



**U3A HAWTHORN:
30TH ANNIVERSARY 2015**



As 2014 draws to a close we are commencing the celebration of our 30th year of operation.

U3A Hawthorn developed from an idea that Ann Whyte brought back to Australia after a visit to the UK. A group of interested people including Ann, Cliff Picton, Jill Thompson and the late Jack McDonald promoted the concept and people at Melbourne, Hawthorn, Monash and Ringwood formed groups which led to the establishment of the first U3As in Australia.

U3A Hawthorn arose from a meeting held in the Hawthorn Town Hall on November 14 1984. The meeting was chaired by the then Mayor of Hawthorn, Cr Hampton Beale. Interested Hawthorn residents worked to establish their U3A and classes commenced early in 1985. Betty Marginson, former Mayor of Hawthorn was the inaugural President.

It is important for an organisation to understand its beginnings. If we are to remain vibrant and relevant, we must use our history as a basis on which to build a positive future. Today we benefit from the initiative, foresight, creativity and hard work of the founding members which was the focus of the event on 21 November. When you receive this Newsletter we will have celebrated their endeavours and were pleased that Ann, Jill and Cliff could be present and share their thoughts and memories with us. One of our very earliest members Jill Fitzgibbon has shared some early U3A Hawthorn publications with us and enabled us to fill in some of the gaps in our archives. We thank Jill for this contribution and her careful preservation of the materials.

Our next Birthday occasion will be on 14 March 2015 when we will recognise the significant contribution made by our long-serving tutors and volunteers. Some of these members have contributed to Hawthorn's success for periods exceeding 20 years. Following this we will celebrate the contribution of our orchestra on 26 April at a concert in the Hawthorn Arts Centre (the former Hawthorn Town Hall). At this function we will have our 30th Birthday Cake. Towards the end of 2015 we hope to be able to recognise the work done in our classes by organising a display which will enable us to show off our many skills and talents!



We invite all members to join in these celebrations. Some details are in this edition of the Newsletter and will also be in the first newsletter for 2015.

Early in November some members attended a Conference sponsored by Swinburne University and Boroondara Council which focussed on Ageing Well. George Vaillant, Director of the Harvard Study of Adult Development, Harvard University, was the Keynote Speaker. In his book *Ageing Well* he outlined the case for a successful third age. Four key areas he presented were

- replacing work colleagues with a new social structure
- rediscovering how to play [bridge, mahjong, chess etc.] This allows a person to maintain self-esteem
- creativity, exploring, challenge
- lifelong learning.

All of these areas feature in our U3A. The extent to which they are utilised is a very individual decision but clearly we can all utilise this organisation to our advantage and contribute to a personally rewarding lifestyle. I would have liked him to have included the use of modern technology in his list. Perhaps that comes under challenge and lifelong learning!

Thank you to all those who have contributed to our organisation by volunteering at U3A Hawthorn during the past 12 months; your assistance is valued and so necessary if we are to maintain an active and progressive U3A.

The Committee of Management join me in wishing you all a very happy and safe holiday period and an enjoyable, healthy and satisfying 2015.

**Meg Adams
President**



PROGRAM PLANNING: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2015

In the last few months of this year we commenced some new courses which we are happy to announce will be continued in 2015. You can, of course, continue these in the new year, and if you wish to join, are welcome to do so.

Here are some of the highlights:

Sam Alfred's *8 Operas in 8 Weeks* series will explore *Rigoletto*, *Il Traviatore*, *La Traviata*, *Aida*, *Cavalliera*, *Rusticana* and *Pagliacci*. This year Sam introduced the various forms of opera, now he will look more closely at these individual operas. In addition to Sam's presentations, this year's class particularly enjoyed the mini recital given by Sam's

niece who is a student at the University of Melbourne Conservatorium. *8 Operas in 8 Weeks* will commence in mid April 2015, however enrolments are open now.

John Ashcroft will further develop his course *The Science of Art*, with a new course called *Unpacking the Secrets of Art*. Class members have found this a very interesting and stimulating presentation as John has much practical experience to share with his class.

Louis Roller will present a further 5 sessions called *Medical Issues* including Sleep, Dementia, and the effect of sun on medicines. Louis recently received a Monash University award for his outstanding community work. He was filmed while presenting at U3A Hawthorn, where his lectures have been very well received in recent years.

For those members who are interested in Bridge; in 2015 we have classes at Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced level. Places in these very popular courses are limited in number, so get your enrolments in early.

Enrolment forms for **ALL U3A HAWTHORN COURSES IN 2015** are available from the Office, online, and specific details of when and where classes will be held can be found in the 2015 Curriculum.

Meg Adams



MUSIC NOTES

It is with a sigh of relief that we mark the end of the Orchestra's year, but also look back on our highlights with great satisfaction. We are grateful to our two conductors, Jules Cseszkó and Willem van der Vis, who put much time, thought and energy into planning and directing our performances. Our three main concerts were all well attended and much enjoyed by all, and our two "outside" performances were very much worth the extra effort involved – the first a visit in May to Healesville's wonderful "Memo" Performance Centre, and more recently a joyous return to the small Catholic Primary School St Roch's, where our welcome was quite overwhelming. It is a wonderful feeling to be able to provide so much pleasure and interest through this small venture into music education, and we will certainly try to accept the invitation put to me by one of the smallest audience members to "come back next year".



OBITUARY

Venues continue to provide challenges for forward bookings and we are hoping that 2015 will not be so cramped time-wise; finishing in mid October means little time for gaps between concert performance and preparation for the next one, and also results in a very long summer break before reconvening for the following year. However we are delighted to know that through a grant from Boroondara we are able to perform our first concert in 2015 "back home" at the newly named Hawthorn Arts Centre. This will be a very special occasion celebrating many landmarks in the history of U3A Hawthorn and the Orchestra, marking the 30th anniversary of our U3A, and also the Orchestra's 30th performance in that building, from our humble beginnings in the Chandelier Room in October 1997.

Full details of this concert and plans for the celebrations will be included in the first newsletter next year. But in the meantime: - **This important concert date is Sunday 26 April, at 2.30 pm, please put it in next year's diary!**

CHOIR NEWS

A recent major highlight for choir members was our participation in the massed U3A Choirs Concert for Seniors Week on 6 October. With the addition of piano, organ and vocal soloists and an almost full house at Melbourne Town Hall, it was a very enjoyable and inspiring afternoon. (Many thanks to Bruce Lancashire for filming the first half. Check it out on YouTube.)

We included many of the items in our own end-of-year concert on 23 November at Mary MacKillop Aged Care Centre, adding some carols and extra songs from our repertoire. Some choir members also presented a mini-concert at Trinity Manor Aged Care in Balwyn in late August.

Unfortunately, extended illness among some of our most stalwart members has led to several absences this year. But with most now recovered and a batch of new recruits having joined last February, we look forward to a positive and energetic start to 2015. Have you thought of joining the choir? We would love to welcome more men in particular. The office can put you in touch with Choir Director Meredith Vincent. Thanks to Meredith, accompanists Judy Chipman and Valerie Judges, and committee members and others who take care of administration, publicity and communication for their work in helping to make it a happy and successful year.

Ruth Muir

VALE NORMA COUCHMAN. 1930 – 2014

We announce the recent sudden death of Norma Couchman with great sadness. Norma was the Orchestra's first Leader from its foundation in 1997, and continued to play in the Violin I section until our most recent concert on 19 October. During those years she experienced several injury problems, some quite serious, but never faltered in her determination to return, and it will be hard to accept her empty place when we start again next year.

Music was the prime focus of her life, both performance and teaching, and from her early adulthood she studied and practised widely, ranging from itinerant primary music teaching to participation in regional and community orchestras, upgrading her academic degrees when possible. In her late 20s she spent a year in England and Scotland, again studying and teaching, and during that time discovered her love of travel. Before returning home she set off to tour Europe on a motor scooter, alone and undaunted, an adventure which encouraged her to pursue further travel whenever the opportunity came up.

During her time in the Geelong region she met George Logie-Smith and became a member of his famed Gilbert and Sullivan company, which played annually to packed audiences for some years. She later joined the Astra Orchestra, which he founded in 1958, and it is due to his appointment to our U3A Orchestra as our first Musical Director that we had the privilege of her membership. She also played for many years in the Zelman Memorial Symphony Orchestra, the Victorian Concert Orchestra and many Youth Orchestras in earlier days, while privately taking pleasure in teaching the young members of her own family. She leaves behind a rich legacy of musical wisdom, and will be dearly missed.

FEES FOR 2015

Annual membership fees for 2015 are as follows:

Membership of U3A Hawthorn:

\$45 single

\$70 couple/two at same address

Member enrolling from another campus \$30 -

Associate Member

Members are reminded that membership fees for 2015 must be paid before enrolments in courses can be processed.



AUTUMN 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

Thursday March 19 2015 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 and 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. They offer weekly camp programs in a safe, enjoyable and relaxed seaside holiday environment, encouraging them 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.

OFFICE HOURS

The Office will be closed from Monday 15 December 2014 until Monday 5 January 2015.

January Office Hours 11am – 2pm

From February normal Office Hours will resume: 9.30 am to 4.00 pm

Telephone: 9821 0282

Facsimile: 9822 7668

Email: mail@u3ahawthorn.org.au

Website: www.u3ahawthorn.org.au

SUMMER SCHOOL 2015

The U3A Hawthorn Summer School 2015 will run over four weeks from Monday 5 January to Friday 30 January 2015 in the Main Hall at 26 Sinclair Avenue. The Summer School is free, but is available only to **Members and Associate Members of U3A Hawthorn who have paid their 2015 membership fee.**

Please register for the sessions of your choice using the form provided to assist us with planning and room setup, and to enable us to contact you if a session has to be cancelled due to an unforeseen event such as illness of the speaker.

Return the form to the Office by post, fax or email. No telephone registrations will be accepted.

COPY DEADLINE

Copy deadline for March 2015

Newsletter is 4 February.

Please send all copy to the Office.