



U3A LOWER NORTH

Sharing Skills and Experience with Friends

DECEMBER 2009 🍷 TERM ONE 2010

University of the Third Age Lower North Incorporated

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Dear Members,

Are you still there, melted away in the heatwave or washed away in the rain? We blamed the heat for low numbers at our AGM but more about that elsewhere.

The purpose of this newsletter is to boast a little about the highlights of Term 4, invite you to join us for lunch at Blyth on Friday 11 December and give you an enrolment form for Term 1, 2010.

Speaking of enrolments, it doesn't matter if you told your group leader you would be continuing or if you have been in your group for 5 years or you made a special mention of it to Val while she was trying to do her weekly shopping, you still **have to formally enrol each term** by filling out the attached form and posting it or by emailing or phoning Val Tilbrook.

This is important for several reasons. Here are some: we have to book ahead and pay for venues; if classes don't attract a minimum number, we may cancel them; if dates, times or venues change, we need to know who to tell; group leaders need to know how many copies of any handouts to print.

Term Four had a number of highlights. The **Pastel Drawing** group once again shone at their Scarlatti's Gallery exhibition. Pity the venue is up for sale.

Walking Group had their moment in the sunshine at the Relay for Life. They proved they could take the heat of competition, winning best mailbox and their banner (work of the talented Elaine Gardner) certainly deserved an award too. Well done to everyone involved. We were very impressed by the team effort.

The highlight speaker for **Environment Matters** was Dean Jaensch. The politics of water was only one topic Dean covered in a wide-ranging address on the ills of Australian politics. He even took time to praise the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council staff for the steps taken to involve a wider and disparate electorate. His main message was for all of us to be more politically aware, less influenced by how our parents voted and instead make decisions with an open mind on current issues. Dean said many Australians are ignorant of their political system and the remedy is to teach politics in secondary schools.

Another speaker who really impressed me was Professor Wayne Meyer. A top class speaker, leader within his field yet connected with grass roots issues, and very approachable, he deserved a bigger audience. Remember, enrolled or not, you are always welcome to drop in, with or without friends, at any of our visiting speaker sessions.

End of Year Lunch & Movie

Friday 11 December will be our final day for the U3A year with lunch, 12 for 12.30, at the Blyth Hall supper room. Bring a plate of finger food suitable for sharing. We will provide the punch and fruit juice.

After lunch and a chance to mingle (please wear name tags), it's on to the air-conditioned cinema for "Is Anybody There?" Set in a small English seaside town in the 1980s, it is the story of 10-year-old Eddie's relationship with a retired magician (Michael Caine), a man with many regrets.

AGM & Fifth Birthday Party

Thank you to everyone who braved the weather, turning up even though they knew we were seeking new officers. Unfortunately we didn't have any volunteers to take on all of the vacant offices which remain to be allocated at our first committee meeting. Newly elected: Dennis Cooper, Elaine Gardner, Nat Yandell.

Our original speaker couldn't make it and former mayor Patricia Jacka stepped in and proved she hasn't lost her talent for public speaking, taking us to Far North Queensland aboard a supply boat calling at Horn and Thursday Islands. It was a great escape from the baking dry day outside.

Officially we farewelled our president and secretary Malcolm and Anne Weddle. As well as their roles on the committee, Anne and Malcolm have been involved in many groups, started and led new ones and taken over others to keep them running. As was said on the day, what a wonderful, vibrant U3A we would have if everyone put in such an effort.

Our 2010 Term One dates

Our first term starts a few days later than schools. We are also finishing early to give you some breathing space before Easter. It still allows for an 8-week term.

Term 1: 1 February to 26 March.

2010 Annual Subscription

We kept annual subs at a modest \$25 and they will fall due in February. Enclose the cheque with your enrolment or pay at the beginning of Term One.

Class charges

As you know, we are all volunteers and make no charge for our services, however, computing has always attracted a small fee to cover room hire.

Other classes had a generous arrangement with free use of any idle TAFE classrooms. Now U3As state-wide must pay TAFE room hire. While negotiating with the State Minister, we have been absorbing these costs and moving some classes away from TAFE. If we cannot convince the Minister to overturn this decision, we may have to ask for a small contribution (e.g. \$2 per session at TAFE) in 2010.

2010 Activities

Gerald Moore's **Pastel Drawing** has become **Art Tutorial, any medium**. It runs for 5 weeks and you can enrol for either Tuesdays, Wednesdays or both. To fill the void, at the end of the 5 weeks, **Art Group** will start on Tuesdays and run till the end of term. We will be considering new venues in Auburn/Watervale.



Our most interesting new course is **Chinese**. Spoken Mandarin to be specific. We had a taster of this with a one-off session and Ron Bevan proved not only knowledgeable but a natural teacher. Learning a language is often listed as an excellent way to keep your brain young and active and, at worst, you might come out being able to say g'day to Wang Wang and Funi when they arrive at Adelaide Zoo.

Seriously, this could be your only chance to sign up for a U3A language course which doesn't require any prior knowledge. While Mandarin has its challenges, it also has massive advantages: no verb tenses is the one which will attract anyone who has struggled with learning all those tenses with European languages.

Everyone will be complete beginners so do make sure you get in on the ground floor. Only a turtle egg would miss out on this golden opportunity. (Why turtle egg? To find out, you will have to enrol.)

Computing: Sue will continue with Word and File Management. (Create a document, make it look exactly how you want and then file it so you can find it again.) How basic it starts and if it extends into inserting pictures into documents and photos in general, will depend on student progress and demand. Fee to cover room hire (\$30) and text book, for those who haven't done the course before, (\$30). Using Windows XP and Word 2003. Sue asks everyone to come with a USB drive (memory stick). Currently the Post Office has 2 gigabyte ones for around \$14.

Film Group is now third Tuesday each month so we can join with Probus and keep numbers viable.

Some of our groups are having an extended break and will not reappear until later in 2010: **Environment, Botany, Artists Studio Visits, Leadlighting**. Others will only go ahead if we receive sufficient enrolments: **Furniture Restoration** in particular. If you mean to do it "one day", enrol now or they might not be around when your "one day" finally arrives.

So happy holidays to everyone but do fill in those forms now so we can start planning.

*See you at Blyth,
Claire*

2009 END OF YEAR PARTY & MOVIE

Please return to: Val Tilbrook by **Friday 4 December** (contact details below).

I will be attending the U3A lunch (12 for 12.15) & movie on Friday 11 December with _____ guests.

Enclosed is payment of \$10 per head. Name: _____

2010: FIRST TERM COURSES

TO ENROL: return this section to Course Co-ordinator, Val Tilbrook, before Friday 22 January at P.O. Box 480, Clare SA 5453, or phone 8842 2376, mobile 0448 183 748, or email valtil@bigpond.com.

Enrol me in the following group/s: _____

Name: _____ Current Member? Yes [] No []

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____ Date of birth: _____

Please tick to receive future newsletters by email [] \$25 subscription enclosed for 2010 []

Suggestion box: _____

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Venues: 'Domain' is Domain Internet Café, Main Street, Clare; 'Tafe' is Clare TAFE campus. Room numbers may change so check board outside front office. We thank Clare TAFE staff for their support. If you have been accepted for a course already, it will be marked in highlighter pen.

Art Tutorial, any medium, Gerald Moore, Tues. & Wed., 9.30 am - 1.30 pm, starts 2 Feb, 5 weeks, Tafe ..

Art Group, Tuesdays 9.30 am - 1 pm, starts 9 March, Tafe.....

Book Group, Greta Handmer, alternate Thursdays, 10.30 am - 12 noon, starts 4 February, Clare Library ..

Chess, Mondays 4 pm starts 1 February at Janet & Peter Witham's, Spring Gully Road, Clare.....

Chinese (basic spoken Mandarin), no prior knowledge required, day and time to be advised.....

Coffee & Chat Club, Wednesdays 10.30 am, starts 3 February venue t.b.a.....

Computing Wednesdays, Sue Mayfield, 10 am - 12 noon, 3 February, 8 wks, Domain

Contract Bridge, Thursdays 3.30 pm, starts 4 February, St Barnabas' hall, experienced players only

Cryptic Crosswords, alternate Thursdays, 10 am - 12 noon, starts 11 February, Domain.....

Film Group, monthly, 3rd Tuesday 1.30 pm, Blyth Cinema.....

***French**, Thursdays, 1.30-3.30 pm, starts 4 February, Domain

Furniture Restoration, Barrie Smith, Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon, starts 3 February, Lakeside

***German Conversation**, Mondays, 2-4 pm, starts 1 February, Domain

History: local & Aust., Val Tilbrook, Fridays, 10 am - 12 noon, starts 5 February, Tafe.....

Mah-jong, Jocelyn Macrow, Wednesdays 2-4 pm, start 3 March, Tafe.....

Mosaics, Halima Northeast, Fri. 10 am - 1 pm, starts 5 February, 9 Kingfisher Drive, Clare.....

Petanque, Malcolm Weddle, Mondays 1.30 - 3.30 pm, starts 1 February, Clare Caravan Park

Walking Group, Greta Handmer 8842 2065, Mondays 8 am, starts 1 February, meet east end Lennon St..

*French and German groups presume some prior learning