

## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the first week of Spring – a time to celebrate new life and energy.

Darebin U3A has certainly been revitalized this year with a large number of new members, tutors and courses. We are especially delighted to welcome so many new members and tutors from other cultures – from Vietnam, the Ukraine and even the Congo, to name only a few.

Darebin hosts such a varied multicultural community and we are all enriched by these cross-cultural exchanges.

The next Newsletter will be published in mid-November, in preparation for the AGM on 3 December. We hope to publish short reports from all this year's classes and our tutors' plans for next year. Please send your contributions to the Editor by Friday 16 October.

Celebrate Spring and the vitality of the Third Age! Join us at Federation Square for the Carnival of Learning on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

Jill Craig

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Tutor for 'Reading and Writing for Retirees', Rita Keller, is on holiday in her home country of Czechoslovakia. The class is still continuing in her absence under the care and guidance of her assistant, Anne Partridge. Nancy Keele, Jim Logan, Pam Fergie-Jackson and Maureen Barlow have all offered to help Anne for two weeks each. All our Tutors are volunteers and entitled to 'a life' away from U3A, so we value highly the contribution of members who step up in times of need to keep classes functioning. A big thank you to Anne, Nancy, Jim, Pam and Maureen.

### Bussing U3A About

The 'Singing for Pleasure' Group is often invited to present concerts outside U3A, including entertaining the residents at aged-care facilities. They have registered with Darebin Council as a Community Bus User to transport the Choir for some of these visits.

If your group would also like to register as a bus user, please contact our office for a form. You need to register your own driver, who only needs a current car driver's license and a clearance certificate from VicRoads (this can be issued over the counter). The bus holds 8-10 people.

### Wearing Your Membership Badge.

Please look it out today. Write on the back your emergency contact, your doctor, and their phone numbers. Please note any special condition you have, for example diabetes, allergies, etc. **It is important that you wear it to all classes.** Please get into the habit. It could save your life.

Also – have you checked that you have **ambulance cover?** Pensioners and part-pensioners are covered for emergency ambulance use.

If you are not covered, and an ambulance is called for you while at a class, it could be extremely expensive!

We don't want to admit it, but we are all getting older, frailer, and more likely to collapse or have a fall. I had a nasty one in the Northcote Plaza car park just last week. And I thought I was indestructible! I was lucky enough to walk away – this time.

Audrey Grace.

\*\*\*Victorian Seniors Festival programmes are now available at Fairfield Station Classrooms.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**New Email:** [darebinu3a1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:darebinu3a1@optusnet.com.au)

**Post:** PO Box 44, Fairfield Vic 3078

**Phone:** 96 102 102

**Or go to the website at**

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

**Visit the office at**

Fairfield Railway Station

26 Railway Place, Fairfield Vic 3078

**Office Hours during school terms**

Whenever possible there will be a volunteer attending the office during the following hours:

Monday	9.00 am – 3.00 pm
Tuesday	10.30 am – 12 noon
Wednesday	10.30 am – 12 noon 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm
Thursday	1.00 pm – 3.00 pm
Friday	1.00 pm – 3.00 pm

## DIARY DATES

**School holidays:** Friday 18 Sept - break up  
Monday 5 Oct - back to school

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

**Victorian Seniors' Festival:** 4-11 October.

**Newsletter Deadline:** Friday 16 October

**Annual General Meeting and enrolments:**  
2.30 pm on Thursday 3 December at Fairfield RSL.

## COURSE INFORMATION

### French for Beginners

This weekly class is starting on Friday 4 September from 10.30 to 12 noon, focusing on French conversation. It will be held in the side room at the Northcote Senior Citizens Centre, 18a Bent Street, Northcote. The 86 tram along High St stops at the corner of Bent St (Stop 34).

Our delightful Tutor, Christelle Tshishimbi, is from the Congo and her first language is French.

Her English is also beautifully spoken. The two books she has selected for you are Collins' *French Club*, Book 2, with CD, and Eyewitness Travel's *15 Minute French*. We have ordered both books for you, and are subsidising the cost during September. Please bring \$25 for your copies and a notebook and pen.

Please phone the Office if you wish to enrol, giving your name, membership number and telephone contact. Please do this early so that we can have your textbooks ready for you on the first day.

### Bulletins

- ❖ There are still vacancies in many of our classes, especially the new courses – **Yoga for Beginners, Tai chi in the North and Book Discussion 2**. If you are interested in joining a new class, please phone the Office to enrol.
- ❖ **Singing at the Station** on Monday afternoons has been cancelled. New members are welcome to join the **Singing for Pleasure** group at Span on Friday afternoons (1:00 – 3:00).
- ❖ The final class of **Heroes of the Western World** will be held on Friday 18 September. The tutor, Dr Jone Gaillard, will be presenting a talk on *The Odyssey* between 11 am and 12 noon on Wednesday 2 September on the Literature Program, Northern Community Radio 96.5 FM.
- ❖ We have been unable to find another tutor to teach **basic computer skills**. However, both Span and Jika Jika Community Centres provide special courses for 'over 50s' at very cheap rates. Phone Span on 9480 1364 or Jika on 9482 5100 for details.
- ❖ Reminder: Geoff Gaff will be presenting his talk on **Western Travellers in Muslim Lands** at Fairfield Station, 10:30 am – 12 noon on Monday 7 September. There are still vacancies in this class. Please phone the office if you wish to attend.

### Heroes of the Western World

Dr Jone Gaillard, tutor in Classical Italian Literature, was invited to **Book Discussion 1** to talk on and read from Homer's *Iliad*. Jone was warmly received by the group and we all enjoyed her presentation. The true spirit of U3A was apparent, with a tutor from one class visiting and participating with another. Well done and thank you, Jone.

Carmel Lee

### History of European Culture

Our delightful tutor, Yana Ostapenko, has an encyclopaedic knowledge of European history and culture. She presents this subject in a very lively and entertaining way, illustrated by selected videos and DVDs.

We have been looking at how ancient civilisations expressed their ideals and values in different art forms and architecture but also learning about the life and culture of ordinary people – their homes, food, daily life and religious beliefs.

Yana encourages all of us to contribute our own understandings from different cultural viewpoints and so we have some very interesting and enlightening discussions. She herself is Ukrainian and has only lived in Australia for the past two years. We have all been fascinated by her stories of life in the Ukraine and enjoyed viewing a very funny Ukrainian cartoon depicting women taking their unwanted husbands to the market for sale!

Humour really is a universal language, especially at U3A. Yana says that she loves teaching our group and also learning from us. Thank you Yana for sharing your knowledge, insights and enthusiasm with us – and also the laughter!

Jill Craig

### Macedonian Cultural Celebration

Members of Darebin U3A were honoured guests of the local Macedonian Women's Group at Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre on Thursday 18 June.

Each guest was traditionally welcomed with bread and salt and then warmly greeted by members of the group. The room had been brightly decorated, featuring a magnificent hand-woven banner and other examples of the group's traditional handicrafts. Around the walls were many beautiful photographs of scenes from their home country. On display was a typical hand-loom and one of the women demonstrated how the wool is skillfully spun by hand.

We were treated to some very lively music and singing and later invited to join in a simple traditional dance. The women looked splendid in their colourful costumes of hand-woven skirts and embroidered blouses. It was great fun to join in the infectious gaiety of the occasion.

Our President, Audrey Grace, presented floral gifts to all the women who had prepared delicious home-cooked Macedonian dishes of sweet and savoury pastries, bread, donuts and cakes.

After this festive lunch, Barry Watson, our Tai Chi instructor, invited our hosts to join in some simple exercises and then led U3A class members in a graceful demonstration of some Tai Chi movements.

U3A class members from **Current Affairs**, **Shakespeare** and **Tai Chi** thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to learn about the rich Macedonian culture. We thank Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre for organising this event and Claudia Sanzin and Pam Fergie-Jackson for their assistance 'behind the scenes'. Our heartfelt thanks to the Macedonian group for sharing their cultural heritage with us and for their warm hospitality.

Jill Craig

### 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.**

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PO Box 44, Fairfield Vic 3078

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