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Office Managers Mary Paul and Office Volunteers

NEWSLETTER: Term 1, 2018

Editor: Graeme Allen

AN APPEAL FOR NEWSLETTER COPY Do you have any special things to share about your class (special activities, guest speakers, special achievements of members etc.), or anything else of interest to share with members? . Send any copy for our newsletter to Graeme Allen at guballen@bigpond.com, or through the office or at the U3A Geelong email address.

Deadline for Newsletter 2 2018: End of Week 2 Term 2, 2018:



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN Garry Kinnane

A belated **Happy New Year** to everyone, and may 2018 bring you all the good things you wish for yourself.

U3A Geelong got off to a resounding start to the year with our very first **Summer School** in January. The attendance was wonderful – over five hundred members and non-members, including people who were holidaying in the region from other parts – which was just what we were hoping for. There was a real energy and intensity in the three days of the School, and though exhausting for those who did the work, it was also a highly enjoyable and uplifting event to be involved in. Our grateful thanks go to the architect of the event, Loretta Winstanley, and the manager of the enrolment and program procedures, our Secretary Greg Duggan, and the daily operations manager, Mary Paul. The many tutors, catering helpers, furniture shifters and general dogsbodies all were the heart and soul of the School, and on behalf of the Committee of Management and all our U3AGEelong members, I extend to them our sincere thanks and gratitude for the wonderful job they did. How lucky we are to have such people in our U3A. The Summer School has generated an addition to our membership list, and hopefully more tutors as well, which was of course part of the aim from the start.

Buidings The buildings at Cobbin Farm got painted over the break (and indeed into Term 1!), so it is nice to have it freshened up for our use. We have also acquired an extra room behind the Office, which we are able to use for classes of a suitable size and kind.

Added to the Committee We have co-opted Nanette Tunnecliffe from the Dog Handling group onto the Committee to take up the vacancy left at the last AGM; some will remember Nanette's cheerful running of the catering service at the Summer School, and her delicious

sausage rolls! But Nanette has other skills as well, which the Committee will certainly benefit from over the coming months.

One of the things ***I would like to see the Committee address during 2018*** is the matter of ***transport for members who have difficulty getting to classes***, either because they can't drive themselves, or the public transport system is so poor. And who knows how many potential members we might be losing simply because people can't get to our classes? The government and community bodies are very aware of the problem of isolation and loneliness, and are looking to encourage ways of addressing these (I note that England has recently appointed a Minister of Loneliness, so it is a growing issue). I'm personally haunted by the notion that there are people out there who would like to enrol in our classes but who simply have no means of travel. Car pools could be part of the answer, and maybe bus hire, but the first difficulty is in making contact with such people and finding out who and where they are, and what they might be interested in coming to. Any suggestions from members would be welcome – drop any such in to my pigeonhole in the office, or email the office who can pass it in to me or Greg Duggan.

I hope everyone is enjoying a good start to the year of classes, both tutors and members alike, and remember if anyone is thinking of becoming a tutor don't hesitate, because we need you and your knowledge, and you might be surprised at the degree of satisfaction you get from it.



COMBINED U3A SUMMER SCHOOL 2018

What an experience! The first combined Summer School with Corio Bay and Surfcoast was an experience to be enjoyed!

Three days of interesting speakers and activities all exploring the theme of Connecting to our Past, Our Future, our inner selves and our Community. For those of you who were lucky enough to go for a cruise around Corio Bay...that was your experience of connecting to our Community. Many thanks to Captain Dilip Abrahams from the Regional Channels Authority Geelong for allowing the two cruises to occur.

The whole Summer School was a series of amazing firsts

- Surfcoast had its first Open Day
- We used a new computer system for event booking and it was good! Thanks Greg Duggan
- The Dog Handling Skills class provided a sterling service in the Canteen and raised about \$400. The sausage rolls have now gone into legendary status Nanette!
- Mary Paul proved conclusively that the office could be put back to rights after the painters had been there over Christmas.

The Commissioner for Senior Victorians has offered to run a further session with some experts on the experience of moving into retirement villages and aged care facilities. This session is not to be missed and we will keep you advised as to when it will be.

There were one or two grouches however. Some people enrolled in activities and then did not attend or advise the office that they could not attend. This is extremely impolite as our tutors have all given of their time to work in their summer holidays.

After we all have a well needed nervous breakdown, the team will start work early to organise another for 2020. Any feedback or ideas will be welcomed. **Loretta Winstanley**

Summer School – A Word from the Kitchen!

Congratulations to all involved in this inaugural event for U3A. Loretta you did a magnificent job to bring it all together.

I would like to thank all members who supported our lunch offering from the kitchen. Special thanks to Tracey Simic for making the slices – a huge help to me!

Thanks also to the following members from the Dog Handling class who volunteered their time over the three days: Maureen and Len Hateley, Barry and Robyn Youl (travelling from Bacchus Marsh to help no less!), Marlene Richards, Sarah Wills Cooke and Bob Tunnicliffe.

A special thank you to Mary Paul, Len and Leon for fashioning our window coverings to help keep us cool!
Nanette Tunnicliffe



NEW CLASSES



Aristotle would have loved an I Phone will be led by Dr Anthony Ash for a fascinating 4 week period starting on 1 March from 9-15 to 10.45am : Thursday Cobbin Farm

Did you know that sharks regard transatlantic cables as delectable tidbits? Find out more and enrol.

Freeform yarnbombing and scrumbling. Are these words in English ? What on earth do you do when you yarnbomb?? Do you like unconventional craft work? Join this class on Thursdays from 1315-1515 at Cobbin Farm.



TRIBUTES TO TUTORS:

Vale: Marie Hider

[A eulogy **from Rosemarie Carman OAM**, for a long time U3A Geelong member **Marie Hider**, who passed away on 14 Dec, 2017.]

I have lots of happy memories of my time with Marie Hider in our U3A writing group, which was originally called "Mapping Your Life", and later renamed "Life Matters". Marie and I were original members of the group, which began in 2006, with Barb Mundy as the tutor We were saddened when Barb passed away, and Lizzie Iverson took over leading the group. When Lizzie left to pursue other interests, Marie generously offered to take over as tutor. We



28th. November, 2007.

"Mapping Your Life" group -
(standing) Rosemarie Carman, Lizzie Iverson, Barb Mundy (now dec.)
(seated) Maggie Haigh (now dec.) and Marie Hider (now dec.)

had many “deep and meaningful discussions along with many laughs over the years. We loved Marie's quirky versions of various events and her thoughtful comments on day-to-day life happenings. When Marie was diagnosed with Leukemia in 2012, she asked Jura Reilly to take over Life Matters, which she did until 2016.

Over the past four years, despite her failing health, Marie still made the huge effort to attend Life Matters and other classes at Cobradah House and valiantly contributed, whilst continuing to encourage others to do so as well. We all admired Marie's stoic efforts to defy all the odds, and her stubbornness to show the doctors who had “written her off” a number of times when she didn't agree with their diagnosis. Marie Hider was the only person I know who walked out of Palliative Care, and carried on with her lifeon her own terms!

On behalf of all U3A Life Matters members, we pass on our condolences to Marie's family whom she loved above all. She also really appreciated all the help and support that her husband Ivor gave her, and knew how hard it must have been for him to be driving her to her many appointments, hanging around waiting for her to be seen, having endless tests, driving to Melbourne for more appointments and tests, visiting her in hospital, trying to find parking spaces, looking after her when she was allowed to come home from hospital doing the cooking, and most of all, being there for her, sharing the difficult times, and supporting Marie through it all, and backing all the decisions she made. Marie's funeral service was held at the Western Heights Uniting church on 19 Dec, 2017. R.I.P Marie Hider.

From **Joan Keating, Tutor of the Discussion Group**

We were saddened to learn of Marie's death in early December. She was a most active and valuable contributor to our discussions for many years. We always looked forward to her forthright and often humorous interpretations of the chosen topics. We were full of admiration for the enormous courage, fortitude and determination she displayed during the course of her illness. Each setback was met with positiveness and tenacity. Marie will always be remembered by us and our sympathy and thoughts are with her loving family. Vale Marie. We will miss you.

- **Rien Willemse – Thoughts From His Class on His Retirement**



Who is this man who kept people coming to his class for over 20 years? What has he had that draws people from all over Geelong and further afield, you ask? As one of his devoted students I can but write what people in his class have told me. His outstanding leadership, his warmth, his non-judgmental and inclusive attitude. He is an excellent communicator, has a great sense of humour and knows his subject inside out from Plato, Aristotle Socrates, Spinoza to Hobbes, Freud and Jung. He has the ability to speak on every person's level and doesn't talk above people. He has taught us to carefully examine everything before making a judgment and welcomes ideas contrary to his own. I and others find this inspirational. His respect and tolerance plus his extreme diplomacy and ability to keep order is known to us all. Because of his great personal interest in each and every student, phone calls are

made to those unwell and cards sent to those in hospital in which we are encouraged to participate. Is it any wonder so many friendships have been formed over the years.

We, your class members, salute you Rien and shall miss your Tuesday class, Thank you for all you have taught us, and all that you are, as it has been a real privilege to know you.

[Writer Unnamed]

Dear Rien

We've roamed through ancient history
To learn about philosophy,
Your wisdom and your knowledge clear
You shared with us throughout the year.

You've told of poor sad Socrates,
Of Plato and Diogenes;
And many more such clever men
Because there were no women then.

You've talked a lot, and listened too,
To everybody's point of view,
Our thoughts and "questions without warning"
All trotted out on Tuesday morning

But all good things come to an end,
We wish you happiness, dear friend,
One question though you leave behind
Is the Soul just another word for the Mind??!

Unnamed author

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NEWS FROM THE CLASSES

Dog Handling Dog handlers and friends pictured guarding some of the new equipment which has been bought and made by the Dog Handling Skill class. U3A Geelong was granted the \$1,500 for this equipment by the Connecting Communities Grant. The equipment included new tunnels, bridges and sandbags for agility exercises.

Go along one Sunday morning from 9.00am to 11am at the Eastern Park grounds off Portarlington Road and see what they can do!



U3A Choir As we begin our eighteenth year as a choir, we reflect back over the great times we've had over the years. Many wonderful people have come and gone with only a couple of members who have lasted the distance to the present. (many, of course, have passed on to join that great choir in the sky!) But one thing has remained constant - our wonderful Musical Director Margaret Hughes who has led us for every one of those years. At our Christmas luncheon last year at The Packing Shed in Moolap we paid tribute to Margaret for the amazing service she's given to us and to U3A Geelong, (together with our longtime accompanist, Jan Smith) by singing a well-written musical "Ode to Margaret and Jan"

written by Gwen Connor. Besides, we presented Margaret and Jan with appropriate gifts, for without either of these amazing ladies there would certainly be no U3A Choir.

As for our repertoire for this year, we are currently going over music we haven't sung for a while and will be learning some new songs so that we will have an interesting program to share with our audiences in Aged Care facilities and other places this year..

Mandolin Group Plays at Anam Cara WOW, we made it. What a buzz. 5 excited mandolinists and 2 support rhythm guitarists did U3A proud making our first public performance at Geelong's Anam Cara in September last year (photo in last newsletter).

Playing mandolin were Nancy, Cheryl, Giuliana, Gavin and Celia all of whom have been studying the instrument under tutor Les Williams on Friday mornings for several years. Our guitar accompanists were Jenny and Rodney who, like the rest of us, also play in Marjorie Milligan's afternoon group, "Jam Sessions with Strings and Song".

We had been practising hard the 2 months to perfect our program of 12 tunes selected from the many we have been playing over the last couple of years. At our last couple of rehearsals our playing betrayed how nervous we were but ON THE DAY we managed to relax and enjoy ourselves playing in the beautiful lounge room at Anam Cara.

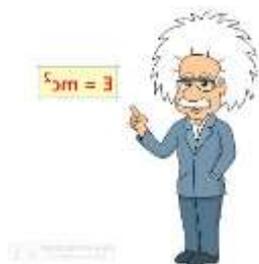
The audience was most appreciative, resulting in our being asked for a repeat performance soon. (However it might take a while to learn a new set of tunes.) Hopefully our fellow mandolinists who were away holidaying this time will be able to join us.

Many thanks to our music tutors at U3A who assist us to learn instruments from scratch or enhance our skills on those we already had. Performing as a group of musicians is truly exhilarating. A special thanks to Nancy, who as a volunteer at Anam Cara, organized the concert and kept us going at rehearsals with delicious home made refreshments



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY From Winston Churchill

When you're 20 you care what everyone thinks; when you're 40 you stop thinking about what everyone thinks; when you're 60 you realize that no-one was ever thinking about you in the first place?



Happy thinking everyone till next term

Graeme Allen (Editor)

TRIBUTES TO TUTORS:

Vale : RICHARD ROWE

Everyone at U3A Geelong who knew Richard Rowe will be saddened at his passing, which occurred last Monday evening, 12th February. Richard taught a very popular and very professional course in Australian History with us for a number of years, until illness forced his retirement in 2016. Richard had a long, successful career in Education, having attained the position of Principal at Melton High School in the 1980s. He was lovely chap, a fine teacher, and he will be missed by all his friends and ex-students.

NEW COURSES

- **Card Making / Paper Toile** with Mary Tieman Fridays 1.00-3.00 pm
This group ideally would have some experience and be keen to share ideas but Mary will be able to give some instruction. Own equipment will be necessary.
- **History of Western Philosophy** Tuesday 9.45-11.30 at Masonic Hall
Proceeding historically, we discuss important institutions and philosophies that help make up what is referred to as "Western Civilisation"
Assumptions we commonly make about activities such as science, technology and religion are critically examined. Discussion includes the relevance of the past to the present, how historically grounded issues and ideas inform our own lives. Key words: philosophy, institutions, science, knowledge, ethics.
This subject will be co tutored by Dr Struan Jacobs and Kerry Cardell, both retired Deakin Lecturers.

Hot off the press

Geelong Symphony Orchestra Concerts coming up:

Saturday 24th February, 7.30 in Costa Hall:

Concert One: 'Rhapsody'

Conductor: Brett Kelly

Piano: Hoang Pham

Katchaturian: Adagio from Spartacus

Rachmaninov: Rhapsody on a Theme from Paganini

Tchaikovsky: Symphony No.6 (Pathetique)

Bookings GPAC

Sunday 18th March afternoon - with a Cool Classics concert of Mozart Magic Flute Overture, Beethoven's 1st Piano Concerto - local brilliant pianist Sonoka Miyake as soloist - and Mendelssohn's 3rd Symphony. Should you need any more detail please refer to Orchestra Geelong web site.

U3A CorioBay and U3A SurfCoast are also offering courses that members may be interested in (you can join as an associate member for an additional small fee)

SEE WHAT'S ON OFFER AT SURFCOAST U3A

Australian History - Colonisation to Federation

Creative Writing

Latin for Beginners (and the very rusty)

Exploring the Share Market

Café Italiana

French - continuing

Armchair Politics - Australian Political History

Cinema Studies

Tai Chi

Ikebana - an Introduction

Mindfulness Philosophy and Meditation: the art of living

Yoga and Relaxation for Seniors

Survival French

The Ascent of Knowledge

Drawing Skills - Traditional

Apps for Travellers

Non-fiction Readers

SEE WHATS ON OFFER AT CORIOBAY U3A

Australian Women in History .

Book Club

Bridge for Beginners

Computers for Beginners

Conversational Italian for Beginners

Creative Writing

Current Affairs Discussion Group

Fermenting your own Food

Jewellery making and repairing

Mahjong

Release the Inner Musician- Guitar for Beginners

Social Bridge

Spanish for Beginners

Tai Chi

Trials and Tribulations of Family History Research