



U3A LOWER NORTH

Sharing Skills and Experience with Friends

APRIL 2017 🍷 TERM TWO

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 smug hollow in the Clare Valley which after four months of grading, watering, rolling, and compacting, now has bitumen to the gate.

The committee congratulates the Art Group members who staged a highly successful pop-up art exhibition in the Town Hall and a stand at the Xmas Craft Fair with sales in excess of \$1400 for both events, then represented us with a stand at the Autumn Garden Festival. Well done everyone.

Attendees had a good time at the Group Leaders evening in February but we are considering making it a lunch next year to see if that increases attendance.

Our enrolments are plagued by late payments and lack of paperwork. It is like 200 people walking into a bar and expecting the barman to remember what they ordered last year and how they paid.

To save the sanity of the course co-ordinator, secretary and treasurer, the committee has been forced to find an incentive for members to do the right thing: enrol and pay on time.

Since inception our annual fees have been \$25. In 2018 subscriptions will rise to \$35, with a \$10 discount if paid by the enrolment date. Similarly new members will need to pay on enrolment or pay \$35.

The committee hopes everyone understands why this is necessary and, more importantly, we hope no-one has to pay the higher fees. It is so easily avoided.

See you back in the classroom, Claire

ITALIAN FOR TRAVELLERS

NEW COURSE

Starting May

Anne Smith will be introducing a group of beginners to the joys and challenges of the Italian language starting Monday 1 May. Classes will take place from 1.30 to 3 pm, in a Clare Town Hall meeting room.

You really need to be there from day one, so **book with Quentin as soon as possible (0447 601 142 or asku3a@gmail.com)**.

How and why Anne and Malcolm Smith started learning Italian and their recent Italian travels over page.



ITALIAN FOR TRAVELLERS

Tutor for our new subject, Anne Smith tells how she and husband Malcolm decided to invest serious time and energy into learning a little of this language.

We first went to Italy some years ago visiting the tourist sites including Rome, Venice and Florence.

We loved the ancient history, music, piazzas and especially the food.

At this time we spoke very little Italian. My husband had done the WEA Italian for Fun and Travel course so we got by and he saved us from buying horse meat in a market place!!

We planned to return to Italy and visit some of the more remote towns and villages so we decided to learn the language more seriously.

We started with the first year of Italian at the WEA and continued for four years until we returned to Italy late last year.

We travelled through parts of Tuscany and Liguria with Peregrine Travel on a 10-day walking tour which finished in the Cinque Terra.

This was an amazing trip where we walked through the countryside, farms and vineyards eating wonderful fresh and seasonal fare.

From here we travelled by night train down the coast where we crossed over to Sicily by ferry: quite an experience of Italian rail travel.

From Malazzo in Sicily we took a hydrofoil to one of the Eolian Islands where we stayed for a week travelling to most of the other Islands, many of which are volcanic.

Here we used our language skills to get around and buy meals, etc.

Our next destination was Perugia so again we took a night train via Rome and made our way to this beautiful, historic hilltop city where we attended a week of language school which included some cultural visits.

One thing we learned at the language school was that even after 4 years of study at the WEA we were still in kindergarten.

So here I am on the brink of teaching "Italian for travellers" at the U3A in Clare. I feel excited and apprehensive; I will bring my sense of humour and basic skills to share with those who enrol. I think we will have fun and learn some valuable words, phrases and facts about Italy together.

Until then, arriverderci

Anna

CLASS NEWS

Art Group has achieved so much in recent months: three major events and now stoically carrying on their usual programme despite the absence of long-time mentor, Gerald Moore. Gerald has had some major health issues of late and our thoughts and best wishes are very much with him and Vicki.

Furniture Restoration, Woodwork and French Polishing group leader Barrie Smith has also had difficulties to face lately. For a while the class was suspended but they are meeting over the holiday period to catch up on lost time. Thanks Barrie.

Ian Bails has rescheduled **Irish Culture and Language** for Monday afternoons, still at Essington Mews. New students always welcome.

Jim Morran took over leadership of **Petanque** at Auburn where they meet Monday afternoons in Centennial Park. While Jim was on holidays, it was left in the capable hands of Cherie Harvey who has started a poster and social media campaign to increase the number of players.

Drumbeat is taking some time off until their leader John Monten returns in Term 3.

Cards: Hand and Foot. Jan Bails is teaching players this variation on canasta on Mondays at Essington Mews. They must all be keen as it is a 9.30 am start.

Mah-jong at Auburn must be winners hands down for the venue with most ambience. They set up their tiles at Meller's Café (just north of the pub) where, for the price of a coffee, they are welcome guests and occasional tourist attraction.

Knit & Sew. This group, under the guidance of Mary Clark, started off with one person wanting to be a better knitter (pending grandchild). It has grown and now covers all sorts of handiwork. It is highly social with members enjoying the company whether they need guidance or not to tackle projects which are so often put aside unfinished at home. Mary said it could just as easily be known as Knit and Natter.

Music Appreciation A while ago this group changed their meetings from Thursday to Wednesday. They meet at the home of group leader Helen Weckert at 10 March Court, Clare.

Computing 3 iPads has limited places so book ASAP.

Film Group, now on the first Tuesday of the month, has had a cracking selection of films this year with more goodies to come. Details of coming attractions can always be found on the Coming Events page of our website: www.u3alownorth.webs.com. In May it is Manchester by the Sea. David Stratton says it is "a rewarding and strangely beautiful drama".

U3A STILL SEEKING NEW HOME

Clare and Gilbert Valley Council have made their final decision to put the Domain on the market so we don't know how long we can stay there. Despite some councillors believing we have an alternative venue, this is far from the case.

One Councillor told me we should find a "benefactor". I suspect they are all off herding their unicorns. If you know how to find one, do let me know however I do draw the line at putting my name on a "Looking for Sugar Daddy" website.

The committee trialled one of the Town Hall meeting rooms. The old library table in the Stan Scott meeting room looks impressive but we will have to bring along cushions next time as the chairs had some of us perched on the hard wooden front edge.

The Clerk's Office meeting room lacks heating and cooling so may also be a challenge in Clare's climate.

However it is a generous initiative by Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council and I am sure the rooms will be well used by local and visiting groups.

What we really need is a little space to call our own adjacent to an adequate teaching space which we can equip with digital projector, internet, etc., to allow teaching of computing and language classes.

Ironically there is an ideal space for us in the Town Hall behind the Clerk's Office meeting room. Bizarrely this is being used to store old copies of the Northern Argus which I thought would have been stored on microfiche or an even more modern equivalent years ago. How this is a better use of ratepayer money than providing for the district's senior citizens beats me.

We did ask to use this space years ago but were told it would become commercial rental space. It then lay idle until a recent refurbishment and was snapped up by the Regional History Group before any other community group knew of its availability.

HOLIDAY FUN ON THE MURRAY

If you want a few days away, meeting members of other U3As, enjoying joint activities, classes, dinners, river cruise, etc., book now for Riverland Rendezvous to be held 9 to 11 May.

It is hosted by U3A Riverland and more details can be found on their website: <http://www.u3ariverland.org>. If you can't access it, phone their president Brent Morrell on 8586 5235 or mobile 0427 963 386. Costs are moderate and they have negotiated discounted accommodation. They want to hear from you by 10 April. U3A Riverland is SA's youngest so please support this excellent initiative.

NEW NAME TAGS A SUCCESS

Our first order of new name tags arrived and everyone who requested one should have it by now. They have proved both practical and attractive. (ICE information does need to be written on paper and pasted to back.)

We will continue issuing the old type of conference name tag free of charge but if anyone wants to purchase a more permanent hard plastic name tag with option of magnetic back or pin back, please notify the Secretary. N.B. magnetic backs are unsuitable for those with a heart pacemaker.

When ordering, please provide your name just as you would like it to appear on tag so we know if you want to be a Jim or a James Smith.

Cost is \$12. Delivery charges are prohibitive on small orders, so it may take some time before we acquire enough orders to do a second print run. Make sure your order doesn't miss the boat for a second time.

2017 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE

Unchanged since 2004 and still a bargain at \$25, membership fees fell due in February. New members should pay on enrolment.

(New fee structure doesn't apply until 2018.)

At this late stage of the year, you can pay 3 ways:

- post cheques made out to 'U3A Lower North Inc.' to PO Box 480, Clare, 5453; OR
- pay online. (U3A Lower North Inc., No. 748828019; BSB 085 558. For ID use surname followed by initial, e.g. John Smith = smithj. Emails to u3alownorth@gmail.com)
- Any cash payment would have to be personally arranged with course co-ordinator.

2017 U3A CALENDAR

2017 has four 8-week terms divided by 3 or 4-week gaps because group leaders deserve holidays too.

If meeting outside these dates please inform the secretary to protect group leader insurance.

TERM 1: _ Monday 13 February to Monday 10 April

TERM 2: _____ Monday 1 May to Monday 26 June
Riverland Rendezvous: _____ 9-11 May
Preferably book by 10 April

TERM 3: __ Monday 24 July to Friday 15 September

TERM 4: ___ Monday 16 October to Fri. 8 December
Annual General Meeting: _____ Friday 3 November
End-of-year lunch & movie: _____ Friday 8 December

2017: SECOND TERM ACTIVITIES

CLASS	LEADER	TIME	STARTS	VENUE	TICK
Art	<i>Gerald Moore</i>	Wed 9:30am - 1:30pm	3/5/2017	Auburn	[]
Book Group	<i>Marianne Holliday</i>	Alt Thu 10:30am - 12noon	4/5/2017	Clare Library	[]
Cards, hand & foot	<i>Jan Bails</i>	Mon 9.30 am – 12 noon	1/5/2017	Essington Mews	[]
Chess	<i>Ian Bails</i>	Tue 2:30 - 4:30pm	2/5/2017	Essington Mews	[]
Chinese (Mandarin)	<i>Ron Bevan</i>	Mon 10am - 12noon	1/5/2017	Domain	[]
Coffee & Chat	<i>Val Tilbrook</i>	Wed 10:30am	3/5/2017	Various	[]
Computing I Basics	<i>Quentin Fleming</i>	Fri 10am – 12 noon	5/5/2017	Domain	[]
Computing 2	<i>Quentin Fleming</i>	Tue 1 - 3pm	2/5/2017	Domain	[]
Computing 3 iPads	<i>Marian Wicks</i>	Tue 12 noon- 1:30pm	2/5/2017	Domain	[]
Contract Bridge	<i>Eleanor Thomas</i>	Thu 3pm	4/5/2017	St Barnabas	[]
Cryptic Crosswords	<i>Greta Handmer</i>	Alt Thu 10:30am - 12noon	11/5/2017	25 Edward St	[]
Exercise I	<i>Chris Roberts</i>	Tue 9 - 10am	2/5/2017	Lutheran Hall	[]
Exercise 2	<i>Chris Roberts</i>	Tue 10 - 11am	2/5/2017	Lutheran Hall	[]
Film Group	<i>Val Tilbrook</i>	1st Tue 2pm	2/5/2017	Blyth Cinema	[]
French 1 Basics*	<i>Claire Eglinton</i>	Thu 9.30-10.30 am	4/5/2017	Domain	[]
French 2*	<i>Claire Eglinton</i>	Thu 10.45 am- 12.30 pm	4/5/2017	Domain	[]
Furniture Restoration	<i>Barrie Smith</i>	Wed 10am - 12noon	3/5/2017	Blyth	[]
History	<i>Val Tilbrook</i>	Fri 10am - 12noon	5/5/2017	St Barnabas	[]
Irish Culture, Language	<i>Ian Bails</i>	Mon 2 - 4 pm	1/5/2017	Essington Mews	[]
Italian for Travellers	<i>Anne Smith</i>	Mon 1.30-3 pm	1/5/2017	Clare Town Hall	[]
Knit and Sew	<i>Mary Clark</i>	Tue 2 - 4pm	2/5/2017	Domain	[]
Mah-jong, Auburn	<i>Sue Beaton</i>	Tue 1 - 3pm	2/5/2017	Mellers, Auburn	[]
Mah-jong, Clare	<i>Pam Murray</i>	Wed 2 - 4pm	3/5/2017	St Barnabas	[]
Meditation (relaxation)	<i>Anne Smith</i>	Tue 10 - 11:30am	2/5/2017	Clare Town Hall	[]
Music Appreciation	<i>Helen Weckert</i>	1st, 3rd, 5th Wed 2pm	3/5/2017	10 March Court	[]
Petanque	<i>Jim Morran</i>	Mon 1.30 pm	1/5/2017	Cent. Pk, Auburn	[]
Quilting	<i>Dianne Richardson</i>	Thu 10am - 1pm	4/5/2017	St Barnabas	[]
Scrabble	<i>Carol Stewart</i>	Mon 1:15pm	1/5/2017	St Barnabas	[]
Walking, Clare	<i>Margaret Daly</i>	Mon 8 am	1/5/2017	Lennon St east	[]
Walking, Auburn	<i>Jan Bowles</i>	Thu 8.30 am	4/5/2017	Auburn Institute	[]

*French groups presume some prior learning



PLEASE RETURN new enrolments to Course Co-ordinator, Quentin Fleming, preferably before Friday 21 April at P.O. Box 480, Clare SA 5453, or phone 0447 601 142, or email asku3a@gmail.com

Enrol me in the following group/s: _____

Name: _____ Current Member? Yes / No

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

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

Newsletters by post [] or email []. **Payment** by cheque [] cash [] EFT [] Details overleaf

Payment is for (put how many in brackets): \$25 membership []; \$12 badges []. Total \$ _____

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