

§ **Coming Events**

ENROLMENT DAYS FOR 2008
Fairfield Station Classroom
 Wednesday January 23 and
 Friday January 25
 Between 10.00Am and 3.00pm

Northcote Library
 Monday February 4
 Between 3.00pm and 5.00pm

*You can also send your application by mail
 (cheque or money order, no cash please).*

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS
 All members, existing and new, are invited to
 drop in to the **Fairfield Railway Station**
 classroom on **Tuesday 26 February 2008**
 for a cuppa and conversation
 from **10:30am to 12:30pm.**

*This is your opportunity to meet some of the
 committee and also members from other
 classes.*

§ **Contact Information**

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	10:00 am	to	11:30am

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 26 Railway Place, Fairfield 3078.

§ **President’s Message**

To all members of Darebin U3A, I sincerely wish a happy, healthy and fulfilling New Year.

In this way I avoid starting my first communication in 2008 by putting in writing my disappointment that, despite the welcome addition of four new members to the Committee, not all vacancies have been filled. Our

Michael Arapakis

revenue will, of course, be banked and our debts paid when due, but time spent on what is a clerical function may be more usefully utilised in dealing with the other needs of the organisation and its members.

Shortages on the Committee of Management do not seem to be a recent phenomenon. In addition to the other duties, the new committee will need to address the issue of

averting in future what can be an inconvenience at best and a crisis at worst. Two committee members will attend a succession planning workshop at U3A Network in February, and an application for a volunteering grant will soon be made, which hopefully, will yield the desired results. Otherwise, member funds may need to be expended in performing certain essential tasks (a suggestion for which I was criticised by more than one party, as it was offering an easy way out) or some services may suffer, and/or opportunities missed. The alternative that someone or other from the committee may be subjected to burnout because of excessive workload is not being seriously considered.

This edition of the Flyer includes four articles from members, compared with ten in the January 2007 issue. In the past, I often expressed my personal wish that the newsletter be mainly composed of articles written by members. Influenced by the two Darebin U3A publications, the collection *A Year in Our Life – Improving Your English (language) 1999* and the booklet *1991-2001 The First Ten Years* (copies of both are still available to any member not possessing them) with a significant proportion of the contributors being current members, I visualised the newsletter to be a chronicle of members' views and feelings. Obviously, I was out of order; members are not obliged to grant my wishes, whereas I am bound to endeavour to satisfy any reasonable wants which members express.

The *Life Experiences* column is, in my opinion, a special case. A minimum of three articles a year is not an exorbitant request. Feedback on stories published in earlier newsletters though not classified under that heading, ranges from “evocative” to “entertaining” to just “interesting”. With so many other organisations engaging in story telling, I cannot convince myself that with more than average years behind us, we do not have a tale to tell which a potential reader will enjoy.

It may be that some members feel too vulnerable to divulge an intimate experience. On the other hand, they might find it liberating. To demonstrate that I am not asking members to do something that I am unwilling to do, I have written two very different stories for this newsletter. They make no claim to literary merit. The essence is to share our experiences with others.

Whilst on the subject of newsletters, it is proposed that a great deal of the material appearing in them be published on our website. If members are prepared to submit articles for the newsletter but not for the website, they are requested to make their intentions clear.

At the latest AGM, it was hinted that some members may be averse to their date of birth being made public. This is being asked in order to compile statistics required by our fund providers from time to time, but there is no legal compulsion to comply. If this disclosure is likely to cause discomfort, members are free to state “over 55” or any other age group with which they may feel at ease.

§ From The Classroom

ART APPRECIATION

Alison Laird

Our tutor in 2007, Kerry Maher, provided us with a great course exploring many different artists, styles and periods of painting as well as sculpture and architecture, and with his wealth of information, articles, books and videos. We visited the Guggenheim exhibition at the National Gallery and also Kerry's own exhibition at Bundoora Homestead. The group also contributed with discussion and material.

Unfortunately Kerry is not able to continue as tutor in 2008 and the group has decided to continue on a fortnightly basis on Fridays from 10.00 am to 11.30 am commencing on Friday 8th February at Fairfield station.

It is proposed that members will bring ideas to the first class – some members may be prepared to take on a particular artist or period and provide background information and material for a class discussion, or we may decide on a topic to which we can all, or several members can, contribute. It is intended that visits will be made on some class days to galleries or studios in Melbourne and perhaps country, e.g. Geelong, Bendigo – by train or car pooling. We may also visit the city or suburbs for an architectural walk or to see stained glass, sculpture, etc.

The group is a very enthusiastic and friendly one and members can participate as much or as little as they wish. The 2007 class was very enjoyable, many thanks to Kerry.

IMPROVING YOUR ENGLISH

Franca Pieroni

2007 is over. So also are our U3A classes in Darebin for that year.

We were like schoolgirls, all excited, programming break-up parties and looking forward to the holidays. The year went quickly! Too quickly!

All the classes that I have attended have been very interesting and opened up my horizons. At the *Improving Your English* class we study various topics. Then our tutor proposed that we look into Aboriginal history. The subject has been stimulating and enlightening. Very, very interesting.

With the terrific help of our wonderful tutor, who provided to us lots of documentation, we went deeply into “Dreamtime – Life Circle – Reconciliation”. All this has been an adventure, really a discovery trip.

Aboriginal culture is very rich in spirituality. The more one goes into their ways of living, the more one realises that their laws were good, and well thought out for their people and their land, probably more than white peoples’

laws, especially now that we are losing the real essence of living.

Sincere thanks to our tutor, never too tired to enlighten and clarify the many facets of Aboriginal culture, so to make us understand, also to make us able to see in our minds, how Aboriginal people lived since centuries ago.

It was a pity that the progress coming with the white people into this land was too abrupt for their way of living. It must have been a very traumatic and disorientating time for Aboriginal people. We read a few of their life stories that touched us deeply. Also we profoundly understand them. In fact, their life stories resemble our New Australian life stories. Both of us lost our worlds, and we had had to create a new one.

Of course, time doesn't stand still, even for the Aboriginals. They had to change. The change is still ongoing, for all of us. My hope is that Aboriginal people will be able to preserve their culture, so spiritually rich, and incorporate in it new ways of living. And their "Dreamtime" lights a way for us to living harmoniously together.

SHAKESPEARE

Ronda Zwart

On Wednesday afternoons a dedicated group of U3A members gather together to enjoy the plays and sonnets of Shakespeare. We are aided by film and DVDs and even though we did not have the guidance of a tutor last year, have managed to read such great plays as *Henry IV*,

following up with a magnificent version of *The Lion In Winter* starring Patrick Stewart and Glenn Close in the lead roles of Henry and Eleanor.

We did a similar study of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and watched a film with a very young Mickey Rooney as Puck.

Most of our studying is done this way, reading the plays and watching appropriate videos or DVDs. We are also fortunate to have Albert Stuckey's assistance and knowledge to help keep us on track and make the afternoon together great fun.

Thank you to Albert and to Darebin U3A.

TAI-CHI

Doreen Ivanoski

On Thursday 13 December 2007 the Tai Chi class met for their end of year lunch at the Peacock Hotel in Northcote. We were joined by our tutor Barry and his lovely lady Noni, and we had a very enjoyable meal. We made good progress last year and are looking forward to resuming this year.

Tai Chi is a graceful, yet gentle form of exercise that is suitable for all ages and levels of fitness. In 2008, there will be a beginner's class as well as one for more advanced students. We would love to welcome new students and Barry has endless patience and good humour to introduce students to the discipline he loves.

§ Courses For 2008 Semester 1

YOUR TUTORS (FACILITATORS, CO-ORDINATORS)

Course	Tutor
Art Appreciation	Alison Laird
Book Discussion	Christine Honig
Canasta.....	Claudia Sanzin
Cinema.....	Paul Michell
Classical Italian Literature	Dr Jone Gaillard
Classical Studies	Dr Kerry Eccles
Computer 1	Russell Lennox
Computer 2	Mary Levens
Current Affairs.....	Dr John Dalton
Gardening	Anne Clarke
Improving your English.....	Christina Fittipaldi
Islam and the Muslims.....	Geoff Gaff

Course	Tutor
Italian Conversation.....	Nerina Novak
Italian Language	Larry Ginger
Mahjong.....	Nancy Keele
Needlecraft.....	Jean Garita
Painting and Drawing	June Pitman
Shakespeare	Albert Stuckey
Singing for Pleasure.....	Jim Logan
Story Telling.....	Nell Bell
Tai-Chi.....	Barry Watson
Yoga	Nicky Thomas

The Committee thanks tutors for devoting their time and energy, and for imparting their knowledge which is so greatly appreciated by the students.

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NOTES ON SOME SEMESTER 1 COURSES

Book Discussion

Book list for 2008.

Month	Title	Author
February	Carpentaria	Alexis Wright
March	Mr Pip	Lloyd Jones
April	A Thousand Splendid Suns	Khalid Hossenei
May	Brooklyn Follies	Paul Auster
June	The Broken Shore	Peter Temple
July	The Surgeon of Crowthorne	Simon Winchester
August	Away (a play)	Michael Gow
September	Dancing With Strangers	Inga Clendinning
October	Cheating at Canasta	William Trevor
November	Last Orders	Graham Swift

Cinema Studies

We are delighted that Paul Michell has fully recovered and is willing to present a series of films with the theme of Post-War European cinema. Paul's approach has been to introduce each session with a background of the genre, director, or other pertinent element, with appropriate handouts. A discussion follows the viewing of the film. In the past students were sometimes so absorbed that they ignored the popcorn!

Classical Italian Literature

Dr Jone Gaillard will take the class to the end of the 19th century and into the beginning of the 20th century with D'Annunzio, then on to Pirandello and Fontarmara by Ignezio Silone. The reading list is given at the first class on Friday 8th February.

Classical Studies

This year's course will place us in Classical Athens 500 BC, a time marking the beginning of the cultural revolution that was to form the basis of intellectual life in Athens, and continues to do so in the schools, universities and theatres of contemporary Western societies.

We will examine the beginnings of theatre, its architecture, conventions and ideas; the place of theatre in the religious, political and philosophical life of the people of Athens. We will look at the changing attitudes and interests that preoccupied ordinary Athenians about such issues as morality, politics and personal behaviour. We witness the development of an increasingly sophisticated intellectual life and the evolution of a lively critical, questioning approach to the Ancient World and the individual's role in it.

Our study will begin with two plays by Euripides, perhaps the most "modern" of Greek playwrights. We begin with *Medea*, a great study of a woman given to infanticide, and the plight of a foreigner, the outsider. Later we study *The*

Bacchae, and with it take a detour into the evolution of Religion and Cults in 5th century Greece.

We will conclude the year with an introduction to Philosophy, looking with Plato at *The Last Days of Socrates*.

Current Affairs

We are also delighted that Dr John Dalton is well on the way to recovery. The precise date on which John will be able to resume is not yet known, but members who register for Current Affairs will be informed by telephone.

Members who attended John's classes in the past will be familiar with his style. Except where there is a specific issue which requires additional research, the discussion centres around matters which the participants bring up. John's vast encyclopaedic knowledge provides the background.

Gardening

As our former tutor is in doubt the Gardening Class will continue as a group meeting monthly and planning our own agenda. Anne Clarke has offered to be our Co-ordinator. Discussion on how to proceed will be held at the first meeting on Tuesday 5th February. New members welcome.

Islam and the Muslims

An additional feature this semester will be that one session will be led by Jill Koolmess, author of the book *My Desert Kingdom*. Otherwise, the course will be the study of the Koran, brought to life by Geoff Gaff's experience in Saudi Arabia over several years.

Mahjong

This a western version of a Chinese game, probably of 19th century origin. It is played with 144 tiles, similar to dominoes but engraved with Chinese symbols and characters (bamboos, circles, dragons, etc.) and divided into suits and honours.

The usual game is for four who play for their own account (no partners). The object of the play, as for rummy card games, is to obtain sets of tiles. As for rummy, the strategy of the game is to defend as well as to attack, to block other players by retaining tiles useful to them, and to complete a winning hand while building a high scoring hand.

Mahjong is very popular at other U3As. Some of its followers are reputed to be as passionate about their game as are bridge players. Nancy Keele will bring her mastery of the game to the classroom.

Story Telling

This is not the narration of personal experience referred to elsewhere in this Flyer. It is an interactive process through which the examination of stories leads to the exploration of culture.

In addition to other qualifications, Nell Bell holds a degree in Story Telling. This has been discontinued, therefore Nell's imparting of her knowledge takes on additional importance.

Members joining the Story Telling class may look forward to an exciting and enriching experience.

§ Life Experiences

A PENNILESS DRUNKARD

Kenya's political troubles were prominent in the news recently. Its capital, where I spent my late teens and most of my twenties, was not then the metropolis occasionally appearing on our TV screens as the host of some international conference.

The saying that Nairobi was "half the size of a London cemetery and twice as dead" was, of course, a gross simplification. There were up to seven cinemas (including two drive-ins), a repertory company, the National Theatre where recitals, concerts, musicals, oratorios and large theatrical products were staged, and up to three nightclubs. A great deal of the time, however, we made our own fun. Singing was part of it.

When a friend, Alex and I would drive the 30-odd kilometres to and from the centre of the city, we would sing without stop. It was as if the last note of one song furnished the clue to the beginning of the next one.

Eventually Alex married his childhood sweetheart, Danae. She used to be amused at the way we improvised when we no longer remembered the lyrics of an old song, but that did not deter her from joining in.

The time came for me to leave for Australia, and subsequently they left for West Africa then went to the UK. We lost touch for more than a quarter of a century, until a chance remark by the friend of a friend of a relative enabled me to track them down.

BREAK A LEG

Comedy is not my strong point. It requires split second timing and a speed of speech and, on the stage, movement which I have not been able to master. But when no one had auditioned for the part of Arturo Sanchez, a South American diplomat in the play *A Cactus Flower*, I was persuaded to take on the role.

Some members may have seen the screen version with Walter Matthau as the dentist and Ingrid Bergman as the prickly nurse who blossoms. At that production, Liddy Clarke who later appeared on television and the wide screen, made her acting debut in the role played in the film by Goldie Hawn.

The play is fast paced with many scenes and costume changes so a revolving stage was built. With the limited

Yoga

After a year without a qualified Yoga tutor we are fortunate to have the services of Nicky Thomas. Nicky teaches at C.A.E. and is eager to assist us older members in gentle movement and meditation. Please bring a belt for exercise and a blanket for meditation. Note the class has moved to Thursday and begins on 7 February.

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We spent nearly a week together at their holiday house outside Kalamata. One evening, without prompting, Danae picked up her guitar and sang on her own a song which had not been part of our repertoire. Perhaps I had not even heard it before. It was about a penniless drunkard with the problem that the tavern was too small to give him credit.

We parted on the understanding that we would meet in a fortnight's time to hop in the car and drive wherever the fancy took us, as we used to do in Africa decades earlier.

Before that date arrived I found out that Danae had been diagnosed with cancer. So, instead of deciding whether or not we should stay in Dubrovnik or elsewhere I was on the telephone to Canada where one of her nephews was practising as an oncologist. Some three years later she sounded optimistic and determined to beat the disease.

One afternoon I was sweeping the front veranda when the words and tune of the song about the penniless drunkard entered my mind. Not attaching any significance to it I did not take notice of the exact time. It was not until several hours later that I was informed Danae died at what would have been 4.26 pm Australian EST.

Was that the time when that song pushed out any other thoughts from my head? If it was, did Danae send me a final message from the other side of the world, perhaps from another world, or was it merely a coincidence? More questions to which I shall never know the answer.

Michael Arapakis

financial resources of an amateur company it was not constructed as robustly as it could have been. By the third day a gap had developed between the fixed and the moveable parts of the stage.

Angry that my guest at a nightclub, the usually prim dental nurse was outrageously flirting on the dance floor with a younger man, I slumped into a chair, folding my arms. More than 30 years later, I still cannot work out where I found the presence of mind to cope with the situation when one of the legs of the chair slid into the gap. The natural reaction would have been to spread my arms and so cushion the effect of the fall, but then I would have taken part of the stage set with me. So, I shifted my weight in the opposite direction of the angle of the fall, then got up, dusted my clothes, and sat gingerly at the edge of the

chair, which now had only three legs touching the floor. It was as if I had literally obeyed the superstitious theatrical greeting “Break a leg”.

The place boomed with laughter and applause. Whether people delight in someone else’s mishap, or that particular audience was fond of slapstick, or that my face (to the extent that its features were visible at a distance) displayed my puzzlement, or that the scene was so unexpected that it

produced spontaneous mirth, is immaterial. If I had intentionally played for laughs, it would not have been as successful.

Someone congratulated the director in the visitors’ book for introducing the “business” of the falling chair. For the remaining performances, I carefully watched where I placed the chair in case the leg to be broken would not belong to a chair.

§ Out And About

Since the previous issue of the Flyer, a member of your 2007 Committee represented Darebin U3A at the following gatherings.

U3A Yarra City Annual General Meeting

23rd October 2007

At our own AGM three representatives from U3A Whittlesea attended, and one of our associate members represented U3A Yarra City. A closer co-operation between Darebin U3A and U3As in adjoining municipalities is being pursued.

U3A Eastern Metropolitan Forum

19th November 2007

This is a group of several metropolitan U3As, including some with substantial memberships (700–1000+).

Similar groups, sometimes referred to as regional councils, have been operating for some time, particularly in country areas. U3A Network is actively encouraging them, but both participation and the group which the individual U3A may wish to join, are optional.

The principal advantage is perceived to be that each group may discuss the topics of interest to that particular group, which is not possible at the quarterly council meetings of the Network, when 70 or more delegates may be in attendance.

Whether we continue to be part of the Eastern Metropolitan Forum in the long run, or form another group of U3As from the surrounding areas (e.g. Yarra City, Moreland, Whittlesea, Hume, Yarra Valley, etc.), or both, will depend on many factors, including the potential benefits which such associations would bring to Darebin U3A, the competing demands of the other responsibilities of committee members, and the availability of committee members to undertake the task.

Darebin Positive Ageing Forum

26th November 2007

Attended by two members of Darebin U3A, in addition to one from the Committee.

Darebin U3A has become an integral part of the Darebin Positive Ageing Project (the Project Worker seems to be taking advantage of every chance to advance our cause) that it was specifically mentioned by the City of Darebin’s Manager of Aged and Disability Services in his

introduction. An interesting approach was that he likened the concept of U3A to the agora in ancient Athens where the citizens assembled to learn as well as to instruct, exchange ideas and socialise.

The theme of the forum was “to vision and inspire positive ageing opportunities in ... local communities”. Its objective was to examine the settings necessary for positive ageing activities to be sustainable after the Project officially terminates in June 2008.

Connections among the partners (of which Darebin U3A is one) has been revealed as one means of achieving that goal. Settings in which positive ageing can occur have been identified as learning, arts and physical activity, all of which Darebin U3A strives to furnish to its members.

In addition to this forum, frequent meetings were held with the Darebin Positive Ageing Project worker and the Manager of SPAN. These meetings do not warrant specific mention.

Hume U3A Open House

30th November 2007

The open house was held at the new premises of Hume U3A at the Dallas Primary School Hub. The classroom and the office are impressively more spacious than ours, but any temptation of envy was vigorously resisted; some U3As consider us fortunate, not only because we have premises with security of tenure, but because of its location close to transport and facilities.

Darebin U3A and Hume U3A were, until a few years ago, both members of a “cluster”, the purpose of which was to make joint applications to the state government for funding specific projects. Hume U3A’s invitation has enabled us to renew contact.

Darebin International Volunteers Day Breakfast

5th December 2007

The City of Darebin places a great deal of importance on the contribution of volunteering organisations operating in the municipality, which it values and supports in many ways. Members will remember that on 11 September 2007, Council had conducted a Strategic Planning Workshop on Volunteering, when the 15th anniversary of Darebin U3A was celebrated with a cake at the afternoon session.

Despite the 7.30am start, ten of our members, all of whom had performed or otherwise assisted at the Healthy Ageing Expo in October 2007, were among about 130 volunteers who responded to the invitation.

Guests were greeted on arrival by a string quartet, and the buffet breakfast catered for various dietary needs. Entertainment was later provided by the Spectrum Multicultural Choir, with the singers from the Chaldean/Assyrian and the Chinese communities.

Speeches referred not only to the value of volunteering and the success of certain projects, but also to the ingenuity of volunteers to find solutions to problems, although with limited resources; how refreshing it is to notice that despite wars and devastation, a great number of people selflessly help others; how one does not have to consider oneself as a volunteer to be moved to an act of kindness.

Our members declared that they were glad to be there, and that atmosphere was such that the same would be true of many others who attended.

A Certificate of Appreciation issued by Darebin City Council and Volunteering Australia was presented to all the participants.

Thornbury Women's Neighbourhood House End of Year & Student Graduation Ceremony

5th December 2007

The invitation stated: This would be an opportunity for the TWNH community to thank you formally for all the time and positive energy you gave to the Count us in / Online learning project steering committee.

Two of your committee members had been involved.

Entertainment was provided by a choir with the enthusiastic support of the project workers, and by individual performers. TWNH appears to be very successful in making available to women who have a musical potential, tuition not otherwise accessible to them, up to and including the design of the cover of their CD.

Darebin City Council Arts and Cultural Development Branch End of Year Celebration

12th December 2007

The Branch organises several arts and cultural activities, which may in future present opportunities to our members to express and further develop their talents.

§ Annual General Meeting 2007

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

The Constitution and Rules of U3A Darebin Inc. may be inspected by members, by appointment with the Secretary, once the amendments passed on 6 December 2007 have been approved by the Registrar of Incorporated Associations.

Reference Group Meeting: SPAN relocation to Clyde Street

13th December 2007

Five of our classes are being held at SPAN Community House, which needs to vacate its premises by December 2008, or, at the latest, by February 2009. Therefore we have a vested interest in the success of the relocation to a Council owned building some two minutes walk from SPAN's current premises.

The intent is to employ a participatory design process, incorporating eco-design. During the community consultation phase, we shall have the opportunity to make ourselves known to the residents in the area, and, therefore, attract new members.

For the past two years, your Committee had recognised the desirability of a social space, where members could meet with others from different classes, and enjoy a cuppa in a relaxed atmosphere. A lounge could not be physically accommodated at Fairfield Station, but one is being planned for the Clyde Street development. Admittedly, such a space would not be for our exclusive use, but we may conceivably, reserve it, if necessary, for a hire fee.

The plan includes a reception area, which would be regularly staffed. A possible benefit to Darebin U3A may be that some of our administrative duties may be covered by the greater resources available to SPAN, thus relieving some of the burden of our volunteers.

Limitation of storage space at Fairfield has also prevented us from acquiring equipment for physical training. Provided always that there is sufficient demand, it is expected that there would be sufficient room to expand our exercise classes, once the Clyde Street building is refurbished.

Also planned is a semi-commercial kitchen, which would enable us to hold cooking classes; a community garden may serve as a practical outlet for our gardening group; however, these may not materialise until Stage 2 of the project, some time later in 2009 or beyond.

ELECTION OUTCOME

The Committee welcomes new members elected at the AGM. New members are indicated with * in the following list.

Your Committee

Name	Position
Michael Arapakis.....	President
Dianne Beaumont *	Committee Member
Lorraine Carr	Committee Member
Anne Clark *	Committee Member
Jill Craig.....	Committee Member
Pam Fergie-Jackson	Office Co-ordinator
Audrey Grace *	Vice-President
Jean Garita	Property Officer
Alison Laird *	Secretary
Carmel Lee.....	Tutor Co-ordinator
Jim Logan	Committee Member

Other Positions

Name	Position
Basil Conquo	Assistant Treasurer
Claudia Sanzin.....	Members' Co-ordinator
Luciano Sanzin	Computer Maintenance Officer

Four Vacant Positions

Treasurer	Assistant Secretary
Minute Secretary	Publicity Officer

§ Members' Rights at General Meetings

For the latest two years, your committee had been treating its service to members to be its primary obligation. The wish to have members actively participating in the affairs of the organisation, in preference to strict adherence to rules, was based on the principle that substance (service to members) over-rides form (compliance with rules).

However, Rules are designed as a framework for the orderly operation of the organisation and departure from them may lead to unintended consequences. Whilst each individual's wishes are respected these must be balanced with the needs of other members.

Members are notionally supposed to be aware of the Rules under which their association operates, but not every member has the patience to study them, particularly as they are meant to be expressed in unambiguous terms, with which the member may not be familiar. This is why certain issues were clarified in earlier newsletters. These notes will deal with the Rules as they relate to members' rights at general meetings.

According to Rule 8(4) the ordinary business to be conducted at an Annual General Meeting are briefly:

- Confirmation of Minutes;

AIMS FOR 2008

The new committee will reinforce the aims adopted for 2007.

1. To increase membership numbers.
 - a. Advertisements are proposed to be placed in the local press at the beginning of the year.
 - b. Once the findings of the Needs Analysis undertaken by the Latrobe University students are available, they will provide a guide for the direction of our efforts to attract new members.
2. To consolidate our relationships with other organisations and if possible, forge new ties, whilst being mindful of the risk of overextending ourselves.
3. Personally to meet as many members as possible.
 - a. The social element of members and their committee getting to know each other is worthwhile in itself, but the fundamental reason is for the committee to become acquainted with the needs and concerns of the members.
 - b. The extended hours of the two principal enrolment days are intended to allow, if possible, more time for members to meet someone from the committee.
 - c. A morning get-together is scheduled approximately one month later.
4. To extend the number of courses available to members. Four more classes are offered in the first semester of 2008 than in 2007.

(according to the Constitution of U3A Darebin Inc.)

- Receiving reports from the Committee on transactions in previous year;
- Election of officers and ordinary committee members;
- Receiving and considering financial statements;
- Appointment of auditor(s).

Members will notice that there is no automatic provision for "any other business". In fact Rule 8(5) specifies that "The annual general meeting may transact special business of which notice is given in accordance with ... (the) rules" and Rule 11(2) states "No business other than that set out in the notice convening the meeting shall be transacted at the meeting".

The notice referred to in Rule 8(5) is defined in Rule 11(1) as "... at least fourteen days before the date fixed for holding a general meeting ... by pre-paid post stating the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting". The mechanism is outlined in Rule 11(3) which states "A member desiring to bring any business before a meeting may give notice of that business in writing to the Secretary, who shall include that business in the notice calling the next general meeting after the receipt of the notice".

As the AGM is usually held in the first week of December, members who wish to propose special business have until approximately mid-November to make their submission. If members feel that they may have an urgent matter to be brought up before a general meeting, their attention is drawn to Rules 9 and 10(2 & 3):

- Rule 9: “All general meetings other than the annual general meeting shall be called a special general meeting.”
- Rule 10(2): “The Committee shall, on the requisition in writing of members representing not less than 10%

of the total number of members, convene a special general meeting of the Association.”

- Rule 10(3): “The requisition for a special general meeting shall state the objects of the meeting and shall be signed by the members making the requisition and be sent to the address of the Secretary and may consist of several documents in the like form, each signed by one or more of the members making the requisition.”

If the Committee does not act promptly enough, Rules 10(4) and 10(5) accord the right to members to take steps themselves to convene a special general meeting.

§ From The Office

Pam Fergie-Jackson

USE YOUR LIBRARY

There are some books, magazines, DVDs and CDs available for loan. They are kept in the office on the north wall. Drop in and see if there is anything of interest to you or your group.

VISIT YOUR WEBSITE

Thanks to the efforts of our Computer Tutors, we now have our own website. It can be accessed via the Darebin City Community Portal or at <http://users.alphalink.com.au/~dbin/home.html>. Step by step instructions for access via the Darebin City Community Portal are available at the office.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Volunteers to staff the office on Monday afternoons and Friday mornings are needed. If you can help, even occasionally please leave a message for Pam Fergie-Jackson on the answering machine.

VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED

U3A throughout the world encourages its members to volunteer to take up administrative and teaching duties which will keep the organisation operating effectively.

This policy helps to maintain subscription dues to the minimum; it enables the utilisation of the variety of skills of the members, and is a measure of appreciation of the generous contribution of tutors.

Whilst the Committee of Management has the responsibility to conduct the affairs of the organisation according to the Constitution and to meet the requirements of the law as it applies to an incorporated body, there are several other tasks which need to be performed. General roles of volunteers are described in the following table.

Please indicate the task for which you wish to volunteer by completing the lower section of the Application for Membership form. If you are prepared to assist in any way not otherwise covered, please specify on the comments line.

Role	Description
Class Representatives	Provide general help to the tutor, keep rolls, pass messages from the committee; set up and clear room for the class. Where classes are at the Fairfield Station venue, unlock/lock doors and disarm/arm security system.
Office volunteers	Take and clear telephone messages; record summary of messages; where necessary, contact the appropriate committee member; mail out information kits to interested callers.
Distributors of Brochures	Brochures to be placed at locations where they are likely to attract prospective members.
General duties	The need may arise from time to time (say, 2 – 4 times a year) for additional help of an unspecified nature.
Special projects/Event Co-ordinators	Co-ordinate special events or projects.
Tutors and Group Leaders	Do you have an area of special interest or knowledge which you are happy to share with others; it need not be a full semester or full year topic.

Forget Uncle Sam



Darebin U3A Needs You

To volunteer, phone 96 102 102
and leave a message for Pam Fergie-Jackson.

Course Timetable & Venues - 2008 Semester 1

Day	Time	Starts	Subject	Venue	Comments	Venue Details
Monday	10.30 - 11.30	1-02-08	Islam and the Muslims	Fairfield Station	6-7 weeks	<p>Fairfield Railway Station Situating at 26 Railway Place Fairfield (rear of Platform 1), opposite the RSL. <i>Melways 30K10</i>. Apart from the Hurstbridge Line train, the 567 bus stops on the other side of the railway line. Parking at RSL Club with U3A Membership Permit.</p> <p>SPAN Situating at 298 Victoria Road Thornbury on the corner of Clarendon Street and Victoria Road opposite Clyde Jones Reserve. <i>Melways 30J5</i>. Buses Nos 552, 246, 251 pass along Victoria Road.</p> <p>Northcote Library Situating at 32-38 Separation Street Northcote opposite Northcote Plaza. <i>Melways 30F8</i>. Bus No 552 terminates at Northcote Plaza. Tram No 86 in High Street - alight at Separation Street stop. The Library opens at 10.00 a.m.</p> <p>Northcote Town Hall Situating at the top of Ruckers Hill in High Street Northcote. <i>Melways 30F9</i>. Tram No 86 in High Street stops outside front</p>
	12:15 - 2:15	14-01-08	Italian Language	Fairfield Station		
	3:00 - 4:30	3-03-08	Italian Conversation	Northcote Library		
Tuesday	10.00 - 12.00	5-02-08	Computer 1	SPAN		
	10.30 - 11.30	5-02-08	Gardening	Fairfield Station	1st Tuesday of month	
	1.00 - 2.00	5-02-08	Tai-Chi Basic	Northcote Town Hall	Yang Style	
	2.00 - 3.00	5-02-08	Tai-Chi Intermediate	Northcote Town Hall	modified for seniors	
	2.30 - 3.30	5-02-08	Story Telling	Fairfield Station		
Wednesday	10.30 - 12.00	6-02-08	Book Discussion	Fairfield Station	1st Wednesday/month	
	11.30 - 12.30	20-02-08	Classical Studies	Fairfield Station	3rd Wednesday/month	
	12.30 - 2.00	5-03-08	Improving your English	SPAN		
	12.45 - 2.45	6-02-08	Needlecraft	Fairfield Station		
	3.00 - 4.30	6-02-08	Shakespeare Plays	Fairfield Station		
Thursday	1.00 - 2.00	7-02-08	Yoga	Northcote Town Hall		
	1:30 - 3:30	7-02-08	Painting and Drawing	SPAN		
	10:00 - 12:00	7-02-08	Computer 2	SPAN		
	10:30 - 12:00	TBA	Current Affairs	Fairfield Station		
Friday	10.00 - 11.30	8-02-08	Art Appreciation	Fairfield Station	Every second week	
	10:15 - 1:15	28-03-08	Cinema Studies	Fairfield Station	4th Friday/month	
	1.00 - 3.30	8-02-08	Singing for Pleasure	SPAN		
	1.00 - 3.00	8-02-08	Classical Italian Literature	Fairfield Station		
Saturday	1:30 - 4:00	2-02-08	Mahjong	Fairfield Station	1st & 3rd Sat/month	
	1:30 - 4:00	9-02-08	Canasta	Fairfield Station	2nd & 4th Sat/month	

Contact U3A Darebin:

Email: dbin@alphalink.com.au

Fax: 96 102 101

Phone: 96 102 102

Post: PO Box 44, Fairfield VIC 3078

 DAREBIN INC. <small>Reg No. A0028861A</small>	U3A Darebin Inc. - ABN 41 278 577 132 <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Joint <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Name: _____ Received: _____ Date: ____ / ____ /08	Member No: 08/ _____ Tax Invoice/Receipt Amount: \$ _____ GST: \$ 0.00
	<hr/>	
	<hr/>	

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: 08/
Type: \$30 \$45 \$15
Date: / /08

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? Y / N 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): _____

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

Second Person (Joint Members only)

Name: _____ Were you a member last Year? Y / N

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ Country of Birth: _____ Language spoken at home: _____

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

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: _____

I am willing to volunteer for the task of _____

I am available on _____ (day) between _____ and _____ (times) at a _____ (frequency)
 ...weekly, fortnightly, monthly, casual.

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 96 102 102 so that we can explain our procedures in greater detail.



DAREBIN INC.

Reg No. A0028861A

U3A Darebin Inc. Newsletter
Number 48 ◦ January 2008
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

Internet:
<http://users.alphalink.com.au/~dbin/home.html>

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

U3A Darebin is Supported by ...

The U3A Network Victoria Inc.

City of Darebin.

Adult, Community and Further Education Board



Supported by
the Victorian
Government



This newsletter produced with the assistance of the Office of Fiona Richardson, MP for Northcote.