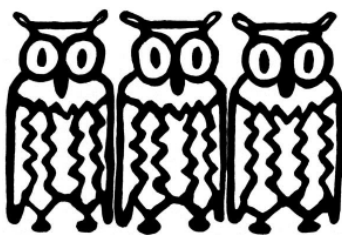


UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



U3A HAWTHORN NEWS

Reg No A0010798X,

ABN 41360939238

Official Newsletter of Third Age Learning (Hawthorn) Inc.

Patron: Professor Linda Kristjanson, Vice Chancellor, Swinburne University

Number 113

December 2013

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



John was a colleague and a learner who always fascinated me. He was a graduate in mathematics and physics and a respected teacher. John's difficulty was that he never felt that his education had been broad enough, so every summer he challenged himself to see how many books he could read in as many fields as possible from archaeology to Zoroastrianism. That certainly gave him plenty to talk about, but only when pressed. In addition to this summer reading, at the start of the year he set himself a new field of learning and discovery for that year. In some of the years I worked with him I can recall that his yearly themes included Early Egypt, Sociology, Genetics, The British in India, and DNA!

We all have to keep learning to keep up. It is part of our modern technological society. I have a new computer with a different program. I also have a new iPad. I have some learning to do. Every camera we buy is a new learning experience. It hasn't always been so obvious, but it was there none the less as we all moved through different stages of life.

The joy of a U3A is that it provides new learning opportunities every year. Take up the challenge – perhaps to be a tutor, or to learn something totally different. New learning keeps us interested, and might I also say, interesting to others. It may lessen the onset of dementia: medical science isn't yet sure. But we do know that it adds interest and variety to our lives; it provides opportunities to meet others, and it makes us curious about everything.

New Tutors

I particularly want to thank those members who have offered to conduct a course next year in one of the areas the Program Planning Committee identified as a need in our total course offering. As I have written before, we need to be adding new courses when we can. If you have a course that you would like to offer, please complete the form available from the office in Sinclair Avenue. We are able to offer assistance to anyone who feels a little uncertain about leading a class.

Volunteers for Reception

The administration for a U3A with over 1400 members is large. We are short of people, men and women, to work at the reception desk. If you are able to offer half a day a fortnight - 3 to 3.5 hours - it would be appreciated. Some basic computer knowledge will be valuable. Please contact Gwen Gavin, our Receptionist Manager, at the U3A Office (9821 0282) or by email at gavin48@ozonline.com.au if you would like more details of our quite urgent need.

Network Victoria

I expect that some of our members will be interested to know that U3A Hawthorn is part of a Victoria-wide network of U3As which has been in existence for the past 25 years. The Network provides support for all U3As in Victoria and, in particular, fosters their development throughout the state. Ian King from Hawthorn U3A serves as the Network treasurer.

At the Asia Pacific Alliance International Conference, Melbourne, 2013, Hawthorn U3A was well represented early in October. The guest of honour was Professor Francois Vellas from France. He is currently the President of the International Association of the Universities of the Third Age (IAUTA) and the son of the founder of U3A. Conference speakers covered a range of topics of special interest to older learners.

In closing may I say *Seasons Greetings* to you all and I hope you will enjoy some of our wonderful Summer School program.

Norm Fary

A Poetic Visit

Last July the Poetry Shared group enjoyed a very special and memorable afternoon with poet Les Murray. Les accepted Tutor Vicky Walker's invitation to join the group's session and share his poems with them. In a very relaxed and friendly conversation, Les told of growing up on the family dairy farm situated on the northern coast of New South Wales where he enjoyed a very rural lifestyle, typical to many pre-war country children. A self-taught early reader Les showed great linguistic talent and a thirst for knowledge throughout his school years and eventually at university.

After university Les, like many Australians of his era, went to London where he was in the company of other talented Australians including Clive James and Germaine Greer, but unlike many others Les chose to return home and has kept Australia as his base and the inspiration for much of his work. During the generous time he spent with the group he read and discussed an impressive number of his poems and gave the group many special insights into his work.

Members of the Poetry Shared group have very special memories of the day and were grateful to Vicky for her hospitality and creative initiative.



Les Murray and Vicky Walker

MUSIC NOTES



With the year drawing to a close we now look back with satisfaction - and a certain relief - at the Orchestra's final concert for 2013, a real extravaganza with the participation of the Choir adding to the fun. The program was planned to appeal to young people, and in the weeks ahead we will be performing some selections from that to create a short concert to present to the children of two Primary schools in our region. This initiative was tried out last year and was a great success. We have chosen schools with little or no music education, and have been made to feel very welcome. This year we have returned to Ashburton PS and shortly we will also visit St Roch's Catholic PS in Glen Iris.

It is six years since the Choir and Orchestra last joined forces and, as an added attraction for the day, we were delighted to welcome the Choir who presented a bracket of Gilbert and Sullivan numbers with some very talented G & S guest artists as soloists. This was very entertaining and the audience was clamouring for more! Sadly, time did not allow for a reprise, but certainly all the effort which had gone into preparations and rehearsal, was well rewarded.

Once again we were grateful to Camberwell Grammar School for providing the magnificent venue for this special event.

On Thursday 15 November the Orchestra repeated some items from its concert at Ashburton Primary School. The first number was "*Pirates of the Caribbean*" and conductor, Willem van der Vis, certainly looked the part!



Willem van der Vis in full regalia

Dates

Forthcoming events are always important, both to announce and to record in diaries and on calendars. There now remains just one to look forward to:

Sunday November 24 at 2.30pm in the Parkview Room, Camberwell Rd, Camberwell, the Choir will hold its end-of-year concert with Meredith Vincent as Director.

There will be a mix of popular songs and Christmas-flavoured pieces, and those who heard and enjoyed the Gilbert and Sullivan offerings during the Orchestra concert will be pleased to know that some of these will be repeated; importantly these will include re-play performances given by those entertaining G & S guest artists who joined us on the day. This is definitely not to be missed!

Dates for next year are still not available due to venue uncertainties, but we hope this will be resolved in the very near future. PLEASE NOTE that the date published in the Orchestra concert's program for the first concert next year, May 18, is now by no means certain. We will of course inform you all as soon as these things are settled. Check on the website in a few weeks.

Recorder Consort

Since 2012 this group, which consists of 14 players, has been meeting and playing on a weekly basis. The recorder consort consists of descants, trebles, tenors and basses, playing music mostly from the Renaissance and Baroque eras. Our aim is to play beautifully and to improve the cohesiveness and competency of the group. New members are welcome. Please contact Pat Fernandes on 9537 3187

Student Prerequisites: Intermediate level of recorder playing is required.



Ruth Muir

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The Office closes on Friday 13 December 2013 until Thursday 2 January 2014.

From Thursday 2 January until Thursday 30 January 2014, the Office is open only from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm.

Normal Office Hours (9.30 am to 4.00 pm) resume from Monday 3 February 2014.

Telephone: 9821 0282

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Website: <http://www.u3ahawthorn.org.au>



AUTUMN WINTER EXCURSIONS

For bookings please telephone the U3A office

*For further queries, please contact
Joan Harding on 98133974 or 0408366987 or
Colette Flynn on 98826097*

BOOKING POLICY

All tours payable at the time of placing reservation.
Bookings close two weeks prior to the event.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations 21 days or less prior to the scheduled
departure time = no refund due

March 2014 – exact date and time to be advised
ANYONE FOR A PUNT? MELBOURNE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS
Cost: \$25

Something new is about to happen on the lake of our beautiful Botanic Gardens and we shall be one of the first to take to the water. Reminiscent of Victorian times, we shall board a punt, ably guided, and take a leisurely half-hour cruise around the lake and its six islands.

Experience the gardens from a gentle vantage point and enjoy the touch of autumn colours.

Punters may wish to enjoy a cuppa at either café situated in the gardens (own cost).

Arrangements by the Botanic Gardens are now being finalized for this attraction. Watch for final details in our next newsletter for a date in March. Names may be registered now at the U3A office, Hawthorn, and payment made when the date is set.

Wednesday April 9, 2014
FORESTGLADE GARDEN, MOUNT MACEDON AND HANGING ROCK WINERY
Cost: \$67
Time: 8:45am
Meet: Sinclair Avenue, Glen Iris
Inclusions: Coach transportation, morning tea, lunch and entry
Limit: 48 participants (friends welcome)

Today we drive along the Calder Highway towards the picturesque Macedon Ranges. After a freshly baked morning tea, we will have a chance to explore the magnificent Forestglade Garden, which is amongst Australia's finest, and has been in existence for over a century. It includes English style gardens, Japanese gardens, woodland and fern glades. Lunch is provided at the Top of the Ranges Tearoom, where we can admire the views of the surrounding area. After lunch we head to Hanging Rock Winery, where they produce high quality wines. We then take the scenic route home.

EXCURSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Many thanks to my supportive team, namely Julianne Lewis, Ann Heath, Collette Flynn and Jan Noonan. They constantly dream up new and exciting destinations for our members each year.

This year, amongst other tours, we have encouraged our members to 'take a walk' with Norm Fary, leading fascinating strolls through historic cities of Victoria, Peter Anderson, showing us the operational areas of the Melbourne Cricket Ground, and Kenneth Park, enlightening us about the many Art Deco buildings of 'marvellous Melbourne'.

We look forward to another interesting year in 2014.

Joan Harding
Excursion Coordinator

COPY DEADLINE

Copy deadline for the March Newsletter is **1 February 2014**. Please send all copy to the Office.

SOME REMINDERS

Tutors: please turn out the lights, air-conditioners, and lock up your rooms if it appears that there are no further classes occurring after yours.

All Members: Please ensure that your *mobile phone* is switched off or set to silent mode before the class commences and do not answer or make any calls during the class. In an emergency, please excuse yourself from the class and make or answer the call outside the building.

Students: Please be mindful of the fact that, if you wish to enrol in some of the more popular classes (for example languages and bridge), you may only enrol in one category/class, not two.

Borrowing: If you want to borrow any equipment for use away from the Campus please ask at the Office. We have a process for borrowing and return of our equipment.

FEES FOR 2014

Annual membership fees for 2014 are as follows:

Membership of U3A Hawthorn:	\$45 single
	\$70 couple/two at same address
Member enrolling from another campus:	\$30 (to cover administration)

Members are reminded that membership fees for 2014 must be paid before enrolments or re-enrolments in courses can be processed

EMAIL ADDRESSES AND WEBSITE

In order to make the best use of email for U3A Hawthorn communications it is essential that you notify any changes to your email address by sending an email to mail@u3ahawthorn.org.au indicating your email contact details. **Please include your name(s) and U3A ID number(s).**

Our website is <http://www.u3ahawthorn.org.au>

Course information, forms and newsletters are available for download from the website at any time.