



# U3A LOWER NORTH

*Sharing Skills and Experience with Friends*

JUNE 2018



TERM THREE

University of the Third Age Lower North Incorporated



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## *Dear Members,*

Greetings from a foggy hollow in the Clare Valley slipping from autumn into flannelette sheets.

Since last issue we have had our very successful bus trip to the Musée d'Orsay Colours of Impressionism Art Exhibition at the South Australian Art Gallery.

Many thanks to whoever in the Art Group had the idea and to Pauline Reid for doing all the organizing. Even those who were a little tepid on the art thoroughly enjoyed the day out and the opportunity to do something different with fellow members.

The committee welcomes all bright ideas for outings. We could even work up to annual field trips like U3A Mt Gambier who go off for a week's holiday each year in their own vehicles with a mass booking of cabins in a local caravan park and an itinerary to try everything the locality has to offer.

On the back page you will find our usual programme for the coming term. Only new members or members who are joining new or leaving current classes need fill out and submit the paperwork.

Some new members thought they had to pay every term which is a nice sign that they feel they are getting value for money. Even better value now we are on half-year rate of \$25/\$15.

No new classes this term which is good as we don't seem to have the numbers to support all our existing classes. Many run on the edge of viability and new faces would find a warm welcome.

We analysed our membership numbers recently and discovered that from mid 2014 to the present our membership has increased by 35% but the male:female ratio has remained at 20:80.

In that time the average age of members has dropped from 74.2 to 72.5. As the core group of long-term members would have aged 4 years in that time we are very happy to celebrate what others might consider an insignificant drop in age.

Any U3A which doesn't work to keep their average age low will eventually find they have an aging membership without the energy to keep the group running. We are particularly asking those who are under that average age to bring their skills and energy into the running of U3A Lower North.

Last issue's appeal for people with skills or abilities which might help U3A brought zero response so either our members are extraordinarily untalented ... or very, very modest. Don't hide your light under a bushel. U3As need an ever-evolving crew and currently when committee members take holidays we find ourselves with no back-up. Get the most out of U3A by using your experience and skills to make it better. It's an opportunity to brush up your old skills, learn some new ones, and gain a sense of achievement from being part of the team which makes U3A hum.

*See you back in the classroom,  
Claire*

## LETTERBOX RETURNS

Members who used to make use of the U3A letterbox on the Domain railing will be pleased to know it is now fitted to the door leading from the Clare Town Hall foyer to our office.

Group leaders are invited to leave their attendance sheets in the letterbox at the end of this term. In fact any members can communicate with the committee through the letterbox, postage free. The front doors of the Town Hall are open most days during business hours so just walk past the central glass doors and the letterbox is on your left.

## HEART STARTER

Eagle-eyed members will have noticed a defibrillator has appeared just inside the main Town Hall doors. Through the efforts of Vice President Kath Lock, we had tried for a grant to buy a defibrillator for our rooms as we had found the existing one was inaccessible in the Barbara J. Long room. The grant was unsuccessful but the Town Hall Committee agreed to shift the device to an area where it would be available to the general public.

## FREE WIFI

Four years ago when we spread across all three rooms at the Domain, Council removed the internet connection. We were told not to worry because there would be free WiFi in the main street "by June". A few Junes have gone by but at last we have it.

Free WiFi is now available at the Town Hall and environs. Anyone can plug in to the open version though there is a limit on how much any one user can download. Inside hirer's can access the WiFi through a password which allows greater downloads and more security. Any group leader who needs to access this WiFi for their class activities will need to ask Beth, Quentin or myself for the password.

It will be changed occasionally so it doesn't become too freely available.

Thanks Treasurer Peter Wood for this contribution which tickled the fancy of the world-travellers on the committee.

Did you hear about the guy staying at a hotel which advertised free WiFi ? The notice in his room said to ask at the bar for the password. He walked into the bar and asked for the password. The barman replied "You will have to buy a drink first". The guest chose a cocktail from the rather pricey selection and asked again, "so what is the password". The barman replied: "Like I told you before, you will have to buy a drink first no spaces, no capitals".

## PASSWORD SECURITY

While we are talking passwords, here is some good general advice from security experts.

DON'T share your password with people. No matter how strong your password is, if someone else knows it, it's no longer a "secure" password.

DON'T use a word that can be found in the dictionary as your password (please don't use 123456 either).

DON'T use a family member's name or your pet's name. Yes, people still do this.

DON'T type your username and password into sites that you've arrived at via suspicious links. It is always a good idea to double check non-suspicious links too. Have a look at that address bar to make sure that you're really at the website you intended to be.

REMEMBER: security questions can be a point of vulnerability. If someone's specifically targeting you, answers to questions like what city you were born in and what high school you went to can often be found online. For extra security, try being creative with your answers to these questions:

Your favourite colour? Why not "purplepeopleeater"?

DON'T use the same password on multiple accounts. Try to add variation in some way.

HELPFUL HINT: Need help thinking up a secure non-dictionary word password but don't want to use a password manager for whatever reason? Take your favourite song, book title or movie and take the first initial of each word in a line. Adding some capitalization and punctuation can go a long way to increase security.

Claire's tip: Choose a word which is special to you and modify it to include capitals and numbers which are easily-remembered. If I used my cat's name Eddie I might modify it to eDD1e. Then I would further modify it according to the account. Facebook would be fbeDD1e and my bank might be anzeDD1e.

## DATES FOR 2018

2018 has four 8-week terms divided by 3 or 4-week holiday breaks. If meeting outside these dates inform the secretary to protect group leader insurance.

**Half yearly** subscription rate starts \_\_\_\_\_ 1 July

**TERM 2:** \_\_\_\_\_ ends on Monday 2 July

New or changed enrolments due by \_\_\_\_\_ 17 July.

**TERM 3:** \_\_ Monday 30 July to Friday 21 September

**TERM 4:** \_\_ Monday 15 October to Fri. 7 December

Annual General Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_ Friday 2 November

End-of-year lunch & movie: \_\_\_\_\_ Friday 7 December

## CLASS NEWS

**Law Talk** with Christopher Cocks continues to attract good numbers though I suspect the change in date due to the painting of the Stan Scott Room might have been the reason for some missing this session. In Term 3 Law Talk will be back to the first Wednesday of term (1 August).

For our last session we were given copious reading material in the form of a High Court decision. Many of us could remember the Emily Perry arsenic poisoning case which was in the headlines on a regular basis back in the 1980s. Perry was tried for attempted poisoning of her husband but it was revealed that arsenic poisonings seemed to run in her family with three previous suspicious deaths. Despite this her husband insisted on her innocence.

To misquote Oscar Wilde, 'to lose one husband may be regarded as a misfortune but to lose two (and a defacto and a brother) looks like carelessness.'

We looked at the legal appeal which allowed her to walk free after only a few months in gaol. It left many in SA feeling a serial killer had got off without penalty.

Like most teaching to adults the session was enriched by the life experience of the students: experience of poisons, experience of jury duty, and even someone who knew the alleged victim. Most interesting was the in-court behaviour of some of the family which was never picked up by the newspapers of the day.

Don't miss the next session reviewing a different case on Wednesday 1 August at the Clare Town Hall.

**Film Group** has listed its next three screenings. You will find critiques and late changes on our website.

- 3 July: *Breath* based on Tim Winton's best-seller.
- 7 August: *Tea with the Dames*. Dames Eileen Atkins, Judi Dench, Joan Plowright and Maggie Smith provide an absorbing view of 60 years of UK stage and screen.
- 4 September: *Mamma Mia Here We Go Again*. Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan and Colin Firth, aim to recapture the exuberance of the original.

Many who enjoyed the recent movie, *Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* might have thought the island of Guernsey was the real star: that old stone harbour untouched by time, etc. I hate to burst the bubble but Google shows Guernsey as golf courses and streets packed with tourists. The filming took place mostly in Bristol and Devon locations.

**Contract Bridge** has seen a change of group leader with Peter Wood taking over the role from Eleanor Thomas. Many thanks to Eleanor who has served as group leader since at least 2010.

**Current Affairs** numbers are low with the fortnightly format confusing most attendees. We are slowly learning what topics interest the group and create good discussion. (So far gender-politics and economics are definitely off the list.)

**History Group** will have a bus trip to Ardrossan on Friday 13 July. The bus holds 57 so there is plenty of room for anyone interested and I am sure Val Tilbrook will have devised an interesting itinerary. It could be your lucky day: phone Val on 8842 2376.

## VALUE OUR VOLUNTEERS

Some people liked last issue's "Have you volunteered yet" sign so I did this expanded version for the U3A National Bulletin. If you want to be put on the email list to receive the bulletin, just let Beth Smith know.

## REMEMBER

Committee and Group Leaders  
are only human.

We are all senior citizens,  
we are all volunteers.

We joined to enjoy ourselves,  
not because we needed a job.

We work here because it needed doing,  
not because we have nothing better to do.

We too have medical appointments to keep,  
grandchildren to mind and holidays to take.

This is not a government service.

Before you complain . . .  
have you volunteered yet?

## EARLY BIRDS SAVE \$10

Half-year membership has climbed to \$25 but the \$10 discount continues so it is just the old \$15 for anyone who pays and enrolls before the deadline of 17 July. Our rates are so affordable as members are expected to volunteer in some capacity at some time.

Payments can be made 2 ways:

- post cheques made out to 'U3A Lower North Inc.' to PO Box 480, Clare, 5453; **or**
- pay online. (U3A Lower North Inc., No. 748828019; BSB 085 558. For ID use surname followed by initial, e.g. John Smith = smithj. Emails to u3alownorth@gmail.com).

## 2018: THIRD TERM ACTIVITIES

CLASS	LEADER	TIME	STARTS	VENUE
Art	<i>Gerald Moore</i>	Wed 9:30am – 1:30pm	1/8/2018	Auburn oval
Book Group	<i>Marianne Holliday</i>	Alt Thu 10:30am – 12noon	9/8/2018	Clare Library
Chess	<i>Ian Bails</i>	Tue 2:30 – 4:30pm	31/7/2018	Essington Mews
Chinese (Mandarin)	<i>Ron Bevan</i>	Mon 10am – 12noon	30/7/2018	Clare Town Hall
Coffee & Chat	<i>Val Tilbrook</i>	Wed 10:30am	1/8/2018	Various
Computing 1	<i>Quentin Fleming</i>	Fri 10 am – 12 noon	3/8/2018	Clare Town Hall
Computing 2 iPads	<i>Marian Wicks</i>	Tue 12 noon – 1:30pm	31/7/2018	Clare Town Hall
Contract Bridge	<i>Peter Wood</i>	Thu 3pm	2/8/2018	St Barnabas, Clare
Cryptic Crosswords	<i>Greta Handmer</i>	Alt Thu 10:30am – 12noon	2/8/2018	25 Edward St, Clare
Current Affairs	<i>Claire Eglinton</i>	Alt Wed. 11am – 12.30pm	1/8/2018	8 Mill St, Clare
Drumbeat	<i>John Monten</i>	Mon. 10am – 12noon	30/7/2018	St Barnabas, Clare
Electronics, Kit build.	<i>Quentin Fleming</i>	Fri. 1 – 3pm	3/8/2018	Clare Town Hall
Exercise 1	<i>Chris Roberts</i>	Tue 9 – 10am	31/7/2018	Lutheran Hall
Exercise 2	<i>Chris Roberts</i>	Tue 10 – 11am	31/7/2018	Lutheran Hall
Film Group	<i>Val Tilbrook</i>	1st Tue 2pm	6/8/2018	Blyth Cinema
French 1 Basics*	<i>Claire Eglinton</i>	Thu 9.30 – 10.30am	2/8/2018	Clare Town Hall
French 2*	<i>Claire Eglinton</i>	Thu 10.45 am – 12.30pm	2/8/2018	Clare Town Hall
Furniture Restoration	<i>Barrie Smith</i>	Wed 10am – 12noon	1/8/2018	12 Guildford St, Blyth
History	<i>Val Tilbrook</i>	Fri 10am – 12noon	TBA	St Barnabas, Clare
Knit and Sew	<i>Mary Clark</i>	Tue 2 – 4pm	31/7/2018	Clare Town Hall
Law Talk	<i>Christopher Cocks</i>	Wed 2 – 4pm	1/8/2018	Clare Town Hall
Mah-jong, Auburn	<i>Sue Beaton</i>	Tue 1 – 3pm	31/7/2018	Mellers, Auburn
Mah-jong, Clare	<i>Pam Murray</i>	Wed 2 – 4pm	1/8/2018	St Barnabas, Clare
Meditation (relaxation)	<i>Anne Smith</i>	Mon 1 – 2.30pm	30/7/2018	Clare Town Hall
Music Appreciation	<i>Helen Weckert</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed 2pm	1/8/2018	10 March Ct, Clare
Petanque	<i>Jim Morran</i>	Mon 1.30pm	30/7/2018	Cent. Pk, Auburn
Quilting	<i>Diane Richardson</i>	Thu 10am – 1pm	2/8/2018	St Barnabas, Clare
Scrabble	<i>Carol Stewart</i>	Mon 1:15pm	30/7/2018	St Barnabas, Clare
Walking, Clare	<i>Margaret Daly</i>	Mon 8am	30/7/2018	Lennon St east

\* French class requires some prior knowledge of the language, no matter how rusty.



**RETURN** new enrolments to Quentin Fleming, preferably before Monday 17 July at P.O. Box 480, Clare SA 5453, or message 0447 601 142, or email asku3a@gmail.com. Retain top half so you know when and where to turn up. Assume enrolment accepted on payment unless you hear otherwise.

Enrol me in the following group/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Member? Yes / No

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Country of origin \_\_\_\_\_

**Newsletters** by post [ ] or email [ ]. **Payment** by cheque [ ] cash [ ] EFT [ ] All options overleaf

Half-year subs \$25 or new member \$15 early bird rate if payment received before 17/7/18; Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*All information kept in accordance with U3A Lower North Inc. privacy policy*