

CONTACT

VOLUME 26, No. 3 August 2022



MOONEE VALLEY NEWSLETTER
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

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Course Coordinator's Report –	15 th September	Thursday	Committee Meeting Monthly Lunch
July Forum Report	19 th September	Monday	Forum at Windy Hill
September Forum – Zoonoses	29 th September	Thursday	Volunteer lunch
Monthly Lunches	12 th October	Wednesday	Seniors Week, Pascoe Room, Clocktower. 10:00 – 12:00
Office News	20 th October	Thursday	Committee meeting Monthly Lunch
Treasurer's Report	9 th November	Wednesday	Lunch at William Angliss Institute. 12:00
Social Events	17 th November	Thursday	Committee meeting Monthly Lunch
Advertising – MV Council, Essendon Choral Society.	8 th December	Thursday	Annual General Meeting. AGM
Class Roundup.	15 th December	Thursday	Monthly Lunch

The authors make every effort to ensure that the information in this newsletter is correct when going to print. U3A MV does not assume and hereby disclaims any liability to any party for any loss, damage or disruption caused by errors or omissions.

FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Hooray. Winter is nearly over, and Omicron infection numbers are decreasing. With Spring in the air and warmer weather we'll have more opportunity to be outside and more willingness to open doors and windows. Thank you for wearing your masks to class and protecting yourself and group members during a trying winter.

After 3 years of uncertainty and cancelation, trivia day went ahead this year. Fifteen teams grappled with Michelle Cairns' questions. The usual suspects from "Behind the News" were pushed to a draw this year by the "Timely Topics" team. A penalty shootout question from Brian Smith (masquerading as Michelle who was in isolation) secured a victory for "Behind the News".

Thanks go to Natalie Vernuccio our catering coordinator for her work with Routleys to secure us some lunch.



Trivia Winners “Quartet” (left) by a penalty shootout over “Timely Topics” (right).

Another UMVU3A tradition, the volunteer’s lunch had also been mothballed for 3 years. Happily, our wonderful volunteers have been invited to gather for lunch on September 29th at the Legends Bistro so that they can enjoy each other’s company. It’s a way of thanking our tutors and volunteers for their work on everyone’s behalf.

Seniors Week 2022.

There will be a return of the public celebration of seniors for MVU3A this year. We have accepted an opportunity to stage an event as part of the Moonee Valley Council Seniors Week Program. The MVU3A event will take place on 12th October at Clocktower Centre. It will be upstairs in the Pascoe Room between 10am and 12.30pm. It would be great to have your support so could you please note the event on your calendar. We invite all members and friends to attend and enjoy a program that includes:

- A recital of tunes by our recorder group.
- A demonstration by our line-dancers.
- Some trivia questions from Michelle.
- Some songs from our Singing for Fun group and a sing-along.
- Displays of work from our art groups.
- Displays of work from the Wednesday Woodies.
- Some mix & mingle activities.

BYO water bottle. Refreshments sold in Clocktower café

Onwards to the future

Another date for your calendar is our AGM on Thursday 8th December. 1.30pm. Our last three AGM’s have been held via Zoom, but it looks like we’re on-track for a return to an in-person AGM this year. We always have committee members and tutors who have “done their time” and the AGM is a chance to give thanks and acknowledge their work.

Our losses mean that we must make some gains. For our U3A to grow and thrive, we need steady renewal. Please think about how you could make available your talent and interests to our MVU3A. community. It could be by volunteering to be a tutor. Is there anyone out there who can play the ukulele or has an interest in Australian or British History? How about some foreign language skills that you could share with a group. Genealogy? Travel? So many interests lurking there.

Some people have gained organising skills (, business, teaching, administration, nursing, parenthood) and U3A committees all over Australia rely on such people volunteering their skills. It’s not hard when you are part of a team with plenty of friendly assistance. If you would like to discuss being a tutor or working on the committee, please send a message to info@u3amooneevalley.com or speak to any member of the committee.

COURSE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Within the next few weeks, we will begin the process of planning for our 2023 course offerings. We need to start this early to ensure that we have suitable venues reserved. Thanks to our incredible team of volunteer tutors, the great majority of our classes and activities are always continuations, or sometimes amended versions, of those from the previous year.

However, each year we are also able to provide our members with some new offerings, and we hope that this time it will be no different. We would certainly welcome any offers of new courses for 2023. They do not have to be full year programs; offers of courses of shorter duration would also be welcomed.

You also may be aware that we now have a range of videos available in The Great Courses series. These provide an excellent resource to support courses in a wide range of subjects including Art, Music, Geology and Science, European and American History and Architecture.

If you are interested in discussing any ideas you may have, please contact me either through the office or by email (info@u3amooneevalley.com.au) I look forward to hearing from you.

Geoff Miller

JULY FORUM REPORT - THE WESTGATE BRIDGE DISASTER

The forum at Windy Hill of the 7th of July was attended by around 45 members and friends – a record number. Richard Olive was a very engaging and knowledgeable presenter. He has thoroughly researched the causes and outcomes of the collapse of the bridge in October 1970 which resulted in the death of 35 workmen, the majority of whom were under the age of 40. One of them, also an engineer, was a university colleague and friend of his. Richard himself was at the time a recent Civil Engineering graduate who was working on the Tasmanian Hydro scheme. He and his wife were resisting pressure from their families to return to Melbourne with their young children – Richard could easily find work on the Westgate Bridge!

There were significant governance failures on the project, resulting in a lack of communication between the owners, the consultants – some of whom were in the UK – and the contractors. Remember this was even before the age of fax machines, let alone mobile phones and email. The work was also frequently interrupted by industrial disputes, often involving the notorious Builders' Labourers Federation (the BLF).

When it was found that sections of a steel span on the Spotswood end of the bridge were out of alignment by around 10 centimetres, it was left to inexperienced and largely unmentored engineers, still in their twenties, to decide what to do. Richard suggested it was like asking interns in a major hospital to make major medical decisions without access to the advice of experienced doctors.

The decision was made to place large concrete blocks on the higher section in an attempt to align it with the lower so the sections could be bolted together. When this caused buckling, they chose to loosen some of the existing bolts, with disastrous consequences. The whole section, 112 metres long and weighing 2000 tonnes, crashed 50 metres into the Yarra mud. One small consolation was that the collapse took place just before midday: the span landed on the workers' lunch hut which minutes later would have been crowded.

Richard did an excellent job of enlightening us about this tragic event which is Australia's worst ever industrial accident.

Forum – September 19th, Windy Hill Zoonoses

Believe it or not we're all familiar with zoonoses. They are infectious diseases of humans caused by a pathogen that has jumped from an animal to a person. Covid 19, Monkey Pox anyone?

September's forum will be presented by Andrew Turner on this topic. Andrew was educated locally and completed a Master and Doctorate degrees in veterinary virology at Melbourne University. During his working life, 3 cattle and 2 avian disease agents were eradicated from Australia. In 1989 Andrew was appointed chief veterinary officer responsible for the control and eradication of animal diseases and the control of animal diseases spreading to humans in Victoria.

This fascinating forum will be held on Monday September 19th at Windy Hill Venue at the corner of Napier and Brewster Street Essendon. There is a free car park opposite in Napier Street and the venue is accessible by the No. 59 tram or Glenbervie or Essendon train stations.

The presentation will commence at 11.00 in the Premiers Room, (different to previous forums.) There will be tea or coffee available from 10.30. Partners and/or friends of U3A members are also welcome to attend. We encourage those attending to stay for lunch at the Venue's bistro, where reasonably priced meals, including those on a seniors' menu, are available.

If you would like to attend, please send an email to info@u3amooneevalley.com.au or telephone the office on 0468 836 359 by Thursday 15th September at the latest. Please also advise if you, and/or any others coming with you, plan to stay for lunch.

SCIENCE FICTION AND PHILOSOPHY

Do you like watching movies, some you've never heard of and wouldn't normally see? Do you like talking about what you've seen? Then I recommend Bruce Findlay's course: "Science Fiction and Philosophy". Each week there's several movies to watch as preparation for the next class. Then there's the discussion. Some of the movies are shockers (5% on the rotten tomato scale) and others are thought provoking and fun to talk about. Each week there's a 30-minute video presentation from a philosopher to point out all the interesting angles you missed! It doesn't matter if you join now, continuity not required. I enjoyed it greatly.

Editor.

MONTHLY LUNCHESES

Venue : Keilor East RSL Hoffman's Road Niddrie

All U3A Moonee Valley members and friends are invited to attend the monthly lunches which are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month. You choose and pay for your own food and drink. As well as a wide range of dishes offered on the main Bistro menu, a Seniors menu of generous portions is available. Current prices for Seniors' meals are 3 courses \$20.00, 2 courses \$18.00 and 1 course \$16.00.

2022 Lunch Dates: 15th September 20th October, 17th November, 15th December.

Please come and join us to socialise and enjoy each other's company.

Due to COVID-19 conditions all persons attending MUST be double vaccinated.

I will need to advise the venue of the numbers attending. Please contact me on 0410 435 929 or email officecomv@gmail.com by Saturday of the week prior to the lunch date.

I look forward to catching up in the near future.

Marjorie Ridley

OFFICE NEWS

The Office is now open on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Until the end of Semester 2. The Committee of Management would like to thank all Office Volunteers for their continued help in the Office.

The need to replace our landline with a mobile phone has been a trial and I'd like to thank everyone for their patience while this was organised. Please ensure that all your friends and fellow U3A members are aware of the new number. Please also be patient with the Office Volunteers as they learn how to use the new phone.

We are always looking for new volunteers. If you are interested, please complete the Availability Form on the website and forward to me for inclusion in next year's roster.

Phone no. 0468 836 539. Email :- officecomv@gmail.com

Marjorie Ridley
Office Coordinator

TREASURER (Michael Walsh)

	July Month	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
Opening balance	48,338.20	39,696.29	36,051.40
INCOME			
Class fees	0.00	1,388.00	810.00
Social events	0.00	2,680.00	0.00
Trivia day	0.00	370.00	70.00
Member subscriptions - associates	0.00	160.00	530.00
Member subscriptions - new	120.00	3,575.00	1,855.00
Member subscriptions - renewals	0.00	11,255.00	19,051.00
Grants	0.00	5,900.00	3,350.00
Interest	8.59	23.19	15.34
Total income	128.59	25,351.19	25,681.34
EXPENSES			
Fees and charges	1.86	277.76	326.04
Catering	119.05	162.79	17.09
Computer expenses	0.00	10.00	120.00
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gifts	0.00	85.00	109.62
Administration expenses	0.00	503.16	544.47
Photocopier lease	179.30	1,434.40	1,255.10
Photocopying and stationery	25.95	230.93	279.30
Trivia Day	52.00	851.47	0.00
Grants Projects	0.00	5,772.55	6,927.16
Postage	0.00	220.00	320.67
Social events	122.00	2,898.00	0.00
Tutor aids	0.00	367.50	467.15
Tutor gifts	0.00	100.00	0.00
Venue hire	2,041.77	4,083.06	0.00
Volunteers	0.00	0.00	0.00
U3A conference	0.00	260.00	0.00
U3A Network	0.00	876.00	882.00
MyU3A website fees	0.00	0.00	274.20
Website hosting fees and maintenance	0.00	650.00	500.00
Internet	22.60	265.60	310.67
Office equipment	0.00	87.00	0.00
Refund - subscriptions	0.00	10.00	55.00
Compensation	0.00	0.00	120.00
Total expenditure	2,564.53	19,145.22	12,508.47
Surplus/ (deficit) for the period	-2,435.94	6,205.97	13,172.87
Closing balance	45,902.26	45,902.26	49,224.27

SOCIAL EVENTS

The final social event for 2022 will be the lunch at the William Angliss Institute on Wednesday 9th November at 12.00. A reservation has been made for 20 people. The cost of the lunch and a short tour after lunch of the Institute will be \$30.00. Drinks are available at the bar. Our last visit to W. Angliss was enjoyed by all.

Please register your interest early.

Planning is already in place for social outings for 2023. They will include “Discovering Melbourne” tours of the famous and not so famous points of interest around our beautiful city. Of course, our very popular Tram Boat will be on the event list! Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Helen Mather 0407 582 656

helenmather49@hotmail.com

DO YOU LIKE TO SING BEAUTIFUL MUSIC?

Essendon Choral Society has been singing in Moonee Valley since 1979. Over the years we have performed a wide range of wonderful music. We are excited to be rehearsing again in 2022 and are looking for new singers in all voice sections (Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass). At the moment we are rehearsing the beautiful Mozart Coronation Mass and Rossini’s Stabat Mater. One of our regular and most popular gigs is the People’s Messiah, performed every December at Collins Street Baptist Church. Audience members can hire a score on the day and sing along.

We have a great Musical Director, Greg Hocking, who is also a founding director of Melbourne Opera, and we have access to a professional orchestra and soloists for our concerts.

We rehearse on Tuesday nights from 7.45 at the North Essendon Uniting Church, 132 Keilor Road. You can just come along to a rehearsal to see if you like it, or contact us on esschoralsociety@gmail.com

You can also check the website on essendonchoralsociety.org.au. There is no audition required to join the choir. Come along. It’s fun!

Jenny Dwyer (Choir Member)

CARDS ANYONE?

Moonee Valley Council runs programs at Bows Ave Community center in Airport West. They are looking for players to play card games (eg Euchre), every Thursday 1pm to 3pm, If you are interested please contact Antonette Medica amedica@mvcc.vic.gov.au or phone 9325 1890.

CLASS ROUNDUP.



Poetry Slam Winner.

You may recall we featured a poem by Deborah D’Cruz in our May Contact: “I Never Knew How Much”. You’d be pleased to know that the Deborah won the local area heat of the Australasian Poetry Slam on July. 30th.

She will participate in the Victorian final in September. Good luck Deborah



Michelle’s Book Group 2

Letting the books speak for themselves?

Words Are Us - Creative Writing Activities. Enjoying each other's stories.



SKIN by Sue Peel (Creative Writing group)

The skin I'm in — my skin, wrinkly and weathered now, but better than when I was a child. Born with infantile eczema which has never left me and has made me acutely aware of people being self-conscious of their looks, because hardly a day went by in my youth when someone didn't comment on my raw, red skin. I had eczema in not the usual places which are behind knees and inside elbows, but all over my face and my neck.

Thank God for a certain amount of self-confidence, as I needed to grow, pardon the pun, a thick skin. But that came later..... Mum treated me as per the advice of skin specialists with alternate "cures", cabbage water drunk warm, lying on a table under an ultraviolet light whilst smothered with greasy coal tar ointment and the best one of all - Brotchie's A and B mixture.

Brotchie was a chemist who had a shop in Glenbervie and had concocted a syrup which was drunk on alternative days, hence A and B mixture. It worked like a miracle and within a week, the raw itchy patches on my face and neck had almost disappeared. Then something worse than eczema turned up and that was arsenic poisoning. Yes, the mixture cured the eczema, but was slowly poisoning me with the arsenic in it. I was twelve years old at the time and I found myself covered in forty odd boils head to toe. Nasty pus-filled pimples only these had a core that had to be excised. That was left to my local doctor, you may know her, Dorothy Chong, a lovely lady who was as gentle as she could be, but the agony is etched deep in my psyche to this day.

As a footnote, Brotchie spent some time in jail because I wasn't the only one he had poisoned. After his release, he opened a shop in Sandringham and perfected his mixture so that it was now drinkable and not poisonous. Because the mixture had achieved the unachievable and actually healed the eczema, Mum thought it a good idea to have a go at another round of A and B. That necessitated a train ride by myself from Essendon to Flinders St and then a change of train to Sandringham, literally the end of the line and return. I was twelve years of age when I was doing this, and it went on for about a year. Brotchie eventually retired and the mixture went with him, so that was the end of my "cure".

I managed to make it through my school years sticking to the old adage..."what doesn't kill you only makes you stronger." By now I had met the man I was to marry and as the day of my wedding dawned there was I, scared stiff of what my skin would look like. I remember calling out to my sister with whom I shared a bedroom even before I had opened my eyes, and asking her how does my skin look? Thinking she was being kind, and after only a cursive look, she declared my skin looked perfect. After a quick look in the mirror, something I didn't do too often, I realised she was right. What a miracle, in nearly 21 years I had never seen my skin looking so good. I was always reassured that our skin regenerates every seven years, and this must have been my lucky day, as the nicest compliment I received that day was that no one commented!

Over the years I have learnt to live with eczema, and it comes and goes, tension, anxiety and worry can trigger an outburst, but all in all it has settled down considerably.

I think being a dermatologist is a pretty good occupation as no one dies from skin diseases and as there is usually no cure, patients must keep returning!

Recorder Group: The joy of making music together.



Basic Science – From Astronomy to Geology. Ah the sweet mystery of life.
Verse from Anne Strong in the ancient Japanese haiku form!

SCIENCE CLASS

I've been having fun
Writing verse in Haiku form,
Syllables arranged.

U3A tutors,
Bill Wignall, David, Brian,
Science guys, all three.

I've learned stuff from them.
Been to classes through the years.
Fascinating facts.

You'd think I'd be smart,
After so many classes.
Not so, but oh well!

Thanks to the research
Of physicists and others
Over many years

Knowledge has been gained
Regarding the Universe
And our planet, Earth.

Ah now! That's our home
Tangible and knowable.
It is where we live.



It still conforms to
Universal principles
Chemistry and such.

Earth's core, the science,
The history of our planet,
Continental drift.

There still are questions.
Like, what is Dark Energy?
We don't know that yet.

There is much to learn,
Facts about the Universe,
Wonderful and true.

I love the Science
Where it meets Philosophy.
Truth and Mystery.



From the Editor:

Our classes are full of interest and enjoyment. I'd like to regularly include input from members about what they've enjoyed, or things achieved. in future Contacts. In this edition I've included some I've received. Also, at the recent tutors meeting we made a request for photos of your classes and some samples are here too. You can send items/photos to me at uthreea8@gmail.com for possible future publication.

WILLIAM ANGLISS LUNCH on 9th November 2022 at 12:00.

Closing date Wednesday 2nd November 2022

Name/s _____

Address _____

Contact Telephone No. _____

Numbers Attending _____

- **Cost of lunch to be paid on the day is \$30.00**
- Drinks can be purchased at the bar.

Please confirm your attendance by emailing info@u3amooneevalley.com.au attention Helen Mather, or post this form to U3A Moonee Valley PO Box 459 Moonee Ponds, Vic 3039.

U3A Moonee Valley acknowledges invaluable support received from
Moonee Valley City Council, Department for Victorian Communities, ACFE,
Hon. Bill Shorten MP, Mr Danny Pearson MP and Mr Ben Carroll MP.

