

PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION

Most members will already know that Michael Arapakis, our President for the past two and a half years, has resigned from this position and from his role as acting Treasurer.

Michael has worked extraordinarily hard for Darebin U3A over this time with great energy, enthusiasm and commitment. The Committee wishes to thank Michael for his extremely valuable contribution. We pay tribute to his dynamic leadership and hope he enjoys a well-earned rest from his labours.

Since Michael's resignation the Committee has received a great deal of support and encouragement from our members and from Michelle Marinelli from Darebin Council. We are especially grateful to Dianne Beaumont who has generously offered to fill the role of Treasurer until December. Many other members have offered help in various ways.

However, we urgently need someone to volunteer for the position of President!

The President's role is basically to convene and chair meetings. Meetings of the Committee of Management are held on the third Tuesday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The Annual General Meeting is held in early December when elections are held for the Committee of Management.

The President also has the responsibility of ensuring the smooth operation of the organisation and represents U3A Darebin at various meetings and gatherings.

The Committee would warmly welcome any member who would be willing to take on this role, at least until the AGM in December.

IN THIS ISSUE

- ✓ Carnival of Learning..... 5
- ✓ Hidden Oddities on Ruckers Hill 4
- ✓ French Culture and Conversation 6
- ✓ Migration Memories 10
- ✓ Book reviews..... 7

CONTENTS

- President's Resignation 1
- Contact Information..... 2
- From The Vice President..... 2
- From The Committee..... 2
- From The Editor 3
- A Short History Of U3A..... 3
- Diary Dates..... 4
- Coming Events 4
- Course Information..... 5
- Bulletins 6
- From The Classroom..... 7
- Migration Memories 10
- From The Office..... 13

President Needed

If you, or someone you know, would consider volunteering for the role of President, please leave a message for Audrey or Alison at the office (96 102 102) or speak with one of our Committee members.

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 ...

Fairfield Railway Station

26 Railway Place, Fairfield 3078.

... in 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

Visit our website at ...

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

Your Committee (until end of year)

President(vacant)

Vice-PresidentAudrey Grace

SecretaryAlison Laird

TreasurerDianne Beaumont

Assistant Secretary.....Pat Oswald

Committee Member.....Lorraine Carr

Committee Member.....Anne Clarke

Committee Member.....Jim Logan

Minute SecretaryElva Armstrong

Office Co-ordinatorPam Fergie-Jackson

Property OfficerJean Garita

EditorJill Craig

Tutor Co-ordinatorCarmel Lee

Other Positions

Assistant Treasurer.....Basil Conquo

Members' Co-ordinator .Claudia Sanzin

Computer Maintenance Officer

.....Luciano Sanzin

U3A Network Delegate..Odette Stuckey

Editorial Team

Anne Clarke, Jill Craig, Dianne Beaumont,
Carmel Lee, Mary Levens.

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

The members of the theU3A Management Committee wish to acknowledge the leadership and dedication shown by Michael Arapakis whilst he was the President of U3A Darebin Inc.

When Michael offered to be the President of this organization in 2005, we were facing major difficulties. However, this situation was reversed with a strong and efficient new Committee of Management. Michael was very active in forging links with local community organizations and the City of Darebin. His work with the Darebin Positive Ageing Project and the Healthy Ageing Expo significantly raised the public profile of Darebin U3A.

During his stewardship Darebin U3A has rebuilt and consolidated our position as a major provider of learning and leisure activities for the older citizens of Darebin.

We wish to acknowledge the immense contribution Michael has made to U3A Darebin Inc. for the benefit of the Committee and the growing membership. His unassuming manner hid his constant diligence and attention to governance.

We wish to thank Michael for the part of his life that he dedicated to helping us.

Audrey Grace

FROM THE COMMITTEE

The Committee warmly welcomes **Elva Armstrong** as *Minute Secretary* and **Pat Oswald** as *Assistant Secretary*. Their computer skills will greatly help to relieve the burden of administration on the Committee.

Thanks to **Odette Stuckey** who has volunteered to be our *U3A Network Delegate*.

Welcome to all our new Members!

Our membership has been steadily growing and our numbers are now higher than they were three years ago.

Spring is just around the corner, as Gramma reminds us in her lovely piece – ‘Two Seasons’. Already we see signs of new life and regeneration emerging in nature and in the organic life of Darebin U3A.

Many members were sorry to hear of Michael’s retirement and remarked on his dynamic energy and enthusiasm. In discussing U3A earlier this year, Michael quoted Kahlil Gibran: “*work is love made visible*”. This phrase has stayed with me and rings true, not only in respect of Michael’s work, but also in the whole spirit of Darebin U3A and its members – tutors, committee members, learners and volunteers.

We have much to celebrate! The Committee has been revitalized with new members volunteering to take on administration tasks and there is a wonderful atmosphere of mutual support and cooperation. Also, thanks to the initiative of members, we have a wealth of new courses available for this semester.

As promised, this issue includes book reviews from the **Book Discussion Group** and creative writing from the **Improving Your English** group, especially featuring excerpts from *Migration Memories*. We hope you find much to enjoy in these inspiring and thought-provoking pieces.

Finally, to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of U3A Network Victoria, U3A will lead Seniors Week with a **Carnival of Learning** at Federation Square!

Let’s all celebrate the vitality of the Third Age!



Jill Craig

The first University of the Third Age was founded in Toulouse, France, in 1972 to improve the quality of life for older people by bringing them into contact with academic programmes run by the university. The idea spread rapidly through Europe, and the nomenclature of the ‘Third Age’ as the ‘age of active retirement’ following the first two ages (childhood/youth and work/homemaking: became widely accepted.



In July 1981, the U3A concept was introduced to Britain through a group based at the Cambridge University. In contrast to the French practice, the British U3As quickly evolved away from the model based on courses provided by universities. Instead they adopted the idea of a self-help or mutual-aid organisation – a kind of intellectual democracy in which there would be no distinction between teachers and taught. There would only be *members* of U3A, who would all be encouraged to participate, either by teaching, by learning or by assisting with planning and administration.

This self-help approach reduces the need for dependence on outside resources and, in a way, harks back to the original concept of a “community of scholars” – the medieval concept of a university. Hence the broad acceptance of the term “university” in the titles of so many of these groups, describing a community in which learning is an end in itself, where individuals learn what they like, at the pace they prefer, and where no qualifications are needed to enter and none are awarded.

In the latter part of 1984, the first Australian U3As were formed in Melbourne, based on the British rather than on the original French model. In 1991 the University of the Third Age was established in Northcote – later to become U3A Darebin Inc.

U3As tap the great reservoir of knowledge, skills and experience which is to be found among older people and which is often undervalued or overlooked. All of the teaching, planning and administration of a U3A is carried out by its own members.

Source: U3A Network Victoria.

HIDDEN ODDITIES ON RUCKERS HILL

Join us on a walking tour as we discover history 'on top of the hill'. Tour leader is local historian Paul Michell who will uncover hidden oddities. This is a joint activity between Darebin Libraries and Darebin U3A.

Wednesday, October 1 from 10:30 a.m. Meet between the old Library and the Northcote Town Hall. Cancelled if raining.

- Bookings essential -

Darebin Libraries: 1300 655 355

DIARY DATES

Community Choir

Thursday 18 September
1:00 – 3:00 pm City Hall, Preston

Darebin Seniors Festival

Sunday 28 September, Mayor's Event
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
East Reservoir Citizens Centre

Walking Tour – Ruckers Hill

Wednesday 1 October
Meet 10:30 am
Next to Northcote Town Hall

Victorian Seniors Week

5 – 12 October
Free public transport

U3A Carnival of Learning

Sunday 5 October
10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Federation Square

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 4 December
Fairfield RSL
1:30 pm.
Refreshments afterwards

School Holidays

3rd term finishes 19 September
4th term starts 6 October

COMING EVENTS

City of Darebin events

As part of the annual **Darebin Music Feast**, the City of Darebin is presenting a **Community Choir** event where our **Singing for Pleasure** group will be performing along with other community groups including SPECTRUM choir and an indigenous band.

1:00 – 3:00 pm, Tuesday 18 September
at City Hall, Preston.

Darebin Seniors Festival

The City of Darebin commences their Seniors Festival on Sunday 28 September – the week before the Victorian Seniors Week.

Mayor's Event to launch Darebin Seniors Festival 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Sunday 28 September
at East Reservoir Senior Citizens Centre

U3A will have an information stall in the Centre along with other community groups. There will not be any space available for performances – so these groups can conserve their energies for the Carnival of Learning the following Sunday. However this is still a very good opportunity to inform Darebin seniors about U3A and to display work from groups such as **Needlework** and **Improving your English**. We need volunteers to help on the

stall – even for an hour or so. Please leave a message for Jill if you are able to help or if you need further information.

The full festival program will be available at the end of August. Look out for details in the local paper.

U3A Carnival of Learning to celebrate the 20th Anniversary!

Melbourne in spring is abuzz with Festival fever and this year U3A is at the heart of the excitement! To celebrate the 20th anniversary of U3A Network Victoria, the Office of Senior Victorians (OSV) has invited U3As to lead the lead the launch of Seniors Week at Federation Square with:

U3A CARNIVAL OF LEARNING

**Sunday 5th October 2008
10.00am – 4.00 pm
Federation Square**

OSV will provide the whole space in front of the outdoor screen to our U3As and will erect a stage and marquees where U3As can set up and demonstrate their activities to a huge audience.

OSV will provide tables, chairs, signage, power, transport and help with getting equipment to the site, support during the day and even bottled water.

Each U3A will have their own 'home' marquee where they can provide information about their activities. In addition, there will be five clusters or 'villages' of marquees where all the U3As can display an activity in a particular area. The villages will be:

- ✓ Art and craft
- ✓ Brain / discussion activities
- ✓ Information technology
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Physical activities

Many Darebin U3A groups are planning activities to present at the Carnival. Please contact Audrey or Jill for further information and to discuss your group's plans and requirements for the big day.

This is a wonderful opportunity for U3As to play a prominent part in Seniors Week. It will be a great means of spreading the U3A word and recruiting new members. And, of course, it should be a lot of fun.

Join us at Federation Square !

COURSE INFORMATION

Thanks to Carmel Lee, our tutor co-ordinator, and to various members generously offering to run short courses, we have a wealth of new courses available for this semester.

Medieval Foundations of Modern Science

As announced in the previous *Flyer*, Geoff Gaff is offering his new short course in late November. The following is a description provided by Geoff:

Despite the reputation of the Middle Ages as a time of ignorant barbarism, the Middle Ages saw the invention of many proud features of our civilisation: the first Parliaments, Magna Carta, musical notation and theatre, universities and a new resurgence of learning. Perhaps the greatest

fruit of this resurgence was Natural Philosophy - the basis of our modern Science.

The course will follow the origins of rational and philosophical discussion in ancient Greece, and its transmission to several admiring cultures in later ages.

No knowledge of philosophy or science is assumed or needed.

The session will be on 26 November, 10:30 am – 12:00 noon. Members who would like to enrol in this course are asked to leave a message for Carmel on 9470 2660.

Beginners Italian

Larry Ginger, tutor for Italian Language is offering a class for Beginners Italian, on Friday mornings at SPAN Community House at 11:00 – 12 noon. Class numbers are limited. Are you interested? Ring Carmel on 9470 2660.

French Culture and Conversation

We have been offered a **class for beginners** in conversational French for beginners with an emphasis on French culture and cuisine. The tutor is Ms Lieve de Clercq, a Senior Lecturer at La Trobe University. Lieve is enthusiastic about the class and plans to include French cooking and slide presentations of France.

There will be six sessions on Thursday afternoons commencing 16 October to 27 November 2008, 1:00 – 2:30 pm at the Fairfield Station classroom. If you are interested contact Carmel on 9470 2660.

Climate Change – the latest science

One of our members, Cate Kine, belongs to the Darebin Climate Change Action Group and is offering to organise a session on the science of Climate Change.

Financial Counselling Program

The City of Darebin is offering a Financial Counselling Program in partnership with the Chartered Accountants' Institute

Money Minded : Skills for the Future

The first session is Rights & Responsibilities : Golden rules for Consumers. Each session lasts for one hour. Are you interested? Ring Carmel on 9470 2660.

The session would include a PowerPoint presentation which is very professional and well researched. There would be a question and answer session and opportunity to discuss this important issue – particularly to ensure a safe future for our grandchildren.

Details of date and time are still to be arranged (possibly Monday morning or Friday afternoon). Interested members are asked to leave a message for Carmel so that they can be notified when details are finalised.

BULLETINS

Shakespeare Class

Desperately Seeking Tutor

This dedicated group of Shakespeare lovers have been without a tutor for almost two years.

The group meets weekly on Wednesdays, 3:00 – 4:30 pm.

Please leave a message for Albert Stuckey at the office if you are able to help or know someone who could.

- Nell Bell's **Storytelling** sessions will now commence at 2:00 pm and finish and 3:30 pm on Tuesdays to allow more time for discussion.



- Vera Ray would like to hear from any members interested in playing the board game **Rummy-O** (or **Rummy King**) needing four players. Vera has a board to play on and is very keen to find people with a similar interest. Are you interested? Call Carmel on 9470 2660.

Book Discussion Group



Carpentaria by Alexis Wright

Our first book for discussion was *Carpentaria* by Aboriginal writer Alexis Wright. A large book (some 500 odd pages) *Carpentaria* was set in the coastal town she named

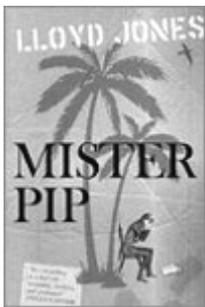
Desperance in the gulf country of Queensland and the Northern Territory. The novel portrays the problems caused by the culture clashes between the white settlers and the traditional indigenous communities. Together with the intrusion of a large mining development the scene is set for an intense struggle between the various factions.

Wright creates wonderful characters with the rather Dickensian names of Normal Phantom, his wife Angel Day, their son Will along with Mozzie Fishman and a stranger who one day walked out of the sea with no memory whom

Review by Christine Honig

the locals named Elias Smith. Interspersed within the storyline are the many traditional dreamtime stories relating to the Aboriginal connection with the land and the sea.

Our discussion group were keen to explore the problems between the original inhabitants and those that came after but many felt that the book was too long and at times difficult to follow. Whilst they agreed that the characters were well drawn and the problems between black and white vividly told comments were '...too repetitive, difficult to get into, just too much to cope with in one book'. Conversely those who enjoyed the book found the spirituality of the indigenous peoples and their connection to the land most inspiring and uplifting. As usual we found much to discuss and debate.



Mr Pip by Lloyd Jones

Lloyd Jones' *Mr Pip* drew praise from international critics with adjectives like lyrical, poignant, multi-layered, resonating and fable-like. My word for it is inspiring.

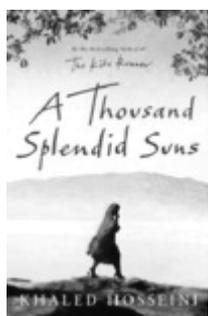
The narrator is a thirteen-years old Papuan girl. She, with other members of her people, has been left behind near Bougainville when secessionist rebels took over the island and declared independence in 1990. The doctor and teachers were forced to leave the people to fend for themselves. The one remaining white man, Mr Watts, is asked to teach the children but his only teaching aid is an old copy of *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens. Matilda and the other children become

Review by Aileen Palmer

enchanted with Mr Watts, Charles Dickens and his character Pip. They are led to see another world and given a focus for survival in the precarious and dangerous conflict between the rebel guerrillas and the government troops - both of whom are mad and dangerous enemies.

Jones shows us how imagination and the power of the written word can be a redemptive force in a nightmare situation. Matilda says, "I had learned to enter the soul of another."

Dickens inspires her to emulate Pip and find another way. She does survive the horror, escapes from the murderous situation, is united with her father in Townsville and in later years "betters" herself as her hero did.



A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

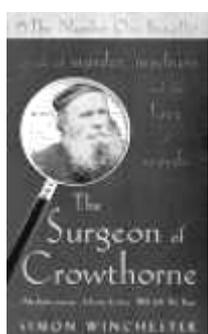
Review by Heather Slack

“A stunning accomplishment, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is a haunting, heartbreaking, compelling story of an unforgiving time, an unlikely friendship, and

an indestructible love” says Bookreporter.com of this book by Khaled Hosseini.

As usual there were varied responses to the book. Some felt it was a wonderfully moving tale with an uplifting conclusion; most were uncomfortable with the bleak life displayed for Afghans in general and Afghani women in particular and some felt the characters were too black and white, almost to the point of caricature.

Thanks to Anne Clarke, who facilitated this session, and provided an overview of the history of Afghanistan. This background



The Surgeon of Crowthorne by Simon Winchester

Review by Christine Honig

Our book for July was *The Surgeon of Crowthorne* by Simon Winchester which was published in the United States as *The Professor and the Madman*, or, as the subtitle explains *A Tale of*

Murder, Madness and the Oxford English Dictionary. The two protagonists in the story are James Murray (the professor) and Dr. W.C. Minor (the madman). Winchester has written a fascinating tale about the origin of the O.E.D., how it came about, the many problems encountered, both financial and political. We learn of the many volunteers who contributed to the thousands of words contained in the dictionary.

The story centres on the relationship between James Murray, a self-taught Scot with a passion for the English language, and Dr. Minor, a self-confessed murderer whose prolific contribution came while he was

information helped us understand that waves of conquest and rebellion over hundreds of years have seen Afghanistan become an armed tribal society with no central cohesion and a high degree of violence.

Common themes discussed by the group were: - the brutal violence against, and oppression of women; the inspiring resilience and endurance of the women and the hopeful ending, where Mariam’s sacrifice allows Laila, Tarik and the children to escape to a better life.

The final conclusion where the family returns to help rebuild Afghanistan following the defeat of the Taliban and every loose end is neatly tied up seems more inspired by the author’s hopes for his homeland than a realistic view of life in Afghanistan.

incarcerated for over 20 years in the Broadmoor Asylum for the Criminally Insane. The meeting and friendship that developed between these two men makes fascinating reading.

Many of our group found the book a wonderful, fascinating story of the birth of the O.E.D. along with the bizarre tale of Dr. Minor, others felt it too repetitious and became bogged down in the compilation of the dictionary. ‘Too complicated’, ‘didn’t come alive’, were some criticisms. Others found the simplicity of the author’s language a bonus and helped them to understand the text. One of our readers was overwhelmed by the book, found it exciting, always wondering what would happen next, thought Winchester had written a great mystery together with unknown knowledge of the birth of the O.E.D. Another reader was fascinated by Minor’s experience during the American Civil War when he was a medical doctor. Did his

ghastly experiences caused by 'old medicine and new weaponry' contribute to his paranoia and eventual insanity?

All the group agreed that much knowledge had been gained from the strange and

Yoga



year. She is a very special lady who concentrates on teaching us basic movements suitable for senior girls (and men if they ever decide to join) as well as relaxation and meditation.

With her encouragement, we try very hard to stretch, bend and reach as far as possible,

Reflections

Yoga at the Northcote Town Hall on Tuesday afternoons has really taken off since Nicky took over the class this

Clare Lowrie

moving every joint and muscle in the process (even our eye muscles).

Deep breathing is a very important feature throughout the lesson and Nicky makes sure we don't forget it.

Everything we do from beginning to end is designed to improve general health, ease tension and calm the mind.

We feel blessed to have Nicky, who is indeed a truly graceful young lady. Her movements seem effortless and it is a joy to watch her in action.

Improving your English



waves move on the surface and splash the rivers.

Grey clouds float in the sky. Sudden falls of very heavy rain. The atmosphere is misty and the sun disappears. Birds and animals hide somewhere to avoid the cloudburst.

Nature is asleep for a long time, but now it is time for her to wake-up and prepare the earth for the next season.

Two Seasons

Winter is the coldest part of the year. Snow covers the top of the mountains. The sea is very rough and the

Grammatiki Michael

This morning I had to get up early, to go to the hospital to have a C T scan. When I stepped out I saw the almond trees in my garden full of blossoms and sparkling drops of water covered them. Ice and snow over the fields. The temperature had dropped down to 2.3 degrees.

When the sun rose, the early morning scene was magnificent, with those sparkling drops of water it resembled the stars sparkling in the sky at night Birds were flying around the trees singing and feeding from the buds.

All that impressed me, and is a reminder to me that Spring is around the corner.



Childhood Friendship

Nerina Novak

I don't remember when I first began to call you friend. But I still remember when I was

seven years old and you were five, and every morning I came to collect you to go to school. I still can picture your little hand in mine, seeking protection. Your beautiful blue eyes looking at me with so much trust that it made my day seem brighter.

Adversity of life separated us for so many years. Many times I thought about you. I never dream to find you again. But destiny decides other way. We meet again.

It was some kind of celebration in our Club. The place was crowded with people dancing and there in the middle of this crowd I saw your face ... then the same blue eyes looked at me and in a split moment we were in each other arms.

What a feeling! I found my childhood friend. A friendship that started a long time ago, rekindled into life the hope which had almost fled.

We are now still very good friends although we don't see each other as much as we want (she lives in the country). Thank God for the telephone. We can chat.

Every time, before she hangs up the phone, she will say, "Thanks Nerina, you always make me feel better. I love you".

I love you too my dear friend.

She gave me many little presents but the one I do treasure the most is a little box tied up with a pink ribbon and a lovely poem stuck on it. It goes like this:

This is a very special gift
That you can never see
The reason it's so special
It's just for you from me.
Whenever you are lonely,
Or even feeling blue,
You only have to hold this gift
And know I'll think of you.
You can never unwrap it
Please leave the ribbon tied.
You hold the box close to your heart
It's filled with love inside.

MIGRATION MEMORIES

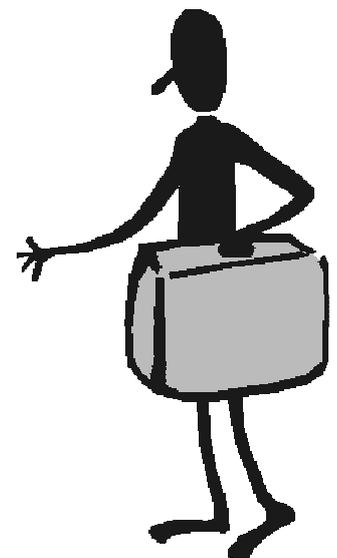
Migration Memories is a beautifully produced collection of writings about the experience of migration from U3A members, published by the U3A Network. It was officially launched at Parliament House in February 2002 and was reported in a feature article in *The Age* with photos of some of our members.

Darebin U3A Improving Your English class made a large contribution to this book and to the earlier *Migration Memories* exhibition at the Immigration Museum.

U3A Network has kindly provided us with multiple copies of the book for our library and

for promotion at festivals and so on. Members are very welcome to borrow a copy- it is a treasury of poems, stories and reflections.

The following pieces by Darebin writers are reproduced with the kind permission of U3A Network and the writers themselves.





Memory and Reality

Dina Lenzi

To be back to Italy after having lived in Australia for a long time, makes you feel a bit strange. However, when the decision is made, you are full of joy and great expectations as if at last you are going home again after a long journey.

You wait with trepidation for the moment when you'll see your home town, the details of which have lain in your memory for many years and deep down in your heart and soul from the day you left the place where you were born and lived a happy childhood and youth. Every street corner, the next-door neighbour, the church with the bell tower, the fountain in the piazza where as a child and teenager you had your first game and flirted. Can you hear the laughter?

Every image remained in your heart and soul and after a long time became something like a myth. Our deepest thoughts are full of those memories and you believe that everything has stayed the same as when you left.

What no one realises is that people change their way of living, their way of thinking and consequently the old country has changed.

The native country that has been remembered with love and nostalgia appears so beautiful and lost.

It is beautiful to see and admire the beauty and fine art, the ancient buildings full of famous paintings, sculpture and history, but it is lost. We do not belong to it any more and it doesn't belong to us.

The experience that originates from immigration provokes a kind of double image between the past, the dream, and the present.

After many years apart, seeing the house where you lived your youth doesn't recall the enchantment and longing we kept for many years in our heart and which we still long for with a subtle pain.

The street that was a magic theatre for our games is now only a dark alley and so are many other places that have become strange to our view.

We won't recapture any more the image we carried for many years in our hearts. The experience far from diminishes that attachment to our country of origin. It is the case that it increases our love for it, the value of the world of origin we carry within us.

That world if fact is the pillar that has sustained us for many years and allowed one to face with serenity the adversity that follows every human being's existence.

My Two Countries

Franca Pieroni



Impossible for me to choose! I love them in a different way but with the same intensity. An Italian-Australian man once wrote

"Italy is my mother", Australia "my wife". I think this is exactly how we Italian-Australians perceive our double identity.

In Australia I am fascinated by the big open spaces, the immensity of the horizon, the

natural force of the ocean, the freedom and democracy of the people. In the same way I love Italy's life in the little towns, the ancient history, the majestic mountains, the warmth and kindness of the people.

How to describe my Italian enchanted valley, surrounded by beautiful mountains, and on every hill, a small Medieval town? At



night it is like standing at the foot of an altar in a cathedral, so solemn with its fantasy of lights.

So it is the beauty of the Australian sea, the irresistible fascinating force of the Ocean. How

to describe the Great Barrier Reef? Impossible! With all the little enchanting islands and bays.

It is a great fortune to know these two beautiful countries. Whenever I am in one, I long to be in the other.



I came, I saw, I conquered

Nerina Novak

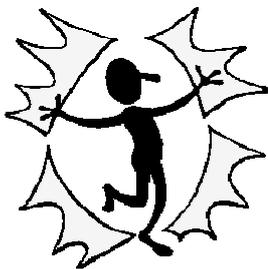
I came because the hard time (political situation) worried us to the point that the only way out was emigration, hoping to find peace – and we did! I saw things that I disliked, things so different, dissimilarity in culture; I saw all the hardship to be solved – in part we did!

I conquered my insecurity in the English language.

I conquered my place in the sun.

I conquered doubts about my children's future; but I never conquered the feeling of nostalgia for my family, my country. Be realistic, Nerina! Three positive achievements out of four is not all that bad!!

I was born in Italy, Pola, ex Yugoslavia now Croatia, in the wrong place, in the wrong time.



The Third Age

Nerina Novak

Here I am in this room with a group of 12 in my English writing class. For a moment I close my eyes and I vividly

remember another class: little girls in uniform ready and willing to learn. Then somebody calls my name 'Nerina', my heart gives a great thud and then seems to stand still. "Present" I answer as I open my eyes.

Suddenly 50 years have passed. No more little girls. I only see women, beautiful faces, tired faces, but never too old to try something new, to splash this grey life with colours. I look proudly at you. Never a slogan sounds so appropriate: "We who were born before 1945 are survivors".

Help Wanted

Volunteers are always needed to attend the office, especially on Mondays 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm and Friday mornings 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

Why not come along every few weeks, bring your knitting, crossword, favourite book, make a cup of coffee and put your feet up for a couple of hours (and answer the occasional phone call).

Please leave a message for Pam Fergie-Jackson if you are able to help out occasionally.

Training in office procedure will be provided.

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 and 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.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Calling for contributions

The next newsletter will be published in mid-November in advance of the Annual General Meeting on 4 December.

Wanted

- Reports from the classroom.
- Stories and Poetry
- Photos, Paintings, Drawings

Deadline

Please send us your contributions, by Friday 17 October.

Authors

- Articles of 250 words or less preferred.
- Please email, post, fax or hand deliver all contributions to The Editor - Jill Craig at U3A Darebin.

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

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.

If undeliverable return to:



DAREBIN INC.

Reg No. A0028861A

PO Box 44, FAIRFIELD VIC 3078

Newsletter

Number 50 ◦ August 2008

"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>

**PRINT
POST**
PP 30479/04

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

U3A Darebin Inc. is supported by:
The U3A Network – Victoria Inc. and ...

