



newsletter

march 2013



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for your diary

- march 27th
annual general meeting
Arrive at 1.00 for start at 1.30
- april 15th
term 2 classes commence
- april 26th at 7pm
Yehudi Menuhin Evening
St Margartet's Hall Eltham

Nillumbik Community Group of the Year Award



Past President Doug Rutherford (centre) with Hon. Secretary Laraine Hussey & Vice President Stuart Winstanley at the Australia Day Award Ceremony

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Without doubt one of the most enjoyable and rewarding events I have ever attended was Council's Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony held at Eltham Community and Reception Centre

Community Group of the Year was awarded to **Nillumbik U3A** (University of the Third Age). This progressive group has campuses in Eltham and Hurstbridge providing life-long learning and social networking to retired and semi-retired residents of Nillumbik and beyond.

Without the contribution of these great people and groups our community wouldn't be as vibrant and successful as it is. We have a lot to thank them for – well done!

Cr. Peter Perkins
Mayor, Nillumbik Shire Council
Diamond Valley Leader January 2013

NOTICE OF NILLUMBIK U3A INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Nillumbik U3A Inc. will be holding the 2013 Annual General Meeting at 1.30pm to 3.00pm on **Wednesday 27 March 2013** at the Hurstbridge Community Centre, 50 Graysharps Rd, Hurstbridge. (Melway 185 H9)
Arrive at 1.00pm for 1.30pm prompt start

Guest Speaker:
Councillor. Peter Perkins
Mayor, Nillumbik Shire Council

Theatre Night = Good Fun and a Good Result

Thanks to those members who attended our 2012 break up night at the Eltham Little Theatre. Commission on ticket sales and a generous donation from the Theatre, helped us to raise almost \$500, a valuable contribution to improving our communications.



Campus Administration

Every week the U3A offices receive dozens of emails and telephone calls from our members and people wanting to know more about our activities or wishing to join. We also deal with correspondence from the U3A Network Victorian and other U3As in our region. In fact we have been a bit overrun responding to all the communications as well as doing things like getting badges made and getting them to your classes for collection.

Meet some the people who keep the administrative wheels of the U3A turning.

In the Hurstbridge office Laraine and Bonita deal with much of the email and phone calls, while Eve and Robert handle course queries, invoices and payments and the post office box.

In the Eltham office at the Old Courthouse Anne and Jose do the first shift of the week on Monday while Lita and Maree staff the office on Thursday.

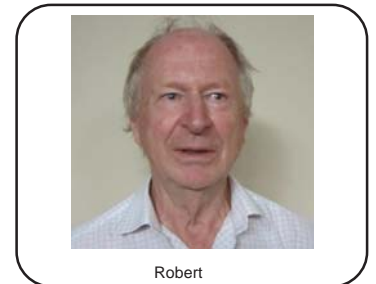
Pop in and see them if you need any information.
Office Hours at Eltham are Monday & Thursday 10-12.00pm



Lita & Maree



Laraine



Robert

From the President

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2013 and warm congratulations to all those who contributed to Nillumbik U3A's recognition as **Nillumbik Community Group of the Year** at the Shire's recent Australia Day Awards. It was pleasing that Past President Doug Rutherford was able to be present at the ceremony to accept the Award on behalf of all our members. The Award is currently on display at the Old Eltham Court House and we will ensure that it is seen at both campuses for it recognises a substantial combined achievement.



I would like to take this opportunity to extend an extra special welcome to new members. You join a growing number of members of our community taking the U3A challenge to "*Live, Learn and Enjoy*", our U3A Network Victoria slogan which emphasises the importance of sharing mental and physical activities in retirement. It is a concept from which we all benefit and an ethos to which we can all contribute.

During the past nine months our membership has more than doubled to well over 200 offering over 30 classes at our two campuses which provide a broad base of interesting pursuits both academic and recreational. We have suffered some growing pains and we have not always proved perfect but this is to be expected in an organisation which relies entirely on volunteers. Progress may sometimes appear slow but when you consider that the Eltham campus is only a little over six months old there has undoubtedly been progress.

In a couple of weeks our Annual General Meeting will be held at the Hurstbridge Community Centre. I hope that many of you will be able to attend on Wednesday March 27. All offices and positions are open to nomination and election. Some of you may be prepared to nominate for the Committee of Management and we welcome this. We are equally anxious to hear from those who have time to spare to help with the wide range of tasks, thrown up by an organisation with some great creative thinkers and ideas people. Please have a glance at the article on volunteering in this newsletter and think what you can contribute.

Thank you for your support.
Stuart Winstanley, President

Situations Vacant

Fundraising

Your U3A can use your assistance in keeping abreast of what opportunities arise from government and business that we can participate in.

Communications

Opportunities exist for volunteers with skills in **desktop publishing, authoring and editing articles** to help produce the quarterly newsletter, brochures and other communications of your U3A.

Administration

There are emails to respond to, documents to manage, telephone messages to deal with, notice boards to keep current, and more among the day to day operation of a growing U3A. If Administration is where you can make your contribution we will find the work.

Publicity

Talking to your friends about your U3A, helping us to staff information booths and distributing brochures to interested people.

Class co-ordinators

help the tutor to set up the classroom if that is needed, take a roll call and fill in the attendance sheet, clean up the white board at the end of class and turn off lights and lock up at the last class of the day.

Volunteering

The U3A model all over the world relies on volunteers prepared to share their interests and experience with other members. But not just in the sharing of knowledge. U3As worldwide engage their members as volunteers to fulfill all of the administrative and operational tasks needed to keep the organisation operating effectively.

There is no mysterious force to get things done. The only reliable power is member power.

This practice keeps the annual subscription to a minimum and utilises the rich variety of skills and resources offered by its members.

Opportunities knock: here are just a few ways you may be able to help

Fundraising – We are able to keep our membership costs low by raising funds to support our operations. We have to apply for Local, State & Federal government funding as well as seeking support from commercial sponsorship where practical. Events like Eltham Little Theatre night also help to raise funds. We need volunteers to ensure that we identify funding opportunities, complete quality submissions on time and in the form required, and deliver whatever has been promised to sponsors. We also need volunteers prepared to initiate and work on fundraising activities.

Communications – Communicating effectively with members, prospective members, partner organisations, sponsors and the U3A Network represents a big ongoing challenge. If you can write, edit or have layout or graphic skills, we need your help with newsletters, press releases, brochures, speech writing and other communications.

Administration– Our offices in Hurstbridge and Eltham are currently open on selected days of the week for a couple of hours per day. As we grow it will be important to increase the availability of an open office where you can make contact in person or by telephone to get answers to your queries. As things get even busier around enrolment time so there are opportunities for additional support at these times to join the pool of administrative staff.

Publicity – While we keep trying to get stories in the local paper, the best publicity we can gain is for each one of us to talk enthusiastically to our friends and encourage them to join. There are of course other avenues which we will use from time to time like public events such as the recent Eltham Festival where we staffed an information booth, or the brochures we produce and need to put into the hands of interested people.

Class Coordinators - Your tutors and class leaders have plenty on their hands to prepare and deliver class content each week. If one or more students in each class take on a class coordinator role to ensure the classroom and equipment are ready to use, take a roll call and complete the attendance record, clean up and switch off power and lights and lock up after the last session of the day, this would be really helpful.

Volunteering

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Volunteering

Meet a Tutor

Mmeet April Edwards; tutor of Tai Chi and the Last Tuesday Book Club, and participant in the Creative Writing group.

April's childhood was spent on a Soldier Settlement farm at The Sisters in the Western District. She attended the local rural school then High School in Terang. Initial teacher training was at Geelong Teachers College before her first posting at Mepunga East rural school. After her marriage to Geoff, she taught at Lake Bolac. She still has 'fond' memories of the freezing winter and scorching summer winds.

In 1972 the family, including Jodi and Marcus, moved to Melbourne and were attracted to Eltham with its trees, wildlife and undulating landscape. Here they built their first home, a Knox 'muddie' in Eltham North. They've continued to live in Eltham except for a sojourn to Prahran between 2007 and 2009.

April's interests are long standing with a 42 year adherence to vegetarianism and a lifestyle built around the natural environment, conservation and sustainability. After first trying Yoga, she began practising Tai Chi 35 years ago.

April returned to teaching in 1976 and taught at Yarrambat, Yallambie, Eltham East, Montmorency South and Ivanhoe East. In the latter years she undertook further training as a teacher librarian. Her interest in books led her to start a local book group 14 years ago that still continues today.

Since retirement in 2000, April's studied Chinese Medicine Massage and completed a Writing Course from the Queensland Writing School. She enjoys writing competitions and has had two stories published. After extensively exploring Australia, a love of travel has seen April trekking in Nepal and Tibet, experiencing Italy, Paris, Barcelona and the UK where son Marcus and two of 3 grandchildren reside. At home April's busy helping Geoff renovate, tending a native garden and vegetable plot, and lamenting the dry summer. April joined Nillumbik U3A with the formation of the Eltham Campus in 2012 and the success of both her courses is testament to her expertise and enthusiasm. We are very pleased that this very busy person has found time to make such a valuable contribution to our U3A.

Thank you April



Attention Music Lovers

A great opportunity to hear Yehudi Menuhin's assistant for 20 years, Philip Bailey, speaking about the great violinist and his Melbourne connections, and playing some of his music. People who have heard the talk highly recommend it, so come along and join us for an entertaining evening.

Date 26th April
Time 7pm.
Place St Margarets Hall, Pitt St, Eltham
Cost gold coin donation to cover hall hire

EVERYONE WELCOME

Classes at Hurstbridge

Classes at Hurstbridge have been very well attended in Term 1. Thank you to all our tutors for their hard work and enthusiasm, and many thanks to members who have been willing to step in and take a class at short notice. We look forward to a stimulating Term two.

From Term 2, due to building changes at the Community Centre, Hurstbridge classes will also operate in Allwood House, The Bowling Club and Bridges Restaurant. These have been indicated in the programme except for Spanish which is yet to be finalised.

*Eve Scopes, Course Co-ordinator Hurstbridge.
9718 2459.*

mailbox

This month an email arrived in our inbox from a member with a suggestion for small program sessions along with plenty of examples (a few shown here)

We think the idea could lead to a series of monthly talks combined with some socialising to follow.

Good idea Graeme..

Not everybody has a body of knowledge sufficient to justify a multi-week program or even a two hour program. Yet, I imagine, a number of people may have an interest or a hobby or specialised knowledge which, for those interested broadly in those areas, might interest members to come along to a grouping of those subjects in one two hour session run either by one person or by a few people, each having their own time span. For example — someone could offer a quarter of an hour on:-

*breeding earthworms,
growing indoor herbs
elementary preparation for coping with a bushfire,
organisation of household paperwork,
a brief insight into some the many typologies
making soap
visiting the sick
dealing with elderly relatives*

Graeme Sweeney

New Classes

The Hellenistic Era: theatre, literature, life and philosophy

Dr Lyn Hatherly will lead this class which could run for two or more terms

Course Outline

During this course we'll examine and read some of the comedies staged in the third century BC in ancient Greece, also some of the literature including some of the short poems or epigrams composed by women and men. We'll also look at trends in philosophy such as Epicureanism and Stoicism.

Entry criterion

An interest in the ancient world.

1688 : The First Modern Revolution

Walter Phillips will lead this 4 week duration class which will commence on 6th May and conclude on the 27th of June.

The so-called 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688 was for some time regarded as one of the great landmarks in English constitutional history, particularly as interpreted by Edmund Burke and Lord Macaulay in his *History of England* (1848-55). It was called glorious because it was allegedly bloodless and conservative, demonstrating the good commonsense of the English people, in contrast to the French Revolution of 1789. The centenary of the 'Glorious Revolution' in 1788 was celebrated with great enthusiasm, but there was a diminished celebration of the bicentenary and the tercentenary in 1989 was virtually ignored. In 2009, however, Steve Pincus, Professor of History at Yale, published a challenging reinterpretation of the 'Glorious Revolution in 1688: *The First Modern Revolution*. He argues it was not bloodless, and not a simple Protestant-Catholic conflict, but popular, divisive and violent, and a 'protracted argument, rather than a speedy palace coup against an inept king, that transformed England, then Britain into a great European and imperial power'. This course will consider Pincus's arguments in support of the revisionist interpretation of the 'Glorious Revolution'

The Nazi Olympics of 1936

Course leader Bill Murray will present this classic case of sport and politics mixing in international affairs with video and discussion. (3 week class)

The Winter Games at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, the Summer Games in Berlin, were a triumph for Hitler: he emerged from them as probably the most popular leader of any country in the world. To Hitler they showed that he had little to fear from the democracies in regard to his vile domestic politics and opened the way for the onslaughts against his neighbours.

You do not need to love or know sport for this discussion, presented here not only as the classic case of sport and politics mixing as they always do in international affairs, but an insight into the Third Reich and its remarkable success in the 1930s

New Classes

The History of Western Civilisation.

In Term 1 we experimented with a couple of subjects from "The Great Courses" series. This one starts with the period 1350-1500, continues with The Old and the New World, the Protestant Reformation, religious wars, English Constitutionalism, the French Revolution, Napoleonic Empires, and goes right up to 2000. We play a DVD of an expert lecturer for half an hour and devote the rest of the session to discussion. Input from the class is very welcome.



Enrolment in classes for term 2

You can enrol in classes for term 2 commencing on 15 April in a number of ways:

- If you are already in a class in term 1 and you want to continue in term 2 just let your class leader know.
- drop into the office (see office hours) and fill in the enrolment form
- come along the Annual General Meeting on 27 March and fill in an enrolment form
- download the enrolment form from the website and mail or email us the completed form

Please note: some classes are full and you may wish to be put on a waiting list if a position becomes available. Other classes may fill quickly, so places are allocated on a "first come, first served" basis.

Email to : u3a.nillumbik@gmail.com

Mail to : PO BOX 322, Hurstbridge VIC 3099

Could hardly be any simpler really.

Member Badges

We are in the process of producing the badges now. They will be become available successively in the coming week. Call into the office at Eltham on Monday or Thursday to see if we have yours ready or wait until they are handed to the class leaders / tutors to distribute.

If you have a lanyard and card pocket from last year please retain this and put the new member badge into the pocket after filling in the emergency contact details on the rear.

It is important that you wear your member badge to class as it identifies you to other members who may not always recall everyone's name, and it means your U3A is complying with conditions set out on our room leases and insurance contracts.

How to Join Nillumbik U3A

Three easy ways

- Drop into the office, fill out a membership form and pay the membership fee.
- Go on-line to our website, download the membership form and mail it with your payment to our mailing address (above).
- Come along to an enrolment day event and join right there.

Enrolment information for term 2, 2013

Full course outlines can be viewed on the website or at the offices of the Hurstbridge and Eltham campuses.

Codes for venues:

OEC: Old Eltham Courthouse.

NCHC: Nillumbik Community Health Centre.

ETC: Eltham Tennis Club.

HBC: Hurstbridge Bowling Club.

Allwood: Allwood House.

Bridges: Bridges Nursery.

| <u>DAY/TIME</u> | <u>CLASS</u> | <u>VENUE</u> | <u>TUTOR</u> |
|---|---|--|---------------------------------|
| <u>Monday.</u> | | | |
| 9.30am dates to be announced. | Local Walking Group | Various | Rob Gardner |
| 9.45-11.15am. | Computer Workshop. Class Full. | Old Eltham Courthouse (OEC) | Rob Rankin |
| 11.30-1.00pm | The Hellenistic Era. | OEC | Lyn Hatherley |
| 1.30-2.30pm | Tai Chi Class Full. | Eltham Tennis Centre ETC | April Edwards |
| 1.30-3.00pm | Recorder Group | Allwood House | Group Moderated |
| 2.30-4.00pm | French Class Full. | OEC | Bill Naim |
| <u>Tuesday</u> | | | |
| 9.30-11.00am | History of Western Civilisation | Bridges | Bob Stubbings |
| 9.45-11.00am | Mind Games and Brain Gym | Hurstbridge Bowling Club (HBC) | Group Moderated |
| 10.00-11.30am | Everyday science and Mathematics for everyone | Nillumbik Community Health Centre (NCHC) | Andrew Leopold. |
| 10.00-11.30am | Meditation. Class Full. | TBA | Beverley Milne. |
| 10.00-11.30am | 1936 Nazi Olympics 3 week class | OEC | Bill Murray |
| 11.00-12.30pm | How the Earth Works | Bridges | Robert Scopes and John O'Connor |
| 11.00-12.30pm. | Japanese Language and Culture. | Private Residence. | Rob Rankin. |
| 2.00-3.30pm | Mahjong. | OEC | Giselle Buller |
| 2.30-4.00pm Last Tuesday of each month | Last Tuesday Book Club. Class Full | Eltham Library | April Edwards |

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| <u>Wednesday</u> | | | |
|---|---|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 10.00-11.30pm | Ch'i Kung Class Full. | ETC | Beverley Milne |
| 10.00-12noon | Contract Bridge | HBC | Howard Kinns |
| 1.00-2.30pm | Italian Class Full. | OEC | Lou Empson |
| 1.30-3.30pm | Art Class Full | Allwood House | Valerie Osborne |
| 2.30-4.00pm | Choir | OEC | Bill Naim |
| <u>Thursday</u> | | | |
| 9.00-10.30am | French | Bridges | Various |
| 10.00-11.30am | Genealogy | OEC | Jane Davies |
| 10.00-11.30am | 1688: The First Modern Revolution. 4 Week Class | NCHC | Walter Phillips. |
| 11.00-12.30pm | Music Tutti | Bridges | Various |
| 11.30-1.00pm | Life Writing | OEC | John Stuyfbergen |
| 1.00 - 2.30pm | Latin | OEC | John Stuyfbergen |
| 1.00-2.30pm | Current Affairs | Bridges | Group Moderated |
| 3.00-4.30pm | Literature | Allwood House | Dianne Turner |
| 3.00-4.30pm | Bridge for beginners. | Private Residence | Lou Empson |
| <u>Friday.</u> | | | |
| 9.00-10.30am | Creative Writing | Private Residence | Gillian Essex |
| 1.00-2.30pm | Craft | HBC | Betty Clark and Helen Gillies |
| *** Spanish has yet to find a new home and time. Consultation with class members. | | | |