



U3A HAWTHORN NEWS

Number XXVII

June 1991

A note from your President, John Balfour:

THE GENTLE ART OF LEARNING TO LEARN AND THE GRACIOUS ART OF LEARNING TO GIVE

At U3A we are learning to learn through co-operation and reciprocal action. Members participating in our classes have found new knowledge, new skills and friends. For many this has led to fundamental changes. Having learned to learn, we can use that skill on many levels of our lives, and particularly in realizing that we are able to act. This can empower us so that action can bring about changes and a transformation in our being.

We have lived through unique cultural changes in the past decades. The last 50 years has been the most challenging time in our history and we have had to adapt continuously to new circumstances. When we were younger it was different. We awoke each morning to the day's activities and we knew where we were. We were living our "story" - what the world was like & our place in it. Now we have to write a new story. The present story, living in the here and now, is the supreme goal of our learning.

At U3A we also have the opportunity of learning to give by becoming tutors and convenors. Many of us, who have been tutoring for a number of years, agree with Francis of Assisi, that it is better to give than to receive. You may think you are not an expert or do not have that special knowledge which you could impart. But the fact is that everyone knows something just a little bit better than the others. You may know something about Yoga, Tai Chi exercises, Astrology or the Tarot Cards, or you could tell us how you cook your special recipes. Perhaps you have travelled and you could tell us some of the places which are worth visiting. You will discover it is a pleasant experience to share your knowledge. We want members to volunteer to give one session on a topic of their choice. On Thursdays at 2 p.m. we expect to have regular meetings in the building behind the Hawthorn Library in Glenferrie Road.

U3A Hawthorn, 24 Wakefield Street. Telephone: 818 7371.

The first talk will be given by Mr. Ken Haymes from the State Trustees, on Thursday, 27th June 1991 at 2 p.m. His topic covers Will-making; Estate administration and subjects related to these issues.

The second talk will be given by Deborah Homburg from Older Persons Action Centre on Thursday, 11th July, 1991 at 2.00 p.m.

We hope that you can offer to talk or present something on one Thursday afternoon in the future. If you can, please write to or contact the office on 818 7371.

All members are welcome to attend these meetings - there is no need to book, just come along.

"DISINTERESTED! POLITICALLY PASSIVE!

WHO? US?"

"Do older people need a charter of rights when it comes to education and community involvement?" This was the question Betty Marginson asked at U3A Hawthorn's sixth Annual General Meeting at the end of March.

Betty's address was inspirational stuff and those of us who heard it had one regret - that all U3A Hawthorn members were not able to be there.

In posing the question, Betty pointed out that there is no existing policy of providing education for older people, mainly because when the education systems were established in Australia there were not the number of older people there are now. The proportion of people in the age group 60+ as a percentage of the total population has changed from 7.9% in 1901 to 14.9% in 1989. Projected percentages are for 15.9% in 1991; 19.8% in 2011 and 29.9% in 2031. Betty believes this increase should be seen in a positive rather than negative light as in the following description: a "minority grouping which experience the stigma of simplistic, negative stereotyping (as being) frail, poor, ill, weak, ignorant, dependent, politically passive, disinterested, disenchanting and disengaged". The Council of Adult Education and U3A alone demonstrate how inaccurate that stereotype is.

A research project by an older student at Great Britain's Open University had this to say on the subject:

"People over 60, like people of any age, have successfully undertaken academic study throughout history. Notions of their doing so systematically and in large numbers, and in the process looking for appropriate institutional and curricular provision, is a relatively new one."

Also

"It is a prospect which seems to engender in many people the kind of uneasiness which 150 years ago accompanied the prospect of educating working class children, or 100 years ago the prospect of educating women."

Developments in Australia in this area amount to a recommendation by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Community Affairs 'Is Retirement Working', "that there should be greater recognition of the value of increased educational opportunities for people of all ages". This has no legislative force, but does provide the basis for activity on the part of the offices of Aged Care, by whatever name in the Commonwealth and States, to work for the extension of educational opportunity, and when the West Australian Bureau for the Aged was established, it listed as one of its principles "Increased opportunities for Seniors to participate in community activities".

Perhaps U3A members could offer some suggestions as to how governments could achieve these two aims - increased opportunity to partake in community activity and for further education.

Betty went on to talk about the world-wide development of the University of the Third Age and quoted the introduction to Hawthorn's research publication 'The First Four Years'.

"U3A Hawthorn is governed by the premise that all are equal in management - tutors, administrators and learners. These groups overlap and none can function without the involvement of the others.

"The purpose is to provide learning and teaching opportunities for older persons, and to demonstrate the fact that high quality learning can occur without qualifications or examinations. People learn from each other and enjoy the process as well as the social contact that is part of the organisation. The members are the management."

Stressing the need for back up support for each campus, Betty said, "U3As provide, very cheaply, meaningful, isolation-breaking, health-producing education, but they need the support of that vital umbrella of existing facilities, be they educational or community, and the assurance that support will continue. Nursing homes and hostels have recognised the value of mental stimulation to total health by the appointment of recreation officers. People in the age of active retirement need that commitment to mind and body too."

SOME DAY YOU WILL LOOK LIKE ME

One of the Life Writing Correspondence Course writers, Chrys Russell of Burwood, has penned the following which we think applies to all of us.

I do not like the term senior citizen - very staid. I prefer "ancient and venerable".

My view on society? Unprintable. Murder, mindless assaults, drugs - are accepted by most people as part of life.

How am I treated? To some people and in TV commercials, anyone over the hill (over 30) is a senile, mumbling, bumbling moron. I have ordered a large badge to wear - "Some day you, too, will look like me".

Joys of Life? Freedom. I have smashed the alarm clock. Provided I slap together a meal for the master, I am free to read, write, watch TV, stay in bed on a winter morning, giggle with the grandchildren, listen to music, dream in the sun, do cryptic crosswords.

Even for a tottery old lady, life is fun.

SONYA CARRINGTON

Sonya Carrington was a member of U3A Hawthorn for many years, and we wish to acknowledge that the "three owls" design on our letterhead was her work.

Sonya sent us some material about her career which we will put into our Archives. In this she says that she arrived from Poland as a widow, with a young son, in 1949. She taught art and crafts for many years, including 10 years at the prestigious Emily Macpherson College, where she added Russian and Polish costume design to the curriculum. By night she designed and wove for her own pleasure, with the magnificent result of this cross-cultural heritage being found today in colleges, churches and cathedrals around Australia, and also in overseas collections.

We appreciate her contribution to U3A Hawthorn.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Please join us on Tuesday, 18th June, 1991 at the Balwyn Theatre and enjoy seeing Death in Brunswick with Sam Neill, Joe Carides and John Clarke as advertised in the enclosed sheet.

Also we would like to hear of any other activity you think could be of interest to many of our members which we can follow up for future activities.

CURRENT COURSES

Although a class may be full, people do have to withdraw for various reasons, so a waiting list is kept for each course.

PLEASE NOTE: ANY MEMBER WHO IS ABSENT FROM A CLASS FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE WEEKS WITHOUT NOTIFYING THE OFFICE, OR YOUR TUTOR, WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE WITHDRAWN.

ART APPRECIATION Convener: Sue Van Dorssen
HISTORY OF EUROPEAN ART

Group 1 25th February - 1st July, 1991

This group is a continuing course from 1990; starting with Roman Art and Architecture then Early Christian and Byzantine Art, the Dark Ages and the re-emergence of Christian civilization. Course FULL

Group 2 19th August - 2nd December, 1991

Mondays, 1.30 p.m., 24 Wakefield Street.

ART - PRACTICAL Tutor: Lorrie Conder

The group will cover the mediums of oils, watercolour, pastels, etc. You may do your own thing, or follow topics suggested. Help will be given on request with regard to techniques, colour combinations, and imaginative approaches you may wish to use.

Thursdays, 1.00 p.m., Hawthorn Artists' Society, Cnr. Glenferrie & Manningtree Roads, Hawthorn. Course FULL

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY Convener: Alf Floyd

This course covers the following:

1. Reasons for Transportation; some case histories;
2. First Fleet;
3. The infamous Second Fleet;
4. Governor Macquarie and explorers;
5. To 1850 - Victorian Constitution;
6. Women in early Australia.

Thursdays. Time and venue to be advised.

Course FULL

BIOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY & THE PURPOSE OF LIFE Convener: Trevor Moffat
The class will read through a set book and discuss its relevance to human relationships. The overall objective, of course, is to take an holistic overview of life, considering aspects of our Biologic, Psychologic and "Spiritual" development, and their interaction with each other.
Mondays, 12.30 p.m., Recreation Centre. Course FULL

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP - CONTEMPORARY WRITERS AND SOCIETY

Convener: Pamela Rogers
This course should appeal to both men and women who enjoy reading and are interested in lively and thought provoking discussion on subjects such as the relationship between the writer and society, concerns of modern men and women as they are explored in contemporary writing, and aspects of writing style as a means of communicating ideas and emotion. As well as contemporary novels, short stories, poetry and some classical literature will be introduced. A book list will be provided.
Tuesdays, 9.30 a.m., Wakefield Street. Course FULL

CHESS FOR PLEASURE Convener: Egon Donath

This course will commence if up to 20 members are interested, whether beginners or more advanced. "You don't need to be a Bobby Fisher" says Egon. Fridays, 11.45 a.m., Wakefield Street

COMPUTERS - AN INTRODUCTION Convener: Vic Kennedy

This is a simple, 6-session course, designed for people who have had no contact with computers, but who would like to get some understanding of what these machines are, how they work and what they are used for. The course will emphasise 'hands-on' experience; participants will get a chance, in each session, to actually use a computer. No expertise in maths will be required, and the course will make only passing reference to maths (though we will be looking at 'number systems' and what numbers mean in the system we use in everyday life). Ample notes will be provided.
Tuesdays, 10.30 a.m., 89 Power St., Hawthorn. Course FULL

CONTRACT BRIDGE Convener: Bill Zimmerman

An introduction to this fascinating game. It is necessary for there to be at least twelve students to make the course viable. Bill advises that he has duplicate boards, and a duplicate game could be organised for those with some experience, if at least 12 people are interested.
Mondays, 2.00 p.m. Recreation Centre.

THE CRUSADES - A MEDIEVAL INTERCONTINENTAL CONFLICT

Convener: Andrew Ehrenhreutz

A colloquium type of course with instructive role of the tutor and active contributions of the participants.

A pre requisite: Prior to the first session, every participant should read any general (popular) book on the Crusades, she or he may find in a locally accessible public library.

Tuesdays, fortnightly, 2 p.m., Wakefield St.

Course FULL

CURRENT AFFAIRS - AUSTRALIA & THE WORLD Convener: Wolfe Flack

Ours is a discussion group which deals with any current affair whether information is from the press, radio or television or even raised by members. Sessions commence by the convener reading items from the press which are considered to be of particular interest to the group. Discussion takes place with the readings after which members of the group are free to raise any item they may consider of interest.

Thursdays, 10 a.m., Uniting Church, 8 Power Street, West Hawthorn.

CURRENT AFFAIRS - SOUTH-EAST ASIA &

PACIFIC COUNTRIES Convener: Jean Aikenhead

A discussion group in which all are expected to participate. Each session will start with current affairs, concentrating in our own area. In 1991 we will also discuss important topics - e.g. comparative religions; sustainable development - rather than detailed background studies of individual countries. There was consensus in the 1990 class for this suggestion.

Tuesdays, 10.30 a.m., Balwyn Library.

Course FULL

DRAMA FOR FUN Convener: Rion Jennings

A light-hearted approach to drama with play readings, poetry and performances of short plays at the centre.

Thursdays, 9.30 a.m., Wakefield Street.

Course FULL

DRESSMAKING Convener: Patricia Morris

This is an opportunity for ladies with sewing skills to enjoy a pleasant few hours with others who have the same interests under the guidance of an experienced teacher/supervisor.

Wednesdays, Tresise Centre, Cnr. Bowler & Munro Sts.

Course FULL

MAH-JONG FOR BEGINNERS: Convener: Lois Thomas

A fascinating Chinese game popular in many countries. The basic method played by most Chinese is the game followed by this group.

Bring your own mah-jong set if possible.

Fridays, 1.45 p.m., Wakefield Street.

Course FULL

LANGUAGES

French (Beginners) Convener: Walter Butler

Tuesdays, 1.30 p.m., 24 Wakefield Street.

Course FULL

French (2nd Year) Convener: Adele Chambers

This course is for students who have already done one year with U3A, or equivalent. It includes some grammar, writing exercises & conversation

Fridays, 1.30 p.m., 24 Wakefield Street.

Course FULL

French Conversation Convener: Anna Ghiurekian

Reading of contemporary French texts from literature or magazines - explanation of vocabulary and points of grammar.

Mondays, 10.30 a.m., 24 Wakefield Street.

German (Continuing) Convener: Ken Bandman

This course is attempting to encourage the student to face (linguistically) various situations. Members should be willing to prepare written homework for correction and class discussion.

Thursdays, 11.15 a.m., 24 Wakefield Street.

Italian (Beginners) Convener: Maurice Berah

Mondays, Time and venue to be advised.

Course FULL

Italian (Continuing) Convener: Maurice Berah

Mondays, Time and venue to be advised.

Course FULL

Japanese (Beginners & 1st Year) Convener: Joyce Berdy

Beginning to read and write Japanese and an introduction to grammar.

Mondays, Beginners, 10.00 a.m., 24 Wakefield Street.

2nd Year, 11.00 a.m.

Japanese (Intermediate I & II) Convener: Geoff Matenson

Intermediate I Text Book: Alfonso Nihongo Vol. III

Course will be based on Alfonso Nihongo Vol. III with additional material supplied as required. Familiarity with Kana is essential in order to understand the textbook. Kanji (Sino-Japanese) characters will be introduced at least as prescribed in the text.

Mondays, 12.30 p.m., 24 Wakefield Street. Comm. 25th February, 1991

Intermediate II Text Book: Alfonso Nihongo Vols. III & IV

Course will be based on Alfonso Nihongo Vols III & IV with additional material supplied as required. Familiarity with Kana and some Kanji required as for Intermediate I.

Mondays, 2.30 p.m., 24 Wakefield Street.

Note: In both classes easy conversation based on set situations and circumstances will be practised. Class members should be willing to prepare written and conversational homework class discussion.

Latin (Continuing) Convener: Helen Gordon

Wednesdays, 11.00 a.m., 24 Wakefield St.

GARDENS OF EUROPE & NORTH AMERICA Convener: Maurice Stratton

A series of 20 talks, illustrated by approx. 150 colour slides, lasting 90-105 minutes, divided into 4 groups -

- (1) Ancient Greece, the Roman influence in Europe, the Moorish influence in Spain, Historic old towns of Germany, a portrait of USA;
- (2) The Swiss and French Alps, a journey down the Rhine, the Canadian Rockies, Scenic Great Britain and the Fjordland, Norway, Salzburg and the Salzkammergut, Austria,
- (3) Cathedrals, castles, chateaux, galleries and museums of Europe;
- (4) Historical and famous gardens of Europe and the U.K. and those in Victoria.

Wednesdays, 2.p.m., Balwyn Library

Course FULL

MUSIC - AS ONE LIKES IT Convener: Ven Houston

This course is a general (not progressive) study.

New students welcome at any time providing the quota is not full.

Tuesday, 12 noon, Hawthorn Community House.

Course FULL

NEW PHYSICS & PHILOSOPHY Convener: Fred Rosedale

In Search of Meaning

This course shows how each of us can work creatively in our own lives to help bring new meaning and order to the universe we share.

Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m., Recreation Centre.

Course FULL

PSYCHOLOGY/SOCIOLOGY Convener: Alex Gale

In this course a book is studied whose content covers social, philosophical and psychological issues. The aim of the group is to increase awareness and discuss how old and new concepts affect our behaviour and well being. The books studied in 1990 were Scott Peck's "The Road Less Travelled" and Fritjof Capra's "Uncommon Wisdom".

The book for 1991 has not yet been chosen.

Wednesdays, 12.30 p.m., Recreation Centre.

Course FULL

SOCIAL ISSUES

Conveners: M. Black, G. Triaca and J. Jackson

An on-going course with guest speakers covering a range of subjects and followed by discussion and question time.

The range of subjects covered are: drug and child abuse; adoption; migrant assimilation; health; welfare; and other social issues affecting our community. We are a self-help group and the co-operation of all members is needed for our success. Members are also invited to talk about their life experiences or other subjects of their choice.

Wednesdays, 2 p.m., Recreation Centre.

Course FULL

PUBLIC SPEAKING Convener: Bob Gardner

This course will cover six meetings as follows:

1. Speaking is conversation. Talking about things you know. Overcoming stage-fright, nerves, fear. Facing an audience with confidence. How to stand. Practice in making a very short speech.
 2. Discovering and developing topics. What to talk about - and not talk about. Talking in terms of others interests. Involving the audience. More practical work in speech making. Learning to relax.
 3. Composition of a speech - introduction, narrative, conclusion. Speaking with enthusiasm. Use of humour, quotations, reminiscences, personal experiences. Colour in a speech. Repetition. Driving home points. Practical: Short speech on any topic.
 4. Voice development. Breathing. Volume. Fast and slow talking. Er's and Um's - using a microphone. Voice elocution. Speech length. Debating style. Practical: Talk about a chosen topic.
 5. Introducing a speaker. 'Spraying' the audience. Eye contact. Knowing when they've had enough. Criticism in speech-making. Persuasion. Relating information. Preparing a speech - written out - cue notes. Talking at meetings. Toastmaking. Speaking at receptions, etc.
 6. Speech contest with comments. Review - what we've learned.
- Tuesdays, 1.00 p.m., Recreation Centre.

SEE THE PICTURES, HEAR THE STORIES Convener: Edith Santer

A series of 4 slide talks at Wakefield Street and 4 visits to the National Gallery of Victoria by an ex N.G.V. Voluntary Guide to be held monthly at either venue. This course has been delayed indefinitely.

THOUGHTS AND IDEAS

An informal group, led by Beryl French, discussing thoughts and ideas relevant to today's society.

Fridays, 10.00 a.m., 24 Wakefield Street.

Course FULL

TRAVEL Convener: Betty Burstin

An informal group discussing all aspects on independent/unusual travel. Group participation is welcomed. Occasional guest speakers will be invited to talk on their experiences.

Course FULL

Last Tuesday of each month, 5.00 p.m., Wakefield Street.

VARIETY IN ART Convener: Sue Altman

This course covers the following subjects:

4.6.91	Sistine Chapel Ceiling, Michelangelo	With slides
18.6.91	Italian Majolica	At Gallery
2.7.91	Bronzes by Sir A Gilbert	At Gallery
16.7.91	20th Century Sculpture from Rodin on	At Gallery

Tuesdays, fortnightly, 2.30 p.m., Wakefield Street or Gallery.

WHAT'S YOUR VERDICT? Convener: Henry Ogden

The tutor will give the students the facts of actual (or moot) cases with which he has been concerned and the students will discuss these cases with the tutor and each other and bring in their verdict on each case.

Two sessions, fourteen days apart, will be devoted to each case.

Tuesdays, fortnightly, 2.00 p.m., Wakefield Street. Comm. 28th May.

NEW COURSES

YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED OF DETAILS OF THESE COURSES
DEPENDING ON INTEREST SHOWN

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP - INTRODUCTION TO THE ENGLISH NOVEL

Convener: Pamela Rogers

Pam has taken an excerpt from Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey* as her theme for this course which coincides with her views on novels, etc.

"Although our productions have afforded more extensive and unaffected pleasure than those of any other literary corporation in the world, no species of composition has been so much decried "And what are you reading, Miss ---?" "Oh! it is only a novel!" replies the young lady It is only some work in which the greatest powers of the mind are displayed, in which the most thorough knowledge of human nature, the happiest delineation of its varieties, the liveliest effusions of wit and humour, are conveyed to the world in the best-chosen language."

The course comprises eight sessions, and material covered will range from S. Richardson's *Pamela* to the novels of Virginia Woolf.

The ECONOMICS of a RECESSION Convener: George Charles

A discussion and look at the hidden pictures within the Economy. It is free of figures and in plain language that all can follow and understand.

Thursdays, 11 a.m., Wakefield Street, commencing 5th September.

Page 12

ESPERANTO - THE INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE Convener: Ruth Tumman

Beginners' class in the International Language, Esperanto which covers complete grammar, conversation, letter-writing and dictation.

The textbook to be used is "Teach Yourself Esperanto". The class is designed to eventually proceed to a self-teaching/conversation group.

EXPLORING POETRY Convener: Vicki Walker

This course explores poets and poetry. It is a relaxed class in which enjoyment of poetry is enhanced by sharing with others. For the first meeting please bring a poem that, for whatever reason, appeals to you.

ITALIAN UNIFICATION IN THE 19TH CENTURY Convener: Charles D'Aprano
This course will cover Italy's colonial expansion, the first World War, the Rise of Fascism and World War II, and will probably be about 15 lectures.

NUTRITION & HEALTH Convener: Greta Burman

We are continuously subjected to enticing food advertisements and articles on miracle diets. The course is designed to help us distinguish between fact and fiction, also plan and enjoy a healthy diet. Topics include nutrients; how does the body make use of food materials; production of energy and maintenance of body tissues; importance of minerals and vitamins; effect of deficiency and excess; cooking and food processing; reducing diets; misconceptions.

Tuesdays, 10.00 a.m., Wakefield Street, commencing 20th August.

SCIENCE DISCUSSION GROUP Conveners: Joan Drake & Frances McCallum

It is proposed to form a group appealing to people, with and without a scientific background, who are interested in the urgent scientific issues of our time. This could include genetic engineering; the IVF programme; environmental issues, etc. Such issues are of great importance to the survival of the planet earth and we need to understand them in order to assess the decisions being taken, on our behalf, by our politicians.

To provide a more stimulating group, we invite the active participation of all in discussion, choice of topics, etc.

Fortnightly, Tuesdays, commencing 9th July.

YARRA RIVER GROUP Convener: Dymphna Coleman

This group will meet monthly for practical study and exploration of the Yarra River and its environs - through discussions, short local walks and occasional full-day walking tours and river trips. You will discover the history of the Yarra River and learn about the relationships between the River, its Valley and the City of Melbourne from the point of view of environment, recreation and conservation.

The group members will be very active and enthusiastic participants.

PLEASE NOTE:

Enrolment forms are found at the end of the News Notes. It is essential that one form should be completed for each course you wish to take, accurately including telephone number and postcode, and returned to the office at 24 Wakefield Street, Hawthorn, 3122 without delay.