

HAWTHORN CAMPUS NOTES IV

January, 1986.

Life Opens up for the Aged!

Three pilot schemes for further education for the aged have recently taken place in Hawthorn where there is a greater percentage of older people than in most areas of Melbourne. The first of these was Learning for the Less Mobile (LLM) which is designed to **give the less mobile people** in the community the opportunity to study.

Such a scheme entails the provision of adequate transport with hoists, if necessary. At present taxi fares are subsidised, but it seems that the local community bus is preferable as the profit motive is absent.

A problem with this group is the age-old and commonly-held view that older people cannot learn. The older people themselves often hold the image of old age as frail and dependent, and it is necessary to overcome this attitude before they can be persuaded that learning enriches their lives.

The responsibility for such a program still has to be clarified as it falls across different Government departments such as Health, Arts & Recreation and Education. In the meantime, C.A.E. and Swinburne College are determined that such education shall continue.

The second scheme is the **Creative Writing Correspondence Course** which is for housebound people who are too frail or too distant to travel. Each student has an 'Encourager'; these are volunteers, many of whom are themselves professional writers or journalists, whose role it is to encourage rather than to criticise the students writings.

At the end of the first year both writers and encouragers found that considerable growth in learning and self esteem had occurred. The students were given six assignments over six months. These were of a biographical nature and produced some very interesting social history.

This scheme has the advantage of being very economical so has great possibilities for the future.

The original pilot scheme was designed to cater for twelve people, but in fact it finished with seventy-five. The lady of 92 who applied after the planned number was reached could hardly be told that she must wait until next year!

The same confusion as to which Government department should be responsible applied to both these schemes, though the Health Department piloted the first year of the correspondence course.

The third venture was U3A about which most of us know, and which has been written up elsewhere in this Newsletter. Perhaps here would be an appropriate place to mention some particulars.

We now have 1500 members over five campuses which provide 130 courses between them. Enquiries are coming from New Zealand and all over Australia. There have been enquiries from Portland, Wollongong, Hamilton, Castlemaine, Bendigo and Benalla with a view to starting campuses. We in Hawthorn have 428 members, provide 45 subjects and have 35 tutors, and potential members are contacting us all the time.

News from Tutors and Students 1985

Free up! was the aim of Marguerite Stark's modern painting class, and she is happy that so many surprised students achieved this. As one student said "The cry is, 'If it looks like something - stop'". The students enjoyed an end-of-year party at Marguerite's home.

Would this party have conformed with Greta Burman's teaching of Nutrition for Health? Greta says that she has a definite syllabus to which she sticks 'reasonably' strictly, but allows plenty of scope for discussion and questions. Students have contributed to the class by talks on vegetarianism etc. which makes for variety.

Anyone who joined Gerald Noble's Current Affairs class thinking that they were going to sit back and have the intricacies of foreign affairs explained to them was in for a shock. Collecting relevant newspaper cuttings, and listening to current affairs programs are a requirement, followed by lively discussion, and Gerald finds that the students have progressed well in their ability to assess the media. He says that as the concept of our own region being part of Asia was a relatively new one, many of the students were unfamiliar with the geography and history of Asia, and this in itself

has been a revelation. A very successful morning tea and slides ended the term with plans to repeat it another time. The popularity of this class is manifest in that there are no vacancies next term.

Members of Peg Kimberley's French class are gaining confidence. Conversation has been helped by tapes, and the students have enjoyed doing tests in reading and translation which have later been corrected by Peg. The unevenness of experience of students has not proved to be a handicap.

The music groups agree that the mixed experience of the students has not hampered their progress in any way either. In Ven Houston's class, one student has contributed considerably **by his interest in Hi Fi. Records** and tapes have been brought to classes, and these and concerts have been discussed. Her students, Peg Kimberley says, have gained increasing independence by their own musical exploration, and the theory they have learned has enhanced their appreciation of music. Ven's group visited "Music on the Round" to hear chamber music as an end of term activity.

Both a short introductory course of six weeks and a longer one on Appreciation of Art have been given by Susan van Dorssen, and both have been so popular that they are already filled up by students who, having studied Australian Art last term, want to continue on to a chronological study of art next term. The good news is that there will probably be a second class later on. This subject has been illustrated by pictures and books which Sue has brought to classes as there was no projector available. There will be a projector next term. Construction of art has been a feature with composition, shape, form, line and colour both for its psychological influence and its physical impact, being studied. This has been a fairly formal class with time available for questions and discussion. Students often use this to discuss their favourite paintings and so learn more about them.

The Australian History class, which only commenced in October, finished the year with a counter lunch in the city, a tour of Parliament House and a visit to the Parliamentary Library. Unfortunately the library was being refurbished so much time could not be spent pouring over books. With Parliament in recess it was a good opportunity to look around the seat of power and occupy the benches for once.

Theory has been the order of the day in the Contract Bridge class, without a card in sight! This proved too much for one or two people, but the others have a good grounding in the game and have now actually played with cards!

BACKGROUND NOTES ON U3A

With the end of the second World War came the widening of people's horizons. In Europe, as in Australia, many had worked for the first time during the war, and many had their first experience of travel outside their own country. This fresh outlook brought a thirst for knowledge and a desire to learn new skills that up till then had remained dormant.

Governments in Europe had no money to spend on the educational awakening of mature people who had not previously been catered for. Consequently a new group called the University of the Third Age (U3A) was born, first in France and spreading quickly to Britain and other parts of the world. Britain's first U3A is now in its eighteenth year and still flourishing.

In Australia, U3A is now one year old and expanding fast since the first over-crowded meeting in the city. We have learned from Europe but we still have problems and advantages of our own. There are now five campuses in Victoria and a potential one in N.S.W. Each one of these is autonomous and inevitably has its own characteristics. U3A is surely in Australia to stay!

BY BREAD ALONE

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION?
YEARLY SUBSCRIPTIONS RUN FROM JANUARY 1ST TO
DECEMBER 31ST AND ARE DUE NOW.
IF YOU JOINED AFTER OCTOBER 1ST, 1985, YOU DO NOT PAY
UNTIL JANUARY 1ST, 1987.

N.B. The 'Campus Notes' you are reading is the last that will be sent to unfinancial members.

Cheques for \$15 single or \$25 a couple should be made out to
U3A Hawthorn or meet us personally at 24 Wakefield Street,
Hawthorn.

LETTERS

URGENCY.

In comparing the difference in learning attitudes of youth and age, an interesting point that Pat Crudden, the assistant Director of CAE, makes is that in the approach of older people to further education there is a balanced urgency without impatience which is not apparent in the younger group. Why is this? Is it connected with what used to be called Second Childhood in that we have recaptured the desire to learn? A desire that is too often quelled at or before **secondary school level, and which is innate** in every small child. Is this the reason for the frequent rapport between the older age group and young children?

U3A has many avenues through which this sense of urgency can be met, and taking part in classes or tutoring are the most obvious. As a volunteer there is much in the field of organisation, administration and personnel management that, depending on the existing knowledge and understanding of the individual, can offer an outlet for this drive.

Our sense of urgency can also be directed towards the growth of personality, which can be extremely rapid in older people. It can be brought about by extending ourselves in acquiring **new skills, new authority, or surmounting obstacles which we previously regarded as insurmountable.** Here there is an advantage in working with other people who can give encouragement and a little expectation.

Wherever this sense of urgency leads us, new and untried paths offer the greatest challenge to our **brains and personalities, and these challenges** must be accepted in a degree to which we feel a little less than able.

Phyl Hale

A DOCTOR'S VIEW

In my practice as a doctor I meet many retired people who are busier than they have ever been. These are the people with numerous interests and who will never be bored. There is, however, a large group of people who find their days are empty and dreary when their working lives are over. I see many of these, and recently have been amazed at the transformation U3A has made in some of them. They tell me of a new purpose in life, of new friends, of communication again, and of not enough time in their lives to do everything that they want to do.

James Hindhough

Additional Courses for 1986

PHILOSOPHY

Convener: Joan Drake

This course will follow the Deakin University first year program of 20th Century Philosophy under the guidance of Ron Gilbert. The class will meet at the Augustine Centre on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month commencing on February 11th.

LITERATURE

Convener: Connie Anthony

The course will commence with an exploration of our literary heritage of Australian authors and notable poets - then possibly take a glance at world literature. This will encompass the ancient Greeks, French and great English authors and poets. Following this, some of the outstanding contributions of modern American authors and playwrights will be examined.

A list of suitable authors and a possible booklist which the students may borrow from their local library or purchase for their own use and enjoyment will be supplied.

The course will commence on Tuesday, February 18th.

CLASSICAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Convener: George Charles

This general discussion group will take an entirely historical approach to the relationship of individuals to governments.

Commencing 1.30 pm, February 26 at Hawthorn.

ADULT EDUCATION POLICY FOR VICTORIA

Convener: Ann Whyte

During 1986, the Victorian Government wants to develop a policy about adult education. This practical short course will explore the kind of issues that could be included in the policy, with particular reference to U3A. The course will consist of presentations followed by discussion and the only prerequisite is common sense. Ann Whyte has been designing and running adult and community education programs for the last ten years. This 10 week course will be held at 3 pm, commencing February 26.

THREE COURSES AT SWINBURNE

Mathematics/Science/Technology

Because these subjects are not yet available at U3A, we have listed some courses that are available at Swinburne in 1986.

The first is a Mature Age Tertiary Orientation Program in mathematics and science. If you are interested in taking part in this program, you should contact - Carolyn Grayson, 819 3305,

Maths & Science Dept., 819 8378 or
Swinburne Information Office, 819 8444.

If you need the requisite subjects for a tertiary course i.e. Maths/Science/Technology, there is a bridging course that will give you these. Contact - Mitch Cleary, Bridging Co-ordinator,
Maths/Science Dept., 819 8378.

And for women, there is a course designed for students who dropped out of Maths & Science at a low level. After completing this course there will be a bridging course and after that the technology sky's the limit.

Contact - Mitch Cleary, 819 8378.

ENROLMENT FORM : HAWTHORN CAMPUS

SURNAME
(block letters)

GIVEN NAMES

ADDRESS
.

PHONE

I wish to enrol in the following courses:

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>CONVENOR</u>
1.
2.
3.

To enrol please post to : U.3A., 24 Wakefield Street, Hawthorn. 3122.
Phone :- 819 8824



54 Park Street Hawthorn 3122 Telephone 819 8824

Dear U3A Members,

It is with considerable regret that I'm writing to let you know that I'm leaving Hawthorn to take up a new position at the Council of Adult Education. I've loved working with you all and will be able to keep in touch as the new job is a planning and policy position and involves consultation with groups like yourselves.

There is no doubt that U3A is one of the most successful community projects with which I've been associated and I look forward to watching it consolidate and grow. **Membership renewals, offers to tutor and new membership applications** are flowing in and 1986 looks as though it will be another very successful year.

The Community Education Project will be better resourced than ever before. My own position will be replaced, we have a new education officer position funded by TAFE, just enough funds to keep the administration position and a research grant. Margaret Drake will be the U3A representative on the interview panel for the new positions.

Ann Whyte.
Community Education Officer.

Contact

Telephone :

Swinburne TAFE
The Augustine Centre
The Neighbourhood House
Hawthorn City Council

Auburn Primary School
Auburn South Primary School
Glenferrie Primary School
Hawthorn West Primary School

John Gardiner High School
Swinburne Technical School
Swinburne Junior Community School
Swinburne Senior Community School

Rossmore House
St Albans College
Birk College
Kilmare College