



# U3A LOWER NORTH

*Sharing Skills and Experience with Friends*

**MARCH 2010**



**TERM TWO**

**University of the Third Age Lower North Incorporated**



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## *Dear Members,*

Glad to be talking to you again. We organized things so a January newsletter wasn't required but it has left a long time since our last chat in December.

The new committee members have been learning the ropes and planning the year. Thank you to Wendy and John Williams for loaning their lovely home for our Group Leaders Evening. This annual event is the committee's chance to thank those excellent people who donate much time and energy to U3A, listen to their feedback and to talk about future directions.

Speaking of which, the committee wanted to concentrate on two issues this year: succession planning and injecting more fun into our calendar. The first involves looking at ways of making sure we have a more ready supply of members willing to take on committee positions or help out with various groups.

In an attempt to make it less daunting, we have reduced the number of meetings, and shortened terms to allow for a bigger refresher break and time for planned holidays which won't clash with U3A duties. Colleagues in NSW discussing 'How to catch and keep course leaders' said ensuring leaders take a break is an issue. What would encourage you to become more involved? Let me know.

The other aim, to inject some more fun into our year, we thought would be easier to achieve. Unfortunately a Picnic Fun Day pencilled in for April has been indefinitely postponed. Even fun events need planning and willing workers.

Each group might have to look at what they would like to do individually, perhaps an end-of-term lunch or drinks. For instance, Bastille Day will see the French students involved in a serious attack on a member's cellar to liberate some of the French labels imprisoned therein. History students have a couple of outings planned.

An event planned for the holiday break is a **guest speaker, author Lorraine McLoughlin**. Lorraine was so inspired by the life and work of Adelaide artist Barbara Robertson that she became her biographer. This sounds like an interesting afternoon: **2 p.m. Monday 14 April, BJ Long room, Clare Town Hall**. Afternoon tea. General public welcome for a gold coin donation so feel free to bring guests.

**Artists Studio Visits** is back this term with just two outings planned. (No details yet.) **Environment Matters** was in recess for Term 1 but it seems to have gone into permanent decline (TAFE room hire policy hasn't helped). This group has brought some excellent speakers to Clare but, ironically, no self-sustaining group seems to have emerged. If you would like this group to continue, perhaps in another format (e.g. discussion group, video lectures), at a different venue, let us know, especially if you are willing to lead it.

Our new subject, **Basic Conversational Chinese**, has taken off with a small group of loyal supporters. No new enrolments will be accepted so I hope you didn't miss this opportunity when it was offered last term.

Tutor Ron Bevan must be enjoying the experience as his wife Martha has volunteered to teach **Crafts** this

term at her Rhynie studio. Depending on interest, this could cover jewellery and beadwork, folk art painting and decoupage. Hope there is no family rivalry about who has the most students.

**Computing:** Sue is teaching a Back to Basics course to cover those things which the self-taught frequently miss or forget. Beginners are welcome and also those who have been ‘muddling through for years’. Fees: venue \$30, text book, \$30. Using Windows XP and Word 2003. Come with a USB drive (memory stick). Post Office had 2 gigabyte ones for \$14.

If you want a computing topic to be covered next term, please put it on enrolment form suggestions.

Groups, like **Computing** and **Book Group** (now meeting at library) have limited places, so enrol early.

**Film Group** has programmed *Coco Avant Chanel* for Tuesday 20 April, 1.30 pm. It is the story of the early years of Coco Chanel (played by Audrey Tatou of *Amelie* fame) leading up to the start of her fashion house. Anyone wanting to car pool, meet at Gleeson St carpark at 1 p.m. Probus members have chosen the movie for Tuesday 18 May: *The Big Steal*. Not the 1949 Robert Mitchum classic, this is an Australian movie (1990) which received multiple awards when first released. One for the young at heart, I suspect.

The **Furniture Restoration Group** has spread its wings and included outings to Burra and Laura Antique Fairs to their activities. Group Leader Barrie Smith is full of expert advice on anything from the best sort of power tools to purchase to how to use sandpaper. Barrie is always happy to have new members and is very patient with complete novices.

## Our 2010 term dates

**Term 2:** Tuesday 27 April to Monday 28 June.

**Term 3:** Monday 26 July to Friday 17 September.

**Term 4:** Monday 18 October to Friday 10 December.

If you are ever unsure of term dates or events, they are on our website: [www.u3alownorth.webs.com](http://www.u3alownorth.webs.com).

## Beware email scams & hoaxes

What do you do when an email claims to give good advice on health or a computer virus and requests you pass it on to your friends? Should you pass it on or is it just lies? You can usually check by going to this website: [www.hoax-slayer.com](http://www.hoax-slayer.com). It has a huge inventory of hoax emails and often the story of how and when they started.

Remember, if you are a client of a bank or business they will address you by name, not ‘Dear Customer’. No genuine offers of money come via email.

## Class venues & charges

The issue of free use of idle TAFE classrooms is looking bleaker for us: TAFE boss is pleading poverty and the Minister is reluctant to intervene. I must say the local TAFE staffers have been very supportive.

It is difficult to argue for support from the Minister for Further Education when it is a combined issue for the aging, health and volunteer portfolios. Perhaps the Ministers responsible for those portfolios should be providing us with grants to cover the TAFE charges.

Your committee has acted to minimize the impact. History and Mah-jong remain at TAFE and contribute towards the cost. We do try to make each group and activity, within reason, financially self-supporting.

One of the inconveniences is being billed by a central Government accounts department. Last term it necessitated four trips into Clare for our treasurer, Wendy Spackman, to sort out their calculations. (Wendy is an accountant and they do not use the phrase “near enough is good enough”.)

The committee is extremely grateful the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council stepped in last year with office and some teaching space. Without that, we would be struggling to find venues.

Remember the U3A office is open 11 am to 1 pm Mondays during our term time. At other times when the yellow flag is flying outside our window.

We have been searching further afield for venues. Both **Art Group** and Gerald Moore’s **Art Tutorial** now meet at the excellent canteen at the Auburn Recreation Grounds on the Saddleworth Road. Roomy, airy and well-equipped the new venue has been well received. Between this and a new venue at Rhynie, we have stopped being so Clare-centric and are beginning to live up to our Lower North name.

If you think a new group could be started in your town, let us know. It could be a completely new topic or a duplicate of an existing group.

Should we start a recorder group? One member said many of us have recorders in our cupboards and there are music teachers about, who might help. A NSW U3A has such a fipple flute group. Is it a goer?

## Happy Easter

So happy Easter holidays to everyone. We hope you enjoy the extended break and come back refreshed and ready to enjoy everything Term Two has to offer. Don’t forget the guest speaker on Monday 14 April.

*See you back in the classroom,  
Claire*

## 2010: SECOND TERM ACTIVITIES

**TO ENROL:** *return this section to Course Co-ordinator, Val Tilbrook, before Friday 16 April at P.O. Box 480, Clare SA 5453, or phone 8842 2376, 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: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Suggestion box:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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*If you have been accepted for a course already, it will be marked in highlighter pen.*

- Artist Studio Visits**, Anne Weddle, 2 in May, day and venue tba .....
- Art Tutorial**, Gerald Moore, Tues. & Wed., 9.30 am -1.30 pm, starts 27/28 April, 5 weeks, Auburn.....
- Art Group**, Tuesdays 9.30 am -1.30 pm, starts 1 June, Auburn.....
- Book Group**, Greta Handmer, alternate Thursdays, 10.30 am - 12 noon, starts 29 April, Clare Library .....
- Chess**, Mondays 4 pm starts 3 May at Janet & Peter Witham's, Spring Gully Road, Clare.....
- Chinese** (basic spoken Mandarin), Mondays, 10 am, starts 10 May, Domain. No vacancies. ....
- Coffee & Chat Club**, Wednesdays 10.30 am, starts 28 April, venue t.b.a.....
- Computing**, Sue Mayfield, Wednesdays, 10 am - 12 noon, starts 28 April, 8 wks, Domain.....
- Contract Bridge**, Thursdays 3.30 pm, starts 29 April, St Barnabas' hall. No beginners. ....
- Craft Workshops**, Martha Bevan, Thursdays, 1.30- 4.30 pm, starts 29 April, Rhynie .....
- Cryptic Crosswords**, alternate Thursdays, 10.30 am - 12 noon, starts 6 May, Domain.....
- Film Group**, monthly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 1.30 pm, Blyth Cinema (20 April, 18 May) .....
- \*French**, Thursdays, 1.30-3.30 pm, starts 29 April, Domain .....
- Furniture Restoration**, Barrie Smith, Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon, starts 28 April, Lakeside .....
- \*German Conversation**, Mondays, 2-4 pm, starts 3 May, Domain .....
- History: local & Aust.**, Val Tilbrook, Fridays, 10 am - 12 noon, starts 30 April, Tafe.....
- Mah-jong**, Jocelyn Macrow, Wednesdays 2-4 pm, start 28 April, Tafe.....
- Mosaics**, Halima Northeast, Fridays, 10 am - 1 pm, starts 30 April, 9 Kingfisher Drive, Clare .....
- Petanque**, Malcolm Weddle, Mondays 1.30 - 3.30 pm, starts 3 May, Clare Caravan Park .....
- Walking Group**, Greta Handmer 8842 2065, Mondays 8 am, starts 3 May, 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.*