

FROM THE EDITOR

Celebrating our History

Darebin U3A will celebrate its 20th Birthday in October next year. In this Newsletter, we wish to give you a taste of our history and honour some of the many people who have contributed to its formation and growth over the years.

We congratulate Eileen Capocchi, one of our founding members, who was recently inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women.

Audrey Grace has suggested that we feature an Honour Roll in the Newsletter to acknowledge those members who have made a significant contribution to Darebin U3A. We will never have enough room in the Newsletter to include everyone who deserves a special mention. So we are proposing to make a special Honour Roll Book as part of our 20th Birthday celebrations. We invite everyone to write a short piece about someone you feel should be included.

In this issue we include some writings from members, reflecting on the early days of Darebin U3A, which were published in our booklet *1991 – 2001: The First Ten Years*. For our 10th Anniversary the Needlecraft group created the beautiful 'Tree of Learning' banner which always attracts much interest and admiration at Community events. They are already hard at work producing another banner for our 20th Anniversary in October next year.

We are asking everyone, particularly those who have been with us for some years, for their ideas and help in forming a Planning Committee to celebrate this important milestone in our history.

Long Live Darebin U3A!

Jill Craig

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NEW CLASSES NEEDED!

We need more new classes, but most of all we need tutors or class co-ordinators. We are appealing to all members to consider how they can help in providing new courses.

Perhaps you have a particular hobby, area of expertise or knowledge which you would like to share with others. You may know someone who would be willing to present a new course, perhaps even one or several sessions on a particular topic. We would welcome your ideas and suggestions. Why not have a chat with Carmel Lee, our Tutor Coordinator, or join our Course Planning Team?

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Or go to the website at ...

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

Office hours during school terms:

Whenever possible there will be someone in attendance on week days at the following times (except Public Holidays and term breaks):

Mon – Thurs: 10.30 am to 12.00 noon
 and 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm
Friday: 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm

2010 Committee Members

President	Audrey Grace
Vice-President	Don Stewart
Secretary	Frances Hennessy
Treasurer	Dianne Beaumont
Assistant Secretary	Elva Armstrong
Office Co-ordinator	Pat Oswald
Property Officer	Jean Garita
Newsletter Editor.....	Jill Craig
Tutor Co-ordinator	Carmel Lee
Membership/Class Records	Tony Wild
Committee Member	Lorraine Carr
Committee Member	Jim Logan
Committee Member	Judith Prosser

Other Positions

Honorary Accountant	Basil Conquo
Class Enrolments	Claudia Sanzin
Archives	Luciano Sanzin
U3A Network Delegate	Odette Stuckey
Computer Consultant.....	Russell Lennox
Assistant Editor.....	Teresa Pitt

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I welcome our new members and new tutors.

We are all very proud of our U3A in Darebin and enjoy the great variety of classes offered by our tutors, and the friendships we develop.

But let's not be selfish - let's get the message about our happy, friendly groups out into the community, and invite more retired people to join.

We have a lot of ideas of how this can be done, but we need more members involved. How can you help? Ring the office and tell us.

Would you, and perhaps your friends, like to develop/join a new Promotion Group to get this happening? These groups are friendly and fun.

Rent increases have been a problem for us in recent times, and I have been supported by Darebin Council in finding less expensive venues for our classes. We now have four classes moving into 'Bent Street' (Northcote Senior Citizens Centre) which has two well-equipped rooms. The Council has offered this venue, rent free, to us. We have recently been offered - again at no cost - a Monday timeslot at the very cosy East Preston Senior Citizens Centre in Donald Street. A Planning Group is needed to promote Darebin U3A in that neighbourhood, and find tutors to conduct classes there. This is such a good opportunity to spread our classes more widely throughout Darebin and truly live up to our name.

Word of mouth is very effective. Do you talk to your friends and neighbours about Darebin U3A? Invite them to join? Do you have friends who have a hobby or passion and would love the opportunity to pass it on to an interested group of people? Show them our timetable - what a variety of subjects and skills are covered - 'anything goes!' And don't forget yourself - you could become a tutor. You, more than anyone, know how friendly and sharing our classes are.

Audrey Grace

Parking at Fairfield RSL

Please note that the U3A parking ticket issued to members for use of the Fairfield RSL car park will no longer be valid after the end of June.

The RSL has asked for a new arrangement because their car park is being used by too many non-RSL members. They invite us to become 'Community Members' of the RSL for an annual fee of \$10 which entitles members to use of their car park. The Manager, Geraldine Macdonald, has agreed to charge only \$5 for the period 1 July to end of December 2010.

Each member will be issued a numbered ticket on payment of the fee and registering as a Community Member. You will need to provide your car registration number. The RSL will provide U3A with tickets so that we can issue them to members before the commencement of classes in second semester. There will be a volunteer in the Office on Friday 9 July from 10am – 12 noon and 1 – 3pm to issue these tickets. During the term they may be obtained from the Office during office hours. It is wise to telephone first to ensure there is a volunteer in attendance.

Special General Meeting Postponed

The Special General Meeting to update our Constitution, announced in the January *Flyer* for 5 July, has been postponed to coincide with our Annual General Meeting in early December.

We need to update our Constitution to conform with recent amendments to the *Associations Incorporation Act*. These changes require that a Special General Meeting be called.

We wish to improve the wording of some clauses for clarity.

We also need to change the Audit date registered with Consumers Affairs from October to September

Since our Voluntary Auditor, Richard Sanzin, has offered to audit our books again in October

this year, we are now able to hold this Special General Meeting at the same time as our Annual General Meeting in December.

Darebin U3A Pioneer Honoured

Congratulations to Eileen Capocchi, a founding member of U3A Darebin (originally U3A Northcote). She was among twenty women recently inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women by Women's Affairs Minister Maxine Morand. Eileen was honoured for campaigning for many years on issues such as equal pay, reproductive rights for young women and abortion law reform. Now aged 84, Eileen was, until last year, President of the Union of Australian Women (Victoria). Well done and good wishes from us all.

Odette Stuckey

Website

We are very grateful to Russell Lennox, our computer tutor, for agreeing to take over our website, and we are in the process of trying to establish a more accessible website address. We wish to thank Mary Levens for all her hard work and expertise in establishing the website and faithfully updating it every month for the past two and a half years, even after moving to Kinglake.

Mary was a computer tutor with Darebin U3A from 2003 until 2009. The Newsletter Editorial Team is also indebted to her for creating the new format for the *Flyer* and for all her professional help and advice.

Community Bus

Darebin Council supplies a **Community Bus** for groups like us to use for outings. The Book Discussion Group took advantage of this to go on an outing to visit McRae Homestead and had a great day (see report in **Out and About**).

If your group wishes to also use the bus, please contact the office for the booking form. We pay the bond and it costs your group \$50 each time you use the bus. Campbell Pearson has registered as the driver for the book group and

is willing to drive for other groups, when able (not Thursdays). It holds nine persons plus the driver and has a wheelchair facility.

Would anyone else care to register as a driver for us? Only a current car license is required. The use of the bus relies on us having a driver registered and available on the day. Please phone the office if you are willing to help.

Computer Class Fees

Span now has to pass on to us costs that are no longer covered by government grants. The fees they are charging for our 6 classes held at Span are discounted, but there is an additional charge for the use of the Computer equipment which the committee has decided should be paid by the users. This fee is \$50 for a semester (20 weeks at 2 hours each). The Committee is offering a concession rate of \$30 to members on a full Age Pension.

Finance Matters

Your membership fees cover a very small percentage of the running costs of U3A Darebin.

Our annual rental bill alone is almost \$10,000. This includes our Fairfield premises and class spaces at Northcote Town Hall, Merrilands Community Centre and Span. Darebin Council has been generous in the past with rental assistance, but this funding is now more limited. However, the Council has offered us the use of vacant space at their Senior Citizens Centres at no charge - hence our efforts to establish classes at Bent Street, Northcote and East Preston.

State Government grants in the past have assisted with the costs of running the office and buying equipment. This year's State Government grant is not for equipment, but to assist in the development of new classes, particularly in a new area.

There is now less Council and Government funding available to us and we may soon have to consider increasing our membership fees to help cover our rental and running costs.

The best way to avoid this is by an increase in both the number of classes and the number of members in order to attract further funding.

DIARY DATES

Term Dates

Second term finishes Friday, 25 June.

Third term: Starts Monday 12 July and finishes Friday 17 September.

Members Morning Tea followed by a slide show presentation by our Secretary, Frances Hennessy, of her recent travels. Monday 27 September, 10:30 – 12:30, at Northcote Senior Citizens' Centre, Bent Street, Northcote. Please bring a plate of goodies to share.

U3A Carnival of Learning

Don't miss out on this fantastic celebration of U3A activities at Federation Square to open Victorian Seniors Week on Sunday 3 October.

It is quite a 'buzz' being part of the large, vibrant, mature learning community that is the U3A Network. It is also a wonderful opportunity to reach the wider community and spread the word about U3A.

Last year it was very pleasant with our marquee situated on the Yarra Boulevard, near the performance area where Barry Watson gave a **Tai Chi** demonstration with some of his students. The **Singing for Pleasure** group was very happy with their performance venue at the BMW Edge, which will be the same this year.

Please contact the office if you or your group would like to participate this year.

Darebin Seniors Week follows Victorian Seniors Week, commencing Monday 11 October. We are invited to participate in these activities. Further details in Spring Newsletter.

Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 December at Fairfield RSL. We commence at 1pm with enrolments, followed by the Special General Meeting and AGM. Afternoon tea will be served at the close of the meeting.

COURSE INFORMATION

New Timetable for Second Semester

Please check the new Timetable for Second Semester on page 13 as there have been a number of changes to class times and venues.

Line Dancing

The renovations are finally complete at Bent Street and the line dancing class started on 14 May. Wow! What fun! Loraine and David had us dancing in no time and didn't tax us too much. We couldn't believe we could learn a dance so quickly! Smiles all round! The hall is big so there is plenty of room for more to enrol – come and join the fun.

Sessions are held on Friday afternoons 2:00 – 3:30 at Northcote Senior Citizens' Centre, 18a Bent Street, Northcote.

Scrabble Club

This class will be discontinued in second semester, due to insufficient numbers. The tutor, Dorothy Hunt, would like to offer it again next year, fortnightly on Thursday mornings.

Tai Chi

Barry Watson is moving all his Tai Chi classes to Northcote Senior Citizens Centre at the beginning of second semester, commencing Monday 12 July. The class at Merrilands will close at the end of first semester.

All classes will now be held on Monday afternoons. The hall at Bent Street is more spacious and suitable for Tai Chi. Barry is now offering three classes at different levels and would welcome new students to join the Basic class.

New class details:

Basic: Monday 12.30 -1.30 pm

Intermediate: Monday 1.30 – 2.30 pm

Advanced: Monday 3.00 – 4.00 pm

Venue: Northcote Senior Citizens' Centre, 18A Bent Street, Northcote

Yoga 2

Our second Yoga class is temporarily closed till we find a new tutor. Jess Fraser has taken on employment in her chosen field and can no longer conduct Thursday Yoga classes for us. We will miss you, Jess, but we do wish you well. Your students wish to thank you for the wonderful work you have done in the short time you have been with us. Thank you, Jess.

We will notify all current class members when we manage to get another Yoga teacher. New enrolments can be accepted for this class, now called **Yoga 2**. Please phone the office if you are interested.

NEW CLASSES FOR SEMESTER 2

Charades, Trivia and Stuff

Our poetry tutor, Noel Butterfield, is offering a series of 'mind games' to challenge and entertain us. What is on offer? First, charades – the ultimate in non-verbal communication. Once we have learned the relevant cues and gestures we're away! Next, trivial pursuit - Noel has hosted trivia nights at most of his schools, so he has amassed a wealth of materials over thirty years. We will have buzzers and bells, teams of two or more, no pressure, just fun and non-threatening.

In these and other games we will cover a wide range of subjects: popular quotations, 'Who am I?', movies, proverbs, book titles, songs, sport, literature, general knowledge, your local area, poets, current affairs, 'Who said that?', history and so on. The music segment is a particular favourite of Noel's – he plays two or three chords of a well known song and class members supply the song title and the artist.

Come along and have a ball!

Details: classes will be held weekly on Monday afternoons, 12.30 – 2.00 pm, at Northcote Senior Citizens' Centre, 8a Bent Street, Northcote, commencing on Monday 12 July. To enrol, please leave a message at the office with your name, membership number and phone number.

Short Courses

We are delighted to announce the return of Tony Barta who presented an excellent series of talks last year, examining the question of genocide in Australia. Tony is presenting three two-hour sessions allowing time for a tea break and discussion, commencing Friday 13 August.

Living in Dachau 1900 – 1950

What difference does it make if we meet actual people and see (with video and slides) the places and events they experienced? This is a long-term book project I am returning to after a long detour via Australian history. I would like to share ideas with you over three sessions, to get feedback on how this kind of German history, close to people's everyday lives, might be helpful in understanding the larger story we are too familiar with. We may not follow this sequence exactly, but these are the questions we will cover:

1. A Small Town in Bavaria

What was it like to live in one of Germany's most famous towns before it was famous? What did people actually do to earn a living, educate their children, and sort out political conflicts? New Year's Eve at the turn of a new century is our starting point, and then Hans Zauner will introduce us to his new home town.

2. More New Beginnings

Dachau was a farming district that had to deal with another new world after the shattering defeat of 1918. What was more important: unemployment, mixed bathing or new political parties? How did people see events in 1933? For whom did they vote?

3. Dachau in the Second World War

How did people deal with living on the edge of a concentration camp? What did they see and what really preoccupied them? When did the legacy of the Nazi period really hit home? Our main guide here will be a young girl, Rosel Kirchoff.

Tony Barta is currently an Honorary Research Fellow at La Trobe University. He 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.

Details: Three sessions on consecutive Friday mornings at Fairfield Station. Time: 10.30-12.30
Dates: 13, 20 and 27 August. To enrol, please leave a message at the office with your name, membership number and phone number.

Introduction to Sudoku

Tutor: Russell Lennox

This short course consists of three sessions, each focusing on one puzzle. These number puzzles exercise the brain and require only basic knowledge of the Arabic number system (numbers 1 through 9) and the ability to do simple additions. A pencil and rubber are required for this course.

Session 1 will focus on how to solve a Sudoku puzzle using a structured approach. Prerequisites are knowledge of the numbers 1 to 9 and a love of puzzles.

Session 2 will focus on how to solve a Killer Sudoku puzzle also using Unique Digit Answers and logic. Prerequisites are Session 1 and the ability to add up to at least 45.

Session 3 will focus on how to solve a Kakuro puzzle using Unique Digit Answers and logic. Prerequisites are Sessions 1 and 2.

Warning: Sudoku is highly addictive!

Classes will be held at Fairfield Station, 11 am - 12.30 pm, on three consecutive Saturdays: 4, 11 and 18 September. To enrol in this class, please phone the office and leave your name, membership number and phone number.

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

VALE KERRY ECCLES

We were all very saddened by the sudden death of Dr Kerry Eccles, our Classical Studies Tutor, on 1 February 2010.

Although retired, Kerry felt she still had something to give and on joining U3A she opened up the world of Classical Greek for a lot of us, who became her devoted students.

A celebration of her life, followed by a Thanksgiving Mass, was held at St Mary's Church in Thornbury on 8 February, followed by a morning tea at the Normanby Reception Centre.

Thornbury Village was Kerry's favourite shopping area, and she would often be seen having coffee and chatting to everyone passing by. It was amazing the number of people Kerry knew, and St Mary's was full of people saying goodbye to her.

On leaving the church, the coffin with its attendants was wheeled some way down the middle of High Street – a farewell to her area, even if she did hold up the No 86 Tram. Our Kerry had a wicked sense of humour, so I rather think she knew exactly what was happening!

Farewell, Kerry - we will miss you.

Betty L. King

HONOUR ROLL

Nell Bell

Nell Bell has been a tutor with Darebin U3A for many, many years, firstly with the Needlecraft group in the mid 1990s and then in 2008 when she conducted a course in the history and art of Storytelling.

Nell was approached at our first function in collaboration with Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre, 'Celebrating Cultural Diversity', in February 2009. The Vietnamese Senior Citizens' Group asked for help in developing their English Conversation skills. Nell arrived the

following week and has been their Tutor ever since (see report on Page 9).

We wish to honour you, Nell, for your dedication to Darebin U3A and your unstinting support in all our ventures to serve our members.

Audrey Grace

Dr Kerry Eccles

Sadly, Dr Kerry Eccles died on 1 February 2010, soon after triumphantly celebrating ten years of teaching Classical Studies at Darebin U3A. Kerry was a wonderfully erudite and witty tutor who believed passionately in U3A as the ideal form of adult education, where knowledge and experience are shared among equals in an atmosphere of conviviality. Darebin U3A has been greatly enriched by Kerry's enthusiasm and generosity of spirit. She will be sorely missed.

Jill Craig

DAREBIN U3A BEGINNINGS

The following stories appeared in our booklet *1991 – 2001: The First Ten Years*, published to celebrate our tenth anniversary in 2001.

A tree was planted

A tree was planted in the garden in the year of 1991 and it was special. A lot of people over fifty found something interesting under its shadow. The tree started to grow and in ten years its branches have spread, sparkled, and covered a long distance. The tree is a eucalypt and it is called Darebin U3A. That tree was planted by three ladies: Eileen Capocchi, Odette Stuckey and Betty Marriner.

In that ten years the committee of U3A has worked hard to organise the school and the wonderful Tutors, and the school has grown. People over fifty have found something to improve their knowledge; also they have met other people to share their own ideas.

I have been a student for a long time at Darebin U3A and am proud of it. During this time our

class, Improving Your English, with the help of the tutors, has created three books and has done a lot of writing.

I would like to thank Darebin U3A, the Committee of the school and all the Tutors.

Grammatiki Michael, 2001

Odette's Story

As soon as I became aware of the U3A concept I was hooked. It was a TV program that first brought it to my attention. Great, I thought, where do I enrol? Unfortunately there were no groups in the area or even nearby....

In September 1991 there was a meeting at the Northcote Library and before I knew what had happened I became the first Secretary.

What followed was lots of hard work to get the show on the road. There was a combined sigh of relief from both Eileen and myself as the first courses took off and we got to meet our new members.

What impresses me most is the great satisfaction and pleasure U3A brings to us all, and also the opportunity to study all sorts of subjects, some we hadn't previously had time to pursue, or perhaps had never realised could arouse our interest. Best of all are the feelings of affection and friendship we have for each other.

Odette Stuckey, 2001

The Sprit of Volunteering

In 1992 the committee of Inner Northern Third Age Learning, now Darebin U3A, appealed to its few members for help... I went along, as did quite a few other people, and listened to the pleas of the few people doing a lot of work to get U3A functioning as a service to the older community in Darebin. Convinced of the need for a local U3A, and believing that you can't leave all the work to the same few people, I volunteered.

I was made responsible for Publicity. With no expertise, but full of enthusiasm, I set up a network of outlets to publicise U3A. The aim was to make the community more aware of our

existence and to advertise courses and special events, and thereby gain new members.

I came to live in Preston in 1975. However, it was not until I came to U3A in 1992 that I began to feel part of a community, meeting people and making new friends. That to me is the essence of U3A.

Carmel Lee, 2001

LIFE EXPERIENCES

Life's Journeys

I was born in a small town called Villa D'Agri, a beautiful place in southern Italy. The people there are very kind and helpful; everybody knows everybody.

Soon after I was born, my father had to go into the army; then soon after, the Second World War started and he had to go and fight the war. So my mother took care of me; she loved me very much. I recall when she was teaching me how to read and write the letters of the alphabet at a very early age.

My father was fighting the war for many years. While he was away, my mother got sick and she passed away. She was only twenty-five years of age. I stayed with my grandparents till my father came home, back from the war.

After one year he remarried. Then I had to go and live with them, my father and stepmother. Soon the family started to grow; the first baby came along, then the second and so on. I soon became the eldest of five children, four boys and one girl.

I remember after the war, life was very hard. My father was a bricklayer by trade. He found a job but what he earned wasn't enough for the family. So we all had to participate in doing anything we could to help, as the family kept growing.

As I grew up things improved. There was more money around, so I started learning sewing and embroidery. When I was eighteen I found a job as a sales representative for the NECCHI

sewing machine company. I was getting good money and that helped my family more.

One day, I received a letter from Australia. It was a marriage proposal. This was very exciting but the only thing I wasn't so happy about was having to go to Australia because it was so far away.

Despite that, I decided to leave the family and come to Australia to be married this wonderful man Giuseppe. Giuseppe was born in Italy, in a town close to Villa D'Agri. He had relatives there and he used to visit them very often. We were just friends at the time. When he left Italy to come to Australia, we said our goodbyes, but we never thought that one day we were going to be together. He was nineteen years old at the time.

The day to leave came very soon. I left Villa D'Agri with my father and a few relatives to go to Rome Airport, and then alone, I flew to Australia. It was time to say goodbye to everyone, especially to my father, the hardest thing to do. I realized I was really going away and I didn't know if I would ever see him again. I left behind my father, stepmother and four half-brothers whom I loved very much.

On my arrival at Essendon Airport in Australia, many friends that I knew from back home, together with my aunt's family and my fiancé, came to welcome me to Australia. The next day after I arrived, my fiancé took me into the city and showed me around. I was very impressed with the beautiful parks and gardens and soon loved this country.

Five months after I arrived we got married and have lived happily for the past forty-six years, and still Giuseppe is my best friend. He is a really wonderful man, a loving father to our boys and a loving Nonno to our four grandchildren.

Nicoletta Di Vincenzo, September 2008

Nicoletta is a student in Rita Keller's class
Reading and Writing for Retirees at
Merrilands Community Centre.

Australia Day in Trieste

Even though we are in June I would like to tell you an episode that happened on 26 January.

At the beginning of January I read in the daily newspaper of Trieste (my native city in Italy) that about a dozen Australian people living there would like to celebrate Australia Day in one of the pizzerie in the city. The article continued, asking any other residents who would like to participate to write to www...

I did so, congratulating the lady for her wonderful idea and adding my best wishes for the occasion. I also asked, if time permitted, if she could inform me how the celebration went.

A few days later the lady replied in a collective e-mail to those who had enquired that forty-five people had attended the celebration. The pizzeria was full. One gentleman arrived with a didgeridoo. They sang songs such as 'Waltzing Matilda' and 'Advance Australia Fair', and with slices of pizza and Foster's beer they had a wonderful party. It was a cold rainy night and everybody was nostalgic for the Australian beaches.

Cheers to all the Australians around the world.

Claudia Sanzin

FROM THE CLASSROOM

English for Vietnamese Seniors

What a lovely warm welcome I received from this friendly group of older Vietnamese people, when I visited! There are more than twenty U3A members in this group who come together on Thursday mornings at Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre in Preston to learn English from Nell Bell and Tai Chi from Barry Watson every other week.

The class is very lively, with much talk and laughter. There is a lovely spirit of sharing and helping each other. At the end of the class, everyone has lunch together, donated by class members, and beautifully served.

Their tutor, Nell Bell, an experienced teacher, puts much thought and time into planning these classes. She also has the valuable help of Jean Garita and two volunteer interpreters who provide two-way translations when needed. Nell is very happy to see how much everyone has learned and gained confidence in speaking English.

After the serious part of the lesson, the group played 'Simon Says'. There was much laughter, especially when Nell herself was caught out!

I asked the group what they would like me to write about their class. Here is what they said, as well as I could write it down:

"First we want to say thank you to Nell and Jean (and Jill) and Barry Watson who all come to help us with learning English and Tai Chi. We have fun. 'Mum Nell' gives us games which are exciting. We feel young at heart when she plays games with us. We wish Nell long life and hope she will continue to come here to teach us."

Jill Craig

Poetry through the Ages

Noel Butterfield's poetry class is interesting and enjoyable. We began with the techniques used in the poet's craft: e.g. similes, metaphors, alliteration, rhythm and tone. We started with Keats and at present we are studying some modern verses, with the promise of later looking at classical poetry.

Noel is a charming Tutor with a way of including each member into discussions. We have even written some limericks! There are plenty of laughs as well – a pleasant way of learning. I like it!

Carmel Lee

Limericks

We have wonderful tutors at U3A
They impart their knowledge without any pay
When asked why they do it
They say, 'Nothing to it!
It passes the time away.'

Carmel Lee

There was a young man from Clare
Who wanted a change of air
With his wife and four daughters
All crammed in close quarters
Travelled promptly from here to there

Dianne Beaumont

A young Catholic zealot named Abbot
Wore budgie smugglers like a skun rabbit
He said with a grin
It's no mortal sin
But our Nun won't lend me her habit!

Noel Butterfield

There was a teacher called Noel
Who set himself a goal
To teach me verse
I couldn't be worse
Why did I ever enrol!

Anne Partridge

There's a Pommy show known as Top Gear
Testosterone, cars and beer
They drive like Mad Max
Roaring 'round racing tracks
Appeals only to blokes I fear

Jan Stewart

There once was a woman from Hay
Who spent her days at U3A
But her husband got *shirty*
When his collars looked dirty
And he went off with someone called May.

Patricia Wiltshire

OUT AND ABOUT

Morning Tea for Claudia and Luciano

The committee hosted a lovely occasion at the Northcote Seniors Citizens Centre on 22 January to thank Claudia and Luciano Sanzin for their many years of service to Darebin U3A.

Claudia and Luciano have worked tirelessly for Darebin U3A over many years. To show their appreciation, many of their U3A friends brought along a plate of goodies to share over a relaxed morning tea. Many other members sent in contributions for the 'book of memories' that our Needlecraft ladies decorated so beautifully. Jean Garita took some photos of the occasion and they were added to complete the lovely book.

We all kept the book a secret, and it was such a wonderful surprise. Claudia was particularly delighted when it was presented to them both. Thank you to all who contributed to making it such a happy day.

Audrey Grace

A Thank You Note

I know that it is very late, but this is our first chance in the newsletter to thank the management and members of U3A Darebin for the lovely morning tea offered to my husband and myself back in January. It was a very touching occasion. We had beautiful refreshments and we were presented with an album full of photos and missives even from people that we had not seen in years.

Special thanks go to the members of the needlecraft group who spent so much time in assembling the album.

Luciano and I have no words to express our gratitude.

Claudia e Luciano

Darebin Community and Kite Festival

On a beautiful Autumn day – Sunday 14 March to be exact – the All Nations Park in Northcote came alive as the Kite Festival began, with many booths being erected and their many and varied wares being displayed. The multi-coloured kites rising and dipping over the park made a wonderful aerial display.

There was a multicultural parade, complete with a Dragon. The Red Brigade girls' band, resplendent in their black and red uniforms, wandered along the paths playing as they walked, making a pleasant diversion from the rock music playing elsewhere in the park.

Darebin U3A was represented at the Festival, with those members on duty wearing their attractive blue polo shirts. In handing out Brochures and Information Kits and answering questions, they made many contacts.

The Needlework Group had some very beautiful samples of their work on display. The

passing parade of young people, mums and dads, grandmas and grandpas, children and dogs showed that everyone was out to have a good time while enjoying the sunshine.

It must have been very pleasing and satisfying for the organisers, as it was a most successful day.

Elva Armstrong

Our McCrae Adventure

After reading *Georgiana*, Brenda Niall's biography of Georgiana McCrae, Book Discussion Group 2 decided to visit the homestead of Georgiana, which she helped to build in 1844 in McCrae on the Mornington Peninsula.

We had a delightful and uneventful drive down the highways till we arrived at McCrae, when we had a scary moment. Our driver, when told to turn right, immediately did so up a one-way street. This caused a mild panic to ripple throughout the bus, but quick thinking solved the problem.

After a delightful lunch at a roadside café, we had a tour of the homestead and gardens with a most informative guide. After having read the book, the tour became very real to us as we walked through the rooms admiring the furnishings that we could only visualise in our minds when reading Georgiana's story. We also visited the gallery, where the story of Georgiana was told in picture and word along with a few personal items of clothing and jewellery.

All too soon it was time to head home after a most interesting and relaxing day's adventure, complemented by our very capable driver.

Elva Armstrong

Darebin Volunteers Get Together

National Volunteers Week was held on 10 – 16 May 2010. The Darebin Volunteering Network hosted a Morning Tea for local volunteers on Friday 14 May at City Hall in Preston. Jean Garita and I were invited to attend.

It was an interesting experience for me, seeing so many people who give their time readily to different organisations in Darebin and helping them to exist.

A simple morning tea was served and we had entertainment as well. A lady comedian from a Neighbourhood House put on a great show and proved that our Mayor, Cr. Vince Fontana, has a sense of humour.

Barry Watson, our **Tai Chi** tutor, resplendent in white silk garments of Asian design, gave a solo performance of his version of Tai Chi. Tall, shimmering in his white suit, he moved perfectly and it was a sight to see.

Barry brought along one of his Vietnamese students who demonstrated Tai Chi with fans. An older lady, she too moved gracefully and she was wonderful.

The hostess, Sally Mendels, was gracious and welcoming to all. The morning was a great success and I was pleased to be invited to see other people like me volunteering and receiving back much more than we give.

Carmel Lee

Editor's Note: Barry Watson told me this lady is 73 years old and has been doing Tai Chi since she was 16. He considers her a master. The beautiful silk garments were especially made for Barry and presented as a gift from members of his Vietnamese class.

Span Community Centre

On Thursday 20 May, Martin Ferguson, Federal Member for Batman, officially opened the newly renovated and revamped Clyde Street Community Hall. The importance of this event was highlighted by the large attendance and the presence of many dignitaries, including Fiona Richardson MP, Member for Northcote, Nathan Murphy, Member for the Northern Metropolitan Region, Cr Vince Montana, Mayor of the City of Darebin, Cr Diana Asmar and Cr

Nick Katsis. Jan Black, Director of Darebin's Department of Communities and Culture, presided as MC.

The Clyde Street Centre now accommodates a kindergarten, school holiday programs, Span Community Centre, and U3A Darebin. The renovations include a new kitchen, a wet area for art classes, disabled toilets and a new back veranda. Span is an important venue for Darebin U3A. At present six classes are run there and the new kitchen also offers the possibility of future cooking classes for U3A.

'It's lovely to have the kitchen off the living space. It's just like at home' said U3A President Audrey Grace (reported in the *Northcote Leader*, 26 May, along with a photo of Loy, one of our **Painting and Drawing** students). Darebin U3A was well represented at the occasion by committee members as well as many class members. Jim Logan led our **Singing for Pleasure** group with two very appropriate songs: 'From Little Things Big Things Grow' and 'I have a Dream'.

Financial assistance from the Federal and State governments and the City of Darebin made the redevelopment possible. The revamped facility will help to unify a diverse range of people with a wide range of needs and interests.

Don Stewart

Spring Newsletter

Calling for Contributions

The Spring *Flyer* is due out in mid September.

Wanted: Members' writing: items for the Honour Roll, classroom reports, items of interest, history, photos, poetry, stories.

Newsletter deadline: Friday 6 August.
Articles of 250 words or less preferred.
Please send all contributions to the Editor,
Jill Craig, at U3A Darebin

CLASS TIMETABLE FOR SEMESTER 2

Day	Time	Starts	Subject	Venue	Comment
Monday	10:30 - 12:00	12/07/10	History of European Culture	Fairfield Station	Full – wait list
	10:30 - 12:00	12/07/10	Italian Language	Span	
	12:30 – 2:00	12/07/10	Charades, Trivia and Stuff	Northcote Senior Citizens	
	1:00 - 3:00	12/07/10	Reading & Writing for Retirees	Merrilands	
	12:30 – 1:30	12/07/10	Tai Chi - Basic	Northcote Senior Citizens	
	1:30 – 2:30	12/07/10	Tai Chi - Intermediate	Northcote Senior Citizens	Full – wait list
	3:00 - 4:00	12/07/10	Tai Chi - Advanced	Northcote Senior Citizens	Full – wait list
Tuesday	10:00 - 12:00	13/07/10	Computer 1	Span	Full – wait list
	10:30 - 12:00	13/07/10	Poetry through the Ages	Fairfield	Except 3 rd Tuesday/month
	1:00 - 3:00	13/07/10	Draw then Paint	Fairfield	
Wednesday	10:30 - 12:00	7/05/10	Book Discussion 1	Fairfield Station	1 st Wed/month - Full
	10:30 - 12:00	14/04/10	Book Discussion 2	Fairfield Station	2nd Wed/month -
	9:45 – 12:45	28/07/10	Cinema Studies	Fairfield Station	4 th Wed / month - Full
	12:30 - 2:00	14/04/10	Improving your English	Span	
	12:45 - 2:45	14/04/10	Needlecraft	Fairfield Station	
	3:00 - 4:30	14/04/10	Shakespeare	Fairfield Station	
Thursday	10:00 - 12:00	15/07/10	Computer 2	Span	Full – wait list
	10:30 - 12:00	15/07/10	Current Affairs	Fairfield Station	Fortnightly
	1:00 - 2:00	15/07/10	Yoga	Northcote Town Hall	Fully Booked
	1:30 - 3:30	15/04/10	Painting and Drawing	Span	Fully Booked
Friday	10:00 - 11:30	2/07/10	Art Appreciation	Fairfield & Gallery visits	1st-3rd-5th Friday / month
	1:00 - 3:00	16/07/10	Singing for Pleasure	Span	
	1:30 - 3:00	16/07/10	Heroines of the Western World	Fairfield Station	Full – wait list
	2:00 – 3:30	16/07/10	Line Dancing	Northcote Senior Citizens	
	2:30 – 4:00	16/07/10	French Language for Beginners	Northcote Senior Citizens	
Saturday	1:30 - 4:00	3/07/10	Mah-Jong	Fairfield Station	1st & 3rd Sat. / month
	1:30 - 4:01	10/07/10	Canasta	Fairfield Station	2nd & 4th Sat. / month

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:



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Reg No. A0028861A

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Newsletter

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