



U3A LOWER NORTH

Sharing Skills and Experience with Friends

SEPTEMBER 2010 🍁 TERM FOUR

University of the Third Age Lower North Incorporated

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Dear Members,

Greetings from a soggy, boggy hollow in the Clare Valley. I hope that short sunny preview of Spring drew you away from the fire long enough to note the daffodils and early blossom.

Another sign of Spring is Millie Nicholls back to present **Botany**. This class which is primarily about plant identification makes full use of seasonal blooms. A new feature being trialled this term is a digital microscope. No more lining up to peer into a traditional microscope: this one plugs into the computer and everyone will be able to view a specimen at the same time enlarged on the computer screen.

Our botanists might also enjoy the **Native Plants** sessions Ian Roberts will lead over 2 Wednesdays. Meet at the propagation unit at old Blyth hospital.

Are you confused by what may happen when they start transmitting only digital TV signals? Will your screen go blank in December? Must you buy a new TV? We are hosting an information session with Louise Sladdin, the **Digital Switchover** Liaison Officer for this district. This is a one-off session on Tuesday 19 October, 2 pm, TAFE. Bring a friend.

Artists Studio Visits has just one visit but it is a doozy. Thursday 14 October: carpool to city for exhibition by renowned watercolourist Beryl Martin at historic Urrbrae House (built 1891 for Waite family) then tour Waite Arboretum (over 2,000 trees on 30 hectares) guided by expert Jennifer Gardner. Gather 10.45 for 11 am start. May do lunch later.

Film Group has two movies. October 6: the top class production *The Last Station*. This reveals the last days of author Count Leo Tolstoy (Christopher Plummer) who is torn between his disciples and beliefs on private property and his drama-queen wife played superbly by Helen Mirren. Both nominated for Academy Awards for their performances. November 9: a revival screening of the 1999 Australian movie *Paperback Hero* with Hugh Jackman.

Sue Mayfield has deserted her post as dependable computer tutor in favour of a Mediterranean cruise. No accounting for taste! Consequently I have been pulled off the seconds bench, dusted off and put back into harness to mix a few metaphors. It will be **Thursday computing** with Claire. For those who already know the basics of Word, we will be looking at mastering some of the finer points like tabulation, automatic numbering and learning the secrets of making your documents look more professional. \$30.

As I will be back on duty later on Thursdays leading **French**, I have decided to make use of the interval by going back over our Michel Thomas for beginners tapes. This will allow a few of the existing group to revisit the basics and will also be an ideal opportunity for new members to join. The 'beginner' tapes help de-rust your school French. We will call it a sandwich session and you are invited to arrive early, grab a cuppa and munch on lunch as you listen. The usual French group starting at 1.30 will be working on Michel Thomas Advanced and Vocab courses. You are welcome to sit through both classes if you like.

Gerald Moore's **Art Tutorial** starts a week earlier to fit in 5 weeks before other commitments. **Art Group** will follow, starting 16 November, so everyone can continue to meet and practise their skills.

Chinese and **Bridge** continue but unfortunately can't take beginners this term. Any and all newcomers will be very welcome for **Chess** where group numbers, always low, look like dwindling further.

Our rowdy **Book Group** continues meeting at the Clare Library. Tut tut and shush. (They are the only words of librarian that I know.) The **Mah-jong** players are a very positive and enthusiastic group. If you want to find out what the attraction is, you can join them up at St Barnabas' hall where they keep any noisy ways well isolated. **German** is another group of which we hear little but they conscientiously meet every Monday afternoon. Originally native speakers who wanted an excuse to speak the language of their childhood, it now includes some who first learnt a little at school or during their travels.

Petanque is also slowly but steadily building numbers but there is unlimited room for more. The **Walking Group**, led by the ever-energetic Greta Handmer, will be pleased with a change of season and looking forward to less bleak conditions.

Coffee and Chat is now so popular that they must be having problems finding venues big enough. Perennial favourite **Local History**, probably our longest running group, is keeping a toe-hold at Tafe.

I always hear positive reports of **Mosaics** at Halima's and **Cryptic Crosswords** will follow their lead and meet in a private home to avoid room hire.

Our Fourth Term dates

Term 4: Monday 18 October to Friday 10 December (with a few exceptions). Enrol by 11 October.

If you are ever unsure of term dates or events, they are on our website: www.u3alownorth.webs.com.

Future groups

We are looking for expressions of interest to study an **Introduction to Western Philosophy**. The course material will be sourced from U3A Online and presented by Dennis Cooper. If we have sufficient interest it will be sometime next year.

Yet again we are without someone willing to lead an **environment** group. We envisaged a group watching on-line lectures from some international standard speaker and then having a cuppa and discussing the information from the lecture. Anyone else willing to volunteer? Where are all those Green voters?

AGM & Art Exhibition

Our next big event is on Monday 8 November. Nat Yandell and Tom Yeatman are organising our 2010 AGM. There will be, not only a change of venue, but also a dramatic change in format.

This year the AGM will coincide with the opening of the U3A Art Exhibition. It will all take place at Gally's Conference Centre in Farrell Flat. Great chance to check out this quiet little town if, like me, you haven't visited in a few years. Those needing a lift to get out to Farrell Flat, should phone Nat (8842 1017) or Tom (8842 3687).

The afternoon will start promptly at 1 pm with the opening of the exhibition by art tutor Gerald Moore. A glass of wine and chance to admire the art work before we get down to business at 2 pm.

We will need some new faces on the committee so please let us know if you are interested or know someone suitable. We like to have this sorted beforehand so everything runs smoothly on the day.

Martin Smith will be guest speaker this year. Martin is a Mintaro identity, who puts his love of its history into concrete action. Amusing too.

Catered refreshments afterwards so no need to bring a plate (or help with the dishes).

U3A is based on the assumption that everyone will take a share of the workload. In the classroom, not everyone can be a group leader but everyone can take turns at being responsible for putting on the kettle, turning off air conditioners, straightening chairs, etc. Likewise anyone with the ability should be ready to take a turn on the committee. (By the way, we all take holidays and, unless you intend to be away for 3 months at a time, it needn't interfere with you doing your bit.) We set our calendar a year in advance and have shorter terms so everyone can have a life as well as enjoy their U3A work.

End of Year Break-up

Shared Lunch & Movie

Friday 10 December will be our final day for the year with lunch, 12 for 12.30, at the Blyth supper room. Always an excellent opportunity for the whole U3A community to catch up with friends before the holidays. Bring a plate of finger food suitable for sharing. Then it's on to the cinema for *Young at Heart* which one could call ageing to a rock soundtrack. Believe me, you won't want to miss it.

See you back in the classroom,

Claire

2010: FOURTH TERM ACTIVITIES

- Art Tutorial**, Gerald Moore, Tues. & Wed., 9.30 am -1.30 pm, starts 12/13 October, 5 weeks, Auburn ..
- Art Group**, Tuesdays 9.30 am -1.30 pm, starts 16 November, Auburn
- Artists Studio Visit**, Anne Weddle, Thursday 14 October, Urrbrae House
- Book Group**, Greta Handmer, alternate Thursdays, 10.30 am - 12 noon, starts 21 October, Clare Library
- Botany**, Millie Nicholls, Thursdays, 2-4 pm, starts 21 October, 6 weeks, Essington Mews
- Chess**, Mondays 4 pm, starts 18 October at Janet & Peter Witham's, Spring Gully Road, Clare
- Chinese** (basic spoken Mandarin), Mondays 10 am, starts 18 October, Domain. No vacancies.....
- Coffee & Chat Club**, Wednesdays 10.30 am, starts 20 October venue t.b.a.
- Computing Thursdays**, Claire Eglinton, 9.30 am - 11.30 am, starts 21 October, Domain \$30
- Contract Bridge**, Eleanor Thomas, Thursdays 3 pm, starts 21 October, St Barnabas' hall. No beginners.
- Cryptic Crosswords**, Greta Handmer 8842 2065, alt. Thursdays, 10.30 am, starts 28 Oct, 25 Edward St
- Digital TV Information session**, Louise Sladdin, TAFE, 2 pm, Tuesday 19 October
- Film Group**, monthly, 1.30 pm, Blyth Cinema. 5 Oct. *The Last Station*; 9 Nov. *Paperback Hero*.....
- *French Back to Basics**, Thursdays, 12-1.15 pm, starts 21 October, Domain
- *French**, Thursdays, 1.30-3.30 pm, starts 21 October, Domain.....
- Furniture Restoration**, Barrie Smith, Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon, starts 20 October, Lakeside.....
- *German Conversation**, Mondays, 2-4 pm, starts 21 October, Domain
- History: local & Aust.**, Val Tilbrook, Fridays, 10 am - 12 noon, starts 15 October, Tafe
- Mah-jong**, Jocelyn Macrow, Wednesdays 2-4 pm, start 20 October, St Barnabas' hall.....
- Mosaics**, Halima Northeast, Fri. 10 am - 1 pm, starts 22 October, 9 Kingfisher Drive, Clare
- Native Plant Workshop**, Ian Roberts, Wednesdays, 10 am, 20 & 27 October, Blyth.....
- Petanque**, Malcolm Weddle, Mondays 1.30 - 3.30 pm, starts 18 October, Catford Garden.....
- Walking Group**, Greta Handmer 8842 2065, Mondays 8 am, starts 18 October, meet east end Lennon St

*French and German groups presume some prior learning

Venues: 'Domain' is Domain Internet Café, Main Street, Clare; 'Tafe' is Clare TAFE campus. Room numbers may change so check board outside front office. 'Auburn' is Auburn Recreation Park rooms, Saddleworth Road.

We thank Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council and TAFE for their support providing venues for our activities.



TO ENROL: *return this section to Course Co-ordinator, Val Tilbrook, before Monday 11 October at P.O. Box 480, Clare SA 5453, or phone 8842 2465, 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: _____ Year of birth: _____

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

Suggestions: _____

Computer students please enclose \$30 with enrolment to cover room hire.

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

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It's Academic Addictive

The new SBS *Letters and Numbers*, compered by veteran Richard Morecroft, may be a bit basic and stilted but will appeal to anyone who likes to exercise their brain and can't stand the shrill greed and dumbing down of quiz shows on commercial stations. Monday to Friday 6pm., repeats 3.30pm.

The UK version first aired in 1982 and over fifty series have been broadcast since. With over 5,000 episodes, it is one of the longest-running game shows in the world, along with the original French version *Des chiffres et des lettres* which has run since 1965.

Pity it has taken so long to have an Australian version. It attracts international (!) Scrabble players and obviously has a policy of promoting common courtesy: an increasingly uncommon commodity these days.

Stroke Week

Did you realise Stroke is second only to heart disease as our biggest killer. That is why U3A Lower North has been distributing material showing the warning symptoms. We selected ones which are easy to keep on hand (bookmarks and cards to fit in wallets) so please keep them and memorise the contents. The message is, if you realise someone is having a stroke, act FAST and call 000. FAST stands for Facial weakness (can they smile, has the mouth or eye drooped?); Arm weakness (can they raise both arms?); Speech difficulty (can they speak clearly and understand what you say?); T stands for Time to act fast and call 000 immediately if the person displays any of those three groups of symptoms.

Computer books

Have you been to our computer courses, and now have a text book surplus to requirements? If you return it to us, we can recycle it to new students.

Speaking of computer books. Have you noticed the Clare Library has a couple in stock with the U3A logo on the cover. The 'Older and Wiser' range of books is endorsed by the Third Age Trust which is the national network of U3As in the UK. They are easily recognizable by the owl on the cover. The one I thought most valuable was titled 'Computing with Windows 7 for the Older and Wiser'. It had useful information in an easy-to-read, jargon-free style.

Borrowing from a library is always better than buying as computer books start going out of date from the day they are printed.

[We are lucky our text books are so simple that they are just holding their own but most important is the CD of exercises which they contain. By having exercises already typed up, everyone is kept on an equal footing and the class is rarely held up waiting for the non-typists to painstakingly enter data.]

Mrs Malaprop lives

A worker in customer service at Vision Australia received a call from a lady who said she had been diagnosed with something that sounded like 'immaculate conception'. After some discussion, she agreed that it was probably macular degeneration, a leading cause of vision loss for people aged over 75. After further discussion, she agreed to call back after she talked to her 'optimist'.

Monday 8 November

U3A Art Exhibition

Official Opening by Gerald Moore at 1 pm

U3A Annual General Meeting

Starts at 2 pm

Guest speaker: Martin Smith

Afternoon Tea by Gally's to follow

Gally's Convention Centre, Farrell Flat

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