



U3A LOWER NORTH

Sharing Skills and Experience with Friends

MAY 2013



TERM TWO

University of the Third Age Lower North Incorporated

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Dear Members,

Greetings from a dusty hollow in the Clare Valley eager for some serious rain to start greening.

The committee jumped into action in 2013 hosting the annual Group Leaders Evening only three weeks into first term. It was another pleasant evening overlooking Lake Inchiquin. For most it was just a social night but thanks to feedback from a couple of tutors we should be having some interesting field trips later in the year. One came up with the idea, the other came up with possible guides which is just what you hope will happen when people put their heads together.

Thank you to all the group leaders who attended. It was a great opportunity to mingle, talk with the committee and feel part of the bigger U3A team.

A highlight of 2013 will be a visit from **Mt Gambier U3A**. Each year they go on an extended field trip and this year we invited them to stay in the Clare Valley, see the sights and perhaps have a few joint activities. They don't play Petanque so we may challenge them to a Petanque competition.

There was a marvellous response to our call for computer tutors which enables us to offer **FOUR computer groups** this term. We are now referring, rather grandly, to our "computer faculty".

One of the problems with Sue Mayfield's computing group is that people enjoy it so much they keep re-enrolling leaving few vacancies for new-comers.

In first term we started a second computing group under the guidance of Lyn Cook and Lol Hill.

Sue's usual helper, Carole Dunk is temporarily AWOL so Quentin Fleming is acting as second-in-command. Next term Quentin will be taking on a third group on Tuesday afternoons. Quentin has great technical knowledge which will no doubt give his class a slightly different perspective.

All three of these groups are for people who seek a good grounding in all the basic skills. Some students are beginners and others have been using computers for some time but were self-taught and missed some of the shortcuts and vital information which makes computing fun instead of a chore.

Our fourth group, **Applied Computing** with Ashleigh Ratcliffe, is entirely different. It is for competent users who want to master spreadsheets (design; data types; basic formatting; charts and graphs; problem solving with spreadsheets: financial, mathematical, statistical). Ashleigh hopes participants will gain a better understanding of what spreadsheets are, what they can do and with some skills to develop an application themselves.

This is for one term only so grab it while you can. In Term 3 Ashleigh will be teaching the **Chemistry of Winemaking** (register expressions of interest).

Our other new subject is Quentin Fleming's **Technology Overview**. Content will be dictated by student interest but Quentin wants to give people a

greater understanding of how things work, so they will be better-informed purchasers. Why spend \$3000 on a computer when you only need a \$600 laptop? Do you need a set top box with your new LCD television? Plasma, LCD, or LED? What is the difference? Why has it failed? Simple checks to perform to help you to get the correct help.

Some suggested projects are: how a solar power system works, how your hot water system works, how volt meters, multimeters, battery chargers, etc. work and how to use them; what is in a computer, how does it work; digital counting systems, etc.

This sounds like an awesome course which could become a permanent fixture. Better get in on the ground floor (or encourage the man in your house to enrol). It can be difficult to find men-friendly courses but this one sounds made to order. Between this and Chemistry of Winemaking next term, we expect a surge of interest from the men in our community. Just make sure you tell them about it.

Some of our other subjects have proved so popular that they too are offering second groups. **Book Group** has reached capacity so Book Group II will start on the alternate Thursdays. There have been some firm friendships forged in the original group and I wish Book Group II the same good fortune.

Contract Bridge II accepts 'beginners' but please don't interpret that as people with no experience of bridge at all. Beginners will be expected to have knowledge of Auction Bridge. I guess those of you who have played it know what that is. At the risk of showing my complete ignorance, I believe the evolution is: whist, bridge whist, auction bridge, and finally contract bridge where accurate bidding is a much more life and death matter.

Over the years many would-be walkers have asked for shorter walks or later starts. To see if these requests are genuine or just excuses to lie in bed, **Walking Group II** will start at 9 am on Tuesdays with shorter walks catering for beginners who need to build up their walking muscles. If at first you are slow and stiff you probably really need it. If in doubt, have a word to your doctor.

Both **Chess** and **Drumming** need more members.

German, Artists Studio Visits, Current Affairs, Craft at Burra are no longer on the programme. Thank you to those group leaders for their great contribution to U3A over the years.

ODDMENTS

Two groups are planning **outings** during the inter-term break. The History Group are obviously deadly serious about their studies. **5 April:** West Terrace and North Road cemeteries, lunch at Hampstead Hotel; **24 April:** Turner Exhibition, SA Art Gallery. Fully booked buses keep the costs down so any U3A member can attend by notifying Val Tilbrook. Surplus seats are available to non-members if insufficient U3A bookings.

As well as our usual call for all groups to submit entries for the annual **photography competition**, we are adding an extra element. We would like to hear what U3A means to you. It can be a word, a phrase or a sentence or two. It can be signed or anonymous. Short and snappy entries may appear on the screen at the AGM interspersed between the photos. Longer pieces may appear in our publicity.

Now we have 'whole-of-year' **enrolments** for most groups, you only need advise Val if you have withdrawn from a class. Likewise, group leaders should advise Val if someone has dropped out permanently from their group.

On-line payments: Account: U3A Lower North Inc., No. 39480340; BSB 105 030. Use surname followed by initial, e.g. John Smith = smithj.

Remember to make use of the '**suggestions**' line in the enrolment form or send your ideas straight to Beth Smith or myself.

Thanks to our early start to 2013, we now head into a lengthy break, avoiding the disruption of public holidays, etc. Most U3A activities will recommence early May (official term dates for second term are: Monday 6 May to Friday 28 June). **Happy Easter.**

*See you back in the classroom,
Claire*

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2013: 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 8 May, Auburn
- Book Group I**, Greta Handmer, alternate Thursdays, 10.30 am - 12 noon, starts 9 May, Clare Library
- Book Group II**, alternate Thursdays, 10.30 am - 12 noon, starts 2 May, Clare Library
- Chess**, Tuesdays 2.30pm, starts 7 May, Trevor & Dee Ware's, Lot 33, Warena Road, Clare.....
- Chinese** (basic spoken Mandarin), Ron Bevan, Mondays 10 am, starts 6 May, Domain, waiting list
- Classical Music**, Moira Kleinig, 1st, 3rd, 5th Thursday, 2 pm, starts 2 May, 2/10 Harriett St, Clare
- Coffee & Chat Club**, Val Tilbrook, Wednesdays 10.30 am, starts 1 May, venue tba, waiting list.
- Computing I**, Sue Mayfield, Wednesdays 10 am – 12 noon, starts 8 May, Domain \$30/term.....
- Computing II**, Lyn Cook/Lol Hill, Tuesdays 10 am – 12 noon, starts 7 May, Domain \$30/term
- Computing III**, Quentin Fleming, Tuesdays 1-3 pm, starts 7 May, Domain \$30/term.....
- Computing IV (Applied)**, Ashleigh Ratcliffe, Mondays 2-4 pm, starts 6 May, Domain \$30/term.....
- Contract Bridge I** (beginners**), Thursdays 2 pm, starts 2 May, St Barnabas' hall
- Contract Bridge II**, Eleanor Thomas, Thursdays 3 pm, starts 2 May, St Barnabas' hall. No beginners.....
- Cryptic Crosswords**, Greta Handmer 8842 2065, alt. Thursdays, 10.30 am, starts 16 May, 25 Edward St
- Drumbeat**, John Monten, Mondays 10 am, starts 6 May, St Barnabas Church Hall, Clare.....
- Film Group**, Val Tilbrook, 2nd Tues. of month, 2 pm, Blyth Cinema. 9 April: *The Intouchables*
- *French I** (Basics), Claire Eglinton, Thursdays, 12-1.15 pm, starts 9 May, Domain
- *French II**, Claire Eglinton, Thursdays, 1.30-3.30 pm, starts 9 May, Domain.....
- Furniture Restoration, etc.**, Barrie Smith, Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon, starts 8 May, Blyth
- History: local & Aust.**, Val Tilbrook, Fridays, 10 am - 12 noon, starts 3 May, TAFE, Room 10
- Mah-jong**, Jocelyn Macrow, Wednesdays 2-4 pm, starts 2 May, St Barnabas' Church Hall, Clare.....
- Mosaics I**, Halima Northeast, Fri. 9 am - noon, starts 10 May, 9 Kingfisher Drive, Clare
- Mosaics II** (beginners), Halima Northeast, Fri. 1 - 4 pm, starts 10 May, 9 Kingfisher Drive, Clare
- Petanque**, Malcolm Weddle, Mondays 1.30 - 3.30 pm, starts 6 May, Catford Garden, Clare.....
- Quilting**, Lesley Bray, Thursdays, 10 am - 1 pm, starts 9 May, St Barnabas' Church Hall, Clare,
- Scrabble**, Carol Stewart, Mondays 1.15 pm, starts 29 April, St Barnabas' Church Hall, Clare
- Technology overview**, Quentin Fleming, Fridays, 10-12 noon, starts 10 May, St Barnabas Hall, Clare
- Walking Group I**, Greta Handmer 8842 2065, Mondays 8 am, starts 6 May, meet east end Lennon St
- Walking Group II** (beginners) Greta Handmer 8842 2065, Tuesdays 9 am, starts 7 May, meet east end Lennon St
- Watercolours**, Glenys Christopher, Mondays 9.30-12.30, starts 6 May, Burra (Pay studio hire fee to tutor).....

*French language groups presume some prior learning. **Contract Bridge beginners require knowledge of Auction Bridge.



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: Monday 22 April 2013.**

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 []; \$30 computing []

All information kept in accordance with U3A Lower North Inc. privacy policy

Lights! Camera! Action!

Our annual photo competition gives a wonderful overview of the wide variety of U3A activities. It also gives us an invaluable source of images for publicity purposes, supporting grant applications, etc.

For those looking for advice for the 2013 competition, this information is taken from one of the many excellent About.com newsletters. You name it, and About.com covers it. Former journalist and PR expert Guy Bergstrom writes their marketing newsletter. Here is some of what he has to say about acceptable photos for publicity purposes. [Excuse any repetition as the extracts are from separate articles with overlapping subject matter.]

Guy is no fan of staged group photos, and suggests three ways to make them interesting and useful:

(1) Turn group photos into action shots

Make people DO something. If they're scientists, shoot them in the lab, holding bubbling beakers, looking through microscopes. For office workers, at least get them at a conference table, when they're having a meeting (not a staged fake meeting) and wait for the meeting to really get going before you start taking shots.

(2) Focus on one person

One person will naturally be the focus of any good shot. Maybe TWO people, if they're right next to each other and interacting. The whole group will not be equally prominent in a photo. So when you shoot a group, and pick the best shots, look for ones that feature the person who's most important to the story.

(3) The arms-length test

What looks great on your computer monitor at full resolution may look cluttered and terrible when it's printed or put on a web-site in a much lower resolution.

Hold the photo out at arms length. Can you tell what it's about? This is hard with action shots and even tougher with group photos. Crop the photo to cut out anything distracting in the background and play with the contrast and levels until it's clear what the photo shows even when viewed from far away.

Effective Photos

The best photos -- the most effective ones -- aren't the pretty photos. What people do look at are photos of (a) people who are (b) facing the camera while (c) doing something that's (d) relevant to the story.

People are more likely to read a story with a great photo, more likely to comment on it and more likely to share it with friends.

You need action shots of people doing something related to the story. "Action" doesn't have to mean Bruce Lee acrobatics.

Mistake No. 1: Turning Photos into Set Pieces.

Yes, you need to get the lighting just right, and maybe set up a tripod and wait for the last member of group shot to show up. Or the tallest guy in the front needs to move over to the back because he made the person behind him disappear. Yet all this arranging of pieces and freezing people in place tends to -- surprise -- freeze people. It makes for boring photos where half the group looks like they don't want to be there and the other half seem like they need to go to the bathroom.

Have the group DO something. Not pretend to do it. Actually doing what they do all day, as a group. This makes it harder to get a good shot that shows their faces but it also makes for a much more useable photo.

Mistake No. 2: The Frozen Smile of Death Mug Shot

People turn to stone when they get their portrait shot. It's a disease. Photographers often make it worse by giving tiny stage directions. Tilt your head down a quarter-inch. Move your shoulders a little to the left.

One way to get active, interesting action shots that can double as mugs is the same idea as the group shot solution: shoot the race driver in his F1 car, the karate master working in his dojo or the architect wearing a hard hat as he tours a construction site.

Another solution is to shoot practice shots that aren't practice at all. Here's how you do it and why it works:

People aren't frozen ahead of time, when they're getting ready for the actual photo. They're talking to the photographer and other people in the room. They're relaxed. When you get serious, and start truly shooting, that's when they freeze.

So sure, go ahead and click during the "real" part of the photo shoot. What you really want, though, is to catch them before and after that part. You want them talking to people, and giving real smiles to actual human beings instead of a camera lens.

Set your digital camera to shoot fast when you hold down the button. Don't shoot a frame, look at the frame, then shoot another frame. Let it fly, because it's hard to capture little human emotions and facial expressions. Sometimes, they'll be blinking, or have their tongue between their teeth as they talk. That's fine. Digital means every frame is free. You can delete the bad shots.

A professional photographer shooting a model for a magazine cover is happy to do 200 shots and have five good ones at the end. I see so many people take two shots and call it good. Take the 200 shots. Look for the five good ones. Pick the best one out of those five. It's worth the time, because images are important.

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