

President's Report September 2014

President, Michael Allery

Dear fellow members,

I am very pleased to report that Cardinia Council has approved our application for funding to install an extra door, steps and window to room two. The total cost of this project will be \$10,000.00 of which Council will pay one half. We are very grateful for Council's support as this issue has dragged on for two years.

The objective of this is to provide easier and more convenient access through the courtyard as well as improving natural light and ventilation for the classroom. Your secretary Dave Ashton is working through a massive list of paperwork, permits and final details and we sincerely hope that the work will be completed by the end of September. We plan to carry out the work during the third or fourth week of the month so as to minimise any intrusion on classes.

Committee has been planning and budgeting for our cost of the project for some time now. Thanks to the additional sources of income that have been developed in recent times, funds from the Shed and from our night class tenant, there will be little or no impact on the accumulated members funds and hopefully a major benefit to those members who use room two on a regular basis. We hope that more small classes can be started to use this facility.

The recent event Grandmothers to Grandmothers was very successful with over thirty members attending, It was also a very interesting presentation by the guest speaker. My sincere thanks to Meg Bull for arranging this topical and informative session. I think this type of event is a truly excellent way of using our meeting room facilities to good advantage. If you have an idea for a similar event please put the idea forward to Mal or to other committee members so that we can make arrangements for you. An example of this is the TRIVIA NIGHT that Norma and Pauline are organising. Please note the details elsewhere in this notice.

And also note the event that Linda is planning for Sunday October the 5th, the ART & CRAFT BAZAAR. This should be an excellent example of fund raising, fun and entertainment.

This is the saddest notice I have ever had to write. Roland Keel passed away suddenly on Saturday, August the 1st. He will be greatly missed by all who have participated in the Philosophy Discussion Class over recent years. Roland's dedicated preparation for each class, sometimes weeks in advance, has provided an inspiration to all of us.

The picture on the wall in room one and the chair that was presented to Roland at one of his delightful Christmas functions will serve to remind us of the good times.

Roland's classes have regularly demonstrated the essence of what U3A is all about. He will be sadly missed. The U3A Flag will be at half-mast in his memory.

Michael Allery President.

Vale Roland Keel

It is with much sadness that the Philosophy Group records the sudden death of our much loved and esteemed Tutor, Roland Keel, and we extend our Sincere Condolences to Rita and their family. Roland craved intellectual nourishment and philosophy provided him with a constant diet of interesting and challenging topics that he researched and studied before bringing to our classes for the rest of us to grapple with.

If topics became a bit heavy, Roland's sense of humour and love of a joke would come to the fore and lighten up the discussion. Whilst Plato & Socrates may not have approved, Roland often weaved a thread of his other great love – horse racing and betting into our discussion, much to our amusement.

Philosophy, being such an all embracing subject, resulted in Roland taking us down many roads that while never reaching a conclusion, ensured a journey filled with stimulation, lively discussion and fun.

Roland, was feisty, argumentative, funny, witty and stoic in spite of enduring crippling pain over a long period of time.

He will be sadly missed.

Neil McDonald, Philosophy Class Secretary



Artist Biographies

Kay Craig

After retiring as a primary school art teacher Kay Craig studied with Jenny Phillips at the Botanical Art School of Melbourne.

Her work is represented in The Cranbourne Collection and in private collections in Australia and overseas. She has a permanent display of paintings at The Restaurant at Cloudehill and Bella Vedere restaurant in the Yarra Valley. Her commissioned works include a set of paintings of the *Michelia* species and a series of heirloom vegetables, both for private collectors. Kay works from her studio in the Dandenong Ranges near Melbourne.

Judi Roberts

I have always loved to draw and create things for as long as I can remember. In 1988 I discovered Folk and Decorative Art and enjoyed 20 years with this style of painting until I joined the Emerald Arts Society in 2000.

I began with pastel, which was very different to the acrylics I had used in my folk art work. After a few years I was seduced by the idea of watercolours. I had resisted using watercolour as I thought it would be too difficult. I was right, it is difficult, but I still keep trying with this medium as well as occasionally using water-soluble oils. I still love to draw and will continue to always carry a sketchpad and waterproof pen around with me, especially when I am away on holidays. It creates a wonderful memory of our trips as an alternative to our photos.

Paul Bianco

Born to an Italian father and Australian mother in Myrtleford in NE Victoria, I bought my first camera, a little Bakelite beauty at age 12. My parents, recognising my interest, gave me a 35mm Voigtlander when I was about 16 and my father's almost-new Praktica SLR in 1972. In fact there was always an interest in photography in our household, be it my mother and her box brownie or Kodak pocket folding camera, and my elder brother being a very accomplished amateur.

However, I actually trained and worked as a teacher for 25 years, mostly in country Victoria, with my wife Nola and two children, both in towns and in small rural schools. They were good years. Prior to leaving teaching, I'd been shooting weddings and family portraits on weekends. Although I didn't dislike teaching, after moving to Melbourne from Shepparton in 1988, I left in 1990 and since then have worked full-time as a photographer and in more recent times, also in graphic design.

And now, as a "senior", my main hobby or passion is still photography.

June Barnett

I was born in Shropshire, England and came to Australia in 1953 to marry John Dudley.

For a number of years I studied oil painting with Shirley Bourne and am grateful for that experience.

In 1997 I was invited to join the "Twenty Melbourne Painters Society" and exhibited with them each year until retirement in 2013. Botanical Art has always been an interest and at present I am enjoying lessons at U3A with Kay Craig our patient and knowledgeable teacher.

Council On the Ageing (COTA)

You are invited to join Cardinia Shire in creating an "Age Friendly City"

Sometimes it feels like our cities and communities were designed without older people in mind. But we're living longer, more active lives than ever before – and our communities need to catch up! You can participate.

Cardinia Shire's older people are encouraged to join in and become actively involved in making their communities places where they can live safely, enjoy good health, continue to learn and stay involved. Hear about some of the exciting, revolutionary and yes, practical things that older people around the world are bringing to life in their communities.

Using the World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Age-Friendly Cities & Communities Guide, Cardinia Shire and the Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria, will conduct a series of community consultations/workshops, supporting older people within Cardinia Shire to explore what's needed in their neighbourhoods in the following areas:

- Outdoor spaces and buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Social participation
- Respect and social inclusion
- Civic participation and employment
- Communication and information
- Community support and health services

You are invited to attend this Community Consultation and become involved in building an Age Friendly Cardinia Shire. Afternoon tea will be provided.

Date: Thursday, 11th September 2014 **Time:** 1pm – 3pm

Venue: Emerald Library, 400B Belgrave-Gembrook Road

RSVP: Council's Positive Ageing Officer on 1300 787 624 or mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au
by 5pm, Tuesday, 9th September – afternoon tea will be provided



Bazaar Reminder

So far we have had a poor response to donations of goods for the bazaar.

If you have any ornaments, games or household effects that you no longer need, would you please donate them. It would be desirable for donations to be received at least two weeks prior to the event.

Would you let me know if you are intending to donate cakes?

Please contact Linda on 5968 3228 or 0404 938 176.

U3A Men's Shed Update.

The Emerald Men's Shed has had a successful 6 months with its small band of "shedders" putting in many hours of community work.

So far this year the Shed has donated to U3A Emerald \$3000, to help offset the cost of the Room 2 door project, and also raised enough money to purchase a wood thicknesser machine, and a wide range of small hand tools for use on shed projects.

The shed is constantly evolving as donations of wood, bicycles, and tools are added to the shed inventory, and also the members assist the committee of U3A in straightforward maintenance tasks around the complex.

Last week President Mike and I attended the Rotary Club of Emerald and gave a presentation on the Men's Shed, and we also received a cheque from the Rotary club, from their community fund, to purchase a new heavy duty combination finishing machine to use for finishing wooden products.

Shed members are also working with various community groups around Emerald, including making nesting boxes for the land care groups, helping process the timber cut down from Worrell Reserve, at the local timber mill, so the planks can be used by local groups, the Red Cross immigrant bike project, where 20 bikes were refurbished and donated, and design and building marker posts and seats for the Emerald walk project with the RSL.

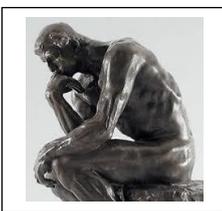
Many woodworking projects have been undertaken, including, nesting boxes, wooden toys, billy carts, letter boxes, bird feeders, garden ornaments, and a range of furniture repairs for U3A members.

Shed members have also arranged site visits and attended Men's Shed cluster meetings to share knowledge of the shed movement with others. I have also attended 3 meetings with other community organizations to help them prepare and set up their own sheds, and to promote U3A Emerald as a good community member.

We must thank U3A members and the general community for donating items and supporting the Emerald Shed projects, and I must say I am proud to be a U3A Emerald Shedder.

Dave Ashton.

Philosophy



We met last Tuesday with very heavy hearts, but also with awareness that Roland would have demanded that life, thinking and learning go on.

The group was much larger than usual and our guest speaker was Nesha Essa, the wife of the Imam at the Lysterfield Mosque. Surrounded as we are sometimes by opinions based on nothing more than rumour and prejudice, we wanted to learn more about Islam and how it fits into our richly diverse community.

Nesha told us something of her own life and her explorations as she sought a faith that satisfied her needs. Her travels took her from England, to South Africa, Saudi Arabia and finally to her home with us in Australia.

We learned about some of the beliefs that are fundamental to Islam. Many share similar Abrahamic roots with both Judaism and Christianity. Others were novel to our group. Perhaps most importantly we learned that Islam is a faith of peace and that those who use it to justify violence, intolerance and radicalism are uneducated in the tenets of the faith.

Nesha invited us to visit the mosque and attend Friday prayers, and we thank her for her lively, good humoured and patient interactions with us as we sought to understand.

Patricia Buoncristiani

Flowers for the Home & Gift-Giving



Just an update as the first of our Spring Series is coming up soon. We will be welcoming two new members and will consider the class full now so anyone interested can join a waiting list. It was good to hear from one of our enthusiastic group who was missing the classes and went off scouring their garden during those really cold winter days for some interesting materials to use when there is little to pick. Bravo! I found myself however, taking pictures of flowers whilst overseas to show the group. The picture provided is an autumn series class piece.

1st Class	10a.m.	11th September
2nd Class	10a.m.	23rd October
3rd Class	10a.m.	13th November

To be held at the home of Judy & Bill Stevens, Pindari, 2 Butterfield Road, Emerald

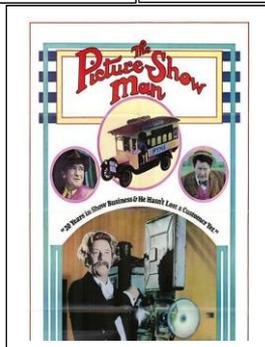
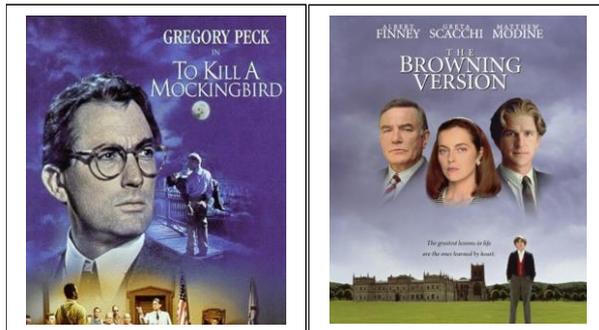
Elaine Hahn

Cinema Classics for Lounge Lizards

Here are the U3A films for the rest of the year:

- TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD 15th September
- THE BROWNING VERSION 20th October
- THE PICTURE SHOW MAN 17th November

All are screened on Mondays at the Gem Theatre, Emerald at 1.15pm



Lotus Land

No need have I for honeyed mead
Or sweet exotic lotus leaf
For me paradise doth lie
In forest green neath vaulting skies.
Here raindrops
Drip as honey on my eager tongue.

Swirling mists
Meld with myriad verdant hues
Towering white barked eucalypt
Stretch upward toward the light
Bright crested birds poise, preen
Then joyously take to flight.

Waterfalls
Singing tumbling curtains
Cascade into deep dark pools
Birds sing bell canto delights
Echoing through my paradise.

Moss
A velvet mantle for rock and tree
Invites me to touch its cool green cloak
Whilst my soul marvels at natures
diversity.
Sweet pungent forest
If I had but one hour left to be
I would choose to spend my allotted time
Beneath your canopy

Margaret Abercrombie June 2014

(See article on Creative Writing Page 7)

This Tangled Life



Have you ever become frustrated by a tangled a ball of wool or string? What about a 20 metre power lead which you just didn't have time to roll up for future use and came back to later to find yourself with an hour's work taking out knots before you start on why you are there. Several times I have come to the Computer Drawers in the filing cabinet for other reasons only to find cables in a mess. The mess in the tangled audio photo is happening more than it should. The New Audio Cable (different colour) is how the cable was delivered and left for everyone to use.



Members rightly make a much of it when a room is not left clean and tidy for them. Is it reasonable if you go to the drawer to take equipment out and find it unusable? On a couple of occasions we have had to replace cables that have wandered off to new homes. It is nice for the new owner but a bit of a nuisance to get a call to say the equipment won't work because a cable is missing. Please try and be a bit more careful with U3A equipment.

Working with Wood August 2014

The theme at present still seems to be restoration of chairs. John, Tony and Ann are restoring chairs which have been broken. Each has taken on interesting challenges in needing to make replacement parts. There is plenty of guidance to help them along. Tony is also tackling the restoration of an old chair. With Pepe's help they have turned replacement acorn shapes in the chair's backrest. For this edition we are showing a picture of Tony's chair.



Tony admiring Chair

Blythe Osborne (Leader)

Creative Writing



Meets fortnightly at 1:00 pm on a Friday. At the end of each session we decide on a topic and then we write a short piece (roughly 2 sides) and bring our offerings to the next class. We read out our piece and then we have a discussion about it. There is no "formal" coaching but we do give each other encouragement plus constructive criticism. It is interesting to see the different takes people have on the same title. Examples of topics: Clear as Mud, The Weird Mob, Emigration. The poem Lotus Land on page 6 comes from this class.



Lions "Make it – Bake it – Grow it"

Held on the 1st Sunday of the Month. At The Mechanics Institute Hall, Emerald

The October 5th Market is taking place alongside the U3A Christmas Bazaar.

Woodn't it be Lovely says Men's Shed

By BESS ZEWDIE - Article in The Ferntree Gully Belgrave Mail (15 July 2014)

The Men's Shed of Emerald has joined a community-wide project led by the Emerald RSL to recycle old timber from Worrell Reserve, where 50 historic Monterey cypresses were cut down in October of last year amid protests from locals.

The removal was actioned by the Cardinia Shire Council, as part of the Country Fire Authority's (CFA) Neighbourhood Safer Places - Places of Last Resort (NSP-PLR) plan, to designate areas of refuge for residents in the case of a bushfire.

Mike Allerv, Co-ordinator of the Men's Shed branch in Emerald, says the group would be using the timber to create possum and owl boxes, as well as other positive and practical additions to the community.

"The council was very happy with the idea that a few of us suggested about recycling the timber back into community use." he says.

"We're hoping to make some benches and seats for the Worrell Reserve, to be labelled as recycled timber from those trees.

"Those trees have been neglected from the 1920s - it was supposed to be a hedge, and they were neglected during the '50s and '60s - they outgrew their original design."

In a statement released in July last year, Councillor Brett Owen acknowledged the environmental importance of the cypresses, but advised the action was necessary after an arborist's assessment deemed the trees a risk.

"The report shows the trees at Worrell Reserve pose a real risk to pedestrians and vehicles." he says.

"In addition, because Monterey cypress trees generate large amounts of radiant heat in a bushfire, they must be removed so the site meets NSP-PLR standards."

Although met with resistance from many in the Emerald community, the timber project has provided a positive outcome for those against the chop.

As part of the not-for-profit Australian Men's Shed Association, Emerald's Men's Shed provides a support-based environment focussed on male health and well-being, where men undertake a number of projects to not only benefit themselves, but their surrounding community.

The Men's Shed is open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am-4pm. at the U3A House, Emerald. For further details, contact co-ordinator Mike Allery on 5968 2241.

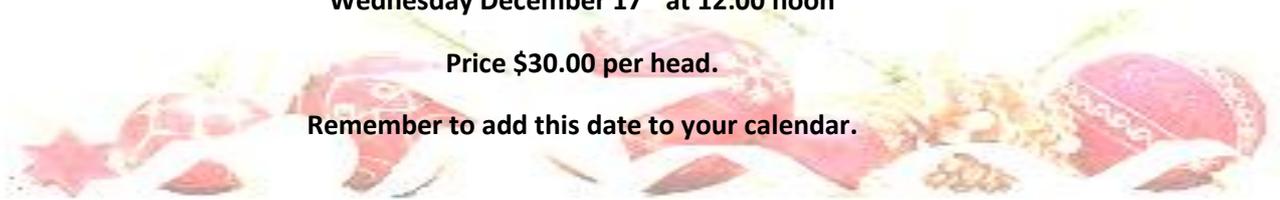
Christmas Lunch Reminder

The U3A Christmas Lunch will again be held at Rose Cottage, Monbulk (same venue as last year).

Wednesday December 17th at 12:00 noon

Price \$30.00 per head.

Remember to add this date to your calendar.



Change of Editor

A big thankyou to George Briansky for the effort he has put in during his spell as Editor of this Newsletter and for the considerable help and training he has given me in the preparation of this issue.

Doug Brook (New Editor)

Suggested new course: Dungeons and Dragons

Previous dungeoneering experience not necessary though it would be an advantage!

If there is interest then I will run a 2 session introduction and see how many (if any) wish to continue longer term. Ideal numbers apart from myself are 3 – 4 (min 2 – max 5).

The game takes place in an imaginary landscape, set in an Arthurian time period, populated by monsters and magic. I will act as the Story Teller and as you (the players) move through the land I explain what you can see and hear and then collaboratively you decide what actions to take. There will be riddles to solve and inevitable conflicts (e.g. sword fights). Dice rolls are used to determine the outcome of fights.

The best way to get a taste for the game is to give a short example...

Imagine you are one of a party of 5 travelling on a road between two villages. Up ahead there is a turn to the left and you can hear the sounds of fighting. You confer, you decide not to retreat, instead you elect to cautiously edge forward and using nearby trees for cover peer round the corner. What do you see? On the far side of a clearing a marauding pack of goblins has waylaid a group of humans. Things are not looking good for the humans. They are pinned down with their backs against a low quarry wall. One of the goblins starts to climb the cliff presumably to attack them from above.

What next?

Do you madly rush forward shouting to join the fray? Do you try to skirt the clearing and take the goblins by surprise? Retreating is still an option? Again you confer. The storyteller calls time to end the debate.

You announce that the wizard in your party will use a magic spell. He steps forward, raises his staff and sends a bolt of red light towards the goblin who is climbing the cliff. The goblin is struck, he falls to the ground, groans and after a pause, staggers to his feet, looks in your direction, points and shouts in a language you can't understand. You can also hear a deep growling but can't see what sort of creature is making it.

I'm waiting to hear what you want to do; it's your call ...



The dragon looks friendly enough but the stony-faced gargoyle, he's another matter. He is less amused than Queen Victoria.

He's not the sort of character you'd want to meet on a dark night in a mountain pass.

Unfortunately the dungeons were too dark and dank to photograph. You'll just have to imagine them!

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Thanks to all the members who contributed to this & prior newsletters.

Closing dates for 2014 Newsletter contributions are:-

November 1 for December Newsletter

Contributions can be left at U3A House or posted or emailed to the editor

doug.brook@gmail.com

Many thanks to Shire of Cardinia for printing our newsletter

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