

The Notice Board

February/March 2009

Welcome to the first edition of our 2009 newsletter. Our Council conducted a survey late last year and many members requested a notice board be made available to keep them up to date with coming events. Our classes are held in various locations making it difficult to meet the request at each venue, so this newsletter will be issued around the middle of each month to meet this need for up to date information on coming events and changes to the calendar.

Melting Pot returns:

Tuesday 3rd March
RSL Hall – commencing at 2pm

“Conflict, Community & Natural Disasters”

Di Bretherton is an honorary professor at the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Queensland. She was the founding Director of the International Conflict Resolution Centre at the University of Melbourne and has held a number of important positions in international organizations.

She is a peace psychologist of international standing and has conducted conflict resolution training, research and related projects in many countries around the world. She was seconded to UNESCO headquarters in Paris during 1998/99 to assist with the planning and implementation of the 2000 UN International Year for a Culture of Peace.

The core of her approach to peace education is an emphasis on methods of teaching and researching that embody and model the values of a culture of peace. She has been involved in developing peace education curricula in Sierra Leone and Vietnam.

A letter from the President:

None of us who have been following the drama and the tragedy of the last week can help but be moved by the loss of life, and way of life, for so many Victorians. Among our members there will be those who have friends, family and acquaintances touched directly by these terrible events and there are members and their families who are contributing directly to fighting the fires and supporting the victims, for which we are all greatly indebted. We are all united by this catastrophic event and we are also united in offering our sympathy and support to the victims, and gratitude to all those dedicated people fighting the bushfires. I urge you all to attend our first Melting Pot lecture which will be held at RSL Hall on Tuesday 3rd March, commencing at 2pm. All door takings will be donated to the Seymour CFA volunteer brigade, to assist them in their ability to protect local communities.

There are a couple of upcoming events to which I would like to draw your attention. We are part of the North East Victoria Area of U3A and on Thursday 21st May it will be our turn to host the annual area luncheon at the Seymour Club. This will involve members of the other U3A's in our area, Albury-Wodonga, Alpine, Benalla, Bright, Corowa, Goulburn Valley (Shepparton) Kilmore, Mansfield, Wangaratta and Yea. More details to follow closer to the date.

U3A Network Victoria is holding it's Annual Conference and Workshops on 5th to 8th May in the Centre for Adult Education (CAE), 253 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. Anyone interested in attending should contact Pat Coffey (5799 1119) or me (5792 3333). Bookings have to be made by the end of March.

I would like to welcome all of our new members, and welcome back all of our friends who have re-enrolled, and hope you will all enjoy the courses you have chosen.

Ernie Finn

Late enrolments:

If you have been pondering and found another class you would enjoy there are still opportunities for you to sign up for most classes. Just call the Contact for the particular course to enrol. The contact details for all courses are in the Green Guide and on our web page.

Vine, Wine and Dine:

Due to the level of interest in this course, there will be two visits to Tahbilk Winery on Wed. 25th March and Thurs, 26th March. Carol asks that all members who signed up for this course attend the March Melting Pot, put their names on the specific list and pay \$3 for the tour. We need 15 people each day. Car pooling can also be arranged at that time. Please see Carol on 3rd March to confirm your participation in the Tahbilk tour.

Strong for Life:

To clear up some confusion, members are advised that this is not a water aerobics class. Strong for Life is also held on Tuesday mornings at 11.30am if you prefer this day, or wish to add an additional weekly class to your fitness programme.

Class members are advised that Pat Coffey is the Contact for Strong for Life, please contact Pat by email at michaelpat@optusnet.com.au or phone on 5799 1119.

All aboard for the 9.10 to ACCA*!!

What is this all about? For those who want the destination to be a surprise – read no further!

Here's what we will do. This is the energy efficient itinerary – minimum effort required by the legs because we'll SIT on the train to North Melbourne, and then on to Flinders St. Escalators and lifts and about 100 steps on the flat to the tram stop. It will trundle down St Kilda Rd, past the new Melbourne Recital Centre, go around the corner and we get off at ACCA. Coffee at the Malthouse which is next door to ACCA. Restored and refreshed we'll amble into the strange exhibition called "The Water Hole". It is amazing, mind expanding and free! Finish there gobsmacked and move back to the Malthouse for lunch and to get your brain space in order. Reverse the transport process for the 3.30pm return to Seymour with the MX crossword to keep some of us occupied until we arrive!

First Task – mark **Thursday, February 26th** in your diary.

Second Task – meet at Seymour Station at about 8.45am. Give yourself time to get a latte at the Railway café (I can recommend their brew!)

Third Task – come with ideas for future excursions, places and days.

Fourth Task - leave a message on 5792 1550 or email me on pratique@gmail.com if you cannot attend.

Fifth Task – invite a friend to join us and out of the experience they might want to join our great U3A!

Sixth Task – check out ACCA's website (just put in "ACCA") and be intrigued.

Seventh Task – No wimping out because of the word "contemporary", substitute "challenging"!

* ACCA = Australian Centre for Contemporary Art

Anne Thompson

Mahjong:

What a how-de-do! One problem has been a venue that would allow for the setting up of card tables or a place that has the right sized tables. Thanks to the Baptist Church and Barbara McCrabbe, we have a home. The cost is a gold coin donation. The second problem has been the availability of times both in the U3A timetable and my own schedule. Some will be unable to attend because of the dates but we will have another course at another time in the second semester.

What is planned is that we'll start on **Friday 20th at 1.00pm** at the Baptist Centre at 82 Avenel Rd. It will be every Friday from then on. If you haven't been there before, you go out of Seymour along Tarcombe Rd, turn left into Avenel Rd and someway down the road, you'll come to the complex on the right, set back from the road. It is a large mud brick building. If there are any other members who would like to join us, don't hesitate to call me on 5792 1550 or email pratique@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Anne Thompson

**Seymour & District U3A thanks
Ben Hardman MP
for his assistance with the printing
of our newsletters and Green Guide**

