



U3A LOWER NORTH

Sharing Skills and Experience with Friends

MARCH 2012



TERM TWO

University of the Third Age Lower North Incorporated

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Dear Members,

Greetings from a warm, dry hollow in the Clare Valley plagued with the presence of European wasps.

This year had an excellent start with two new U3A groups: **Watercolours** with Glenys Christopher and **Quilting** with Lesley Bray.

Only Burra's **Craft** group received insufficient enrolments to proceed but is being offered again this term.

Quilting will continue in Lesley's home at Armagh. Glenys reports the watercolourists are extremely enthusiastic and have all improved a great deal. However Glenys is off to Greece on a painting holiday for part of next term so will just provide a few weeks tuition to the existing students. Plans for Term 3 are yet to be determined and may depend on the size of the waiting list.

There are two new offerings this term. **Classical Music** appreciation will start despite no response to Moira Kleinig's call for a group leader. Such is Moira's passion for the subject, that she is talking on the challenge of presenting it herself, in her own home. I'm sure she would welcome an assistant.

The other group is an initiative by Sally Robertson. We are calling it **Wordplay**. Sally also has a passion to share: a passion for the English language and its little absurdities and foibles and how it can be a powerful weapon when deftly employed. Many U3As have a group for language lovers and it is wonderful that Lower North now has one as well.

We wish all these new offerings and their passionate presenters the best of luck and hope they all grow to become regular features on our course lists.

Sally is shouldering quite a workload this term: guiding the conversation at the Current Affairs discussion group, starting Wordplay, and filling in as computer tutor while Sue Mayfield is off in France.

Earlier this term we held our annual group leaders evening. This is not only our opportunity to say thank you but also gives these important people within U3A an opportunity to get to know the committee and vice versa. This year it was out at Lakeside, the model railway building overlooking Lake Inchiquin. A splendid venue. Thank you to Jan Slann, Beth Smith and everyone else involved, for such a well-run event.

U3A business cards were distributed to the group leaders to help them when answering queries from members of the public. These were so warmly received that we will be ordering another 500.

Thank you to those who made use of the crayons and butchers paper. All suggestions were examined at the next committee meeting. We like to hear members' ideas and anyone can put suggestions on the enrolments forms, talk to or email any committee member.

Changes implemented this year were the whole-of-year enrolment and accepting cash payments at the 2011 break-up lunch and Domain office one day in January. Both these will lighten the load on Val, our Course Convenor. Treasurer, Lynton Phillips, is happy with member response to changed cash handling.

Remember if you enrolled at the beginning of this year in an ongoing class (other than those requiring by-term payment) you are considered enrolled for all of 2012. Please notify Val if you are not continuing or if you want to enrol for additional classes this term.

Amongst our continuing groups, I really must make special mention of the **Film Group**. This term Ian Roberts has provided us with an excellent selection of top-class movies which have all received widespread acclaim, multiple awards and between them cover some interesting times from beginning to end of the last century.

War Horse (8 May) is Stephen Spielberg's epic adventure adapted from what was originally a children's book set before and during World War I.

I can personally recommend **Iron Lady (12 June)** as not only a bravura acting job by Meryl Streep as 80s UK PM Maggie Thatcher but also a moving story of ageing and loss with which we can all identify.

The Artist (10 July) which won five Oscars, is French, set in 1927 Hollywood, in the style of black and white silent flicks of the era and, I'm told, "absolutely brill darling".

Without U3A there wouldn't be local movie matinees for the pleasure of those of us who don't want to venture out in the evenings. You needn't be a U3A member to attend, and you don't have to enrol in the group but it does allow Val to notify you if there are any late changes to the film (always a possibility when dealing with city distributors).

You can attend with non-U3A friends, or arrive alone knowing you will have fellow U3A members to sit with, and if you have no transport, take advantage of car-pooling from Clare. Just ask Val when you enrol. If you really want to make it a day out, meet friends first at the Blyth Hotel for lunch.

Artists Studio Visits leader, Anne Weddle, has only just returned from holidays but promises to have a couple of outings organised by the start of term. Enrol and you will be notified.

The following term they will again take a break as there are so many SALA (South Australian Living Artists) exhibitions throughout the district, 3-26 August. One of those will be the annual **U3A Art Exhibition** which will again be held at Gally's, Farrell Flat. Details are sketchy so far (sorry, I love a pun) but perhaps we could see more involvement by the Mosaics group this year after Halima Northeast trialled three of her pieces in the 2011 exhibition.

Speaking of **Mosaics**, this group has been so successful that it has now split into two groups. Both on Friday, and each of three hours, they must be keeping group leader and host Halima fully occupied.

Computing will witness some changes this term. As mentioned earlier, regular **Clare** tutor Sue Mayfield will be away for part of the term so Sally Robertson has stepped into the breach. Having Sally, a former IT professional, onboard has certainly strengthened our computing team. Claire will once again be making the trek over to **Burra** on Friday afternoons to teach on laptops at the Burra Library.

The Domain computers have continued to present problems this term. Grotty keyboards, glacial operating speed and occasional internet outages have been a real challenge for students and tutors. This follows major headaches circumventing security systems on borrowed Education Department laptops at Burra last year.

To remedy these problems, the committee has made a significant investment by purchasing six U3A laptops. These will be equipped with the latest software and should be in full operation next term.

We hope to utilise these at both Burra and Clare. Now tutors will no doubt have the challenge of familiarising themselves with new software and other teething problems. With computers, if it is not one problem it is another.

While on the topic of Burra, any locals wanting more input in what U3A is doing over there, should phone Catherine Marsson from Nobs n Snobs antique shop on 8892 2743. Catherine would welcome any feedback and we are looking to form a Burra sub-committee to decide new courses and venues.

*See you back in the classroom,
Claire*

2012 U3A Calendar

If meeting outside these dates please inform the committee for insurance reasons.

Newsletter deadline: fifth Monday of each term.

Dates to put in your 2012 diary:

TERM 2: ____ Monday 30 April to Friday 22 June

TERM 3: Monday 23 July to Friday 14 September

TERM 4: Monday 15 October to Fri. 7 December

Annual General Meeting: ____ Friday 2 November

End-of-year lunch & movie: __ Friday 7 December

COMPUTER SCAMS & SPAM: Don't be part of the problem



You may remember 'It Girls' well this is an 'IT (Information Technology) Owl': a wise old bird giving advice on how not to make a goose of yourself online.

To those learning to use computers there is a lot to remember. Just getting it up and running can be challenge enough but there are also basic rules of online safety and etiquette to be observed.

Before forwarding anything to friends, always pause, question, check, and edit.

Pause to examine it carefully.

Questions to ask yourself. Is it true? Will my friends really appreciate receiving it or will it offend, worry or scare them? Will all these photos choke their inbox if they don't have broadband?

Some stories just smell fishy: no exact dates or places where it was supposed to happen, others fraudulently use real people's identity and job title. Can photos lie? Yes, photos can be faked, or perhaps the photo is real but the accompanying story is phoney.

Of those emails providing warnings of coming computer viruses, muggers in car parks, health dangers, etc., 99% are totally bogus.

How to check:

If you haven't yet fully developed your IT BS detector, you can check most of these stories online. Some websites are dedicated to exposing scams and hoaxes.

My first port of call is www.hoax-slayer.com. On the top right-hand-side of the opening page is a little search box into which you can type the essential words, e.g. "Irish tow trucks" and the answer will usually come up, telling you if it is a hoax or not. Scroll down past the adverts for the full story. Another good site to expose myths and urban legends is www.snopes.com.

Warning: Just because an email says it has been proven true by snopes.com or hoax-slayer is no guarantee. After all, if the story is a lie, the authors would lie about that too, wouldn't they?

If neither of those websites can answer your question, just copy and paste a distinctive phrase or sentence word-for-word from the suspect email and put it in your Google search box. True, it will come up with a few sites of foolish people who have unquestioningly attached the hoax to their own blog or webpage, but it also may provide you with more critical thinking. Read the addresses carefully to find one which sounds like a credible source.

Most of us enjoy receiving jokes from our friends but always respect their privacy by deleting all record of their name and address before you pass it on. If a friend sends you an email with the address details of all the previous recipients on display, he/she will show the same lack of regard for your privacy if you send anything in return.

How to edit:

When you receive an email it is locked and you can't add so much as a comma. To edit an existing email, select 'Forward' which will provide an unlocked copy, then delete any unwanted material before pressing 'Send' to pass it on to the next recipient.

You can delete details of previous recipients plus edit the body of the email, removing anything offensive.

Blind Carbon Copy:

If you are passing it on to a whole group of buddies, place their addresses in the 'Bcc' (Blind Carbon Copy) lines instead of the 'To' line or the 'Cc' line. Each addressee will receive a personalised version with no-one else's name and address visible.

There are many other things to be aware of, but for the moment I will just say never believe any email requesting personal or financial details or offering you something for nothing.



Pause, question, check and edit before forwarding emails
Please remove all previous e-mail addresses and use
BCC (blind carbon copy) when you forward emails

2012: SECOND TERM ACTIVITIES

- Art Tutorial**, Gerald Moore, Tues. & Wed., 9.30 am -1.30 pm, starts 15/16 May, 5 weeks, Auburn.....
- Art Group**, Tuesdays 9.30 am -1.30 pm, on non-tutorial days, Auburn
- Artists Studio Visits**, Anne Weddle, to be advised.....
- Book Group**, Greta Handmer, alternate Thursdays, 10.30 am - 12 noon, starts 3 May, Clare Library.....
- Chess**, Tuesdays 2.30 pm, starts 1 May, Trevor & Dee Ware's, Lot 33, Warena Road, Clare
- Chinese** (basic spoken Mandarin), Ron Bevan, Mondays 10 am, starts 30 April, Domain. No vacancies.
- Classical Music**, Moira Kleinig, Thursdays 2 pm, starts 3 May, 2/10 Harriett Street, Clare
- Coffee & Chat Club**, Val Tilbrook, Wednesdays 10.30 am, starts 2 May, venue t.b.a.
- Computing Clare**, Sally Robertson, Wednesdays 10 am – 12 noon, starts 2 May, Domain \$30/term.....
- Computing Burra**, Claire Eglinton, Fridays 2pm, starts 11 May, Burra Library
- Contract Bridge**, Eleanor Thomas, Thursdays 3 pm, starts 3 May, St Barnabas' hall. No beginners.
- Crafts (Card Making & Bead Jewellery)**, Catherine Marsson, Tuesdays 10-12 starts 1 May, Burra.....
- Cryptic Crosswords**, Greta Handmer 8842 2065, alt. Thursdays, 10.30 am, starts 10 May, 25 Edward St, Clare...
- Current Affairs**, Sally Robertson, Tuesdays 10.30 am, starts 1 May, Paris Chat café
- Film Group**, Val Tilbrook, 2nd Tues. of month, 1.30 pm, Blyth Cinema. 8 May, 12 June, 10 July
- *French Back to Basics**, Claire Eglinton, Thursdays, 12-1.15 pm, starts 3 May, Domain
- *French**, Claire Eglinton, Thursdays, 1.30-3.30 pm, starts 3 May, Domain.....
- Furniture Restoration, etc.**, Barrie Smith, Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon, starts 2 May, Lakeside.....
- *German Conversation**, Gunther Bayha, Mondays, 2-4 pm, starts 30 April, Domain
- History: local & Aust.**, Val Tilbrook, Fridays, 10 am - 12 noon, starts 4 May, TAFE, Room 6B.....
- Mah-jong**, Jocelyn Macrow, Wednesdays 2-4 pm, starts 2 May, St Barnabas' Church Hall, Clare.....
- Mosaics**, Halima Northeast, Fri. 9 am – noon, beginners 1-4 pm, starts 4 May, 9 Kingfisher Drive, Clare
- Petanque**, Malcolm Weddle, Mondays 1.30 - 3.30 pm, starts 30 April, Catford Garden
- Quilting**, Lesley Bray, Thursdays, 10-1, at Bray home, Armagh, no vacancies.....
- Scrabble**, Carol Stewart, Mondays 1.15 pm, starts 30 April, St Barnabas' Church Hall, Clare
- Walking Group**, Greta Handmer 8842 2065, Mondays 8 am, starts 30 April, meet east end Lennon St.....
- Watercolours for Beginners**, Glenys Christopher, Mondays 9.30-12.30, Burra, no vacancies
- Wordplay**, Sally Robertson, Tuesdays 2 pm, starts 1 May, 4 Kookaburra Court, Clare.....

*French and German groups presume some prior learning. Venues: 'Domain' is Domain Internet Café, Main Street, Clare; 'Tafe' is Clare TAFE campus; 'Auburn' is Auburn Recreation Park rooms, Saddleworth Road.



PLEASE RETURN *new enrolments to Course Co-ordinator, Val Tilbrook, at P.O. Box 480, Clare SA 5453, or phone 8842 2465, mobile 0448 183 748, or email valtil@bigpond.com. Enrolments accepted until Monday 23 April 2012.*

Enrol me in the following group/s: _____

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

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____ Year of birth: _____

Please tick to receive future newsletters by email [] (only if you have not done so before).

Suggestions: _____

Enclosed is total payment of \$_____

Payment is for (put number of people in the brackets) \$25 membership []; \$30 computing []

All information kept in accordance with U3A Lower North Inc. privacy policy