

**FROM THE EDITOR**

**Good News Week!**

Forget all the doom and gloom of newspapers and television! This Newsletter is full of cheering-up stories of wonderful people whose generosity of spirit and sense of community help make this world a better place.

Read about the remarkable life of Cate Kyne, about all our new volunteers, and about the Needlecraft group’s mighty effort for Bushfire Relief. Robyn Buckley typed up this delightful story with just one left finger while encased in plaster– a valiant effort over four and a half hours! She told me that the most important thing about this story was *being part of the wider community*.

There are many other stories of Darebin U3A reaching out to the wider community – at Spectrum, Span, Darebin Volunteer Expo, Holmes Street and Agg Street Housing Estates, for example. The wonderful thing about being involved in these projects and events is that we come away enriched by meeting people from different cultures and backgrounds who share the same cheerful spirit of generosity and community which is the hallmark of U3A.

Everyone is invited to join with us in celebrating this spirit at the U3A Carnival of Learning in October.

In this issue we are delighted to announce a number of exciting new courses for second semester, thanks to the great response to our calls for volunteer tutors.

We hope you enjoy all these good news stories!

*Jill Craig*

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**MEMBERS’ MORNING TEA**

10.30 – 12.00, Friday 10 July

at SPAN, 64 Clyde Street, Thornbury

The committee is inviting all U3A members to an informal social get-together over tea or coffee and yummy goodies. We are looking forward to our first opportunity this year to get to know our new members and catch up with old ones.

Please come along to meet other U3A members and to admire SPAN’s lovely, spacious new premises!

Directions: SPAN is now situated in the Clyde Street Kindergarten complex, off Victoria Road, one street south of Clarendon Street (Melway 30 J5). Buses Nos 552, 246 and 251 pass along Victoria Road.

## 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.

### Office hours during school terms:

Monday	9.00 am	to	3:00 pm
Tuesday	10.30 am	to	12.00 noon
Wednesday	10:30 am	to	12.00 noon
	1.00 pm	to	3.00 pm
Thursday	1.00 pm	to	3.00 pm
Friday	1:00 pm	to	3:00 pm

### Or go to the website at ...

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

### 2008 Committee Members

President .....	Audrey Grace
Vice-President .....	(vacant)
Secretary .....	Alison Laird
Treasurer .....	Dianne Beaumont
Assistant Secretary .....	(vacant)
Minute Secretary .....	Elva Armstrong
Office Co-ordinator .....	Pat Oswald
Property Officer .....	Jean Garita
Newsletter Editor .....	Jill Craig
Tutor Co-ordinator .....	Carmel Lee
Committee Member .....	Lorraine Carr
Committee Member .....	Jim Logan

### Other Positions

Honorary Accountant .....	Basil Conquo
Members' Co-ordinator ....	Claudia Sanzin
Computer Maintenance ...	Luciano Sanzin
Membership Records...	Campbell Pearson
U3A Network Delegate ....	Odette Stuckey
Class Coordinator.....	... Tony Wilds

### Newsletter Team

Jill Craig, Carmel Lee, Pat Oswald, Teresa Pitt.

\*New e-mail address coming soon.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Darebin U3A welcomes two new volunteers who are taking on new positions in the office.

Campbell Pearson is now looking after our member spreadsheets – collating on the computer all the data from your enrolment forms. He checked and updated all the existing records, with the help of office volunteers, before he left us for a holiday in Scotland. He will return in time for the second semester.

Tony Wilds has the new title of **Class Coordinator**. He processes your requests for class places, liaises with the Tutors and notifies you of your placement. He will keep the office records up-to-date for the office volunteers.

These tasks, amongst others, have for many years been done by Claudia and Luciano Sanzin. Darebin U3A is indebted to them for their work and dedication over a very long period. However as we grow the work is greater. In addition, this year Luciano has had major surgery and Claudia has been caring for him. He needs time to convalesce.

We welcome them back when they are ready; but we need to share their workload.

I sincerely thank Campbell and Tony for their willingness to help.

I also thank Pat Oswald and her team of Office Volunteers –there is now someone manning the phone – for many hours, every week day, during term time! Thank you all. We are able to respond to members almost immediately, thanks to you.

*Audrey Grace*

### Change of venue for Tutors' Lunch

All tutors please note that the annual Tutors' Lunch on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> July will now be held at **Northcote** RSL. Entrance is from the car park in Dennis Street, near corner of High Street.

## FROM THE COMMITTEE

### Free Community Bus

Any of our Tutors can book a 10-seater bus to take a class on an outing – several times a year! The bus must be driven by the holder of a current car license, who we must register with the Council, and who collects and returns the bus to the Preston depot. It would be wise to book it several weeks in advance. When we have this set up, we will give full information to all tutors. We thought that you would like advance notice to plan outings.

### Community Garden

A group of residents who live in the Agg Street housing estate are getting together to create a garden. Our own Robyn Buckley and Anne Clarke have offered to help and advise them, as a Darebin U3A initiative. More about this in later newsletters.

### Help with English

Our own living treasure, Nell Bell, is helping a group of Vietnamese to improve their English conversation. This group are enjoying their sessions so much that we are requesting more members to assist other ethnic groups (e.g. Macedonian) on behalf of Darebin U3A. Please leave a message at the office for Audrey.

Rita Kellar conducts a U3A class where she is teaching English as a second language (ESL) at Merrilands Community Centre. This class is growing and there is as wide a range of understanding of our language as there are participants. Ann Partridge is assisting her, but Rita would welcome more members to help. Please contact the Office if you can assist.

### Sit in on La Trobe University lectures

Did you know that U3A members are able to sit in on lectures at La Trobe University as 'audit' students? If you would like to sit in on one or more humanities subjects at La Trobe University, please contact Alison for more information. Please note that fees are payable, although not at the full HECS rate. 'Audit' students do not

attend tutorials, submit any written work or take examinations.

### Wanting to join another class?

As we begin the second half of the year, please be reminded that **you must enrol, through the Office, in any extra class you wish to join.**

You will then be notified if you have a place in the class or if there is a waiting list.

**Permission to visit** a class also needs to be processed via the office. **Make sure you take your membership card to show the Tutor.**

Please ring the office if you are dropping out of a class, so another member can take your place.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY NOTICE

**Members are now required to wear their membership cards, with emergency contact details on the back, to all U3A classes and functions.**

Many U3As are now providing lanyards for this. We may do this from 2010. More details later.

**However, from now on all members must wear their membership cards to classes. Please write clearly on the back the name and telephone of your contact person and also your doctor. It will facilitate the correct medical treatment and may save your life.**

**Do not put this off.**

Please understand that a Tutor may call an ambulance for you if they deem it necessary.

It is you, the member, who would be liable for the significant ambulance cost, so we recommend that you check to see if you are covered, and for what. An ambulance membership is not expensive. Pensioners are covered for emergency ambulance use.

**U3A Carnival of Learning**  
**Sunday 4 October**  
**10:00 am – 4:00 pm**  
**Federation Square.**

Don't miss out on this fantastic celebration of U3A activities at Federation Square to open Seniors Week!

Last year was an inspiring and exhilarating event as U3As throughout Victoria demonstrated a wide variety of activities, from Chinese Calligraphy to Line Dancing. Many Darebin U3A members participated with displays from the **Needlecraft** and **Improving Your English** groups, two great performances from **Singing for Pleasure**, **Tai Chi** demonstrations from Barry Watson and class members, and an entertaining exposition of *Medea* from Kerry Eccles, our **Classical Studies** tutor.

Most of our members really enjoyed the experience. It was quite a 'buzz' being part of the large, vibrant, mature learning community that is the U3A Network. It was a wonderful opportunity to reach the wider community and spread the word about U3A.

Chris Reidy, manager of Victorian Seniors Festival, has received feedback from U3As about problems last year and is promising improvement on the support to be provided this year.

This year the Performance and Active Living areas will extend along the Yarra Boulevard and we will not be using the upper areas of the Plaza. However, U3A Choral groups will be performing on the Main Stage in the Plaza.

Make a note in your diary now and start planning how your group would like to participate in this year's Carnival.

For further information please contact Jill Craig.



## VALE CATE KYNE

### 'A Valiant Woman'

Darebin U3A members were saddened to learn of the sudden death of Cate Kyne at her home on 28 April 2009.

Cate, a former teacher, was a life-long activist in a wide range of causes and interests. She was a writer, a published poet, and an active member of Darebin's Northern Notes Writers' Festival steering committee. Over the years Cate organised a number of successful events for the festival and also had a close association with the Darebin Theatre Project. As a member of the Darebin Artists' Action Group, she successfully lobbied for the Northcote Town Hall to become an arts and community centre.

Cate also helped to establish a food co-op at Ceres, and was closely involved with the Jika Jika Community Centre.

A strong environmentalist and advocate of social justice, Cate was also active in Aboriginal issues and women's issues, especially through the Union of Australian Women.

She was an enthusiastic member of several classes at U3A Darebin, including Drawing then Painting, Current Affairs and Cinema Studies, and her intelligent and stimulating contributions will be greatly missed. Cate's very moving funeral service was held at the Fairfield Amphitheatre on Friday 8 May.

Teresa Pitt

## COURSE INFORMATION

### Brand-new courses!

We are delighted to announce the following exciting \*new courses and classes for second semester 2009. We warmly welcome our new Tutors, and thank all our Tutors for their great generosity in sharing their varied skills and knowledge.

## **\*History of European Culture – ancient to modern times**

The tutor in this subject, Yana Ostapenko, will give students an overview of cultural transformation in Europe from ancient civilisation to modern times. We will focus on a range of cultural 'pictures' of Europe over time. The units will cover the following topics:

- European cities from Ancient Greece to the Renaissance
- Culture of the Roman Empire
- Mediaeval culture – philosophy and art
- Mediaeval cities – life and culture. (This topic may include case studies of the history of art and culture of some of the great cities of Europe – Amsterdam, London, Moscow, Kiev, and others)
- The Renaissance (Europe and the Byzantine Empire)
- European culture in the 17th and 18th centuries
- European culture in the 19th century
- Modern Europe - 20th century (evolution of art and philosophy)
- Contemporary Europe – art and culture
- Modern film and animation as a reflection of modern life
- Russian masterpiece films and cartoons

Classes will be held weekly on Mondays, 10.30 am – 12.00 noon, at Fairfield Station, commencing Monday 20 July.

## **\*Aboriginals and Genocide**

The 'disappearance' of the Aboriginals: is it a question of genocide? Our new tutor, Tony Barta, is offering three sessions on this topic. There will be a one-hour lecture followed by refreshments and discussion time.

The sessions will be held on Friday mornings from 10 am – 12 noon, at Fairfield Station, on the following dates: 24 July, 14 August and 28 August.

### 1. The idea of genocide in Australia.

Because our ideas of genocide are very much influenced by the Holocaust, few Australians –

and very few Australian historians – have considered the word appropriate for their own country. Over the past twenty years that has begun to change. We will go back to the original definition of the word and examine 'relations of genocide' in colonial situations.

### 2. Victoria, a case study.

What began as 'Australia Felix' quickly proved a vale of sorrow for the Indigenous population of the new Port Phillip colony. Within a short time their numbers had fallen by 80 per cent. If the Government in London, and its officials in Sydney and Hobart, knew about this likely 'vanishing', were they complicit in genocide?

### 3. From Darwin to Hitler – and back to Australia

This year we are celebrating the birth of the great Charles Darwin two hundred years ago. It is 150 years since he published *The Origin of Species*, a book that changed the world. His comments on the genocidal effects of colonies resonated with concerns being expressed in the British Parliament at the same time. Darwinian ideas, in conflict with his own humane attitudes, were sadly influential in colonialist thinking through to the Second World War.

**Tony Barta**, currently an Honorary Research Fellow at La Trobe University, taught European and Australian History there from 1969 to 1996. He founded the History and Film Program in 1985. His articles (and radio talks) on Germany, Australia and film can be found by googling 'barta la trobe history', where there should also be links to the ABC.

### **\*Western Travellers in Muslim Lands**

Geoff Gaff is offering a single-session talk at Fairfield Station on Monday 7 September, 10.30 am – 12.00 noon.

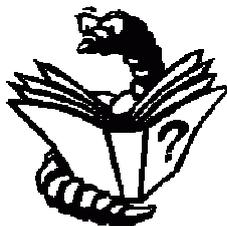
Geoff will talk about travellers' writings from the 18th and 19th centuries. What was the Middle East and North Africa like after a thousand years of Muslim rule, before the tsunami of European influence really struck?

The talk is meant to give insights into these societies through the eyes of our ancestors.

Interested members should leave a message for Carmel at the office.

### \*New Book Discussion Group

Our first book discussion group has been so popular that we are establishing a new group for U3A book-lovers.



This new group held its first meeting on Wednesday 10 June when members discussed their individual interests and planned their reading program, as follows:

- July - Lloyd Jones: *Mr Pip*
- August - Alexis Wright: *Carpentaria*
- September - Peter Carey: *Oscar and Lucinda*
- October - Geraldine Brooks: *People of the Book*
- November - Helen Garner: *The Spare Room*

Meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of each month at Fairfield Station, 10:30 am – 12 noon. New members warmly welcomed!

For further information, please contact the coordinator, Elva Armstrong, through the office.

### \*Yoga for Beginners

Our very popular Yoga teacher, Shyamala ('Sharm') Benakovic, is offering a new class – **Yoga for Beginners** – from 2 -3 pm on Thursday afternoons at Northcote Town Hall.

The adapted **Iyengar Yoga** program is specifically designed for older people to improve balance and confidence while standing and walking.

Student Comment: Before taking up yoga, 'Sharm' performed classical Indian dancing which, no doubt, has helped to make her what she is today. She tries to make our minds and bodies work for our own benefit with good results. Generally speaking, we felt more relaxed all over by the end of each lesson.

Clare Lowrie

### More New Courses Planned

We are in the process of finalising details for another exciting new course - **French Language for Beginners** – to be held weekly on Friday or Saturday morning. The tutor, Christelle Tshishimbi, lives in Preston and uses public transport, so we are trying to find an accessible venue. If you are interested in this class, please leave a message at the office and we will let you know further details when they are arranged.

Thanks to the people at the Volunteer Expo who kindly offered their help (see page 9), we hope to be able to offer a new **computer** course for beginners later in the semester on Thursday 1 – 3 pm at Merrilands Community Centre in Reservoir.

### \*\*New Course Cancelled\*\*

We regret to announce that Paul Murchison is unable to give his course on **Free Thought, Religion and the Afterlife** due to illness. We wish Paul all the best.

### Heroes of the Western World

Jone Gaillard, tutor of **Classical Italian Literature**, has returned with this new subject of study.

### Quilling is Thrilling!

Is there anyone out there who doesn't know how to quill?

It is exciting, frustrating and fun - and easy. Come and learn how to make your own individual cards and amaze your friends and relatives.

Quilling is part of the **Needlecraft** class, so come on Wednesdays 12.45 – 2.45 pm and Val will guide you into a new world.

**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.

## SECOND SEMESTER COURSES

The following is a list of confirmed courses for second semester. Full details appear on page 11 in our new timetable.

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>TUTOR/CO-ORDINATOR</u>
Aboriginals and Genocide .....	Tony Barta
Art Appreciation.....	Alison Laird
Book Discussion 1 .....	Rotating leaders
Book Discussion 2 .....	Elva Armstrong
Canasta.....	Claudia Sanzin
Classical Studies.....	Dr Kerry Eccles
Classical Italian Literature.....	Dr Jone Gaillard
Computer 1 .....	Russell Lennox
Computer 2.....	Russell Lennox
Current Affairs.....	Dr John Dalton
Drawing Then Painting .....	Jane Savage
History of European Culture...Yana Ostapenko	
Improving your English .....	Christina Fittipaldi
Italian Conversation.....	Nerina Novak
Italian Language for Beginners	Adriana Ficarazzi
Mah Jong.....	Nancy Keele
Needlecraft .....	Jean Garita
Reading and Writing for Retirees.....	Rita Keller
Painting and Drawing.....	June Pitman
Shakespeare.....	Albert Stuckey
Singing for Pleasure .....	Jim Logan
Tai-Chi.....	Barry Watson
Yoga.....	Shyamala Benakovic
Yoga for Beginners .....	Shyamala Benakovic

## FROM THE CLASSROOM

### Art Appreciation

We have had a good start to the year. We visited the Bendigo Gallery to see 'The Golden Age of Couture', and the McClelland Gallery in Langwarrin for Jacob Epstein's portrait sculptures and flower paintings. Classroom discussions included 'The Naked and the Nude' following our visit last year to the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery's exhibition on that subject, Degas and his contemporaries, sculptors and John Brack.

Kerry Maher guided us around notable venues in Heidelberg, including a most interesting tour

over the MacGeorge house designed by Desbrowe Annear. Four of us flew to Canberra for a day in March and visited the National Portrait Gallery and the Degas exhibition at the National Gallery of Australia, as well as part of the National Gallery's permanent collection.

We have visits planned to the John Brack and Dali exhibitions in the National Gallery of Victoria, the Tapestry Workshop and the Pompeii exhibition at Melbourne Museum, as well as regional and smaller local galleries later in the year, with classroom discussions on several artists, Aboriginal and pre-Columbian art.

Alison Laird

### Cinema Studies 2009: 'Hidden Cinema'



Once again Paul Michell has given his Cinema Studies students a series of rare treats, with a group of films chosen because they are about something other than

what they appear to be about! Looking for hidden sub-texts and deeper meanings behind the surface of these films led to some fabulously lively and stimulating discussions.

The films we watched were *Footlight Parade* (1933), *Johnny Guitar* (1954), *Forbidden Planet* (1956) and *The Graduate* (1967).

Paul's encyclopaedic knowledge of film, as well as his extensive knowledge of literature and history, enables him to put every film he shows into a very broad context, and gives us all so much to think about. Unfortunately we only had four classes this year as Paul was going overseas.

Many thanks to Paul once again for his well-prepared and fascinating classes: we can't wait to find out what he will present for us next year! If you're interested in film, this class is a must.

Teresa Pitt

### U3A 'Needlers' Pitch in for Bushfire Relief

'Incoming!' calls Val, as she expertly lobs a purple square across the room.

'Howzat!' replies Ronda, as she rises and gathers it in a perfect one-arm catch.

Indoor cricket can't hold an innings to the gals at the Wednesday **Needlecraft** group. Instead of practicing for the regional finals, they are in fact doing their bit for the Bushfire Relief. So many of us watched in horror as Victoria burned through February. Yes, we gladly gave money and mourned all the dreadful loss of life and property, but many of us had a hollow feeling, wishing that there was something more that we could do.

Through the practical organisation of Laura and her family, the 'Needlers' got to play their part. Laura's daughters, Joanna and Lal, with their friend Angela were quick off the mark, collecting old towels and food for the animals affected by the firestorms. This gear was delivered to the RSPCA depot in Diamond Creek. The ladies further helped by setting up and resupplying feed stations throughout the bushland on behalf of the refuge. They were then alerted to the need for 'joey pouches' by the Wonga Park Refuge. Domestic animals were well catered for by this stage but the plight of the bushland creatures was critical. By some estimates, over a million animals had either lost their lives or were at risk due to injury or starvation. Every one of the rescued creatures needed nursing and housing in pouches, which are the nearest thing to natural hidey holes sought by injured or disoriented animals. Sizes had to accommodate creatures from wombats to pigmy possums to marsupial mice.

The trio was on a roll. They approached Spotlight Fabrics in Box Hill and, through the auspices of the Border Collie Club of Victoria, were able to select from Spotlight a wonderful donation of polar fleece and winceyette to make washable pouches for the Refuge. At this stage Laura turned her sitting room over to become a cutting room for the project. Fabric was cut into

Rectangles of varying sizes to make inner and outer pockets to fit the sizes required.

On Wednesday, Laura arrived at the Needlecraft Group with bundles of fabric and sewing machines. The 'Needlers' soon found themselves involved. With the addition of the U3A machine, Jean, Laura, Val and Nell wrangled the machines into submission and a fine zigzag stitch, whilst Ronda worked as chief stuffer, turning each pair of bags into a lined 'joey pouch'. The rest of the Wednesday crew kept the tea and good spirits flowing. The final tally was 150 snugly pouches delivered to Wonga Park Refuge.

Thanks must go to the many Victorians involved with this project, with the thought that every small effort can bring us together for our community.

Robyn Buckley

### LETTERS

Dear U3A members,

On behalf of the Border Collie Club of Victoria I would like to thank you for your great contributions towards creating the pouches for the animals affected by the bushfires. I appreciated your instant willingness to be involved and your tireless efforts to complete the task in such a short time frame.

I have enclosed a picture for you to see the benefits of your help towards improving the comfort of the fortunate animals who survived that horrible time.

Many thanks, once again

Lalla Cole



## Message from Luciano

To all our friends and members of Darebin U3A:

Claudia and Luciano Sanzin would like to extend their thanks and appreciation for your kind thoughts and best wishes, cards, telephone calls, prayers and support that we received during Luciano's operation and hospitalisation.

Luciano is now recovering nicely and is looking forward to once again being an active member of Darebin U3A.

## OUT AND ABOUT

### Darebin Volunteer Expo

Preston City Hall was bursting with visitors, volunteers and community groups at the Darebin Volunteer Expo on Saturday 16 May.



It was a great community event, reflecting the wonderful diversity of people and cultures in Darebin. There were some 40 different stalls displaying the work of a broad variety of groups serving the community – neighbourhood community centres, Chinese and Greek welfare groups, a multicultural sewing group, Koori Radio and Friends of Darebin Creek, to name only a few.

There was a lively atmosphere of enthusiasm and mutual interest among the stallholders, many of whom were eager to co-operate with U3A. Our stall, staffed by Audrey Grace, Jean Garita and myself, attracted a great deal of interest and offers of help. We were particularly delighted by the number of young Indian people who offered their services as voluntary tutors in computer skills. Thanks to them and all the other people who offered their services, we hope to provide a number of new courses later in the year.

Many thanks to Lucy Foley from the Darebin Volunteering Project for organising this event and for ensuring we were well catered for with food and drink (courtesy of Friends of Bacau).

We met so many marvellous people and were very heartened by being part of such a vibrant volunteering network.

Jill Craig

## Singalong at Holmes Street Housing Estate.

On Tuesday 2 June, Jim Logan and members of the 'Singing for Pleasure' group joined residents at the Holmes Street Housing Estate for a happy sing-a-long. Jim prepared a booklet of popular 'Golden Oldies' and we had copies for everyone so that they could all join in the singing. And what a sing we had! Eyes shone as we all trilled our toe-tapping way down memory lane.

Darebin U3A also provided a simple lunch, the highlight being our Sara Lee apple slices.

Tea and coffee was served in china cups and saucers. It really was an elegant affair - we thought we were at the Windsor!

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit and were made very welcome. Many of our hosts asked if we could make it a regular event. It is a lot of work for Jim, collecting all the songs and putting us through our paces. But it was a lovely day and we certainly would like to repeat it. A special thank you to Sandra Bradshaw and Loy Di Lorenzo, who were our hard-working kitchen lasses. Their timing was impeccable – as we were finishing each bracket of songs, out would come a plate of food. How did they do it? They never missed a beat! Nor did we!

Audrey Grace

## U3A Annual Conference

This was held from Wednesday to Friday, 5-7 May. I attended with Odette Stuckey, who is our U3A Network delegate, and her husband Albert. It was a very interesting three days and I would recommend that more of our members attend the next one – for one or all days.

I attended a session on New Ideas. The ones that caught my attention were about on-line courses for isolated or home-bound members, and about the use of Community Radio to develop public awareness about our organisation.

## NOTICE BOARD

We were given updated information about Risk Management and the new Privacy Legislation. We now need to formulate policies. The U3A Network is planning a workshop to assist us with this, but we need to make a start - see page 3 (From the Committee).

On the Friday, I went on the bus trip to visit Hume U3A, which is very fortunate to be based at Dallas Primary School. Enthusiastic students took us on a tour of the school with a focus on their computer programs. Morning tea was set out in the U3A portable classroom, where the school principal and the Hume president spoke to us. They both talked about the importance of building community partnerships and gaining Council support. We then moved to the new Hume Global Learning Centre at Broadmeadows, where space has been included for the U3A to run their computer classes. They had set out displays of work done in various classes and we were invited to join in an energetic chair aerobics class. We then enjoyed a lunch prepared by students in the dining room, and the Mayor gave a welcome address. I gained lots of good ideas that day, too.

Audrey Grace

On Wednesday 6 May I attended the U3A Conference. The Governor of Victoria, Professor David de Kretser AC, launched the conference and made a presentation on his research into men's health, now termed andrology.

Andrology Australia is using a large survey conducted in December 2003 to identify the serious predisposition to major disease as men age. With ageing, the lowering of testosterone production results in a loss of calcium. A loss of bone strength may be serious in a third of men over 70. Another revelation from the survey is that prostate cancer may affect 40 per cent of men over 70.

The keynote speaker was Alistair Nicholson, a former Family Court judge. From his experience of 19 years as a lawyer and 21 years as a judge, he provided a background for recent sensational stories in the news.

Albert Stuckey

### U3A on-line

Learning on-line is great for seniors who are home-bound, or for courses not available locally. You can even get to know and interact with other participants.

Visit us at [www.u3aonline.org.au](http://www.u3aonline.org.au) or e-mail [info@u3aonline.org.au](mailto:info@u3aonline.org.au) for more information.

### Museum for Darebin?

Moreland Council is currently investigating the feasibility of setting up a museum at Brunswick Town Hall. Moreland Mayor Lambros Tapinos said the museum in Coburg was a great asset to the community, and Brunswick deserved a place to display artefacts and items of historical interest. 'It is part of [the Council's] role to ensure our own local history is remembered,' he said.

*(Melbourne Times, 27/5/09)*

Darebin Libraries has an extensive archive of historical material, including photographs, letters, old newspapers, oral histories, and other items relating to the history of the area - but none of this material is on display. There may be other Darebin organisations holding unseen historical materials as well.

If Coburg and Brunswick can have museums, why not Darebin? I would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in attending an informal meeting to discuss the idea. Please phone Teresa Pitt on 9481 6924, or e-mail [t.pitt@live.com.au](mailto:t.pitt@live.com.au).

### Spring Newsletter

This will contain the latest news including the Carnival of Learning, and recent course information updates. The deadline for contributions is Friday 14 August. Articles of 250 words or less preferred - please send to The Editor, Jill Craig, at U3A Darebin, or email to [jillrcraig@gmail.com](mailto:jillrcraig@gmail.com).

**DAREBIN U3A CLASS TIMETABLE for 2nd SEMESTER 2009**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Starts</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Monday</b>	10:30 - 12:00	20/07/09	History of European Culture	Fairfield Station	
	10:30 - 12:00	13/07/09	Italian language for beginners	Span	
	1:00 - 3:00	13/07/09	Reading & writing for retirees	Merrilands	
	3:00 - 4:30	13/07/09	Italian Conversation	Northcote Library	
	1:00 - 3:00	13/07/09	Singing at the Station	Fairfield Station	
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00 - 11:00	14/07/09	Tai-Chi in the North	Merrilands	
	10:00 - 12:00	14/07/09	Computer 1	Span	Fully Booked
	1:00 - 2:00	14/07/09	Tai-Chi Basic	Northcote Town Hall	<i>Yang Style</i>
	2:00 - 3:00	14/07/09	Tai-Chi Intermediate	Northcote Town Hall	Modified for seniors
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:30 - 12:00	1/07/09	Book Discussion 1	Fairfield Station	Fully Booked
	10:30 - 12:00	10/06/09	Book Discussion 2	Fairfield Station	2nd Wednesday/month
	11:30 - 12:30	22/07/09	Classical Studies	Fairfield Station	3rd Wednesday/month
	12:30 - 2:00	15/07/09	Improving your English	Span	
	12:45 - 2:45	15/07/09	Needlecraft	Fairfield Station	
	3:00 - 4:30	15/07/09	Shakespeare	Fairfield Station	
<b>Thursday</b>	10:00 - 12:00	16/07/09	Computer 2	Span	Fully Booked
	10:30 - 12:00	16/07/09	Current Affairs	Fairfield Station	Fortnightly
	1:00 - 2:00	16/07/09	Yoga - Intermediate	Northcote Town Hall	Fully Booked
	1:30 - 3:30	16/07/09	Painting and Drawing	Span	
	1:30 - 3:30	16/07/09	Draw Then Paint	Fairfield Station	
	2:00 - 3:00	16/07/09	Yoga for Beginners	Northcote Town Hall	
<b>Friday</b>	10:00 - 11:30	3/07/09	Art Appreciation	Fairfield Station	1st-3rd-5th Friday /month
	10:00 - 12:00	24/07/09	Aboriginals and Genocide	Fairfield Station	24/7, 14/8 & 28/8
	1:00 - 3:00	17/07/09	Singing for Pleasure	Span	
	1:30 - 3:00	19/06/09	Classical Italian Literature	Fairfield Station	Fully Booked
<b>Saturday</b>	1:30 - 4:00	18/07/09	Mah-Jong	Fairfield Station	1st & 3rd Sat/Month
	1:30 - 4:01	11/07/09	Canasta	Fairfield Station	2nd & 4th Sat/month

**Venue Details**

**Fairfield Railway Station**

Situated at 26 Railway Place Fairfield ( rear of Platform 1 ) opposite the RSL. Melway 30 K10. Apart from the Hurstbridge line train, the 567 bus stops on the other side of the railway line. Parking at RSL Club with U3A permit

**Northcote Town Hall**

189 High St. Northcote. Melway 30:F9. Tram No. 86 stops at Town Hall.

**Northcote Library**

Situated at 32-38 Separation Street, Northcote, opposite Northcote Plaza. Melway 30 F8. Bus No 552 terminates at Northcote Plaza. Tram No 86 in High Street-alight at Separation Street stop.

**SPAN**

Situated at 64 Clyde St., Thornbury, alongside the Kindergarten. near corner of Victoria Road, one street south of Clarendon St. Melway 30J5. Buses Nos 552, 246, 251 pass along Victoria Road

**Merrilands Community Centre**

Situated at 35 Sturdee Street Reservoir (cnr Asquith Street). Melway 18 H1..Bus No 555 from Northland Shopping Centre to Epping Plaza. Bus stop corner Hughes Pde & Asquith St. Railway: Epping line. Alight at Keon Park Station, proceed to Asquith St pedestrian crossing