

Third Thoughts

U3A Castlemaine Inc A0017409G
Established 1988



April 2020
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Heather Spicer's zucchini flower



Terry Murphy's cool, cool drink.

The Digital Photography group's photos that were voted most popular for February's theme, 'Summer'.

Since our last newsletter, matters have moved very quickly and as you all know, U3A Castlemaine activities have been suspended until further notice.

The Committee of Management shall continue to keep the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic under active review and communicate with members when it is anticipated that activities may recommence.

Meanwhile, members are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the advice relevant to the pandemic which is published by governments and to follow that advice. Advice can alter significantly as circumstances change. <https://www.health.gov.au/> <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

We acknowledge your disappointment at being unable to attend U3A classes and other activities, and thank everyone for your understanding of this emergency situation and your support for decisions that have been made.

Please everyone, take care of yourselves and others. Your newsletter will continue to be produced and submissions are still welcome.

**Submission deadline for the May newsletter,
Monday 20th April**
u3acastlemainenews@gmail.com

"Our cleaning lady just called to tell us she will be working from home and will send us instructions on what to do."

From the President

Recently we announced that U3A sessions will not proceed until further notice due to Covid-19 concerns. In taking this step, the Committee took into account a number of issues as they appeared to the Committee at the time. For example, at the time it was almost universally published that the virus affected older age groups worst – putting our membership demographic at great risk. The published analysis has altered since then, focussing more on the risks of chronic underlying illness. These changes do not affect the decision, particularly in the light of increasing government encouragement to increase 'social distance'.



The decision was always going to be controversial. In the alert and enquiring community which is U3A, strong views for and against the decision are to be expected; in the case of objection either suggesting that activities should not have been suspended at all or that suspension of activities did not happen early enough. There are also strong views expressed about how the decision was announced. I am sorry if the terms of the announcement caused any undue alarm.

I acknowledge this correspondence and the careful thought that went into it. The views expressed will be taken into account in future decision making by the Committee.

The Committee continues with the work it can perform. This newsletter is an example. Among other activities are proposals to encourage the use of on line connection as an alternative to face to face activities, where this is a suitable substitute. In this discussion I am aware that this will not suit everyone, as our membership is not universally engaged on line. Any perceived discriminatory outcome needs to be taken into account. We also need to take care that any such outcome does not compromise the privacy of our members, a number of whom are wary of disclosing email and other details.

Be assured that the Committee has the best interests of the membership in mind and will do its best to encourage ongoing activities. Stay well and happy and we will stay in touch as much as we can.

Trevor Lloyd

U3A OFFICE Closed until further notice



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back page**

April

April was originally the second month of the year in early versions of the Roman calendar and consisted of 30 days.

It became the fourth month consisting of only 29 days when January was designated the first month of the year around 450 BCE.

The month became 30 days long again when Julius Caesar reformed the calendar.

At the March Coffee Morning



Alleyne Hockley, archivist from the **Castlemaine Historical Society** gave an interesting talk about the Society's history and its extensive collection of over 70,000 archived resources.

Now housed at the former courthouse (since 1996), the Society began in 1965 after locals realised that Castlemaine history needed to be preserved. Local people began diligently collecting items they thought needed to be retained, some of which unfortunately proved unsuitable as the provenance was unknown.

And even today, as it has become an archive and not a museum, many donated items are still unsuitable for the Society's collection and cannot be accepted. Authentic and well researched information is what the Society collects and offers to the community, and it is primary rather than secondary research materials that are required.

The society relies on volunteers and does not receive any funding, being self-funded through its fees and donations. It opens on Tuesdays from 9am until 3pm where in addition to other things, local family history research is available.

The lucky winners of the cake raffle were Bronwyn Rudolph and her mother, Jean Dowie. Thank you to Marie Twyford who baked the wonderful fruitcake.



Newsletter

Over the time that U3A activities are being suspended, the newsletter shall continue to go onto the U3A website and if possible at the time, to be posted to those who receive it by that method.

Any urgent/important communication will come to members through an email or letter/phone for members without an email.

I am asking members if you would be interested in submitting a brief piece about your experiences with this unprecedented situation in your lives. You might choose for example, a piece about how you are coping, some unexpected consequences, or what you are learning about yourself and other people as a result of the restrictions imposed upon your normal life.

This is also an opportunity for us to share wellbeing ideas. We have many incredible people in U3A, so if we can communicate about our experiences it may help members to remain linked, and as far as possible to carry on the U3A tradition of 'learning, living and staying connected'.

Please note that political opinions cannot be included.

The deadline for the May newsletter is Monday 20th April. u3acastlemainenews@gmail.com

Monique Thomson, Newsletter Editor

Life without U3A Castlemaine activities

We have all suddenly found ourselves temporarily without our usual U3A classes and other activities. Has it sunk in yet?

And it's not just the absence of U3A activities that now confronts us, but the cessation of many other aspects of our normal lives. Perhaps we now need to consider how are we going to get through this period whilst remaining sane! And believe it or not, we will all learn quite a bit about ourselves in the way we respond to these unprecedented challenges.

This situation can provide opportunities for us to do things that we normally don't have time for such as reorganising cupboards, cleaning out the garage, emailing or phoning lapsed friendships, gardening jobs, organising safe storage for all our passwords, or finally starting a brand new project that has been bubbling away in our mind for some time. Maybe we could actually begin the meditation practice we have been putting off, or for the writers amongst us, finish off our writing projects. We could commence an exercise regime or at least take a quiet walk everyday which can lift our spirits and help us stay fit.

We might also decide to view this situation as an unexpected opportunity to learn something that interests us in a different way to what we are used to. For example, it could be a chance to do an online course. We could write a journal about our experiences during this time, and perhaps the more introverted amongst us will see it as a welcome rest!

Whatever course our adjustment to this temporary change takes, we need to remember to stay in touch with family and friends; and don't forget both present and past U3A class members, many of whom may well have become friends.

Here are some resources you might like to try. Just click on the blue underlined links



As you may already know, the **Castlemaine Library** is closed for the time being but they still have their eLibrary which is available to patrons 24/7. It has resources including eBooks, eAudioBooks, newspapers, kids activities, family history resources, movies and music. www.ncgri.vic.gov.au/elibrary

National Gallery Victoria The NGV is temporarily closed to the public but will continue to share its art, design and stories. You can visit the [website](#) for virtual exhibition tours and talks, and explore the [NGV Channel](#) for videos, essays and interviews.

Virtual Tours: Online tours of Museums and Galleries

Guggenheim, NYC: Take a [free virtual tour](#) through all of Guggenheim's contemporary art collections.

The British Museum's [free interactive timeline](#) lets users see artefacts from ancient civilisations all around the world, with the ability to explore different eras, locations, and topics.

The Museum of Modern Art, New York has an [extensive online library](#) of photos of its permanent collections.

The National Museum of Natural History, Washington DC [offers 360-degree views](#) of all its exhibits.

The Louvre, Paris- [online tour](#) of the museum's exhibition rooms, galleries and architecture.

The Dali Museum, Florida celebrates the life and art of Salvador Dalí with a [virtual tour](#) of the whole museum complex, starting at the front entrance.

State Library Victoria –online galleries. [FIND OUT MORE](#)

Famous words...

'I think there is a world market for maybe five computers.' Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943

'There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home.' Ken Olson, chairman & founder of Digital equipment, 1977

'This "telephone" has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us.' Western Union internal memo, 1876

'640 kilobytes [computer storage space] ought to be enough for anybody.' Bill Gates, 1981

'Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons.' Popular Mechanics, 1949

'Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.'— Arthur C. Clarke, Profiles of the Future: An Inquiry Into the Limits of the Possible

Class reports



Art Workshop .. "Plein Air".... Botanic Gardens

These are pictures from the **Art Workshop** group at the annual Plein-air excursion at the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens in early February.

Our happy group enjoys both structured activities as well as often pursuing our own interests and preferred media. We always share and critique our works in a thoughtful and friendly way.

Esme Gilbee, Art Workshop class member



Australian History This enthusiastic class plans to continue on-line. The usual format for the class is that at each session a member presents a talk to the group on a topic of their choosing. But now that we are unable to meet together in person, the presenter provides a copy of their talk to the class via email and invites comments or questions. All members have agreed to share their email addresses.

The first paper that went out to our members was an interesting story of Arthur Phillip's life before he came to New South Wales with the First Fleet.

Australian History class member

Class reports

Social Dog Walking: The two dogs chosen by David to feature this month are 'Chloe' & 'Willow'.

Chloe

My Breed is: Schnauzer.

My human minder's name is: Kate.

My minder's good characteristics are: She gives me lots of cuddles.

My minder's annoying characteristic is: She usually doesn't give in when I gaze intently at her when she is eating some tasty human food.

My favourite treat is: Yoghurt.

My favourite place is: Nestled into my minder on the couch.

I love: Kangaroo poo.

Because: I can help myself to it on the golf course and it tastes yummy.

I dislike: Having a bath.

Because: You need to ask???

My favourite hobbies are: Playing chasey with my best mate Holly, following a smell trail and swimming but most of all I love eating.

My favourite day is: Any day that we go visiting family or friends.

Because: They make a fuss of me and rub my ears.

My Favourite toy is: A conker with peanut butter.

I understand the following commands: Sit, wait, come, that way (following a hand direction). BUT, I don't always obey immediately if I have found something interesting!

Everyone we meet makes rude remarks about my ears and some people even laugh out loud. I used to get offended but I have learnt to live with it as I know most humans mean no harm.



Willow

(My name is actually 'Peaches and Cream' but that's a bit of a mouthful.)

My Breed is: Cocker Spaniel (gold and white).

My human minder's name is: David.

My minder's good characteristics are: Feeds me, cuddles me and takes me to U3A dog walking.

My minder's annoying characteristics are: Pushes me off the bed at night when I'm trying to sleep. Doesn't feed me till 5.00 when I'm hungry at 4.00.

My favourite treat is: Any human food like carrot and cheese that ends up on the floor during grating and I love it. Oh and dried pasta. Yum.

My favourite place is: Where-ever we meet on Tuesday mornings.

I love: Tuesday walks, and sleeping on the big bed with the humans (banned).

Because: It's so warm and comfy.

I dislike: Having my ears cleaned.....obviously. And that damn cat.

Because: It hurts, and she is a cat..

My favourite hobbies are: Playing tigger with the rope toy, walks on Tuesdays, sleeping on the double bed.

My favourite day is: Well obviously Tuesday. (And Wednesday when my favourite little people come to play, Jules and Asta). And Monday, and Thursday, and Friday, and Saturday and Sunday.

My Favourite toy is: My rope Tigger.

I understand the following commands: Tea-time (that's about it).

I get teased because people think I'm posh, particularly after I've been to the beautician for a new do. I used to be very quiet and shy with the Tuesday pack

but now I reckon I'm the boss, (well after Ambrose and Russell of course).



For some light relief...

For those inclined, don't forget to send in your stories of how you are coping. Remember you are not alone in this. Even though we are physically isolated from each other, there are still ways to maintain contact with family, friends and acquaintances.

And let's face it, the situation is challenging enough, so it's now time for a bit of humour.

The Day the Sorbent Died

With apologies to Don McLean (American Pie)

Bye, bye, Sorbent Quilton good bye
Rode my scooter to the super but the super was dry
Those good old folks are having punch ups in aisles,
Shouting, "Touch my rolls and you'll die. This will be the day that you die!"

Do you believe in toilet rolls?
Can Kleenex save your mortal soul?
And can you teach us how to use it REAL slow?
Well I know that you are taken in
Coz I saw you scrambling in the bin
We all turned up per chance
But we never got a glance

And while some tempers caused a fight
Others refused to make it right
We saw Satan laughing with delight
The day the Sorbent died
(Slow) So bye, bye Sorbent Quilton bye bye
Rode my scooter to the super but the super was dry
Those good old folks are having punch ups in aisles
Shouting, "this will be the day that you die."

Taken from the 'Friday Funnies' Cameron-Hill & Yates



Spanish dog walking during coronavirus

In Spain where leaving the house is now disallowed unless you have a dog that needs to be walked, one dog owner was asked if he would rent out his dog. This idea caught on with the result that there are now lots of exhausted dogs who cannot understand why they are being walked countless times a day.



Is this what
they all want
toilet paper for?





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Newsletter Deadline: Monday 20th April u3acastlemainenews@gmail.com