



# U3A DAREBIN Newsletter



Number

April 2004

Supported by: The U3A Network Victoria Inc., City of Darebin & Adult, Community and Further Education Board

**DAREBIN UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE INC.**

Reg No. A0028861A

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Welcome back everyone, and to our new members – WELCOME

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

We held our membership enrolments in February 2004 at Northcote Library and Fairfield Train Station. Our thanks go to those who gave their time to process the enrolment forms. I would like to see more people from our area involved in Darebin U3A, participating in classes and in assisting in the administration of our small organization. Perhaps we need to advertise not only in the print media but also by word of mouth.

I attended to Annual General Meeting of the U3A Network in March, where I had the pleasure of accepting a Certificate on behalf of David Carrel. The Certificate was awarded for David’s long term commitment to Darebin U3A where he has acted as both a Tutor and Secretary. We thank David for his past dedication and we wish him well for the future.

Darebin and Hume U3A’s have formed a cluster of which David Elder was last’s years Chairman. We would like to congratulate David on a job well done. This year, Bernice Brownsey has accepted the position as Chairperson and we wish her all the best for a successful term.

Sue Biggin is the new Editor of Darebin U3A’s flyer. If you have any items of interest, please pass these on to Sue.

I wish you all good health,  
Enjoy your classes.

Charles Keele

Hope everyone is enjoying their classes and the company of others. What a turn out for the History class with tutor Peter Larsen. Because of its huge popularity we had to split the class in two. We hope this didn’t cause too much inconvenience.

A reminder for the **Classical Italian** class – **NO CLASSES FROM 14/05 TO 04/06.**

## COMING UP – PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY

28<sup>th</sup> April, 2004

11:00 to 12:00

A talk by the STATE TRUSTEES

26<sup>th</sup> May, 2004

11:00 to 12:00

A talk by APIA Insurance

## A SHORT STORY

### THE SIMPLE JOY OF THE GARDEN

By Larry Ginger

Gardening. Oh yes. One of those times when you can just relax and let nature fill you with peace. A time when you are doing something creative. Something you can see the results of. It sounds good in theory.

The wife has gone to work leaving me the usual list. Ever since I retired, she has been finding things for me to do. In the house, let's see. Change the bed clothes. Vacuum the floor. Clean the windows. Bloody hell, I did those things last month.

Ahh, here is something different. Turn over the veggie patch and plant some veggies. I haven't done anything like that for a while. It will make a change from the housework.

Okay, get the keys to the shed. They're not on the hook. They are supposed to be on the hook here by the back door. They were here when I had to get the spanners for number two son last week. Why can't people put things back?

All right, think it through. I got the keys, opened the shed, got the spanners. Came back and gave the spanner to him. What then? Don't remember. I bet someone has gone to the shed and not closed it after them. Typical of this family. I'll go and look.



Yep, I was right. The door is open and the keys are still in the lock. I wish they would learn to tidy up after themselves. They didn't even close the tool box. And the spanners are on the bench. Oh well, I'll put them away after I do the veggie patch.

Out with the shovel. God, look at the veggie patch. It looks like it has not been touched for a year or more. Put shovel on ground. Put foot on shovel. Push. Lever soil up and turn the shovel over. Do it again. And again.

One thing, you do not have to think of what you are doing. Dig, lift, turn. Hmmm wonder who will win the match tonight? Dig, lift, turn. Both sides have a good chance. Dig, lift, turn. Gotta go see the eye specialist soon. Dig, lift, turn. His secretary sure has nice legs. Dig, lift, turn. Nothing wrong with my eyes, not when I look at her. Heh, heh, heh.



Okay wait up. How far have we got? Let's see. This is about two metres by a shovel width I've turned over. The patch is about 5 metres wide and about 4 deep. That means...a loooooong way to go yet. Hands are getting a bit sore. Hope I don't get a blister like last time. I got that because I didn't wear gloves though. Aw hell. I haven't got gloves on this time either.

Okay, back to the shed and get the gloves. They're not here. That's right. I used them when I helped number one son move house. I remember they got left behind. Just have to be careful, that's all. Back to the veggie patch.

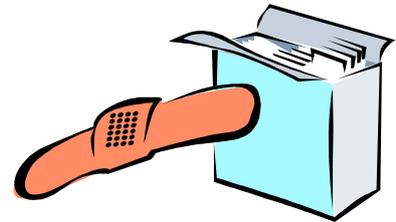
Those weeds sticking up through the turned over dirt look yuck. I will pull them out before I dig more.

Maybe if I alternate between digging and weeding the hands won't get too sore. Now I need something to put the weeds in. Where's the old rubbish bin? It is just over there. I'll just empty the water out of it. Maybe I should have put the lid on it last time I used it, oh well.

This is relaxing. Don't have to rush. Don't have to think hard about it. Grab a handful. Ouch! A bloody splinter! God that stings. Can't do anymore gardening until I get that out. Not looking forward to that. The only thing worse than getting a splinter is getting the thing out. Back to the kitchen.

Right, I have everything set out. Tweezers, needle, tissues, hot water with Dettol in it. Now soak the finger for a bit. Ouch, ouch, ouch. Now I've got third burns on the wounded finger. A bit of cold water into the bowl. There, that is better. It is still throbbing. That should be long enough.

Now for the needle. Nnnnggghhh, it seems to hurt more when you do it yourself. Why did it have to go straight in? I can see the tip of the splinter now. Where are the tweezers? Okay now pull. Ohhh, that hurt. Never mind, put a band-aid on it. Where are the band-aids? You left them in the first-aid box you fool. Wrap a tissue around the finger and then get a band-aid.



You would think they would make these first-aid boxes so you could open them one handed. Oops, oh well. It is open, even if the stuff is on the floor. Where are the band-aids? I'm sure I bought more last time I used the box. I'll have to use a bandage.

That has made the finger really bulky. I won't be able to use the shovel now. I guess the veggie patch will have to wait. The finger is still stinging. I hope I got all the splinter out. I'll just sit here on the couch and hope it settles down.

Maybe a beer will help. Yeah and turn on the telly as well to take my mind off the finger. I can tidy up later.

## SHORT CLASSES WITH A VERY GOOD RESPONSE

### ISLAM & THE MUSLIM

Tutor: Geoff Galt

Good Attendance with interesting question time.

*A second year event*



### TRAVELER'S TALES

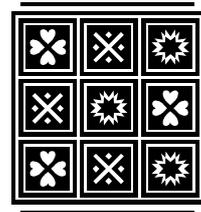
Tutor: Robin Burn

A very interesting 6 weeks with slides from Nepal/ Tibet area. Robin is a very passionate traveler. Her tales are fascinating with architecture, religion and cultural facts of all the places she decides to share with us.

## A RAFFLE!

The sewing class has agreed to make a quilt that will be raffled at completion.

If you would like to donate material, suitable for quilting, please leave it at the office.



## MAKING THIS YOURS!



**I WANT YOU**

**FOR THE U3A NEWSLETTER**

We are looking to make this newsletter yours!

We need news, views, current affairs, short stories, anything you want to submit.

Please surrender your responses for the next issue.

Cheers everyone!