



CARDINIA
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

NEWSLETTER

U3A Cardinia Committee:

President: Rob Trevena
Vice President: Vacant
Treasurer: Binita Hada Maskey
Secretary: Heather Sherwell

ICT Officer: John Peterson
Members: Wendy Currie,
Moria Sly
David Bidgood

Message from the President

A quick update on what's been happening at U3A Cardinia.

Our ICT Officer has been extremely busy bringing our Class computers up to date. The Meeting Room and Music Room computers have been upgraded and the Art Room System will be updated in the next couple of weeks. The upload and download speeds will be 300% faster.

We have changed our internet service provider to Telstra and the service cabling has been upgraded to Fibre, so our computers are approximately three times faster.

Our computer folder system has been completely redesigned. This will give us 100% protection for our files. All files will now be stored securely off site, on the Microsoft Cloud, as well as on the computer C drive.

Various handbooks/manuals/policies have been submitted to the committee for approval. The Tutor Manual, Members Terms and Conditions and Code of Conduct, Committee of Management Handbook as well as the Members Information and Welcome Pack have been approved.

The Tutor Manuals have been distributed, during the recent Tutors' Meeting. The Terms and Conditions of Membership and the Code of Conduct are now uploaded on the U3A Cardinia Website. Other documents will be posted as they are ratified by the CoM.

Five new courses were added in term three and have been well received. They are *Remembering and*

Forgetting, Needle Felting, Card Games, Not a Shed Discussion Group and Piano.

In term four, the *Drawing and Sketching* course is returning, and we are adding three new courses; *Mahjong, Christmas Craft* and a weekly course of interesting subjects, run by *Remembering and Forgetting* Tutor Kevin Blachford.

Two vacancies on the Committee were created with the resignation of the Vice President and the Treasurer. U3A Cardinia acknowledges and thanks Keith and Carolyn Lipscombe for the time and service they have given to our Association. Binita Hada Maskey has been appointed by the CoM as the Treasurer. She has a background in financial services. We welcome Binita and appreciate her generosity and willingness to undertake this position. We are still seeking someone to fill the Vice President role and we are in need of a Course Coordinator, as well.

We have enrolled 25 new members in term 3, bringing our total membership to 125.

Cardinia Council has approved our funding application for Heat Block Curtains for the Meeting Room and the Art Room. They have already been installed.

The Art Room Cupboards will shortly be re-arranged, the Live Screen moved into a permanent position and the new Computer for the screen shall also be installed.

Well, that takes care of the "technical stuff". I hope you are all having an enjoyable year at U3A and that it continues for the rest of the year. Thank you to all the Tutors, Volunteers and Committee Members for their time and commitment and a special thank you to all members that have been participating in U3A activities and courses.

Rob Trevena

What's been happening in our Courses and Activities

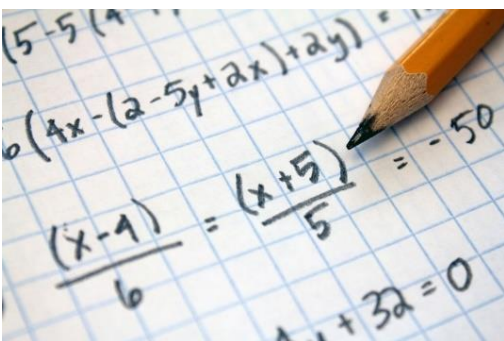
Walking Group Kath Reimert

Seven walkers, and one ultra friendly dog, are now enrolled with the Walking Group on Tuesday mornings. Regular walkers have braved the winter weather, gathering at locations such as Lakeside, Wilson Botanic Park, Heritage Springs, Henry Road and Cardinia Aqueduct Trail to walk for about an hour for approximately 4-5 kilometres. After the walk, or if it is raining, we gather for coffee. The photo of Gordana, Heather, Theo and Mora; was taken at the Hoo Hoo Tower at Wilson Botanic Park. Various levels of walking speed and ability are encouraged and catered for, in the group.



Algebra Kath Reimert

This term, our group of 5 students are working through learning and practising the Index Laws. The Maths section of the brain is often closed when a person leaves school and enters the workforce. The class has shown that this door can be reopened, and further learning is possible. Sometimes it is about embracing the challenge.



Poetry Michal Stewart

Rather than analysing the works of experienced poets such as Henry Lawson or Robert Louis Stevenson, this group concentrates on learning to write different styles of poetry e.g. Haikus and Sonnets to lesser-known styles such as Echo poems. It is a relaxed and informal group, enjoying the challenges set each time. We will also be working on our own style of poetry. Everyone's welcome.

A few years ago, a friend made a hurdy-gurdy from scratch after finding the info online. It inspired this poem.

Hurdy-Gurdy Man

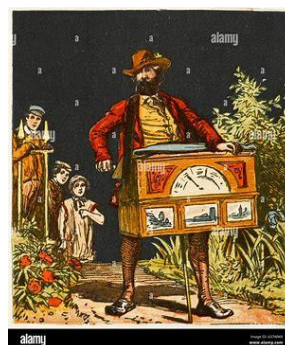
*The holidays are here and we're at the beach
With pebbles that are hard to walk on
But with deck chairs in hand
And the sound of the band
The woes of the city are gone*

*Treading carefully along, the place we reach
Is picture perfect for what we plan:
Set up under a tree
A quick dip in the sea
Then find the hurdy-gurdy man*

*At the end of the pier, the goal for each
Is to be at the start of the queue
So we all make haste
To be sitting in place
Before he starts his music anew*

*When everyone is there, he starts to teach
With tunes that transport us away,
'bout countries afar
So, we forget where we are
Till we return when he ceases to play*

*The day finishes well with the sky like a peach
Of fun we've all had our fill
And there's never a doubt
What we dream about
The hurdy-gurdy man is with us still
Michal S.*



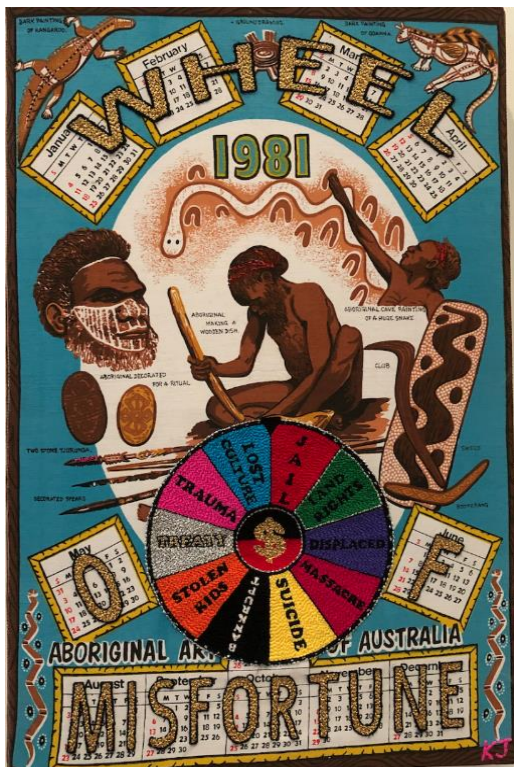
First Nations Heather Sherwell

It has been a very busy term for the participants of the First Nations course, starting with NAIDOC week. Some of the group attended activities at the library learning how First Nations people made tools and weapons and used animal skins. The meaning of symbols in their art was explained, as well as the use of plants for food and medicine.

In class, participants viewed and discussed videos including 'The Harold Blair Story' and 'Pioneers of Love' highlighting the difficulties confronting First Nations people and celebrating their achievements. Viewing highlights from the Garma Festival, held in the Northern Territory, prompted lively discussion, especially in relation to Anthony Albanese's speech in which he alluded to the fact that the Government no longer fully supported the 'Uluru Statement from the Heart' and the implications that will have for reconciliation.

The group viewed videos featuring various topics for discussion, such as First Nations' practices including healing and the use of fire to produce rain. Discussion focused on the importance of knowing the truth about our shared history following the viewing of 'The Australian Wars' – a thought-provoking series produced by Rachel Perkins.

At the conclusion of the term the group will choose a First Nations movie to enjoy.



Kait James

Needle Felting Debi Barclay

We always enjoy our very pleasant Tuesday mornings of Needle Felting. Some of us are working on a Christmas fairy for the tree and another person is making a fish. Some of the finished projects are pictured. Needle Felting finishes for 2024 at the end of this term but will return in Term 2, 2025.



Calligraphy Mari Harrison

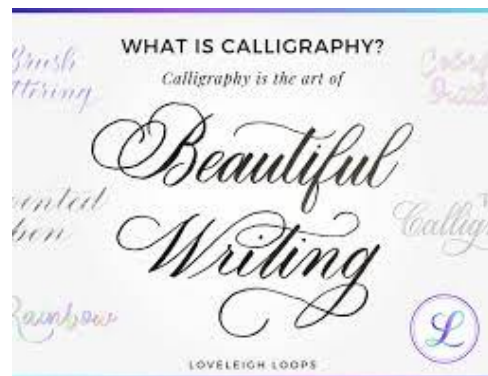
The participants of this class are learning to use pen and ink on carefully selected paper to achieve beautiful writing that they aim to use to personalise greeting cards.

When Mari was just 4 years old her grandmother taught her Calligraphy. She got quite a shock when she started school and was expected to write in a much simpler style.

Class members say Calligraphy requires patience, a steady hand and a passion for perfection.

The class is fun, relaxing and very social.

“Every bottle of ink contains at least one good letter – and it's at the bottom.” ~Peter Thornton



French Lindsay Opie

My aim is to teach the language in context, so we work on specific themes such as "Going to the doctors", "Shopping in Paris", "I'm hungry, let's eat", "Getting around in Paris", "Holidays", etc.

Each topic allows us to explore the language, both written and spoken, and examine grammar, etc. History and culture are also included as part of our exploration. For example, the topic "Holidays" allows us to talk about where to go, about accommodation, about transport, about the weather, and about what you need to put in your suitcase, etc. "Exploring Paris" allows us to visit key sites in Paris and learn of their history.

It also incorporates learning how to use a map and ask for directions in French as well as learning how to use the Metro, and much more.

The aim is to enjoy learning the language and get to know something about the French, their history and culture.

A class member said "There's been lots happening in France recently and Lindsay has taken us on a virtual tour of the Paris Olympic venues and the Tour de France.

Lindsay explained the French political system and the process to elect their President.

We have started a unit of study: "Les Vacances" learning everything we need to know to holiday in France!"



If you love words, light-hearted banter and good company, then come play Scrabble with us. We also don't play for "Sheep Stations", but we do have lots of fun.

Fabulous social opportunity

Utterly enjoyable atmosphere.

Never a dull moment

'Not A Shed' Chat Group Michal Stewart

This self-run group is purely for chatting about this and that e.g. discovering similar likes (hobbies, bands, books, movies); with fellow U3A members who may share other classes but not have the time to chat.

So far there have been two gatherings with each being very enjoyable. Lots of laughter and relaxing with no task to do except the decision between a cup of tea or a cup of coffee. All welcome!!



Writing Group Steve Gates/Michal Stewart

The Writing Group has continued to meet as a self-help group in the absence of the tutor, due to health issues. Steve Gates will not be leading this group next term. He has decided to leave U3A Cardinia and concentrate on his health. We thank him for his time as tutor and wish him a speedy recovery. Michal Stewart has agreed to convene the group for the rest of the year. We thank her for her kind generosity and willingness to keep the group going.

Card Group 'Dealt a Hand' Herbie O'Flynn

Our card group of four decided at their first meeting to learn new games and then enjoy playing them each week.

The first game we play is "Hearts" in which the aim is not to win a trick or at least none with a "Heart" or the "Queen of Spades", which incur a penalty!

The second game is called "Up and Down the River" and is a trick game unique in that the number of cards dealt reduces each game down to one card and then back up again. The challenging aspect is that each player must announce 'exactly' the number of tricks they intend to win. Not more and not less, but exactly! Each session concludes with a rummy-style game called "May I" in which players collect three of a kind or runs of 4 cards.

It would be true to say that we all got more and more skilled each week. Carolyn Lipscombe often won when she didn't intend to, and her husband Keith often lost when he expected to win. John Loy was the surprise in winning one week and playing dismally the next.

All in all, we enjoyed our get-together each week and hope to continue with Mahjongg next term.



Other Courses and Activities

In the next issue of the Newsletter, we look forward to reading about what's been happening in those Courses and Activities not featured here.

Vale Peter White

Peter passed away recently. He was a past member of U3A Cardinia and at one time, held the role of Vice President. He was the husband of Barbara, the convenor of our Book Club.

Peter was farewelled at a memorial service by his family and many other people who had come to pay their respects. What was very clear at the service, through eulogies and the slide show, was the love he had for his family and the massive amount of love which all the family members had for him.

A Tribute from a U3A member:

"Where do I start?"

Simply put, Peter was just a good soul.

A kindred spirit of the ancient world.

We both loved Rome.

He gladly gave of his time to U3A Cardinia.

A really good-hearted person, without a bad word for anybody.

So, 'Hello' to any of the Roman Emperors who happen to go to heaven as I am sure you are there.'

Dennis Jordan

School Holidays

N.B. U3A Cardinia will be closed for the two weeks coinciding with the school holidays.

Courses finish: Week ending Friday, September 20th
and resume: Week beginning Monday, October 7th.

U3A Contact Details

Website: www.u3acardinia.org.au

Email: info@u3acardinia.org.au

Phone: 5941 4164