



# U3A HAWTHORN NEWS

Number XXXIX

June 1995

24 Wakefield Street  
Hawthorn Vic 3122

Telephone: 9214 8824, 9818 7371, 9818 346 6

## FORTHCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

### SOCIAL FORUM

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a notice of the Social Forum on 4 July, which we expect to be a most interesting meeting.

For new members or for those who have never attended one of these events, they are arranged as gatherings where we can have a cup of morning tea or coffee, hear an interesting speaker, and then enjoy some lunch, catch up with existing friends and make some new ones.

As the whole event lasts more than two hours (and two hours are the maximum allowed in most of the adjoining parking areas), it is well worth considering travel by public transport. The venue at Swinburne is about five minutes' traffic-free walk from Glenferrie Station along Swinburne Walk alongside the railway line (perhaps you could leave your car at your own station car-park) and about six minutes' walk from the no. 69 tram along Glenferrie Road, tram stop no.74. By doing this, you would not have to rush away with a backward look at those still enjoying lunch and a chat!

For those who for some reason have problems with using public transport, you can contact the office a week before, and collect a parking permit with a map showing exactly which areas are covered by the permit.

### CHRISTMAS DINNER IN JULY

The Social Group will hold their popular mid-year gathering, at which all U3A members and friends are most welcome!

Date	Friday, 14 July 1995.
Venue	Cracklins on Swan 506 Swan St, Richmond—No. 70 tram (Batman Av.—Wattle Park), stop 15
Time	12 noon—2 p.m.
Cost	\$20.00 for two courses plus tea or coffee. Drinks are available at the restaurant's bar.

Please book and pay at U3A office, Hawthorn, by Friday 7 July 1995.

We are seeking tutors for the following courses:

COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS  
CREATIVE WRITING  
FOOD and WINE  
GARDENING and GARDEN DESIGN  
GENEALOGY  
ITALIAN CONVERSATION  
PHILOSOPHY

If you can tutor or lead a group in any of these subjects,  
please contact the office

## **YOUR NEW COMMITTEE**

At the Annual General Meeting held on 20 April 1995, some new members were elected to your Executive Committee. The present Committee members, with a note of some of the other responsibilities they undertake, are:

Jean Giese, Chairman, tutor, front desk  
Joan Strachan, Secretary  
Lola Stewart, Treasurer

Rae Alexander, tutor liaison, tutor  
Lois Astley, office administration, forum, front desk  
Felix Carrady, accommodation, tutor  
Hans van Dorssen, computer records, course co-ordinator  
Alexe Gale, tutor liaison, tutor  
Laurel Hollow, front desk, assistant to Treasurer  
Judith Lahey, assistant office administration, front desk  
Ralph Mottram, Network representative, forum  
Pamela Rogers, tutor liaison, tutor  
Derek Readman, curriculum review, accommodation  
Ronald Taft, curriculum review, tutor  
Helen Williams, newsletter editor, publicity

### **FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

I am honoured to have been elected Chairman of such a splendid organisation. Our previous Chairmen have been workers in U3A since its inception ten years ago. However, being a comparative newcomer, perhaps I should give a short account of myself.

I joined as a student four years ago and was immediately impressed by the level of members' commitment to exploring new ideas and avenues of activity, and by the wonderful opportunities offered for serious study.

In addition, the possibilities were obvious for forming stimulating new friendships—a real plus in our 'third age'. It was a small step to wish to be a contributor to, as well as a recipient of, all these goodies, and so I became an office helper, then a Committee member and a tutor.

With our membership numbers exploding as they are, the newly elected Committee has a big task to keep things running smoothly and to find new tutors and courses to meet the demand. We ask everyone to remember that ours is an entirely self-help organisation—we all have the responsibility to make it work. Any ideas for improvement, or offers of new courses and tutors would be gladly received. A suggestion box is resting on top of the pigeonholes in the passage of 24 Wakefield Street awaiting your contributions, or our new Secretary, Joan Strachan, would be pleased to receive a note.

So now we enter the second decade of the life of U3A Hawthorn. If the next ten years are as good as the last ten, we will be well pleased.

*Jean Giese.*

### **TO OUR TUTORS**

#### **ADVISING TUTORS**

From now on, the tutor's name will be included on the class list, so that if a venue should become unavailable, the tutor will not be forgotten when class members are telephoned.

#### **CLASS ATTENDANCE LISTS**

Would all tutors/conveners please hand in your current Class Attendance List/s. New lists for the second semester will be placed in your pigeonhole or mailed to you.

# U3A CANBERRA CONFERENCE 26–28 April 1995

Theme: **How to build a better U3A**

Some thoughts from three participants:

**JANET HODGE, BEV McINTYRE, LOLA STEWART**

## **Overall impression** of the three days:

A well organised conference

Interesting speakers

Keen participants (260, with each State and Territory being represented)

The conference was opened by Kate Carnell, Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory.

The first sessions reviewed many U3As—where and how they started, where they stand today, and what has been achieved. It seems our very existence, plus growth and survival, are our great achievements.

Jack McDonnell, Secretary of Victorian U3A Network, provided detailed information on Victoria. Rick Swindell from Griffith University, Queensland, took us on a 'runaway train ride' of the global scene where growth is continuing; growth in Australia is significantly higher.

Membership in Victoria ranges from fewer than fifty to over a thousand per group, with the average between two and three hundred. Hawthorn has around seven hundred members.

Subscriptions also varied widely, from as low as \$2 at a retirement home to \$30; the average is \$20.

Naturally the number of programs also varied according to the number of members. Hawthorn is one of those offering the greatest number.

Two-thirds of U3As are registered with the Regional Council of Adult, Community and Further Education. Some seek grants regularly, some occasionally and some never. About half the requests are successful.

## **Some Highlights**

- Jack McDonnell, Secretary of Victorian Network, who spoke first and last—very informative, practical, with good understanding.
- Rick Swindell from Griffith University, Queensland, who gave a résumé of U3As around the world.
- The Hon. Professor Peter Baume, AO, who impressed with his call for people to 'make their own decisions', particularly in relation to medical matters—'Power is the real commodity.'
- Julie Flynn, Bureau Chief, Radio 2UE and affiliated stations, Parliament House, Canberra. Like Peter Baume, she urged members to make their concerns known through radio and print, a point strongly supported by our own immediate past Chairman, Betty Marginson.

## **Considerations and Questions**

Considerations put forward were not confined to U3A concerns, as can be seen from the comments by Peter Baume and Julie Flynn. Topics were too numerous and varied to be dealt with here; no doubt the *Network News* will cover the whole conference in more detail.

Concerning U3A, some questions and matters raised were:

- 1 The use of the word 'university' in our name (it is not permitted in New Zealand).
- 2 What does the use of the word 'university' imply?
- 3 Should it govern the type of subjects being offered, e.g. academic or leisure/hobby type?
- 4 Availability of suitable office and classroom space.
- 5 Quantity or quality? Is the nature of the membership more important than numbers?
- 6 Suitability and availability of tutors. (Some initial screening seems useful, but class members usually vote with their feet if the tutor is unsatisfactory.)

In answer to questions (1) and (2), it was agreed to be irrelevant. There was an overwhelming preference for the British 'self-help' concept, rather than the French system where U3As originated, based on university subjects with university lecturers. There were comments that the term

'university' could be construed as more akin to the Socratic or medieval concept of a university as a 'community of scholars', searching for knowledge for its own sake and for the *pleasure* of learning together. Question (2) was answered by saying that most of our more popular subjects could not be found in a university; there is room for both cerebral and practical.

Question (4) and the problem of space—lobby the politicians, councils, colleges, etc.

Question (5) was for individual campuses to decide. If a campus becomes too big, there is always room for a break-away group to start a new campus.

Although there are studies being conducted on older adult learning, the emphasis from the Government is on *vocational* training, which does not fit us. It is vital, therefore, that we do not allow ourselves to be pushed aside. There is a need for us to be seen as a credible organisation nationally.

This led to the first *national* political action by U3As: our unanimous endorsement of a recommendation of the Inquiry into Development of Open Learning in Australia, re the use of school and TAFE facilities, libraries, computer rooms, etc. after hours. (Unfortunately, the 'after hours' may not be too satisfactory.)

Did we answer our initial question, 'How to build a better U3A'? Perhaps not, but if we all work at building better individual U3As, the overall result will be satisfactory.

We were left with a motto: 'OVER THE HILL AND GATHERING SPEED'.

Pleasurable learning to all of us, from

*Janet, Bev, Lola.*

## HOW YOUR NEWSLETTER REACHES YOU

Your Newsletter Editor would like to develop a reliable team of four or five people to help with the actual distribution of our Newsletter, which is such an important means of communication within our campus. After the composition, word-processing and checking of all the constantly changing material, then the *REAL* work begins:

- A) Someone takes the master copy to the Town Hall, where a 'magic machine' photocopied, collates and staples the complete Newsletter. This takes about three hours.
- B) The hard-working office staff fold (usually with some interleaving of other material) and fasten each copy, while at the same time helping callers, both in person and on the telephone. This can take a day or so, fitting in with these other duties.
- C) Someone then attaches labels (produced by our computer experts) to the folded letters and sorts them into the appropriate-sized bundles within postcodes/groups of postcodes to take advantage of Print Post savings at the Post Office.
- D) Someone places the bundles in the special boxes lent by Australia Post and fills in some rather obscurantist forms, then requests the Treasurer for a blank cheque.
- E) Some people then deliver these boxes by car to the Hawthorn Post Office. This requires two people, the car, and two minutes of *illegal* parking in order to get the fairly heavy boxes into the Post Office, where the whole lot is paid for by cheque.

As there is often a deadline to be met (e.g. due notice before a meeting, a Social Forum, etc.), it would be wonderful if a few bods could share steps (A), (C) (D) and (E), each aware of the whole procedure, so that even if one is holidaying or unwell, the operation can carry on.

The Newsletter goes out four (very occasionally five) times a year, generally about the beginning of March, June, September and December, and most of the work can be done anywhere away from 24 Wakefield Street, where space is sometimes a problem.

How about some volunteers (*FIVE* out of 700)? Please ring me at 9818 5077, or leave a message at the office.

*Helen Williams*

## **A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR**

On Monday, 29 May, the people in the French conversation group led by Anna Ghiurekian were honoured with a visit by Dr Marie-Louise Hemphill, a house-guest of one of our members. Dr Hemphill, the great-niece of Louis Pasteur, an art historian and a notable member of a distinguished scientific and medical family, is an example to all who have not succumbed to the myth that youth is everything. Dr Hemphill, a vibrant and colourful personality, has a formidable intellect and a wide-ranging interest in the world. Attending the recent annual Veterinary Association's conference in Melbourne, by virtue of her training in hygiene and public health and the research work of her father, Dr Loir, in Sydney in the 1880s, she had a very inspirational message: 'One must do things in life. If it's sewing, sew. If it's drawing, draw.' We can only add, 'Hear, hear!'

Hawthorn U3A was proud to welcome Dr Hemphill, and we look forward to another possible visit in September.

## **CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS**

Betty Marginson, who has run some popular courses in the unravelling of the cryptic crossword mind, wonders if there are some members who would be interested to meet on a monthly basis to do

one or more common cryptic crosswords. Please register your interest with the office.

## **U3A MEMBERS—SOCIAL FACILITIES**

As we do not have a membership club room, members will be glad to learn that they are welcome to patronise 'The Corner' coffee shop, on the corner of Wakefield and John Streets, a few paces from the U3A office. This is a Student Union facility for Swinburne University, of which we are of course an integral part.

While it is likely that the lunch period of noon to 2 p.m. will be very crowded, other times of the day may be less hectic.

### **SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER Copy Deadline**

All copy to the Editor before Thursday 24 August please

# COURSES IN SECOND SEMESTER 1995

**NEW COURSES** marked \*\* in list

**CONTRACT BRIDGE**  
**FEDERALISM & THE COMMONWEALTH CONSTITUTION**  
**INDIA—ANCIENT**  
**INDIA—BRITISH RAJ TO 1994**  
**LAWN BOWLS (beginners)**  
**PHOTOGRAPHY IS FUN—Skills & Appreciation**  
**RECORDER—Beginners Group C**  
**RETAINING YOUR DRIVER'S LICENCE**  
**RUG MAKING (CROCHET)**  
**SHAKESPEARE'S HISTORY PLAYS**  
**SILVERSMITHING& ENAMELLING**  
**TRAVEL TO UNUSUAL PLACES**

**Tutor**

Nicole McManamny  
Joan Rydon  
Pramila Datar  
Chintaman V. Datar  
Graham Kinney  
Nola Sharp  
Linnell Barelli  
Judy Chancellor  
Rhonda Parkhurst  
Reg Grouse  
John Handyside  
R. S. Sharma

## FURTHER POSSIBLE COURSES

We would like to hear from members if they are interested in attending these courses later in the year or even next year; please telephone the office to register your interest.

**ASIAN HISTORY (Chinese and Japanese) (July/August)**  
**CHEMISTRY—introduction to organic & biochemistry (1996)**  
**COMPUTERS**  
**EXERCISE AND DANCE**  
**ISRAELI DANCING**  
**MEDIEVAL WORLD**

Alan Blaskett  
Mario Annetta  
Peg Cregan  
  
Mary Waters

### PLEASE NOTE:

Enrolment forms are found at the end of the Newsletter. 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.

Although a class may be full, people do have to withdraw for various reasons, so a waiting list is kept for most of these courses.

Any member who is absent from a class for **TWO CONSECUTIVE CLASSES** *without* notifying the office or the relevant tutor will be deemed to have withdrawn, and the place will be offered to a member on the waiting list.

Please note that classes in groups (other than Languages) that run at parallel times (e.g. Art History) are numbered A, B, etc.; those that are consecutive (e.g. Art Appreciation) are numbered 1, 2, etc.

All classes run for the year unless otherwise specified.