

U3A HAWTHORN NEWS

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

As we come close to the end of another U3A year, I am pleased to report that all goes well at Hawthorn. With a devoted group of hard working volunteers in the office, specialist tutors in a wide variety of academic, sporting, cultural, societal and hobby-type activities and a dedicated committee of management, we cater for the needs, pleasures and aspirations of more than 1300 adult students residing in the southern suburbs of Melbourne. I thank all the team for their efforts.

It is only since I joined the committee of management in April this year, after 13 years as a tutor in *Current Affairs*, that I became aware of the tremendous amount of work entailed in organising and running the courses and the campus – all of course, done by volunteers. Added to which is the physical, financial and moral support of the Boroondara City Council and members of their staff.

When I first became a tutor in *Current Affairs* 14 years ago, we were dependent on the generosity of Swinburne University. They provided support and allowed us the free use of an office and classrooms. Members of the group – about 12 from memory – brought some yummy home-made scones or pikelets which we stopped to enjoy after 45 minutes of vigorous discussion about current

affairs – then, refreshed, back to a final 45 minutes of *'what's wrong with the world'*.

Looking back, it occurs to me that the current affairs we discussed and argued about those many years ago, were no different from those troubling us (or rather, some of us) in 2011! This is another indication to me that really nothing changes in life. If you don't believe me, stop a moment, sit down in a comfortable chair, and think back. What has changed? Your children have grown up and fled the nest (you hope), they are facing similar problems – social, financial and personal that you faced (and overcame?) – and their children are facing the same problems – and joys – their parents faced!

What are they – all these things I am burbling on about? If you do, as I suggested, take the time to think, you will remember and be thankful that life goes on in a never changing pattern!

Enough. My final wish and hope is that every one of the 1300 plus members, tutors and volunteers has a very happy Christmas, and that 2012 will be a year of peace and contentment in your lives and in the lives of all humankind. That's a big wish but it is worth trying for.

Peter Isaacson

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The Office closes on Friday 9 December 2011 until Monday 2 January 2012.

From Monday 2 January until Friday 27 January 2012, 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 30 January 2012

COPY DEADLINE

Copy deadline for the March 2012 Newsletter is 3 February 2012. Please send all copy to the Office.

URGENT – DATABASE ASSISTANCE

We are still looking for a Member who has a good knowledge of our Database software FilemakerPro Version 8 or above to assist with data processing and further development. Email us at mail@u3ahawthorn.org.au if you can help.

Hans van Dorssen, Bruce Lancashire, John Harcourt, Andrew Campbell

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 or

database@u3ahawthorn.org.au

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

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

All courses, forms, and newsletters are available to download from the website.

FEES FOR 2012

Annual membership fees for 2012 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 2012 must be paid before enrolments or re-enrolments in courses can be processed.

MOBILE TELEPHONES

Please (1) ensure that your telephone is switched off or set to silent mode before the class commences and (2) 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.

Shorten Members of the Management Committee

HELP REQUIRED – ORCHESTRA PUBLICITY

As the busy managers of our precious orchestra, Nola and I would dearly love to be relieved of the job of publicity prior to each concert. We're seeking someone with flair and dedication to a very important part of the concert year who would enjoy taking this on.

We give three concerts a year, in April/May, August and November, so the requirement would only be occasional involvement for about four weeks before each concert. We would have all the printed material prepared for distribution, and have on record all the details of what, how and where, but feel sure that a new approach to this project would bring in fresh ideas to increase our coverage.

If interested please contact Ruth Muir at 9818 0801. She would welcome enquiries!

Ruth Muir

REMINDER

The Committee of Management would like to remind members enrolling in 2012 courses that in some of our popular curriculum categories, such enrolments are limited to one class of the same type; for example in the languages category Italian 1 or 2 but not both or Bridge Beginners and Bridge advanced, but not both.

ARE YOU THE LAST OUT AFTER THE AFTERNOON CLASSES?

In a very few instances the air-conditioners and lights have been left on and the property not properly secured. If you are the person responsible for locking up, please ensure that all air-conditioners and all lights are off and shutters are closed before setting the alarm in the main hall and locking the doors.

Thank you for your co-operation.

CARNIVAL OF LEARNING – FEDERATION SQUARE – 2 OCTOBER 2011

A brief report on the success once again of the special day offered to Victorian U3As on the opening day of Seniors' Week:

After days of persistent rain and cold winds, the weather miraculously changed on the eve of Sunday 2 October, and the many thousands of people who attended the displays and information booths had a wonderful day, packed with interest and entertainment. Our own "pod" looked splendid with the large display of photographic shots of many of our groups in action, superbly realized by members of the Digital Photography group. We would have loved a greater participation from our other members, but these pictures at least indicated some of what we have to offer.

Bruce has included a lively video of the event on our website, recommended viewing!

For those who could not visit on the day, an excerpt from the message sent out to us from the organisers of the event:- *"A huge thank you to all the groups that exhibited, displayed, sang, danced, tai chie'd or played. What a fantastic exhibition of what U3A is all about. The range of activities undertaken at your clubs is a fantastic example and each of you should be proud of the way you represented your U3A. It is a big undertaking for each of the U3As but what it does in spreading the word in the community cannot be underestimated"*.

Food for thought for next year, perhaps?

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Following the dazzling display of Arts and Craftwork from several U3As at the Carnival of Learning at Federation Square on 2 October, I would like to offer to set up a Bring-your-own Embroidery group, starting next year, meeting fortnightly for a couple of hours, preferably on a Monday afternoon, possibly in my home on Riversdale Road, Hawthorn. If the idea appeals, please contact Ruth Muir at 9818 0801.

IT'S A MATTER OF COURTESY

Each year U3A Hawthorn organises some functions where members are invited to participate. So that the volunteers organising the event can make suitable arrangements including catering there is an RSVP date for members to indicate their intentions. As some of our catering involves the use of outside caterers we must have accurate numbers to ensure appropriate provisioning as we cannot adjust our catering requirements after the due date or indeed find extra on the day of the event. We often have to make extensive phone calls to remind people and establish our numbers. This places stress on the organisers at a very busy time. In future we are assuming that no response means not attending. Everyone is most welcome to attend and all that is required is notification to the Office prior to the closing date.

ATTENTION ALL U3A HAWTHORN MEMBERS

The Digital Photography courses will continue uninterrupted through to next year. There are vacancies in both the Monday and Wednesday classes.

All you need is a digital camera, a computer and a willingness to spend from 11 am to 2 pm with some very happy people having fun in some amazing places.

PLEASE ENROL BEFORE THE CLOSE OF CLASSES IN NOVEMBER

John Cook

SUMMER SCHOOL REQUEST

Is any member able to lend (or donate) a market umbrella and stand for use during morning tea lunch and afternoon tea breaks at the Summer School? Bruce Lancashire will willingly collect the umbrella and stand and return it at the end of January after the Summer School has concluded. Bruce or Carol can be contacted on 9882 4297 or mobile 0418 340 939.

U3A EXCURSIONS ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011

Our monthly excursions have become both a great means of further education for our members and socially an important meeting point also.

Originally the excursions were mooted as a means of overcoming the lack of social interaction outside the classroom and by the response to our events each month they have been a successful addition to our U3A life. This year our committee has presented a greatly varied program.

We have discovered the hidden jewel, Darebin Parklands, unknown to many of us and created originally by our own U3A member, Sue Course.

Other visits included the Jewish Museum, Tapestry Workshop, the *Spirit of Tasmania* ferry and the famous Johnson Collection. Melbourne has much to offer!

My thanks go to my wonderful committee, Julianne Lewis, Colette Flynn, Ann Heath and Jan Noonan who are such a continual source of ideas and I must also thank our helpful members who submit suggestions to further our program.

Looking forward to next year.

Joan Harding

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

"Think not what U3A can do for you, but think what you can do for U3A" with apologies to the late J.F.Kennedy. This is an appeal to members to join our Curriculum Committee. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 3.15 pm. Notifications and Minutes are sent out. Our tasks are sourcing speakers/lecturers/programmes for the continuation of our vital U3A Hawthorn. For information contact Maggie Roberts (Chair) [telephone 9836 2610 or mobile 0438 367 304].



MUSIC NOTES



As the year draws to an end, there are still two concerts to remind you of:-

On **Tuesday November 29 at 10.30 am**, the Choir will present their final concert for the year at St David's Church, corner of Burke and Mont Albert Roads, Camberwell. The programme will include a bracket of traditional carols for audience participation, and light refreshments will be served at the end of the concert. For catering purposes, please register at the Office 9821 0282.

The Orchestra's final concert will be held on **Thursday November 24 at 10.30 am** in the Hawthorn Town Hall. Willem van der Vis is the conductor for this program, which includes Richard Strauss's Horn concerto no. 1 and Brahms's Symphony no. 2. This will be our last concert in the Hawthorn Town Hall for some time, as it will soon be closed for renovations for approximately eighteen months. Fortunately we have been able to book the wonderful Performing Arts Centre at Gennazano College for our first two performances next year. Because of school requirements they must be held in school holidays, but

there is unlimited parking! Note the November date above, come along and make this a super-sized audience for this special occasion - and please register attendance at the Office.

We were particularly proud of six cellists from the Orchestra – now known as “*Cellessence*” - who performed a bracket of pieces in the Hub, the Lower Melbourne Town Hall, during Seniors Week recently. The large audience was most impressed and we were able to display our splendid new U3A banner and a poster of the Orchestra to identify the players. Several people enquired about details of our next concert; well done, one and all!

On the first day of Seniors Week at Federation Square we were also delighted to note two of our French horn players from the Orchestra taking part in the 16-strong Swing Band from U3A Nunawading. Despite having to battle winds which made music and stands precarious, they made a great sound, a really cheerful start to the day. Well done Sorensens, it was great to see you there!

Ruth Muir

VALE CHRISTOPHER MARTIN

The U3A community acknowledges with great sadness the recent passing of Christopher Martin after a long illness. Chris had been the conductor and Music Director of our Orchestra for 10 years prior to his retirement in April last year. He joined the Orchestra early in 2000 having recently retired from his position at the Melbourne University Conservatorium, and his reputation attracted many friends and musicians to swell the ranks of our players. His warm friendly personality and profound musicianship helped to create the deep respect in which the Orchestra is now held, and we owe him immense gratitude. His “*farewell*” concert in April 2010, which also celebrated his 80th birthday, was the 23rd time he had conducted for us.

Born in Devon, Chris remained an Englishman to the end, loving the music of the great English composers and supporting the English cricket team in the Test series. It seemed particularly fitting that his retirement concert and his funeral service both finished with a playing of the “*Nimrod*” section of Elgar's Enigma Variations. “*Nimrod*” – the man of power, the mighty hunter, so appropriate for this man with his wide-ranging interests, his sense of fair play and the ability to lead his groups of musicians into somehow producing their best, despite the challenges.

Having left school at an early age after being told that he would never amount to anything much, he was supported by a local friend to enable him to take up violin studies at the Royal College of Music, London, and so began his developing career as a violinist and violist, playing and travelling widely with chamber music

groups and in orchestras under a wealth of famous conductors. He was a great communicator and his memories of those exciting times and rich experiences provided a fund of stories, and he loved to share them with friends in private conversations or with his concert audiences. His marriage to Australian musician Annette, brought him to Melbourne in the early 1970s, and here he continued to perform and to teach, entering the lives of a multitude of people who enjoyed and benefited from his own unique qualities. He read widely, made deep friendships, immersed himself in the musical life of Australia, loved his family, eagerly awaited the Seville oranges season so he could make his batch of marmalade, and contributed hugely to the special orchestras which became his own in the latter years – The Australian Doctors Orchestra, The Chamber Strings of Melbourne, and the Orchestra of U3A Hawthorn.

Christopher gave so much and he will always be missed – a “*man for all seasons*”.

CHANGES TO THE CHOIR

Judith Chipman has just announced her retirement as Director of the Choir at the end of the year after 17 years of devoted service. Meredith Vincent will take her place, but Judy fortunately will not be leaving the Choir, staying on as shared accompanist and occasional vocalist. Her dedication to the music and her warm and cheery personality made her a popular leader and Choir members and the wider U3A community thank her for her wonderful contribution over so many years.

Ruth Muir

SUMMER/AUTUMN EXCURSIONS

*For bookings please telephone the U3A office
For further **queries**, please contact Joan Harding on 9813 3974 or 0408366987
or Colette Flynn on 98826097*

BOOKING POLICY

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

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations more than 21 days prior to the scheduled departure
incur a \$5 administration fee per person.
Cancellations 21 days or less prior to the scheduled departure time - no refund due.

Thursday 15 March 2012 UPPER MARIBYRNONG RIVER CRUISE ON THE 'BLACKBIRD'

Cost: \$15 per person
Time: Boat departs at 10.30 am sharp returning 2 hours later.
Where: 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 yards to the end of Salt
River place.
Transport: Own arrangements (ample parking)
Meals: Optional lunch at own cost at the Happy River Café located 200 metres
south of the boat mooring area.
Maximum: 28 participants

Tuesday 17 April 2012 GUIDED WALKING TOURS OF THE GOLD TOWNS BENDIGO – SERIES 1

Cost: Tour is free of charge however public transport at own expense.
Train: Schedules subject to change however as a guide:-
Depart Southern Cross station 9.15 am (check on big LCD screen for
platform number)
Arrive Bendigo station 11.20 am
Departs Bendigo station 4.02 pm
Tour departs: Bendigo rail station 11.20 am
Maximum: 25 participants

Wednesday 23 May 2012 FOX CLASSIC CAR COLLECTION TOUR

Cost: \$8 per person
Time: 10.30 am sharp with duration of tour 1 - 1.5 hours
Where: 749-755 Collins Street, Docklands (corner Batman Hill Drive and
Collins Street) Melway 2E H7
Minimum: 25 participants

NOTES ON EXCURSIONS

UPPER MARIBYRNONG RIVER CRUISE ON THE 'BLACKBIRD'

Two years ago we boarded the traditional ferry boat, the *Blackbird* of Lakes Entrance fame to venture downstream. This year we shall cruise upstream to retrace the early history of Melbourne's development. The popular excursion is being repeated due to high demand. Upon disembarkation join members for lunch at the Happy River Cafe (own expense), nearby on the river.

GUIDED WALKING TOURS OF THE GOLD TOWNS OF VICTORIA – SERIES 1

This is the first historical walking tour, in a series of walking tours, to be offered over the next three years. Travel in comfort by train from Melbourne

to Bendigo and our Hawthorn U3A member, guide and historian, Norm Fary, will conduct an informative and entertaining insight into early Bendigo.

A second tour will be held in October 2012.

COMFORTABLE WALKING SHOES ARE ESSENTIAL.

FOX CLASSIC CAR COLLECTION TOUR

Indulge yourself! Experience the high life while viewing trucking magnate Lindsay Fox's amazing collection of more than 50 prestige vehicles collected over a 20-year period and housed in the historic Queen's Warehouse. The \$15 million collection is guaranteed to capture everyone's imagination.

HOW MATURE AGE STUDENTS LEARN

The U3A Hawthorn offers a wide diversity of courses, including educational, social, cultural and outdoor courses as well as orchestral and other musical courses. This article will focus on the educational courses. Earlier this year, a group of tutors got together to discuss our educational courses, and we came up with these two questions: what exactly are the expectations of our members who enrol for educational courses, and, how can we, as tutors, best meet their expectations.

We started with a literature search. Although there is surprisingly little on mature age education, we did find two references that seemed to make a lot of sense. One was the works of a highly-respected educationalist, Malcolm Knowles, and the second was a body of works coming under the title of *Experience-Based Learning (EBL)*. We then took another look at the proceedings of our *Tutors' Round Table Conference (2010)*, and we conducted some research amongst ourselves.

The result of all this was a 12-page study we have called *Principles and Practices of Mature Age Education at U3As*, which I wrote up on behalf of my fellow tutors. The article is primarily written with U3A tutors in mind, but I have also offered it to one of the educational journals. The editor of the journal, a professor of education, has expressed interest in publishing the article because he says he has not seen any previous discussion about the educational role of U3As.

The article notes that tutors at U3As are given the widest possible discretion in the way they present their classes, which might vary from carefully structured studies (languages) to very informal current affairs classes in which the tutor is more a facilitator than a lecturer.

The article discusses the views of Malcolm Knowles, PhD, who says the needs of adult learners are very different from those of younger undergraduates. Adults are highly independent in their approach to any subject. They do not need to follow the orientation, systems, or belief of any tutor. On the contrary, they want to have a part in running the class. This means they should be consulted on a whole series of matters: the syllabus for the year, the books or other

materials to be used, and the style of the class.

Another leading theory emphasizes that all learning should be based on the experience of the learner. Experience-Based Learning (EBL) draws on the learner's previous life experience. It engages the whole person. It stimulates reflection on experience. It encourages openness towards new experiences. And, overall, it encourages continuous learning.

The rest of the paper contains practical comments from tutors at the U3A Hawthorn. They discuss issues such as: what is the major aim of your class? What are the major problems? How can you make your classes more interactive?

What members say about our classes:

A language tutor who consulted the class found they suggested the following guidelines for a successful class:

- Class attendance should be regular
- The content should be well organised
- The tutor should have a strong knowledge of the subject and provide clear explanations
- There should be an overall direction
- The tutor must be sensitive to the group

There should be a sense of humour and of social engagement. A cup of coffee at the conclusion of the class is always welcome.

Focus

The paper is focused largely on the educational classes of the U3A, but some of the ideas might be relevant to other classes or activities – for instance, the principle that every class member should be treated as an individual, that tutors should recognise the importance of every member, and that every member of a class should be affirmed and respected.

Please contact Rob Siedle if you have any comments or questions or if you would like to receive a full copy of the article. Rob's email address is rsiedle@optusnet.com.au

Rob Siedle
Tutor in Philosophy

END OF YEAR FUNCTION

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE

THE END OF 2011

ON

FRIDAY DECEMBER 2

AT

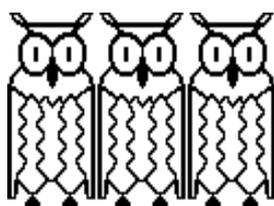
26 SINCLAIR AVENUE, GLEN IRIS

AT 2 PM

COST \$5—PAYABLE AT THE DOOR

**RSVP by telephone or call into the office to make a
booking no later than November 30 to assist
with catering**

**If you do not reply, we will understand
that you are unable to attend.**



U3A HAWTHORN EVENTS

November 2011 to May 2012

(This flyer is for your refrigerator or bulletin board)

THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2011 10.30 AM	ORCHESTRAL CONCERT HAWTHORN TOWN HALL
TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2011 10.30 AM	U3A CHOIR—ST DAVID'S HALL CORNER BURKE AND MONT ALBERT ROADS CAMBERWELL
FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER 2011 2.00 PM	END OF YEAR FUNCTION SINCLAIR AVENUE
TUESDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2012 TBA	TUTORS' WELCOME MEETING SINCLAIR AVENUE
THURSDAY 15 MARCH 2012 10.30 AM	UPPER MARIBYRNONG RIVER CRUISE ON THE <i>'BLACKBIRD'</i>
TUESDAY 17 APRIL 2012 9.15 AM	GUIDED WALKING TOURS OF THE GOLD TOWNS BENDIGO – SERIES 1
WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL 2012 10.30 AM	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SINCLAIR AVENUE
WEDNESDAY 23 MAY 2012 10.30 AM	FOX CLASSIC CAR COLLECTION TOUR 749-755 COLLINS STREET, DOCKLANDS

Full details of these events are in your Newsletter

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