



U3A LOWER NORTH

Sharing Skills and Experience with Friends

NOVEMBER 2020 🍷 TERM ONE 2021

University of the Third Age Lower North Incorporated

🍷 Post Office Box 480, Clare, South Australia, 5453 🍷

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U3A Lower North website: www.u3alownorth.webs.com

Dear Members,

Greetings from a flat in the suburbs where I am a refugee from home renovations, missing my garden hollow in the Clare Valley.

My defection to the city has coincided quite well with our COVID closure but I do apologise to the rest of the committee, especially secretary Ian Foster, who was rather left holding the baby and doing endless COVID safety plans.

By the time we decided to go ahead with our AGM on the scheduled date, we didn't have much opportunity to do the normal preparation so a 'no frills' AGM was a sensible solution. As promised we kept the reports short and covered essentials only, with no guest speaker or photo competition.

We announced our decisions to make 2021 free for current financial members (so long as enrolment form is lodged on time) and to cancel the end-of-year lunch and movie at Blyth.

The short lead-up time and many closed activities, left us little opportunity to canvas for new committee members. Both Beth Smith and Dinoo Kelleghan retired due to changed family circumstances. Beth had already stood down from the secretary's position in favour of Ian Foster, to become a committee person without any specific duties while Dinoo was a committee person who also undertook publicity officer duties. We will miss them both very much and thank them for their service.

It is our policy not to guilt-trip anyone into nominating at an AGM so both positions are temporarily vacant. We ask anyone who wants to take part in running their U3A or knows anyone suitable to contact us before activities resume in the New Year.

We had an excellent attendance of group leaders, spread out in the function room looking a little like circus lions each perched on a chair in their own socially-isolated space. After closing the short official meeting, group leaders had an opportunity to express their opinions on resumption of classes and COVID precautions.

We were probably feeling secure that the worst was over and it would all be a downhill slope of easing restrictions. In recent weeks we all received a sharp reminder that nothing is certain until repatriation of Australian citizens is safely concluded and then the next stage of security is widespread vaccination.

In such uncertain times it is very difficult to make plans but neither can we delay, awaiting a totally risk-free environment.

"Mann tracht, und Gott lacht" is an old adage loosely meaning, "Man plans, and God laughs." No matter how carefully we plan, we need to be prepared for changes, think positively and maintain a spirit of optimism.

All the best for Christmas and a problem-free 2021.

Hope to see you back in 2021,

Claire

ACTIVITIES IN 2021

Over the past year we have lost some courses and gained nothing new to replace them. It is most annoying when we lose activities due to low enrolments. Previously we had hoped to overcome that problem by growing our membership but unfortunately that too will have taken a knock. If you have any ideas for increasing membership, the committee would love to hear from you.

Probably State-wide there is going to be a need for U3A post-COVID revamp and publicity push.

Petanque has finished. Jim Morran who was the group leader for Petanque has moved to Goolwa. Unfortunately no other member of the group wanted to take on the responsibility and so the group has folded. I don't know what the responsibilities were apart from turn up each week but that is the end of a pleasant outdoor activity which was held each Monday afternoon in Auburn's Centennial Park. Of course it could be held on any day in any town. If you think you are the person to revive this group let us know.

There are plans to build a proper Petanque pitch in Clare and it would have been good to have a U3A team competing.

Chess with Ian Bails has gone into recess, another victim of low numbers. While it might only take two to play a game, it takes more than that to make a fun group with a variety of playing partners.

Our vice president and resident quilting tragic, Kath Lock started a **Quilting and Craft** group in her home town of **Riverton** in the hope that, once members, they would participate in other U3A groups further afield, even if it was just the monthly movie. It didn't work that way so they will continue as a private group unassociated with U3A.

Both **Exercise** groups under the leadership of Chris Roberts have moved venue. Every Tuesday morning you will find them at the Stanley Flat Hall. The move may be temporary while COVID restrictions last.

As previously the Exercise groups will make a later start in an effort to avoid the worst of the summer heat. The first session won't be until fourth week of term. Chris wants to stress that these groups are for maintaining your fitness rather than rehabilitation or recovery after health problems.

Current Affairs is in need of a new group leader. As part of my drive to reclaim my Thursdays from U3A duties, I am looking for someone else to take the helm of this small group which usually meets fortnightly on Thursday afternoons.

French will drop from two groups to one under the leadership of Kath Lock.

French as a Lower North subject was launched in 2007, led reluctantly but conscientiously by Anne Weddle. By mid 2007 we had found native speaker and excellent teacher Anne-Sophie Deleflie, a temporary resident of Clare. Twelve months later Anne-Sophie departed for Fremantle and the group was going to fold if no-one stepped forward to lead. That is when I put up my hand and I have been there most Thursdays in term, for the last 12 years. In that time my pronunciation has remained abysmal but I have learnt where to source good learning materials. In the best tradition, rather than let it fold, Kath Lock has now put up her hand to keep it going but will merge both groups back into one.

Within other groups I have heard good reports of Doreen Hill who is putting her stamp on **Coffee and Chat** and Ann Foster is proving a hard-working leader of **Auburn and Burra Art** groups. When taking on this role Ann, a Clare resident, didn't realise it would entail membership of the Auburn sports and recreation grounds committee.

We can't mention Art without recording our sorrow at the loss of Gerald Moore. Gerald started our first art group in 2006 and proved an extremely popular teacher. He handed over the reins to Ann last year but kept involved when his health permitted. Gerald passed away in August and is much missed.

We appreciate all our course leaders and send thanks to those retiring for their years of valuable service.

We are looking forward to catching up with group leaders for a short meeting followed by lunch on Wednesday 27 January. That is the week before classes start. Secretary Ian Foster will be sending out invitations so please RSVP promptly. Nothing worse than having a grumpy secretary.

TIME TO ORDER NAME TAGS

With 2020 fizzling out so early we didn't put in an order for permanent name tags. Make sure you lodge your order in time for our 2021 order.

Hard white plastic name tags are available with pin or magnetic backing for \$12. We only put in one order a year so if you want one, make sure your name is on the list and you have paid in advance. N.B. magnetic backs not to be worn if you have a heart pacemaker.

When ordering, please print your name as you would like it to appear on tag so we know if you want to be a Chris or Christopher Smith.

Of course free conference-style name tags are issued automatically to new members.

ENROL NOW FOR 2021

Enrolments do not carry on from one year to the next. To ensure your place, please submit enrolment slips (and payment for new members) as soon as possible. Enrolments are processed on a first come first served basis. While some groups struggle for numbers, others fill very quickly. Don't miss out.

EARLY BIRDS ALWAYS SAVE \$10

THIS YEAR IT MIGHT BE \$35

Normally the annual subscription is \$35 with a \$10 discount for lodging paperwork and payment by the deadline, Thursday 14 January.

For 2021 the early bird rate for current financial members will be \$0. Yes, free so long as Peter Lisman has received your enrolment form showing which classes you want to attend by 14/1/21.

New members will pay \$25 until the early bird rate expires 14/1/21. After that it is \$35 for everyone.

Enrolments can be made several ways:

- Registration Days. Thursday 3 December or Thursday 14 January. Treasurer and/or Course Coordinator will be in the Stan Scott Room, Clare Town Hall from 10 am to 2 pm **or**
- post to U3A Lower North Inc. at PO Box 480, Clare, 5453; **or**
- phone or email it through to Course Coordinator Peter Lisman **or**
- place it in the U3A letterbox on our door in the foyer of the Clare Town Hall.

To make online payment: Pay U3A Lower North Inc., Account No. 748828019; BSB 085 558. For ID use surname followed by initial, e.g. John Smith = smithj. Emails to u3alownorth@gmail.com.

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DATES FOR 2021

2021 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.

Enrolment days, Clare Town Hall, 10 to 2: _____

Thursday 3 December and Thursday 14 January

Deadline for enrolments and payment: __ 14 January

Group Leaders Event: _____ Wednesday 27 January

TERM 1: __ Monday 1 February to Monday 29 March

TERM 2: _____ Monday 3 May to Monday 28 June

TERM 3: __ Monday 26 July to Friday 17 September

TERM 4: _ Monday 11 October to Friday 3 December

Annual General Meeting: _____ Friday 29 October

End-of-year lunch & movie: _____ Friday 3 December

Enrolment day for 2022: _____ Thursday 9 December

SPECIAL PEOPLE WANTED

The committee is seeking two people to join us and fill the vacancies for 'committee person' left by Beth and Dinoo retiring.

We have just two meetings each term. A couple of hours on eight mornings a year is not a huge commitment and we do manage to have a few laughs and pub lunches.

Neither position has any specific duties associated with it but it would be good if someone took over responsibilities for publicity. Everyone on the committee has agreed to take more photos to back up occasional press releases in the local paper but we still need someone to write the stories.

Not sure how to write a press release? That's okay, I will show you. U3A isn't just about learning how to play mah-jong, you can learn all sorts of skills just belonging to the committee. What a bonus. 😊

U3A STATE RENDEZVOUS SAVE THE DATE

Last year a few of us had a great time at the State U3A Rendezvous hosted by Adelaide Hills.

Fortunately it is a biennial event so there was no need for any cancellation this year.

U3A Tea Tree Gully has bravely taken on hosting duties for 2021 and intend to hold it from Tuesday 5 to Thursday 7 October.

While previous Rendezvous events have had a large tourist component with river cruises, wineries and gardens, etc., this one will concentrate more on U3A activities.

Just visiting the TTG campus of 10 classrooms and associated offices will be an eye opener for many who haven't attended State meetings there. It is a tremendous example of what can be achieved when you successfully lobby politicians whose primary concern is the interests of their citizens.

Sometime in the future Lower North will be Rendezvous hosts so it would be good if a few more members attend and find out what it is about.

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Aging is not lost youth but a new stage of opportunity and strength. Betty Friedan (1921-2006).

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All members: Please wear your name badge at all U3A activities, and send an apology to the group leader if unable to attend class.

2021: FIRST TERM ACTIVITIES

CLASS	LEADER	TIME	STARTS	VENUE
Art, Auburn	Ann Foster	Wed 9:30 am – 1:30 pm	3/2/2021	Auburn oval
Art, Burra	Ann Foster	2 nd Tue, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm	9/2/2021	Burra Showgrounds
Book Group	Hermann Weber	Alt Thu 10.30 am – 12 noon	4/2/2021	St Barnabas, Clare
Coffee & Chat	Doreen Hill	Wed 10.30 am	3/2/2021	Various
Computing 1	Quentin Fleming	Fri 10 am – 12 noon	5/2/2021	Clare Town Hall
Computing 2 iPads	Marian Wicks	Tue 12 noon – 1.30 pm	2/2/2021	Clare Town Hall
Contract Bridge	Peter Wood	Mon 1.30 – 4 pm	2/2/2021	Tourism Centre
Cryptic Crosswords	Greta Handmer	Alt Thu 10.30 am	11/2/2021	25 Edward St, Clare
Current Affairs	Claire Eglinton	Alt Thu 1.30 – 3 pm	11/2/2021	Clare Town Hall
Drumbeat	John Monten	Mon 10 – 11.30 am	1/2/2021	St Barnabas, Clare
Exercise 1	Chris Roberts	Tue 9 – 10 am	23/2/2021	Stanley Flat Hall
Exercise 2 (seated)	Chris Roberts	Tue 10 – 11 am	23/2/2021	Stanley Flat Hall
Film Group	Val Tilbrook	Usually 1st Tue 2 pm	2/2/2021	Blyth Cinema
French*	Kath Lock	Thu 11 am – 12.30 noon	2/2/2021	Clare Town Hall
History	Val Tilbrook	Fri 10 am – 12 noon	5/2/2021	St Barnabas, Clare
Knit and Sew	Mary Clark	Tue 2 – 4 pm	2/2/2021	Clare Town Hall
Mah-jong, Auburn	Sue Beaton	Tue 2 – 4 pm	2/2/2021	Auburn Institute
Mah-jong, Clare	Pam Murray	Wed 2 – 4 pm	3/2/2021	St Barnabas, Clare
Meditation/relaxation	Anne Smith	Mon 1 – 2 pm	1/2/2021	Benny's Hill Road
Music Appreciation	Helen Weckert	1 st , 3 rd Wed 2 pm	3/2/2021	10 March Ct, Clare
Quilting	Diane Richardson	Thu 10 am – 1 pm	4/2/2021	St Barnabas, Clare
Scrabble	Carol Stewart	Mon 1:15 pm	8/2/2021	St Barnabas, Clare
Walking Group	Margaret Daly	Mon 8 am	4/1/2021	East end Lennon St.

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



Retain top half for class times, etc. Assume enrolment accepted on payment unless you hear otherwise.

RETURN enrolments ASAP: P.O. Box 480, Clare SA 5453 (messages 0447 601 142, asku3a@gmail.com).

New members should request a new members enrolment form (see website)

Name: _____

Any recent changes of address/phone/email?: _____

Enrol me in: _____

Newsletters by post [] or email []. **Payment** by cheque [] cash [] EFT [] All options page 3.

Fee: early bird rate \$25 (new members) \$0 (existing members) by 14/1/2021, after that \$35.

OPTIONAL HARD NAME TAGS \$12 Please tick for pin back [] or magnetic back []

Print name as you want it to appear _____

All information kept in accordance with U3A Lower North Inc. privacy policy (see website).