



U3A LOWER NORTH

Sharing Skills and Experience with Friends

SEPTEMBER 2015 🍷 **TERM FOUR**

University of the Third Age Lower North Incorporated

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Dear Members,

Greetings from a soggy hollow in the Clare Valley where someone managed to bog my previously unsinkable Missus Zippy.

This issue contains news on our busy fourth term including some of our favourite 'occasional' groups.

Last year Sue Mayfield trialled an innovative short course which combined several of our tutors along with some good old Spring sunshine and fresh air. It is back using different venues. (See box at right.)

Another group which is relying on Spring sunshine and fresh air to entice enrolments is **Petanque** (French bowls). It has been on the shelf but is listed again because it is such a lovely excuse to get out and enjoy some gentle activity amongst the green lawns and magnificent gums in Catford Gardens. Only new enrolments will see it happen as a few retirements had left its numbers unviable. No need to purchase any equipment, just put your hand up.

Obviously everyone enjoyed last term's new courses, **Meditation** with Anne Smith and **Irish Language and Culture** with Ian Bails, as they are scheduled to continue in Term 4.

Ian Trengove is making a return with more **Photography** advice.

Unfortunately we couldn't lure back our **Creative Writing** teacher and **Film Appreciation** will take a break while our group leader does his impression of a farmer. (In term 3 we took a good look at the Coen brothers' *Fargo* to get a taste of their anti-Hollywood style aka 'Taking the Mickey out of Minnesota'.)

SPRING SPECIAL: BOOK EARLY

This Spring we will build on a group from last year when a new course combined learning with getting outside to enjoy great Spring weather, stretch our legs, commune with nature and occasionally finish up having coffee with new friends.

We met at various locations on the **Riesling Trail** with experts in the field of **botany**, **geology**, **bird watching** and the **history** of the track. There wasn't too much walking involved, more like short strolls, but we did receive a lovely introduction to the Trail. I had never realised it had so many sculptures. A highlight for me was geologist Steve Wicks pointing out the folds of the Valley's rock layers exposed in one of the rail cuttings. Unfortunately I didn't have time to go off with the birdwatching group which will now be led by Dave Donato. Dave was the author of the excellent brochure on Trail birdlife.

Sue Mayfield says this year will involve more walking and will include Spring Gully Conservation Park, Gleeson Wetlands (where Pat Williams will talk about the Japanese Torii friendship gate), Pink's Reserve and the Blyth Lomandra Walking Trail.

Walks start 9 am, Monday 19 October, at the car park, eastern end of Lennon Street, and will continue for 4 or 5 sessions.

This is about raising awareness and appreciation of what can be experienced on local trails and reserves. It should enrich every walk you take in the future whether alone or sharing your new knowledge with grandchildren.

Knitting and Crocheting are much more enjoyable when done in company. This group (beginners and experienced) started with just one person, has flourished and sometimes overflows its usual room.

Computing is reduced to one class as Quentin Fleming was finding two consecutive days too demanding. Quentin's forte is the technical side and knowing what to do when 'computer says no'.

FRENCH FRESH START

Next term, both French groups will start from scratch. This makes it an ideal time for new people to join. It is sometimes difficult for new members entering a group which is part-way through a course but neither is it feasible for long-term members to go back to lesson one whenever a new person enrolls.

French Back to Basics is intended to de-rust the brains of those who studied French at school. It is based on listening and responding to an audio course. (Theoretically it can be used by total beginners but that takes extra effort and time. Yes, homework.)

The main **French** group has kept some of its original members from the very beginning in 2007. Each year the gulf between the two groups widens so it became increasingly difficult to make the transition.

To overcome this problem, we will be making the second class less ambitious and basing it on the audio series which immediately follows the basics course.

It would require five or so groups to satisfy the range of competency however, with limited student numbers and group leaders, we will make the most of just two.

While these groups are about learning to speak French rather than memorising a few tourist phrases, now we can hook up the wall-mounted TV to the internet, we occasionally liven up lessons by watching video clips with survival skills for travellers.

AGM CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Everyone is invited to our Annual General Meeting and afternoon tea in the Barbara J. Long room at Clare Town Hall at 2 pm on Friday 6 November.

This year our guest speaker is the very entertaining Mintaro identity Dave Prior. We haven't tied Dave down to any specific topic but I expect it might cover his childhood on Hamilton Downs Station, Alice Springs and his career in entertainment and radio. He does plan on bringing along his guitar which opens up all sorts of possibilities. (Some of you may remember meeting Dave's delightful wife, Jen Penglase Prior when she opened our art exhibition in 2013.)

Photography competition entries will be projected onto the walls and the lucky winner announced. Many groups have yet to enter so don't leave it too late.

The AGM will be the first in our history when Val Tilbrook will not be standing as course coordinator. Val has taken on this time-consuming position since our launch and we hope lots of you will come along and applaud that contribution.

Fear not, we have an experienced committee member who has volunteered to take on this job however there are plenty of other vacancies for willing helpers. Seven of the 8 committee positions are up for election this year. At least two of those would like to retire.

Our committee members make a great contribution to our success and they should feel free to retire when it is convenient to them rather than hang on because others won't contribute. If you are interested in nominating for a position, talk to me or secretary Beth Smith. All entries should be in the hands of the secretary by 5 pm on the previous Friday.

This is a great opportunity for a couple of members to step forward and become part of the invaluable team which runs U3A Lower North. U3A exists because people volunteer their talents to make the organisation function, whether it be as group leaders, tea makers or committee people. For the last couple of years the committee has been quite a smooth-running machine but sometimes we are short on helpers. U3As always need new hands coming aboard to learn the ropes.

END-OF-YEAR PARTY

Once again we will celebrate our end of year with a shared lunch at Blyth followed by a movie. We haven't finalised which movie yet but so far the hot favourite is *The Intern*, a comedy starring Oscar-winners Anne Hathaway and Robert De Niro.

We may find a lot to identify with in this story of generational differences when, dissatisfied with retirement, a 70-year-old widower (De Niro in full charm mode) returns to the work force.

IMPORTANT DATES

TERM 4: Monday 12 October to Fri. 4 December

Annual General Meeting: Friday 6 November

End-of-year lunch and movie: Friday 4 December

Do enjoy the inter-term break and remember to contact Val with any changes (new enrolments, extra classes, dropped classes, change of contact details).

*See you back in the classroom,
Claire*

Friday 6 November

U3A Annual General Meeting

Starts at 2 pm, Barbara J. Long Room, Clare Town Hall

Guest speaker: the extremely entertaining Dave Prlor, Mintaro

Afternoon Tea to follow

(Nominations for election close with Secretary on Friday 30 October 2015)

Friday 4 December

U3A End of Year Lunch & Movie

Starts at 12 for 12.30 pm, Blyth Supper Room

Please bring a plate of finger food to share

Movie to follow at Blyth Cinema

(yet to be selected but possibly The Intern with Robert De Niro, Anne Hathaway)



U3A LOWER NORTH INC.

2015 AGM Nomination Form

Office: _____ Nominee: _____

Nominated by: _____ Signed: _____

I accept this nomination. Signed: _____

To be in the hands of the Secretary by 5 p.m. Friday 30 October 2015

2015: FOURTH TERM ACTIVITIES

- Ancestry** via ancestry.com, Diane Richardson, private sessions, \$20 per term to U3A.....
- Art**, Gerald Moore, Wed., 9.30 am -1.30 pm, starts 14 Oct., Auburn Recreation Park.....
- Book Group**, Greta Handmer, alternate Thursdays, 10.30 am - 12 noon, starts 15 Oct., Clare Library.....
- Chess**, Tuesdays 3pm, starts 13 Oct, Essington Mews hall, Clare.....
- Chinese** (spoken Mandarin), Ron Bevan, Mondays 10 am, starts 12 Oct., Domain.....
- Classical Music**, Moira Kleinig, 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursdays, 2 pm, starts 15 Oct., 2/10 Harriett St, Clare.....
- Coffee & Chat Club**, Val Tilbrook, Wednesdays 10.30 am, starts 14 Oct., venue tba.....
- Computing**, Quentin Fleming, Tuesdays 12.45-2.45 pm, starts 13 Oct., at Domain.....
- Contract Bridge**, Eleanor Thomas, Thursdays 3 pm, starts 15 Oct., St Barnabas' Church hall.....
- Cryptic Crosswords**, Greta Handmer, alt. Thursdays, 10.30 am, starts 22 Oct., 25 Edward St.....
- Drumbeat**, John Montan, Mondays 10 am, starts 12 Oct., St Barnabas Church hall, Clare.....
- Exercise for Strength I**, Chris Roberts, Tuesdays 9am-10am, starts 13 Oct., Lutheran Church hall, Sabine St.....
- Exercise for Strength II**, Chris Roberts, Tuesdays 10am-11am, starts 13 Oct., Lutheran Church hall, Sabine St.....
- Film Group**, Val Tilbrook, 2nd Tues. of month, 2 pm, Blyth Cinema, 13 Oct: *Ricky and the Flash*.....
- *French Back to Basics**, Claire Eglinton, Thursdays, 12-1.15 pm, starts 15 Oct., Domain.....
- *French**, Claire Eglinton, Thursdays, 1.30-3.30 pm, starts 15 Oct., Domain.....
- Furniture Restoration**, Barrie Smith, Wednesdays 10-12 noon, starts 14 Oct., Blyth.....
- History: local & Aust.**, Val Tilbrook, Fridays, 10 am - 12 noon, starts 16 Oct., St Barnabas' Church hall, Clare.....
- Irish Language and Culture**, Ian Bails, Tuesdays 9.30 am, Starts 13 Oct., Essington Mews hall, Clare.....
- Knitting and Crochet**, Mary Clark, Tuesdays 2 pm. Starts 13 Oct., at Domain.....
- Mah-jong**, Pam Murray, Wednesdays 2-4 pm, starts 14 Oct., St Barnabas' Church hall, Clare.....
- Meditation**, Anne Smith, Tuesdays 10-1 pm, starts 13 October at Domain.....
- Petanque**, Malcolm Weddle, Mondays 1.30 pm, starts 12 Oct., Catford Park, Clare.....
- Photography**, Ian Trengove, Wednesdays, 10 am – 12 noon, starts 14 Oct., at Domain.....
- Quilting**, Lesley Bray, Thursdays, 10-1, starts 15 Oct., St Barnabas' Church hall, Clare.....
- Scrabble**, Carol Stewart, Mondays 1.15 pm, starts 12 Oct., St Barnabas' Church hall, Clare.....
- Trail Walks and Talks**, Sue Mayfield, Mondays 9 am, starts 19 Oct., meet east end Lennon Street.....
- Walking Group**, Lorraine Thompson, Mondays 8 am, starts 12 Oct., meet east end Lennon St.....

*French groups presume some prior learning. Most groups pay small per-session contribution to cover venue costs



PLEASE RETURN new enrolments to: 'Course Co-ordinator, P.O. Box 480, Clare SA 5453',
OR 8842 2376, 0448 183 748, OR valtil@bigpond.com. **Deadline: Friday 2 October 2015.**

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).

Suggestions: _____

Enclosed is total payment of \$15 per person _____ (covers rest of year for new members)

Cheques to U3A Lower North Inc., PO Box 480, Clare, 5453; or pay online. (U3A Lower North Inc., No. 39480340; BSB 105 030. Use surname followed by initial, e.g. John Smith = smithj. Emails to u3alownorth@gmail.com)

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