



U3A LOWER NORTH

Sharing Skills and Experience with Friends

DECEMBER 2013 🍷 TERM ONE 2014

University of the Third Age Lower North Incorporated

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Dear Members,

Greetings from a weedy, neglected hollow in the Clare Valley where the peace is only disrupted by the slasher, mower and occasional screams of *Snake!*

This issue is being rushed to you so you can book for our end of year lunch and film. See details opposite.

The AGM ran smoothly and professionally with all positions receiving nominations prior to the event so there was no need to call for nominations from the floor. It does mean members can attend free of any fear of being pressganged into a job.

Two new faces on the committee: Peter Wood is now treasurer and Quentin Fleming committee person.

Outgoing treasurer Ashleigh Ratcliffe gave an outstanding financial report. You have to love a man who can whip up a good pie graph. (A skill he taught in his computing course this year.)

Our scheduled speaker was a late scratching but at short notice Dianne Richardson and Millie Nicholls saved the day with two cracking speeches. Di shared her enthusiasm for tracing her family tree, a skill she teaches in her Ancestry.com personalised sessions. Millie gripped us with a convict tale from the 1700s involving counterfeiting, sentence of strangulation then burning (only the guys got the gallows), a last minute reprieve thanks to a mad king regaining his senses then transportation on the Lady Juliana, made infamous in the book *The Floating Brothel*.

A great day topped off by a generous afternoon tea.

End of Year Lunch & Film

Friday 6 December will be our final day for the U3A year with lunch, 12 for 12.30, at the Blyth Hall supper room. Please bring a generous plate of finger food suitable for sharing. We will provide the soft drinks. BYO booze if you prefer.

After lunch and a chance to mingle (please wear name tags), it's on to the air-conditioned cinema for *The Great Gatsby*. F. Scott Fitzgerald's famous novel, published in 1925 has inspired many films. This is the razzle-dazzle Baz Luhrmann version with Leonardo DiCaprio as Gatsby, Carey Mulligan as Daisy, Joel Edgerton as her faithless husband Tom, and Tobey Maguire as Nick, through whose observant eyes the story unfolds. Most Luhrmann films deserve to be viewed on the big screen.

Note the change in pricing back to the old \$10. We will still have paid help in the kitchen but the reduced price is thanks to a generous donation by the quilting group. U3A quilters raffled one of their lap rugs and donated \$500 to subsidise our end of year celebrations. That's the U3A spirit.

This opportunity to catch up with everyone and thank group leaders, who will be our guests, is an excellent way to round off the U3A year.

All the committee are looking forward to seeing you there, so **please get your bookings to Val or Beth as soon as possible** and mention if you need a lift. (Just attending the lunch or the movie is an option.)

WHY DO A COMPUTER CLASS?

Stop dementia! Computer use is good for your brain.

WA University research discovered (after an 8 year study of more than 5,000 men aged 65-85) that the risk of dementia is about 30 to 40% less among those who use computers than among those who do not.

Sue Mayfield said if everyone knew that, her computer class would be overflowing. Well, now you know, what are YOU going to do about it?

This term Sue's class spent a session at the Clare library learning how to log into the free wifi internet, an invaluable ability when travelling.

USING YOUR COMPUTER SKILLS

Here is something for those of you with computer skills who are looking for a way to use them.

Helen Perry from the Regional History Group is offering training in how to use the history collection housed upstairs in the Clare Town Hall. The dual aim is to equip people to do their own personal research and to train possible volunteers.

Helen says those wishing to enrol will need a strong level of computer use, including internet.

This will be offered for one term only. The 8 sessions will cover: an introduction to the collection and catalogue; basic family history enquiry; using newspapers, including Trove; local government, church and school records; photos and scans; land history, miscellany (a guide to their boxes); old style storage to new.

This is an excellent opportunity for those who were inspired by our AGM speakers and want to research the local history of their family.

STAYING ACTIVE

Our motto is "Staying active: mentally, physically and socially" so it is with great pleasure we welcome two groups in the staying physically active category.

For many years Chris Roberts has conducted exercise classes catering for all levels of fitness at the St Johns rooms (adjacent police station). Chris and her existing students have moved under the U3A umbrella and from 2014 are official U3A groups.

They will continue at the same venue on Tuesday mornings. There is a 9 am session and then for the less physically mobile there is a 10 am session of chair exercises.

ODDMENTS

Barrie Smith's group has vacancies for new members. For the sake of brevity we refer to it as **furniture restoration** but Barrie also covers general wood-working and French polishing in his Blyth workshop. One student transformed old vat planks into a smart cheese board so you don't need a piece of antique furniture to take advantage of Barrie's know-how.

Creative writing group promised for 2014. Did the recent Clare Valley Writers Festival inspire you to take up a pen? In second term of 2014 Meredith Appleyard, one of the festival organisers, has promised to lead a U3A Creative Writing class.

Drumbeat: Jungle tom-toms say John Monten's drumming group is thumping great fun.

Sadly the **Burra Watercolours** group, has come to an end. Our thanks to tutor Glenys Christopher who will be much missed. Burra used to be absolutely teeming with artists so it would be great if someone else took the baton.

Mosaics is back in 2014 but Halima has capped it at 4 sessions a term.

Petanque and **Chess** groups are both seeking more players to remain viable.

It is too far away to know what films will be available for our **Film Group** but if you enrol, Val will notify you ahead of time. They had some great titles in 2013.

A second **Contract Bridge** group has started to concentrate on the needs of beginners to this game. It follows on immediately after the existing group.

Quilting group have suggested another fundraising raffle in 2014 but this year they would like Mosaics and Gerald's Art Group involved. If we are all to benefit through a subsidised end-of-year lunch, perhaps we should all take a hand in ticket selling.

Group Leaders have a date to put in their 2014 diary. We will be having our annual catch-up between committee and group leaders on Monday 24 February.

We liked last year's format so much, we will be duplicating that for 2014: same venue, same cook but how about some extra guests this time.

Best wishes for the festive season and fill in those forms so we can continue working on a great 2014.

*See you at Blyth,
Claire*

SNAP! ACTION PICTURES WIN

Pat Ballantyne once again was judge of our **photo contest** announcing the winner at the AGM.

Many entries received a special mention including one of the Petanque guys, an imaginative tableau formed by Barry Smith's woodworkers and a photo of a geology field trip where Steve Wicks was pointing out the strata exposed in a road cutting. However it was a series of snaps by Doreen Woods of the quilting group in action which took Pat's eye and the prize.

Pat summed it up perfectly: "This is a great tradition, women working together, co-operatively. Planning, discussing options, being focussed but sometimes indulging in a bit of gossip. Handling the work delicately and respecting everyone's contribution."

QUESTIONNAIRES

The result of the questionnaires circulated with last edition of this newsletter were overwhelming positive but unfortunately not a great number were returned.

If you still haven't returned yours, there is a final opportunity at the end-of-year lunch.

Some of the suggestions were for more and better publicised bus trips, a choral group, pilates, tai chi, ukelele group and pooled lunch gatherings. However none came with suggestions on who might lead these groups. If you have any ideas or would like to volunteer yourself, let the committee know. I rather like the idea of a monthly pub lunch group.

2014 U3A CALENDAR

Our year is based on four 8-week terms to allow big gaps for you to schedule your holidays because we know that is top priority for many of our members.

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

Newsletter deadline: fifth Monday of each term.

NB: Some terms end on a Monday so no group will be short-changed by mid-term public holidays.

TERM 1: Monday 3 February to Monday 31 March

Group Leaders Evening: _____ Monday 24 February

TERM 2: _____ Monday 5 May to Monday 30 June

TERM 3: _ Monday 28 July to Friday 19 September

TERM 4: __ Monday 13 October to Fri. 5 December

Annual General Meeting: _____ Friday 7 November

End-of-year lunch & movie: ____ Friday 5 December

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE

Still a bargain at \$25, membership fees fall due in February. Enclose payment with your enrolment or end-of-year lunch booking and you won't need a reminder in the New Year. Payments can be made at the lunch before 12.15 (place exact money and completed booking slip inside an envelope); OR post cheques made out to 'U3A Lower North Inc.' to PO Box 480, Clare, 5453; OR the treasurer will be in the Domain office on Friday 17 January 2014, from 10 am to 2 pm accepting payments in person.

End-of-Year Break-up Lunch & Film

Friday 6 December 2013

Blyth Supper Room & Blyth Cinema

Film: 'The Great Gatsby'

Lunch 12 for 12.30 pm (Payments to be completed before 12.15)

Please bring a generous plate of finger food to share

\$10 a head, contact Val or Beth to book (mention if you need transport)

\$2 option for lunch only, or \$8 for movie only. Booking slip over page with enrolment



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SENIORS CARD

2014: FIRST TERM ACTIVITIES

- Ancestry** via ancestry.com, Diane Richardson, organise time with Diane on 8842 2832
- Art**, Gerald Moore, Wed., 9.30 am -1.30 pm, starts 5 February, Auburn Recreation Park
- Book Group**, Greta Handmer, alternate Thursdays, 10.30 am - 12 noon, starts 6 Feb., Clare Library
- Chess**, Tuesdays 3pm, starts 4 February, Domain, 204 Main St, Clare
- Chinese** (basic spoken Mandarin), Ron Bevan, Mondays 10 am, starts 3 February, Domain
- Classical Music**, Moira Kleinig, 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday, 2 pm, starts 6 February, 2/10 Harriett St, Clare
- Coffee & Chat Club**, Val Tilbrook, Wednesdays 10.30 am, starts 5 February, venue tba
- Computing I**, Sue Mayfield, Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon, starts 5 February, Domain \$30/term
- Computing I**, Quentin Fleming, Tuesdays 12.45-2.45 pm, starts 4 February, Domain \$30/term.....
- Contract Bridge**, Eleanor Thomas, Thursdays 2-3 pm, starts 6 Feb., St Barnabas' Church hall.....
- Contract Bridge for beginners**, Thursdays 3 pm, starts 6 Feb., St Barnabas' Church hall.
- Cryptic Crosswords**, Greta Handmer, alt. Thursdays, 10.30 am, starts 13 Feb, 25 Edward St.....
- Drumbeat**, John Monten, Mondays 10 am, starts 3 February, St Barnabas Church Hall, Clare
- Exercise for Strength I**, Chris Roberts, Tuesdays 9am-10am, begins 18 February in St John's rooms
- Exercise for Strength II**, Chris Roberts, Tuesdays 10am-11am, begins 18 February in St John's rooms
- Film Group**, Val Tilbrook, 2nd Tues. of month, 2 pm, Blyth Cinema. 11 Feb. film tba.....
- *French Back to Basics**, Claire Eglinton, Thursdays, 12-1.15 pm, starts 6 February, Domain
- *French**, Claire Eglinton, Thursdays, 1.30-3.30 pm, starts 6 February, Domain.....
- Furniture Restoration, etc.**, Barrie Smith, Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon, starts 5 February, Blyth
- Geology**, Steve Wicks will not resume until Term 2
- History: local & Aust.**, Val Tilbrook, Fridays, 10 am - 12 noon, starts 7 February, St Barnabas' Church hall.....
- History Research**, Helen Perry, upstairs Clare Town Hall, Fridays 10 am - 12 noon, starts 7 Feb.....
- Mah-jong**, Jocelyn Macrow, Wednesdays 2-4 pm, starts 5 February, St Barnabas' Church hall, Clare.....
- Mosaics I**, Halima Northeast, Fri. 9.30 am - noon, starts 7 February, 9 Kingfisher Drive, Clare, 4 weeks only
- Mosaics II**, Halima Northeast, Fri. 1 - 4 pm, starts 7 February, 9 Kingfisher Drive, Clare, 4 weeks only
- Petanque**, Malcolm Weddle, Mondays 1.30 - 3.30 pm, starts 3 February, Catford Garden, Clare.....
- Quilting**, Lesley Bray, Thursdays, 10-1, starts 3 Feb., St Barnabas' Church hall, Clare
- Scrabble**, Carol Stewart, Mondays 1.15 pm, starts 3 February, St Barnabas' Church hall, Clare
- Walking Group**, Greta Handmer 8842 2065, Mondays 8 am, starts 3 February, meet east end Lennon St.....

*French groups presume some prior learning.



PLEASE RETURN *lunch & film bookings to Course Co-ordinator, Val Tilbrook, by Monday 2 December 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 20 January 2014.*

Enrol me in the following group/s: _____

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

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____ Year of birth: _____ Country of origin _____

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

2013 END OF YEAR LUNCH & FILM

I will be attending the U3A lunch (12 for 12.30) & film on Friday 6 December with _____ guests.

If paying at event (before 12.15 please), put this slip and exact money in envelope to speed processing.

Enclosed is total payment of \$ _____ This is for (put number of people in the brackets)

\$25 membership []; \$2 lunch only []; \$8 film only []; \$30 computing []

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