



# U3A HAWTHORN NEWS

Official Newsletter of Third Age Learning (Hawthorn) Inc.

Reg No A0010798X, ABN 41360939238

Patron: Professor Ian Young, BE(Hons), MEngSc, PhD, FIEAust, FTSE,  
President and Vice-Chancellor of Swinburne University of Technology

**Number 91**

**June 2008**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the newly elected President of Hawthorn U3A I feel that I have been given the mantle that has been worn by a distinguished line of past Presidents. It has taken twenty-one years of dedicated guidance by people with foresight and careful thought to reach our present position of a large and financially stable group. The immediate past-President, Liz Pittman, left her mark on the organisation in a most constructive manner. We are grateful for her leadership over two years during which she filled her role in a most capable and inclusive style.

Certainly the highlight of her tenure of office was the opening of our re-furbished Sinclair Avenue home. Through the generosity of the Council of the City of Boroondara, we have not only a home that we 'can call our own', but premises that have been modernized and made comfortable at considerable expense. The main hall and the two smaller meeting rooms have been redecorated and the flooring improved. Most importantly all these areas have been air-conditioned, and we can now conduct our activities in comfort without freezing in winter or perspiring through the summer. The kitchen has been completely refurbished with state-of-the-art equipment and generous cupboard space.

We are indeed grateful to the Mayor and her Council for the very generous treatment of 'their' U3A. We know from the comments of visitors from other U3A groups that we are envied for the facilities that we now enjoy.

*Rod Benjamin  
President*

## NOTES FROM THE 2008 AGM

Dr Liz Pittman announced with regret that she would not be seeking re-election as President. She went on to say that her time in office had given her great pleasure and she was only sorry that other commitments meant she would not be able, in the future, to give the position the time it deserved. Her replacement, elected unopposed, is Dr Rod Benjamin, OAM.

Our committee for 2008-09 is

President	Rod Benjamin, OAM
Honorary Secretary	Peter Anderson
Honorary Treasurer	Peter Merigan

Committee Members: Brian Amey, Fred Bolza, Elaine Cockburn, Mavis Hoy, Beth Johns, Bruce Lancashire, Lynne Merigan, Ruth Muir.

## A TRIBUTE TO HANS van DORSSSEN

A highlight of the 2008 AGM was the conferring of U3A Hawthorn's highest honour, Honorary Life Membership, on Hans van Dorssen. Peter Anderson spoke of the contribution Hans has made to U3A Hawthorn over fifteen years, as a former member of the Committee of Management and as Database Administrator, his current position. The President presented Hans with a framed certificate.

*Peter Anderson  
Secretary*

**U3A HAWTHORN OFFICE HOURS:  
Monday to Friday: 9.30 am - 4.00 pm**

## NEW TUTORS NEEDED

We are totally reliant on volunteer tutors to present a comprehensive and interesting program of classes for our membership. If you have an interest in a particular subject and you are prepared to share your knowledge (or if you know someone else in this position) we would like to hear from you. Please contact the Curriculum Committee (care of the Office) and one of them will get back to you, with a view to including the course in our program.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

**Archivist/Historian:** As some of our members reach their nineties we realise we need to do more to preserve our history.

**Technically minded people** to occasionally help with audiovisual equipment for specific classes and teach other members the ropes.

If you can help please contact the office on 9821 0282.

## EMAIL ADDRESSES AND WEBSITE

In order to make more use of email for U3A Hawthorn communications **it is essential that you notify any changes in your email address by sending an email to the U3A Hawthorn office at:**

**mail@u3ahawthorn.org.au**

indicating your email contact details. **Please include in the email your name(s) and U3A ID number(s).**

Bruce Lancashire, our orchestra percussionist, keeps our website up-to-date. For the latest news you can log on to the website at:

**http://www.u3ahawthorn.org.au**

The website is fully functional. All courses, forms, and newsletters are available to download.

## OFFER OF ASSISTANCE

Are you familiar with our website? Are you confident with internet browsing and emails? Is your PC doing what you want it to do? If not and you'd like a helping hand, our Webmaster, Bruce Lancashire, has offered to assist members wherever possible. You can either email him direct to [webmaster@u3ahawthorn.org.au](mailto:webmaster@u3ahawthorn.org.au) or leave a message for him at the Office. He can then make arrangements with you.

## FEES FOR 2008

Annual membership fees for 2008 are as follows:

Membership of U3A Hawthorn	\$40 single \$65 couple/two at same address
Member enrolling from another campus	\$25 (to cover administration)

## COPIES OF PLAYS AVAILABLE

We have been given multiple copies of a number of plays by well-known playwrights (David Williamson, Arthur Miller, Henrik Ibsen, William Russell to name a few). Tutors and members are welcome to borrow these. Any queries, ring Jean Giese on 9890 2189.

## DO YOU HAVE YOUR MEMBERSHIP BADGE?

Badges are normally printed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays as required. New members and those who have requested a replacement can collect the badge from the office, 26 Sinclair Avenue, Glen Iris, usually within two days of joining U3A Hawthorn or making a request for a replacement.

## COPY DEADLINE

Copy deadline for the September 2008 Newsletter is August 8, 2008. Please send all copy to the Office.

## HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS FROM THE SECRETARY

Apart from the brand new kitchen which was rebuilt from the ground up in refurbishing our premises, outstanding improvements include the installation of reverse cycle air-conditioning in the three classrooms. Unfortunately, on a few occasions, the units have been left on overnight, so some classes have started in a cold room and others in a very warm room. If class secretaries are unsure of how to operate these units, the President and the Secretary are happy to demonstrate how to use the switches, as it is really important that all cooling/heating units be turned off before the building is vacated each day.

U3As are said to be self-help organisations and that is how we like to see ourselves. With more than 1000 members there should always be people willing to carry out the many tasks which keep U3A Hawthorn operating smoothly. At least one U3A in Melbourne gives class enrolment preference to its members who do more than just attend classes. Should we try that?

We already have a marvellous band of tutors but we can always use more. We have a dedicated group of office workers and computer experts and there are those who ensure the newsletter reaches you in a timely fashion. The gardening group has markedly improved the appearance of the Sinclair Avenue site, but water restrictions have made it tough for them. Does anyone over the age of 70 have time to water the garden between the hours of 8.00 am and 10.00 am on Tuesdays and Saturdays during dry spells?

We need to make good use of the car-parking area immediately outside the main gates of our premises, which we will retain long term. Please, do not make a third row in the centre of this car park, as this will block other people. If necessary, make use of the second car park or the surrounding streets. We will eventually lose the use of this second car park, as it will be incorporated in the proposed Wetlands. The gate to the second car-park is never locked, so feel free to open it if it is closed.

Some really good news is that our buildings are secure now - I have not received any reports recently of buildings being left unlocked overnight.

*Peter Anderson*  
Secretary

## SUMMER SCHOOL 2009 - WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Curriculum Committee has commenced planning for our Summer School which will run throughout January 2009, and would welcome offers of assistance in several areas:

We would like to form a small subcommittee within the next month to plan the overall program, including recruiting presenters.

We will need members with data processing skills to assist with the enrolment process in early December.

Members will be required in January to assist with daily supervision, check the rolls and introduce and thank speakers at each session, and ensure that all necessary equipment is available and that the sessions run smoothly.

In the past, members have found this involvement to be a rewarding experience, so if you have enjoyed the Summer Schools in recent years and feel you would like to help us in any of these ways, please contact one of the Curriculum Committee members as soon as possible.

Elaine Cockburn 9486 7998  
Joan Harding 9813 3974  
Paddy Wagstaff 9889 2909

Colette Flynn 9882 6097  
Julianne Lewis 9853 4346

*Elaine Cockburn*

### MOBILE PHONES

**This is an urgent plea from our tutors that you SWITCH OFF  
or SET YOUR MOBILE PHONES to SILENT MODE  
before each class commences**



Please note upcoming concert **date for the Annual Choir Concert:**

Saturday 14 June at 2 30 pm, Chandelier Room, Hawthorn Town Hall. Entry \$5.

Light refreshments will be served. Please contact the office on 9821 0282 to register by 9 June..

The **second Orchestral Concert** will be held on Thursday, 18 September at 10.30 am.

Venue as usual, Hawthorn Town Hall, Willem van der Vis conductor.

The final concert for the year will be held on Thursday 27 November, with Christopher Martin conducting.

Well-known musician and *entertainer extraordinaire* **George Dreyfus** has asked us to publicise a special concert to be presented by the City of Boroondara to celebrate his eightieth birthday. This will be held on Sunday 14 September at 2 pm in the Hawthorn Town Hall. Entry is FREE and many celebrated musicians will be taking part, including Paul Grabowski, Katie Noonan, members of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, and of course George himself with his son Jonathon.

The Orchestra of U3A Hawthorn has a **special request**.

As the years roll on, the ranks of the **First Violins** are starting to thin. If there are any experienced violinists among you who may like to consider playing with us, would you please contact the Managers, Ruth Muir (on 9818 0801) or Nola Meredith (on 9857 6578), or you can ring the Office on 9821 0282. You would be made most welcome.

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### THANK YOU TO SOME LONG-SERVING TUTORS

Members will have noticed that the names of several of our esteemed tutors did not appear in the 2008 curriculum. On behalf of all who benefited from their dedicated service over many years, we offer our sincere thanks.

**MARY PARKER** conducted a weekly French class for 13 years. Laughter and singing (en français, bien entendu) could often be heard emanating from her classroom.

**GEOFF GUILFOYLE** took over a weekly philosophy class from Life Member Alex Gale and continued with it for 11 years. Geoff also served on our Committee of Management for nine years and was our jovial barman on all celebratory occasions during that time.

**RON TAFT**, who retired in 2007, is remembered with affection and appreciation by all who attended his weekly current affairs group over the ten years of its existence. He was also a Committee member for seven years and was appreciated for his encouragement and support of the President of that time. Ron conducted surveys of the membership which informed later U3A Hawthorn decision-making.

We wish them all well in their retirement from tutoring but are pleased they stay with us as members.

The fourth tutor to whom we say good-bye is **GWENDA FORD** who, after struggling bravely with an illness over many months, died in April this year. Gwenda's contribution to our organisation came through her love for, and knowledge of, literature. She led a monthly book group in her home for nine years and will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Jean Giese

## WINTER/SPRING EXCURSIONS

*For bookings please telephone the U3A office*

*For further queries, please contact Joan Harding on 98133974 or 0408366987 or  
Collette Flynn on 98826097*

*Payment is due at least 21 days prior to tour departure unless stated otherwise.*

*In case you are unable to join your tour on the morning of its departure,  
please telephone Joan Harding prior to 9.00 am on the abovementioned  
mobile telephone number.*

### GUIDE DOGS VICTORIA TOUR TUESDAY 24 JUNE 2008

Learn from the Guide Dogs Victoria's experienced staff how a playful puppy is transformed into a loyal and helpful friend for those who need their services.

Please wear flat shoes with a good tread as we will be walking approximately 500 metres around the campus on slopes and lawns. Participants are asked to respect the privacy of clients, dogs and staff.

The tour will be followed by a finger food lunch on site. Parking is available in the grounds .

**Cost:** \$13 per person for lunch and the tour (includes \$2 donation)

**Location:** Guide Dogs Victoria, Chandler Highway, Kew at 11.00 am

Please direct bookings and payment to the U3A office no later than 17 June.

### HAWTHORN LIBRARY TOUR WEDNESDAY 16 JULY

Have you caught up with the modern technology used in libraries today?

Lisa Wilson, the Community Development Librarian will inform us of all the benefits of joining the library. Are you aware that you can borrow CDs, DVDs or talking books of your choice? There's also a home library service, author lectures, computer use and assistance in tracking family history. Check out the library resources and refresh with a cup of tea later. Tour duration approximately 1 hour.

Please register your interest at the U3A office by 24 June.

**Cost:** Free of charge

**Location:** Hawthorn Library, 584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn at 11.00 am

Melway reference: map 45 D 11

### 'LUNCH AROUND THE WORLD' RESTAURANT *LENTIL AS ANYTHING*, ABBOTSFORD FRIDAY 08 AUGUST 2008

Let's try something different. From time to time we plan to visit restaurants that offer a great variety of cuisines.

**Cost:** \$10 deposit per person (at the U3A office) then at lunch add what you consider the meal is worth!

**Location:** Abbotsford Convent Arts Precinct, 1 St Heliers Street, Abbotsford (next to the Collingwood Children's Farm) Melway reference map 2D C9

**Time:** 12.30 pm

**Parking:** Ample parking available at St Heliers Street, Abbotsford

Please direct bookings to the U3A office – payment due no later than Friday 25 July

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**WERRIBEE SEWERAGE FARM AND  
POINT COOK R.A.A.F. AIRCRAFT MUSEUM TOUR  
TUESDAY 09 SEPTEMBER 2008**

Travel by bus to see the Sewerage Purification process at Werribee and view the many species of migratory birds nearby. Lunch at the Werribee Golf Club. Continue on to immerse yourself in the magnificent display of aircraft at the Point Cook RAAF Museum.

- Cost:** \$49 per person  
**Depart:** U3A Sinclair Avenue at 9.15 am  
**Return:** Approximately 5.00 pm  
**Includes:** Coach travel, morning tea, lunch and entrance fees  
**Limit:** 49 participants

Please direct bookings to the U3A office – payment is due no later than Friday 22 August.

**SUPREME COURT OF VICTORIA  
MONDAY 06 OCTOBER 2008**

Not to be missed! Hear about the intricacies of court room procedure with a special presentation by Leanne Newson, Educational Officer for the Law Courts. Witness the Supreme Court in session.

- Cost:** Free of charge  
**Time:** Prior to 9.15 am for a security check. Stay until 12 noon.  
**Location:** 210 William Street, Melbourne  
Enter through the open door around the corner in Lonsdale Street.  
**Limit:** 25 participants

Please direct bookings to the U3A office by Friday 19 September.

*Joan Harding*

**JIGSAW PUZZLES**

The first Jigsaw Puzzles were created about 1760 for teaching Geography. They have now been expanded with the latest photo-mosaics, which are almost impossible to complete, eg the “EARTH” puzzle (now in our puzzle collection) took me 38 days at about 2 to 3 hours a day!!

Solving jigsaw puzzles is a good pastime in the winter months and helps to maintain and improve your short term memory.

U3A Hawthorn now has a Jigsaw Puzzle collection in a cupboard at our Sinclair Avenue Campus. Members wishing to participate will be able to borrow one puzzle at a time and, to increase our stock, will be encouraged to donate any puzzles that they currently own but are not using.

For further information, please contact Hans van Dorssen, email at [hansvd@optusnet.com.au](mailto:hansvd@optusnet.com.au) or telephone him on 9509 0527 after 5:00 pm.

*Hans van Dorssen*

## MUSIC TUTOR

Yehuda Svoray has presented his most popular *Composers and Their Music* class for more than a decade, but has been forced to suspend his tutoring because of ill health in the family. The class is continuing for the present on an *ad hoc* basis with input from class members but more help is needed while Yehuda is unable to make his usual contribution.

The course runs fortnightly at the Uniting Church, Oxley Road, Hawthorn on Wednesdays from 2.00 to 4.00 pm and covers various themes and composers of music, with emphasis on the delights of music and its social background. Class enrolments number around 70.

We would like to hear from anyone with an appropriate background in music who would be interested in helping with this work. Please contact the Curriculum Committee (care of the Office – 9821 0282) and one of them will get back to you.

*Derek Readman*

### ***Are you a Computer Savvy Senior? No? Then keep up with Cyberspace!***

Learn new computer skills with the City of Boroondara Library Service. The Library provides a wide range of computer training programs to suit all members of the community. They are offered at all five branches of the Library Service. The training sessions are free of charge, run for 1 hour and provide notes.

Choose one or all of the following:

#### **Introduction to the Internet**

Basic skills to get you started.

#### **Introduction to email using Gmail (Google email)**

Create an email account and send/receive email.

#### **Further Internet**

Use search engines and directories, improve your search strategies and learn about Wikipedia.

#### **Further email using Gmail (Google email)**

Send/receive attachments, create your own signature, create and manage contacts and organise your email.

#### **Online Databases**

Search for current information on a wide variety of subjects spanning business, history, science, arts, health, law, education as well as local and international newspapers and magazines.

#### **Genealogy on the Internet**

Delve into your family history using resources available online.

#### **Blogs and blogging for beginners**

We recently added Blogs to extend our training repertoire. Create your own blog and post an entry.

We also offer a special computer training program designed for seniors.

*Computer Savvy Seniors* train volunteer tutors in computer and Internet skills who in turn provide one-on-one computer training to other interested seniors either in the library or at the participant's home.

For more information about any of these programs or to book a session please contact Lisa Wilson, Community Development Librarian, Hawthorn Library, 9278 4666 or contact any branch of the City of Boroondara Library Service.

Ashburton Library	9278 4633
Balwyn Library	9278 4644
Camberwell Library	9278 4655
Hawthorn Library	9278 4666
Kew Library	9278 4677

## EVENTS

June to September 2008

(This flyer is for your refrigerator or bulletin board)

**SATURDAY 14 JUNE**  
**2.30 PM**

**ANNUAL CHOIR CONCERT**  
Chandelier Room, Hawthorn Town Hall

**TUESDAY 24 JUNE**  
**11.00 AM**

**GUIDE DOGS VICTORIA TOUR**

**WEDNESDAY 16 JULY**  
**11.00 AM**

**HAWTHORN LIBRARY TOUR**

**FRIDAY 8 AUGUST**  
**12.30PM**

**LUNCH AROUND THE WORLD**  
**RESTAURANT: *LENTIL AS ANYTHING*,  
ABBOTSFORD**

**TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER**  
**9.15 AM - 5.15 PM**

**WERRIBEE SEWERAGE FARM AND  
POINT COOK AIRCRAFT MUSEUM TOUR**  
Depart from and arrive back at Sinclair Avenue

**SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER**  
**2.00 PM**

**GEORGE DREYFUS' BIRTHDAY CONCERT**  
Hawthorn Town Hall

**THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER**  
**10.30 AM**

**ORCHESTRAL CONCERT**  
Hawthorn Town Hall

### U3A HAWTHORN TUTORS

Have you considered having your own webpage on the U3A Hawthorn site? You could use it in all sorts of ways: tell prospective members about your course, store class notes for downloading, advise your class about events, venues, class requirements etc. or as another means of communicating with your class. All you need to do is have the ideas and the content – you don't have to make the page or upload it. Contact Bruce Lancashire via email to [webmaster@u3ahawthorn.org.au](mailto:webmaster@u3ahawthorn.org.au) to get started.