

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Hello Members

My concern each month is finding enough articles of interest for the upcoming Newsletter - and it's always unfounded. Our vibrant and energetic organisation never ceases to amaze me. A sincere thank you to the people who contributed the following interesting articles and to Annie for her patience and artistic flair in producing the Newsletters.

As this is the last edition for Term 3, I would just like to remind members of two new courses commencing next Term.

- ✓ The first one is Hugh's continuation along the Napoleon theme (Wednesday mornings Rm 1) and
- ✓ The second one is John McQuilton: For King, Country & Empire: Australia's Home Front 1914-1918. (Thursday mornings, Rm 1).

Unfortunately, the courses are not on our website at the moment so you cannot enrol! That being said, members who were enrolled in Hugh's classes in Terms 1 & 2 do NOT need to enrol in his Term 4 class. Keep an eye on our website over the break for updates and, if interested, enrol through the portal. There may be a heads-up email sent through the office when the portal has been activated.

Coffee Morning:

- ✓ This coming Friday's speaker is a member of the Victorian Constabulary! The topic should be of interest to us all as the main discussion is on renewing licences for Seniors, I understand. Come and find out first hand as there are sure to be questions asked and answered that will be of interest to you. Plus, delicious home-made cakes are always a given. What better lure is needed to attend than that?!

Holiday activity:

- ✓ Rutherglen Wine Tour. A fabulous excursion is planned on Wednesday, 28th September. Cost: \$60 per head on a first in basis. Bookings through the office. Please refer to our President's message.

And another reminder - please don't forget to contact me if there is any news of interest I can add to our Newsletter- be it a U3A course matter or a personal one. e.g. send a pic if you've taken a selfie with a celeb, for instance. We'd love you to share these moments.

Happy reading - Judy/Editor

From the President's Desk



Greetings members, we are now half way through Term 3, how fast it goes when you are having fun.

The "Know your Gizmo" class run by the Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau Inc is proving to be a great success with much satisfaction from the U3A participants. The student assistants and the Bureau volunteers have been excellent and we will consider running the course again in Term 4 if there is sufficient interest.

"Mystery History" has also been a big success and Hugh's high standards have been maintained. It certainly gives a greater insight into the preparation work the Tutors put in each week.

"Buddhism" is also being enthusiastically received by a serene group of members.

Gerry is taking a break from presenting "Our World" in Term 4 and the Program Coordinator is working on an alternative to fill the spot.

Coffee mornings will continue on the fourth Friday morning for Term 4 your attendance is encouraged.

On the social side, the "Christmas in July" party was a terrific success for the one hundred plus that attended. Much bon homme and good cheer along with something less desirable was spread on the day. Thanks to Col Frost, Alan Brink, Joy Key, Irene Kauter and Annie Stephenson for your efforts. September will see a bus trip and wine tasting during the term break (details to come) and October the GAAC's October Festival for us to join in with.

Keep your eyes open for the new courses on offer for Term 4 and sign up online on the web site or via the office on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday lunch time.

Stay well, keep smiling
Cheers

Rod Farr

This month's profile ...

Gerry Engwerda



Originally from the Netherlands I came to Australia with my family in 1958 at the age of 8. Actually I am a Frisian which is not really Dutch – we have our own language and customs and yes, that is where Frisian cows came from.

We were amongst the first to emigrate by air and that often turned out to be quite an adventure with engines catching fire mid-flight and so on. Exciting when you are 8, less so as you get older.

I had just three words of English when I arrived “yes”, “no” and for some reason I had the word “chair”. Not enough to get by but at that age you pick up new languages very quickly and I did.

My father was a dairy chemist and worked for Carnation milk that had its only Australian factory in a little place called Merrigum near Shepparton. Irrigation country and as flat as a tack just like where we had come from. I think that it why I finished up in Yackandandah eventually – I needed something more interesting to look at.

Part of his contract was that in lieu of his annual holidays we could all go back to Netherlands as a family every three years for 3 months or so and all flying first class with a stopover somewhere of our choice so we saw quite a bit of the world.

After school, I went to Uni majoring in English and Politics and at the end of that I started teaching at Kyabram where my parents had moved in the interim. I enjoyed teaching high school and while I was occasionally distracted by other opportunities, I finished up doing exactly that for the next 43 years. I never regretted it and I have to say that it is still incredibly satisfying to meet up with past students and see all the interesting and varied paths they have taken in life.

I married fellow teacher Ellen Morrison in 1982 and moved to Yackandandah where we have been ever since. We had four children, two boys and two girls, who have all done rather well and are happily married with families of their own.

After the children left home, we resumed travelling and fortunately we travel well together sharing as we do a lot of the same interests. Favourite place and most frequently visited – Malaysia.

I retired in 2015 and set about finding something else to do after a lifetime in the classroom. I tried golf but would rather not talk about it. I then got in touch with Pat Madin, an ex-colleague, who put me on to U3A and would I be interested in giving a trial lecture to see how it might go? Well, the rest is history as they say and that is what I have been doing for the last 7 years. It is the best thing I could have done! I have met some incredibly interesting people and have learned so much in the process.

While I have thoroughly enjoyed the preparation and presentation of lectures, it is a commitment that takes up a lot of time and often at the expense of family so I am taking term 4 off and will return at the start of next year revitalised and with new topics.



I want to do something else for a little while. I have started flying again – I gained my pilot's licence in 1981 flying Cessnas and Pipers off a grass strip at Lilydale outside Melbourne but had to let that go as flying, four children and one wage were not compatible. I am still an aviation geek though and always look up every time I hear a noise overhead and if I cannot fly in real life I can on the computer.

I am an incredibly average cook but love being in the kitchen with a free hand to experiment and a glass of red but I would really like to learn more and to cook more safely. I also want to learn photography to make use of the very good camera that has been lying idle in the car for over a year.

Lots to do.



U3A class: Colour

On Thursday mornings, Kath White's big garden shed-cum-garage in Albury morphs into an art studio, where ten of us have been exploring artists' pigments - the colours that artists have developed over centuries to represent the natural world and to interpret their own unique interior vision.

We started the year with colour theory, and then moved on to white - white papers and white gesso as surfaces for mark-making, before experimenting with black - pencils, charcoal, inks and markers. Then we moved on to the earth-based pigments like yellow ochre and burnt sienna, traditional colours that have been used by ancient cave painters, Indian village women, indigenous Australians and urban artists like John Brack. We tried to replicate and reinterpret some of these works.



That set the pattern we have followed with two further colours, blue and yellow: a first session introducing the chroma in its commonest range (for example, the various blues - cobalt, cerulean, ultramarine and Prussian),



learning how they used to be made: from ground minerals like lapis lazuli (ultramarine), from plants (indigo) or by chemical reactions (Prussian Blue). We viewed many examples of different artists' works featuring that colour (e.g. Picasso's 'Blue Period', Matisse's *Blue Nudes*), and then used these as starting points for our own paintings, drawings or collages, using gouache, water colour, pencils and cut-outs. As we progressively mix these pigments with each other, so we discover the infinite hues and shades we can make even with a limited palette.

Next semester, we will finish the primary colours with three weeks on red, and then explore the secondaries - green, orange and purple, before finishing the year using the whole range of colours in pastels, acrylics and oil paints.



Services > Waste and recycling

Your space. Own it, love it

Thanks for helping keep Albury clean and safe for our community to enjoy.

Albury Waste Management Centre

Inspired by the outings of the gardening group, the Sustainability class recently decided to have a day out. The place we chose to go - the Albury Waste Management Centre, proved to be a very interesting, and indeed inspiring, place to visit. Those who expected a smelly, rubbish strewn tip of the past were most impressed and it is not surprising that the waste management Centre at Albury has won a number of national awards. As a result, it is often visited by representatives from other councils looking at how they might copy some of Albury's initiatives.

As our group was on a tour and not actually dropping off rubbish, we were taken around in a small bus led by Penny, our very knowledgeable guide. Penny first invited us into the education Centre for morning tea and a chat about interesting aspects of the Centre. Along with seeing many examples of recycled materials we also learnt that Albury handles waste from Albury, Wodonga, Towong Shire, Greater Hume, Federation and Indigo Shire councils.

Vehicles entering the Centre are weighed on the way in, after which they move systematically around the Centre dropping off items that can be recycled or re-used. Some of the better items go to the retail shop where the public can buy bicycles, furniture, household goods and many other items at bargain basin prices. When those items have been dropped off the vehicle is re-weighed so that the staff can determine the proportion that goes to landfill, which is typically much less than the original load. Part of the old landfill area has had pipes laid on top and covered with clay. The pipes collect the methane from rotting organic matter and the methane fuels a large motor which drives a generator to produce electricity. That runs 24/7 and provides enough electricity for about 1200 houses. There is also a large area covered in solar panels which provides more electricity. For those with electric cars there is a charging station just outside the entry to the first weighbridge.

An interesting recent innovation is a new process to handle commercial food waste. A Canberra-based waste management company have developed a Modular Infrastructure for Biological Services (MIBS) unit which uses black soldier fly larvae to consume food waste (packaged or non-packaged) and turn it into a high-quality protein for animal food and soil conditioner for agricultural uses. This process is an effective low-cost way of handling the large amount of organic waste from supermarkets and restaurants.

It's expected that 1,800 tonnes of food waste will be diverted from landfill during the six-month trial. Pending the outcome of the trial, project partners will determine the next steps to ensure our community continues to reduce food waste entering local landfills.

Albury council is to be congratulated on its environmentally sensitive approach to reusing or disposing of a huge quantity of waste delivered to the waste management Centre. It was well worth our visit.



Part of Recycling Centre



Education centre



Charging station for electric vehicles



Weighbridge at entrance to WMC



Bus Trip: A Day at The Vineyards

Wednesday 28 September
\$60 pp

Depart Wodonga 9.30am from GAAC
Depart Albury 10am SS&A Club Wilson St carpark entry
Depart Vineyards for home 2.30pm

Our first stop will be morning tea at De Bortoli Wines after which we'll have a quick tour and chat on making Prosecco, with accompanying wine tasting as well as coffee, tea, pastries and fruit platters, and some time to check out the art gallery.

Lunch will be at Olive Hills Estate, a boutique winery owned and operated by the Perry family and situated in historical 1886 cellars. Lunch Traditional Wood Fired Pizza, green garden salad, wine, tea and coffee.

Bookings and payment at the U3A office as under ...

Monday 5th and 12th September 12.00-1pm

Wednesday 31st Aug, 7th and 14th September 12.00-1pm.



MYSTERY HISTORY

Our new Mystery History sessions have covered a diverse range of topics delivered by a different presenter each week. Below is a just a quick look ...

27 July – The History of Mars

Syd Lukins/Uncle Ben_Mars Group



This was the story of one of the most successful business ventures. A business which encompasses making confectionary – the famous Mars Bars, Milky Ways, and Snickers; not just surviving the war years but thriving by identifying and embracing new opportunities providing food for the troops; to pet food manufacturing. They did this by innovative practices and never compromising on quality.

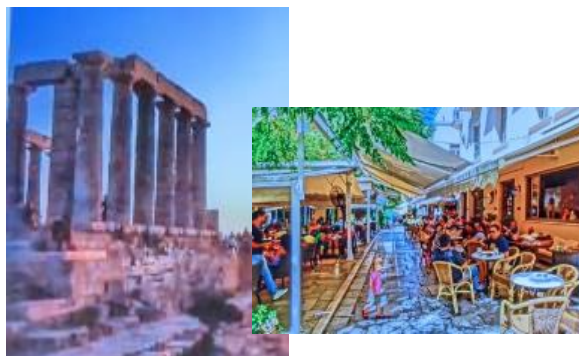


The Mars family story is nothing short of inspiring and led to recognition by an honorary knighthood presented by the Queen herself! Mars Group's choice of Wodonga as a manufacturing hub for their pet food was one of the factors that inspired the Whitlam Govt to create the AW Development Corp. A big thank you, Syd!

03 Aug – Greece and the Olympics

John Whale

John's session was such fun! He began with a history of the Olympics, and a personal story of his first (and last) shirtless Marathon, and a journey through Ancient Greece.



We shared John's younger years living and working in Greece including as a deckhand in and around Corfu, and finished in today's Greece – great food, great wine, great memories. Oh, and dancing with Zorba!



MYSTERY HISTORY

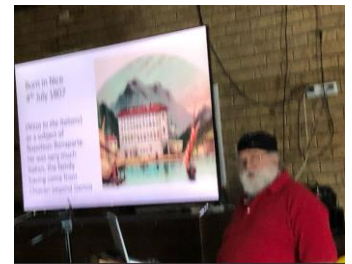
10 Aug – Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807-1882)

Rod Farr



Rod introduced us to Giuseppe Garibaldi - an Italian General, revolutionary, and republican famous for the very influential role he played in Italian unification and the creation of the kingdom of Italy.

Garibaldi was inspired by the ideas of liberal republicanism and social reforms proposed by Italian revolutionary and political activist Giuseppe Mazzini. Garibaldi joined the Young Italy movement of Mazzini, vowing to unify Italy by breaking it free from the influence of Austria. From 1836 up until his death, he fought passionately for Italian nationalism, freedom, women's rights, workers' rights, and other social reforms.



The Italian nationalist is famous for having influenced the likes of Abraham Lincoln, Che Guevara, Alexandre Dumas, William Brown, Charles Dickens, and Friedrich Engels. To many historians, he is one of the greatest Generals of the modern era.

17 Aug – Medusa

Annie Stephenson

The 4th Mystery History presentation was given by Annie Stephenson who focused on the fantastic realm of Greek Mythology where non-existent monsters, created entirely by human imagination, challenged the lives of every Ancient Greek citizen and their mortal souls. The 3 main subjects of Annie's fascinating talk were Poseidon, God of the Seas and a strange group of scary monsters called Gorgons and in particular a no-nonsense lady called Medusa, whose hair style would have shocked any would be male admirer since it was a seething nest of wriggling snakes. You wouldn't want to seduce her.



What the audience found amazing was that not only did the Romans adopted these phantasmagorical monsters but other civilizations across the world also had identical or similar mythological creations, such as in Egypt, Indonesia and even the Aztec's Empire in faraway Central America. Annie concluded her presentation with the observation that in the modern era, it was not unusual for certain deranged male individuals to compare Medusa to their current female leaders, such as Margret Thatcher the Iron Lady and Germany's Angela Merkel.

A word (or maybe many!) from the Marketing Department

We have produced a brochure extolling the benefits and virtues of your U3A at Albury Wodonga. Your marketing committee has been hard at work contacting various organisations and distributing the brochures to Men's and Women's Sheds, Retirement Villages, Local Government Councils and Libraries around the area in the hope of attracting new members. It is also hoped the various organisations will share our monthly Newsletter.

There has been very positive feedback and brochures have been left for residents/members to browse.

We are aware there are a great many community organisations in our border region of which many of you are members. It would be a great boost, if you are member of one or more of these organisations, if you could take some brochures for distribution. The brochures are available from the office.

Remember also, we would welcome more tutors be they for a single session, a term, or a year. If you know of someone in your community or community organisation please let our Course Co-ordinator, Ludger Pille, know.

Anthony White
for the Marketing Committee

