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Editor: Graeme Allen



FROM THE EDITOR Material can be sent to the office email as above, marked "For the newsletter" or dropped off directly at the office
Graeme Allen



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Nanette Tunnicliffe

Well, what can I say about 2021? A tough year I think you will all agree. We have all faced many challenges – our own personal health, isolation from all we love and hold dear, robbed of so many things we had taken for granted in our lives. To those of you who have suffered loss, our condolences go out to you. Within our own U3A community we have suffered the loss of tutors and members and our condolences go out to their families as well.

For those of you reading this newsletter we have come through all that COVID-19 has thrown at us; the physical and mental challenges have been great. Can I take this opportunity to **thank all of you** who have taken the time to send **emails to myself and the members of the Committee of Management**. We have continued working in the background throughout the lockdowns dealing not only with the administrative requirements for 2021 but also looking towards a smooth start in 2022.

Thanks go to our tutors who have soldiered on in so many ways. Zoom classes have continued where possible and it has been pleasing to see tutors new to Zoom embracing it in an attempt to provide something for their classes. I know that many tutors have maintained communications with their classes – via email or phone calls – and that is a testament to their dedication.

U3As across the state have **lost members and tutors** throughout this year. U3A Geelong is about to embark on a publicity campaign to try to address this. We will be targeting schools, TAFE and Deakin University in the hope of securing the interest of teachers, tutors and lecturers who are retiring. Flyers, brochures and emails will also be widely distributed. Rebuilding numbers will take time; many in our community are still cautious about getting out and about.

When we return next year there will, of necessity, be small **changes to our operating procedures**. We must ensure that we continue to work within the COVID-19 protocols current at the time. This comes back to all of us doing the right thing and working together.

Proof of Vaccination The Bulletin outlining our vaccination protocols made clear that tutors who will lead classes and members who wish to enrol in face to face classes will be required to provide proof of double vaccination. Members who choose not to reveal their vaccination status will be able to enrol in Zoom classes only. Tutors have already started this process. Proof of vaccination must be sighted by a member of the administration either by email or with a hard copy. No copies of vaccination certificates will be retained by U3A Geelong..

Fees for 2022 will remain the same as this year.

- For 2021 members - \$30.00
 - For new and returning members who did not renew their membership for 2021 - \$60.00.
- Membership will be renewed on **Enrolment day**. I am pleased to announce that we now have an Eftpos machine in the Office.

Thanks go to Graeme Allen (editor) and Anne Carne for this newsletter. Please read it carefully as it contains important information regarding 2022.

Kind Regards,

Nanette Tunncliffe



COURSE MANAGER'S REPORT

The complications that COVID-19 posed for this year proved frustrating and challenging. The on-again/off-again regime due to lockdowns made continuity of classes impossible. I send a huge vote of thanks to our tutors for working with me throughout the year on all the adjustments that had to be made.

2022 Timetable Work on the 2022 timetable has been progressing for some time. The timetable, now published on the U3A website, is complete but not final. There will be changes I'm sure and it will be updated close to February according to the COVID-19 protocols of the time. Members are encouraged to review what is available. Some classes will not be published until tutors have provided proof of vaccination. Please do not email requesting enrolment in classes.

Tutor Update Regrettably we have lost some tutors throughout this year and they will be recognised at the first Tutor's Lunch next year. We thank them so much for their dedication and contribution to U3A Geelong. In some cases, replacement tutors have been found:

Robin Wallace –	Art: Practical media of choice
Lyn O'Brien –	Craft - Margaret Gunning has taken over this class.
David Bridge –	Creative Writing
Geoff Iles –	Computers
Struan Jacobs –	History of Western Philosophy
Glenn Krusic-Golub –	Life Matters
Shane Munro –	Mahjong
Denise Jacobzik –	Mosaics - Lynne Chapman and Margaret Gifford have taken over this class.
Bryan O-Connor –	Philosophy for Life
Tracey Simic –	Tai Chi - 12 months leave
Margaret Hughes –	Choir - Jeanette John has taken over this class

What's New for 2022?

An Introduction to Psychology -	James McKay
Another Fine Mess: The Comedy of Laurel and Hardy –	Bruce Watson
Connections: Sharing our Memories and Experiences –	Jeni Conquest
Dr. Albert Schweitzer's Reverence for Life –	Bruce Watson
Let's Do Stuff! –	Loretta Winstanley
Motherland is Motherland: a look at Chernobyl –	Bruce Watson
Under the Earth: a look at mining in Australia –	Jack Creswick
Vietnam War: the war with no winners –	Vaughan Lamb

New tutors 2022 I will be holding an induction day for new tutors before the start of Term 1 next year in the first week of February. I will confirm a date with you soon. This will take you through the procedures as covered in the Tutor Manual

ENROLMENT DAY

Enrolment day will be held on the 19th of January 2022 between 10.00am – 2.00pm.

- Enrolments can be done online or in person at Cobbin Farm.
- Enrolments will be on the same basis as this year – open not preferential. Until such time as the database is upgraded to record proof of vaccination all members will be enrolled on the waitlist for classes. Members will receive a confirmation of acceptance once their vaccination status is recorded. Members listed on the waitlist are listed in time and date order of when they applied. They will be accepted in this order. Tutors are not permitted to enrol members in classes.
- For short classes that could not complete their course this year due to COVID-19, such students will have priority in enrolment, so they can finish the course already begun.

Please continue to check your emails as you will receive updated communications once details become clearer.

COURSE BOOKLET 2022 Course booklets will be available on Enrolment day at Cobbin Farm.

With so much about next year still unconfirmed this information is the best we can do at present. I believe we have a clear way forward to resuming our classes at U3A Geelong in 2022.

Take care everyone, **Nanette Tunncliffe** U3A Geelong Course Manager



A CHANGE ON THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT



Committee member **Anthea Merewether** resigned from the Committee for personal reasons. We thank her for her contributions - to me she was always 'the voice of reason'. We will catch up with her hopefully before the end of the year to recognise her contribution. She will continue with her tutoring roles

From **Ted Reilly, U3A Art on Thursday**

Now that we are all over the worst of what the last 2 years have had to offer, we all should look forward to the coming Summer and the start of a brand new year at Cobbin Farm. Today is beautiful, bright sunshine & blue skies - Life is wonderful!



And, there's more! When enrolments resume, I am hoping that all will return, and I must emphasise that there are plenty of spaces for new members. We miss the friendship, lively conversations, make new artists welcome and the odd chocolate biscuit or two.

I have had little word as to what our members have been doing, but I know that Frank Upfill has finished a new icon of St. Wilfrid on the request of a friend, whilst I have been working on some landscapes & cartoons for friends who race horses.



Keep well, and I hope to see everyone early next year!

From **Michelle Knox** of the **U3A Cryptics Class**

Our U3a Cryptics class has continued relatively seamlessly throughout the ups and downs of our Covid era. Classes have been held on Zoom each week at our regular class-time, even over holiday periods. Two cryptic crosswords are emailed each week. We have a few days to tackle them before we meet on Zoom. These cryptic crosswords have actually proven to be a wonderful hobby to have during this worrying and reclusive time. Unfortunately, not all of our group have managed to join these classes but those who have taken part have thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and the weekly connection, especially during lockdowns.

We all want to thank our wonderful facilitator, Max, who puts in so much work and is so patient with us! We are all looking forward to face-to-face classes in 2022 where we can catch up with our other members who haven't joined us on Zoom.

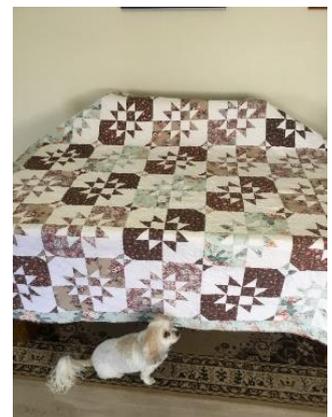


And, we would like to take this opportunity to farewell Margaret and Peter, long-time members who are leaving us for a sunnier climate.

From **Maureen Hately** of the **Quilting Class**

Hi these are two of my lockdown projects from quilting class

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For **Denise Jakubzik** on behalf of **Mosaics** class

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Denise for the 19 years she has given to U3A, Tutoring in both Pottery and more recently Mosaics. The mosaics group has always been a casual mix of learning, doing and sharing. Denise, your friendship, knowledge and enthusiasm for the craft has been invaluable over the years to a great number of students! Congratulations on this wonderful achievement. You are an inspiration to us all! We hope you will now have time to do the things you've always dreamed about. Good luck, Denise, we'll miss you. From all your Mosaic Friends.

From **Margaret Harrigan** on behalf of the **Australian Literature Reading group**

During the past few months we have continued to meet in outdoor settings, where we have enjoyed our discussions of a variety of Australian authors' books. Jane Harper and Ruby T. Murray have proven to be very popular reads.

Unfortunately, on a sadder note, we lost our friend and fellow reader, Helen Robertson, who recently passed away. Helen was a valued member of our group. We shall miss her and remember her fondly. Our condolences and best wishes have been extended to her family.

Vale Helen.

From **Jennifer Blyton** from the **Creative Writing class ---**

Welcome to the Neighbourhood

"Nooooo!"

The blood-curdling cry broke rudely into my reverie as I took advantage of the rare sunny afternoon to take a walk in the fresh air. I had just moved into the neighbourhood and I was interested in looking at gardens to see which plants thrive in this environment.

Rushing to the door of the house from whence the desperate cry had emanated, I debated whether it was wise for me to interfere. Anything could lie behind that door. Nobody knew where I was and if I became caught up in whatever bad thing was going on, what might be the consequences?.

Heart racing, I banged on the door and yelled "Hello, can I help you? Is anything wrong?" Not the smartest, I thought. Obviously there is something very wrong. What did I expect - an immaculately dressed lady languidly greeting me at the door, with a questioning look at this red-faced stranger on the doorstep? Had I imagined the cry, as a silence reclaimed the afternoon?

Then "Just a sec" came a second voice, much calmer than the first had been, but stressed, yes. Definitely stressed. I heard hurried footsteps approaching the door. I stepped back, ready to run if I was confronted by a knife-wielding maniac.

But no. Just an ordinary man who kept looking behind him as he opened the door. He glanced at me then took a longer look behind him.

"I'm a bit busy at the moment. Can I help you?" he asked.

"I heard a scream. Is everything all right?" I made my voice as authoritative as I could, wondering what he kept looking back at.

"What? Oh no, don't worry. That was just my wife." He laughed.

"Is she OK? Can I talk to her, please?" I wasn't convinced. I knew domestic violence could be found even in the nicest homes. From inside the house I heard a call.

"Quickly darling, we're running out of time. It's your bid!" Suddenly the pieces fell into place.

"You're playing Bridge, aren't you?" I asked, my fear disappearing and replaced by excitement. As a Bridge player myself, the behaviour suddenly made perfect sense.

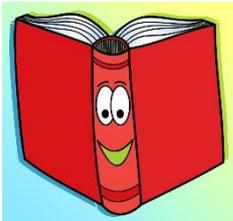
"Yes. My wife doubled a six no trumps bid, our opponents were vulnerable and they made it! That's a score of 2,330 points to them! A postcode score!"

"You'd better get back to it then. I play Bridge too, so I do understand."

"Oh fantastic! We've been looking for a fourth. Come back in an hour for a cuppa. The online tournament will be finished by then and we can chat."

So I did. That's the beauty of Bridge. You can go anywhere and, if you play Bridge, there will be people happy to welcome you!

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A STORY FOR OUR TIMES

The donkey told the tiger, "The grass is blue."

The tiger replied, "No, the grass is green."

The discussion became heated, and the two decided to submit the issue to arbitration, so they approached the lion.

As they approached the lion on his throne, the donkey started screaming: "Your Highness, isn't it true that the grass is blue?"

The lion replied: "If you believe it is true, the grass is blue."

The donkey rushed forward and continued: "The tiger disagrees with me, contradicts me and annoys me. Please punish him."

The king then declared: "The tiger will be punished with 3 days of silence."

The donkey jumped with joy and went on his way, content and repeating "The grass is blue, the grass is blue..."

The tiger asked the lion, "Your Majesty, why have you punished me, after all, the grass is green?"

The lion replied, "You've known and seen the grass is green."

The tiger asked, "So why do you punish me?"

The lion replied, "That has nothing to do with the question of whether the grass is blue or green. The punishment is because it is degrading for a brave, intelligent creature like you to waste time arguing with an ass, and on top of that, you came and bothered me with that question just to validate something you already knew was true!"

The biggest waste of time is arguing with the fool and fanatic who doesn't care about truth or reality, but only the victory of his beliefs and illusions. Never waste time on discussions that make no sense. There are people who, for all the evidence presented to them, do not have the ability to understand. Others who are blinded by ego, hatred and resentment, and the only thing that they want is to be right even if they aren't.

When IGNORANCE SCREAMS, intelligence moves on.

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JUST FOR FUN

Question: How many days in a retiree's week?

Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

Question: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?

Answer: If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.

Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?

Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there

- Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman - 'And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?' the reporter asked... She simply replied, 'No peer pressure.'

If you're not familiar with the work of **Steven Wright**, he's a famous erudite, comic scientist who once said: "I woke up one morning, and all of my stuff had been stolen and replaced by exact duplicates." His mind sees things differently from most of us. Here are some of his gems.

I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.

Borrow money from pessimists -- they don't expect it back.

Half the people you know are below average.

82.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.

All those who believe in psycho kinesis, raise my hand.

The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

I almost had a psychic girlfriend... But she left me before we met.

When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

..

I intend to live forever... So far, so good.

Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.

What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

Why do psychics have to ask you for your name.

A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

And the ultimate question *If your car could travel at the speed of light, would your headlights work?*

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TILL NEXT TERM / NEXT YEAR

We wish all members a very memorable Festive Season with good family times together and a very much better and fully fruitful and educative 2022.

Graeme Allen (Editor)