



**U3A HAWTHORN: 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY 2015**

**Notice is given of the  
30TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of U3A HAWTHORN Inc.**

**Location:** 26 Sinclair Avenue, Glen Iris 3146

**Date:** Wednesday, 15 April 2015

**Time:** 10.30 am

**Agenda:**

- To receive apologies and proxies [Proxy forms available at the Office]
- To confirm Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting
- To receive the Annual Report for 2014
- To receive the Audited Financial Statement for the year ended 31/12/2014
- To elect Office Bearers and Committee Members for the next 12 months
- To appoint an Auditor for the year ending 31 December 2015
- To consider other business of which notice has been given in accordance with the Rules.

All Executive and Committee positions will be declared vacant. Nomination and proxy forms (both available from the Office) must be deposited with the Secretary not less than 7 days (in the case of nominations) and not less than 24 hours (in the case of proxies) prior to the time for the commencement of the Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting will be followed by an address by **Christopher Wood**, who will speak on the topic "**Medieval France & Spain: The pilgrim routes to Santiago de Compostela**". Christopher Wood founded Australians Studying Abroad (ASA) in 1977 and he has pioneered and led some 125 tours to over 45 countries around the world. Chris is an expert in reading diverse cultural landscapes and in synthesising vast bodies of knowledge from a variety of disciplines. Read his fascinating complete CV on our website; just look for the AGM 2015 page and follow the link.

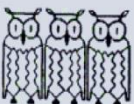
**Lunch:** A light lunch will be provided for those who notify the Office before Friday 3 April of their intention to attend. There is no charge for lunch but pre-booking is essential for catering purposes.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE**

*Because of limited parking, we suggest you car pool, if possible, or use public transport*

**Bruce Lancashire**

Hon Secretary





The 2015 year is well underway. We have 94 courses operating with more to be added as the year progresses. Members of our office staff have worked tirelessly over the last 8 weeks to ensure that we have everything in place and ensure a smooth start to classes. Sincere thanks to them for such committed work, much of it done over the so-called "holiday period".

Our annual Summer School provided many members with an impressive and stimulating variety of topics over the four weeks of January. We owe Carol and Bruce Lancashire our thanks for their planning and committed delivery of the program. Although all comes to fruition in January a huge amount of preparatory work is done during the year. Thank you also to those members who assisted at sessions and to a number of our members who presented such excellent material for our enjoyment. Well done everyone!

The expected surfacing of the car park did not occur. No doubt you are wondering why. We asked Council if it would be possible to extend the space available so more cars could be accommodated off-street. This request has required more time. I hope we have news before too long.

The Secretary and I are meeting with Council to prepare for the drawing up of the plans for the proposed renovation and extension of the existing facility. There are several factors which will impinge on the design – namely the requirement to adhere to the conditions set by the company which operates the overhead power lines, the impact of the Melbourne Water flood plain defined area and the fact that our present lease defines the area available to us by the edge of the concrete path in front of the office and main building. The architect is confident that an effective plan can be achieved by working around the above factors.

We have conveyed the comments made by members over the past few months and those made by the Committee of Management to the Council and architect. These have received a positive response in that the initial concept plans reflect the points made. We will display the plans as soon as they become available. There will be more on this issue as the year progresses.

John Howell has resigned as Campus Manager. We thank him for his assistance over a long period and hope he enjoys the extra leisure time. Harvey Sowerby has agreed to take up the position. He was welcomed to the role with the task of finding a

new cleaner as we were in the process of ending the contract of the current cleaner. Harvey acted very quickly and effectively and we have a new regime in place. We hope this change will ensure a cleaner environment for all. Of course as the cleaning occurs only once a week it does require members to keep the rooms neat and tidy – especially if food has been consumed. A vacuum cleaner is available to assist on those occasions. Our thanks to Harvey. We hope that future challenges of this role are not too frequent or arduous.

We have been planning a display to illustrate the Management Structure of U3A Hawthorn in the Main Hall. This will allow members to see the names of people who can be of assistance and allow us to indicate the vacancies that we have at particular times. We hope this will be of use and also encourage members to volunteer to join one of the teams.

**We will continue the celebration of our 30<sup>th</sup> year with two events in the near future. The first is scheduled for Saturday 14 March and will recognise the contribution of tutors and volunteers who have given long periods of voluntary service. The second will be the actual Birthday Event on Sunday 26 April at the Hawthorn Arts Centre. Details are contained elsewhere in this newsletter. I urge you to support these events by joining in the celebrations.**

An especially hearty welcome to all our new members. I hope your time at U3A Hawthorn is enjoyable and productive.

**Meg Adams  
President**

*Meg Adams was announced as Boroondara Council's **Citizen of the Year** for 2015 - jointly with Ian Penrose, who recently retired as the Yarra Riverkeeper and has previously been a speaker at our Summer School.*

*Meg is a Board member of Camcare, which helps disadvantaged people throughout Boroondara, and has been instrumental in its successful advocacy and funding for its important projects. Meg has been a long time contributor at U3A Hawthorn having held a number of roles, including Office Manager and Newsletter Editor, prior to her appointment as President in 2014.*

*Her work with Camcare and with U3A Hawthorn was recognised in the announcement of this award and we congratulate her on her achievement.*

*Bruce Lancashire*

**30<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**  
**30 Years in the Life of the Universe**  
**Guest Speaker: Associate Professor**  
**Christopher Fluke, Swinburne**  
**University**  
**2.30pm, Saturday 14 March, Main Hall**



For a Universe that is 13.7 billion years old\*, 30 years does not seem like a long period of time! To celebrate three decades of U3A Hawthorn, this talk will look at some of the most significant changes in our understanding of the Universe that have occurred during the last 30 years. What do the next 30 years hold in store?

Associate Professor Christopher Fluke is an astronomer and astronomy communicator working at the Centre for Astrophysics & Supercomputing, Swinburne University of Technology. His main research interests are in techniques for 3D visualization with applications in astronomy and biomaterials, and the use of graphics processing units (GPUs) to accelerate the rate of astronomical discovery. Chris speaks regularly to school groups and the public about astronomy, and coordinates Swinburne's 3D AstroTour school program.

\* or 456.67 million times older than U3A Hawthorn...



**PROGRAM PLANNING: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2015**

After a wonderfully successful Summer School where all sessions were well attended our 2015 program commenced on Monday 9 February with a packed Bridge Class and a full "jury" of members in the "Law and Justice" class.

The Program Planning Committee [PPC] has already met and approved several additions and new courses to be conducted later this year. These include *Investment and Economics* presented by Geoff Hindle, Pat Bingham will lead a monthly *Bird Watching Walk* starting in April and Dr James Keipert will present a session titled *The Wonderful World of Ants* later this year.

Members should look out for further details of these courses, and others to come, in Newsletters and Gateway News.

**Irving Miller**



**THE PRESENTER'S DILEMMA**

We are all aware of the distraction of mobile phones ringing at inconvenient times during a

restaurant meal, during a transaction in a shop, on public transport and in class. There seems to be no getting away from mobile devices and we all notice, I'm sure, how engrossed everyone seems to be - staring into the small screen in all sorts of public places. Even couples sitting opposite each other in a restaurant seem more concerned with communication on the mobile than with each other...peck, pecking away.

Before each Summer School session we asked people to ensure their mobiles were either off, or in silent/vibrate/aircraft mode or similar. It still didn't stop the phones ringing and I admit to having been caught out myself.

With the significant increase in the use of mobile devices (such as smartphones and tablets) having internet access, it is now becoming common for people to be constantly checking information using search engines like Google or various repositories such as Wikipedia. It can be very useful to have access to this encyclopaedic collection of information but, just as I've highlighted above, I believe there are times when it is inappropriate to do so.

In particular, it can be very disturbing for a presenter to see class members diverting their attention from the class interaction to bury themselves in 'web-surfing' via tablet or smartphone. This becomes even more so if the object of the exercise is to find contrary information to use in 'point scoring'. In point of fact, it's just plain rude.

I'd much prefer that someone who is keen would learn all the information about a topic then share that information by offering to run a class themselves, rather than making under-researched assertions based on a quick web-surf!

Tutors and Conveners go to considerable lengths to prepare their classes and are happy to interact, consider other opinions and have knowledge shared from other informed class members. I think it is imperative that we, as class members, exhibit suitable courtesy and respect for others in these class interactions - whether you agree with facts or opinions expressed or not.

These are some of the reasons that the U3A Hawthorn wi-fi network has been re-configured for registered devices only - although the main issue is to do with bandwidth and capacity, in order to ensure that the office and Tutor access is given priority through our wifi/ADSL gateway to the internet.

**Bruce Lancashire**



## MUSIC NOTES

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The start of February brings with it a renewed attention to plans for the months ahead, especially music-wise. For the orchestra, players have been alerted to the start of rehearsals in late February with a very special concert to prepare for. On Sunday 26 April we will be presenting our 30<sup>th</sup> concert in the historic Hawthorn Town Hall, which following a massive refurbishment is now called the Hawthorn Arts Centre. For the orchestra it is our first return to our former 'home' since November 2011, after many performances in a variety of other venues. In fact it will be our 55<sup>th</sup> concert all told. We are very grateful to the City of Boroondara for making this event possible. The occasion is doubly important in that we will, as in many other ways this year, also be celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of U3A Hawthorn's foundation. Our conductor, Willem van der Vis, has planned a program suitably celebratory, starting with Handel's Royal Fireworks Music and including a performance as viola soloist by the young Douglas Coghill, whose grandfather Don Fairweather was our esteemed Principal Viola from 2000 until his retirement due to ill health in 2006. Douglas is presenting a work by Schubert: an arrangement for viola and strings of his glorious Arpeggione Sonata. The program will also include the delightfully weird Danse Macabre by Saint Saëns, Sousa's stirring Liberty Bell March and an excerpt from Stravinsky's Firebird ballet. We are very excited about this event and of course hope for a large and enthusiastic audience!

As hoped for this year, we have been able to arrange venue bookings which allow for a more widely-spaced calendar. The gaps in between concerts will enable us to visit schools as before, and perhaps another country visit, which was so much enjoyed last year. Watch this space!

### Diary dates for concerts this year:

**Sunday 26 April:** 2.30pm, orchestra concert with Willem van der Vis, Hawthorn Arts Centre.

**Sunday 2 June:** 2.30pm, choir concert in Flockhart Hall, Methodist Ladies College, Kew.

**Saturday 22 August:** 2.30pm, orchestra concert with Gyula Cseszkó, St John's Anglican Church Camberwell.

**Sunday 4 October:** a hoped-for musical offering at Federation Square for the start of Seniors Week.

**Sunday 29 November:** 2.30pm, orchestra concert with Gyula Cseszkó, Camberwell Grammar School Canterbury.

**Choir notes as supplied by Bev Rangott, Choir Manager:**

The choir's final concert for 2014 was held on Sunday 23 November in the Conference Room at The Mary McKillop Centre in East Hawthorn. Thanks to Ruth Muir who made the introductions, standing in for Meg Adams who was unable to attend. We were pleased with how well we had pulled everything together in final rehearsals, and many audience members gave us very positive feedback and told us how much they had enjoyed the performance. We are very grateful to The Mary McKillop Centre for providing such a comfortable space in a lovely garden setting. Our last activity for the year was on 28 November when several choir members presented a mini-concert at the Hedley Sutton Aged Care facility in Canterbury Road. The committed staff and carers made sure as many as possible could attend. Many thanks from all of us to our talented and capable leaders: Musical Director Meredith Vincent, and Accompanists Judy Chipman and Valerie Judges.

Our mid-year concert for 2015 will be held on Sunday 21 June at 2.30pm in Flockhart Hall at Methodist Ladies' College, Kew. There is parking on site, and Glenferrie Road offers many options for afternoon tea. With our rehearsals and workshops being held, as before, in The Parkview Room at Camberwell Civic Centre, the Choir is looking forward to an enjoyable and productive year.

*Ruth Muir*



## PARKING

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Parking continues to be an issue at Sinclair Avenue when large classes are being held. We would urge all members to give consideration to the following:

- please park considerately, leaving door opening space between cars and not blocking the entrance from Sinclair Avenue or the movement lanes in the carpark
- do not box vehicles into corners - they may be wanting to leave before you
- if parking on Sinclair Avenue, park on the side opposite residences and do not park on corners, to ensure large vehicles, such as rubbish trucks, can negotiate the street
- please do not park in EITHER of the marked Receptionist spaces. Both are required to ensure volunteers, whose shifts overlap, can gain a park in the carpark
- please do not park in the marked Guest Speaker car park. When the carpark is most in demand, it's usually because a guest speaker is coming!

*Bruce Lancashire*



## AUTUMN/WINTER EXCURSIONS

For bookings please telephone the U3A office  
For further queries please contact:  
Joan Harding on 98133974 or 0408366987  
or Colette Flynn on 98826097

### BOOKING POLICY

All tours payable at the time of placing reservation. Bookings close two weeks prior to the event.

### CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations 14 days or less prior to the scheduled departure time = no refund due

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### Thursday 19 March DISCOVER QUEENSCLIFF AND PORTARLINGTON

**Cost:** \$59

**Departure:** 8.45 am sharp from Sinclair Avenue, Glen Iris, return at approximately 5.00 pm

**Inclusions:** Transportation, tour of *Cottage by the Sea*, Mussel Farm, visit to winery, morning tea and lunch.

**Limit:** 30 participants (friends welcome)

This morning we embark on a journey with a difference. We will make our way to Queenscliff where we will visit the Cottage by the Sea.

*Cottage by the Sea* is a non-government, registered charity that empowers disadvantaged children by supporting them in developing their self-esteem, health and well-being. It offers weekly camp programs in a safe, enjoyable and relaxed seaside holiday environment, encouraging the children to celebrate their own success and that of others. Their vision is that every child deserves a happy and a healthy life.

On arrival we will have a morning tea, supplied by *Cottage by the Sea*, and a talk by the staff on what they achieve at the facility. We will then make our way into Queenscliff where we will tour the town and have a chance to wander through the local shops and see the Queenscliff ferry terminal and the marina precinct.

In the afternoon we will make our way to Portarlington to meet Lance Wiffin, owner of the Sea Bounty Mussel Farm, for a private tour by boat of the extensive operation. The Australian Blue Mussel and the delicious Angasi Oysters are products of this marine farm. This is the first time that this business will showcase its operation to the public.

A short visit to the Jack Rabbit Winery (cool climate wines) with tastings will complete the day.

***Cottage by the Sea does not receive any Government funding and appreciates any donations.***

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### Monday 20 April DAME NELLIE MELBA'S "COOMBE COTTAGE"

**Cost:** \$25 including tour and scones and cream tea

**Time:** 2.00pm to 4.00pm, approximately

**Meet:** 673-675 Maroondah Highway, Coldstream  
(corner Melba and Maroondah Highways)

Melway reference: 281 B6

**Limit:** 25 participants

**Transport:** Self drive or car pool

How lucky we are! For years we have wondered what's behind the hedge of the home of the famous singer, Dame Nellie Melba, the Coldstream Estate. At last the gates have been opened to the public and a tour of the garden and extensive grounds is available.

Coombe Cottage was the drawcard for artists and celebrities of the time and the house is still occupied by Melba's descendants, the Vesty family.

Browse the well-designed gallery and wine cellar in the old converted motor house, and finally enjoy a scones and cream afternoon tea in the popular restaurant. A great afternoon!

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**Thursday 21 May**  
**LUNCH AT CARLTON CURRY HOUSE**  
<http://www.carltoncurryhouse.com.au/>

**Cost:** \$25

**Time:** 12.30pm

**Where:** 108 Lygon Street Carlton (near the corner of Lygon and Queensbury Streets)

**Dietary:** Any special dietary needs? Let us know and they will be cheerfully addressed

**Transport:** Self drive or car pool

Winter is the time for warm food and great company. Learn about Burmese cuisine, its preparation, ingredients and methods of cooking. Peggy Wynn, owner and manager (U3A Deepdene member), will prepare a menu enabling us to enjoy the complexities of the culture.

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**Friday 19 June**  
**THE 2<sup>ND</sup> TAMWORTH TEXTILE TRENNIAL "GROUP EXCHANGE" EXHIBITION**

**Cost:** Free, however reservations required at U3A office

**Time:** 10.30am

**Where:** Town Hall Gallery, 360 Burwood Rd, Hawthorn (formerly the Hawthorn Town Hall)

Enjoy a guided tour led by Mardi Nowak, Senior Town Hall Gallery curator, to view the Textile Exhibition promoting textile creativity and excellence in Australia. It celebrates an historical lineage dating back to 1975.

Complete the morning with a coffee from the adjoining in-house cafe at your own expense.

**RECYCLE YOUR OLD  
SPECTACLES**



The **LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT** program has a box on the table inside the door of the Main Hall. If you have old spectacles and sunglasses please consider donating them to this worthy cause. Spectacles and sunglasses only, the cases are not required. Last year the program donated 300,000 pairs to countries in Africa and Asia.

One of our members will clear the box and pass the contributions on.

Thank you in advance!



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

March 2015 to June 2015

(This flyer is for your refrigerator or bulletin board)

- Saturday 14 March**                      **Recognition of long-standing Tutors & Volunteers**  
Guest speaker: Assoc. Prof. Chris Fluke, Swinburne  
2.30pm Main Hall, Sinclair Avenue
- Thursday 19 March**                      **Excursion: *Cottage by the Sea* tour**  
8.45am Sinclair Avenue campus
- Friday 3 April 2105**                      **Deadline for RSVP for AGM (inc speaker and lunch)**
- Wednesday 15 April**                      **Annual General Meeting 10.30am**  
Guest Speaker: Christopher Wood, ASA Tours  
Main Hall, Sinclair Avenue
- Monday 20 April 2015**                      **Excursion: Dame Nellie Melba's 'Coombe Cottage'**  
2.00pm 673-675 Maroondah Highway, Coldstream
- Sunday 26 April**                              **Orchestra Concert and 30 Year Celebration**  
2.30pm Hawthorn Arts Centre, Main Hall
- Thursday 21 May 2015**                      **Excursion: Lunch at *Carlton Curry House* 12.30pm**
- Friday 9 June 2015**                              **Excursion: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Tamworth Textile Triennial**  
**'Group Exchange' Exhibition**  
10.30am Town Hall Gallery, 360 Burwood Road, Hawthorn
- Sunday 21 June 2015**                              **Choir Concert**  
2.30pm Flockhart Hall, Methodist Ladies College Kew

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### State School Terms

**Term 1:** 28 January to 27 March

**Easter:** 3 to 6 April

**Term 2:** 13 April to 26 June

***Full details of these events are in your March 2015 Newsletter***

Also on our website at [www.u3ahawthorn.org.au](http://www.u3ahawthorn.org.au)

