

U3A HAWTHORN NEWS

Number 76 –September 2004

President's Message from Christine Watters

WONDERFUL NEWS!

Our proposal for Glen Iris Bowls Club was successful!

Boroondara Council decided at their meeting on 9 August that U3A Hawthorn is the most suitable user of the former Glen Iris Bowls Club premises. This is wonderful news and is the result of a great team effort from our members, and the invaluable support and hard work of many Councillors who are enthusiastic about U3A. We will now consult with City Management to develop our proposal.

We will have a home base where we can accommodate a large number of our activities. In addition to two pavilions, the site includes a garden area with seating facilities and a barbecue. We look forward to an exciting future in new premises.

Councillor Heinz Kreutz of Lynden Ward, in a most generous gesture, has donated to U3A the payment he receives as a Director of a regional management group. Cr Kreutz, who is an Associate Dean at Monash University, is a keen supporter of our organisation, and has expressed an interest in becoming more involved with us. The Committee will use his donation for a special purchase.

Last year Secretary Peter Anderson and I investigated the Council grants system to determine U3A Hawthorn's eligibility. We discovered that we did not meet the criteria. Since then, three Councillors—Coral Ross, Heinz Kreutz and Dennis Whelan—have worked to include us in the system and are responsible for obtaining a grant of \$6000 for U3A Hawthorn. I am sure you join with me in thanking Council and these Councillors in particular for this grant which means a great deal to U3A Hawthorn.

IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

The Orchestra of U3A Hawthorn - Springtime Concert

Directed by Christopher Martin

Thursday 4 November at 10.30 am.

HAWTHORN TOWN HALL

Program includes:- Haydn: Symphony No. 101 "The Clock"

Bizet: Carmen Suite No 1

Music of Couperin and Handel, with cello soloists—Annette Martin and Henry Wenig

Entry \$5 by Donation. To assist seating arrangements, PLEASE register attendance at office 9818-7370.

Light refreshments will be served after the concert

Car parking is extremely limited near the Town Hall. Allow extra time or consider using Tram 69.

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE, HAWTHORN

Incorporated as Third Age Learning (Hawthorn) Inc. Reg. No.A0010798X, ABN 41 360 939 238

Office 31 Wakefield Street, Hawthorn, 3122

Telephone 9818 7371, 9818 3466

Correspondence ALL CORRESPONDENCE to PO Box 2210, Hawthorn, 3122

Important Announcement from Meg Adams, Office Manager

THE PREFERRED RE-ENROLMENT PROCESS

THE NEW SYSTEM

We are making some refinements to our 2005 re-enrolment process. We hope that these changes will make it easier for members to re-enroll and enable our office volunteers to perform their tasks with greater ease.

Members have in the past been able to take the opportunity to access preferred enrolment for classes in the following year. To have been eligible for that preferred process, members must have been listed on the current class list for that year, have completed a new enrolment form and have paid their following year's subscription before 1 December.

In future you will not have to fill in multiple enrolment forms for classes which you wish to continue attending in the following year. For each class you attend, you can re-enroll there.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

This year in mid-September, we are sending a current class list to each tutor and asking you to CROSS OUT either YES or NO, as applicable, and SIGN the list.

This will indicate your 2005 enrolment intention for that class.

HOW WILL YOU BE RE-ENROLLED UNDER THE PREFERRED SYSTEM?

If you indicate YES and pay your 2005 subscription by 10 November, you will be automatically re-enrolled. There will be NO need to fill out an enrolment form for that course.

Only members whose names appear on the current class lists will be eligible. Members who are absent during September will be able to call at the office and sign the list. Proxy signatures are not acceptable.

Confirmation of re-enrolment will be sent back to all tutors in mid-November with a new class list indicating the names of all re-enrolled students. You will know of your enrolment status much earlier than in previous years. Preference will continue to be given to U3A Hawthorn members.

ALTERNATIVES TO USING THE NEW RE-ENROLMENT SYSTEM

Anyone who does not wish to follow the above process, or who indicates YES and does not pay by 10 November, will not be included on the new class list.

As in the past these members will have to re-enrol after 1 December and join the normal process by filling in an enrolment form. At this time all enrolments are dealt with strictly in order of receipt by the Office: that is, the preferred process does not operate after 10 November.

CONFIRMATION OF ALL YOUR ENROLMENTS BY ONE LETTER

Confirmation letters for enrolments will continue to be distributed at the end of January. However your letter will now contain a list of ALL classes for which you have enrolled. Separate letters for each course will not be sent. Keep that letter safe, please.

The details relating to times, venues, etc. will be in the Curriculum.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR DECEMBER CURRICULUM! PLEASE KEEP IT SAFE

A CHARGE WILL BE MADE TO COVER THE COST OF PRINTING A REPLACEMENT

We urge all members to file their December Curriculum carefully as it contains all details of class dates, times and venues. In future the full Curriculum will only be printed in December and the March, June and September issues will contain up-dates and new courses. You are requested to keep these Newsletters as well.

These changes have been made to try to save on paper wastage and postage costs. We hope that you will find this new method easier.

Timetable for December issue of U3A News from Brian Ferguson, Newsletter Editor.

It will be posted to reach members on or before Wednesday 1 December 2004 and will contain the full 2005 Curriculum. To meet this deadline, please ensure all material is in the hands of the Editor by Monday 8 November.

TWIN PILLARS OF THE ORCHESTRA

CHRISTOPHER MARTIN'S naturally passionate nature has found a lifetime's expression in music, as violinist, conductor and teacher, all to the great benefit of the U3A Orchestra, of which he is the conductor. Though embracing composers as diverse as Bach, Berlioz and Vaughan Williams, his passion extends to the physical violin itself. The instrument and its little-changed existence of five hundred years has for him an aura of mystique. He would like to have owned a Stradivarius (who wouldn't?) but at \$20M, the price at which Yehudi Menuhin's was recently sold, that has never been possible. "Still" he said to me in consolation "you'd have to put it in a glass case and if you took it to a concert, you'd be crushed by the insurance."

From his native Devon in England, Chris, after training at the RCM, travelled widely with orchestras and chamber groups and met his Australian wife Annette, a professional cellist now principal in the orchestra, in Aix-en-Provence. This brought him to Australia over thirty years ago where their three children have grown up—all musical in different ways; one a rock guitarist.

Chris is also the conductor of the Australian Doctors' Orchestra. This has over 600 members, all doctors or medical students and all able musicians. About 150 meet once a year in one of the main cities for a long weekend. Chris puts them through intensive rehearsal and this massive ensemble concludes with a concert on the Sunday. This year the location is Melbourne.

"I have to admit", says Chris, "that by the end I have a few twinges of conductor's elbow. But I keep quiet. I don't want 150 different opinions."

RUTH MUIR is the other pillar. She joined U3A in 1996 and was asked the next year by the enterprising Jean Giese, then President, to form an orchestra. She buckled to and roped in an initial 15 players, plus George Logie-Smith as conductor. When he had to retire two years later she recruited Chris.

There are now 50 players so they are moving towards the strength of a symphony orchestra and, when necessary, Ruth brings in extra brass and percussion including timpani.

Her job as manager also involves obtaining and distributing all the orchestral parts, scheduling rehearsals, booking venues, arranging publicity and ensuring refreshments for all.

"But I love it", she said. "My life has been enriched."

Yet she is not an orchestral player herself, her instrument being the piano. "I started at the age of six and as a teenager I used to practise for four hours a day."

She does a bit less now but is still very accomplished.

So, when next one takes one's place for a USA concert, amidst the bustle of the audience and the tuning up of the players, it is worth reflecting at the exciting moment when Chris walks on, that it is Ruth who has put the event together.

Thank-you from the Executive

Helen Williams, who has been U3A Hawthorn Newsletter Editor for ten years, has retired from the position. We were very fortunate to have Helen's professional skills for such a long time and would like to thank her and wish her every happiness and success in her bonsai involvement and other interests.

The Editor's position has been filled by Brian Ferguson who has been working since November as Database Assistant. This is Brian's first Newsletter and we are sure you will agree that it is an excellent publication.

A contribution from Norm Ellis

Save Your Brain - Go Dancing!!

The Einstein Aging Study, reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* on 19 June 2003, found that dancing helps prevent dementia. Six brain-stimulating hobbies were studied—reading, writing for pleasure, doing puzzles, board games or playing cards, group studies and playing music. Sound familiar? Also covered were eleven physical activities, including team sports, swimming, bicycling and dance.

Dance was the only PHYSICAL activity that benefited the brain. This was attributed to the cerebral rather than the physical aspect of dance.

The need to learn and remember numerous dance movements produces a constant and very beneficial challenge to the brain. The social aspects of dancing, the relaxation it produces and the joy of dancing also are involved. The sense of accomplishment and confidence in successfully completing a dance with a partner are beneficial as well.

Among mind-stimulating activities, dancing is unique as it also provides beneficial physical exercise.

SOME MORE MUSICAL NOTES by Ruth Muir

THE ORCHESTRA OF U3A HAWTHORN

With the growth of the Orchestra—now numbering over 50 and including brass and percussion when required—we have decided that from now on it will be known as "The Orchestra of U3A Hawthorn", an organisation of which we can all be justly proud!

Life in the U3A music world continues to be absorbing, productive and very enjoyable. Soon after a very successful mid-year concert given by the Choir, the Friday Singers performed at two hostels in our neighbourhood, and are now happily learning new songs in preparation for more hostel engagements in the near future.

Meanwhile the recorder groups have also been performing for hostels and nursing homes in the district, and have recently enjoyed their mid-winter "Blow-In" with all groups playing together, about 30 players of differing standards. Great fun!

The Orchestra has just staged a wonderful concert in the Town Hall - as our flyers promised, presenting a mix of popular classics and music less often performed - to an excitingly large and enthusiastic audience. We offered three "B's"—Beethoven, Bach and Borodin—with a delightful Suite by Massenet as Finale. We were fortunate indeed to have Benjamin Martin as piano soloist, giving us a brilliant performance in Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5, with Eleanor Donelan, flute, and Juliette Zeelander, violin, as our two other excellent soloists.

Plans for Concert No. 3 are well on the way, with the promise of solos from the renowned cellist Henry Wenig and "our own" Annette Martin as a highlight. The Town Hall is again booked for 4 November—a week earlier than first announced, due to Swinburne's examination schedules. Do come and enjoy our final concert for the year. Guests welcomed.

General Announcements

Coffee Sales to Cease

From the middle of September, members will not be able to buy the East Timor "Same" coffee from the U3A office in Wakefield Street, Hawthorn. Much coffee has been sold through the office over the past year and the proceeds have gone towards funding educational projects in the Same District.

Since we lost our classrooms near the office, it has not been easy for members to collect their coffee so sales will cease for the time being.

However, the coffee is available at Trading Partners, 675 Glenferrie Road and the Swinburne Students' Union in Wakefield Street. There are also other outlets in Boroondara. Information as to their whereabouts can be obtained from Annette Sweet, City of Boroondara, Tel. 9278 4639.

We hope that you will continue to support the people of Same by purchasing your coffee from other outlets.

Abbeyfield Malvern

Companionable living for older persons

The Abbeyfield Malvern House in Waverley Road, East Malvern offers:

Privacy, independence and security. A comfortable bed/sitting room.

Ensuite bathroom and breakfast bar.

Cost: 70% of Age-pension plus full rent assistance. No entry fee.

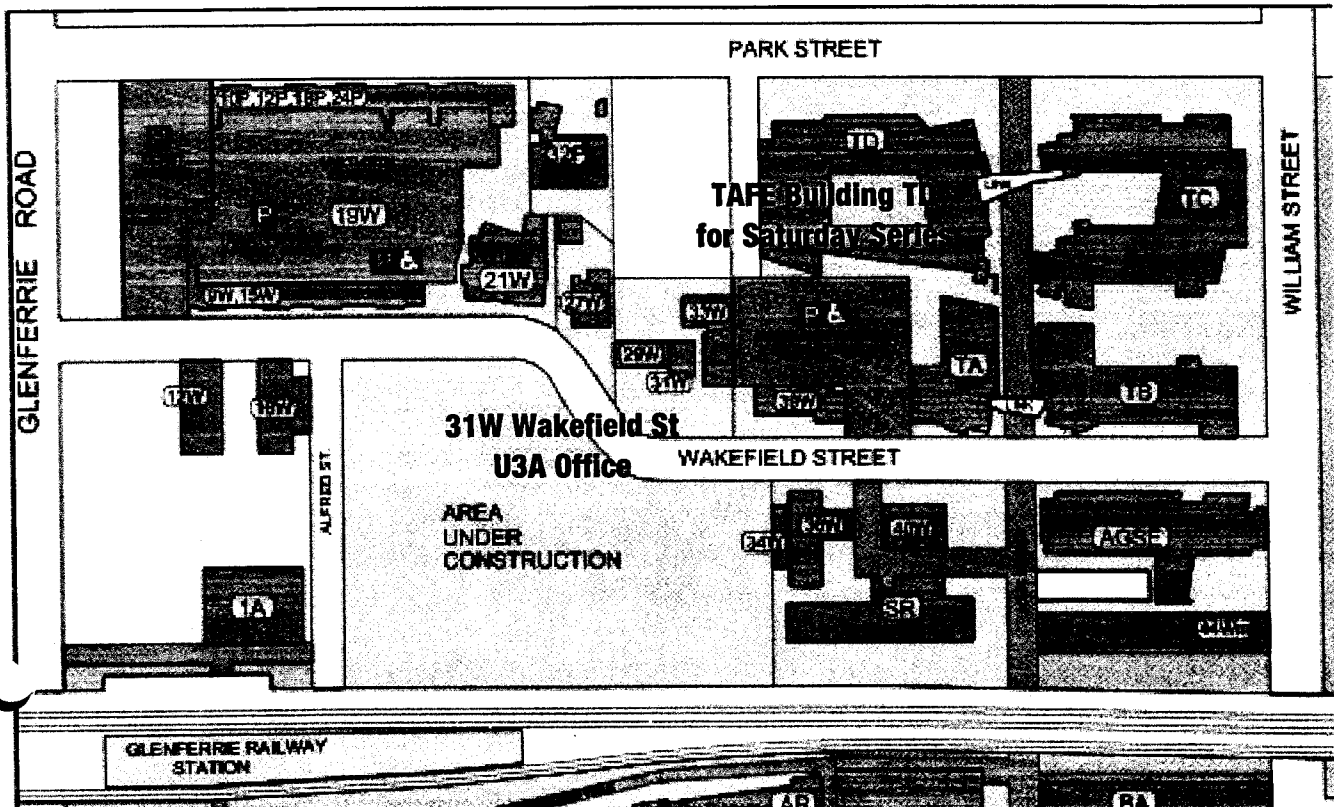
Your enquiries are welcome by phoning Cynthia: 9571 2475 or Andrew: 9572 5464.

WANTED—ASSISTANT TO U3A HAWTHORN DATABASE MANAGER

Our Database Manager (who will be available for support, checking, etc.) urgently requires an assistant for data entry and, ultimately, who will take over this important position. The new re-enrolment system will greatly reduce the workload. The system is fully documented in a printed manual and also as an on-screen Help file. Extensive training will be provided.

The assistant must be able to commit to being available for a few hours each day for about two weeks during the busy periods after publication of the Newsletter in March, June, September and December. Outside those periods, a couple of hours on two/three days per week will cover the workload.

The database is in FileMaker Pro 5.5 format on a Windows system and the files are identical on a Mac. Please contact Hans van Dorssen through the Office or ring 9509 0527.



ADDITIONS and ALTERATIONS, NEW AND RESCHEDULED COURSES

ALTERATION to EXISTING COURSE

SH 23 MUSIC and LITERATURE 11.15 - 12.45 **THURSDAY**
Tutor: Harry Wenig Extended to 7 October

SHORT COURSES - NEW AND RESCHEDULED

PH 07 PHILOSOPHY - An Introduction 11.15 - 12.45 **FRIDAY**
Tutor: Rob Siedle

Discusses our everyday problems in the light of the thinking of our greatest philosophers, past and present. Beginners and philosophy enthusiasts are welcome.

ERASMUS SCHOOL, 45 Riversdale Rd, Hawthorn.

Weekly. 24 September - 25 November.

SH 18 BOWLS for BEGINNERS 9.30 - 11.00 **SATURDAY**
Convenor: Joyce Jones

Learn lawn bowls on a friendly social basis. If weather inclement, enjoy indoor activities such as table games or hand crafts. Bowls and morning tea are provided but flat-soled shoes are required.

HAWTHORN BOWLING CLUB, Wood St, St. James Park, Hawthorn. 4 sessions 6 Nov. to 27 Nov.

SH 20 COSMOLOGY 11.15 - 12.45 **WEDNESDAY**
Tutor: Ron Doig Rescheduled from August.

In 1500 the Earth was the centre of the universe; by 1700 the planets circled the Sun. We will look at those responsible for the original world view and those who changed it and, finally, the present-day physicist and his attempt to follow Newton's explanations.

ERASMUS SCHOOL, 45 Riversdale Rd, Hawthorn.

7 sessions. 6 October - 17 November.

SH 24 NATURAL THERAPIES - An Introduction 11.15 - 12.45 **THURSDAY**
Tutor: Mary Hollingsworth Rescheduled from September.

Homeopathy, herbs, iridology, reflexology, aromatherapy, a different approach to cancer, menopause, osteoporosis; these are some of the topics covered.

ERASMUS SCHOOL, 45 Riversdale Rd, Hawthorn.

8 sessions. 7 October - 25 November.

SH 28 VENICE AND ROME OF THE GRAND TOUR 1.00 - 2.30 **WEDNESDAY**
Tutor: Sylvia Sagona

In the eighteenth century anyone who wished to be considered cultured had to take part in the "Grand Tour", the final destination of which was Rome and Venice. The English and French Romantic writers and painters created a Utopian vision of these cities which remained intact until the First World War.

ERASMUS SCHOOL, 45 Riversdale Rd, Hawthorn.

3 sessions. 20, 27 October, 3 November.

SH 29 MAH-JONGG for BEGINNERS 1.00 - 3.00 **THURSDAY**
Tutor: Jennifer Ward

Mah-jongg is played by four people with 144 tiles.

GEORGE BILLS COMMUNITY CENTRE, Bills St, Hawthorn.

8 sessions. 7 Oct. - 25 Nov.

Enrolment Instructions from Meg Adams, Office Manager

ENROLLING IN CLASSES at U3A HAWTHORN

- 1 Enrolment forms for Courses are attached to the back of this Newsletter for use when you have NOT re-enrolled using the Preferred Re-enrolment Procedure [see 2 below] or for additional Courses. More forms may be obtained from the Office. There are three forms on each sheet. It is essential that ONE form be completed for EACH course you wish to take (especially recording there the Reference Number of the Course from a Curriculum, and your Membership ID Number from your Badge) and returned to the office without delay. If sending by post, please address to:-
U3A Hawthorn, Box No. 2210, Hawthorn 3122.
- 2 Preferred Re-enrolment Procedure for 2005. To re-enrol in 2005 courses for which you were a 2004 attendee, sign the form your Tutor or Class Secretary will have during the last two weeks of September. If you were absent during this time, please call at the office, 31 Wakefield St, and sign that form by 15 October. Membership fees for 2005 must be paid by 10th November to access the Preferred Re-enrolment Procedure [see 2 above].
- 3 Please notify the office immediately if you cannot start or continue a course.
- 4 Notification of acceptance in a course will be posted to you two or three weeks before class commencement.
- 5 All classes run for the year unless otherwise specified.
- 6 A member who is absent for TWO CONSECUTIVE CLASSES without notifying the office or the relevant tutor will be deemed to have withdrawn, and the place will be offered to a member on the waiting list. Apologies for one or two missed classes should be given directly to the Tutor or Class Secretary. Do not ring the Office unless your absence will be longer than two weeks.
- 7 Students are requested not to enrol in two classes of a similar nature, e.g. two current affairs classes.
- 8 For students from U3A campuses other than Hawthorn, it is regretted that a maximum of two courses can be offered. Priority is given to our own members if there is competition for a place in the class.

Information about the Third Semester of Saturday Series Lectures from Derek Readman

You are invited to attend our

2004 SATURDAY SERIES OF LECTURES

25 September A Journey Through Spain

Graham Tardy

Beginning in Barcelona, the journey will continue to Madrid, down through Castile to Andalusia – to the cities of Cordoba, Granada and Seville. With music and slides, the presentation will include many aspects of Spanish culture—history, architecture, art, food—and anecdotes.

30 October Pirates, Privateers, Whalers & of course Darwin

Professor Greg Dening

An Historical Visit to the Galapagos

Call me Ishmael! No! There is too much ventriloquism in that from Moby Dick. Call me 'Spirit of Ishmael'. I need Ishmael's eyes in the fo'c'sle. I need Ishmael's bare feet on the deck. I need Ishmael's voice to tell the story of his whaling ship. It is October 1798. I am aboard the *New Euphrates*. The *New Euphrates* is following the cold artery of life up the South American coast. It had not been mapped yet, not given its name of Humboldt Current. But a whaling captain could see its way-signs. They led to the Tortoise Islands (Galapagos). 'Islands of Fire', 'Outer Islands' the Incas, rafting the same cold highway had called them. 'The Bewitched' (Las Endantadas) was the name sailors often used. They seemed to drift in and out of sight as equatorial mirages as the strong currents of the Humboldt swirled at the current's journey's end and dragged ships with them every whichway. Bewitching the Galapagos certainly are. Join Professor Greg Dening in an historical voyage to them.

27 November Scraps of Heaven

Arnold Zable

Arnold Zable will discuss his new novel, *Scraps of Heaven* which will be published in October, this year. Set in a North Carlton neighbourhood in 1958, the novel features a gallery of characters, including Jewish, Italian and Greek immigrants, living side by side with older working-class Australians. In the late 1950s, Australia stood poised on an era of great change. *Scraps of Heaven* is an intimate portrait of one neighbourhood and one moment of time, as well as a meditation on displacement, survival, the trials of beginning life in a new land, and the lingering effects of war on immigrants and Australian war veterans alike. These themes remain as relevant today, as they did then.

INFORMATION FOR ALL LECTURES

LOCATION Lecture Theatre TD 121, ground floor, TAFE Building TD, Swinburne University of Technology, junction of Park and John Streets. Enter from either Wakefield Street or Park Street (see upper map on page 5)

TIME 2.30 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

COST Free to members, who may each bring one friend only. Both must book.

BOOKINGS IT IS NECESSARY TO MAKE A BOOKING to ensure entry to these talks. However bookings will be accepted only during the month of the talk, e.g. a booking for September's talk will be taken only in September. This can be done on weekdays either by telephone (9818 3466 or 9818 7371) or by personal delivery at the office 31 Wakefield Street, both during office hours between 9.30 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

There will be no written confirmation of bookings; please therefore keep your own record of your bookings.

BADGES PLEASE remember to wear your NAME BADGE!
This will be needed for checking your attendance.