



U3A HAWTHORN NEWS

Official Newsletter of Third Age Learning (Hawthorn) Inc. Reg. No. A0010798X

Number 53

December 1998

24 Wakefield Street
Hawthorn Vic 3122

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Curriculum for the coming year is always eagerly anticipated at this time, and we think that this next year's will not be a disappointment. Of our on-going courses, 64 will continue, with nine proposed new courses expected to run throughout the year. On offer as well in the first semester are 17 short courses of from four to 15 sessions. There should be something to please all our members.

We have some good and some sad news of our tutors. We are sad to report the death of beloved and popular Italian tutor **Rom Schiavon**. His students were very caring of Rom through his final illness and we know how much that meant to him, as he had no family in Australia.

Jean Aitkenhead, a tutor who has been with us since the beginning of U3A Hawthorn in 1985, has had a series of falls and has not been able to take her weekly class. The students have asked that the class be renamed 'Current Affairs—Jean Aitkenhead's Group' and everyone is hoping Jean will be back at the helm when she has recovered from the latest setback. At the Committee meeting on 9 November Jean was elected an Honorary Life Member in recognition of her 'long and meritorious service' to U3A Hawthorn over a period of 14 years, thus joining the ranks of our other nine esteemed Honorary Life Members. *

Nan Inglis, who conducts three Italian classes per week, has had a long illness from which she is just beginning to recover. We trust the rate of recovery speeds up now and that Nan will be back fighting fit in 1999.

Maurice Stratton, who has presented his popular 14-week course 'European History, Scenery and Gardens' each year for nine years, has advised that

his medical condition will no longer enable him to continue. The many students who have enjoyed these sessions will be disappointed to read this news and, we are sure, will join with the Committee in thanking Maurice for his contribution and wishing him well in his retirement from U3A tutoring.

We are grateful to **Cecily Singleton**, **Harold Penaluna**, **Max Oberman** and **Vicky Gare** who have stepped in to keep the classes going.

One of our long-serving literature tutors, **Rae Alexander**, has been honoured for her contribution to La Trobe University and in particular the Art History field in founding the Art History Alumni Chapter of the Alumni Association. I represented U3A Hawthorn at the inaugural Rae Alexander Lecture at La Trobe University in November, and we congratulate Rae on this well-deserved honour.

Congratulations also to long-time member **John Marshall**, who has been honoured by being admitted to the Order of Australia for his services to the hearing impaired.

So we approach the end of our 14th year of operation, pleased in the knowledge that we have been able to provide the opportunity for many happy hours of learning and companionship.

We look forward to our end-of-year party on Wednesday 9 December, when we will enjoy music from the Choir and the Chamber Orchestra and have the opportunity for much chat and fellowship during the refreshments to follow. Please book with the office if you are coming.

Jean Giese, Chairman

* News has come to hand that Jean Aitkenhead died on the 20th Nov. following emergency surgery.

DATES FOR 1998/99

1 December	Opening date for NEW enrolments in ongoing courses and new 1999 courses (as set out in December 1998 curriculum). Membership fee for 1999 must be included with class enrolment form.
Last week Nov/ first week Dec.	This is the concluding period for 1998 classes.
9 December	End-of-year celebration and concert, Hawthorn Town Hall, 2 p.m.
11 December	Office closes for 1998, but enrolments/cheques for 1999 membership will be processed.
11 January to 6 February 1999	Summer School (Full details appear elsewhere in this <i>Newsletter</i>)
11 January	Office open part-time, from 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
1 February	Office open full-time, from 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
Week from 15 Feb.	Classes commence for 1999.

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 1999

1999 membership of U3A Hawthorn	\$25 single \$40 couple/two at same address
1999 member from another campus studying at Hawthorn	\$5 (to cover administration)

U3A HAWTHORN ON THE INTERNET

Our campus will be on the Internet early in 1999, for those who like browsing through that busy area. Our web address (URL) will be:

<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~u3ahawth/>

A REMINDER—COMMONWEALTH SENIORS HEALTH CARD

From 1 January 1999, many self-funded retirees (this includes recipients of pensions such as Education Department, etc.) who do not now qualify for an age pension, will be eligible to receive the Seniors Health Card. The income test will change from total income to taxable income, and the upper limits of eligibility have almost doubled. A single person can receive the card if taxable income is **up to \$40,000** per year, while a couple can jointly earn **up to \$67,000** after tax per year. The saving in pharmaceutical costs alone could be very significant.

You should contact **Centrelink** (formerly the Department of Social Services) on **13 2300** as soon as possible for the correct procedures to obtain your card. [BUT be warned—sit down with a good book handy while you wait in the telephone queue! The Department is NOT over-staffed, whatever the top boys may say.]

LITERARY COMPETITION

In our June *Newsletter* we gave details of the third short story and poetry competition being held by Moncrieff U3A, North Gold Coast. Although none of our own members won any prizes, Moncrieff U3A have written to thank all those who participated in a successful competition.

NAME BADGES – PLEASE

Yet again we will make our heartfelt plea to all members to wear their badges when they are involved in any U3A activity. At Wakefield Street it is an enormous help to know the name of the person on the desk—we cannot read your name if 'it's in the car' or 'it's in my other handbag'. And if you are attending a class at another venue, the personal details on the back of the badge could be of vital importance in a medical emergency.

WISER DRIVER COURSE

Expressions of interest are invited from our members to attend a course to be conducted at 24 Wakefield Street on four Wednesday mornings in February/March 1999. The exact dates will be notified later.

This is a refresher course for the more mature driver and has been developed to meet an identified need in the community. The discussion-based course looks at topics such as changes to the road rules and aspects of ageing and health which can affect driving. There is a fee of \$10 which covers morning tea and course requisites.

If you are interested in joining the course, please notify Judith Elsworth or Liliana Parrella at Hawthorn Community Education Project, 24 Wakefield Street, telephone 9819 5771.

1999 SUMMER SCHOOL

You will see elsewhere in this *Newsletter* details of our Summer School, which has again been put together by Derek Readman, with some help in the latter stages from Brian Belcher. The series of lectures runs for four weeks during our recess from regular classes, and there is such a wide range of subjects that all our diverse tastes will surely be catered for. But the warning is—be quick in enrolling, because many of the classes fill very quickly.

MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO SWINBURNE!

We are delighted to congratulate our continuing benefactors, the Swinburne University of Technology, on reaching the grand age of 90, which they have been celebrating in many ways during the course of this year.

The Swinburne University of Technology helps us by providing our accommodation at 24 Wakefield Street, as well as allowing us the use of lecture rooms for our Saturday Series of lectures and our Summer School. We value our association with Swinburne and look forward to our future together

TRAINING AS AN EVALUATOR

A Future Problem Solving Program, administered by FPS Australia, covers a program in South East Asia and the Pacific Region. The central purpose is to assist primary and secondary students in acquiring better thinking, communication and problem-solving skills.

Teams of school students from years 1 to 12 are set three topics each year; they write up their results in booklets which FPS Australia distributes to evaluators, who are able to nominate the level at which they wish to work.

Training as an evaluator is available in capital cities or by correspondence for those unable to attend in person. Two three-hour training sessions are held either on a weekend or late afternoon on a weekday. All training is free, with materials supplied by the FPS Program.

Apart from the satisfaction of helping in the personal growth of young people, there is a fee averaging \$10 to \$12 per booklet evaluated, with one group of 6 to 8 booklets on each Practice Problem. Evaluation of each group is normally completed in your own home over about 10–14 days.

This could be a rewarding and stimulating activity for many of our members, not exclusively for retired educators. More information about the whole program can be found on the web page www2.deakin.edu.au/fps.

If you are interested in joining the program, please contact the National Director, Suzanne Strangward, at (03) 9244 6479 (telephone); (03) 9244 6484 (fax); or strangw@deakin.edu.au (email).

END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION

Please register your name with the office for attending our end-of-year gathering:

**Hawthorn Town Hall
Wednesday 9 December 1998 at 2.00 p.m.**

**We commence with entertainment from our
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
and
U3A CHOIR**

Last year's gathering was a most enjoyable one, giving the opportunity to chat with so many friends too seldom seen, and we are sure that this year's will be even better. There is a donation of \$3 per head to cover refreshments.

THE IDEAL GIFT

Do you have a friend or relative who seems to be directionless and bored? A year's membership of U3A Hawthorn might be just the gift for someone who has recently retired or whose family commitments have dwindled. Our members are unanimous in their praise of this great movement, and testify to the enjoyment and fulfilment that involvement in it brings.

A LITTLE QUIZ FOR OUR MUSIC GROUPS

(thank you to U3A ACT, Canberra)

- Q:** How do you get two piccolos to play in unison?
A: Shoot one.
- Q:** What's the difference between a lawn mower and a soprano saxophone?
A: You can tune a lawn mower.
- Q:** Why do bagpipers walk about when they play?
A: To get away from the noise.

ATTENDING CLASSES AT WAKEFIELD STREET

There is a perennial difficulty in finding car parking space near 'the House'. The amount of free parking dwindles each year. The parking behind the Wakefield Street house is restricted to office staff and tutors ON DUTY only.

Thanks to persistent lobbying by some of our members to the Boroondara Council, two parking spaces in Frederick Street at the side of the house have been reserved for disabled drivers.

There is also a commercial parking station opposite 24 Wakefield Street, where the charge is still \$3 all day. This could be a very inexpensive option if two or more members share the cost.

However, we urge you to use public transport (Glenferrie Station or the No. 69 tram along Glenferrie Road) or, better still if you can, walk to class, thus improving your health as well as exercising your brain.

MARCH 1999 NEWSLETTER

Copy Deadline

All copy to the Editor by
WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY please

Newsletter Editor Helen Williams (9818 5077)
Newsletter Despatch Jean Stanley

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE, HAWTHORN

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SUMMER SCHOOL 1999

TIMETABLE

VENUES TD 240 Room 240, Level 2, TAFE Building D, Wakefield St (see map over)
24 W/S 24 Wakefield Street

JANUARY				
11	Monday	TD 240	ISLAM—historical perceptions	Keith Weymouth 9.30–11.00
12	Tuesday	TD 240	WALES—a culture apart	Sion Aled Owen 9.30–3.30
13	Wednesday	TD 240	RUSSIAN POETS—Pushkin	Barbara Hewitt 9.30–11.00
		TD 240	LIFE ON THE MINING FIELDS (1)	Joan Storm 11.15–12.45
		TD 240	HOMERIC EPICS— <i>The Iliad</i>	John Salvaris 1.15–2.45
14	Thursday	TD 240	IDEAS OF UTOPIA	Jack Gregory 9.30–11.00
		TD 240	HUMOUR TAKEN SERIOUSLY (1)	Yehuda Svoray 11.15–12.45
15	Friday	TD 240	JAZZ—beginning of the Blues (1)	Barney Govan-Smith 1.15–2.45
		24 W/S	CHESS	Egon Donath 1.00–3.00
16	Saturday	TD 240	ELIZABETH SCHWARZKOPF (1)	Al Irvine 10.00–11.30
18	Monday	TD 240	CENTURY OF VACCINATIONS	Bryan Feery 9.30–11.00
19	Tuesday	TD 240	AUSTRALIAN REPUBLIC MOVEMENTS(1)	Walter Phillips 11.15–12.45
		TD 240	AUSTRALIAN ART part I	Morris Williams 1.15–2.45
20	Wednesday	TD 240	LIFE ON THE MINING FIELDS (2)	Joan Storm 11.15–12.45
		TD 240	HOMERIC EPICS— <i>The Odyssey</i>	John Salvaris 1.15–2.45
21	Thursday	TD 240	HUMOUR TAKEN SERIOUSLY (2)	Yehuda Svoray 11.15–12.45
		TD 240	FLORENCE FOR TOURISTS (1)	David Collins 3.00–4.30
22	Friday	TD 240	BOMBER COMMAND MEMORIES	Don Charwood 11.15–12.45
		TD 240	JAZZ—beginning of the Blues (2)	Barney Govan-Smith 1.15–2.45
23	Saturday	24 W/S	CHESS	Egon Donath 1.00–3.00
		TD 240	ELIZABETH SCHWARZKOPF (2)	Al Irvine 10.00–11.30
25	Monday	TD 240	ABC—what is happening to it	Gerry Levin 9.30–11.00
		TD 240	WITH 6th AIRBORNE IN NORMANDY	John Shaw 11.15–12.45
26	Tuesday	TD 240	AUSTRALIAN REPUBLIC MOVEMENTS(2)	Walter Phillips 11.15–12.45
		TD 240	RUSSIAN POETS—Pasternak	Barbara Hewitt 9.30–11.00
27	Wednesday	TD 240	LIFE ON THE MINING FIELDS (3)	Joan Storm 11.15–12.45
		TD 240	NELLIE MELBA—life versus legend	John Byrne 9.30–11.00
28	Thursday	TD 240	HUMOUR TAKEN SERIOUSLY (3)	Yehuda Svoray 11.15–12.45
		TD 240	SHAKESPEARE—Greek & Roman ideas	Richard Kennedy 11.15–12.45
29	Friday	TD 240	JAZZ—beginning of the Blues (3)	Barney Govan-Smith 1.15–2.45
		24 W/S	CHESS	Egon Donath 1.00–3.00
FEBRUARY				
1	Monday	TD 240	WHAT SORT OF A REPUBLIC?	John Hirst 11.15–12.45
		TD 240	JOHN OXLEY, EXPLORER (1)	L. Oxley Jones 1.15–2.45
2	Tuesday	TD 240	AUSTRALIAN REPUBLIC MOVEMENTS(3)	Walter Phillips 11.15–12.45
		TD 240	AUSTRALIAN ART part II	Morris Williams 1.15–2.45
3	Wednesday	TD 240	RUSSIAN POETS—Akhmatova	Barbara Hewitt 9.30–11.00
		TD 240	LIFE ON THE MINING FIELDS (4)	Joan Storm 11.15–12.45
4	Thursday	TD 240	RIDING ON A RAINBOW	Ron Slaney 1.15–2.45
		TD 240	KINGDOM OF THE THUNDER DRAGON	Ernestine Lobb 11.15–12.45
5	Friday	TD 240	JOHN OXLEY, EXPLORER (2)	L. Oxley Jones 1.15–2.45
		TD 240	FLORENCE FOR TOURISTS (2)	David Collins 3.00–4.30
6	Saturday	TD 240	SHAKESPEARE—the Englishman	Richard Kennedy 11.15–12.45
		24 W/S	JAZZ—beginning of the Blues (4)	Barney Govan-Smith 1.15–2.45
7	Friday	24 W/S	CHESS	Egon Donath 1.00–3.00
		TD 240	ENGLISH TRAVELLERS IN C.19 ITALY	Peter Tilley 11.15–12.45
12	Friday	24 W/S	CHESS	Egon Donath 1.00–3.00