



U3A LOWER NORTH

Sharing Skills and Experience with Friends

DECEMBER 2010 🍁 TERM ONE 2011

University of the Third Age Lower North Incorporated

🍁 Post Office Box 480, Clare, South Australia, 5453 🍁

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Dear Members,

Greetings from a lushly blooming hollow in the Clare Valley where the weeds are as high as an elephant's eye and the slasher's buzz reaches the ear.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Farrell Flat double-header of AGM hidden within an art exhibition. What a talented mob our art group contains. It was appropriate that Gerald Moore opened proceedings as it is under his guidance that all this talent has blossomed. This is their third annual exhibition and will continue at Gally's meeting house, Farrell Flat, until Christmas.

There is also some new talent on the committee. Clare locals Beth Smith and Pat Ballantyne along with Burra members Garry McDonald and Catherine Marsson are adding their considerable talents and energy to our management committee. They seem to be a very cheerful and friendly crew and Val, Justin, Lynton and myself are looking forward to a positive year. It is good that Garry and Catherine give some balance as, apart from Mintaro's Justin Brady, it was beginning to look a little Clare-centric.

Apologies to Jan Slann who wanted to join but was prevented by a bit of confusion at the AGM from which she was unavoidably absent. We will, no doubt, be welcoming Jan to a sub-committee during the year. Pat Ballantyne originally joined pro-tem but has decided she likes us enough to stick around.

The committee has a diverse range of interests so is widely represented amongst U3A groups. Must admit

the French group is fighting above its weight. Despite its small size, over the years it has provided a significant proportion of the committee. Our French might be lousy but we certainly foster *esprit de corps*.

Obviously the Chinese group also has a few laughs. They provided the entertainment at the close of our AGM. Lynton donned his guitar and Ron Bevan led Joey Duncan, Iris Gibbins and Pam Murray in a Mandarin version of Baa Baa Black Sheep. Just the right note of silliness to end the meeting.

End of Year Lunch & Movie

Friday 10 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 "Young at Heart" Brace yourselves for something different. I'm told it can best be described as ageing to a rock and roll soundtrack.

The annual trek down to Blyth has become quite a ritual and an excellent way to round off the year. A chance for each of us to catch up with members of the other U3A groups and enjoy a good gossip before seeing what entertainment Ian Roberts has planned for us.

All the committee are looking forward to seeing you there, so phone Lynton or Val if you need a lift.

Please get your bookings to Val A.S.A.P.

Sue Mayfield has returned refreshed from her Mediterranean cruise ready to present **Wednesday Computing**. Sue would like to know what you want the course to cover (email, internet, Word, photos). Please tell Sue what software and program versions you have. You can talk to Sue direct on 8842 3230 or email susanjcmayfield@hotmail.com. \$30 room hire.

Have you ever wanted to try golf? You are invited to have a go at Clare **Golf Club**, 10 am on Tuesday 22 February. Other times by arrangement. No equipment required, just a hat and sunscreen.

Scrabble is another new group which will go ahead if we have sufficient enrolments. Day and time will be set when we know wishes of those enrolling.

Barrie Smith has expanded his course title to include **Furniture Restoration, French Polishing and Woodwork**. Obviously a man of many talents, Barrie is so good at giving people the knowledge they need to tackle their restoration projects, that he is always looking for new students to fill the places of those who now know it all and have flown the coop.

Last term's two **French classes**, back to back, have been such a success that we have decided to continue the concept. Start at 12 noon with Michel Thomas for beginners tapes. This allows a few of us to revisit the basics and is also an opportunity for new members to join. The 'beginner' tapes help de-rust your school French. We 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. (Perhaps we need Barrie Smith to polish our French.)

Gerald Moore's **Art Tutorial** is back for another 5 weeks. **Art Group** will fill the rest of term so everyone can still meet and practise their skills.

Chinese continues into its second year and Ron Bevan has taken the brave step of offering to take new students this term. The door of opportunity will no doubt close again until at least 2012 so don't miss it.

Bridge continues under the guidance of Eleanor Thomas. Newcomers will be very welcome for **Chess** which meets at Solsken on Spring Gully Road..

Mah-jong may see some changes. Tutor Jocelyn Macrow may be handing over the reins to Pam Mitchell as employment priorities change next year. Just shows all leaders need to be grooming a back-up. Even with such an excellent replacement, we will be sorry if we lose Jocelyn's cheery face.

German has been in recess during the last term with

stalwarts Gunther and Margaret having more pressing priorities. Margaret has had an extended stay in hospital but we hope she will be back fighting fit in the new year.

Petanque players meet at Catford Garden (Clare Caravan Park) and always welcome new members.

The **Walking Group**, will be keen to work off all the Christmas dinners. They have a heat rule so even in summer it is always a pleasure, never a punishment.

Film Group is moving back to second Tuesday of the month for First Term. No titles chosen yet.

Val will advise the **Coffee and Chat** crowd of the venues in the new year. **Local History**, had an outing to exotic Spalding this term. One hardly dares think where they will venture next. Seriously, it was a good day out with a stop at the local pub for lunch.

Fridays at Halima's home for **Mosaics** has acquired a name for morning tea and socialising. **Cryptic Crosswords** will continue meeting at Greta's near the Clare Primary School but the **Book Group** will carry on injecting some liveliness into the Clare Library.

Burra groups

There have been some enthusiastic suggestions from Burra residents about how they can fit in with existing groups or replicate them in Burra.

There was some early interest for Mah-jong, Petanque, Mosaics, and Computing. Another possibility is building on local talent in the fields of drama and creative writing. So much depends on finding out the talents and passions of Burraiters. If Creative Writing gets started, the road to Burra could definitely be a two-way street with some Clare locals making the trip over.

Venues

Changes to U3A venues are keeping us all on the hop. We were just enjoying the privilege of having free use of Essington Mews but that has ceased as it is now required for residents.

The office at the Domain (kindly provided by the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council) is available for small groups but 7 is probably the limit on how many can use it in comfort.

We are always glad to hear of members' suggestions for venues, activities and, of course, tutors.

Happy holidays to everyone but do fill in those forms now so we can continue planning a great 2011.

*See you at Blyth,
Claire*

Petanque

As we have so many petanque players, I thought you might like this information which I found on my favourite French language website, at About.com. I can't remember if the rules are how we play it as I have vague memories of playing with 2 or 4 balls.

Boules refers to a group of related games beloved all over France, but especially in the south. In Provence, the game is called pétanque, from the Provençal term pèd tanco (foot stuck [to the ground]).

The rules of the game are pretty simple: you start by throwing the cochonnet (literally, "piglet"), a small wooden ball, about 5-10 meters (approximately 16 to 31 feet). Each player has two or three boules made of engraved steel which weigh between 650 and 800 grams (23 to 28 ounces), and the object is to have your balls as close as possible to the cochonnet.*

The players take turn throwing their balls, and they basically have two choices: either try to put them next to the cochonnet, or use them to knock their adversaries' balls away from it.

**When there are two players, they each have three balls; when there are at least three players, they only have two.*

Our 2011 Term One dates

Our first term starts a few days later than schools. We are also finishing early giving you some breathing space before Easter. It still allows for a 9-week term. Term 1: Monday 7 February to Friday 8 April.

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

2011 Annual Subscription

We kept annual subs at a modest \$25 and they will fall due in February. Why not enclose cheque with your enrolment or End of Year Break-up booking and you won't need a reminder in the New Year. Speaking of payments, it would streamline our processes considerably if cheques were posted to The Treasurer, PO Box 480, Clare, 5453. Having a committee member turn up at classes to take cash payments is not very efficient and quite an imposition if it requires several visits and people expecting change.

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Did you notice: the Roman numerals for forty are XL.

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Ageing: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Friday 10 December

End of Year Break-up

Lunch & Movie

Lunch 12 for 12.30 pm

Movie: 'Young at Heart'

\$10 a head, Please contact Val to book

Booking slip over page below enrolment slip

Blyth Supper Room & Blyth Cinema

2011: FIRST TERM ACTIVITIES

- Art Tutorial**, Gerald Moore, Tues. & Wed., 9.30 am -1.30 pm, starts 8/9 February, 5 weeks, Auburn.....
- Art Group**, Tuesdays 9.30 am -1.30 pm, starts 15 March, Auburn.....
- Book Group**, Greta Handmer, alternate Thursdays, 10.30 am - 12 noon, starts 10 Feb, Clare Library.....
- Chess**, Mondays 4 pm, starts 7 February, Janet & Peter Witham's, Solsken, Spring Gully Road, Clare....
- Chinese** (basic spoken Mandarin), Mondays 10 am, starts 7 February, Domain. Beginners accepted.
- Coffee & Chat Club**, Wednesdays 10.30 am, starts 9 February venue t.b.a.....
- Computing Wednesdays**, Sue Mayfield, 10 am - 12, starts 9 February, Domain \$30 room hire
- Contract Bridge**, Eleanor Thomas, Thursdays 3 pm, starts 10 Feb., St Barnabas' hall. No beginners.
- Cryptic Crosswords**, Greta Handmer 8842 2065, alt. Thursdays, 10.30 am, starts 17 Feb, 25 Edward St
- Film Group**, second Tuesday of month, 1.30 pm, Blyth Cinema. tba.....
- *French Back to Basics**, Thursdays, 12-1.15 pm, starts 10 February, Domain.....
- *French**, Thursdays, 1.30-3.30 pm, starts 10 February, Domain
- Furniture Restoration, etc.**, Barrie Smith, Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon, starts 9 February, Lakeside ...
- *German Conversation**, Mondays, 2-4 pm, starts 7 February Domain
- Golf**, one day trial, Clare Golf Club, 10 am, Tuesday 22 February
- History: local & Aust.**, Val Tilbrook, Fridays, 10 am - 12 noon, starts 11 February, Tafe.....
- Mah-jong**, Wednesdays 2-4 pm, starts 9 February, St Barnabas' Hall.....
- Mosaics**, Halima Northeast, Fri. 10 am - 1 pm, starts 11 February, 9 Kingfisher Drive, Clare.....
- Petanque**, Malcolm Weddle, Mondays 1.30 - 3.30 pm, starts 7 February, Catford Garden
- Scrabble**, time and date to be arranged, dependent on enrolments
- Walking Group**, Greta Handmer 8842 2065, Mondays 8 am, starts 7 February, 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; 'Auburn' is Auburn Recreation Park rooms, Saddleworth Road.



TO ENROL: *return this section to Course Co-ordinator, Val Tilbrook, before Tuesday 1 February 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: _____

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



2010 END OF YEAR PARTY & MOVIE

Please phone or return to: Val Tilbrook by Friday 3 December

I will be attending the U3A lunch (12 for 12.30) & movie on Friday 10 December with _____ guests.

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