

# USA HAWTHORN NEWS

Number XLVIII

September 1997

24 Wakefield Street  
Hawthorn Vic 3122

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## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As we go to press the Winter Morning Concert is about to take place. Students in the groups which are to perform have been plagued by the 'flu and other winter ailments, as have so many of our number, but I am sure that there will be a programme to delight the large audience which has booked to attend. Our Chamber Music Group was to have contributed, but found that too many of their key players were not available on a Tuesday morning. The good news is that they will present a concert for our enjoyment on a Thursday morning in spring—9 October (see notice on page 2). Two of our members, the well-known Melbourne cellist Annette Martin and pianist Ruth Muir, will now play at the Winter Morning Concert.

We have secured the Hawthorn Town Hall again for our End-of-Year Celebration on Tuesday 9 December at 2.00 p.m. (see notice on page 3).

I seem always to be writing of our social events. These, of course, are the happy occasions when we have the opportunity to be all together, so they stand out in one's mind. However, our serious studies continue week by week, an example being the students in the newly formed Latin class, who conscientiously do their homework and enthuse about their weekly lessons.

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Tutors Margaret Black and Jean Jackson, who have conducted the weekly Social Issues class for eight years, have regretfully decided that this will be their last year. This has been, and is, a most popular and interesting group and we thank Margaret and Jean for their dedication and commitment to the class for all those years. We are now looking for one or two other members who might like to be the leaders for 1998. Anyone interested could talk to Margaret and Jean or to the Secretary Derek Readman or me.

Another tutor who is relinquishing the reins is Alf Floyd. Assisted by his wife Dorothy, Alf has conducted a weekly history class since our inception, which means that this is his thirteenth year. Alf is also a tutor at the Chadstone and Ferntree Gully campuses, so he has really made a great contribution to learning for the Third Age. He has said how much he has enjoyed the group at Hawthorn, and we know his students have enjoyed his classes. Our grateful thanks and good wishes are extended to Alf and Dorothy.

*Jean Giese*  
Chairman

### DATES FOR 1997/98

1 October	Beginning of enrolments for <b>EXISTING</b> students in 1997 courses which are continuing in 1998. The membership fee for 1998 must be paid before enrolment is accepted.
1 December	Opening date for <b>NEW</b> enrolments in ongoing courses and new 1998 courses (as set out in December 1997 curriculum). Membership fee for 1998 must be included with enrolment.
Last week Nov/ first week Dec.	This is the concluding period for 1997 classes.
12 December	Office closes for 1997, but enrolments/cheques for 1998 membership will be processed.
Mid-January to mid-February 1998	Summer School (Full details will appear in December 1997 Newsletter)
12 January	Office open part-time, from 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
2 February	Office open full-time, from 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
Week from 16 Feb.	Classes commence for 1998.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

We are in need of **some** volunteers from among our membership of over **850** people to lend a few helping hands in the office.

- 1 We are looking for a helper for reception duties in the office on a fortnightly basis on Friday mornings, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please leave your name and telephone number at the office for the attention of Margaret Borden, our Office Manager.
- 2 Every quarter we despatch the Newsletter to our members and Jean Stanley, our Newsletter Despatcher, needs helpers at 24 Wakefield Street to fold, label and bundle the Newsletters. Normally the peak periods cover some time on Wednesday and Thursday in the last week of February, May, August and November. We need a good-sized pool of names, because so many folk seem to be away, sick, or otherwise occupied when called upon. Please leave your name and telephone number at the office so that Margaret Borden can contact you.

## SATURDAY SERIES OF LECTURES

The final three lectures in this very popular series are listed with full details on a separate sheet (for decorating your refrigerator or notice board) accompanying this Newsletter. Brief details are:

27 September	Dr Nick Eckstein	Two Great Russian Cities: Moscow and St Petersburg
25 October	Mr Ralph Mottram	Photographic Reconnaissance in World War 2
29 November	Dr Nick Eckstein	The Idea of Florence: visions of the city—from the Middle Ages to the present

We are looking forward to the usual enthusiastic attendance—and don't forget you may bring friends (a sneaky way to introduce them to the joys of U3A).

## *SPRING MORNING CONCERT*

Our Chamber Music Group makes its debut

**CHANDELIER ROOM, HAWTHORN TOWN HALL**  
**Thursday 9 October at 10.30 a.m.**

A short concert will be presented by our new Chamber Music group. As well as items from the group, the programme will include duets and trios from its members. The Music Director is George Logie-Smith. Please book with our office.

## NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

### **Membership of the Network**

There are now 50 U3A campuses in Victoria which belong to the U3A Network, representing nearly all the active U3A groups in the State.

### **Grant for Equipment**

The grant of \$70,000 which was given to the U3A Network by the Victorian Department of Human Services has been disbursed to U3A campuses to enable them to acquire necessary equipment. Our U3A Hawthorn has purchased a much-needed slide projector and some computer software with our share from these funds.

### **U3A Network Distinguished Service Awards**

The Network has bestowed its Distinguished Service Award on two U3A Hawthorn members, Betty Marginson and Werner Graff, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the U3A Movement in Victoria. We were particularly delighted that these awards were bestowed at the get-together lunch on 26 July hosted by our Committee to thank our administrative people for the fine job they continue to do.

## SATURDAY VIDEO SERIES

Please note that this series has now been discontinued due to lack of interest.

## 1998 SUMMER SCHOOL

Are there any of our members (who are not already tutoring) who would be interested in giving a talk or a series of talks at the next Summer School? The Summer School will operate between mid-January and mid-February 1998, in the mornings. Please contact Derek Readman via the office.

## FOUR-YEARLY REPORTS

The Management Committee of U3A Hawthorn has always felt that we as a group should be accountable and report regularly on the work we are doing to promote learning and stimulation in the Third Age. A sub-committee is at present working on the third four-yearly report, *Living and Learning: U3A Hawthorn 1993-1996*, which we expect will be published in a few weeks.

There are still some copies available in the office of the earlier reports on our activities, *U3A Hawthorn: The First Four Years* and *Learning for Living: U3A Hawthorn 1989-92*, for those newer members who would be interested in gaining a historical perspective on our organisation.

### 1997 END - OF - YEAR CELEBRATION

**HAWTHORN TOWN HALL, 2.00 p.m., TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER**

This will take the form of a short concert  
followed by a social get-together with refreshments

Please mark this in your diary and let the office know that you are coming,  
to help us to organise the catering.

## SYDNEY U3A—NATIONAL CONFERENCE 1998

A conference will be held in Sydney 5-9 October 1998 with the theme 'U3A—Achievements and Challenges'. The organisers are calling for papers to be presented, either of 1000-2000 words in length for 20-30 minutes, or 500 words for 5-10 minutes. Although the deadline for the submission of outlines of presentations has just passed (15 August 1997), we feel it is quite probable that anyone interested could be squeezed in. Contact the Honorary Secretary, Don Fifer, on telephone (02) 9252 2033 or fax (02) 9252 2339.

## U3A HAWTHORN CHAMBER MUSIC GROUP

Director: George Logie-Smith

We would welcome more wind and string players of a reasonable standard. Rehearsals are held in the Parlour behind the Uniting Church, corner of Oxley Road and Hepburn Street, Hawthorn, at 10.00-12.00 on alternate Thursdays (next rehearsal 11 September). Enquiries to the Secretary, Ruth Muir, 9818 0801.

## A BOOK FROM U3A BAYSIDE CENTRAL

*Fact, Fiction and Frivolity: an anthology of poetry and prose by Third Age writers* has been compiled by the members of the Writing From Life group at Bayside Central, with assistance from various other members of that campus. It contains several hours of informative and entertaining reading, and can be obtained from the U3A Moorleigh Office, PO Box 291, Moorabbin, 3189, \$10 (mail orders \$12.00).

## MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 1998

We are happy to announce that there will be no increase in membership fees for the coming year. Fees remain at \$25 per person and \$40 for two members living at the same address. For members of other campuses studying at Hawthorn, the fee is \$5 to cover administration, badge and newsletters.

## RESEARCH STUDY – EARLY DEMENTIA

A neuropsychologist at the Austin & Rehabilitation Medical Centre, Rubina Alpitsis, wishes to conduct a three-year study into Alzheimer's Disease, using as subjects people between 50 and 70 years of age, who have or have not noticed recent memory difficulties, and who have no history of stroke or epilepsy. There are no drugs, dangerous procedures or costs involved; there are four sessions in the first year and one in each of the next two years. Ms Alpitsis can be telephoned on 9496 3222. (A notice with more detail is on the board at 24 Wakefield Street.)

## WHEELCHAIR

For those attending classes at the Hawthorn Leisure Centre, please note that there is a wheelchair available for anyone needing it while at the Centre (the wheelchair may not be removed from the premises). It is kept in the storeroom and you can ask for it at the desk.

## THIRD AGE LEARNING IN USA

One of our members and tutors, Theresa Gunn, has provided an interesting article, 'Third Age Rising: growing older in the modern world' in the journal put out by the Fordham University in New York. The University has a Third Age Center where the impact of longer lives is studied, as well as the more usual subjects offered in universities.

The increasing numbers of older people in society will have an inevitable effect on pension and medical services, and governments (not just the American model) have yet even to acknowledge some of the consequences. The former Director of the Third Age Center at Fordham, Monsignor Charles Fahey, believes that the strain on society will be considerable and there could be increased inter-generational conflict in the competition to consume society's resources.

However, there are also a great many older people who are concentrating on giving back to society in a greater degree than they have ever taken from it. They are refusing to see age as a problem, a period of sickness and uselessness leading to death. They are in fact seeing age positively, and believe that their wealth of experience can greatly enrich the society they belong to.

The reality is that most older people are not sick, frail, housebound, but are quite capable of leading full and productive lives. The article cites the College at Sixty of the Lincoln Center, which has been educating senior citizens since 1971. Many people have returned to finish degrees they started years before, and others have started new bachelor's degrees.

Major studies in Sweden and by the National Institute on Ageing and the National Institute of Mental Health in the USA concluded that physical and mental decline with ageing is not inevitable. One 15-year Swedish study found 'no measurable decline in many biological functions until after age 70, and very little decline after age 81'.

An 81-year-old student of the College at Sixty sums it up perfectly:

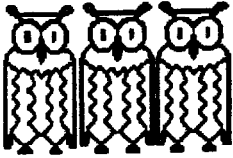
Treat older people like people. There's no reason why they can't do anything. Give them credit for their experience, and give them the tools to get the work done, and they can do more than the youngsters. Life experience is an excellent education. Let them use it.

### DECEMBER 1997 NEWSLETTER

#### Copy Deadline

All copy to the Editor by  
**THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER** please

Newsletter Editor    Helen Williams (9818 5077)  
Newsletter Despatch    Jean Stanley



UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE, HAWTHORN

Incorporated as Third Age Learning (Hawthorn) Inc.

24 Wakefield Street, Hawthorn, Vic., 3122

Telephone: 9214 8824, 9818 7371, 9818 3466; Fax: 9819 5771

You are invited to attend our

## 1997 SATURDAY SERIES OF LECTURES

**Saturday 27 September** *TWO GREAT RUSSIAN CITIES: MOSCOW and ST PETERSBURG*

**Dr Nick Eckstein, Academic Coordinator, Australians Studying Abroad**

This lecture is an illustrated journey through the culture of two of Russia's greatest cities, from the Middle Ages to the present. Moscow, first mentioned as a major centre in the mid-12th century, was the seat of Grand Dukes and Tsars until the 18th century, when Peter the Great created the beginnings of a new capital, St Petersburg, which survives today as one of the grandest 'planned' cities in existence.

**Saturday 25 October** *PHOTOGRAPHIC RECONNAISSANCE IN WORLD WAR 2*

**Mr Ralph Mottram, ex-RAF pilot**

Mr Mottram will talk on his experiences as a Spitfire and Mosquito photographic pilot from 1941 to 1944. In particular he will explain how Sidney Cotton—a Queenslander—came to be the 'father' of photographic reconnaissance, which is claimed to have provided 80 per cent of all high quality intelligence in the European theatre of war.

**Saturday 29 November** *THE IDEA OF FLORENCE: visions of the city—the Middle Ages to the present*

**Dr Nick Eckstein, Academic Coordinator, Australians Studying Abroad**

Everyone, whether they have been to Florence or not, has a mental image of the city. For those who eventually visit the cradle of the Italian Renaissance, this image influences the way they see the city, how they react to its people, and how they experience its art and culture. This lecture investigates the ways in which images created by history, literature, film, art and travellers themselves have created the 'idea of Florence', and asks whether we can, in fact, know the 'real' place behind the myth.

### LOCATION FOR ALL LECTURES

Lecture Theatre BA 201 (same level as entrance from Plaza), Swinburne University of Technology, Business and Arts Building.  
Enter from John Street (pedestrian access only) or from William Street (near the Fire Station), Hawthorn.

### TIME

2.30–4.00 p.m.

### COST

Free to members and friends.

### BOOKINGS

It is necessary to make a booking. This can be done on weekdays between 9.30 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. by telephone (9214 8824 or 9818 7371) or personally at 24 Wakefield Street.  
There will be no written confirmation of bookings; please therefore keep your own record of your bookings.

### BADGES

Please remember to wear your name badge.