

**OFFICE HOURS**

Until further notice there will be someone in attendance at the Office on the following days and times, during school terms:

- Monday 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm
- Wednesday 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
- Friday 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Email: dbin@alphalink.com.au  
 Post: PO Box 44, FAIRFIELD VIC 3078  
 Phone: 96 102 102 Fax: 96 102 101

Visit the office at the Railway Station:  
 26 Railway Place, Fairfield 3078

**Supported by:**

The U3A Network Victoria Inc.

City of Darebin.

Adult, Community and Further Education Board.



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**President's Message**

As the second semester of 2006 is approaching, I take this opportunity to report to you how your committee has functioned so far, and to share with you some of my observations.

You will recall that at the Annual General Meeting held on 2 December 2005, there were no nominations for officers to undertake some essential activities: tutor co-ordinator, publicity officer and editor of the newsletter and flyers which have been periodically issued. As the need for action in those areas arose from time to time, committee members performed the necessary tasks, over and above those duties to which they were already committed.

They were often assisted by those unheralded people who unobtrusively work behind the scenes. They operate so effectively, that I do not even know them all to thank them publicly, so, I ask them to accept my silent appreciation. However, I shall express my thanks to Basil Conquo, who, though not a member, continues to provide support, when requested.

All the classes scheduled for the first semester have taken place. The 2005 tutor co-ordinator had ably organised most of what was needed, but a great deal more proved necessary: confirmation of venues, replacement tutors, changes to the timetable, notification of those changes to interested members. For the second semester of 2006, I am pleased to inform you that Carmel Lee, already a committee member, has volunteered to act as tutor co-ordinator. Volunteers to fill the publicity officer and newsletter editor positions would be most welcome.

One of my concerns is the receding level of membership. Following a recent addition of an associate member, the present count is 121, down from 145 in 2005. Some time in the recent past, it was 160+.

You may view the situation differently, but I believe that humans are conditioned to grow, and are averse to shrinkage, except when it is by their choice, and they have, preferably, planned for it. There are, of course, several valid reasons why some members do not renew their membership; but then, new members enrol. Even aged port requires new wine to re-invigorate it.

Membership fees provide a significant proportion of our revenue; for 2006, they will cover approximately one third of our projected expenditure. They are the one source of income over which we can exercise control.

We can demonstrate that we provide a service to the community, and as such, are entitled to government funding. The problem is there is no objective mechanism for measuring the value of that service, and, therefore, the quantum of government grants. At any rate, governments, whether federal, state or local, may change; or their policies; or their priorities; or demands made on them.

At the AGM held on 3 December 2004, the Grants Officer for the Darebin Council pointed out that the applications for grants exceeded available funds by a ratio of 2:1.

Furthermore, although sometimes grants are totally unrelated to the size of the applicant body, I suspect that an organisation of, say, 150 members and rising is likely to be judged more favourably than one of 120 and falling. Alternative fundraisers such as fetes, stalls, trivia nights etc. have been discounted by your committee as unrealistic options for Darebin U3A, and of no immediate practical interest. We have a healthy bank balance, thanks to grants in previous years, including a sustainability grant from the Council of Adult, Community and Further Education received in 2005, but intended for 3 years to 2007.

Even though we do not have a publicity officer, attempts have been made to attract more members. In excess of 100 leaflets have been placed at strategic locations. An announcement have been published in the "Leader" and also submitted to the "Fifty-Plus News" Around U3A column. From June 2006, we shall be resuming broadcasts with 96.5 Inner FM.

You will undoubtedly agree that the most effective method to advertising is by word of mouth. If you have enjoyed your classes, I encourage you to talk about them family, friends, neighbours, acquaintances, and encourage them to join. The only proviso is that they are retirees, (that is, not working full time).

Some of you may feel that we should be offering more courses. In the first 10 years of its history, Darebin U3A presented to its members a veritable wealth of subjects.

In our publicity material, we state that we welcome new Tutors. Perhaps you could consider conducting a course yourselves, whether on a theme you have already studied at U3A, or on an idea you wish to discuss with others; or a group of you with a common interest may undertake to research elements of a topic and share your findings. This is after all, the concept on which U3As were founded.

If there is a course you would like to follow, please leave a message on 9610 2102 with your preferred day of the week and time; if there is sufficient demand, we shall make every effort to recruit a suitable tutor. I stress the requirement of sufficient demand, as low attendances at some classes have been of concern to me. Obviously some classes are popular; others such as the Computer classes can only accommodate a limited number, whilst some tutors may prefer smaller, closely knit groups.

Small class sizes make it difficult to attract and retain tutors, particularly since it is inevitable that not all participants can attend all sessions. Especially in those classes which are based on discussion and the cross-pollination of ideas, a group of 8 to 12 participants is likely to be more gratifying than one of 4 to 6.

The solution to the potential problems of poorly attended classes, may lie in enhancing the level of membership. Once more I appeal to you to endeavour to recruit new members. This is your organisation; it is there to help you with your physical well-being, to provide you with intellectual or artistic stimulation, or entertainment. It relies on you for its continued success.

On a more cheerful note, I remind you that the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the organisation now known as Darebin U3A, will be in October 2006. Progress in the last 5 years has not been as impressive as in the first 10, so, we do not propose to publish a booklet similar to the one issued in 2001. (Incidentally, there are still some copies available). Your committee is examining ways to celebrate that milestone, and you will be informed closer to the date in a flyer. If you have any suggestions as to what type of event, venue, etc. please let the committee know by contacting the office.

In conclusion, I wish you all the best in your enjoyment of classes in the second semester. If you are continuing with a class you do not need to take any action. If you wish to join a class for the first time, please notify the office.

*Michael Arapakis*

### **WE SHALL MISS HIM**

"Shocked", "Devastated", "Distressed", "Distraught" were the feelings expressed by members of the Current Affairs group, when we heard of the death on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2006 of Arnis Verbickis.

We were, of course, unaware that his ever cheerful appearance concealed a serious medical condition which was being long term managed.

It is pointless to speculate whether our relationship would have been different if we had known. It certainly would not have changed the value we placed on the depth and breadth of his erudition. A law graduate, he was attracted to the cut and thrust of journalism. He participated in or covered government inquiries, thus sharpening his ability to read behind the news, in turn exposing us to the more intriguing aspects of the political scene.

Presumably, his approach to this group would have been the same as he was dealing with his students, when he was lecturing at university. He stimulated thought and promoted discussion, so as to get as comprehensive a picture as possible, a balanced view of the situation. If we allowed ourselves to be swayed by preconceived ideas, our value systems or (dare we say it?) our prejudices, someone would come up with an opposing viewpoint and a persuasive argument to defend it.

He was committed to our group, even to the extent of enquiring after us when he was in hospital. And to us, he was more than a tutor (or a facilitator, as he preferred to be called) with an infectious enthusiasm, a quick wit and a ready smile. He was a friend. He was one of us.

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## **FROM THE CLASSROOM**

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### **Current Affairs**

#### **ARNIS VERBICKIS**

We learn a great deal at U3A.  
We read many books,  
Are exposed to a lot of theories,  
Debate a number of issues,  
Discuss several topics,  
But none of this,  
Helps us understand why,  
Someone who had so much to offer,  
Would prematurely die.

#### **SOME OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN 2005**

- There are times when I think the world leaders would gain some useful insights from our discussions on Current Affairs. But then, it is easy to find simple solutions to complex problems. After all, we are not in possession of all the material facts.
- What I enjoy most is that no matter how important the subject is, we don't really take ourselves seriously.
- The world cannot be in such a sorry state, if we can derive so much laughter, discussing current affairs!

#### **A SESSION ON EAST TIMOR**

A larger than usual number fortuitously gathered at Fairfield Station for the Current Affairs session on 1 June 2006. Dr. John Dalton chose to devote the entire 90 minutes on the topical theme of East Timor.

He provided some background and an outline of the history of East Timor, relating developments to events in other parts of the world, including the influence that the socio-political climate in Australia exerted on the fortunes of East Timor.

John was accompanied by Dr. Terry Pidoto, who is in the process of writing his doctoral thesis on the East Timorese community in Melbourne. Having visited East Timor several times, he narrated some of his personal experiences and his familiarity with happenings not known to the public at large.

Exposed to more information than generally available to them, participants widened their perspective and expanded their understanding of the situation. This did not deter them from asking questions and passing comments, only occasionally interrupted by some humorous remark.

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## BULLETINS

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### Subscriptions

Subscription rates are membership fees only and must be paid each year. They are for a calendar year i.e. 1st January to 31st December. This entitles the member to participate in as many classes as they wish subject to availability. There may be a nominal cost in some classes to assist with photocopying of class notes etc.

### Wish Lists

If you require any equipment for classes, could the Prefects please submit your request to the Tutor Coordinator in writing c/o of the Office.

### Videos

We have some videos available that may be relevant to your classes. Check with the Office Volunteers for a list of what is available.

### Wanted

Prose \* Poetry \* Drawings  
Photos \* Paintings

The Flyer will always benefit from more material to publish. What have you enjoyed about the classes you attend? Have you written a poem or story that others might enjoy? Have you created a picture you would like reproduced in the Flyer? Please send all material to the office.

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## MORE FROM THE CLASSROOM

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### Islam and the Muslims

The conclusion of the 2006 course had the additional feature of a speaker to address students from the current and previous years.

Mrs Sherene Hassan, from the Islamic Council of Victoria, talked on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2006 about the 5 Pillars of Islam (including a demonstration of how Muslims pray), the origins of the Qur'an, the attitude of the Qur'an to followers of other Abrahamic faiths, the customs in the Arabic Peninsula at the time of the Prophet, and much more. A great deal of ground was covered, considering the constraints of time.

She explained how, as a female with feminist tendencies, brought up and educated in Australia, she had no problem obeying the dictates of Islam, and, in particular, as they relate to women's attire, including a swimsuit.

Also of interest was her comment that some of the practices in Muslim countries which are objectionable to westerners (such as honour killings) are cultural, not religious expressions.

If any of the 22 members who attended the session had the intention of disagreeing with the speaker, she disarmed them with her charm.

Geoff Gaff, the tutor for "Islam and the Muslims" course presented the guest with an autographed copy of the book "My Desert Kingdom", authored by his wife, Jill Koolmess.

\*\*\*\*\*

Members interested in the "Islam and the Muslims" course who were unable to follow it this year because Monday mornings are not suitable, are requested to indicate their preference of day by leaving a message on 9610 2102.

Any change will, of course, be dictated by the responses and will depend on whether the expressed preferences can be met.

### Painting and Drawing

Those who have never painted before are excited to discover colour and by sharing with other students and the knowledge and encouragement of the tutor progress is taking place. Students mostly individually choose subjects, although some choose to paint the same subject as another student. Videos watched occasionally help to increase the knowledge of how to get best results.

## **Book Discussion**

So far this year we have discussed the following books:-The Turning (Tim Winton); Mao's Last Dancer (Li Cunxin); The Floating Brothel (Sian Rees); and Shadow of the Wind (Carlos Ruiz Zafon). Each of these books was entirely different in subject, style and setting, and each provoked lively discussion on its meaning and merits. There are usually differing viewpoints within the group and this ensures that there is a wide ranging exploration of characters and issues, which adds greatly to the enjoyment and understanding of the books studied.

## **Art Appreciation**

Although the Art Appreciation has been developed around a planned list of topics there has been room to accommodate input and presentations by participants.

Initially, some of the participants had some knowledge of art related subjects: others had no knowledge, just curiosity. The group has developed into a very enthusiastic bunch who derive pleasure from gaining knowledge about the arts; which enables them to appreciate more fully, such things as paintings, pottery, architecture and so on. We are beginning to "see" things we didn't notice before.

The lives and times of painters have provided the "skeleton" around which many related aspects of art have been examined. We benefit, during each session, from the observations and comments made by participants.

Following a series of sessions on developing the ability to appraise art in an objective way, it was decided to start examining the Neo-Classical (1790's) and the Romantic (1820's) periods before embarking on a study of the Impressionist (1880) periods. This culminated in a visit to the Pissarro exhibition at the National Gallery where the group were able to draw on knowledge acquired during the sessions to analyse and appreciate the paintings.

New participants are very welcome to join at any time; future topics will include a study of Australian Art and later the Renaissance.

Kerry Maher  
Tutor

## **Crime and Law Enforcement in Melbourne 2006**

This fifteen week course is aimed at sharpening critical awareness of what is going on in the criminal justice system these days. It is due to complete on the 26th June. Required reading is the Herald-Sun or the Age: all other study material are supplied. A small but very keen group of six members are participating each Monday at the Northcote Library meeting room, which is a very convenient location.

## **Singing for Pleasure**

The U3A Singing for Pleasure course is intended to be a safe place where we feel welcome, and participate in singing rounds and mostly popular songs, and learn to sing some harmonies.

It is physical training of muscles and vocal cords in an unobtrusive way. And it is mental training in learning songs and harmonies. Above all it is for enjoyment, and therefore for our well being.

## **Yoga**

Tutor Louise Avery is taking a well earned break for the first half of next semester. The Yoga class will not resume until 3 October. This class will be greatly missed by the participants. If you know anybody who would be interested in leading this class for this period, please let us know at the office on 9610 2102.

## **TUTOR PROFILES**

We welcome two new tutors/leaders.

Dr. JOHN DALTON

CURRENT AFFAIRS

John has been filling in for Max Teichmann, who is at present unwell.

John has for many years been lecturing at the Department of Politics of Monash University.

He holds a degree from the University of Queensland and the University of Oxford.

He is currently teaching part time at Victoria University, Bond University and the University of the Sunshine Coast.

His special interests are in politics and current affairs, especially in the Pacific Region.

Mrs CHRISTINE FITTIPALDI

IMPROVING YOUR ENGLISH

Christine is kindly filling in as tutor for this class while Kaye Dineen is travelling overseas.

She holds an Arts degree from Swinburne University of Technology.

Christine's family migrated to Australia from Italy when she was a small child. Being fluent in Italian as well as English, she is ideally suited to lead this class, which is principally made up of members whose first language is Italian.

## **What is the Third Age?**

The "Third Age" refers to a phase of life. After the first age of dependant childhood comes the second age of independent adulthood in work and home-making, followed by the third age, *the age of active retirement*. For some, this may be followed by a fourth age of dependence and senility – often not a happy age. It may be said that one of the major aims of the University of the Third Age (U3As) is lengthening of the third age and shortening (or even, perhaps, elimination) of the fourth age.

From A Brief History of Universities of the Third Age

## CLASS VENUES

### Fairfield Railway Station

- Situated at 26 Railway Place Fairfield
- Melways 30K10.
- Apart from the train, the 567 bus stops on the other side of the railway line. Parking at RSL Club. Details given at your first class.

### SPAN

- Situated at 298 Victoria Road Thornbury on the corner of Clarendon Street and Victoria Road opposite Clyde Jones Reserve.
- Melways 30J5.
- Buses Nos 552, 246, 251 pass along Victoria Road.

### Northcote Library

- Situated in Separation Street Northcote opposite Northcote Plaza
- Melways 30F8.
- Bus No 552 terminates at Northcote Plaza.
- Tram No 86 in High Street - Alight at Toto's Pizza Restaurant.
- The Library opens at 10.00 a.m.

### Northcote Town Hall

- Tram No 86 in High St.
- Melways 30 F9.

## TIME TABLE FOR 2ND SEMESTER 2006

Day/Time	Starts	Subject	Venue	Comments
<b>Monday</b>				
12:15 - 2:15	03/07/2006	Italian language	Fairfield Station	In Progress
<b>Tuesday</b>				
10:00 - 12:00	4/07/2006	Computer 1	SPAN	
2:00 - 3:00	3/10/2006	Yoga	Northcote Town Hall	
<b>Wednesday</b>				
10:30 - 12:00	5/07/2006	Book Discussion	Fairfield Station	First Wednesday of month
11:30 - 12:30	19/07/2006	Classical Studies	Fairfield Station	3rd Wednesday of month
12:45 - 2:45	5/07/2006	Needlecraft	Fairfield Station	
1:30 - 3:00	5/07/2006	Improving Your English	SPAN	
3:00 - 4:30	5/07/2006	Shakespeare Plays	Fairfield Station	
<b>Thursday</b>				
10:00 - 11:30	13/07/2006	Current Affairs	Fairfield Station	Every Second Week – start date to be confirmed
10:00 - 12:00	6/07/2006	Computer 2	SPAN	
1:00 - 3:30	6/07/2006	Painting & Drawing	SPAN	
2:30 - 3:30	6/07/2006	Tai Chi	Northcote Town Hall	
<b>Friday</b>				
10:00 - 11:30	7/07/2006	Art Appreciation	Fairfield Station	
1:00 - 3:30	7/07/2006	Singing for Pleasure	SPAN	
1:00 - 3:00	7/07/2006	Classical Italian Literature	Fairfield Station	In progress
<b>Saturday</b>				
1:30 - 4:00	1/07/2006	Canasta	Fairfield Station	1st & 3rd Saturday of Month





U3A Darebin Inc. - ABN 41 278 577 132

Individual  Joint  Associate

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ /06

Member No: 06/ \_\_\_\_\_

**Tax Invoice/Receipt**

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

GST: \$ 0.00

**Application for Membership**

Mail applications to: U3A Darebin Inc PO Box 44, Fairfield VIC 3078  
 Cheques (or Postal Orders) made payable to U3A Darebin Inc.

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

Member No: 06/ \_\_\_\_\_

Type: \$30 \$45 \$15

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ /06

Membership Type:  Individual \$30  Joint \$45  Associate \$15 (Name of U3A) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Person to contact in emergency: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Were you a member last Year? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, how did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

**To ensure continued funding we require the following personal details:**

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Country of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Language spoken at home: \_\_\_\_\_

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander? Y / N Employment Category (eg Retired): \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary school year reached: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Completed: 19 \_\_\_\_

Do you have any special requirements (e.g. need for disabled access)? \_\_\_\_\_

**Second Person (Joint Members only) One Newsletter addressed to first person named above**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Were you a member last Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Country of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Language spoken at home: \_\_\_\_\_

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander? Y / N Employment Category (eg Retired): \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary school year reached: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Completed: 19 \_\_\_\_

Do you have any special requirements (e.g. need for disabled access)? \_\_\_\_\_

**Class Bookings**

\*Name required for joint members only

Name\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Our Privacy Policy**

U3A Darebin is a community based provider of classes for older people and is run by volunteers.

We collect names and addresses to enable us to mail out newsletters and other information about classes, and we list phone numbers to contact you directly if required. This mailing and phone list is not made available to anyone outside the organization.

We also ask you for personal details to provide statistical data to government funding agencies. This is a requirement for receiving government grants. The information is used for future planning.

This information is compiled into statistical reports that do not identify individuals.

If you choose to withhold these personal details there will be gaps in the data that will reduce the accuracy of the statistics, and this will not help our cause.

We do not disclose any of this information to any other parties, and would never do so without your consent.

If you have any concerns or queries or would like to know more about how we handle your private details feel free to phone our office on 96102102 so that we can explain our procedures in greater detail.



**DAREBIN INC.**

Reg No. A0028861A

U3A Darebin Inc. Newsletter  
Number 42 . January 2006  
PRINT POST No. PP30479/04

If undeliverable return to  
PO Box 44  
FAIRFIELD VIC 3078

“Railway Station”  
26 Railway Place  
Fairfield 3078

Tel: 96 102 102  
Fax: 96 102 101  
Email: [dbin@alphalink.com.au](mailto:dbin@alphalink.com.au)

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