

HAWTHORN CAMPUS NOTES II

July, 1985.

Intergenerational Learning

In the Stone Age we learnt from our elders. We've had segregated schools and co-education. Is the next thing going to be intergenerational learning?

In our current society there are limited chances for older and younger generations to work together (intergenerational learning). Over the years the Community Education Network has arranged programmes involving intergenerational learning. A number of local secondary schools are keen to extend this experience by organising more opportunities for their students to learn with, and from, older people. The pilot programmes have included people acting as guest lecturers on special topics such as law, the depression, art, literature and women's issues. People have also worked with small groups of students and as individual tutors helping with literacy skills.

These programmes have been such a success for all involved - older people, teachers, and younger students have all found the experience enjoyable and worthwhile - that the schools are now keen to develop the idea further. It has a number of important advantages:

- * it links people from different generations;
- * it broadens the curriculum;
- * the skills and experience of older people are handed on to the young;
- * **simplistic myths are challenged;**
- * struggling students can have more individual attention.

Isha Farthing has been appointed to the Hawthorn Community Education team to expand this work and is keen to hear from U3A members who might be interested to join in. From previous experience it is known that the learning which takes place when people of different ages work together, is not only of a very high standard, but of mutual delight. The time commitment involved varies and can be negotiated to suit individuals. Teachers have already asked for single talks, people to lead discussion groups, and for people who might like to work with a group of students for a whole term.

Volunteers would be working as a team with the teachers and Isha in developing and maintaining the activities. Those interested in being involved in this exciting project should contact Isha Farthing (819 8824, 8818 7371). As well as offers of time, she needs ideas and experience so if you can offer your thoughts or expertise, please give her a ring.

Are We Meeting the Challenge?

A lack of emphasis on important current social issues such as sexism and ageism in U3A classes, was a fact noted in passing by Helen Gribble, when she addressed the Hawthorn Campus Annual General Meeting at the end of May.

Helen, who is Assistant Director of Education Programming at the Council of Adult Education also raised a number of challenges including that of funding. She stressed the need to be assertive and pointed out that, just because we do not need much, it doesn't mean we don't have every right to ask for what we need to cover telephones, postage and equipment. Helen strongly encouraged Hawthorn U3A not to feel obliged to take on responsibilities imposed by others. For instance, U3A campuses have to be set up by the people living in the area. While promoting the concept we are not obliged to actually go and start them, although in some instances help from outside is necessary. In the same vein, she said that we had established U3A to meet our own wants and if the result did not suit others. we should tell them to go to CAE!

Like Minded People

Responsibility for analysing and recording membership information is in the capable hands of Margaret Drake. Broadly speaking her work involves a running analysis of the information received on the registration forms in order to ensure that we have an overall view of membership, subjects being studied, those not yet taken up, and where the gaps are. In many cases, she said, it should be possible to form classes by like-minded people getting together and working out a study programme. This has already been done in Philosophy and Australian History.

Talking of the research angle of her work, Margaret urged members to be sure and list **all** their interests, not just their choice from the courses already in existence. " If we don't know what people are interested in, a lot of classes are never going to get going." she said

No Chance of Complacency

The onerous job of organising the courses and venues falls to Nan Brown, who has a talent for this type of organisation. The main burden of her report fell on the need for more venues and the ongoing nature of her job. It is not enough to set up, say a French course and think:"good that is finished with".

Courses fill up and it is U3A policy not to think in terms of waiting lists, but in terms of starting another course, so there is no opportunity to sit back and be complacent.

Other reports included those from Rae Alexander, who told the meeting that there were now 32 tutors at Hawthorn, all apparently enjoying the experience of teaching mature age students, and the amount of knowledge they bring with them; Jill FitzGibbon emphasised the role the Newsletter could play in the development of U3A and urged members not to be afraid to criticise and to use the *Newsletter* and *Campus Notes* to air their views and ideas.

The Treasurer, Harold Fraser, told the meeting that U3A Hawthorn was looking at a prospective deficit of \$1500 to \$2000. Although expenditure this year has included some expenditure that applies to setting up and should not recur, the registration fee of \$10 may not be sufficient for future years. Harold raised the possibility of fund raising as an alternative to raising the membership fee.

New Executive Committee

The main business of the meeting was to appoint an executive committee. The new committee of thirteen will meet monthly. Those elected to the committee were:

Rae Alexander	Greta Burman	Judy Gould
Elsie Birkett	Margaret Drake	Betty Jackson
Harry Birkett	Jill FitzGibbon	Betty Margison
Nan Brown	Harold Fraser	Marguerite Stark
	Werner Graff	

LIBRARY FACILITIES

On production of a class enrolment acceptance, with your name and address endorsed on it, Hawthorn members can borrow from the CAE Library in the city. So don't throw out those enrolment acceptance forms.

Research into Ageing Change

The following letter to U3A members is an interesting research proposal that could contribute to our knowledge about changes in peoples' learning skills. We'd like to hear from anyone who'd be interested in taking part. Could you please contact the office as soon as possible.

Dr Neil Brewer, Dr Phillips,(Faculty of Special Education & Paramedical Studies, Victoria College) and Dr Glen Smith (Department of Psychology, University of Melbourne) have been working together for some time on a research project funded by the Australian Research Grants Scheme (Commonwealth Department of Science and Technology). One aspect of this project is concerned with changes in the speed and efficiency of simple perceptual-motor skills which accompany ageing. The letter runs-

"To complete a study which is currently in progress we are looking for 12 volunteers who are aged between 60 and 75 years. In order to match these individuals with younger groups in our study, we are looking for people in good health, living independently, and with a professional or tertiary education background. I understand that there may be a number of people who meet these criteria who are attending the Universtiy of the Third Age.

"The task that participants will complete is a computer-controlled choice reaction time task in which, on any one trial, they have to discriminate which of four stimulus lights is turned on and then press an appropriate response button with one of four corresponding fingers. To collect sufficient data for the analyses we envisage, participants are required to complete 2000 trials; these are arranged in 10 sessions of 200 trials, each session lasting about 10 minutes. Generally we try to run these sessions in 3-4 periods lasting about 3/4 to 1 hour, though this is flexible. Our equipment could be located at Hawthorn for the duration of the project.

"I would be most grateful if this could be brought to the attention of any students who meet the criteria outlined above. The outcomes of the study will be published in an appropriate scientific journal; a previous study on this topic has just been published by the British Journal of Psychology."

The letter goes on to point out that they are keen to complete the study as soon as possible and is signed by Dr Neil Brewer.

Courses to start in the Spring

Comparative Religion

Convener: Gordon Wilson

This course will discuss the ways in which some of the religions of different cultures, including primitive religions and the religions of Asia, have tried to answer the great questions of human existence e.g. the origins of the world, the meaning and purpose of life, the problem of suffering, birth and death and human conduct. The significance of the religious books, the Bible, the Koran and Bhagavad-Gita could be considered and the relation between religion and myth discussed.

It is hoped that the course can be developed around the particular interests of the group, and be based on informed and informal discussion, rather than formal lectures.

The course will commence in mid-September and will be held weekly at Hawthorn.

Marine Biology

Convener: Frances McCallum.

Using marine life between the tides as an example of an Eco System, the course will be discussing Basic Ecology principles and conservation problems. There could be field excursions to such places as Sorrento, Beaumaris and Ricketts Point.

Weekly on Tuesdays at Hawthorn and day excursions on the weekend. Course commences September 17.

Student Research Project

One of our members, Judith Yates, is undertaking a research project for her final year B.A. She has been involved from the beginning in the development of U3A. She will be in touch with members to collect information before it becomes history.

Relaxation

Convener: Ros de Castella.

Relaxation is a creative art. Learning to relax is hard work, being tense is even harder work. This course will teach basic relaxation and provide the opportunity for you to continue the practice and pass on your skills to others.

Weekly on Friday mornings at William Tsesise Centre. Commences August.

Car Maintenance & Care

Convener: Thalby Reidy-Crofts.

There are many quick and easy maintenance procedures which an owner can perform to keep the car in top operating condition - just knowing **how** it works helps. This course will help you understand how your car works, how to carry out these quick and easy maintenance procedures, and how you can tell when things are not working as they should. You will also learn how to tell your mechanic what is wrong.

Weekly on Monday afternoons at the Hawthorn centre. Commences September.

Family Support

If you are a warm-hearted person who cares about supporting families under stress, then you are needed at:

" CARE-FORCE"
Family Support Services,
61A Victoria Road,
Hawthorn.

By providing training and support we help you to help others. The next training session commences July 16.

Please ring Amy Whittaker, Volunteer Co-ordinator (82 2523) if you have parenting skills, typing, book-keeping, child-care, fund raising ideas or skills and hobbies you would like to share with others.

HAWTHORN COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE, 24 WAKEFIELD ST. HAWTHORN.

POSITION VACANT

CO-ORDINATOR,
LEARNING FOR THE LESS MOBILE.

Learning for the Less Mobile (L.L.M.) is an educational program for older and less mobile adults. The project is based in Hawthorn, and has about eighty participants ranging from stroke victims to rheumatism and arthritis sufferers. The program is designed to facilitate participation, skill development, empowerment and the integration of participants into mainstream courses and activities.

A Co-ordinator is required to work with the L.L.M. Project Officer to develop the program in a number of areas. Broadly, this will include maintaining and expanding the project in the local community, liaison with funding bodies and outreach activities aimed at creating educational opportunities for older people in other communities.

Persons with experience in the human services, particularly community development, are encouraged to apply. Flexibility and a concern about issues affecting older people are essential. The salary is \$20, 000 p.a. and applications close July

For further information about this position, and application details please telephone Ann Whyte or Ann Skewes at the Hawthorn Community Education Centre on 819 8824 or 818 7371.

ENROLMENT FORM for learning at CITY HAWTHORN MONASH

SURNAME GIVEN NAMES

ADDRESS
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PHONE

I wish to enrol in the following course:

SUBJECT

CONVENER

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AT WHICH CAMPUS DID YOU PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE?