

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to your mid year issue of the *Flyer*. We, the editorial team, aim to make the newsletter more attractive and reader-friendly, with a larger font and shorter, snappier items. We want the newsletter to reflect the interests and vitality of our membership.

We have been delighted and overwhelmed by your response to the appeal for contributions. Thank you, everyone, for the time and trouble you have taken to write for this issue. It is good to have so many reports from the classroom - very interesting and informative reading. The **Letters** section is new, and we hope to receive more for the next edition.

With such a cornucopia of contributions to the newsletter, we have been faced with a dilemma. If we published everything, it would be too long - more like a local newspaper than a newsletter. So, we have decided to hold over some articles, creative writing and the monthly book reviews for a special August issue — sort of a *Darebin U3A Literary Supplement!* We will also be publishing news and other items of interest, and invite further contributions. We welcome your feedback on this issue.

This is your newsletter, and we hope you find much in it to enjoy and interest you.

Jill Craig



Articles, 250 words or less preferred, must be received before the end of July in order to be published in the August newsletter.

Thanks to the hard working editorial team.

IN THIS ISSUE

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Visit the office at ...
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 26 Railway Place, Fairfield 3078.

... in these office hours during school terms:
 Monday 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm
 Wednesday 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
 Friday 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Or go to the website at ...

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



Visit Your Website

For latest news, coming events, book reviews, creative writing and more be sure to visit <http://users.alphalink.com.au/~dbin/home.html>.

Please send contributions for the website to the editor U3A Darebin, preferably by email, marked Attention Jill Craig.

LETTERS

☞ Honorary membership for Foundation member ☞

20/5/08

Dear Michael,

I received your letter today and Honorary Membership of U3A Darebin Inc.

I thank you and the committee and am deeply moved by the acknowledgment of my part and participation in U3A Darebin.

The years and activities in U3A have been a very important and stimulating contribution to my self as an individual and my sense of belonging to an organisation, a community of people with a need and love of learning and growing in the "third age" of life.

I miss most the stimulation and friendships resulting from classes and activities, as my mobility is limited, so the newsletter is most welcome and read avidly from cover to cover.

Very sincerely,

☞ Eileen Capocchi ☞

Thanks from Goroka

I apologise for this belated thank you to all the people who donated and made things for the Goroka Maternity Hospital. Over the three years that we did this collection, we sent over 4,000 articles plus money. We have had thanks from the hospital and now the CWA in New South Wales and the Rotary Club have taken over the sponsorship. So thank you to everybody.

Nell Bell and the Needlework Group

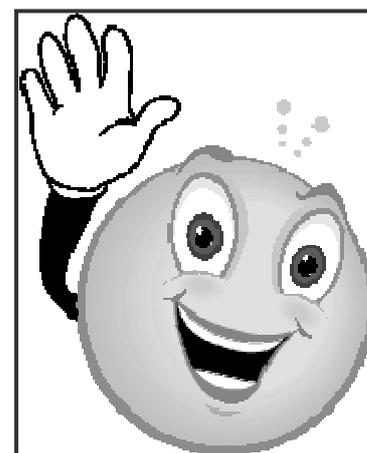
WANTED

* Stories *
* Poetry *
* Photos *
* Pictures *
* Graphic Art *

Please send or hand deliver all contributions to The Editor - Jill Craig at U3A Darebin.

See page 1 for Contact Information.

WANTED



Members with skills in **graphic design**, digital photography, computer graphics, will be welcomed to help produce the newsletter.

Please leave a message for Jill on 96 102 102.

Painting rewards

In the January issue of the newsletter to U3A members, you stated that you were disappointed in not receiving any contributions to use in the newsletter. Well, here you are. I've written a little piece which I hope will be suitable.

I look forward to going to the drawing classes each Thursday afternoon. My second painting was of a friend's dog. When two ladies in the office where I live saw it, I got commissions from both of them to paint their dogs, as well. And the best thing is, I get paid to do what I love doing. I've even painted my 2008 Christmas card! Wow!

Elaine V Underwood

Ed.: Elaine's writing is published on page 11 in Life Experiences.

TRY SOMETHING NEW

Why not join another class?

Your annual subscription entitles you to enrol at no further cost in any number of classes where there are vacancies.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Although belatedly, I welcome the 46 new and 97 continuing members.

Those who joined us this year disclosed how they had heard about Darebin U3A as follows:

Through another member	15
From press advertisement(s)	12
Had prior knowledge of U3A	10
From SPAN Community House	2
From brochures:	
at libraries	1
at Northcote Town Hall	2
Total	42
Not stated	4

The level of paid-up members at 31 May 2008 was:

Full Darebin U3A members	135
Associates	8
Total	143
At 31 Oct 2007	136
Difference	7

Pleased as I am that the drop in membership in 2006 has been compensated for by increases, albeit modest ones – I wish to acquaint members with some pertinent facts.

In her 2006 doctoral thesis, a member of U3A Casey observes that "only 1.47 percent of the over-55 population of Victoria are U3A members" and is of the opinion that "the percentage of retirees in Australia who are members of U3As is low". Ours is less than one third of the Victorian figure.

According to the 2006 census data, out of the total Darebin population of 128,068, 38,448 (30%) were aged 50 and over. After adding our tutors and other contributors to the number of paid-up members, our percentage is 0.406.

Concentrating on the 55+ age group, our percentage is estimated at 0.477. However, 31% of our members reside in a municipality other than Darebin.

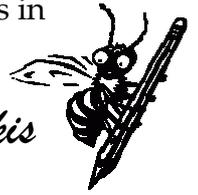
As has already been pointed out, the largest group of new members became aware of Darebin U3A through existing members. This reinforces the findings of 2007, and the research of the La Trobe students which revealed that several respondents cited "word of mouth" as an important issue.

A sentence which recently attracted my attention is that members "would be improving the lives of others by introducing them to the

pleasures of U3A". Perhaps you would like to talk to your friends and relatives about what you find attractive about Darebin U3A. They would be entitled to attend one session to assess whether or not they decide to enrol as members.

May I take this opportunity to wish you thorough enjoyment of your classes in the second semester.

Michael Arapakis



FROM THE COMMITTEE

Your Committee

Name	Position
Michael Arapakis.....	President
Dianne Beaumont	Committee Member
Lorraine Carr.....	Committee Member
Anne Clarke	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

Correction

In the November 2007 issue of the newsletter, page 13, the U3A Network was erroneously described as the "governing body" of U3As in Victoria. In fact, the Network is the "peak body" of U3As in the state, with one of its core roles expressed as "serving as a reference body, a central linkage in the U3A movement".

Each U3A is autonomous, governed by its own Constitution or set of rules which, however, must be consistent with the concept of Universities of the Third Age for affiliation with the U3A Network-Victoria Inc.

Amendments to the Constitution

The amendments to the Constitution of U3A Darebin Inc. passed at the special general meeting held on 6 December 2007 have now been approved by the Registrar of Incorporated Associations. The amended constitution is available for inspection by members by making an appointment with the Secretary.

Vacancies on the Committee

The following vacancies on the Committee remain unfilled and this places an extra burden on the office bearers, particularly the President and the Secretary.

We are appealing to new members, especially those with computer skills, to offer to fill one or other of these vacancies.

The following is a brief outline of the tasks involved. More detailed descriptions are available on request.

Treasurer

The Treasurer's duties are extensively defined in the Rules, but, in summary, these are:

- Preparation of accounts for payment
- Banking of receipts
- Keeping accounts (the software is QUICKEN)
- Reporting monthly accounts to the Management Committee
- Presenting an Audited set of Accounts to members at the AGM.
- The Treasurer will also need to submit BAS reports to the ATO.

Whilst ideally the Treasurer would be computer literate this is not an obligatory requirement. The Assistant Treasurer is prepared to provide technical support.

Assistant Secretary

This office was added to the Rules in December 1997, presumably in recognition of how onerous the Secretary's responsibilities can be. An Assistant Secretary would obviously strengthen the Committee, enabling it better to serve the members.

The Assistant Secretary would be required to act as Secretary in that person's absence, and generally assist in secretarial, clerical and administrative tasks essential for the functioning of the organisation, including attending to correspondence when needed.

Because of the way in which Darebin U3A is currently operating, the Assistant Secretary would need to be computer literate.

Minute Secretary

The Rules require the Secretary to keep, rather than prepare the minutes. As an officer of the Association, the Secretary needs to actively participate in proceedings at meetings, without being distracted by keeping notes. A Minute Secretary would therefore be a valuable and valued addition to the Committee.

It is highly desirable for the Minute Secretary to

be computer literate, particularly in respect to the Minutes of the AGM.

Publicity Officer

Arranges and communicates press announcements, ensures up-to-date brochures are distributed, participates in interviews with the media.

These tasks may be shared by more than one person, thus sharing the workload and potentially enabling wider coverage.

It is not mandatory for the Publicity Officer to be a member of the Committee of Management, provided there is communication between the Publicity Officer and a member of the committee, as and when required.

The Committee would gladly welcome any member who is willing to help by filling one of these vacancies. Please leave a message for Audrey at the office 96 102 102, or speak with one of our Committee members who are listed on page 4.

Morning tea to welcome new members

The table at the Fairfield classroom was set, with Anzac biscuits (Jill), a cheese cake (Pam), a fruit cake (Audrey), Nacatolli Italian biscuits (Jean), profiteroles (Luciano) and for those who prefer the commercial variety, pfeffermusse (Carmel).

The room was set up by Luciano and Claudia, and Committee members were ready to greet new members. Our 1991 video tape was screened and an album with press cuttings and photographs was displayed which produced wry smiles comparing how some of us looked 15 years or so before.

Those present thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It was a great pity that there were not many more members attending. Perhaps next year, we should send reminders around the classes closer to the date.



COURSE INFORMATION

New short course

Geoff Gaff has offered to present a new short course on the **Mediaeval Foundations of Modern Science** in November. There will be two sessions on dates and times still to be arranged. Geoff has presented several courses on **Islam and the Muslims** which were warmly received by members, so this new venture holds much promise. Members will be informed of details later in the semester.

Bulletins

- ❖ Class vacancies still exist in most classes with the exception of Computers, Painting and Drawing, and Current Affairs. If you are interested in joining a new class, please leave a message for Carmel at the office.
- ❖ Second semester begins on 14 July in line with third term Primary School dates. Some classes elect to continue through the school holidays, so check with your individual tutor. The timetable for Semester 2 is printed at the back of this newsletter.
- ❖ Tai Chi classes will resume on 15 July.
- ❖ Due to popular demand, Nell Bell will be resuming her **Story Telling** sessions in second semester, commencing Tuesday 29 July. New members welcome.
- ❖ **Classical Italian Literature** has finished for this year due to the tutor's overseas travel.
- ❖ Dates for **Cinema Studies** have been changed so as not to clash with **Art Appreciation** which has a variable timetable depending on exhibition dates. Details on page 8.

Disclaimer: The material presented in classes is at the discretion of the tutor or leader and does not necessarily reflect the views of Darebin U3A.

RACV Road Safety for Seniors

RACV has a specially developed presentation called *Years Ahead – Road Safety for Seniors* discussing road safety tips, updated road rules, passenger safety, pedestrian safety, health, car safety features and future mobility planning.

This is a one hour presentation with a minimum of 20 participants required.

If you are interested, contact Carmel on 9470-2660 so that a date and time can be arranged.

WANTED

Fresh Ideas for New Courses

* **Short Courses** *

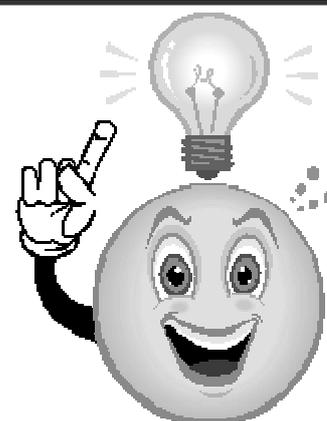
* **Hobbies** *

* **Interest Groups** *

What courses would you like to see offered at U3A?

Be as **creative** as you like.

Please send us your ideas and suggestions for new courses and we will publish them in the next newsletter.



PRIZES

\$30.00 Kmart gift vouchers will be awarded to members who can successfully arrange for a tutor or coordinator to conduct a course.

Will you be a winner?!?

Course Suggestions

We need some fresh new courses to attract new members and to keep existing members interested. Thanks to the initiative of Nell Bell and Nancy Keele, we have two new courses this year — Story Telling and Mah Jong — which have both been very popular. We all have a wealth of talent, knowledge, experience and interests. Think about what you, or someone you know, might be able to share with others — this is what U3A is all about.

Suggestions so far have included:

- **Help for the technologically challenged** - advice on the use of modern electronic devices, e.g. mobile phones, digital cameras and so on.
- **Scrabble group.**
- **Basic Greek.**
- **French conversation.**
- **Movie matinee sessions** - members to share their favourite movies using our DVD player at Fairfield station.

English Tutor Wanted

Preston-Reservoir Adult Community Education (PRACE) have a number of students from a culturally and linguistically diverse background (CALD) who have requested help with improving their English.

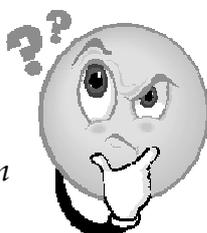
Darebin U3A has been asked if we could provide a tutor for this group. Please leave a message at the office if you are able to volunteer.

Get your creative thinking caps on! Please send us your course suggestions by post or email, or simply drop them into the office.

FROM THE CLASSROOM

Art Appreciation

The Art Appreciation class has had a good beginning this year. In February we visited the *Modern Britain* exhibition at the National Gallery, St Kilda Road, after an introduction by Alison Laird. After our visit, Jeff Kemp gave an excellent presentation about Stanley Spencer, one of the artists included in the exhibition.



In March, the class went by train to Ballarat to see the exhibition *Ocean to Outback – Australian Landscape 1850 – 1950*. We had lunch at the Gallery and had an opportunity to look at the Gallery's permanent collection as well as view interesting buildings nearby.

In April we concentrated on Sidney Nolan with a visit to the retrospective exhibition of his work at the National Gallery, Federation Square, following an introduction by Alison at Fairfield.

Later this term plans include talks on photography, including early American photographers, as well as visits to Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery for the Grace Crowley exhibition, Heide to see Rick Amor's work and Tarrawarra Gallery at Healesville.

The class has also had the assistance and knowledge of Kerry Maher.

Alison Laird

Book Discussion Group

Already we, the 10 – 12 group members, have covered the first three books of the ten listed for this year. Our leader, Chris Honig, conducts most sessions, although others in the group efficiently lead as required. Some background notes about the author and often location of the book are presented by the leader before the discussion takes place. We then take turns to give



opinions, likes and dislikes about the book under discussion.

Carpentaria by Alexis Wright was found by most to be quite a difficult read, almost academic. However, for others it was a marvellous book which gave a feeling of timelessness in Aboriginal Australia, walkabouts and the Dreaming. For another it 'drove her bananas', and yet another found it to be a magical tour which she thoroughly enjoyed.

Mister Pip by Lloyd Jones. Most of the group enjoyed this book ; the link with *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens gave us a brilliant read in 200 pages.

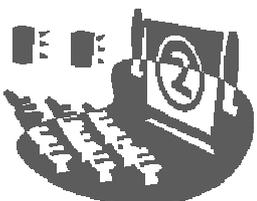
A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini. Having already read *The Kite Runner*, we expected a great story, easy to read, about women in Afghanistan today. For some the horror was too great and the end a little too contrived, but we left with the feeling of hope and love which the book inspired.

Whether we like the books or not doesn't matter – discussions are lively and greatly enjoyed by the enthusiastic participants.

Arlie Hargreaves

Ed.: Fuller reviews of the above books have been published on the U3A Darebin website.

Cinema Studies: European cinema in the 1950s and 1960s.



For approximately two decades from the mid 1950s, European cinema was groundbreaking - exceptional directors and

ideas. This year we look at some of these memorable and lasting films. Many directors experimented with the art of filmmaking and storytelling. Often overt feeling is dominant. Films post this period all around the world show the ongoing influences, heavily affected by primarily French and Italian directors.

So far this year we have viewed *Monsieur Hulot's holiday* (1953) – a Tati comedy; *La Strada* (1954) – Fellini, the ultimate road movie; *Les Diaboliques* (1955) H.G. Clouzot, a bizarre thriller whose influences are still felt today. Students have already commented that they are seeing the films with different eyes from those of four or five decades ago.

The planned program for the rest of the year, subject to change depending on availability is as follows:

Jun 13..... *Les 400 Coups* (1959).....Truffault.
 Jul 11..... *The Seventh Seal* (1956)....Ingmar Bergman.
 Aug 8..... *Eroica* (1957).....Munk.
 Sep 12 *Le Samurai* (1955).....Jean-Pierre Melville.
 Oct 10 *Belle de Jour* (1967).....Luis Bunuel.
 Oct 24 *Les Biches* (1968).....Chabrol.
 Nov 28..... *La Notte* (1960).....Antonioni.
 Dec 12..... *Day for Night* (1973)Truffault.

Current Affairs

Despite one or two apologies, the Fairfield class is filled to capacity every second Thursday between 10.30 am and noon when Current Affairs are being discussed.



Whether they are state, national or international developments, they come under the close scrutiny of the students, under the tutorship of Dr John Dalton. His breadth and depth of knowledge of a wide range of subjects enables a higher level of understanding of the issues, in an occasionally animated but always lively atmosphere.

Every so often, we have a guest to lead part of the deliberations. On 1 May 2008, we were visited by Marco Beljac, who is in the process of writing his doctoral thesis on nuclear proliferation. The topic was the bombing of an alleged nuclear weapon research centre in

Syria, supposed to be a smaller version of a North Korean installation.

Gardening

Darebin U3A

Gardening group began in 2007 with Jude Larkin as tutor – an enthusiastic young woman with lots of experience in, and enthusiasm for, sustainable gardening practices.



Unfortunately, Jude was unable to return this year (2008). As we were enjoying the group so much, the members decided to continue as a self-run group with a member as coordinator.

This has worked well – although we are still finding our way. Currently we have six (enthusiastic) members.

We would love to have some more members at our meetings on the first Tuesday morning of each month at 10.30 am. The more members we have, the more options we have for arranging interesting speakers, outings, etc.

Anne Clarke (coordinator)

Needlework Group

What do you envisage when you hear that name? A circle of women and girls all working together on a communal project such as a quilt or trousseau? Historically, we perhaps think of Penelope sewing as she waited for Ulysses to return. Or the gigantic communal tapestry known as the Bayeux Tapestry, the history of two nations pictured on a single piece of work.

What did these women do as they sewed? THEY TALKED. What do the Wednesday U3A group do as they sew – TALK. Two or three topics at a time, animated and passionate,



ranging from TV, the news, gardening tips, government services and family. Talking is important, but so is sewing.

Over the past six months we have produced some beautiful dolls in heritage costumes, countless items for a charity stall, rugs both knitted and patchworked. There have been tapestries and beautiful Chinese cross-stitch. We all do our own thing and exchange a lot of information and ideas.

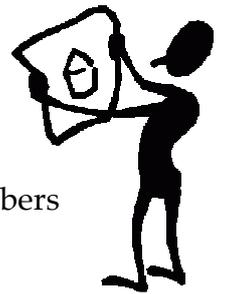
The group has contributed to the Seniors Week Display at the Darebin Arts Centre with unusual and exquisite knitting and framed embroideries that drew a lot of praise from passers-by.

We work, we drink endless cups of tea, we talk and enjoy life. We care when one of us is ill or depressed: in short we are friends. If you think you might like to join this noisy happy group, then come and visit anytime and have a go.

Nell Bell

Painting and Drawing Group

Our painting and drawing group has expanded yet again and has completely filled the available space. These new members are sincerely welcomed.



Each aspiring or experienced artist has benefited from the enthusiasm, creativity, and encouragement of each other and from our tutor, June, who constantly shares her knowledge to guide and instruct us. Her commitment is valued by everyone.

Our sessions can be silent - as each person focuses on his or her project - or lively with animated conversations about art or life. All members reinforce each others' endeavours in a sensitive and kindly way which is much appreciated.

We are free to express our own talents, interests and styles in a range of media. Some spend several sessions on a major project – portraiture, landscape, abstract art while others complete a smaller work – a card, an

illustration or a still life in one session. A wide variety of sources provide inspiration for our work.

Thursday afternoons are eagerly anticipated and very much enjoyed as an opportunity to share each others' company and to develop and express our artistic talents.

Janet Kemp

Shakespeare Plays

The Shakespeare class has successfully completed Term 1 and are now enjoying Term 2 under the able leadership of Albert Stuckey.

The class, numbering about 10 people, take part in the reading of Shakespeare's works and later participate in a lively and humorous discussion of the particular play.



Recently the class viewed a four-part video of Shakespeare's life from his birth to his untimely death and was a most interesting story. Many thanks to Pat Smythe who kindly brought the video along to class.

We are now looking forward to the rest of the year's work with much anticipation.

Story Telling

Nell Bell, our Fairfield Story Teller, has many stories to tell, all professionally researched and skilfully delivered to us. They cover life experiences, ranging from the convicts of the First Fleet and our early settlers - how hard their lives must have been!

Her stories are never without humour, pain and suffering, skulduggery and dishonesty. But above all, they are about the dedication, love and loyalty to one another which laid the foundations for the Australia we know today.

We really love her tall stories of ghosts, murderers and adventures. Then there are her

histories, legends and mythical tales from distant lands that encourage our migrant members and friends to speak to us about their culture, stories and customs passed down to them. This is a very special sharing time. Because who doesn't like to talk of how it used to be?

At the end of our sessions we are always eager to hear more and are reluctant to leave.

Thank you Nell for giving us so much pleasure and joy in the past few weeks.

Laura Barker

Yoga

Every Thursday afternoon a group of us older women get together in a room at Northcote town hall for our weekly yoga session. I find it is one of the most enlightening and stimulating hours of my week and I'm sure the others would agree.

Nicky Thomas, our instructor, is a real treasure. She encourages, cajoles, inspires and supports us in our efforts, stretches and gradual progressions. She calms and soothes, provides the tranquil atmosphere to coax the best from us all. The cares of the day fade into the



background with music and meditation as we concentrate on our breathing.

The adapted Iyengar Yoga program she leads us through is specifically designed for older people. The poses are basic but challenging and designed to make us more confident in our balance while standing and walking.

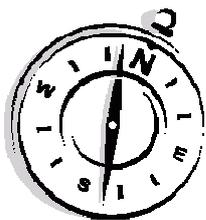
We all thank you sincerely Nicky for your expertise, inspiration and gentle encouragement. We truly seem to "float down the stairs" at the end of each session, as we look forward to returning next week.

Heather McKenna

LIFE EXPERIENCES

Happiness in Life

Our life's happiness is in our own hands. But what makes one happy doesn't make another. My happiness is in learning how to achieve that which I think is impossible. I've learnt much by being able to travel to many parts of the globe. Each country has its own interesting architecture, picturesque landscapes, quaint villages, diversity of peoples, places of beauty and colour. At the Grand Canyon in America, I got ridiculed for taking a movie of a majestic tree trunk. It displayed a myriad of colours that fascinated me. I've seen rare beauty in our own country, Australia. While drinking coffee in a café, and watching the expressions and movements of people there, I was schooled without having to go to university for when I trod the stage. My orthopaedic surgeon told me it was an impossibility! Being able to play musical instruments and entertain people also gave me pleasure. Then I did what I thought only very clever people do ... making and dressing porcelain dolls. I've mastered different forms of craft, mostly making items for other people. The opportunity to be a writer came, and it's a blessing. I've been paid for stories that have appeared in papers and books. I've also had the added enjoyment of reading on radio. Mostly, I love to write something that makes people laugh and smile. I'm told that laughter is the best medicine! Now, I'm discovering the art of drawing and painting, which is absolutely fantastic. I get a big thrill when I achieve something that I didn't think I could. I capture the beauty that I saw as a little child, sitting, watching intently, with unclouded eyes.



And, at the ripe old age of seventy-seven, I'm even happier. I look forward immensely to the next wonderful adventure, of learning even more.

Elaine V Underwood

Taxi!

Many years ago my husband decided to become a taxi driver. Being his own boss, plenty of money and so on. It sounded good, so he studied and passed the exams and received the licence. It was harder in those days to become a taxi driver. You had to have a proper uniform, know Melbourne suburbs on the tips of your fingers, all the hospitals and so on. The first few weeks, to gain confidence, he worked only around our suburb. Being near home he used to come home around lunch-time and I used to come home from work to hear all the news of this new adventure.



One day he was late and I had to go back to work. I went outside, looking left and right for him, but I could not wait any longer. So I started

running up the street when I saw a taxi coming around the corner. Good, I thought, now I get a lift to work. For fun, I stopped in the middle of the footpath and I lifted my skirt well above my knee and lifted my thumb.

I indicated to the driver to give me a lift.

You guessed right. It was not my husband, but a poor driver who hoped to receive a good tip on top of the fare.

Claudia Sanzin

OUT AND ABOUT

Morning Musicals

On Friday 11 April, a few from our "Singing for Pleasure" group enjoyed a morning tea with

scones, jam and cream before the performance *Musical Memoirs of a Ten Pound Pom* by Hilary Henshaw who stars in this musical story of

migrating to Australia in the 60's. Songs included *Wish me Luck*, *Land of Hope and Glory* and *English Country Garden*.

Each month the Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre presents the Morning Musical which is held on a Friday morning, corner Bell Street and St. Georges Road, Preston. The cost for individuals is \$15.00 which includes a complimentary morning tea and is served prior to each show which commences at 11 a.m. (duration of show approx. 60 minutes).

Perhaps some of our other classes might like to get together for a social morning. Bookings can be made by phoning 8470 8280.

Pam Fergie-Jackson

SPAN Relocation

Ten Darebin U3A members, including two committee members, attended at least one of three community consultation sessions held at 70 Clyde Street, Thornbury, the site to which the SPAN Community House will be relocated.



Of greatest interest to the participants was the idea for a sustainability house, which is in harmony with the initial concept of incorporating eco-design in any modifications to the building.

Also popular were the proposals for a community café and a community garden, both of which were included in the embryonic stage of the project, but are unlikely to be included in the first phase.

New ideas were for a barter market of produce, and the staging of cinema nights and other community events.

Darebin Community Festival in March

The festival was a vibrant and colourful event – a rich tapestry of people of all ages and nations celebrating our multicultural community.

Steve Ward, from the Darebin Positive Ageing Project, organised and set up our tent with Michael early that morning. In the absence of glossy posters, Steve improvised with a texta and butchers paper, sticking up quotes from our members collected in the survey last year. These quotes actually generated quite a lot of interest, conveyed something of the flavour of U3A and helped to dispel any notion that we are some kind of well-funded academic institution!

We had a fairly constant stream of visitors and gave out over 100 of our new brochures. The most frequently asked questions were: (1) How old do you have to be? (2) Where are classes held? (3) How much does it cost? Queries regarding courses ranged from the predictable (computers) to the slightly quirky (how to ride a bike). Quite a few people asked if we run French classes. In fact, we do have our own bike riding native French speaker, who might be persuaded to give French conversation classes again if we could rustle up sufficient enrolments.



The festival was a great opportunity to put U3A out there in the broader community. It also gave us cause to reflect on how we can attract more people from other cultures to join U3A.

Jill Craig

Victorian Network News

The U3A Network celebrated the 20th anniversary of its incorporation during its council meeting on 4 June. Among other

activities was a PowerPoint presentation of the "U3A Network History – Venues and Events" in that period by Alison Carlson, OAM, Network President from 1995 to 1997.

The Darebin U3A delegate was delighted when specific mention was made of our **Improving your English** class narrating their touching stories at the Immigration Museum in 1999. Alison Carlson not only had fond memories of the day, but even remembered the names of the participants. She was obviously pleased that the class is still continuing, and includes some of the original members.

Some of the articles appearing in the booklet the class published in 1999 were reprinted, together with more stories by them and members of other U3As in a 2002 publication of the Network, *Migration Memories*. We have secured a copy for our library, and it is available for any member to borrow.

The celebratory cake was cut by Noeline Brown, recently appointed Ambassador for the Ageing. Ever the consummate performer, she drew attention away from the delay caused by a technical glitch by relating a couple of relevant experiences in her career. Apparently, although she had other invitations for the day, she chose to attend the U3A function.



Further 20th anniversary celebrations are being planned. The Office of Senior Victorians had invited U3As to lead the launch of Seniors Week by

staging the **U3A Carnival of Learning** on Sunday 5 October 2008 between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm at Federation Square. We have already applied for a marquee but with more than 80 U3As given the same opportunity, we shall not be able to showcase as many of our activities as we would like.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Showcasing U3A Images and Actions

U3A NETWORK has invited all U3A members to submit digital photos in these categories:

1. IMAGES - creative images of any subject;
2. ACTIONS - featuring any aspect of U3A activities.

The best images will be chosen to be printed on roll-up banners, to be exhibited around Victoria. They will also be available for individual U3As for special events.

SUBMIT all images in electronic form by 31 July 2008.

FULL DETAILS of entry requirements are on poster displayed at Fairfield Classroom. Photocopies of the poster have been distributed to most classes. Please contact the office if you would like one sent to you.

Northern Notes Writers' Festival (NNWF)

Calling all Northern writers, poets, or literature lovers. It's that time of year again!

The 2008 NNWF Festival will be held in October / November. Events include theatre, music, poetry readings, workshops and the annual poetry slam.

The NNWF is organised by the local community and new people are welcome to be involved in planning and organising this year's activities. So if you're interested in being involved, the next two planning meetings are scheduled for 6.00 pm on 8 July and 12 August in Room 3 (Level 1), Northcote Town Hall. Sandwiches, tea and coffee will be provided.

For enquiries, please contact Lesley Hall, on 8470 8458, or lesley.hall@darebin.vic.gov.au



FROM THE OFFICE

Bulletins

- ❖ New brochures are now available for distribution. We need members to place them in locations where they are likely to attract prospective members — for example, local libraries, community health centres and neighbourhood houses. Please take a handful from the office to distribute in your local area.
- ❖ Volunteers are still needed to attend the office, especially on Mondays (12:30-2:00) and Friday mornings (10:00-12:00). Please leave a message for Pam Fergie-Jackson if you are able to help out occasionally.

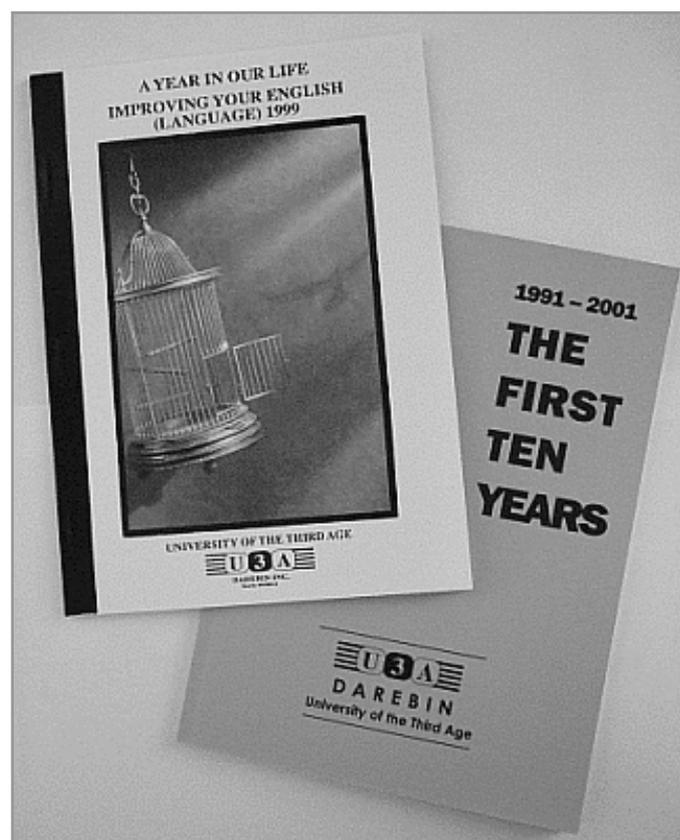
Library

We now have a copy of *Migration Memories* to join with our own publications: *A Year in our Life: Improving your English [Language] 1999* and the history of Darebin U3A *1991–2001: The First Ten Years*. They are a rich collection of members' writings: poetry, stories and reminiscences. Other items in the library include craft magazines, videos (newsreel nostalgia, active living, aerobic musical chairs)

Volunteers Always Needed

To volunteer, phone 96 102 102 and leave a message for Pam Fergie-Jackson. General roles of volunteers are described in the following table.

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.



and DVDs of the BBC *Shakespeare Collection*. Also available are U3A newsletters from the Victorian Network, the City of Melbourne, Manningham and Hume, among others.

TIMETABLE FOR SEMESTER 2

Day	Time	Starts	Subject	Venue	Comments	Venue Details
Monday	12:15 - 2:15	14-07-08	Italian Language	Fairfield Station		<p style="text-align: center;">Fairfield Railway Station</p> <p>Situated at 26 Railway Place Fairfield (rear of Platform 1), opposite the RSL. Melways 30K10. 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 style="text-align: center;">SPAN</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Northcote Library</p> <p>Situated at 32-38 Separation Street Northcote opposite Northcote Plaza. Melways 30F8. 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 style="text-align: center;">Northcote Town Hall</p> <p>Situated at the top of Ruckers Hill in High Street Northcote. Melways 30F9. Tram No 86 in High Street stops outside front door.</p>
	3:00 - 4:30	14-07-08	Italian Conversation	Northcote Library		
Tuesday	10:00 - 12:00	15-07-08	Computer 1	SPAN	Fully booked	
	10:30 - 12:00	1-07-08	Gardening	Fairfield Station	1st Tuesday of month	
	1:00 - 2:00	15-07-08	Tai-Chi Basic	Northcote Town Hall	Yang Style	
	2:00 - 3:00	15-07-08	Tai-Chi Intermediate	Northcote Town Hall	modified for seniors	
	2:30 - 3:30	29-07-08	Story Telling	Fairfield Station		
Wednesday	10:30 - 12:00	2-07-08	Book Discussion	Fairfield Station	1st Wednesday/month	
	11:30 - 12:30	16-07-08	Classical Studies	Fairfield Station	3rd Wednesday/month	
	12:30 - 2:00	16-07-08	Improving your English	SPAN		
	12:45 - 2:45	16-07-08	Needlecraft	Fairfield Station		
	3:00 - 4:30	16-07-08	Shakespeare Plays	Fairfield Station		
Thursday	1:00 - 2:00	17-07-08	Yoga	Northcote Town Hall	Fully booked	
	1:30 - 3:30	17-07-08	Painting and Drawing	SPAN	Fully booked	
	10:00 - 12:00	17-07-08	Computer 2	SPAN	Fully booked	
	10:30 - 12:00	17-07-08	Current Affairs	Fairfield Station	Fully booked	
Friday	10:00 - 11:30	1-08-08	Art Appreciation	Fairfield Station	1st Friday/month	
	10:15 - 1:15	11-07-08	Cinema Studies	Fairfield Station	Variable dates	
	1:00 - 3:30	18-07-08	Singing for Pleasure	SPAN		
Saturday	1:30 - 4:00	5-07-08	Mahjong	Fairfield Station	1st & 3rd Sat/month	
	1:30 - 4:00	12-07-08	Canasta	Fairfield Station	2nd & 4th Sat/month	

Contact U3A Darebin:

dbin@alphalink.com.au

Fax: 96 102 101

Phone: 96 102 102

Post: PO Box 44, Fairfield VIC 3078

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 o January 2008
PRINT POST No. PP30479/04

If undeliverable return to
PO Box 44,
FAIRFIELD VIC 3078

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26 Railway Place,
Fairfield 3078

Tel: 96 102 102
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Internet:
<http://users.alphalink.com.au/~dbin/home.html>

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