.

NUTRITION & HEALTH Convener: Greta Burman

In today's society, we are continually subjected to enticing food advertisements and articles on miracle diets. This popular course is designed to help you distinguish between fact and fiction, their relevance to health and the prevention of illness.

Tuesday mornings at Wakefield Street, commencing August 18.

NUTRITION Convener: Rosemary Hepburn

Explore food, its functions and the inter-relationships between nutrients, and practical issues related to sensible eating.

Thursday afternoons at William Tresise Centre, commencing August 20.

TRAVEL - TOURS OF FANTASY Convener: Harry Bonney

Join Harry Bonney in an eight week tour of FRANCE. With the help of his colour slides, he will take off each Wednesday at 12 noon.

Commencing October 7 at William Tresise Centre.

CURRENT COURSES

* ART APPRECIATION - Class 1

Convener: Sue Van Dorssen
Monday afternoon, Wakefield St.

ART - PRACTICAL

Convener: Margaret Drake
Thursday afternoon, Hawthorn
Artists Society

CAR MAINTENANCE

Convener: Thalby Reidy-Crofts
in conjunction with M.L.C.
Particulars available from office.

* COMPUTER - INTRODUCTION

Convener: Vic Kennedy
Wednesday morning

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Convener: W. Zimmerman
Wednesday afternoon,
William Tresise Centre

* CURRENT AFFAIRS - AUSTRALIA
& THE WORLD

Convener: Bernard Haugh
Thursday morning,
William Tresise Centre

* CURRENT AFFAIRS - S/E ASIA

Conveners: Gerald Noble,
Jean Aikenhead
Tuesday morning,
William Tresise Centre

LITERARY STUDIES - Levels I & II

Convener: Connie Anthony
Tuesday morning, Wakefield Street

* LIVING SKILLS - Segment 5

Convener: John Balfour
Relaxation
Wednesday morning, Augustine
Centre

LIVING SKILLS - Seq. 3/4

Convener: John Balfour
The world we live in and useful
information.
Wednesday afternoon, Hawthorn
Library

LANGUAGES.

- * FRENCH (Intermediate) Convener: William Zimmerman
- * FRENCH CONVERSATION Convener: Nazli Wilhelm
- * GERMAN Convener: Ursula Gottschalk
- * ITALIAN Convener: Maurice Berah
- * JAPANESE (Beginners) Convener: Joyce Berdy
- * JAPANESE (1st & 2nd Year) Convener: Geoff Matenson

* MUSIC - AS ONE LIKES IT
Convener: Ven Houston
Tuesday afternoon
39 William Street, Hawthorn

PHILOSOPHY
Convener: Joan Drake
Tuesday afternoon,
Augustine Centre

* PIANO STUDIES I & II
Convener: Ann Taylor
Mondays at Hawthorn

PSYCHOLOGY/SOCIOLOGY
Convener: Alex Gale
Friday mornings, William
Tresise Centre

SOCIAL ISSUES

Convener: Herbert Liffman
Wednesday afternoon, Recreation Centre.

* Denotes "COURSE FULL".

Waiting lists are maintained for all subjects, so please apply to the office if you are interested.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 1988 -

INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

to be held at TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE
September 11-16/18, 1988

U3A Cambridge hope to meet as many Australian members as are able to attend this important first gathering. The symposium will feature leading figures from the worlds of Architecture, Medicine, Science, History, Futurology and other fields of human endeavour. For further information and registration forms, contact Margaret Drake at 24 Wakefield Street (819 8824).