U3A HAWTHORN NEWS

Official Newsletter of Third Age Learning (Hawthorn) Inc. Reg. No. A0010798X, ABN 41 360 939 238

Number 80 September 2005

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HAPPY TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY!

In early August members enjoyed a week of celebrations to mark our twentieth anniversary. The week of events attracted more than 600 attendances. Our musicians entertained at the choir and orchestra concerts and in recorder, string and jazz groups at the Sinclair Avenue campus. Throughout the week there were impressive displays of artwork, dressmaking and silversmithing.

On the first day, Michael Clark's Shakespeare class delighted the audience with the final scene from *A Midsummer Night's Dream.*

On Wednesday members enjoyed a display of Tai Chi, and then a dance display culminated in the audience participating in a country dance.

On the final day a lunch was held, at which 20-year Foundation Members were presented with Outstanding Service badges and certificates. We were very pleased that Ted Baillieu, our State Member, was able to join us; Ted was very supportive of our efforts to obtain the Sinclair Avenue premises. We were delighted to welcome Councillors Mary Halikias-Byrnes, Dick Menting, Coral Ross and Luke Tobin from the City of Boroondara, and Mauro Bolin and Ro Marks from the City's Department of Health and Aged Services. It was most fitting that Judy Elsworth and Liliana Parrella of Hawthorn Community Education Centre were able to attend, given their long association and friendship with U3A Hawthorn. Our friends Elsie Mutton and Lindsay Glen from U3A Nunawading, home of the Eastern Metropolitan Forum, were also at the delightful luncheon.

Councillor Coral Ross, our Ward Councillor, spoke about the need for organisations such as U3A in a rapidly ageing community, and congratulated us on 20 very successful years. Our Secretary Peter Anderson spoke about the beginnings of U3A Hawthorn and its development. Guests enjoyed a very entertaining skit given by John Marshall and Ian Pittman from the Thoughts and Ideas class.

Thanks are due to the many people who contributed to the anniversary celebrations. We owe a great deal to the Foundation Members and their commitment to the U3A ideal, and to their successors, who have handed on to us such a strong and valuable creed.

Christine Watters, President.

BRANKO'S STRINGS
at our Sinclair Avenue Campus
(Fred, Zoltan, Hermann and Branko)

People Profiles by Michael Clark

THE PROFESSOR AND THE ARTIST

RON TAFT, in spite of flat feet, volunteered for the Australian Army during World War II but was rejected and instead was *conscripted* as a psychologist into industry, being newly minted in the subject from the University.

With the war finished Ron decided, after a taste at working level, that he did not want to be a common or garden 'psych'. His aim was academia with the accent on research. Courses to qualify him for this career did not then exist in Australia so he went to America, first to Columbia for a Master's degree and several years later to Berkeley for a Doctorate. By the second trip Ron and his wife had a three-year old. They were also without funding but managed on Ron's small savings and by lodging with a single mother in return for looking after her child.

The now Dr Taft had no doubt that Australia was home though his parents had been *emigré* Jews. After punting around he obtained a post at the University of Western Australia. In 1968 he finally got back to his native Melbourne (born in Canterbury, school at Scotch College) as Professor at Monash University, where he set up a new Department of Psychology in the Education Faculty. As in Perth he continued to write and publish books plus extensive papers in professional journals. He also had to teach and carry a tiresome administrative burden. The latter got to him a little and in 1981 he resigned so he could concentrate on research and writing, and was honoured with the title of Emeritus Professor. His principal research topic over thirty years was the psychology of immigrants and immigration. In the past his findings had some influence on Government policy over the selection of immigrants, but about the current political situation his response was 'no comment'. He also became prominent on a number of international bodies and was President of one, the International Association of Cross Cultural Psychologists.

In 1991 he joined U3A as an ordinary class member and was immediately asked to tutor in psychology. 'I thought I'd done enough on those lines,' he said, 'so I declined.' However in 1997 he started his own class 'Current Social and Political Ideas', which continues very successfully under his benign personality and sharp intellect (neither blunted by his 85 years).

Ron's other lifetime aim was a happy family life. This he achieved with 62 years of marriage to Ellen, which grievously ended with her death a few months ago. He has already adjusted well, supported by his three children, two of whom live in Boroondara.

Finally I asked him, 'If you had to to it all again, would you change anything?'

'No,' he said, 'not a jot.'

BETH MATTHEWS had a number of false starts before realising her vocation. While still young she was forced to move to Adelaide and there trained as a secretary, becoming soon after secretary to South Australia's Attorney-General. However the law did not beckon as she wanted to get closer to the realities of life. She moved back to Victoria, qualified as a nurse and later as a midwife. 'I've delivered countless babies,' she said, 'many without the presence of a doctor, but never had one of my own. I didn't marry because after the war there seemed a shortage of suitable men and as I got older I was too busy.'

Nursing and midwifery also did not give Beth what she was searching for. Her determination formed to become an artist, a desire from early days. She was barred from the three-year full-time course at the then Prahran College of the Arts as it was not open to mature students. Instead she enrolled in the part-time course and with a further period to obtain a teacher's certificate, spent nine years in all, keeping herself meanwhile by nursing and midwifery.

Although now ready to launch her next career, she did not think she would be able to earn enough as a freelance artist. The answer came with a job at the remarkable Currajong Primary School in East Malvern, a 'special school' for children for whom other schools had failed. Beth felt especially fitted to help these children through art, both as a means of self-expression and for their development. Her six years there were an exciting period for the school and led to a book by the staff, to which Beth contributed. Unfortunately the stress of the job wore her down, partly because she did not take the usual sabbatical, and she resigned.

Now able to devote more time to her own art she kept the wolf from the door by taking pupils, and so she has continued to the present. Her main interest is in drawing ('I can't stop') particularly of animals, birds and all natural objects, but she also paints, sculpts in paper and has a special line in kites which she makes to her own exotic designs. In 1984 as a prominent member of the Kite Association she went to China as a guest of the Chinese Government.

Her U3A class 'Exploring Art through Drawing' has some features of her work with disadvantaged children, but with the difference that she expects commitment and effort from her pupils and by that the discovery of their own latent ability. The subjects are similar to those of her own drawing plus, when finances permit, the hiring of male and female models for life drawing. Ellen Taft was a member of the class, an example of the many crossovers in our organisation.

'Have you *ever* made any money out of art?' I asked as we parted. 'Just enough to eat, but that's not the aim—only the fulfilment of my inner ambition and that I've done.'

Next issue: The Bishop and the Actress

2005 SATURDAY SERIES OF LECTURES

Third Semester

24 September Death, Disease and Disaster **Dr David Ranson**

The rash and popularity of television shows involving forensic pathology indicate the fascination this subject holds for the public. The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine handles about 2500 cases a year, of which around 150 turn out to be suspicious deaths. Dr Ranson will offer an insight into his profession, explaining the satisfaction gained from being able to solve problems and in pinpointing underlying factors that are contributing to deaths.

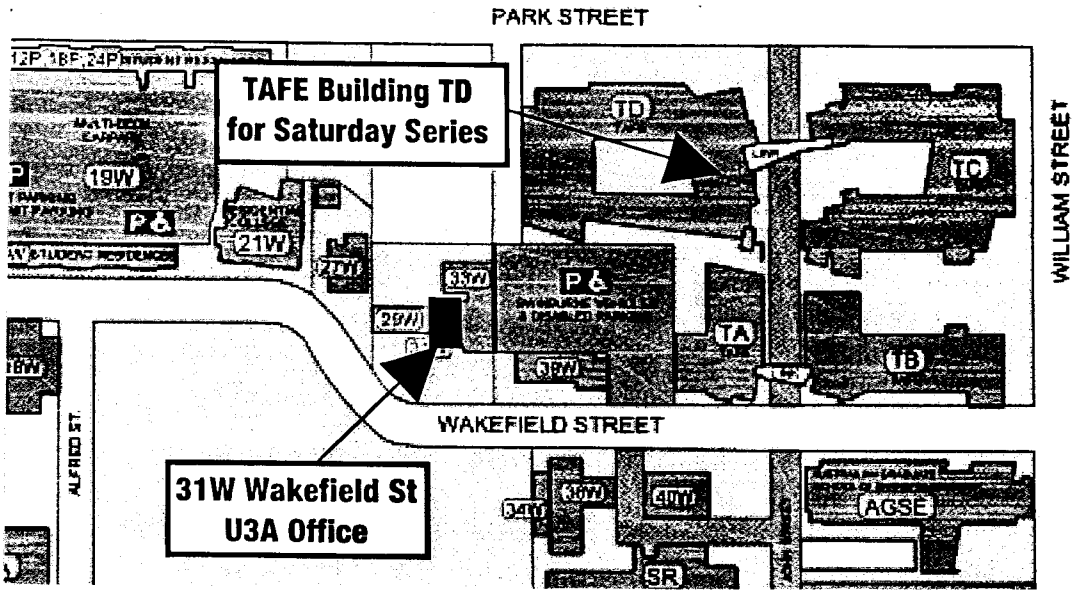
29 October The Other Valentine's Day Massacre—the death of Captain Cook **Professor Greg Dening**

Professor Greg Dening has a famous illustrated lecture on the death of Captain Cook on 14 February 1779 at Kealakekua Bay on the 'Big Island' of Hawaii. Take a Hawaiian holiday with the good professor; stand on the *heiau* (temple) where William Bligh, at that time Master of the *Resolution*, made a mess of it—again! Walk up to the place of sacrifice where the Hawaiian chiefs divided Cook's body amongst themselves. Be with Cook's crew on the *Resolution* as they try to explain this disastrous day. The Hawaiian proverb says it all: 'The sharks are walking on the land'.

26 November Better Air Travel—a dream or aeroplane design hype? **Mr David Rees**

The impact of extended air travel on the health and comfort of passengers and on the environment has become a powerful influence on the type of aircraft now being designed by aircraft designers and manufacturers. This talk by Mr Rees, who has considerable expertise in the industry, will cover work being done to combat some of the perceived adverse effects of air travel on passengers and the environment, and how configurations are being developed to be more acceptable.

LOCATION FOR ALL LECTURES	Lecture Theatre TD 121, ground floor, TAFE Building **TD**, Swinburne University of Technology, junction of Park and John Streets. Enter from Park Street or Wakefield Street (see map below)
TIME	2.30–4.00 p.m.
COST	Free to members, each with one guest only. Booking be made for both names.
BOOKINGS	**IT IS NECESSARY TO MAKE A BOOKING** to ensure entry to these talks; however, bookings are now accepted only during the month of the talk, e.g. bookings for October's talk will be taken only in October. Telephone or visit the office on weekdays 9.30 a.m.—4.00 p.m. (Wednesday to 1.00 p.m.) **There is no written confirmation of bookings; please therefore keep your own record.**
BADGES	Your **name badge** will be necessary to check against the Booking List.



TWO IMPORTANT LONG-DISTANCE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

1 ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

The orchestra of U3A Hawthorn will hold its final concert for the year on

Thursday 3 November

at the Hawthorn Town Hall, starting at 10.30 a.m. The programme will include Haydn's *Oxford Symphony* No. 82; a charming concertino for piano and strings by Walter Leigh; some quirky Percy Grainger; and a highlight—Telemann's Concerto for viola and orchestra, with Christopher Martin as soloist; a final item is still to be decided. Please remember the date and register with the office on 9818 7371.

2 END-OF-YEAR PARTY

We are planning to hold our annual End-of-year Party at the Sinclair Avenue campus on

Wednesday 7 December

at 2 p.m. This will be a very happy occasion—more informal than in the past, with short musical interludes and plenty of room to meet up with friends over a glass or two. Full details will appear in the December Newsletter.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE WORLD OF U3A MUSIC

• At last U3A Hawthorn has its own piano—a fine Beale upright complete with stool, proudly installed in the big room at Sinclair Avenue. This was purchased with moneys received from the estate of Joan Bazeley, and we thank Bernie's Music Land for helping to make it possible.

• The Orchestra now has its own website, thanks to the creative skills of our tympanist, Bruce Lancashire. The address is

http://home,vicnet.net.au/~u3aorch/

There are several 'pages' with details of past and future programmes, history, news items, pictures of the players and general publicity and information. It is linked to the U3A Hawthorn website. We are most grateful to Bruce for his time and expertise.

• Bruce Lancashire has also edited a video taken at the Orchestra's Inaugural Concert held in the Chandelier Room, Hawthorn Town Hall, on 9 October 1997, with George Logie-Smith as conductor. There are 16 players, of whom 13 are still in the present orchestra. Bruce can make copies on VHS tapes or DVD-R, and for those who were present on the day—players and audience—it makes fascinating viewing. For enquiries, ring Ruth Muir on 9818 0801.

• The Friday Singers, an offshoot of our main Choir, have disbanded for the time being. There will still be opportunities for our singers to join in small groups to train and sing for the joy of it: the way is open for 'something new' and already there are lots of ideas, still be be formalised.

YOUR NEWSLETTER

We have formed a Newsletter Sub-committee, comprising:

Meg Adams
John Harcourt
Christine Watters
Veronica Cosgrove
Mavis Hoy
Helen Williams.

We are seeking a production person to take responsibility for the layout and production of the general section of our quarterly Newsletter. We would like to find someone with computer skills (enough to control the computer and not *vice versa*), with a good knowledge of grammar and the basic rules of typography and layout. The actual time taken up per issue spreads over about two weeks.

Consistent help and support will be readily available.

Please ring Helen Williams on 9818 5077.

Artefacts and Arty Facts by Morris Williams

EARLY VIEWS OF AUSTRALIA

The earliest European representations of Australian topography, flora and fauna were more closely linked to science than to art for art's sake.

Captain James Cook was accompanied on all his voyages by professional artists for documentation purposes. Matthew Flinders (with his faithful cat 'Trim' as part of the crew) circumnavigated Australia in 1801–1803 and the voyage was recorded by William Westall. Charles Sturt's very own records of his explorations in Southern Australia survive in a series of creditable watercolours and sketches.

It is also interesting that, at certain levels, officers training at the Royal Naval College at Greenwich in the 18th century undertook a compulsory course in watercolour painting.

Conrad Martens gained much experience with Charles Darwin, the official naturalist on *HMS Beagle*, a commission designed more in the service of science than of art. His views of colonial Australia, although somewhat romanticised in the prevailing tradition, are so topographically accurate that many of his viewpoints are clearly identifiable today—they remain invaluable, both as historical documents and as works of art.

OUR PATRON

The Committee is very pleased to announce that Professor Ian Young, the President and Vice-Chancellor of Swinburne University of Technology, has agreed to become the Patron of U3A Hawthorn. The unfailing support and generosity of Swinburne University for over twenty years provided a very strong foundation for the development of a successful U3A in Hawthorn. Professor Young's acceptance of the role of Patron will further strengthen the relationship and provide a tangible link between our two organisations.

MEMBERSHIP BADGES

In future you will notice that the reverse side of membership badges is configured a little differently. We are no longer putting the name and telephone number of your medical practitioner on your badge. Should a member become ill and require assistance, an ambulance would be called and/or next of kin contacted. Some space will be available on the back of the badge for members to place:

- the name and number of the medical practitioner, if considered necessary;
- details of severe allergies which could affect medical treatment;
- details of medications which may be required in an emergency.

If these vital details will not fit on your badge, they could be put on a small white card and inserted into the badge cover.

IT IS MOST IMPORTANT that the above information and the names/numbers of next-of-kin are up to date and legible.

At the office we also need to have an up-to-date name and contact numbers for next of kin. We can only help if we have the correct information, and it is the responsibility of our members to ensure that their badge details are correct. Please check and correct details on your badges; you may need to stick a small piece of paper over the old details to make sure the new information is legible.

PREFERRED RE-ENROLMENT PROCESS FOR 2006

Two pages which accompany this Newsletter outline the process for the 2006 Preferred Re-Enrolment, which commences in October. Please read the information carefully, then complete and sign the attached form.

To be eligible for preferred enrolment, you must be currently listed on your Tutor's Class List and have your completed form and 2006 subscription (still $40 for one, $65 for two at the same address, $25 member of another campus) in to the office before 30 November 2005.

LATE APPLICATIONS for preferential enrolment WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Last year we were flexible and took late applications; however, this created an unacceptable workload for our volunteers at an already very busy time of the year.

TRAVEL INSURANCE FOR SENIORS

From time to time we have heard that some of our members have had trouble obtaining health insurance when they travel overseas or even to remoter parts of Australia, due to insurers' limits on age or existing medical conditions.

National Seniors are connected with COTA, Council on The Ageing. Their insurance is underwritten by Allianz Insurance Limited and they offer insurance cover to their members. This could be a great opportunity for people whom other insurers exclude. It is necessary to belong to the National Seniors organisation; last heard,/ the annual membership rates were $24 for single and $32 for doubles. You can ring them on 1300 1300 50 for the cost of a local call.

SOME OTHER COURSES OF INTEREST

Wiser Driver Course

This refresher course (theoretical) for drivers in the 55+ age group was originally set up by the Hawthorn Community Education Centre and has been so successful that it has now been taken over by the Boroondara Council. There are four two-hour sessions over four weeks, free of charge, including morning tea and a new road rules book. The next dates are on

Wednesdays, 9, 16, 23, 30 November, 10 am–12 noon

Venue: City of Boroondara Main Council Offices, 8 Inglesby Road, Camberwell.

Bookings are essential: telephone 9278 4546, 9278 4544

Cooking Small, Eating Well

For those who perhaps have recently discovered the need to cook, this little book is invaluable. Following on from here, this session, 'What's new on the shelves?' will be held at the Hawthorn Community Education Centre on

Tuesday 13 September, 10 am–12 noon

Bookings are necessary: ring Tracey Higgins, 9819 5758, for all further details.

Computer Courses for Mature Age Beginners

There is a possibility that Hawthorn Community Education Centre will be able to offer short courses using facilities at Swinburne University of Technology during the coming September school holidays. You could register your interest with Judy Elsworth on 9819 5758.

U3A HAWTHORN – OFFICE HOURS

31 Wakefield Street, Hawthorn (Melway 45 E10, 481)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Wednesday 9.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

A SNIPPET FROM SYDNEY

On a recent visit to Sydney to see the Archibald Exhibition, one of your Art tutors came across an interesting advertisement in a newspaper, and quotes from memory:

> WANTED—domestic help part time for a lady living on the North Shore who has one baby every Thursday.

Such a busy life!

DECEMBER 2005 NEWSLETTER

Copy Deadline

All copy to the Newsletter Sub-committee by

MONDAY 14 November please

(at the latest)

Newsletter Helen Williams (9818 5077)

Newsletter Despatch Janet McCombe

September 2005 Addendum to be read in conjunction with the previous Curricula for 2005

NEW COURSES

SH 54 **DOSTOEVSKY AND TERRORISM** **1.15–2.30** **MONDAY**
Tutor: Judy Armstrong 4 sessions 7–28 November
The lead-up to revolution in Russia was long and, as it progressed, the tactics became more violent. Dostoevsky takes up the theme in his novel *The Devils*. Students need a copy of the novel.
SINCLAIR AVENUE CAMPUS, Glen Iris, Melway 59 G6

SH 55 LIPREADING: THEORY AND PRACTICE 11.30–1.00 TUESDAY
Tutor: Joyce Phillips 4 October to 15 November (excluding Cup Day)
The course provides opportunities to develop lipreadng skills to aid communication in everyday situations. Class members will have opportunities to lipspeak to each other as well as with the tutor. Notebook and pen would be useful.
SINCLAIR AVENUE CAMPUS, Glen Iris, Melway 59 G6

SH 56 **PROBLEMS OF LIVING IN A HIGH-TECH. HOME** **11.00–12.30** **MONDAY**
Tutor: Malvin Cooper 5 sessions 3–31 October
A non-technical course on how to cope with living in a high-tech. home crammed with equipment that the average person has little hope of understanding. Students need a calculator.
KEW LIBRARY MEETING ROOM, Cotham Road, Kew, Melway 45 D6

ALTERATIONS TO CURRENT COURSES

MU 04 **FRIDAY SINGERS** CONCLUDED

LI 07 **LOOKING AWRY AT SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS**)
LI 11 **PARADISE LOST**) Now being held at Tutor's home in Blackburn

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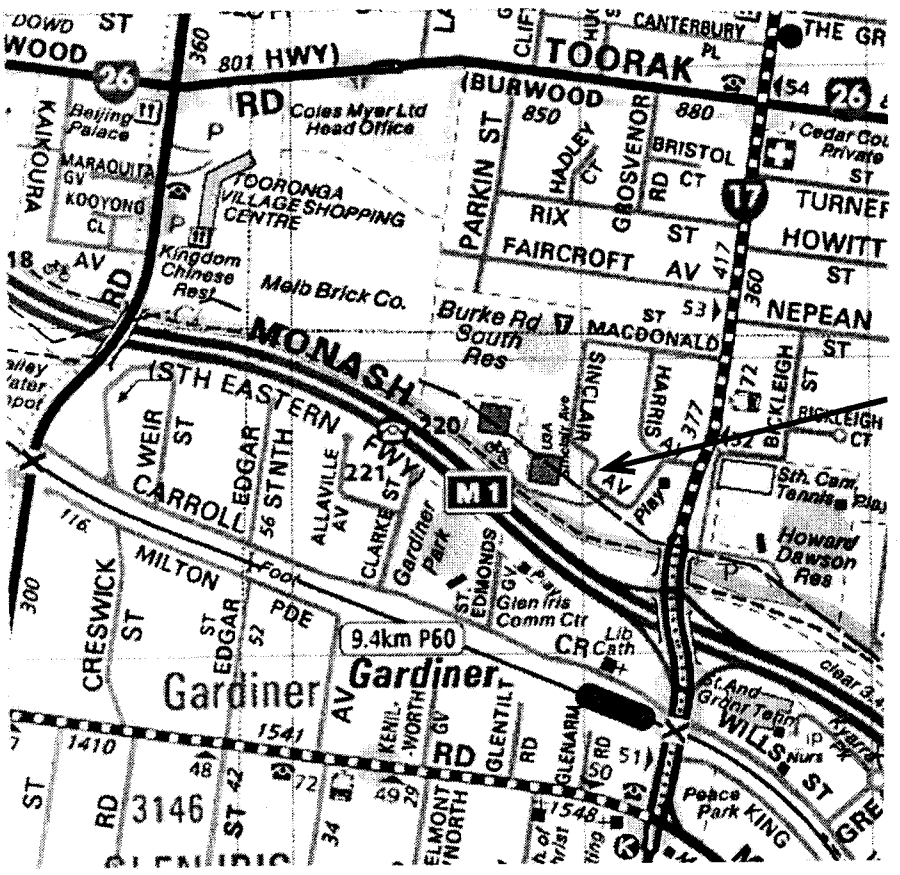

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U3A Hawthorn Sinclair Avenue campus:

Camberwell tram (no. 72) to stop no. 52 near Harris Avenue. There is an underpass a little way to the south which takes you along the bikepath to our car park.

By train: Gardiner Station.

By car:
Travel north along Burke Road; Harris Avenue is the first turn to the left after crossing over Monash Freeway.

Travel south along Burke Road across Toorak Road; Harris Avenue is the fourth turn right, opposite Bickleigh Street.

Travel north or south along Tooronga Road, turn into Carroll Crescent near the railway crossing, travel east to Burke Road, left turn into Burke Road, cross Monash Freeway, left into Harris Avenue.

PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY

2006 PREFERRED ENROLMENT PROCESS

To enable our Office volunteers to perform their tasks with greater ease and to stop you having to fill in numerous forms we are implementing a process as outlined below.
If you are currently on a Tutor's Class List and wish to continue in 2006 you will be automatically re-enrolled if you correctly fill out the form attached and have it in the Office before November 30th. A box will be placed in the main room at Sinclair Avenue Campus for collection of forms or they may be taken to 31Wakefield St or posted. NO CASH SHOULD BE PUT IN THE COLLECTION BOX OR SENT THROUGH THE POST.
In summary:
To be eligible for re-enrolment members

- Must be a current enrolled member of a class
- Must be financial for 2006 by November 30th
- Must have filled out the Preferred Enrolment Form

Please note:

- If you withdrew from a class in 2005 you cannot have preferred enrolment in that class for 2006
- Preference will still be given to full Hawthorn members
- Separate enrolment forms are required for new subjects to be taken in 2006 Do not include these on your Preferred Enrolment Form
- Do not fill in separate Enrolment Forms for subjects that you have requested for Preferred Enrolment

Enrolment Confirmation letters will be mailed from January 20th2006. However these notices will only contain a list of confirmed courses which financial members have re-enrolled/enrolled and those for which the member is Waitlisted.

DETAILS RELATING TO TIMES, VENUES AND ANY STUDENT REQUIREMENTS WILL BE ONLY AVAILABLE IN THE 2006 CURRICULUM. PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOUR CURRICULUM AS WE CANNOT ISSUE SECOND COPIES. Keep it safely with your Confirmation Notice. Curriculum Up-dates are contained in the March, June and September Newsletters. The full Curriculum is only printed once a year in December.

REMEMBER WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT LATE APPLICATIONS. THE CLOSING DATE IS NOVEMBER 30TH.

Meg Adams
Office Manager

Hans van Dorssen
Database Manager