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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We sincerely thank the office of Wendy Lovell for the printing of this newsletter.

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Our **Annual General Meeting** was attended by approximately seventy people. Our guest speaker, Councillor Dinny Adem, the Mayor of Shepparton, spoke in general terms about the Shepparton Council and answered members questions.

The president's and treasurer's (Carole Trotter) annual reports were received, a committee of 10 was elected and the finance auditors were appointed.

The Committee members are as follows:

President: Greg Barnes, Vice President: Barbara Brown, Secretary: Madeline Dyer, Treasurer: Carole Trotter, Assistant Treasurer: Kerrie Midgely, Course coordinator: **Vacant**, Publicity Officer: Bridgette Brisbane, Hall Convener: John Hammond, Ordinary members: Glen Burdekin, Sue Walmsley, and Helen West.

To help you identify the committee members, a photograph of eight of them appears below.

Please approach a member of the committee if you have any suggestions or concerns.

Barbara Brown is filling in as **Course Co-ordinator** until June 2016 unless we can find a replacement.

On Wednesday April 13 from 4.00 to 5.00 pm David Muir, Derek Poulton and I will be running a training session at the hall on how to use the **overhead projector**. If you wish to make your course more entertaining come along and learn the hidden secrets of this machine.

There are three spare seats on the GVU3A bus **trip to Broken Hill**. If you wish to go, let Marie O'Hare, Anita Saville or Kevin Jordan know ASAP. Mobile phone numbers of all trippers are needed at the next social morning.

If you are at present receiving the **newsletter by post** and have internet connection please consider having it e mailed as it is easier, cheaper and quicker for the newsletter team.

**Lock your cars when at U3A**, someone was testing car door handles during the AGM.

There is a **lawn mowing roster** on the notice board near the kitchen. Please add your name to this list if you wish to help.

Jason Watts (**COGS Aged and Disability Service**) will attend the next Social morning and speak about services available to the elderly of Greater Shepparton.

Just a reminder that the **Positive Ageing Advisory Committee** of Council will be having their monthly meeting in the U3A Hall on April 8 at lunch time. If you have ideas relating to older people you can bring them to this committee at 1pm.

Greg Barnes

## 2016 COMMITTEE



Kerrie Midgely Sue Walmsley Madeline Dyer Greg Barnes  
Carole Trotter Bridget Brisbane Barbara Brown Helen West  
(Absent: Glen Burdekin John Hammond)

## Annual Report 2016

When I started my term as President I didn't think I would be saying right now that I enjoyed the job, but I have and I have learnt a lot while doing it. As far as I am concerned the year has gone quite smoothly. When looking at the courses available to us we have covered most of the interesting subjects that most U3As cover but one class that I feel is missing is a Current Affairs discussion group. I'm happy to report your Committee has been able to hold this organization together and we are not going broke. Some of the work the committee members have had to be involved in was a little tedious, such as adjusting policy to suit the modern world and updating the job roles for President, Secretary, etc. Yet some of the work has been quite exhilarating such as organising and acquiring the new Sound, DVD, TV, Data Projector system (thanks Carole for organising that) and the Digital Information Day (thanks Jan for being the mover and shaker for that event). I'm confident we're heading in the right direction and I wish to thank each committee member for their efforts over the past year.

The committee members are:

**Barbara Brown**, our Vice President who has given me much good advice, checked my writings and been an excellent backup when required.

**Candy Carter**, our Secretary has always been prompt in sending out the committee agendas and minutes and has done much work behind the scenes.

**Carole Trotter**, our fearless Treasurer. This is a tough job and she has been doing it now for eight years. Carole keeps tabs on who has and who hasn't paid their fees, money coming in and money going out and what grants are available to us. Carole not only balances our books and does lots of office work behind the scenes but also runs the U3A Art class.

**Jan Maude** was our Course Co-ordinator. Jan did a great job again last year handling the coordination of 37 courses. This was her fourth year in this position. Some U3As have many Course Co-ordinators but we had only one. Jan also took the French class and was the prime mover in organising the Digital Information Day held here for all U3As of the North East region. Jan is having a break from U3A.

**Bridgette Brisbane** is our Publicity and Information Officer. She was responsible for the U3A information being disseminated to new members. She organized the displays at the local library and at the well being expo Seniors Information Day. Bridgette is also course provider for the Writing for Pleasure group.

**John Hammond** was in charge of Hall Management: Who better to manage the hall than the past president. If he does not know what is going on then who does. It is handy having a Past President on the committee.

**Andrew Morom** is a committee member who has given some very sage advice. You can always rely on Andrew to take a very well thought out view.

**Allan Wilson** is also a committee member with vast amount of experience and a willing worker. Allan was also Course Leader for Science.

It is important to remember at this time the passing of **Noel Hinks** who was a committee member and trip treasurer.

While I am in thanking people I would like to thank **Jim Douglas** who heads off to Melbourne every three months to attend U3A network meetings. From these network meetings Jim provides the committee with the salient points from those meetings.

**Thurlie Pearce** who has been the Catering Officer, Thurlie bought and prepared food and refreshments for social mornings and other events and organized quality people to help her. This reminds me I did not see too many blokes working in the kitchen. Remember chaps, this is the brave new world.

I would like to thank the **Newsletter compilation and Newsletter mail out team** Derek Poulton, David Muir, Denise Leffler, Anne Blashki, Gail Jelliff, Carole Trotter, and Allan and Christine Wilson **2015 U3A trip organiser** Janiene Sandford who organised the trip to Tasmania **2016 U3A trip Committee** Marie O'Hare, Anita Saville and Kevin Jordan who are organizing the upcoming trip to Broken Hill.

**Geoff Thompson** for tending the U3A gardens.

**Course Leaders and Course Providers.** Allan Wilson ; Barbara Duncan ; Beris McKemmish ; Bill O'Hare ; Bridgette Brisbane ; Carole Trotter ; Christine Wilson ; Claire Blake ; David Muir ; Derek Poulton ; Diane Courtie ; Don Roberts ; Elva Ridden ; Gail Jelliff ; Ignazio Fantone ; Jan Maude, Jan Van den Ende, Janiene Sanford ; Jill Riordan ; John Dainton ; John Hammond ; John Hetherington ; John Lawry ; Joy Markey ; Marie O'Hare, Kiki Passenheim ; Lelia Amadei ; Lex Neville ; Lyn Davidson ; Margaret Clarke, Pam Wells, Pat Commons, Pat Crudden, Peg Newman, Sandra Gallace and Wendy Humphries. They are the very essence of GVU3A and provided interesting, informative, social and enjoyable classes.

There are 45 volunteers that I know of. Before I became President I had no idea how much time and expertise was donated to U3A and how much voluntary work was needed to run U3A so thank you all very much. The only person on the pay roll is the cleaner.

Other points to note in this report are:

#### **Membership:**

GVU3A remains strong and is maintaining member numbers with 370 members as of late last year. I would like to welcome new members and thank everyone who has already paid their 2016 fees.

Other events held last year were the:

**The Art and Craft Show** which returned last year after a year in recess. By all accounts it was successful. Thanks to Carole for being the chief organiser of that.

Other events that occurred during the year were the **Trivia Night and Melbourne Cup Day** thanks Gail Jeliff for being the prime mover for those and the **Christmas lunch at the GV pub**.

Our new website was launched earlier this year and has been well received especially in the last thirty days when people wanted to know course details. This site is continually updated.

The NBN was connected here last year and that should improve down load and up load speeds and prevent the internet from dropping out whilst giving classes.

Finally I would like to again thank the committee, course providers, other volunteers and members for your support in 2015 and I wish the very best to the incoming committee and members for 2016.

Greg Barnes

## **WRITING4PLEASURE**

Our first meeting was a great success and we heard some excellent stories, however we would like some new members. It doesn't matter if you haven't written before; this class will encourage you to get started and you will be surprised how easy it is once you take that first step.

Time: 3rd Thursday monthly, 1pm-3.30pm. Contacts:

Mary Heneghan 58316997 or

Bridgette Brisbane 582713.

## **BIRD WATCHING**

Our April 20 outing will be a joint outing with the Seymour U3A Bird Appreciation Group. In the morning a walk at the Australian Botanic Garden followed by lunch at Victoria Park Lake and then a further walk around the lake.

Please bring your lunch and a chair. Meet at the U3a Hall at 9 or at the Botanic Garden at 9.15.

Contact Don Roberts 58252404. M0448889224 or Marg Clarke M 0429350875.

## **EARTH SCIENCE**

There will be no Earth Science class on Friday April 15 due to the Broken Hill trip.

Classes will resume as normal Friday April 22 and 29 at 10.00 am.

On April 21 at 3:30pm at Notre Dame College, Nigel Liggins will be conducting his first lecture for the year,

For further information contact Vonn Russel 0358 242 927 or Chris Morom 0428 997 150

## GARDEN CLUB

### February Garden Club- Riverside Nursery Visit

Larry Smith gave an informative talk on the latest plant releases



### March Garden Club Outing

**24<sup>th</sup> March (Thursday before Good Friday)** Car pool. Meet at the U3A car park at 9.30am

I have been in contact with the owner of "Birchwood", a beautiful garden at Molyullah near Benalla. Julie Campbell is happy to show us around her garden which is opened for special occasions or celebrations such as weddings and birthdays. ([www.myopengarden.com.au/openGarden](http://www.myopengarden.com.au/openGarden)) or google *Birchwood near Benalla*. Julie is interested in collections of salvias. She may show us how to strike these if anyone is interested. \$8.00 entry donated to NE Health Benalla and NE Health Wangaratta. After Birchwood our group can visit the Benalla Gardens and Art Gallery. You might like to eat at the gallery or picnic near the rose garden.

**April** *Please note that I have not organised anything for April.* I will be away for 5 weeks but if someone would like to organise an outing please let everyone know on the day of the Birchwood visit and put a notice in the May newsletter.

**26<sup>th</sup> May (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month) Violet Town Garden**

Meet at the U3A car park at 9.45am. I have arranged a trip to Violet Town. Barb Ramage has kindly offered her garden. She has a collection of mosaics displayed in various parts of her garden. Barb has offered to contact a friend who also dabbles in the art of mosaics. Hopefully we will be able to visit her garden as well. Barb will put the urn on for us to have a cuppa but we will need to bring our own mug.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

Friday April 1: THERE WILL BE NO NATURAL RESOURCES MEETING

Friday April 8: 10am U3A hall

GUEST SPEAKERS; Neville Atkinson – Indigenous Natural Resource Management Facilitator – GBCMA

Gaye Sutherland – Indigenous Natural Resource Management Co-ordinator – Culture Heritage – GBCMA

SUBJECT: This talk will include the screening of a 10 minute documentary that has been filmed in the Dookie region with Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation. The focus of the documentary and the U3A presentation is to raise awareness of the importance of the Dookie Region to Yorta Yorta people due to the intrinsic values created by the unique geology and topographical features in this region, and how this extraordinary landscape and the abundant resources it contains has drawn people – and continues to draw people to this special place through time.

John Dainton 58213881

## SANDRA'S KEEPSAKES



On Tuesday April 19th members are invited to the hall at 9 a.m. to make a storage box which is pictured here for all to see. The project will be completed by 12 noon and costs \$30 to make. For the \$30 members will receive the wooden kit, 6 sheets of paper, some paint and collectables to finish off the project. Please ring Sandra on 58210231 by Tuesday April 12th if you would like to make the storage box. Sandra will order the kits. All you need to bring to the class is a cutting mat, a stanley knife and a glue stick. Sandra will guide people through the making of the project. If you have any questions please ring Sandra and she will answer them.



## ENJOYING LITERATURE

We continued our enjoyable reading of "The Summer of the Seventeenth Doll" at our last meeting on Feb 22nd. Unfortunately both of our March dates fall on public holidays so we are planning an additional session April 4th to complete our play reading and on April 11th the topic will be the poetry of Judith Wright.

As I will be away Helen Hinks will run the session on April 4th and Pam Wells the one on April 11th. If members wish we will have a session April 25th.

Reminder: Our meetings start at 2pm this year.

Helen West (58214802)

## WALK AND TALK

The April 13 meeting for the Walk and Talk group will be an all day, shared car trip to the Bright area, led by Ted Stephens and Bev Palma. We know some of our members will be on the U3A Broken Hill trip so it will be essential to contact Ted (**phone 5822 0424**) by April 6 if you intend to go to Bright, otherwise it might be cancelled. The main intention is to walk at the Eurobin Falls then have lunch in Bright. Meet at the U3A car park at **8am**. Bring your own morning tea (which will be at Myrtleford), and lunch for the day as well as suitable shoes and clothes for the weather of the day.

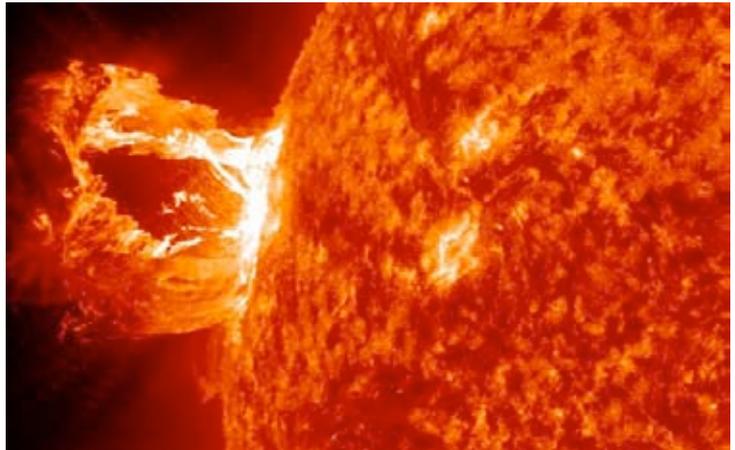
Our February photo from Marg Clarke shows 13 members who walked on the morning of a very hot day along the river in Mooroopna from Kaieltheban park, past Rumbalara to Ray's home. We thank him for his kind hospitality and historical information along the way.

Christine Wilson 5822 1474      Mob. 0428 399 648

## **BIG ISSUES FROM SCIENCE**

**Monday April 18 at 1.30 pm**

In April we will continue the Big History series with a look at the origins of the stars and the elements. There is upwards of 100 billion stars in our galaxy and 100 billion galaxies in the universe. We will learn how the stars first formed and how the subsequent life and death of stars led to the formation of the chemical elements. This is the next threshold that allowed the development of complex life on earth many millions of years later.



Allan Wilson 5822 1474

## **MAH JONG**

Mah Jong is a Chinese board game played with a set of 144 tiles based on Chinese characters. Mah Jong is played extensively in Asia and has a small following in Western countries.

Three or four people make up a table for a game and at present our weekly attendance ranges between 7 - 9 players.

We play each Tuesday commencing at 1.00 pm in the carpeted room of U3A. If you would like to learn the game or come and see what it is all about please join us, you will be made most welcome.

## **MONDAY LUNCH GROUP**

### **April dates:**

4th Lemon tree cafe.

11th Last Straw.

18th Terminus hotel

25th Sherbourne Hotel

Joy Markey p. Ph 58216387

## **EMAILING OF NEWSLETTER**

While the cost of printing the actual newsletter costs us nothing, thanks to Wendy Lovell's office, the cost of mailing is still a concern. This will become particularly more so with the predicted increase in postage due to take place. To help reduce costs, can all members who do have computer/internet access please ensure U3A have your email address. This will not only reduce costs (envelopes and their printing and stamps) but will also have the newsletter delivered to you immediately it is completed – unlike the proposed delayed delivery options also being proposed by the Post Office.

## **ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT FRIDAY MAY 27**

U3A is holding their annual trivia night on Friday May 27th in the Esson Street Hall. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the questions begin at 7-30 p.m. Members are invited to get a team together from one of the classes they attend. Please put your names on the sheet provided on the folding doors in the hall. Teams of 6 will compete for prizes on the night. There will be some fun activities between rounds of questions. The cost is \$10 per person payable on the night. Members are welcome to bring some drinks, glasses, bottle openers and nibbles to share with their team mates. A light supper will be provided too. If you have any questions please ring Gail on 58211315. It would be lovely to see lots of members there on the night.

## COMPUTERS

Computer sessions are running well with members being involved in a number of different areas – researching using the internet, learning to use Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Word, emailing, eBay, PayPal, cleaning up the computer hard drive, transferring and saving data onto a USB stick or CD, working with photos and organising music, as well as other incidental learning as the huge variety of things that can be done using a computer crop up. Apologies to those who are waiting for work on Photobook creation. Finding a timeslot has been a bit difficult. Please contact me and I'll try to slot you into computer sessions on Mondays or possibly a Wednesday afternoon.

David Muir    ph. 5821 4349    mob. 0414 88 1369

## CREATIVE CRAFT

Lots of beading, crocheting, embroidery, quilting, knitting and anything anyone has “on the go” is brought along to do while chatting with like-minded persons.

Everyone is more than welcome, whatever their creative craft.

We now have an additional coordinator, Sonja Muir, who can be contacted on 58214349

### BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

If you want to pay your membership fees or trip fees through the internet please use the account numbers below and use your name as the reference.

General account:    BSB 633 108 Account number 1277 42898

Trip account:        BSB 633 108 Account Number 1298 96049

### DIARY DATES

DIARY DATES	
April 13	Training session for U3A data projector
April 18	Course Leaders to have next month's newsletter material submitted
May 27	Trivia Night