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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Nanette Tunncliffe



Hello Everyone,

I am writing this on a bus travelling around the Isle of Skye and once again I am reminded of the grandeur that the Scottish Highlands manifests at every turn. Scotland never fails to disappoint. Not even the weather – cool and moist – can detract from the pleasure that is here.

On my travels I have been unable to avoid the U3A connection. Whilst in Singapore I was speaking with two Brits now resident in Spain and we discovered that we were all members of U3A. Likewise, I now find myself travelling with two members of U3A Dromana. The standout similarity, in both cases, is not only how great U3A is for learning and sharing, but the fact that a U3A embodies the spirit of respect and friendship. Classes and tutors operate on a convivial and warm atmosphere; friendships are made and this brings great pleasure to all. Nowhere was this more evident than the Big High Tea fundraiser. It was such a pleasure for us to gather in the Chapel with the knowledge that we were all contributing to a great cause.

2023 was. In fact, the 30th Anniversary of this fund raiser.

The latest Australia-wide information from the organisers includes:

- Final number of hosts: 22,240
- Final numbers of attendances: 266,880
- Monies raised: \$13,056,740 and counting

Well done to those members who contributed to this event.

Your Committee of Management has the responsibility to ensure that this spirit continues and I will be looking to ensure that we have more social events for members to attend over the coming months.

TUTORS: I would like to hold a Working Lunch on Monday the 7th of August. I will contact you when I am home. The purpose of this meeting will be to review the year to date and commence planning for 2024.

LET'S DO LUNCH: This will be open to all members and will be held on Friday the 25th of August. More details to follow soon.

MELBOURNE CUP DAY LUNCHEON: I am pleased to say that this fun event will return to our calendar after COVID. This will be held at Cobbin Farm on Tuesday the 7th of November. A reminder that classes do not run on this day.

More details to follow soon. Stay warm and well everyone. Nanette Tunnicliffe.

INTRODUCING MEMBERS OF U3A GEELONG

COLLEEN WORKMAN

NEW HONORARY SECRETARY TO U3A GEELONG COMMITTEE

As the recently appointed Secretary of U3A Geelong I thought it would be worthwhile to provide to my fellow Committee members an insight into my background and experience. Commencing from the beginning – I was born in Western Australia where my mother lived and from the age of six months grew up in Adelaide where my father grew up. I have lived and worked in Adelaide, Canberra, London and prior to my move to Geelong I spent 28 years living and working in Sydney. I moved to Geelong nearly 7 years ago when I decided Sydney was no longer a place I wished to live.

I commenced my career in Adelaide working in the Adelaide office of an international Life Insurance Company and quickly found my niche in the life insurance claims area due to the wonderful encouragement of my manager and the person responsible for the claims area at the time. I was requested to spend a three-month stint in the Sydney Head Office at the request of the manager of the claims area in Sydney and happily moved there to experience life in the 'big smoke'. After three months I returned to Adelaide and then I was offered a role in the Sydney office as Claims Manager coupled with the incentive that

I would be a member of the Executive – the first woman to be appointed to the Executive in Australia. In other words, an offer I could not refuse.

I spent 16 years at this company and after managing claims and a team of 35 I ventured into other roles within the company including setting up a Sydney-based business venture when the company purchased a Melbourne business and this entailed a great deal of commuting to Melbourne and back.

I then made the decision to experience claims management from a different perspective and took a role with a not-for-profit superannuation fund. I commenced with myself and one other person in the claims area and built this to a team of 15 as the fund merged and took over other superannuation funds and were successful in securing major NSW Government clients.

During the time I was employed in the claims area I dealt with legal firms, clients at the highest level, attended and participated in mediations, attended court hearings managing litigated matters and developed highly analytical skills having to review different policies, trust deeds, complex claim files, etc.

I made the decision to set up my own consulting business specialising in complex claims matters and contracted to another not-for-profit superannuation fund for 2 years. During this time I was approached by an online training business seeking whether I would be interested in developing a Claims Certificate Program and consequently I developed the Certificate content (Certificate IV in Life Insurance – Claims Stream) which I updated on an ongoing basis. My consulting business continued after I moved to Geelong with commutes to Sydney when required.

During my career I have served on a number of diverse committees ranging from the Cave Diving Association of Australia to Claim Review Committees and was an elected member of a Trustee Board for 2 terms comprising 8 years.

On a personal note, I absolutely love the ballet and attend performances whenever I can, I enjoy the Opera although not all. I am an avid reader. I enjoy the theatre and I have travelled quite extensively including Antarctica on a Russian icebreaker, trekked the Inca trail, travelled through Bolivar, Morocco and travelled Europe including Italy numerous times as it is my favourite place with New York being up there as well with Broadway and the Metropolitan Opera House and just being there.

I look forward to working with you all.

A BRIEF, THREE-PART HISTORY OF U3A – PART 2

U3A COMES TO AUSTRALIA

Using the Cambridge, UK model developed by Peter Lazlet and Michael Young, the first U3A in Australia was established in Melbourne in 1984 through the hospitality of the Victorian Council of Adult Education, which provided office space for organising and the use of some of its meeting rooms. The concept quickly took hold and today there are around 300 autonomous groups with more than 100,000 members.¹

From its original informal grassroots beginnings, volunteers and working parties worked together to establish U3A Networks. U3A Network Victoria was formally established in June 1988. At that time, there were four U3As.

The University Extension Department of the University of Western Australia established U3A in Perth in 1986, and has provided administrative office space and other help, on a continuing basis, for the membership who live in various parts of metropolitan Perth.

Regional committees arrange courses at a number of local venues and there are a few central activities at the University of WA and the Perth Cultural Centre.



Dr Rick Swindell



Ken Vessella



Sir Herman Black

The Brisbane College of Advanced Education, and later the Griffith University, provided oversight assistance for the Brisbane U3A, founded in 1986 and now grown to several thousand members. Dr Rick Swindell, of the Faculty of Education at Griffith, has become an honorary resource for the U3A movement in Australia – along with Ken Vassella, editing a year-book of current U3As in Australia and New Zealand. Twenty five U3As had been formed in Queensland with a total membership then, of 12,300. The year-book is now online.

Sydney U3A started in 1988 with the support of the then Chancellor of the University of Sydney (the late Sir Herman Black) at a large meeting on the University campus. The University offered office space, but the new U3A had great difficulty in recruiting volunteers to handle enquiries when these helpers had to travel from distant suburbs for a couple of hours' work.

This large U3A (now of several thousand members) operates with regional committees who arrange venues for courses held over a large part of the metropolitan area. There is a central administrative office in Young Street, Sydney. U3As started at Wollongong and Shoalhaven in 1987; 41 U3As have been formed in NSW since then.

The ACT U3A was established in 1986 and holds courses in several different areas of Canberra and its satellite towns. It has been able to draw on the abilities of numbers of retired professional people for teaching and administration, and on help from the Australian National University and its colleges in finding venues for courses and general meetings.

In Tasmania, the Hobart U3A started in 1990 and now there are eight other U3As, including the Launceston group which started a local program with the name the School for Seniors in 1981, pre-dating the arrival of U3A.

Darwin U3A started in 1990 and has held an Australian conference of U3As. Darwin is the only U3A in the NT.

In Adelaide, local U3As were formed to save people from travelling to the city centre or the inner suburbs. With Adelaide U3A up and running, new U3As were starting at Noarlunga, Port Adelaide, Tea Tree Gully, and Gawler. The South Coast U3A started in 1987 following an enquiry from a social worker at the Community Health Service at the South Coast Hospital. There followed a meeting to explain the U3A movement to representatives of several older persons organizations, and a public meeting at the RSL hall shortly after.

There are now fourteen U3As in SA: Adelaide, Port Adelaide, Gawler-Barossa, Tea Tree Gully, Noarlunga, Flinders University, South Coast, Mt Gambier, Aldinga, Playford, Strathalbyn, Whyalla, Adelaide Hills, and Salisbury.

In Victoria, where there are over 60 U3As, a U3A Network has been established with a part-time paid office assistant, funded by state government grant and capitation fees from the member U3As. Several meetings of representatives are held each year, and the office helps with the organization of annual conferences and publishes a newsletter. The Network Office and its executive committee also assist people interested in starting new U3As. State membership is almost 17,000.

The first U3A in New Zealand was established at Remuera, Auckland in 1989.²

Recognising the importance of networking with other statewide networks soon led to the desire for a national body to promote the benefits of the U3A movement to retired older people and boost interaction between U3A organisations, nationally.

At the NSW U3A Conference on 12th March 2008, the following motion was passed “... *this meeting endorses a proposal for developing a national U3A body and authorises the Network Committee to proceed with appropriate arrangements. Furthermore, it is suggested that consideration be given to an arrangement similar to the National Trust where State and Territory bodies maintain their organisational independence*”. And in 2010, the U3A Alliance Australia came into being to foster information exchanges between U3A networks in ACT, NSW, Queensland, SA, WA and Victoria, and online...along with international contacts: Association of International Universities of the 3rd Age, World U3A and MyU3A, among others.

Conferences for U3A members to confer on a national basis have been held in Melbourne (1988), Adelaide (1992), Canberra (1995), Sunshine Coast (1996), Darwin (1997), Sydney (1998), New Zealand (1999) and Melbourne (2001). After 2001, a series of workshops were held in the intervening years until the combined U3A Network Victoria and the Asia Pacific Alliance came together in 2013 and celebrated U3A's 25th year.

In 2015 the Eastern Metropolitan Region held a workshop with a view to participating in the Bi-Annual Conference in September of that year. Little or no information from 2015 to the present day has come to hand.

Attendance at such meetings, or reading the proceedings has been of considerable help to U3A committee members, particularly in states where a network organization does not exist.

Part Three will look at the history and development of U3A in Geelong.

[1] wikipedia

[2] Colin Lawton, Adelaide U3A <https://adelaideu3a.org.au/australia-u3a-history/>

Lost and found at U3A

These are some of the lost and found items that are now in the Cobbin Farm foyer open cupboard:

A red canvas sun hat, and

A black collapsible umbrella

Combating Boredom

**Ted Reilly, Tutor of
Art Workshop AM Thurs 9.30 to 11.30 and
Art Workshop PM 12.30 to 2.30**

Oh dear, 'Winter is coming', as they intoned in *Game of Thrones*! This city is not a warm place, even in Summer, and indeed if one stands on the lookout on the Ceres Road, proudly showing overseas visitors the splendid views out west, you, and they, will turn into icicles even on the sunniest day. *Brrr!*

So, we retreat indoors, turn up the heating, all the while cursing those awful people in Leninburg's glass towers who keep biting into our pensions with ridiculously high Internet, Gas & Electricity charges.

What to do? Watch television? *Eurovision* was a farce, there are neither classical music concerts nor operas to be seen, *Dr. Who* has been blasted into outer space, and even a good show like *Spicks and Specks* is into its fifth repeat. Read a book? GRIC is shutting down libraries, restricting hours & even talking about hiring robots as librarians. *Exterminate!* as the Daleks croak.

At this point, I ask readers to consider the humble *potato*, that is the *spud*, *préataí*, *картофель*, *bulvé*. It can be eaten raw, boiled, roasted, fried, or used to make Lithuanian *zeppelins*. *How boring*, you sigh. Potatoes are not boring, they are lovely sweeties, the staff of life! Yes, *le patate* has another incarnation: in 1889 Vincent van Gogh looked at a bowl of just washed *aardappels* and made a quick sketch, then a painting. Lo and behold, the humble *lumper* had become *une object d'art!* [ref.:<https://krollermuller.nl/en/vincent-van-gogh-still-life-with-potatoes>]

You too can fight boredom by becoming a Vincent. Take some potatoes out of the pantry, place in a bowl, then find a piece of paper and pencil and then try to sketch them. Oh dear! Not that easy? Frustrated? Bored?

You can fight frustration & boredom by coming to an Art Class. Remember, for your \$60 annual subscription, you can not only attend High Afternoon Teas, walk a pooch, fling yourself around the dance floor, but also you could engross your grey matter by struggling to draw a potato!

All welcome to Thursday Art! I guarantee you will *not* be bored!

“Geology in the Bush”

Three one day trips exploring the geology of our local area.



Day 1. Twelve intrepid U3A students under the capable guidance of tutor Dr. Martin Hughes set off from Grovedale on a wet Wednesday morning to explore the various geological forms in the Geelong and Bacchus Marsh area. Our first stop was Baum's Weir at Fyansford to observe valley basalt flow and how it has affected the flow of the Barwon River. Then on to Lovely

Banks to view the Monocline, both from the bottom and the top. Continuing to the You Yangs we drove up to the Turntable Carpark to examine some of the outcrops of You Yangs Granite. From Lara we proceeded to Anakie to view the scoria cones of Mount Anakie, its two sisters and the most westerly outcrop of the You Yangs granite at Fairy Park.

We then drove east along the Rowsley Fault scarp, which forms the eastern front of the Brisbane Ranges, towards Bacchus Marsh and the Pentland Hills where we examined Permian tillite (glacial), exposed in a road cutting. After a short lunch break, we travelled south of Bacchus Marsh to the “Triassic Park” in Condons Lane, Darley, where the only example of Triassic rocks in Victoria are to be found.

Heading back towards Geelong we visited the Iron Bark Track area to view the tightly folded Ordovician sandstone, siltstone and slate and the unconformity between the steeply dipping Ordovician rocks and the overlying unfolded Permian tillite (glacial).

Day 2 saw us travelling to Camperdown, viewing Lake Corangamite, Australia's largest permanent saline lake (12%), between Colac and Pirron Yallock, formed when drainage was blocked by lava flows. The Stony Rises (collapsed lava tubes) can be seen along the highway west of Pirron Yallock and the “Floating Islands Nature Conservation Reserve,” where islands of peat floated when the wetlands were full. After a coffee break in Camperdown, we drove to the top of Mt. Leura to discuss the Leura Volcanic Complex and the scoria cones of Mt. Leura and Mt. Sugarloaf and to view the surrounding volcanic lakes and cones. We then travelled on to view Lake Bullen Merri and Lake Gnotuk, formed when explosive magma hit shallow groundwater. Returning to Camperdown, we lunched and then inspected “bedded tuffs” in a road cutting on the east side of town before heading for the Eskine Falls. This waterfall is one of many generated in the massive Early Cretaceous volcanoclastic sandstones of the Otway Region. Continuing to Point Gray at Lorne we examined outcrops of Early Cretaceous sandstone along the

shore, noting the strong jointing, often thought incorrectly to be human structures, then homewards.



Day 3. Leaving Grovedale in bright sunshine we headed for the Ballarat area. Our first stop was the Lal Lal Falls, which descends over the edge of a lava flow, then went on to the Blast Furnace Picnic area to examine the iron ore extraction site and the remains of the iron smelter.



Travelling on to Mt. Buninyong we did a short Crater Walk and then drove around the crater rim to the summit.

Descending the Mount gave us good views of Mt. Warrenheip (to the NNE) and the embankments of scoria which form the mountain.

After lunch at Lake Wendouree our next site was the road cutting in Norman St, Black Hill. Here we examined the anticline, bedding, weathering, cleavage, quartz veining (Ordovician or Devonian) and folding of quartz veins. A little further on we reached the Black Hill Lookout which gave us a view over Ballarat and the remains of the Open Cut mine nearby.

Leaving Ballarat, we headed towards the Scarsdale area and the “Devil’s Kitchen geological reserve” at Piggoreet to see part of the Avoca Fault and Cambrian Greenstones (meta basalt), mid-Cenozoic deep lead gold workings, Ordovician rocks, and cleavage/shearing. In the gathering dusk we viewed the site of an old Chinese goldfields village at Surface Point where they worked high-level quartz pebble gravels.

After a long and remarkably interesting day we then headed for home. Many thanks to Martin for his knowledge and organization.

From Jennifer McKean

A letter from Peter Jager

After a few years of enjoying anthropology conducted by Dennis, when he retired I looked for other U3A options on a Monday but found the Cobbin Farm classes didn't suit, so decided to try a 'Teams' class - the 'on-line' option.

The topic/subject available for the term was Albert Schweitzer, who I knew of as a philosopher and humanitarian but little else. Bruce Watson soon changed that when his well presented and very interesting on-line classes explained Schweitzer's commitment to music, medicine, philosophy and religion as he devoted his life to manual and meaningful missionary work in Africa.

Whilst the on-line classes may not provide the same student interaction as live classes, the need to travel to Cobbin Farm is not missed and the convenience of 'home schooling' was much appreciated. The added benefit of a dynamic class webpage where Bruce loaded all videos and class info added to the experience and enabled revision or 're-run' opportunities at leisure.

Would I do it again? Too right I would! Now I look forward to next term where Bruce is facilitating 'The Nightingale Link to Nurses' on Wednesday afternoons - the story of Florence Nightingale and 'The Seacole link to war doctors' on Thursdays, a Jamaican/West African nurse/doctor who also worked in the Crimea.

As an ex-Nurse and a Veteran I have a particular interest of her work in the Crimea so really look forward to learning the full story and am sure I will enjoy yet another very professional U3A production from Bruce. Perhaps I will see your face there - albeit on the screen?

**No Inland Swimming at Barwon Valley Park!
(From Charles Davis)**



WARM WINTER READS AND LOCAL WORD WRITERS FESTIVAL

Welcome

Hello Nanette,

We would like to take a moment to say thank you for the outpouring of community support for libraries over the last couple of months. Our core purpose is to provide a thriving library service that boosts our communities' health, prosperity, connectedness and belonging. We know people both rely on and deserve excellent library services, and serving our local community is a job we take seriously.

Our communities and supporters often ask: what is the best way to support the library? There are some simple answers: make sure you (and your family) are signed up as members, and **visit your local library** - in person or online. Tell a friend who isn't a member what the library means to you. And if you **have feedback on how we could improve, we're all ears.**

Last month we: switched over to easier-to-access WiFi (no need to sign in!), joined in the launch for Warm Winter Reads, started reading the 350+ entries to our Local Word Poetry Prize (stay tuned for announcement of winners) and hosted events with authors, surfers and cheese makers.

This month we: launch our 2023 Local Word Writers Festival, continue our Building Digital Skills program, partner with The Australian Ballet for some special workshops for 3-5 year olds, and partner with the Apollo Bay WORDfest for a wonderful author event.

See you at the library!