

U3A HAWTHORN NEWS

Official Newsletter of Third Age Learning (Hawthorn) Inc.

Reg No A0010798X, ABN 41360939238

Patron: Professor Ian Young, President and Vice-Chancellor of Swinburne University of Technology

Number 81

December 2005

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

On behalf of the Committee of Management I would like to thank each of our volunteers for making 2005 another successful year for U3A Hawthorn. As a self-help organization we are totally dependent on the goodwill and generosity of our members in sharing their time and skills.

It has been very pleasing to see how well classes have settled in at the Sinclair Avenue Campus. The gardens are looking very attractive thanks to our new and enthusiastic gardening group. The City of Boroondara has installed heating in the large pavilion, and heating/cooling in the small pavilion. Alterations including improved toilet facilities and improved access to classrooms will be carried out in February.

You will see from the attached 2006 Curriculum that there are some changes of location next year. We have an ongoing requirement for classroom facilities in Hawthorn and have obtained permission from Swinburne University of Technology to use the premises at 31 Wakefield Street for this purpose. The office will be transferred to the small pavilion at Sinclair Avenue for the start of our next academic year. Classes at both Wakefield Street and Sinclair Avenue are scheduled to commence in the week starting 6 March. Classes held at other locations will commence in the week starting 20 February.

Three tutors, Don Cooper, Werner Pelz and Paul Rapoport have decided to retire from tutoring and I am sure you join with me in thanking them for all their work over the years, and in wishing them well. Such tutors are the essence of U3A. Many of you have particular interests and knowledge in subjects that other people would love to learn. U3A will be further enriched if you would share this knowledge. Please consider becoming a tutor: you will gain a great deal of pleasure and personal fulfilment. If you feel you would like to participate in this way please speak to either Derek Readman, our Curriculum Manager, or to me.

I hope to see you at the Christmas Party on 7 December. On behalf of the Committee I wish you a happy Christmas, and look forward to seeing you again next year.

Christine Watters

Our Secretary, Peter Anderson, received the following letter from the Hon. Ted Baillieu, State Member for Hawthorn:

Dear Peter,

A note to thank you for your and the U3A's hospitality at the 20th Anniversary function. It is a delight to see so many local people enjoying the rewards of learning and the joy of doing it together – particularly at your new 'home'.

Congratulations again and if I can assist in any way please let me know.

Kind Regards,

(signed) *Ted Baillieu*

PLEASE NOTE THE IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS ON PAGE 2

**U3A HAWTHORN OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday 9.30 am - 1.00 pm
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 9.30 am - 4.00 pm**

OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

Office closes Tuesday December 13, 2005

Office re-opens Tuesday January 3, 2006

During January the Office will be open *only* between 9.00 am and 11.00 am

Normal office hours resume in February, 2006

ANSWERING MACHINES—the bane of our lives! (from Meg Adams)

Cancelled classes: When one of our classes is cancelled, we make every effort to contact all participants. If you are not at home and do not have an answering machine, we will try several times but cannot guarantee to get the message to you.

Receiving messages in the office: The office now uses Telstra 101 message service to get out-of-hours calls or to take messages when our lines are in use. This service will be switched off at the end of November until the office closes on 13 December. This will ensure that no Summer School bookings are left on the answering service. We cannot take messages on the machine because members could be trying to book into classes which are already full.

Bookings for Summer Schools: These will be taken by telephone on 9818 3466 *only*, or in person at the office at 31 Wakefield Street, Hawthorn.

Please do not ring on the other numbers as we are only able to take Summer School bookings on 9818 3466.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

It is proposed in the near future to make more use of email for U3A Hawthorn communications. If you regularly use email, could you please send a message to the U3A Hawthorn office at:

u3ahawthorn@escapenet.com.au

indicating that you are willing to be contacted by email. **For joint membership, please include in the email your names and both U3A ID numbers.** This will enable us to rapidly notify you of your course enrolments and of any unforeseen changes to times or venues.

FEES FOR 2006 DUE NOW!

Annual membership fees for 2006 are due now, as follows:

Membership of U3A Hawthorn	\$40 single
	\$65 couple/two at same address
Member enrolling from another campus	\$25 (to cover administration)

END-OF-YEAR PARTY

Wednesday, 7 December at 2.00 pm

Sinclair Avenue Campus (Melway 59 G6)

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

Followed by drinks and afternoon tea.

Entry \$5.00

Please book at the office

CONCERT DATES FOR 2006

PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES FOR YOUR 2006 DIARY

Orchestra Concert #1 Thursday May 11, 10.30 am
Annual Choir Concert Tuesday June 20 or 27, 10.30 am
Orchestra Concerts #2 and #3 still to be decided, but most likely
Thursday August 10 and
Thursday November 16
We'll keep you posted – further notice in the March Newsletter.

A SPECIAL NOTE TO OUR ORCHESTRA PLAYERS

Derek Readman, who is our Curriculum Manager, is wondering if any of you would like to offer group tuition in your instrument in 2006. There have been enquiries for this type of course, so if you are interested, Derek would like to discuss it with you – his phone number is 9853 6463, or by email on dreadman@bigpond.com.au.

Artefacts and Arty Facts by Morris Williams

PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST ...

There are many ways in which we can gain insight into the lives and sentiments of artists, including choice of subjects or models. This is especially so when models are the artists themselves – self-portraits.

For instance, Rembrandt's wonderful self-portraits (there are about 60) represent a pictorial autobiography from the self-confidence of early success to the straitened circumstances of a care-worn old man. Samuel Palmer's haunted eyes belie the deep passions of his 1820s mystical period, while Pissarro's serenity is present in his self-portrait of 1890, as well as in his landscapes.

There are also subtle ways in which artists can present themselves to us. In the beautiful *Adoration of the Magi* (1475) the figure in the right foreground, introducing us to the central action, is Botticelli

himself; we see Velazquez proudly at work in *Las Meninas* (1656); and Goya appears in his uncompromisingly frank group portrait, *Charles IV and his family* (1800). Toulouse-Lautrec occasionally placed himself among the spectators in his cabaret and circus scenes (look for the small figure wearing the bowler hat).

On the subject of artists and models, my favourite anecdote comes from the time of Alexander the Great, whose relationships were many and varied (to phrase it politely). Legend has it that he fell deeply in love with a beautiful courtesan and commissioned the noted artist, Apelles, to paint her portrait. Alexander was thoroughly delighted with the work, but was at a loss to know how to express his appreciation – so he kept the portrait and gave the courtesan to the artist!

NEW TUTORS NEEDED

We are totally reliant on volunteer tutors to present a comprehensive and interesting program of classes for our membership. If you have an interest in a particular subject and you are prepared to share your knowledge (or if you know someone else in this position) we would like to hear from you. Please contact Derek Readman or Christine Watters (care of the Office) and one of them will get back to you, with a view to including the course in our 2006 program.

We would also like to hear from anyone who would be prepared to give a talk in our Saturday Series (held on the last Saturday of each month from March to November). Contact as above.

People Profiles by Michael Clark

ABORIGINES AND ENGINEERING

There is an intensity about Jean Giese's interest in Aborigines and their plight. She has been following the subject for 30 years and has been the Convener of the U3A Study Group for the last 10.

She told me, "In the early days the Aborigines were quite friendly to whites but that changed as they were gradually pushed off their land. The whites used the men and women for unpaid labour on their stations and in their homes. Once wages were introduced the jobs disappeared and most Aborigines were forced into the towns. Later governments made terrible blunders with the stolen generation and the notion of assimilation.

"Today only about one quarter live in remote communities. The rest are now of mixed blood scattered across Australia on the fringes of white society or are in the mainstream holding down jobs like most of us."

Jean does not see the first Australians through rose-coloured spectacles but is emphatic that there is a way forward and, in the end, change must come from the Aborigines themselves.

Jean, from her successful Presidency of 1996/2003, is probably the best-known person in U3A. She took on the job when the organisation was flagging due to the illnesses of both the President and Secretary.

"I was astonished when they asked me. It may have been because I was President of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. and perhaps they thought Presidents were interchangeable." She gathered a good team. The membership rose to 1000, the classes to 90. She got the orchestra started (surely our jewel in the crown) and instigated many events. She also had a particular style when presiding over functions which reminded one (well, me anyway) of the Vicar's wife in the church hall, which was not so far from reality as her late husband was a Uniting Church Minister. His death in 1974 left her to raise their three daughters on her own.

Jean was a popular President – witness her OAM – and everyone liked her homespun style. However it was her own choice to stand down and since Christine took over she has quietly sat in a corner of the office as an assistant to the Course Co-ordinator.

(It is regretted that the Profiles of the *Bishop and the Actress* mentioned in the last issue have been withheld (indelicacy? defamation? inaccuracy?). If those matters can be resolved the Profiles may yet appear.)

I used to think that van for the Dutch as von for the German denoted a minor title. But this is not so as Hans van Dorssen pointed out. It just means 'of' (this ruined the joke I had ready about the Dutch aristocrat Hertz van Rental).

For 12 years Hans has been the engine room of our U3A administration generating the huge paper flow with the aid of his computer.

He came to Australia with his parents in 1952 having just qualified in Holland as a mechanical engineer. Initially he had trouble getting placed and worked as a labourer and mechanical fitter but in time became a designer of hoists and cranes with the Australian Block and Chain Company. He continued in this field for the remainder of his career finishing as project engineer at Loy Yang Power Station with the German firm Krupps (Yes, Big Bertha) managing the two space age coal dredgers which dug out the brown coal. These monsters resembled a fairground Ferris wheel, only much bigger, revolving as each bucket digs out the coal and discharges it on to a conveyor and thence to the station furnaces.

"The amount of coal reserves are enormous," he explained. "The depth of the seam is about 100 metres and laterally the deposits spread for miles." By comparison black coal in Britain averages a depth of about 1.5 metres.

"By the time I left", he added, "when the old SEC was broken up and sold off, and Krupps withdrew, most of the seam was still there." Then, surprisingly for a man associated with the coal industry, he said "But I think Australia should turn to nuclear generation."

Hans has many other interests, among them genealogy. A cousin started tracing the van Dorssens and handed over to Hans. He now has a record of 1700 relatives, 1400 with the family name. I was tempted to ask "Why stop at so few?"

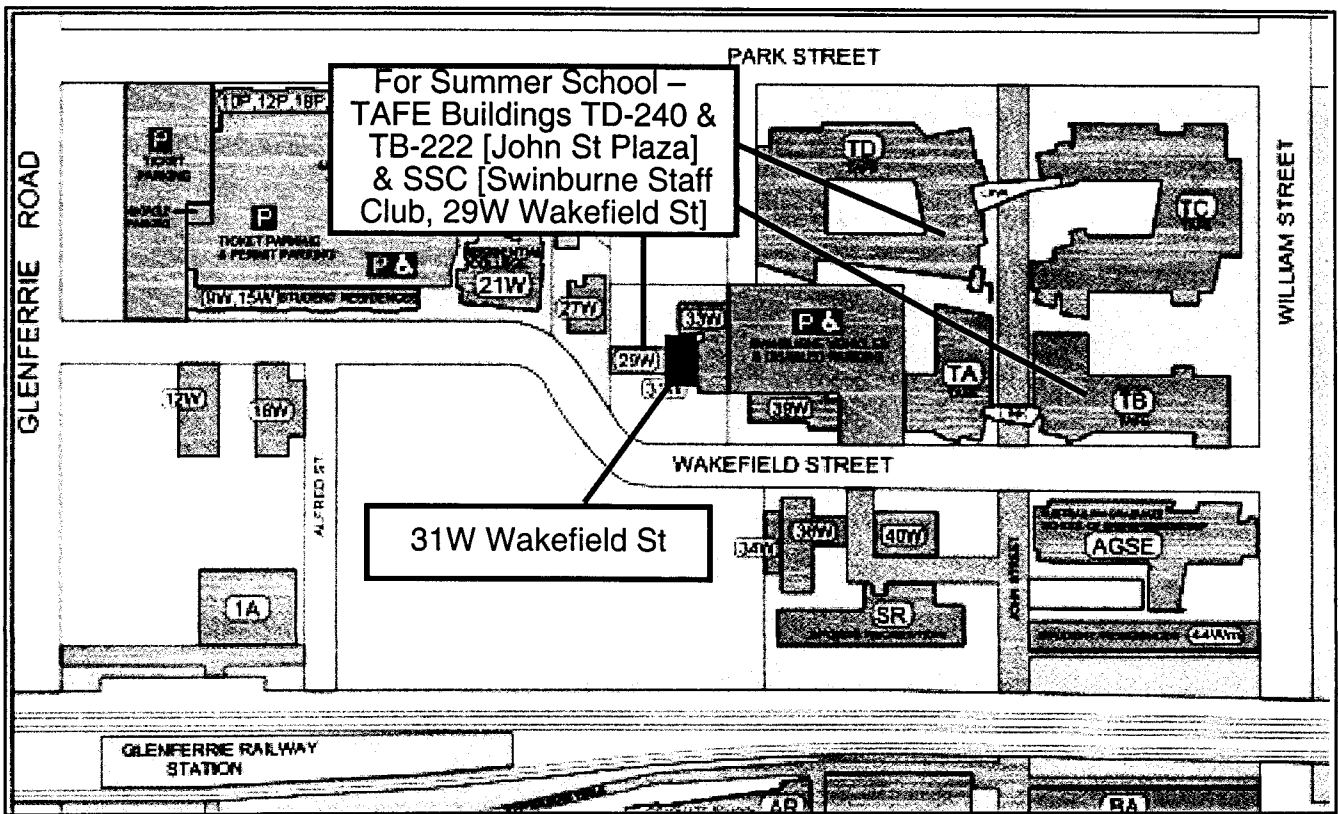
For 30 years he has been a keen bowls player, for a decade he sang in the U3A choir and is very much the family man. His wife Sue has also given splendid service to U3A as tutor in the History of European Art.

NAN INGLIS HAS A REQUEST

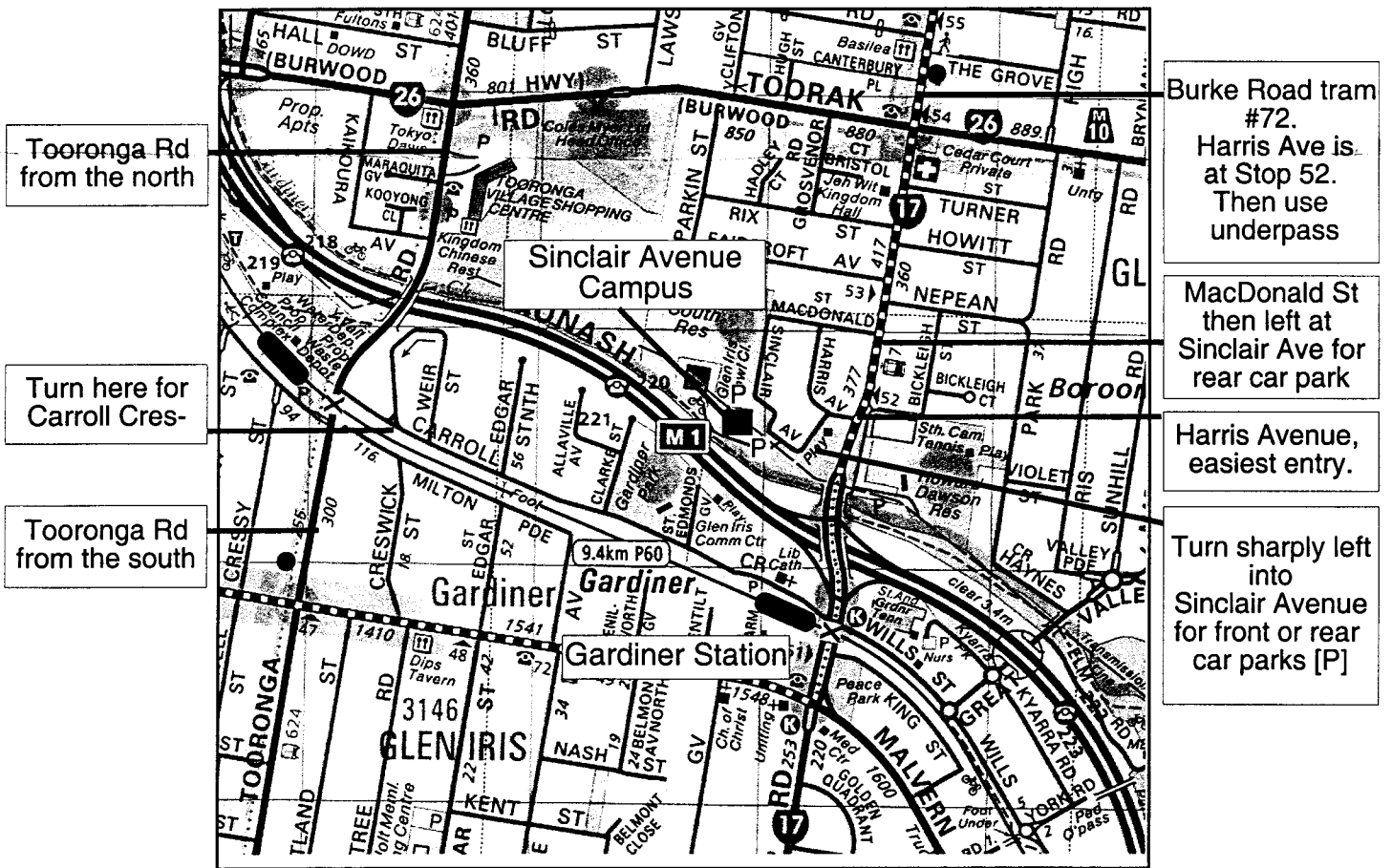
If any past student of Italian has a copy of the text book by Giorgio Milesi titled *ITALIANO VIVO* just sitting on a shelf and would be interested in selling it, please ring Nan Inglis on 9830 5947. As bookshops don't seem to carry many copies of this particular text, some of her students have difficulty in purchasing it and would be delighted to obtain a second-hand copy. Nan would provide contact between buyer and seller.

Please note that the copy of Newsletter 81 mailed out to members contained the detailed 2006 Curriculum and information about the Summer School courses on offer for January 2006. In addition information about enrollment and enrollment forms were attached.

All of these topics are accessible from the Front Page of the U3A Hawthorn website.



U3A Locations within Swinburne University Hawthorn Campus. Melway 45 D10 & E10



Sinclair Avenue Campus — at the former Glen Iris Bowling Club. Melway 59 G6

Getting to the Sinclair Avenue Campus. On your first visit, allow plenty of time for arrival.

- Sinclair Ave is accessed from either Macdonald St or Harris Ave from Burke Rd. If you are coming from Glenferrie or Malvern, Tooronga Rd has the least traffic and you should use Carroll Cres to get to Burke Rd.
- Carroll Cres runs just north of the railway line and enters Burke Rd close to the Monash Freeway overpass.
- Tram route 72, Stop 52 is close to a pedestrian underpass; use that rather than trying to walk across Burke Rd.



PLEASE FILL IN DETAILS, CUT ALONG HERE AND ENCLOSE IT WITH YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

Payment Advice Slip. My Subscription for Year 2006 is attached:

Name: _____ **U3A I.D. (on address label above)** _____

Address: _____

Amount: \$40 Single Full or \$65 Joint Full or \$25 Associate. Amount attached: \$ _____

Please print your details, cut off, and return it or post to the Office with your cheque or cash.

Class Enrolment Application for Learning at Hawthorn Campus. Date: ___/___/___.

U3A Membership ID: _____ shown on reverse of Badge or News Letter.

Surname: _____ First Name: _____

Street details: _____

Suburb: _____ Postcode _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

Signature: _____

Course No. _____ from your Curriculum. E.g. MU02

Course Name _____

Tutor / convenor name(s): _____

I am an Associate Member from _____ Campus. Two-course limit.

Office Use Only:
Received: ___/___/___
Enro. No: _____ E / W
Altered: ___/___/___
Tutor: _____

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Office Use Only:
Received: ___/___/___
Enro. No: _____ E / W
Altered: ___/___/___
Tutor: _____

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE, Hawthorn. **New-subject Enrolment Form.**

Incorporated as Third Age Learning (Hawthorn) Inc. Reg. No. A 0010798 X ABN 41 360 939 238

This form is to be used only for enrolling in a NEW subject. Attend only after your enrolment has been confirmed.

Please use a separate section for each subject. Post completed form to PO Box 2210, Hawthorn VIC 3122
or take personally to 31 Wakefield Street, Hawthorn.

U3A Full Members receive enrolment preference. Members of another Campus pay \$25 for two Courses Only.