



# U3A HAWTHORN NEWS

Official Newsletter of Third Age Learning (Hawthorn) Inc.

Reg No A0010798X, ABN 41360939238

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President and Vice-Chancellor of Swinburne University of Technology

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### A meeting of tutors

On the initiative of Rob Siedle there was a meeting of a dozen or so Hawthorn U3A tutors in May of this year to discuss matters of mutual interest. They agreed that the meeting was productive and that there should be further meetings which would be more representative of the eighty tutors who are active in the Hawthorn U3A programme.

Discussions between Rob and members of the Executive followed and it was agreed that all tutors should be invited to a meeting for further discussions. A letter of invitation was sent to all tutors to come to a meeting at Sinclair Avenue on October 30. Tutors were asked to respond by email so that a register of tutors' email addresses could be established. At that time our data base held few of our tutors' email addresses.

At the moment there are no formal means of communication between the Committee and tutors. At a meeting of the Committee it was proposed that, if there was general agreement at the meeting of tutors, then they should nominate one of their number who would be invited to attend Committee meetings as a co-opted member until the AGM in March 2010. A meeting of all tutors was held on October 30 to discuss this suggestion and to sound out those present on two further questions:

- Whether there should be similar meetings of all tutors in the future, and if so how often they should be held.
- Whether tutors wished to meet in groups of similar interests, eg current affairs, book groups, languages .

A straw poll at the meeting showed a clear majority of those present were in favour of a representative tutor attending meetings of the Committee. This would enable a train of two way communication to be established. Rob Siedle, who had created the impetus for these discussions and this meeting, was elected by acclamation to fill the role of the representative tutor.

It was felt that one meeting a year for all tutors would be adequate, but there was some enthusiasm from a number of tutors present who believed that there would be some benefit for tutors with similar interest to meet more frequently. This was left for them to organize as they saw fit.

Another topic raised at the meeting concerned the best means of communication between tutors and the Committee and this will be followed up by the Committee.

I would like to thank Rob for his role as the catalyst for these proceedings.

### The Summer School

The excellent programme for January 2010 is included with this newsletter. I am very grateful to the small committee led by Marie Hamerton and Mary Considine. They have put together an interesting four weeks for us to enjoy in January next. I recommend the programme to you.

### U3A State Network

Several State Network meetings, in which we have participated, have been devoted to a proposal to establish a U3A National Alliance. Much to our surprise there are quite a number of Victorian groups who do not support the idea of joining such a Commonwealth organisation. As a consequence a meeting of the Victorian Network has been called for 18 November at which a formal vote will be taken on the issue. Your Committee is of the view that we should support a National Alliance and our representative has been asked to cast a vote in favour of the move.

*Continued over page*

**U3A HAWTHORN OFFICE HOURS: See special hours during summer season**

## Carnival of Learning

I would like to express our gratitude to all those who took part in our displays and activities on the Yarra bank as part of the Federation Square event on October 4. In particular I must mention our 'movers and shakers' in organizing our activities, Marie Hamerton and Ruth Muir.

## Insurance of Tutors, event organizers and leaders of cycling and walking groups

The present "Acknowledgement of Risk" form that is used for Course numbers OA 01, OA 02 and SH 07 was drawn to my attention quite recently. I should explain that my working life was spent in the general insurance field so I have often been exposed to the question of risk exposure and legal attempts to avoid liability.

It seemed to me that the present form was not of much use if its intention was to avoid liability. I had this view confirmed by a solicitor.

This led to a close examination of our current Public Liability policy which is arranged through the Victorian Government scheme for voluntary organisations. It turned out that an amendment to the policy was required so that Hawthorn U3A and its members are now adequately protected. This has now been done. In particular there is cover for one member if sued by another member.

All this is a long way round to advising all members that there is no need to amend the present form because the interests of Hawthorn U3A and its members and leaders are all adequately protected by public liability insurance.

The use of the present form should be continued just to point out to members that they may be exposing themselves to risk by undertaking these activities.

I trust that this long message explains why some doubts were expressed about the form and that it is now cleared up.

## End-of-year celebration

I hope that you all enjoy the festive season and I look forward to seeing you at our end-of-year party.

*Rod Benjamin*



## End-of-year-party for U3A Hawthorn

Arrangements are now well advanced for our end-of-year party and we hope to see you there. Please make your diary entry now.

**Date:** 5 December 2009

**Time:** 2 pm to 4 pm

**Venue:** Rylands Hawthorn  
349 Riversdale Road  
Hawthorn East

**Cost:** \$10 (covers food and drink)

For catering purposes, you must advise us you are coming and pay in advance. Please drop by the Office soon, have your name added to the attendance list, and pay your \$10.

Payment is required no later than Monday 30 November.



## NOVEMBER MUSIC NOTES

### Orchestra

Most of this year's musical activities will be over by the time you read this. The Orchestra's final concert for the year will be held on November 26, and publicity is in full swing – hoping to remind you all and urge you to come along and enjoy a program full of melody and rich harmonies. Remember that successful concerts need enthusiastic audiences!

### End of Year Party

For the Choir, things are a little different. Judy and her singers are working on their musical offering for the End of the Year Party on December 5. The program is brief and cheery, and as a contrast we have some items from the novel and intriguing trio "*Trombosis*" – a trombone trio led by the Orchestra's Principal trombone. Guaranteed to set the mood for an hour or so of conversation and a delicious afternoon tea!

### Choir

Re the Choir – again an urgent call goes out for **Men who would like to Sing with us**. We really need you to deepen the sound quality and enhance the back row! Choir Director Judy Chipman is waiting to hear from you and we do hope that this will stir you into applying for at least a taste of what we can offer and you can contribute. Judy's telephone number is 9848 6036. Rehearsals are on Tuesday mornings from 10.15-12 noon at St David's Church Hall, corner Mont Albert and Burke Roads. There is also a short time set aside afterwards for a cuppa and a chat, so roll up you tenors and basses and join a very friendly group of music makers!

**Advance dates for 2010** to put in your diaries are as follows:

The first Orchestra Concert marks the occasion of the retirement of our much-loved Director, Christopher Martin, and will be a not-to-be-missed event. A little earlier than usual, it will be held on Thursday April 29, 2010 at 10.30 am at the Hawthorn Town Hall.

Subsequent concerts will be on July 29, 2010 and November 25, 2010, both at Hawthorn Town Hall.

The annual Choir concert will be on Saturday June 19, 2010 at 2.30pm, Chandelier Room at Hawthorn Town Hall.

Enjoy the summer break and let the music in!

*Ruth Muir*

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### WANTED: TUTOR

The Curriculum Committee would like to hear from someone who would be prepared to act as a tutor or convener, to present a series titled "*Outlines and Synopses for Language*" - prepared on CDs which contain basic instructions and hints for use. The series includes the *History of English*, *English in Society*, *Humour – Laugh at English*, *The Nature of English*, etc. This course could be presented at a time suitable to a tutor or convener, in 2010.

Please contact Joan Harding, Curriculum Committee, on 98133974

*Joan Harding, Curriculum Committee*

# AUTUMN 2010 EXCURSION

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

## MARIBYRNONG AND YARRA RIVER CRUISE WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH 2010

Last year in March we boarded the *Blackbird*, a traditional ferry boat of Lakes Entrance fame, to venture upstream on the Maribyrnong River and we learned of the close association of the waterway with the early development of Melbourne.

The tour was so successful we have decided to take a cruise downstream to the convergence of the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers, visiting the docks and Dockland areas. With the knowledgeable commentary of our Captain, we shall witness the present day development of our ports and city area. In addition we will cruise up to the Maribyrnong Road Bridge and Anglers' Pub areas. As our numbers are strictly limited, please pay upon placing your booking.

**Cost:** \$15 per person

**Transport:** Own arrangements (ample parking)

**Departure:** Footscray – on the western side of the Maribyrnong River (Melway reference: 42 E5)

Proceed to the end of Wingfield Street to access the river. There is a new name for the end of Wingfield Street in the latest Melway, which is called *Salt River Place*. The river ferry is 100 metres to the end of Salt River Place.

The boat leaves the dock at 10.30 am sharp and returns two hours later.

**Parking:** Near the boat cruise office or in the street (4 hour parking restriction)

**Maximum:** 28 Participants

Iced water is available on board.

Car pooling is suggested.

**Please direct bookings and payment to the U3A office. Be quick to register!! Payment is due when placing your reservation.**

*Joan Harding*

### VALE JOHN S HANDYSIDE

John S Handyside started an enamelling and silver-smithing class for our U3A in 1995. Initially it was conducted in the physics lab at Swinburne and later in the chemistry lab. The class disbanded in 2009 because some of its essential equipment did not meet the latest stricter safety requirements imposed. John provided the initial and ongoing equipment and knowledge and guided many grateful students in acquiring skills and experience. Some of the remarkable results were displayed from time to time at our Christmas functions. His class was always over-full.

John died in August 2009 in his 98th year. Proud of his New Zealand heritage, he spent most of his life in communications. A radio engineer, he was instrumental in and oversaw much of the earlier innovation in the old PMG Department's telephone systems. He designed and built a very powerful transmitter which General MacArthur commandeered for his wartime communications system in Australia and elsewhere. John was an inventor and was active right to the end of his life. He enjoyed the wake we held for the 2009 class. At the age of 90, and to Swinburne's delight, he enrolled as a student in a physics course.

John will be missed by all his students and others of his acquaintance over such a long life.

*Ken Chipman*

## **CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT 2009**

Sourcing tutors for short or longer series of lectures is our primary function and at present we are seeking two volunteers to join our committee to help in this area.

Our present committee is always scouting for more tutors in subjects that our members would find interesting and informative. We also depend on our Hawthorn U3A members to keep us informed if they know of any suitable and willing contender.

I want to thank the present members of our committee, Graham Barber, Colette Flynn, Julianne Lewis, Paddy Wagstaff, Maggie Roberts and Elizabeth Walker for all their help in sourcing, interviewing and following up prospective tutors so that your program can be one of interest.

*Joan Harding  
Curriculum Committee*

## **EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT 2009**

Once again I would like to thank my two committee members, Julianne Lewis and Colette Flynn who are constantly sourcing new and interesting places to visit. Melbourne is such a wonderful city with hidden treasures waiting to be discovered. This year we have enjoyed a number of these as we sailed up the Maribyrnong River, returned to the Jazz Archives, dined at unusual venues, took in the Dali Exhibition and appreciated the Walter Burley Griffin Capitol Theatre. We took to the Fitzroy streets on the wettest and windiest day of the year to admire the beautiful Victorian architecture of the gold rush days under the well-informed leadership of Norm Fary – our Hawthorn U3A member. He has offered to repeat the tour for those who were unlucky enough to miss out.

I must mention those members who also provide us with suggestions of interesting destinations. Thank you.

We have another interesting year planned for you in 2010.

*Joan Harding  
Excursions Committee*

## **CARNIVAL OF LEARNING – SENIORS WEEK**

The Carnival of Learning was held on Sunday, 4 October at Federation Square for the opening of Seniors' Week. It was a beautiful sunny day and our large U3A marquee was situated on the river bank overlooking the boathouses and the rowers on the river. It held John Cook's Digital Photography display by his students which attracted a great deal of interest, and Yoko Yuasa's two Origami sessions both of which were very popular with the public. Our other activities were Sylvia Coate's Tai Chi class, Anne Roberts' Feldenkrais and Norm Ellis' Country Dancing which had a large number of people joining in. Judging by the amount of interest and questions asked we should expect many new members to our campus.

*Marie Hamerton*

### NEW TUTORS NEEDED

We are totally reliant on volunteer tutors to present a comprehensive and interesting program of classes for our membership. If you have an interest in a particular subject and you are prepared to share your knowledge (or if you know someone else in this position) we would like to hear from you. Please contact the Curriculum Committee (care of the Office) and one of them will get back to you, with a view to including the course in our program.

### SINCLAIR AVENUE PARKING

When using the parking area, please consider your fellow members. If using the middle of the carpark, please restrict parking to two rows and make sure there is room for cars to drive in a circle between those two rows and the cars parked around the perimeter.

*Peter Anderson*

### EMAIL ADDRESSES AND WEBSITE

In order to make more use of email for U3A Hawthorn communications **it is essential that you notify any changes in your email address by sending an email to the U3A Hawthorn office at:**

**mail@u3ahawthorn.org.au**

indicating your email contact details. **Please include in the email your name(s) and U3A ID number(s).**

Our website **http://www.u3ahawthorn.org.au**

The website is fully functional. All courses, forms, and newsletters are available to download.

### MOBILE TELEPHONES

Tutors report that mobile telephones are still being used during classes both for receiving and making calls. Please (1) ensure that your telephone is switched off or to silent mode before the class commences and (2) good manners dictate that you do not answer or make any calls during the class. In an emergency, please excuse yourself from the class and make or answer the call outside the building. Thank you for your co-operation.

*Members of the Management Committee*

### FEES FOR 2010

Annual membership fees for 2010 are as follows:

Membership of U3A Hawthorn	\$40 single \$65 couple/two at same address
Member enrolling from another campus	\$25 (to cover administration)

***Members are reminded that membership fees for 2010 must be paid before enrolments or re-enrolments in courses for 2010 can be processed.***

### DO YOU HAVE YOUR MEMBERSHIP BADGE?

Badges are normally printed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays as required. New members and those who have requested a replacement can collect the badge from the office, 26 Sinclair Avenue, Glen Iris, usually within two days of joining U3A Hawthorn or making a request for a replacement. ***Please do not forget to collect your badge from the Office.***

### COPY DEADLINE

Copy deadline for the March 2010 Newsletter is 5 February 2010. Please send all copy to the Office.

# U3A HAWTHORN EVENTS

November 2009 Onwards

(This flyer is for your refrigerator or bulletin board)

**THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2009**  
**10.30 AM**

**ORCHESTRAL CONCERT**  
**HAWTHORN TOWN HALL**

**SATURDAY 05 DECEMBER 2009**  
**2.00 PM TO 4.00 PM**

**U3A END-OF-YEAR PARTY**  
**Rylands Hawthorn**  
**349 Riversdale Road**  
**Hawthorn East**

**WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH 2010**  
  
**10.30 AM TO 12.30 PM**

**MARIBYRNONG AND YARRA**  
**RIVER CRUISE**  
**Salt River Place, Footscray**

**THURSDAY 29 APRIL 2010** )  
**THURSDAY 29 JULY 2010** )  
**THURSDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2010)**  
**ALL AT 10.30 AM**

**ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS**  
**AT**  
**HAWTHORN TOWN HALL**

**SATURDAY JUNE 19**  
  
**2.30 PM**

**CHOIR CONCERT**  
**CHANDELIER ROOM**  
**HAWTHORN TOWN HALL**

*Full details of these events are in your Newsletter*

## SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

**The Office closes on Friday 11 December 2009 until Monday 4 January 2010.**

From Monday 4 January until Friday 29 January 2010, the Office is open only from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

**Normal Office Hours (9.30 am to 4.00 pm) resume from Monday 1 February 2010.**