



U3A LOWER NORTH

Sharing Skills and Experience with Friends

MARCH 2014 🍎 **TERM TWO**

University of the Third Age Lower North Incorporated

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Dear Members,

Greetings from a handyman-heaven hollow in the Clare Valley where termites, not the recent floods, have dictated long overdue renovations.

In this issue we have tremendous news about our home at the Domain, some changes in direction for computing classes and tempting overseas offers.

Firstly, thank you to those group leaders who found time to join the committee for our annual dinner. It is always good to meet up and hear your feedback.

Speaking of which, a reminder to those groups who didn't respond to our earlier request for a vote on where to have our end-of-year break-up party. Are you happy with our present event? If not, what do you want? Include information like preferred venues and an acceptable price bracket. Answers to Beth a.s.a.p.

No group has responded with a price range so are we to presume 'money no object'? A serious concern is if we go to a set menu with no film, how do we make it a special occasion? Any answers to that question would be most welcome.

One complaint was "some people sit and don't mingle" yet others suggest a sit-down pub meal with no opportunity to mingle. That is an example of the conflicting feedback we receive and why it is important to hear from you all.

We can't please everyone but we do want to please the majority. If your first choice isn't selected, be a good sport and join in anyway. Those who have no intention of attending either way, might be better to abstain than muddy the water by voting.

THE GOOD MEMBER

Our constitution says "those who join as members will be encouraged to learn, to teach, to offer themselves as office-bearers, or in other ways to assist in the operation of the Association."

If you are not group leader material or have no desire to be on the committee, how can you assist?

Your Secretary Beth is feeling very time poor at the moment as she is back at Clare High half-time, a conscientious grandmother and worker for other groups, as is Course Coordinator Val who has definitely been feeling poorly for some months.

How can you ease their workload? Chasing people who don't respond to requests to RSVP, or enrollment and payment dates is a major time waster and recurring offence. Let's all do our bit to fix that.

How can you reward our group leaders and committee members?

Try a smile. Remember they are doing this out of the goodness of their hearts, so be pleasant, be positive, lend a hand where you can and smile.

Group leaders also tend to smile on those who turn up on time and inform them of inability to attend.

A big thankyou to members of my group who understand the concept of a self-help organization and unlock, set up and pack away every week.

Thanks to everyone who displays team spirit.



DOMAIN

A big cheer for Clare and Gilbert Valley Council who we owe for our toe-hold on the Domain at 204 Main Street, Clare. Concerned that it was being under-utilised and not looked after as it deserved, we have taken the bold step of spreading our operations across the front 3 rooms, which Superstars and Council have kindly cleared of their possessions. After a lot of scrubbing (thanks Ron) we have moved our office into the middle room. With all cupboards now out of our former office, it is much roomier and now seats 8 around a central table in relative comfort. (No more squeezing to walk behind other people.)

The biggest investment is in the larger teaching space, the former 'computer room'. \$2,000 worth of new tables arrived today. These have flip-tops and are on castors. Castors allow even the most frail members to move them around. The flip-tops allow them to stack vertically against a wall but without the bending and lifting associated with trestles.

As you can imagine, this makes the room very flexible and open to multiple uses and seating formats. Groups requiring more than 4 tables can spread into the adjoining rooms.

Of course, nothing comes free of charge and we are now responsible for hiring and paying a cleaner. Our first was good but only lasted 2 weeks and we are now in the process of finding another.

Members meeting at St Barnabas pay a \$1 fee each session, and now Domain groups will do the same except for those computer classes which already pay fees. (If more groups use the Domain, that may drop.)

Cleaning is primarily for shared areas so we rely on all groups to leave the rooms as they found them and not leave food wrappers anywhere but the kitchen bin.

We don't want to cover the place with signs like a cheap boarding house so we leave it to members' good sense and pride of ownership. If anything runs out, spare supplies are in the room behind kitchen and cleaners for desk tops are in office filing cabinet.

Quentin Fleming is sorting out how to make internet available to all computers on site. (Did you know the moon has better internet reception than us? It has a communication system which can transmit an HD movie to Earth and back in just seven seconds, while we are still waiting for ours to stop buffering.)

Groups wishing to move their activities to the Domain or check out the premises for suitability, please contact Val. We want to show Council how much we value these premises so please use to the fullest but also take care of it.

COMPUTING OPTIONS

Sue Mayfield's computing class is taking a different format. **Computing I** (\$15) will run 4 weeks and deal specifically with email and internet.

Computing II (\$1 a session) will run for the second half of term and is described as 'Self-Help with Computer Tablets'. Find out more about your iPad or Samsung Galaxy tablet. Bring yours along and learn together. Sue will be learning too, offering notes and advice on seeking on-line information and help for Ipad owners. If you have expertise, why not assist?

Computing III (\$30) is Quentin's Tuesday afternoon sessions. Topics covered include: computer operations, file organization, hardware and function; configuration for ease of use by individuals, desktop, mouse, power, etc.; copying pictures from cameras, editing, emailing, storing; emails, internet searches and configurations. Bring own laptop if you prefer.

ODDMENTS

Creative writing group with Meredith Appleyard is now happening in Term 3. Val is accepting early enrolments as this may be a once-only offer. Act now.

Film Group previews now appear on our website.

Because many members don't wear **name tags**, Val has suggested group leaders keep a list of their ICE numbers. The easiest way to do this is put them in the margin of the attendance sheet.

Do enjoy your holidays and remember to contact Val with any changes (new enrolments, extra classes, dropped classes, change of contact details).

*See you back in the classroom,
Claire*

2014 U3A CALENDAR

Our year is based on four 8-week terms to allow big gaps for you to schedule your holidays because we know that is top priority for many of our members.

If meeting outside these dates please inform the committee for insurance reasons.

NB: Some terms end on a Monday so no group will be short-changed by mid-term public holidays.

TERM 1: _ Monday 3 February to Monday 31 March

TERM 2: _____ Monday 5 May to Monday 30 June

TERM 3: _ Monday 28 July to Friday 19 September

TERM 4: __ Monday 13 October to Fri. 5 December

Annual General Meeting: _____ Friday 7 November

End-of-year lunch: _____ Friday 5 December

U3A ONLINE

Looking for more courses? U3A Online, operating with the support of Griffith University, Qld, has members worldwide. You don't have to be a member of a traditional U3A to join U3A Online and to access any of the following courses via the internet.

- World Affairs and History
- Australian History 1: Prior to Federation
- Australian History 2: Post Federation
- China in Transition: From Mao to Now
- Kings and Queens of England
- Left, Right or Centre: A very brief Introduction to Political Ideologies
- Religions of the World
- Renaissance Italy
- The Romans
- Nature
- Antarctica
- Australian Flora
- Botany: the Study of Plants for Enjoyment
- Continents on the Move
- Saving the Soil
- Writing and Creativity
- Autobiography and Journaling
- Basic English Grammar
- Genealogy Online
- My Life Story
- Shakespeare: Rediscovering the Bard
- Storytelling with Pictures
- The History and Spread of the English Language
- Unleashing your Creative Spirit
- Writing Family History
- Writing for Pleasure
- Life Style
- Ageing and Retirement
- Design in Your Life
- Food for Thought
- Introduction to Western Philosophy
- Maintaining Independence
- Myths and Legends
- Practical Psychology for Relationships
- The Shaping of the Modern Mind
- Thoreau Emerson and the Conduct of Life
- Science
- The Evolution of life on Planet Earth
- Astronomy
- Human Biology
- Resources for the Future - Renewable and Non-Polluting
- The Night Sky
- The Northern Sky
- The Story of Science 1 - The Emergence of Natural Philosophy
- The Story of Science 2 - The Science Disciplines
- Story of Science 3 - The Physical Sciences since 1800
- The Story of Science 4 - Astronomy and the Behavioural Sciences since 1800

Annual subscription is \$25. Once a member you are able to enrol in as many courses as you wish, as independent study, without further cost. If you want to do a course with a Course Leader (when they are available) that costs an additional \$5 for that course.

You can also participate in the social forums in the Members' Lounge and other member based online activities.

This is a wonderful, all-Australian initiative started in 1998 as an International Year of the Older Person project which has gone from strength to strength.

For some members, U3A Online is just a convenience, but its true importance can be best understood by reading some of the member statements. Many people live very isolated lives, sometimes through disability or their role as a carer. U3A Online allows them social contact and mental stimulation from the confines of their own homes.

You do need an internet connection and basic computing skills. For further information go to the U3A Online website: www.u3aonline.org.au

WANT TO STUDY AT CAMBRIDGE?

Dr Nick Godfrey from Corpus Christi College, Cambridge writes to say they are offering their lifelong learning summer school as a one week option, as well as the regular two week programme. Travellers may attend Cambridge 31 August to 7 September or 7-14 September 2014, and take two out of the four classes on offer that week.

Offering the summer school as a one week option should appeal to those who want to experience life at Cambridge but also do some independent travelling in the UK/Europe.

Further information is available on their website at www.corpus.cam.ac.uk/lifelong-learning.

CHESS ONLINE

Dick Chapman, the UK U3A national adviser for chess by email has issued an invitation for Australian players to join in. The UK U3As have a page on their website devoted to a players list of members wanting to play chess by email. Their national office offers Australian U3A members the opportunity, free of charge, to join this players list and then play chess amongst other Australians as well as with UK players.

Just two years since formation there are 60 members from 56 different U3As playing chess with one another by email. Players are ranked according to ability and the speed at which they wish to play.

Full details are on the Noticeboard page of Alliance SA website (alliancesa.webs.com) or I can forward you the document showing how the system works.

2014: SECOND TERM ACTIVITIES

- Ancestry** via ancestry.com, Diane Richardson, organise time with Diane on 8842 2832
- Art**, Gerald Moore, Wed., 9.30 am -1.30 pm, starts 7 May, Auburn Recreation Park
- Book Group**, Greta Handmer, alternate Thursdays, 10.30 am - 12 noon, starts 8 May, Clare Library.....
- Chess**, Tuesdays 3pm, starts 6 May, Joey Duncan, 7831 Horrocks Highway, Penwortham
- Chinese** (spoken Mandarin), Ron Bevan, Mondays 10 am, starts 5 May, Domain.
- Classical Music**, Moira Kleinig, 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday, 2 pm, starts 1 May, 2/10 Harriett St, Clare
- Coffee & Chat Club**, Val Tilbrook, Wednesdays 10.30 am, starts 7 May, venue tba.
- Computing I (email, internet)**, Sue Mayfield, Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon, starts 7 May, Domain \$15 half term
- Computing II (tablets, iPads)**, Sue Mayfield, Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon, starts 4 June, Domain
- Computing III**, Quentin Fleming, Tuesdays 12.45-2.45 pm, starts 6 May, Domain \$30/term.....
- Contract Bridge**, Eleanor Thomas, Thursdays 3 pm, starts 1 May St Barnabas' Church hall.
- Cryptic Crosswords**, Greta Handmer, alt. Thursdays, 10.30 am, starts 15 May, 25 Edward St
- Drumbeat**, John Montan, Mondays 10 am, starts 5 May, St Barnabas Church hall, Clare.....
- Exercise for Strength I**, Chris Roberts, Tuesdays 9am-10am, begins 6 May in St John's rooms
- Exercise for Strength II**, Chris Roberts, Tuesdays 10am-11am, begins 6 May in St John's rooms
- Film Group**, Val Tilbrook, 2nd Tues. of month, 2 pm, Blyth Cinema, 13 May *Philomena*; 10 June *Railway Man* .
- *French Back to Basics**, Claire Eglinton, Thursdays, 12-1.15 pm, starts 8 May, Domain
- *French**, Claire Eglinton, Thursdays, 1.30-3.30 pm, starts 8 May, Domain
- Furniture Restoration, etc.**, Barrie Smith, Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon, starts 7 May, Blyth
- Geology**, Steve Wicks, Tuesdays, 1.30 pm, starts 6 May, Domain, includes field trips.....
- History: local & Aust.**, Val Tilbrook, Fridays, 10 am - 12 noon, starts 2 May, St Barnabas' Church hall, Clare
- Mah-jong**, Pam Mitchell, Wednesdays 2-4 pm, starts 7 May, St Barnabas' Church hall, Clare.....
- Mosaics I**, Halima Northeast, Fri. 9.30 am - noon, starts 9 May, 9 Kingfisher Drive, Clare, 4 weeks only
- Mosaics II**, Halima Northeast, Fri. 1 - 4 pm, starts 9 May, 9 Kingfisher Drive, Clare, 4 weeks only.....
- Petanque**, Malcolm Weddle, Mondays 1.30 - 3.30 pm, starts 5 May, Catford Garden, Clare
- Quilting**, Lesley Bray, Thursdays, 10-1, starts 8 May, St Barnabas' Church hall, Clare
- Scrabble**, Carol Stewart, Mondays 1.15 pm, starts 5 May, St Barnabas' Church hall, Clare
- Walking Group**, Greta Handmer 8842 2065, Mondays 8 am, starts 5 May, meet east end Lennon St.....

*French groups presume some prior learning. Most groups pay small per-session contribution to cover venue hire



PLEASE RETURN new enrolments to Course Co-ordinator, Val Tilbrook, at P.O. Box 480, Clare SA 5453, or 8842 2465, or 0448 183 748, or valtil@bigpond.com. Deadline: Thursday 24 April 2014.

Enrol me in the following group/s: _____

Name: _____ Current Member? Yes [] No []

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____ Year of birth: _____ Country of origin _____

Please tick to receive future newsletters by email [] (only if you have not done so before).

Suggestions: _____

Enclosed is total payment of \$_____

Payment is for (put number of people in the brackets):

\$25 membership []; \$15 Computing I [], \$30 Computing II []

Cheques to U3A Lower North Inc., PO Box 480, Clare, 5453; or pay online. (U3A Lower North Inc., No. 39480340; BSB 105 030. Use surname followed by initial, e.g. John Smith = smithj. Emails to u3alowernorth@gmail.com)

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