



# U3A LOWER NORTH

*Sharing Skills and Experience with Friends*

**JUNE 2014** 🍎 **TERM THREE**

**University of the Third Age Lower North Incorporated**

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## *Dear Members,*

Greetings from a bitterly cold hollow in the Clare Valley where it is definitely a time for Explorer socks, Ugg boots and throwing another log on the fire.

This issue contains news on two exciting new short courses while three others are going into short recess. We can be a bit slow to embrace new courses but these are one-offs so I urge you to grab them while they are available. No second chances.

## **CREATIVE WRITING**

Limber up your fingers, sharpen your pencil, prepare to engage the creative side of your brain...

This **creative writing** short course is for anyone interested in writing contemporary, commercial fiction. Learn (and practice) how to generate ideas, develop authentic characters, plot a story, create conflict . . . and when that's all done and dusted, what comes next?

Meredith Appleyard has been writing for over ten years, has an Advanced Diploma of Arts (Professional Writing), and has a contract with Penguin Australia for the publication of her first novel early in 2015.

Most of you will know Meredith as one of the driving forces behind the Clare Valley Writers Festival which enjoyed great success last year. We have been pursuing Meredith since 2012 to run such a course and at last she has found time in her busy schedule to offer these four sessions so you won't want to miss a minute. Phone Val now to put your name on the list. This is a once-only opportunity.

## **DECLUTTERING**

Our second new group is certainly right on trend with its topic being the popular buzzword from Hollywood to Holyrood and everywhere in between. It seems that Mintaro has its very own declutter expert: Pam Mitchell. Pam has kindly volunteered to run a one-term course on **decluttering**.

Pam says the group will work on what, where, when who and how to declutter.

People of our age often find themselves being held ransom by their possessions, unable to downsize and move on to new lifestyles because they own too much stuff. We are all in that age group of down-sizing, needing to simplify our lives, so what could be more suitable for U3A. Clean out your junk room and learn the true meaning of being footloose and fancy free.

## **FILM GROUP**

On **8 July** U3A's matinee session will be a comedy, *Enough Said*. It is described as an intelligent, unpretentious look at relationships with a good ensemble performance including one of the last by the late James Gandolfini (Tony Soprano) and a cameo appearance from Australia's Toni Collette.

The offering for **12 August** will be *One Chance*, about Paul Potts who won English X Factor. Be won over by a working class underdog's love of opera.

Music of a different sort is pencilled in for **9 September** with *Sunshine on Leith*. This is a chance to see Edinburgh at its best while foot-tapping to the music of The Proclaimers.

## BUS OUTING

The **History Group**'s bus trip for this term will be to the Old Highercombe Hotel Museum complex at Tea Tree Gully. As well as the 2-storey main building there are displays in surrounding outbuildings.

Built in 1853/4, the Highercombe Hotel closed in 1878 when a rerouting of the main road saw the coach staging post change to an opposition establishment, the Tea Tree Gully Inn. A year later it sprang back to activity as the local post office which persisted until 1963 before housing a local library and Council offices for a further two years. The buildings were saved from demolition with a transfer of ownership to the National Trust in 1967.

Val hasn't completed details yet but says the outing is scheduled for a Friday in August and any interested U3A members (whether in the History Group or not) should contact her for bookings.

## END-OF-YEAR PARTY

The debate on our end-of-year function has finally been settled after many deadline extensions to give maximum opportunity for everyone to respond. Although several groups voted for change, results show the majority wish to stay with the existing plan of pooled lunch and movie at Blyth.

For those who find bringing a plate irksome, I have a suggestion: pre-cooked chook. Either save half for your own tea or get together with a like-minded person and share the cost and effort of chopping a supermarket chicken into finger-friendly portions, arrange on a disposable plate and you are in business. After all, it is not an episode of *My Kitchen Rules*, just an opportunity for all members to get together, share food and fellowship and play host to our group leaders who do such a fabulous job all year round. As always the culinary talents of some of our members will leave us licking our lips and the rest can make it a finger-licking good time as well.

Beth has made the bookings and an excellent movie has been suggested so please pencil Friday 5 December into your diary.

The movie is always an optional extra so you are free to take it or leave it. I will definitely be taking it as we have requested *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. Here is what one critic said: "I think it's a masterpiece. I absolutely adore this film. I cannot wait to see it again. I'm giving it five stars. It's my five star film of the year." Hope that whets your appetite.

Now that the majority have chosen, let's close the debate. If the vote didn't go your way, please be a good sport and join in anyway. (We all like chicken.)

## CALLING ALL U3A ARTISTS TO ENTER SALA ART EXHIBITION

The opening for the annual U3A Art Exhibition will take place at 2 pm at Gally's Meeting House, Farrell Flat on Friday 1 August. Popular Auburn artist Tracy Vandeppeer will be officially opening the exhibition which should run until 24 August.

Normally entries come from our Art, Quilting and Mosaics groups, but this year any Lower North U3A member who also happens to be an artist is invited to submit works to be considered for exhibition. Please support our exhibition and make it a true reflection of the depth of talent within U3A.

## WIN GREAT PRIZES

Last year the Quilting Group displayed great initiative and ran a successful raffle with a quilted lap rug as the prize. We were chuffed when they donated the proceeds for something to benefit all members. At their suggestion it went to subsidising the end-of-year lunch and in fact covered the cost of kitchen help.

This year they are making it bigger and better by enlisting the talents of other groups. First prize will be a painting by Gerald Moore, second prize a quilted piece, third prize will be something from the Mosaics group. Thank you everyone.

Raffle books will be circulated through the different groups but if you want to be a real support, why not become a ticket seller.

## IN RECESS

**Petanque** players are going into winter hibernation before bursting into activity again in term 4.

Sue Mayfield is escaping the cold with OS travel and will also resume her **computing** classes later in the year if sufficient enrolments are received.

Excellent reports have been received about Steve Wicks and his **Geology** class but that is also on a break because of low student numbers.

There seems to be only one answer when great teachers are not attracting worthwhile numbers: a membership drive. We just need more members to support our growing curriculum. Word-of-mouth advertising works best so why not convince a friend to join or pass on your newsletter to a neighbour.

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*

## DOMAIN UPDATE

The investment in mobile tables at our Domain headquarters has certainly proved a wise decision. Every time I enter the room they are in a different configuration to suit a new purpose.

A trusted U3A member has taken over the weekly cleaning duties. Please help by notifying us of any supplies running low. (Disappearing tap handles can usually be located on top of hand towel dispensers or in the kitchen.)

The Domain is a great venue for us: central, main street location with excellent disabled access and facilities but unfortunately we have no security of tenure. We certainly hope the present arrangement with Council continues and encourage members to make the most of it. The committee is not blind to other possibilities and will closely follow any plans for the current TAFE buildings which are about to be mothballed.

## 2014 U3A CALENDAR

Our year is based on four 8-week terms. If meeting outside these dates please inform the committee.

**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 and movie:** Friday 5 December

## STATE U3A ALLIANCE

More was hanging on the last State election than many of us realised. In the small print of the pre-election promises was a plan to provide financial assistance to the U3A movement for the next 4 years.

Since the return of the Weatherill government, we have been negotiating terms with DFEEST and funding should begin, as promised, next month.

If you have ideas on what goals we should be pursuing at State and local level, please let any committee member know.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Age Pension age rise to 70 will mean Australia has the highest pension age across the OECD. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has 30 members: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States.

Australia likes to be the first in most fields but I don't think there is a winner's trophy attached to this first. It will have definite ramifications for U3A which needs to lower its average age, not raise it.

**All U3A members, friends and family are cordially invited to the opening of**

**An exhibition of works by U3A Lower North members**

including

Gerald Moore's art group

Lesley Bray's quilting group

Halima Northeast's mosaics groups

**GALLY'S MEETING HOUSE, FARRELL FLAT**

**To be opened by Tracy Vandeeper of Ventura's Visions Gallery, Auburn**

**Friday 1 August 2014 at 2 pm**

Refreshments will be available after the opening speeches

Please RSVP to assist with catering

RSVP to Garry and Sally Fieldhouse before Wednesday 30 July

8843 8028 or gally3@bigpond.com

Or contact Val Tilbrook

# 2014: THIRD 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 30 July, Auburn Recreation Park .....
- Book Group**, Greta Handmer, alternate Thursdays, 10.30 am - 12 noon, starts 1 August, Clare Library .....
- Chess**, Tuesdays 3pm, starts 29 July, contact Joey Duncan 8843 4297 re venue .....
- Chinese** (spoken Mandarin), Ron Bevan, Mondays 10 am, starts 28 July, Domain.....
- Classical Music**, Moira Kleinig, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 2 pm, starts 31 July, 2/10 Harriett St, Clare .....
- Coffee & Chat Club**, Val Tilbrook, Wednesdays 10.30 am, starts 23 July, venue tba.....
- Computing**, Quentin Fleming, Tuesdays 12.45-2.45 pm, starts 29 July, Domain \$30/term.....
- Contract Bridge**, Eleanor Thomas, Thursdays 3 pm, starts 31 July, St Barnabas' Church hall.....
- Creative Writing**, Meredith Appleyard, Wednesdays 1-4 pm 30 July, 6, 13 & 20 August, Domain 4 weeks only..
- Cryptic Crosswords**, Greta Handmer, alt. Thursdays, 10.30 am, starts 8 August, 25 Edward St .....
- Decluttering**, Pam Mitchell, Fridays 10 am, starts 1 August, Domain .....
- Drumbeat**, John Montan, Mondays 10 am, starts 28 July, St Barnabas Church hall, Clare .....
- Exercise for Strength I**, Chris Roberts, Tuesdays 9am-10am, starts 29 July, St John's rooms, Clare .....
- Exercise for Strength II**, Chris Roberts, Tuesdays 10am-11am, starts 29 July, St John's rooms, Clare .....
- Film Group**, Val Tilbrook, 2nd Tues. of month, 2 pm, Blyth Cinema, 8 July *Enough Said*; comedy.....
- \*French Back to Basics**, Claire Eglinton, Thursdays, 12-1.15 pm, starts 31 July, Domain.....
- \*French**, Claire Eglinton, Thursdays, 1.30-3.30 pm, starts 31 July, Domain.....
- Furniture Restoration, etc.**, Barrie Smith, Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon, starts 30 July, Blyth.....
- History: local & Aust.**, Val Tilbrook, Fridays, 10 am - 12 noon, starts 25 July, St Barnabas' Church hall, Clare ...
- Mah-jong**, Pam Mitchell, Wednesdays 2-4 pm, starts 30 July, St Barnabas' Church hall, Clare .....
- Mosaics I**, Halima Northeast, Fri. 9.30 am - noon, starts 1 Aug., 9 Kingfisher Drive, Clare, 4 weeks only.....
- Mosaics II**, Halima Northeast, Fri. 1 - 4 pm, starts 1 Aug., 9 Kingfisher Drive, Clare, 4 weeks only .....
- Quilting**, Lesley Bray, Thursdays, 10-1, starts 31 July, St Barnabas' Church hall, Clare .....
- Scrabble**, Carol Stewart, Mondays 1.15 pm, starts 28 July, St Barnabas' Church hall, Clare .....
- Walking Group**, Greta Handmer 8842 2065, Mondays 8 am, starts 28 July, 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: Friday 18 July 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):

\$15 half-year membership [ ]; \$30 Computing [ ]

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 u3alownorth@gmail.com)

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