



U3A Werribee Region Inc. Tri – Cycle Newsletter

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WEB: <http://www.u3awbee.net.au>

PLEASE NOTE: We have no office. For all inquiries refer to our website.

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U3A WERRIBEE OFFICE BEARERS AND CONTACTS

Patrons: Mr K.S. Butyn Principal Werribee Secondary College:
Mr Tim Pallas MP Member for Werribee

Committee:

President: Dave Callan Email: president.u3awbee@gmail.com (note: it's **gmail**, not hotmail)

Vice President: Frank O'Shea

Treasurer: Jannette Allen Email: treas.u3awbee@hotmail.com

Secretary: Linda Kazlauskas Email: sec.u3awbee@hotmail.com

Membership Coordinator: Jannette Allen Phone: 9395 1606 Email: membership.u3awbee@hotmail.com

Course Co-ordinator: Lia Albergo Email: courses.u3awbee@hotmail.com

Committee Members: Glenys Welsh, Brian Beck, Brian Kilfoyle, Merle Deslandes, John Preston,
Lyle Raason, Adrian Cloonan and Don Lee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2019 Term Dates

Term 1: 4 Feb - 29 March 2019

Term 2: 29 April - 21 June 2019

Term 3: 15 July - 13 Sep 2019

Term 4: 7 Oct - 29 Nov 2019

AGM Feb 2019

The Werribee U3A AGM will be held on Tues
19 Feb 2019 at the *HCSC at 11am. Further
notices will be circulated closer to the date.

Social Activities

Various social activities and
outings are organised for
members and details are
made available through email
messages, notices given out
during classes or may be
included on our website.

*HCSC (Hoppers Crossing
Sports Club, Hogans Road)

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Greetings again to all members from co-editor Don and myself as the weeks fly towards Christmas once more. According to the fairy tales we tell ourselves, Christmas is the great time of coming-together in families and communities – yes if you are lucky – but not so wonderful if you are alone ... but bravely telling yourself and those around you that “It's all right”, when perhaps it is not all right.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK (Cont.)

For those who have suffered pain and loss and loneliness at Christmas, it may be a mercy to get the whole darned 'celebration' over and done with for another year. Take heart, Dear Souls, there are people around who KNOW, maybe more than you realise. Forgiveness and Love are what make the world go round...what make it go round just one more time ... in spite of all the pain you may feel.

The 'rat-baggery' of commercial Christmas will not get you down; search for those of similar heart and faith ... and come through just one more time.

Please send your contributions for the newsletter to me at newsletter.u3awbee@hotmail.com

The deadline for the next issue is 6 February 2019

Cecilia Conway-Wright



FROM OUR U3A WERRIBEE PRESIDENT

Hello Everyone

Christmas is upon us once more; I trust you are all in the Christmas spirit. The last 12 months have been very busy getting Point Cook up and running as our new branch and a few new classes which you will see on Enrolment Day. Barbara and I have been overseas for two months in July and August visiting family and it was good to get back to a cooler climate.

Some time ago it was suggested that U3A donate a cup to the Hoppers Crossing Sports Club to be awarded to the person who has excelled in the past year. The cup at last is being presented on Saturday the 24th November; and Brian Kilfoyle and I will be in attendance. I enjoyed meeting many of you recently on the 27th November at our annual Christmas Lunch. To Merle Deslandes and her team of helpers, on behalf of our Committee and members I would like to thank you one and all for organising our recent Christmas Luncheon. It was certainly one not to be missed! It is important that as many members as possible attend these functions to support U3A and the HCSC.



Here are some facts from a recent survey that U3A Victoria carried out:

There are 109 U3A's in Victoria; 38,000 members in total.

75% are women; 25% are men.

The 'average' member attends two classes a week. Are you Mr or Ms Average?

And finally I would like to wish you a safe and happy Christmas and everything of the very best for the New Year.

Dave Callan.

AROUND THE COURSES

Magic of Numbers

In our Magic of Numbers classes we have done a great deal of work on codes, which we will be repeating in the new term. For instance mathematics helped Anne and Bob who decided to use a so called one-way-function to solve a personal problem.

Here is what they did. Anne was based in Athens; Bob in Belfast with a proposed conference in Sydney. Which one would go? Should they just toss a coin to decide? Well no because that's too unreliable.

So what was their one-way-function solution? Anne would pick a large number; odd or even, applying the function. If she picked the 'correct' number, according to the function, she will go to the conference. However if Bob picked right, he would be the one going to Sydney. Peace all round !

Our class explains what is meant by the idea of a one-way-function leading to the interesting phrase known as *computationally infeasible*. Wow, but don't worry; it's not as complicated as you might imagine. In fact it is really quite fascinating and a lot of fun. So do come along and discover the magic!

Frank O'Shea



Australian History

During the fourth term Australian History examined maritime exploration, early European settlement and development of Victoria. Early English maritime exploration of the coastline known as the Port Phillip District of New South Wales was started by George Bass during 1798, along with James Grant, John Murray, Mathew Flinders through to Charles Grimes during 1803. We examined the new settlements at Sullivan's Cove, Port Phillip 1803, Western Port Bay 1826 and the Henty Brothers at Portland 1834. The land exploration by Hume & Hovel, Batman and Mitchell - along with the rapid expansion from 1835 of the new settlement which we now know as Melbourne.



Faulkner's shack on the Yarra River 1836.

We also explored the social, economic and political development of the colony from those early stages of European settlement until 1851 when it became a colony in its own right – including the social impact on the Aborigines during that era. We looked at the “Overlanders” which brought the cattle herds and sheep flocks to stock the newly claimed runs and eventually to feed and stock (1836-1839) the starving colony of South Australia.

Leading up to Remembrance Day, we spoke about Australia's contribution to the Great War and the eventual signing of the armistice to end the war. In addition we looked at Charles Bean and his endless effort to build the Australian War Memorial to highlight to the people the vast cost of freedom and to record the names of those servicemen and servicewomen lost to war.

Merle Deslandes

AROUND THE COURSES (Cont.)

Exploring History

During 2018 we watched a video series that covered a wide variety of historical subjects, including:

- The history of Persia and Iran.
- A series called "British History's Biggest Fibs", which looked at the truth behind:
The War of the Roses; The Glorious Revolution; The British "takeover" of India
- The History of Stage Magic.
- Russia - The Last of the Tsars.
- History of Arctic and Antarctic exploration - (presented by Brian Kilfoyle).
- The history of the Vikings.

Exploring History will be back again in the new year; same time, same place. However during Term 1 2019, I will be taking a short break and Paul Rogers will be giving a series of presentations on the subject of Comparative Religions. I believe he intends to cover major religions of the world, including: (in alphabetical order): Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Indigenous Religions, Islam, Judaism, Zoroastrianism .

Brian Beck



Ballet Matinee

This group has got off to a very happy start. We are welcomed as Ballet lovers to the Dress Circle seats each week on Friday mornings.

We began our 'dancing' life with a performance of Coppelia, a ballet in three acts with The Australian Ballet. Our next treat was the three act ballet Don Quixote with the Australian Ballet company but with guest dancers, Rudolf Nureyev and Lucette Aldous and Robert Helpmann from The Royal Ballet in London. The next three act ballet on our programme was The Merry Widow, again from the Australian Ballet Company. 'Widow' is relatively new compared to the classics of the nineteenth century but it was created by Robert Helpmann around forty five years ago after many struggles with the Franz Lehár owners of the original Operetta for dancing rights.

Our watching Romeo and Juliet performed by the Royal Ballet with Rudolf Nureyev and Margot Fonteyn will complete our first Term. We have also watched videos of Great Pas de Deux with some rare footage.

Cecilia's comments on story and interpretation and ballet technique have been helpful.

Many great treats are lined up for next year. We shall not be averse to putting on repeats of any ballets that we love to watch more than once.

From Cecilia Conway-Wright



AROUND THE COURSES (Cont.)

A History of Popular Music

During our previous term we concluded our study of the Oscar-winning song by listening to songs from the 1950s and '60s. They included "Gigi", "Moon River" and "Chim Chim Cheree" (from Mary Poppins). In many cases we were able to view video clips from the movies in which they were performed.

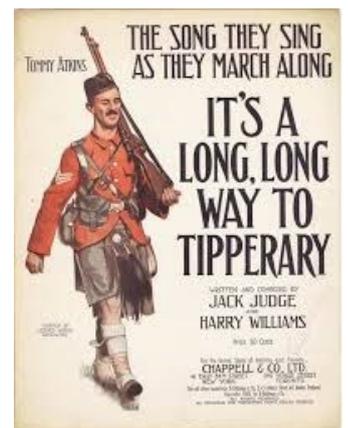
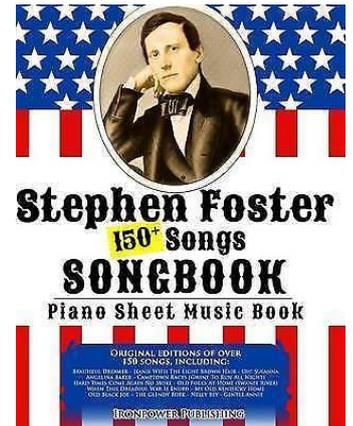
Next year we begin a history of popular music with the best-known 19th century songwriter Stephen Foster, who wrote such memorable songs as "Old Folks at Home", "Oh, Susanna!" and "Camptown Races". He also introduced many of these into minstrel shows.

We'll also look at the era when it dawned on those in the music business that popular songs could be marketed like soap powder. It was the song "After the Ball", written in 1892 that triggered the vast merchandising of the 1890s sheet music trade and the beginnings of Tin Pan Alley. Five million copies sold in just a couple of years.

We'll also look at ragtime and the beginnings of jazz, American vaudeville and British music hall. Many of the stars of the latter were Australian, including Florrie Forde, who introduced "Down at the Old Bull and Bush", "A Long Way to Tipperary" and many other well-known songs.

We look forward to welcoming new members in 2019.

John Funnell



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

For all U3A Werribee membership enquiries, please contact our membership co-ordinator, Jannette Allen on Tel 9395 1606 or you can email to: membership.u3awbee@hotmail.com

We do want to welcome the following members who have recently joined us:

Elizabeth Strunk

Barbara Maher

Wayne Dunn

Vikki Dunn

Lynette Flowers

Dianne Vorwerk

Noeline Aitken



You are reminded that as a member of U3A Werribee, you are entitled to a Hoppers Crossing Sports Club (HCSC) loyalty (blue) card at no extra charge. This card entitles you to club discounts, so if you haven't yet received your card please contact Janette Allen.

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

11% of people are left handed.

25% of your bones are in your feet.

85% of plant life is found in the ocean.

75% of a banana consists of water.

A HISTORY OF U3A WORLDWIDE AND IN WERRIBEE

U3A, *L'Université du Troisième Âge* (University of the Third Age), was founded in Toulouse in France in 1972 where their universities began to provide educational opportunities for older adults. The experiment met with almost immediate success and soon spread to other European countries. By 1981 it was transported to Britain, however there it was adapted by a group of Cambridge enthusiasts so that instead of being dependant on universities, as was the "French" model, it became a movement based on self-help and mutual aid; a kind of 'informal intellectual democracy'. This became known as the 'Cambridge' or 'British' model, as distinct from the 'French' model.



Nevertheless both concepts share the same aim – that of encouraging older people to remain active in their retirement and to continue lifelong learning. While those following the French model still have close ties with universities for their classes and accommodation, with the Cambridge model you can be a course leader one day and a student the next. Everyone is encouraged to contribute voluntarily to the running of their U3A classes.

Around the world U3A now has a great many members. However for various reasons, not all call themselves by that name. Some use the title *Senior Universities* (in China) or *Institutes of Learning in Retirement* (in the USA). In Australia we generally use the word U3A in its ancient context meaning 'a community of scholars'

U3A was first introduced into Australia in 1984 where the Cambridge model was adopted. This was because at that time Australian universities were not committed to the idea of community education. Nowadays there are about 130 U3A groups and membership numbers about 30,000. There is no national U3A body in Australia; groups preferring to remain autonomous. However members keep in touch through networks, newsletters, conferences, seminars, workshops, social activities and even the use of YouTube.

In 1986 Walter Eacott founded the so-called "Retired Persons of Werribee", and it soon became the wish of a number of those members to start up a U3A group in Werribee. At that stage, the nearest U3A group was in Footscray and towards the end of the 1980's we joined in classes there for a couple of years, until finally we decided to set up our own U3A Werribee group. So in January 1992 we who were living in what was then called the City of Werribee, called an interest meeting to gauge support for starting up our own branch of U3A and there was an enthusiastic response. By February of that year we had become set up with 35 members, running classes in history, psychiatry, calligraphy, art and current affairs. Since then we have grown to about 268 members (including 30 tutors) and we are managed by a committee of volunteers elected by our members.



Contributed by Anna Mitchell

YOU SHAN'T HAVE CHRISTMAS !!

"You shan't have Christmas !" snorted Sober Chops. "Yes we shall...", cried Bright Eyes.

"The baby Jesus wasn't black for a start."

"He wasn't white either, no thanks to Italian classic paintings; nor Oriental, no thanks to Japanese Madonna and Child art; he was of Palestinian complexion...so what ?"

"He didn't come for you scum lot...drop-outs, bludgers...tarts."

"Oh excuse me!" countered Bright Eyes. "The first people that the angels told were scum and scallywags: common shepherds often mistrusted in their work."

"Well" went on Sober Chops, "then, the stuck-up yachting moneyed snobs can't have it."

"Read all about it! Rich kingly travellers with precious gifts found the Christ-child."

"Rubbish! So the rat-bag refugees, shan't have it...messing up their own countries and then infesting other people's good homes."

"The infant Jesus' parents fled into Egypt along with other refugees to escape the murdering King Herod; then went home when it was safe."

"Oh go back to arguing your Politics! I'm sure you make God sick."

"Jesus was born in the thick of the politics of his day: Herod, The Jews; The Romans."

"You always think you have the answer!" Spluttered Sober Chops. "You've got your heads in the clouds."

"Well out of the clouds the angels sang..."

"Oh get away ! You still shan't have Christmas – no way. Because every time you say the word Christmas (Christ-is-sent), you are prostituting its meaning for your own use so you had better get used to calling it 'The Summer Holiday'."

Bright Eyes laughed. "I think we'll stick with the word Christmas, even though you think we don't deserve it. It sounds like a proclamation and a prayer each time we or any unbelievers say it. So A Very Merry Christmas to you, Sober Chops and everyone like you."

"You SHAN'T...." "Yes we SHALL... so come on: Celebrate !!"



From Cecilia Conway-Wright.

SOME WORDS OF WISDOM ABOUT LIFE

"Science is organized knowledge, wisdom is organized life". Immanuel Kant (1724 – 1804) German philosopher.

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference".

Reinhold Niebuhr (1892 – 1971) American Reformed theologian, ethicist, commentator on politics and public affairs.

"People don't notice whether it's winter or summer when they're happy". Anton Chekhov (1816 – 1904) Russian playwright and short-story writer.

"Commitment is an act, not a word". Jean Paul Sarte (1905 – 1980) French philosopher , playwright & novelist.

MERLE'S SOCIAL ACTIVITIES & OUTINGS

During the past couple of months there were two functions attended by a number of our members. Firstly we enjoyed a very pleasant lunch hosted by the Wyndham Council and with the RAAF Band to entertain us at the Events Centre during Seniors Week in October. Shown below enjoying themselves are, in the left photo, Cerri Parry and Anna Mitchell, while in the right photo are Lisa Volz, Margie Whyte and Gail Carter.



Then we enjoyed our own Christmas lunch at the end of November 2018 at the Hoppers Crossing Sports Club. This was well supported by more than eighty members. I do in particular want to thank Judy and her staff at the HCSC for their hard work in catering so well. Shown below are two photos of our members enjoying the function.



Our next outing planned for the first term of 2019 will be to the National Gallery of Victoria to view the most interesting exhibition from The Hague of Escher x Nendo called Between Two Worlds and also the work of Julian Opie, one of Britain's most influential living artists. His exhibition a City of Skyscrapers takes over federation court at the NGV, so it should be most interesting. There will be a notice coming out early next year about this outing,

I do still have a few tickets for two shows coming up in next year:

18 January at the Italian Club for a performance of Morning Melodies

13 February at the Comedy Theatre, Melbourne for a performance of "Senior Moments".
(Only two tickets still available).

Merle Deslandes (9749 7746)

PROGRAM OF WERRIBEE COURSES FOR TERM 1 OF 2019

Monday 4 February - Friday 29 March 2019

Day/Time	Activity	Group Leader/Tutor		Venue
MONDAY				
10.00 - 12.00	Comparative Religion	Paul Rogers	8742 9032	HCSC
10.00 - 01.00	Lunch & Movies ⁽¹⁾	Kaye Harvey	0402631171	SY
01.00 - 03.00	Spanish	Carmen Cohen	0425729324	WCC
01.00 - 02.00	Tai Chi	Marie Dean	9741 7733	HCSC
02.00 - 05.00	Introduction to Bridge	Serita Mudford	0410 599 323	HCSC
02.00 - 05.00	Bridge	Brian Kilfoyle	0409 073 869	HCSC
TUESDAY				
09.30 - 10.30	Senior Men in Light Exercises	Tony Bradford	0447139202	HCSC
09.45 - 11.45	Needlecraft	Faye Weston	8754 1006	HCSC
10.00 - 12.00	Beginners Computer Course	Don Lee	9749 2798	AP
01.00 - 02.30	A History of Popular Music	John Funnell	9296 1036	HCSC
01.00 - 03.00	Intermediate Computer Course	Don Lee	9749 2798	AP
02.30 - 03.30	Photography	Bernie Flaherty	0412814610	HCSC
04.00 - 05.30	Line Dancing	Jenny Pratt	9742 9038	HRC
WEDNESDAY				
10.00 - 11.30	Health and Wellbeing	Lyn Alder	97417735	WCC
09.45 - 12.00	Mosaic	Helen Galea	9749 1207	WCC
10.00 - 12.00	Intermediate French & Culture	Martha Siwek	97417610	HCSC
01.00 - 03.00	Australian History	Merle Deslandes	9749 7746	HCSC
01.00 - 04.00	Cards — 500	Kay Dwyer	9731 6976	SD
01.30 - 03.00	Book Club ⁽²⁾	Libby Pearson		PH
THURSDAY				
10.00 - 11.30	Current Affairs	Pam Phegan	9742 4354	HCSC
01.15 - 02.30	Yoga for Older People	Trevor Walsh	0438 304 638	UC
01.00 - 04.00	Mahjong	Nicky Hodgman	9749 1131	HCSC
FRIDAY				
10.00 - 12.00	Ballet Matinee	Cecilia Conwayne-Wright	0407558825	PH
01.00 - 03.00	Music You Like To Hear	Anna Mitchell	9741 2730	HCSC

Notes: (1) The Lunch & Movie Group meet on the second Monday of the month at the Sun Theatre, Yarraville.
 (2) The Book Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at members' houses.

FOR ALL COURSE INQUIRIES:

PLEASE CONTACT OUR COURSE CO-ORDINATOR: LIA ALBERGO ON 9749 7594 or 0412 993 756

OR EMAIL: courses.u3awbee@hotmail.com

PROGRAM OF POINT COOK COURSES FOR TERM 1 OF 2019
Monday 4 February - Friday 29 March 2019

Day/Time	Activity	Group Leader/Tutor	Venue
TUESDAY			
09.00 - 11.00	Magic of Numbers	Frank O'Shea 0432358933	JAM
09.00 - 11.00	Creative Writing	Mary Wickham	JAM
11.00 - 01.00	Unfinished Craft	Marie Howard 0415728253	JAM
12.00 - 01.00	Japanese Language & Culture	Suzanne Luder	JAM
01.00 - 03.00	Beginning French	Bernadette Mravljak 0477940877	JAM
THURSDAY			
11.00 - 01.00	Book Club (Monthly - Second Thursday)	Christine Statkiewicz 0477940877	BPC

Venues

AP	Arndell Park Community Centre, Federation Boulevard, Truganina.
HCSC	Hoppers Crossing Sports Club, Hogans Road, Hoppers Crossing.
PH	Private Home: For details please contact the tutor.
SD	Lifestyle Seasons, 13 Sundial Boulevard Tarneit (at the Clubhouse).
SY	Sun Theatre, Yarraville.
TCC	Tarneit Community Centre, c/r Leakes Rd & Sunset Views Boulevard, Tarneit.
UC	Crossroads Uniting Church, Synott St., Werribee.
WCC	Wyndham Park Community Centre, 57 Kookaburra Ave, Werribee.
HRV	Heathglen Retirement Village, Glendale Crt (just off Heath Road), Werribee.
FB	Featherbrook Community Centre, 33- 35 Windorah Drive, Point Cook.
JAM	Jamieson Community Centre, Jamieson Way, Point Cook.
BPC	The Brook, 215 Sneydes Road, Point Cook.
ALTON	Altona Sports Club, 11 Altona Road, Altona.

THIS TRI - CYCLE NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED FOR U3A WERRIBEE BY COURTESY OF TIM PALLAS, MEMBER OF THE VICTORIAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR WERRIBEE.

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