



U3A Hawthorn News

Number 78—March 2005

Notice is given of the

20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Location St. John's Anglican Church Hall, 552 Burke Road, Camberwell

Date Wednesday 20th April 2005

Time 10.30am

Agenda To receive apologies and proxies

To confirm minutes of Annual General Meeting held on

To receive President's Report for 2004

To receive Audited Financial Statement for year ended 31st December 2004

To elect Office Bearers and Committee Members for next 12 months

To appoint an Auditor for the year ending 31st December 2005

Other business

All Executive and Committee positions are declared vacant. Nomination forms and Proxy forms (both available from the office) must be deposited with the Secretary not less than 24 hours prior to the time for the commencement of the Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting will be followed by a talk by our guest.

Speaker Professor Ian Young, Vice Chancellor of Swinburne University of Technology.

We are delighted to welcome Prof. Young in his first year at Swinburne. He came to Melbourne from the University of Adelaide where he was Pro-vice Chancellor and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering.

Light Lunch Sandwich lunch. To assist us with catering, please notify the office of your intention to attend BEFORE Wednesday 13th April.

Cost There will be no charge for lunch

Once again we urge members to travel by public transport. The Burke Road tram passes the door and Camberwell Road and Riversdale Road trams are nearby. Parking is not available on the Church grounds and is very limited in surrounding streets.

The Office will be CLOSED all day to enable attendance by our Office volunteers at the AGM and lunch.

PLEASE DO REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE - see page 7.

U3A Hawthorn Music Dates for 2005

See page 3 for the Autumn Concert

Thursday 12 May 2005— Orchestra of U3A Hawthorn Concert No.1

Tuesday 26 July 2005— Choir Concert

Thursday 18 August 2005— Orchestra of U3A Hawthorn Concert No. 2

Thursday 10 November 2005— Orchestra of U3A Hawthorn Concert No. 3

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE, HAWTHORN

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2004/2005

Exactly twenty years ago U3A Hawthorn started classes. From the very beginning the older people of Hawthorn and surrounding areas embraced the U3A concept. Between February 1985 and July 1986, 67 general courses were offered which compares very favourably to the 80 to 90 courses provided today. This was a great start and evidence of the strength of the organization from the beginning. Those who took the initiative and set up U3A Hawthorn are to be specially commended, and all those who have worked since then for our organization can take pride that we are thriving 20 years down the track. U3A Hawthorn is a vital, progressive organization with a membership in excess of 1200 at the end of 2004.

Our major strength is the range and quality of courses. We are able to attract Tutors of the highest calibre across a broad range of disciplines. At the recent Summer School members enjoyed more than 40 classes on a fascinating range of topics. Derek Readman, the Curriculum Manager, organized all aspects of the programme from initial contact with Tutors to ensuring that everything went smoothly at the classes. When you consider that Derek is responsible for organizing every one of our courses you will realize how much we all owe him.

Many of you who attended the Summer School had the opportunity to experience the Sinclair Avenue premises, and it was very pleasing to hear the favourable comments from members about the pleasant nature of the premises both inside and out, and the ease of parking. The City of Boroondara is allowing us to use the two pavilions until Council considers a proposal to refurbish the site. We are very fortunate to have a city council and management who recognize the value of U3A and provide such strong support. We are also very fortunate to enjoy the support of Swinburne University of Technology, which, in spite of its own space constraints, provides us with a very agreeable office and venues for the Saturday Series and Summer School.

Our financial position is healthy. This is due to prudent cash management, particularly containment of rental expenses, and has been assisted by a cash grant of \$6000 from the City of Boroondara. We thank Councillor Heinz Kreutz for the large new television purchased with his very generous cash gift.

At the April AGM we will farewell Treasurer Brian Adams who has looked after the finances most diligently for the past 4 Years. As a member of the Executive and of the Accommodation Sub-Committee Brian has also contributed to the general management of U3A Hawthorn. We will also farewell Auditor Bill Anderson who has done an excellent job auditing our accounts.

At the beginning of this report I mentioned that 2005 is our twentieth anniversary. One Tutor who has been involved right from the start is Sue Van Dorssen, who started her Art History classes in early 1985. Sue retired at the end of 2004 and in recognition of her historic 20 year contribution to U3A Hawthorn Sue will be awarded an Honorary Life Membership at the April AGM. Congratulations and many thanks to Sue for all her endeavours on behalf of the membership.

I would like to thank all our volunteers, particularly Joan Donlon who ensures that your classes run smoothly, and the members of the Committee of Management who give so generously of their time and skills.

Some more musical notes from Ruth Muir.

U3A's music world is gearing up for the year's start with plans, lists and phone calls aplenty, and details are starting to fall into place.

Linnell's Recorders start again on February 15th, and the Choir on the 22nd.

The Friday Singers gather on February 25th, and the first Orchestra rehearsal is on March 3rd.

Anticipating the first real rehearsal, members of the Choir are having a couple of "sing-ins" in the fortnight before, women one week and men the next. It's been a long time and our singers, keen as ever, are anxious to get together again.

The Orchestra will start preparing for our first concert in May. (Details on page 3).

Christopher Martin is due back from extensive overseas travels at the end of February, having toured with the Melbourne Junior String Orchestra to St Petersburg and other points North. We look forward to hearing his stories.

The Orchestra Manager's job has become considerably easier thanks to the invaluable help of Nola Meredith as Assistant Manager. As the Orchestra grows, so do the associated tasks and responsibilities, and it's wonderful to be able to share them.

Wishing all U3A members many memorable musical moments in 2005, whether as singers, players or audience!

The Orchestra of U3A Hawthorn Autumn Concert

Conductor, Christopher Martin.
Thursday, May 12th, at 10.30 am.
Hawthorn Town Hall.

PROGRAM: Mendelssohn: "The Hebrides" Overture.
Mozart: Sinfonia Concertante for 4 Wind Soloists and Orchestra.
Bizet: "Carmen" Suite no 2.
Entry: \$5 to cover music copyright expenses and light refreshments after the concert.

Please book with the office to help us with arrangements for seating and catering. Note—parking is impossible!

People Profiles by Michael Clark

MUSIC AND PHILOSOPHY

JUDITH CHIPMAN * Musician

"No, I haven't got a golden voice, but I've been singing since the year dot, though I never made it as a soloist."

Thus, most modestly Judy addressed me as I entered her elegant lounge with a fine black grand piano in the corner like an amiable sleeping cat. She practises every day and holds musical qualifications from both the Australian Music Examinations Board and the University of Melbourne having moved here from Tasmania in 1974. Her interest in music is very wide but her main instrument remains the piano and for many years she had an extensive practice as a teacher of both children and adults.

Ten years ago she was asked to take over the U3A choir. This is now 50 strong, in excellent shape and pulls in good concert audiences. She also conducts and runs a smaller group known as The Friday Singers drawn from the larger choir and for which an audition is required.

As with the Mozarts, talent runs in the family. Her three sons and one daughter are all musicians. One of the former, a medical specialist, is said to be the best musician. But husband Ken, who joined us, neither sings nor plays. "Someone has to listen to the stuff," he remarked.

Judy and Ken both have well authenticated convict ancestry. This makes them a sort of Australian aristocracy. "The extraordinary thing is," said Ken "that right down to my father's time it was still called 'The Stain' and one kept quiet about it. My ancestor was moved from the notorious Norfolk Island to Hobart where he became a grazier."

"And was he able to marry?" I asked.

"Well obviously - or something similar or I wouldn't be here."

They both laughed as I left. The coffee and cakes had been excellent as well.

GEOFF GUILFOYLE * Philosopher

Amongst the most popular classes in our organisation is "Philosophy for Everyday Life" which Geoff took over from Dr. Alex Gale in 1996. There are some 40 enrolments and an average attendance of 30. He invariably opens the session with a funny story. He knows many such having several collections in his huge personal library of 2000 books. The group discussions which follow are based on a text - an appropriate modern work by authors such as Nigel Warburton and Alain de Botton. A recent title was "Status Anxiety", apparently an affliction from which we all suffer to some degree.

Geoff's omnivorous reading, apart from philosophy, includes new physics, psychology, comparative religion, poetry and music, but he has little interest in fiction or sport. He is up to date with computing but rarely uses the Internet for information, preferring the reference books in his own library. He writes as well. For twenty years he has kept a daily journal which he hopes might interest his future generations. "But not immediately," he added. "Distance always lends enchantment."

In the light of his lifelong intellectual interests his career unexpectedly turns out to have been in the plastics industry ("Did this mould you?" I asked, which drew a ha-ha from him) and for a while he owned and managed a ceramics factory. Since retirement he has given almost his whole time to U3A; on the committee since 1998, sings in the choir and runs the bar at functions.

I asked him as he was leaving whether it happened that another philosopher lived on the other side of his street.

"Oddly there is one" he answered. "Perhaps you are going to say that when we disagree we argue from opposite premises."

Wanted - Music Lovers

Friends of the MSO have established a number of small groups of like minded people to meet in private homes for musical evenings.

MSO Friends is an organisation which seeks to support the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, but is also interested in fostering opportunities for its members to enjoy social gatherings.

Groups are functioning in some areas and are made up of about 12 to 15 members who meet once a month to listen to and discuss recorded music, the program of which has been chosen and prepared by one of the members. The evening concludes with a light supper, provided by members who contribute a plate of food. This arrangement makes the task of being the host less onerous.

Hosting the evenings is a pleasant experience and extends one's circle of like-minded friends. To join an established group or to help form one in your area, you are invited to contact Jacqui Simpson, a committee member of MSO Friends, on phone 9859 6643.

There is no charge for participation apart from 50 cents to cover postage costs but for permanent participation you must be a member of the Friends of MSO*. However if you would like to "taste and see" if these evenings are to your liking you would be welcome to attend to see how the system works.

(* Annual subscriptions per householder: \$25 for pensioners and students; \$40 for others)

17 DAYS IN ITALY

Small group (10) tour specially designed for U3A members

27 Sept to 14 Oct, 2005

Leisurely explore the Umbrian countryside famous for perfect medieval towns, hilltop hamlets set in tranquil landscapes, rich in historical, artistic and cultural legacies of ancient tribes, roman legionnaires, medieval artisans and renaissance artists with our passionate and knowledgeable hosts, Carol Searle, musician and Neil Moore artist and historian.

Stay in 400 yr. old renovated farmhouse (private facilities), midst olive groves and vineyards with delicious meals from farm produce. Talks on history, art, wine and food in the comfort of our lodgings.

Guided tours in our air conditioned bus to Spoleto, Assisi, Norcia, Perugia, Lake Trasimeno, Orvieto, Todi as well as other undiscovered small towns and villages.

\$5200 (per person twin share, plus airfare)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION please contact Lynne Merigan 9882 2199

In Case You Didn't Know

Since U3A Hawthorn members buy a large number of books it is useful to know that both Dymocks and Angus & Robertson at Camberwell Junction offer 10% Senior's Discount off all full price items when you show your Senior's card. Let's patronize the retailers who offer a discount.

Some funny things happen through the Internet

ONLINE UNIVERSITY SUED IN PENNSYLVANIA. Chronicle of Higher Education, 8 December 2004

Kathryn Silcox, deputy attorney general in Pennsylvania, has brought a civil lawsuit against Trinity Southern University, an online university based in Plano, Texas, alleging consumer fraud and illegal e-mail marketing.

Silcox brought the suit after her cat received an MBA from the online university. Silcox became involved after Microsoft contacted attorneys general in different states regarding spam messages. She filled out the university's requested self-evaluation and applied for a \$299 bachelor's degree using the cat's name. The life experience noted on the form was sufficient not only for a bachelor's degree but also an MBA for an additional \$100, according to the university. Silcox paid \$99 for a copy of the transcript, which indicated that her cat had taken four semesters' worth of business classes.

Newsletter for JUNE 2005 — Copy Details please — to the Editor by Monday 9 MAY 2005.

Copy should be sent as email, either in the email itself or as an attachment, or typed and left at the Office for scanning. Hand-written articles may not be interpreted correctly and should be avoided, please. Contact the Editor by email <bjpmf@bigpond.net.au> or leave in the Editor's tray at the Office. Phone 9813-3882. Thanks, Brian Ferguson