

WATTLE I DO?

U3A Maryborough Districts Inc.

NEWSLETTER

December 2011

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Editor's Notes

No doubt at this time of the year most people are wondering what gifts to purchase, what to cook or where to go for Christmas. So it is with myself – but I am wondering how I found myself to be in the position of Newsletter Editor. I'm not entirely sure how it happened, but I do recall Rose K. asking me a couple of times if I would take on the role. However, she was not on her own in this pursuit as there appeared to be some collaboration going on behind the scenes. Over the course of several cups of excellent coffee (and I'm sure some delicious cake must have been involved too), Bev D. also applied gentle pressure. I said I would think about it, which I must have done, for this is the end result.

I trust members will bear with me for any errors I make as I find my way and settle in to this new position. I do hope you will keep me updated with activities and little snippets to include in the newsletter each month. Please be aware that I do **not** have an email address (that is, I'm **not** online) so have to be contacted either:

- personally
- by ordinary mail
- letter drop
- or good old telephone (phone number on the following page).

To all members, I wish you a very enjoyable festive season and may good health and happiness be with you in 2012. See you in the New Year.

Gail Oliver

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

When: Monday 12th Dec.
Where: 2828
Time: 11 am

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COMMITTEE - 2011/2012

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Ph:**5464 1664**

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U3A Network Victoria:

All about U3A in Vic:
www.u3avicnet.org.au/

U3A Online Australia

Online courses sponsored by
Griffith University:
www.u3aonline.org.au

At the AGM held on Monday 14th November at 2828, nominations were received and the nominees elected to their selected positions – see left column for contact details.

As you can see, several changes were made to the committee. At the meeting new office bearers were welcomed and thanks extended to outgoing members.

Jean Dowie has stepped into the role of President and will be ably assisted by Marie Collins.

Wendy Madden has taken over from Kate Thompson as Secretary.

There was no change to the Treasure's position as Olive Mackay kindly retained that role.

The Course Coordinator's job is now in the hands of Marie Collins, from Pauline Clynes.

Gail Oliver accepted the role of Newsletter Editor.

The position of Network Delegate has gone to Thelma Herbertson, and our two General Committee Members are Harold Davies and Eddie Thrussell.

We welcome our new committee.

NEWS FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

As the next Committee meeting will not take place until after the annual break commences, there is little information from these members for inclusion in this newsletter. However, do see page 4

**from: EXECUTIVE REPORT
TO THE U3A NETWORK VIC.
COUNCIL MEETING NO. 96**

Re: ACFE (Adult Community & Further Education Board)
President and Secretary met with the Hon. Peter Hall, MLC, Minister for Higher Education and Skills on 5th Oct to protest at the anticipated 40% decrease in the ACFE grant for 2012. The Minister and Ms Lewis (Gen Manager for ACFE) were not able to give assurance of restoration of the grant to the amount of previous years.

The Minister stated that if he is able to increase overall funds allocation to his department, then the position of the U3A grant system could be further considered.

Noted in the *Ballarat U3A* Newsletter: Their new **Science Class** is proving very popular. Perhaps more topics from this diverse course could join our well-attended Geology course.

from: DYING WITH DIGNITY VIC.
The Ballarat Group of DWDV hope to be conducting a workshop on dementia in May. This will be open to the public to attend. Further information as/if received.

Something to do on Saturday 10th December
Support the 119th Maryborough & District Agricultural Society Show.
Something for everyone on show, or to taste or to watch. Maybe even enter a category and win a prize.

From Jack, one of our new poetry group participants.

*Now that I am 80, there is so much to be done,
I hope that you will leave me, Lord, 'til I am 81.*

*Then at 81 I will still have lots to do,
So could we make it 'til I am 82*

*There is still a lot of Australia I would like to see,
and that could take me 'til I am 83.*

*The world is changing rapidly, there's so much to explore
I would like to have a crack at it 'til I am 84*

*At 84 if the Doctor says I am still alive,
then I could make it 'til I am 85.*

*At 85 if I can walk around without the aid of sticks,
then I should be able to make it 'til I am 86.*

Now people talk about the joy of Heaven, I'll be joyful to shout 'I am 87'.

*At 87 is I am feeling great,
then how about getting to 88?*

*At 88 and feeling fine,
Then I should make it to 89.*

*Whatever time you give me, Lord,
Whether it is early or late,
I hope you will be there to greet me
When I get to Heaven's Gate.*

**FROM OUR ROVING
REPORTER:**

On November 3rd, and being unable to join the Geology group for the final field day, a more sedentary activity was selected by two of our members. Avoca U3A's Trish Finlay had organised a Winery tour for lunch, so

Gail Oliver and I decided to represent our group – and had a thoroughly enjoyable day.

We all met at the Blue Pyrenees Winery, and accompanied by a large group of Ararat and Avoca U3A members proceeded to sample the “nectar of the gods” (in small tipples of course).

After four winery visits and (numerous) tastings we sat down to an Argentinean style lunch at St. Ignatius Winery, located at Lamplough, just outside Avoca. By this time everyone was totally relaxed and laughter peppered our introduction to South American cuisine.

Best of all though, was the interaction and friendship between members and the new ideas for further interclub activities.

Bev Donaldson

SNEAK PREVIEW OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2012:

Included in our 2012 activities will be a monthly Games session on the 4th Friday of each month, commencing in March.

* More info later regarding time and venue.

Negotiations are currently underway the **Maryborough Garden Club** to organise visits to gardens belonging to members of their group - and our group. This activity will run once a month on Monday afternoons, with a recess in the middle of the year when things are slow in the garden.

Planned Bus Trips, subject to interest include the following

***Her Majesty's Theatre - Ballarat on Wednesday 7th March at 2.00 pm**

The Merry June Bronhill

Cast Alison Rae Jones Amy Letts
Christopher McKenna Robyn
Womersley on piano.

This is a show that tells the life and songs that made June Bronhill famous around the world and features hits from The Sound of

Music, The Merry Widow, The Dancing Years, Ivor Novello and The Pirates of Penzance.

***Her Majesty's Theatre - Ballarat on Tuesday 12th June at 2.00 pm**
Showstoppers of London's West End

With Philip Gould and Michelle Fitamaurice

The show is a concert tribute to many of the great success stories of the London West End stage including shows in which Philip Gould himself has played leading roles ...like 42nd Street and Crazy for You.

Other shows featured include, Cats, Les Miserables, The Phantom Of The Opera, Oliver and many more...

***Bendigo Art Gallery** - date to be set on a Wednesday in May

Grace Kelly Style Icon

Melbourne Museum - date to be set on a Wednesday in August

The Wonders of Ancient Mesopotamia

National Gallery of Victoria - date to be set on a Wednesday in September

Napoleon Revolution to Empire
There is also a presentation by the **Victorian Concert Orchestra** - **Ararat** on Saturday 13th May.

Attendance at this event will depend on interest shown. So, if you would like this outing to take place, inform a Committee member.

A FEW POINTS OF INTEREST :

Harry Dobson, Development Officer, U3A Network, Victoria.

Harry attended our AGM in November and the main issues he spoke about were:

- How to attract new members. This is an issue relevant to the majority of country towns and one of the most challenging.
- That accommodation for U3A meetings is an issue in some

places, and acknowledging how fortunate we in Maryborough are.

- The importance of sharing responsibilities in the running of local U3A's. He spoke about the consequences of "recycling" the same office bearers to do all the administration, group planning and leading of courses.
- The introduction of new members into these positions can prove to have a positive effect as their fresh ideas and innovative skills are shared among the group as a whole.
- Early planning - not only for the following year, but several years ahead, eg: in our case, in four year's time we will have been operating for 20 years. He asked us to think about how we are going to celebrate the event and to begin planning early.
- He talked about how some U3A's have a community service commitment, such as working within their local schools to assist with remedial reading, or acting as exam monitors in the classrooms.
- The significance of developing a good working relationship with local councils and other organisations within the area.
- How networking both inside and outside the local area can provide positive results eg:

exchange of ideas; or services such as 'borrowing' tutors to run specific courses; or attending courses provided by other U3As; or having several U3As getting together for combined outings (see our Roving Reporter item).

- He stressed the importance of putting the local U3A out into the public eye. This is a good way of spreading the word and attracting new members.

There is no doubt Harry is enthusiastic about his role as Development Officer, and hopefully some of his suggestions and ideas will bear fruit within U3As all over Victoria.

Wattle we do in **DECEMBER 2011**

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY				
Nov 28 9.00am - Hub SOCIAL ISSUES	29 1.30pm - Hub POETRY	30 1.30pm - Hub 14th Century HISTORY: Industry	Dec 1 1.30pm - Hub NO MUSIC CLASS	2 9.00am - 2828 GENTLE EXERCISE 10.00am LANGUAGE FUN
5 9.00am - Hub SOCIAL ISSUES	6 1.30pm - Hub POETRY	7 1.30pm - Hub 14th Century HISTORY:	8 1.30pm - Hub MUSIC	9 9.00am - 2828 GENTLE EXERCISE 10.00am LANGUAGE FUN
12 9.00am - Hub SOCIAL ISSUES 11.00am - 2828 COMMITTEE MEETING	13 1.30pm - Hub POETRY	14 1.30pm - Hub Noon - 2828 Christmas Lunch 	15 1.30pm - Hub PHILOSOPHY	16 9.00am - 2828 GENTLE EXERCISE 10.00am LANGUAGE FUN
19th HOLIDAY BREAK BEGINS				
CLASSES RECOMMENCE: MONDAY FEBRUARY 6th 2012				

Acknowledgement:

Wattle I Do? Is printed for U3A Maryborough Districts Inc. by courtesy of the staff of Joe Helper, **State Member for Ripon**. Our thanks for their ongoing support