



NILLUMBIK
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



newsletter summer 2013-14

wishing all our members peace and joy in the festive season



in this issue

- enrolment for term one 2014
- meet a tutor
- from the president
- news and views
- new classes
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for your diary

11 Dec	membership renewal and enrolment for term 1 2014
03 Feb	classes commence term 1
10 Mar	labour day holiday - no classes
02 Apr	enrolment for term 2
04 Apr	term 1 concludes
18 Apr	easter break to 21 Apr
22 Apr	classes commence term 2

our office

The Old Eltham Courthouse

Cnr Main Rd & Brougham Street
10.00-Noon on Mondays & Thursdays

Telephone : 0468 300 764

membership renewal and enrolment for 2014

Existing members & prospective members are invited to register for 2014.

Annual Membership Fee for 2014 \$40
\$20 if you are a full member of another U3A

The one yearly fee allows you to choose as many courses as you like as long as there are vacancies.

Enrolment Day

Wednesday 11th of December

From 11am to 2pm at

Diamond Creek Community Centre

28 Main St, Diamond Creek

talk with course / activity leaders and
join us for tea & coffee from 11am to 2pm

If you are already enrolled in a class that is continuing in 2014 please advise the class leader and indicate on the attendance sheet that you will be continuing in your class before 11 December, 2013.

Regular Office Hours during term times are:

Monday and Thursday 10.00am to 12noon .

The office is open to: - register new members, - enrol members in classes - make fee payments - help with general enquiries - provide course information, - collection of name tags and lanyards (replacement lanyards are available at a cost of \$3.00).



meet a tutor

Meet Jane Davies, class leader in Genealogy. Jane was born in England and came to Australia as a child in the 1960s. After graduating from La Trobe University with majors in English and History she moved into the teaching service, first at Watsonia Tech and then Gladstone Park Secondary College. Luckily for us the attraction of Nillumbik's leafy hills brought Jane to Eltham in the early '80s.

Jane's interest in genealogy started on her first visit back to England in the late 70s. The emigration experience, while opening up a whole range of opportunities, does mean leaving family behind and moving to a completely unfamiliar environment.

Talking to her grandparents about their lives revealed one grandfather who had fought in the Battle of Jutland, another who had worked in London clearing the rubble left by German bombings during World War II as well as the sad stories of four great uncles who perished in World War I.

Trips to local churchyards revealed more information on gravestones and an ongoing interest in family history developed. "You really don't understand the value of family and the wealth of fascinating experiences members of your families have had until you no longer have them in your lives. Their stories really should be recorded." Teaching didn't leave much time for family history research as Jane taught exclusively VCE classes, co-ordinated the English faculty and also worked for the Curriculum and Assessment Board overseeing the assessment of VCE coursework in 13 local schools. When Jane retired from teaching in 2008, she went back to university studying archaeology. Since then she's had much more time for family history, has taken on the running of a research group into North West Midlands family history at the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies in Blackburn and volunteers at the Australian Institute of Archaeology based at La Trobe University. At the Nillumbik U3A, Jane offers a beginners course in genealogy and in 2014 will be also offering a 'problem solving' genealogy class for people who have hit 'brick walls' in their research or who want to find more detail on the members of their family tree. "Genealogy is not a list of names and dates – it's finding the stories behind our ancestors' lives and that is a mixture of detective work and has to be the ultimate soap opera."



Thank you Jane

from the president

We are almost at the end of another year, and what a great year it has been for our U3A! This year in addition to our core offerings of around 25 classes and activities we have introduced some really interesting new courses: a blend of short and full term classes, some one-off and some that will continue in the future. We have conducted over 30 courses and activities per week for you select from. A huge thank you all our very talented course leaders and activity organisers who continue to make this possible.



The enrolment day on December 11 has been moved to Diamond Creek Community Centre which is located in Main St. near the railway crossing. This venue has more convenient parking and access than the Eltham Courthouse which we have used in the past. It is also more convenient to both ends of the Nillumbik membership base. We are hoping to see all of you during enrolment day on Wednesday 11th December. Come and join us for a cuppa while you choose your classes.

Our first term starts in the week of Feb 3rd 2014. The Australia Day holiday is on Monday the 27th of January this year and school term for the students resumes on Wednesday 29th January. I hope you all have an enjoyable time over the Festive Season and look forward to catching up again in 2014.

Live, Learn, Enjoy

Stuart Winstanley



in appreciation of our volunteers



Seniors Summit, November

As our year draws to a close there are many members to acknowledge who have worked hard to make the Nillumbik U3A such a success.

On the top of the list are, of course, **our tutors**; You will find all their names on our timetables. This generous group of people contribute so freely of their time and expertise to provide the interesting and informative courses and activities that we enjoy so much. We can't praise them enough.

At both ends of our membership region supporting our tutors are **our course co-ordinators** (indeed the current co-ordinators are tutors as well !). At Hurstbridge Eve Scopes with assistance from Russ Hawking have been overseeing the timetable for 2013. Tony Collins has offered to step into that role in 2014. At Eltham Lyn Hatherly and Brian Ellis have been arranging tutors and organising the class timetables.

Our office administrators put in many hours every week to ensure the smooth running of the U3A. Answering 'phone messages, responding to your emails, distributing the incoming correspondence, answering queries, taking the enrolments and new memberships are among the many jobs that Lita Lee, Val Harrop, Jose Read, Maree Papworth and Cheryl Winstanley have been performing. Robert Scopes has been quietly running things at the other end of the shire. Lou Empson has been co-ordinating and finding venue from which we can keep our classes running. All of this work is overseen by committee member Brian McLean. Great technical support and development of the U3A membership system has been provided by our talented Tony Lee. Tony, an accomplished saxophonist, also provided music for the Seniors Summit. Thank you all for your outstanding contributions.

Our Committee of Management has been terrific in supporting and furthering the goals of our U3A. This year we have been tasked with bringing our constitution into line with the Victorian Government rules on not-for profit organisations in addition to the day to day running of the U3A. Thanks to the committee members, Brian McLean (VP), Cathy Guinness (Secretary), Ian Richardson (Treasurer & constitution), Lyn Hatherly (Assistant Sec & course co-ordinator), Brian Ellis (course co-ordinator), John Stuyfbergen (Fundraising), Bill Naim (Fundraising), Lou Empson (Venues & constitution), Barry Carlon (Network rep), Rob Rankin (Web Master), Russ Hawkin (course co-ordinator). Carol Burgoyne and Ann Jesty retired from the committee during the year. Thanks to all on the Committee of Management for your guidance of our U3A.

But in addition to all the above **there is a long list of members who have volunteered their time to work at the events we have run this year.** Starting with our Annual General Meeting, and concluding with the 2014 membership renewal and enrolment. In between we conducted a concert at Hurstbridge mid-year which seemed to involve all our members in the talent line-up and was organised by Eve Scopes. Later a very successful "Seniors Summit" with the Shire Council was organised by a committee led by Bill Naim, and included Mal Harrop, John Stuyfbergen, Jenny and Phillip Lock, Vimala Recourt and Rob Rankin. Our publicity events this year included participating in the Rotary Eltham Town Festival which was supported by members handing out brochures and answering queries about what we do. And there have been many more occasions when our members responded to calls for help at enrolment days, and so on. So thanks to all of you have helped our U3A in the past year. We all appreciate your skills and efforts that you have contributed to making the U3A worthy of the "Nillumbik Shire Community Group of 2013" award that we received last Australia Day.

Thank you one and all

Stuart Winstanley, President



Bridges, Hurstbridge June



Eltham Town Festival November



Enrolment Bridges, June



Those of you who have attended a course, or had a meal at Bridges, will have noticed the art all round the restaurant. Every month an artist or group of artists puts up a display. We have negotiated for a display by Nillumbik U3A artists next year, from March 4th to April 14th. This is for amateur and professional artists; works can be for sale, and it is an excellent opportunity for occasional artists to display their talents.

Anyone who wishes to display their work should contact, Robert Scopes. There is enough space for about 80 works (depending on size) for wall hanging; space for other objects may need negotiation with the owner. We have put an initial limit of 5 on the number of works per artist. We will have an enrolment form available to register your interest in exhibiting.

So don't be shy. Lets see what talent we have amongst the older inhabitants of Nillumbik!

CONTACT: Robert Scopes at evenrob@bigpond.com or 9718 2459



Congratulations on the wonderful growth of Nillumbik U 3 A. The continuing expansion of members and the high standard of classes offered. Also the funding grants you have attracted. Please extend my congratulations to all the very hard working committee they have a lot to be very proud of.

I have settled in well down here in Metung and love this very peaceful part of Victoria.

I have joined U3A in Bairnsdale and enjoying the classes offered there.

Keep up the good work and thanks for continuing to send me your news letters.

Cheers Ann Jesty

CONTACT US

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Telephone : 0468 300 764

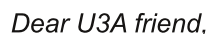
Mail : PO Box 852, Eltham VIC 3095

The Old Eltham Courthouse

Cnr Main Rd & Brougham Street

Office Hours during term times are:

Monday and Thursday 10.00am to 12noon



We invite you to step beyond the smoke and mirrors with a private guided tour of Arts Centre Melbourne and re-discover what lies beyond the walls of our theatres.

Gallery & State Theatre Tour

Tour duration: 45 Minutes

Price: Senior/Probus Clubs & Student Groups \$12

Finish with a glass of Australian sparkling wine and Arts

Centre Melbourne's Signature Series canapes \$10.

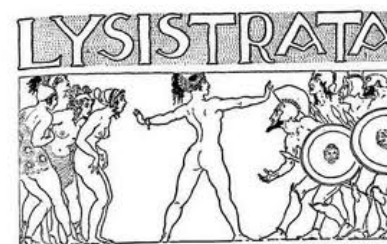
To book please call: 03 9281 8735

Arts Centre Melbourne



news and views

Playing 411BC in 2013



Last term the Monday group read and discussed a play by an ancient Greek comic playwright called Aristophanes. Behind the play is serious issue – the escalation of the Peloponnesian War – but it's also very funny and bawdy. In the play, the women of Athens are distressed by the effects of war and the fact that their husbands are always away fighting. So, led by a woman called Lysistrata, they decide to take action. Bringing together women from all over Greece, enemies and allies, they start a sex strike. Their men folk, who ache painfully with desire, plead with them to no avail. At last, with the use of clever and comic strategies, the women win and it is agreed within the fantasy of the play that the war will finally end.

At our last session for the term we decided to do our best to stage the play. That way we could get a better idea of how it worked. We didn't have the masks that would have identified the characters or many props but in the annex of the Old Courthouse we do have a sort of skene or stage set with 2 entrances. We moved the chairs and tables back, dressed up in sheets and towels and blew up long balloons for phalluses for the men. They were such good sports. My husband had bought these balloons but could only find some called 'willy worms' with cute faces on the ends. The acting was marvellous, and the performance provoked much laughter but perhaps the funniest bit was the look on the faces of the ladies from the office when they walked through and got an eyeful of us girls in our costumes and the men with their willy worms tied on with elastic.

In 2014 we'll be reading and discussing a more serious text: Homer's epic poem, *The Iliad*, the story of the heroes involved in the Trojan War in around 1100BC. We won't dress up for this one but I'm sure we'll manage to find some laughs and pleasure as well as yet more knowledge about the world of ancient Greece.

Lyn Hatherly

new classes for 2014

Discovering Homer's Iliad

During this course Dr. Lyn Hatherly will lead the class through reading and discussing the *Iliad*, an ancient Greek epic poem attributed to Homer. Set during the Trojan War, the ten-year siege of the city of Troy (Ilium) by a coalition of Greek states, it tells of the preparations, the battles and events that occurred. We'll discuss the way the poem is constructed – to be spoken and remembered – as well as the characters, mortal and immortal and later references to this poem in Greek tragedy.

Commences : Term 1 The course can run for two or more terms, 1.5 hour sessions once a week.

Charles Darwin on Evolution

In this course led by Guy Palmer, we will spend quite a lot of time discussing what Darwin said in [The Origin of Species](#) and its sequel, [The Descent of Man](#), and [Selection in Relation to Sex](#). But we will also mention his work on coral reefs, barnacles, earthworms, plants, etc. And we might even get onto his travel book (*The Voyage of the Beagle*) and his *Autobiography*.

We will also discuss where Darwin's theories now stand in the 21st Century: which parts remain central to modern thinking, which parts have been modified and extended, and which parts remain controversial.

Commences : Term 1



new classes for 2014

The Reign of Elizabeth I

In this course Class leader Judith Richards examines the less popular aspects of Elizabeth I's reign: her marginalisation by her father, brother and sister Mary. The fact that she was unpopular because of her religious beliefs and didn't marry adds layers to the history. This is an intriguing story of a powerful but rather lonely woman.

Timeframe: first 3 weeks of term 1.

A Day's Read – Short Fiction

Tutor: Lyn Jenkin

Each week we read one short story or novella (a day's read), think about it and bring our ideas to the group. We read quality texts, a mix of classic short texts along with newer materials by authors who package truths, mysteries, and surprises in differing and unpredictable ways.

For this course you must attain copy of the reading yourself. Make sure you provide contact details at enrolment, preferably email so that we can provide the proposed reading list as soon as possible as it can take a few weeks to obtain the texts.

GENEALOGY – 'PROBLEM SOLVING'

Having spent a lot of time tracking the footprints of your ancestors through history and building a picture of their lives, achievements, tribulations and progress, it can be incredibly frustrating to suddenly hit a 'brick wall' that brings your research to a grinding halt. Likewise, it can be incredibly disappointing to find that, no matter how hard you try, there are people in your ancestry who remain just names and a couple of dates.

Jane Davies is conducting this course is for people who have undertaken research into a family tree and are looking for ways to broaden their knowledge of the lives their ancestors led, explore lesser known records and work with others to break down those 'brick walls' in their research. Classes will focus on practical genealogy problem solving.

Commences : Term 1

GENEALOGY – BEGINNERS & OTHERS

Jane Davies says Genealogy is more than just collecting a dry list of names and dates associated with people who are long dead. It's an exploration of the people whose DNA you carry, the lives of the people in your family who came before you, made decisions that affected the course your life has taken and who often battled incredible odds to create the basis for the life you lead. It's a fascinating study of people, places, historical events, tragedy, achievement and how people dealt with life – or didn't - all of which is the ultimate soap opera.

This course is for those who have ever wondered what their family history is but who have no real idea where to start OR for those who have made a start and would like to learn more about what records are out there, how to access them, what they can tell you and how to build on the family sapling they already have. Classes will focus on the 'how to' of genealogy and family history.

Commences : Term 1

Enjoying Music.

This course led by Maree Krohn will have a little more emphasis on learning about musical structures.

What makes a piece of music work? What keys are developed? What about the texture? We will look at some basic theory, such as scales, keys and chords, and how key changes are used to bring colour and richness to a piece.

We will listen to classical music from different periods, as well as some popular music. Both CDs and the keyboard can be used to demonstrate some of these things. We also hope that some live music making can be included in our program.

Commences : Term1



new classes for 2014

Science by Great Southerners

Lawrence Bragg and Ernest Rutherford each made pivotal contributions to science in the 20th century, and each came from Australasia. Their sciences will be very briefly outlined. But more particularly, they both made fundamental contributions to the endings of the First and Second World Wars (respectively). Class leader John Jenkin will tell these two largely-unknown war stories. No previous knowledge of science will be assumed (but an interest will be helpful!).

Commences : term 1, 6 sessions



Energy for the Future

Renewable Energy

In weeks 1 through 5 of "Energy for the Future" Rob Gardner will examine ways energy can be generated using renewable resources such as solar, wind, and tides.

The nuclear industry: past present and future

In weeks 6 to 9 Robert Scopes will start with a brief introduction to the chemical elements, isotopes, radioactivity and the basics of nuclear physics. Then we will describe the development of "the bomb" and the subsequent development of nuclear power. This leads to the current situation regarding nuclear power and its likely development into the future. Including of course the politics, economics and environmental issues around the subject, and what went wrong at Chernobyl and Fukushima.

Commences : Term 1

Are we being Served?

Class leader John Cohen asks "Are We Being Served?" and looks at how we are being governed, our judicial system, how political crises have been managed (including the 1975 crisis) and the monarchy /republican issue. Participants should be prepared to enter lively class discussions.

Topics include:

- What criteria describes democracy and democratic government?
- local government – functions & limitations, elections of Councillors, specific problems ;
- State Governments – specific functions; state/ federal conflicts; possible changes to structure;
- Australian Federal Constitution – specific clauses & their enforcement; referenda & the reserve powers of the Governor-General; the 1975 crisis.
- Federal Government: its responsibilities; changes in interpretations since 1901;
- Our Judicial System:- The special role of the High Court – changes in judicial interpretations.
- The monarchy/ republican issue – what is present position?

Commences : Term 1

Nillumbik U3A TERM DATES 2014

Term 1 Commences Monday 3 February through to Friday 4 April

Term 2 Commences **Tuesday** 22 April* through to Friday 27 June

Term 3 Commences Monday 14 July through to Friday 19 September

Term 4 Commences Monday 6 October

*Note that Monday 21 April is Easter Monday Holiday

timetable for term one

*New in 2014

Day/Time	Class/Activity	Venue	Tutor
MONDAY			
9.45-11.15am	Computer workshop	Old Eltham Courthouse	Rob Rankin
9.30am (1.5 – 2 hrs)	Local Walking Group	Various locn.	Rob Gardner Karen Coulston
11.30-1.00pm	Discovering Homer's Iliad	Old Eltham Courthouse	Lyn Hatherly
1.30-3.00pm	Recorder Group (intermediate)	Allwood House	Diane Turner
2.30-4.00pm	Intermediate French	Old Eltham Courthouse	Bill Naim
4.00-5.30pm	ABC of Jazz	Old Eltham Courthouse	Mal Harrop and John Crichton
TUESDAY			
9.30-11.00am	History of Western Civilisation : 1700 - Present	Bridges	Bob Stubbings
9.45am-11.00am	Mind Games and Brain Gym	Bridges	Group moderated
10.00-11.30am	Meditation	Nillumbik Community Health Centre	Beverley Milne
10.00-11.30am	Charles Darwin on Evolution	Old Eltham Courthouse	Guy Palmer
11.00-12.30pm	Spanish for fun	Bridges	Vincent Schultz
11.00-12.30pm weeks 1-5	Energy for the Future: 1. Renewables	Bridges	Rob Gardner
11.00-12.30pm weeks 6-9	Energy for the Future: 2. The Nuclear Industry	Bridges	Robert Scopes
11.30am-1.00pm first 3 weeks	The Reign of Elizabeth I	Old Eltham Courthouse	Judith Richards
2.00-3.30pm	Japanese language and Culture	Private residence	Rob Rankin
2.00-3.30pm	Describing and explaining our world	Nillumbik Community Health Centre	Andrew Leopold
2.00 – 3.30 pm	Mahjong	Old Eltham Courthouse	Giselle Butler
2.30-4.00pm Last Tuesday in the month	Last Tuesday Book Club	Eltham Library	April Edwards
3.30-5pm	Genealogy – Problem Solving	Old Eltham Courthouse	Jane Davies

Members please note:

If you already attending a class that is continuing please advise your class leader if you be continuing or not continuing so that your place may be filled by another member.

timetable for term one

***New in 2014**

Day/Time	Class/Activity	Venue	Tutor
WEDNESDAY			
10.00-12.00pm	Contract Bridge	Hurst. Bowling Club	Howard Kinns
10.00-11.30am 6 weeks	Science by great Southerners	Old Eltham Courthouse	John Jenkin
12.00-1.30pm	Ch'i Kung	Metzner Hall at Melbourne City Mission	Beverley Milne
1.00-2.30pm	Intermediate Italian	Old Eltham Courthouse	Lou Empson
1.30-3.30pm	Art	Allwood House	Valerie Osborne
THURSDAY			
9.00- 10.30am	Intermediate French conversation	Bridges	Eve Scopes
10.00-11.30am	Genealogy Beginners and Others	Old Eltham Courthouse	Jane Davies
10.45-12.15pm	Music Tutti / Enjoying music	Bridges	Maree Krohn
11.30-1.00pm	Life Writing	Old Eltham Courthouse	John Stuyfbergen
1.00-2.30pm	Latin	Old Eltham Courthouse	John Stuyfbergen
1.15- 2.45pm	Current Affairs	Bridges	Brian McLean
2.30-4.00pm	Art is fun	Old Eltham Courthouse	Serena Sweeney Sue Begg
2.30-4.00pm	Are we being served?	Nillumbik Community Health Centre	John Cohen
3.00-4.30pm	Bridge for Beginners	Private Residence	Lou Empson
3.00-4.30pm	A Day's Read :Short Fiction	Allwood House	Lyn Jenkin
FRIDAY			
9.00-10.30am	Creative Writing	Priv Residence	Gillian Essex
1.00-2.30pm	Craft	Hurst. Bowling Club	Betty Clark Helen Gillies

March 4 - April 14, 2014 Nillumbik U3A Artists Exhibition, Bridges Restaurant
Hurstbridge Course Organiser : Tony Collins 9718 1746