



New Classes

Let's Do

We are thinking of organising a new class entitled "Let's Do". It is a self-help group, largely based on outings on a monthly basis. Members initially get together and plan the year's activities.

Suggestions for "Let's Do" from Highvale U3A who run this class are – coffee, lunch, visit State Library, a walk, visit botanical gardens, afternoon tea in the city, a movie – and no doubt there are many more interesting things that could be suggested.

Please leave a note in the Secretary's file in the office, detailing days of the week you would prefer and things of interest you may like "to do". Please include name and contact details.

Media Watch

Tired of being bombarded with unsubstantiated facts? Frustrated by personal opinions forced upon us by talking heads? Angered by the destruction of the language? Troubled by the ravings of politicians? Linger no longer in silence: join Media Watch, a discussion group led by former Age journalist and playwright Joe Fairhurst.

Please leave a note in the Secretary's file in the office, indicating your interest and preference of days for this class.

Please include name and contact details.

New Table Tennis Class

As our Friday table tennis classes are either full or just about full and we have had inquiries about whether we could run an additional class, we are seeking interest from those who already play table tennis but would also like to play more often than once per week or members who are not currently playing table tennis but would like to do so.

If there is enough interest we will establish a new table tennis class which will probably be held on Tuesday afternoon (we have some flexibility as to the day the class can be held to suit those who wish to play).

If you are interested please contact one of our Course Coordinators Ruth Wilson (Tel: 98767741 or email rurob@bigpond.com) or Lily Ouw (tel: 98122827 or email: ouw113lily@optusnet.com.au).

Class Leaders Wanted

We are seeking people who have a hobby, an interest or expertise which they may wish to share with like-minded people.

We would be happy to help develop the course content, publicise any potential new class and assist with class

presentation.

U3A Ringwood has the capacity to introduce new classes at both Parkwood and at the Kevin Pratt Pavilion so we have some flexibility as to when a new class can be conducted.

If you are interested in becoming a Class Leader or know someone who may be interested, please contact one of our Course Coordinators Ruth Wilson (Tel: 98767741 or email rurob@bigpond.com) or Lily Ouw (tel: 98122827 or email: ouw113lily@optusnet.com.au)

Your 2017 Committee

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Know Your Tutors and Class Leaders

Over numerous sessions of U3A Newsletters we will feature articles about our Class Tutors and Leaders in order that you may get to know them a little better – some of their background, interests, classes they attend as well as how they like to conduct the classes they lead.

We can only fit in a few articles each time, so stay tuned for all the future ones to come!

In this issue we feature Glen Chandler, Vicky Torresan, Pauline Ruse & Ken Yelland.

Glen Chandler

Look what happens when you return to study after having a family! Keep reading this amazing story.

Incredibly Glen Chandler, like many of our generation finished school at Year 10 and worked as a stenographer and years later decided to complete Year 12 in order to enrol in tertiary studies.

Glen then went on to Monash University to do her degree with Honours in Geography, followed by her Masters on the subject of “markets in Java”. At the same time she became involved in women’s issues including being a member of Women’s Liberation.

On a holiday to Bali, Glen found the experience so interesting and absorbing she returned weeks later for a second trip, taking in Java as well. During this time she came across a man working as a consultant on aid projects, opening up for Glen the idea of a career she had never heard of before. This meant she had to have a language under her belt and she studied Indonesian at university for around 18 months achieving a competency of around 85 per cent.

Glen’s PhD research was in Malaysia, her thesis being on the problems of isolation for people living in the interior of Borneo; awarded her doctorate in 1990. During this period Glen did some tutoring and lecturing in tertiary institutions.

Glen did freelance consultancy work from 1988 until her retirement in 2005 mostly as a Community Development Specialist or Sociologist. On average Glen was away from home between 6-8 months a year. She worked on a range of development aid projects such as water supply and sanitation, planning, environment, agriculture, livestock and road development.

Over the 15 years Glen worked in China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Sri Lanka and South Africa, but her home base was naturally Melbourne.

After retiring Glen undertook home tutoring in English under AMES, also writing biographies for nursing home residents. She has also performed with Skylarkers (2004-15) and many of you will remember their performance following the 2015 AGM at Norwood Park. Glen managed the bookings for the group. She also sang with the Bellbird Singers for a year or more. As a ‘responsible adult’ Glen helped young people being interviewed by the police under the YRIPP Program from 2008-2010. For six years she was a member of the State Government Geographic Place Names Advisory Panel. Glen also did volunteer work for both Doncare (committee member overseeing a domestic violence program) and Camcare. When the Ringwood Pool was slated for demolition and possible replacement Glen was instrumental in establishing the Ringwood Pool Action Group which lobbied Maroondah Council to ensure resident’s needs would be met. Later she became a member of the Ringwood Pool Reference Group established by Maroondah Council.

In need of some intellectual stimulation, and to maintain her identity, Glen joined U3A in 2013 offering to lead a class under the heading of “Understanding Asia” which ran until the end of 2016. Class members researched and gave presentations around various themes with Glen acting as a resource. Glen has followed this with a new course “Racism & Prejudice” which commenced in

2017. Essentially a discussion group, it is based on class members reading relevant material. When asked why they joined this class the members said they wanted to be stimulated and challenged. Glen finds preparation for these classes intellectually challenging, blending her activist tendencies with background research.

Glen also attends National and International Affairs and previously attended Elders & the Law.

Outside of U3A nowadays Glen plays tennis twice a week with two different clubs and swims laps five times a week at Aquanation. Glen is also in a book club (who isn’t?) and competes in Scrabble tournaments. She still does some writing, her last published piece a chapter in a book entitled “Breaking Out, Memories of Melbourne in the 1970s”.

Pauline Ruse

This is a person who has never stopped doing things in her life to date. Therefore we have to start at the beginning in getting to know this very interesting and very busy lady.

Pauline went to school at the Academy of Mary Immaculate in Fitzroy and while still attending there had a part time job in Myers in the Children’s Shoe Department x-raying feet.

As Pauline’s father insisted his two daughters had a trade, she then worked as a dressmaker and her sister a milliner. In those days, Flinders Lane, Melbourne was known for its textile firms. Pauline so hated her job at ABY Manufacturing that she lasted only 6 months and did lots of “naughty things” to achieve her desire of getting the sack.

A return to Myers found her working in the office followed by time at W L Ryan working as a Contomitrist (ledger machinist), finally retiring from here to raise a family.

In 1966 Pauline and her husband John set up a stall two days a week at the Victoria Market. They were General Traders which included selling estate jewellery and antiques. This is when

Pauline realised she needed to re-research so much more about the goods they were selling and so enrolled in a course at the College of Genealogy which of course sparked her great interest in this matter. She is still a member of the Australian Institute of Genealogy Studies.

Still on the go, Pauline undertook more study with HSC then Frankston TAFE. Again, more study in sciences at Swinburne TAFE and she has a Certificate in Plants Grown In Vitro which involves a knowledge of chemistry.

Pauline was an Exercise Leader for the Arthritis Foundation's Exercise Classes for 18 years. Along with this she was also a Tour Guide with the Melbourne Museum for 20 years.

Just to cap it all off, Pauline held a Third Dan in Judo. To know more you will have to ask her about it.

Pauline also does acrylic painting and belonged to the Mitcham Art Society where she and John ran a pottery class for children, just staying one step ahead of the children's lessons while attending a adult class for themselves. Pauline was also treasurer of the group.

Before we get to U3A matters let's find out about Pauline's other interests – she plays Mah-jong and Bridge and belongs to Probus and EPR. Here's a fascinating one – Pauline also belongs to the "Red Hatters". Never heard of them? It is an EPR group which is a worldwide movement where her Chapter is called "High Blushers". There are 21 ladies in the group and the members' motto is to grow old beautifully and disgracefully. They all wear purple clothes and red hats when they have their lunches and other outings creating quite some comment from the observing public. All the ladies have "titles" and Pauline is a Red Hat Queen with the title of "The Queen of Sheba". If it is someone's birthday they reverse colours and wear red clothes and a purple hat.

Pauline has been a member of U3A Ringwood for around 26 years and in the early years led a course in Sociolo-

gy and also Self Defence and Computer Courses during her many years at Norwood Park. She was also on the committee and Treasurer for 1992-93.

Pauline is currently attending classes of National & International Affairs, Speechcraft (since its inception), Elders & the Law, A Taste of Life and last year Understanding Asia. She also learned Tap Dancing at U3A Croydon and did the DNA class at Ringwood.

Her Family History on Line Class, from Term 2 onwards will be a 4 week course on the 3rd Monday of the month. It is an open class with a maximum of 6 and the object is, says Pauline to "try to break down walls".

Vicky Torresan

Vicky Torresan has a rare gift that enables her to conduct our Italian language class which comprises people with widely varying levels of knowledge of the Italian language, yet make the class interesting, enjoyable and challenging for everyone.

Vicky's love of the Italian language and her life in general has been largely influenced by her willingness to volunteer and in her words, "fate".

Fate first intervened when Vicky was working in the City as a stenographer/secretary and she decided to learn the Italian language at the CAE in Flinders Lane after work. Several years later Vicky met a de-mobbed army conscript not long returned from Vietnam. He had such a broad Australian accent, having spent so much time with Queenslanders whilst in the army, but he was Italian. Those Italian classes were just meant to be.

Marriage, building a house, and two children, left no spare time for Italian classes, then whilst volunteering as Tawny Owl for a group of Brownies, Vicky was offered part time work at a Brotherhood of St. Lawrence nursing home. This enabled the family to save for its first trip around Europe, and more importantly to meet her husband's family in northern Italy. Vicky's family fell in love with travelling, but more importantly Vicky de-

cidated that she had to master the Italian language so she could really become acquainted with her "Italian family"

Some years later, again, fate took a hand when Vicky was volunteering at her children's high school library, and she decided to undertake evening studies for a Diploma of Library and Information Studies at TAFE. This led to her working full time at Eltham High School library, where she worked until retirement. During this time the family was fortunate to have two more trips together and it was on the first of these trips, whilst in Egypt, that Vicky decided to learn Arabic - the Arabic script was just too fascinating to ignore.

Upon retirement, Vicky volunteered again, this time with AMES – tutoring English to newcomers. Many of her students were of middle-eastern background and Vicky's very basic knowledge of Arabic was put to work to help both student and tutor feel at ease. Although she stopped tutoring formally a few years ago, she continues to see former students and their families. Her work with AMES gave her much more than she ever gave, as she had the opportunity to meet wonderful people from diverse cultures and religions.

Whilst volunteering with AMES, Vicky enrolled for her first Italian class at U3A Ringwood. She was welcomed to class by her tutor, a gentle lady, Hilda Del Core, as well as a truly lovely group of students, many of whom she continues to meet to this day. Sadly, sometime around 2007 Hilda became unwell and asked Vicky to take the class, where she remains today. As it was at that first class with Hilda, Vicky believes it is the friendly and inclusive atmosphere of U3A that makes it such a wonderful organization.

Vicky continues to regard herself as '*unapricipiante*' - a "beginner" when it comes to the Italian language as there is always so much

more to learn. To keep her Italian up-to-date, she attends Italian conversation and grammar classes at "Co-As-It" every Wednesday and "forces" herself to travel to Italy most years!!

Ken Yelland

When first approached for this interview, Ken Yelland said he was boring. Wow, this is so far from the truth as you will see by this "un-boring" and very much interesting article.

Ken's formal schooling finished with year 11 at Melbourne High School but continued with correspondence to achieve accounting qualification. He holds the position of Fellow CPA and was chairman of the 'Group of 100', which comprised the senior accounting officer from each of Australia's largest commercial enterprises.

Ken's working life commenced at the age of 16 with the State Electricity Commission of Victoria where he remained until retirement. Starting as junior clerk in the Personnel Department and finishing as Chief Accountant and later Audit Manager.

In retirement, he was contracted to Victoria's Auditor-General to review due diligence audits of the local councils prior to and following their amalgamation.

His career with the SEC took many paths. As systems analyst, he designed and implemented the consolidation and computerisation of the SEC's accounting and reporting systems in the days before PCs and software packages. A system that remained for 17 years.

On two occasions Ken worked in the Latrobe Valley where Victoria's major coal mining and power generation takes place. The second posting was as head of administration at the time

of some controversial activities.

The township of Yallourn was being demolished to allow access to the coal deposits beneath, which prompted many public demonstrations. As one writer commented '*digging people up for coal*'. To the consternation of many local farmers, the Morwell River was being diverted to allow expansion of the open cut mine and land was being acquired for the future development of Loy Yang.

However, the highlight of this period was when Ken was charged with responsibility for organising a Royal Visit to the SEC's establishment at Yallourn, including lunch for the touring party in the staff canteen. Ken and his wife dined with Princess Margaret when she visited Victoria in 1975.

Additional responsibilities included Chairman of the SEC's Superannuation Fund Advisory Committee, Deputy Chairman of that fund's Investment Committee, and part time member of the Appointments Board and Suggestions Committee.

For over 60 years Ken has subscribed to the Melbourne Theatre Company and Australian Ballet. Since his wife died in 1999 he has been taking his granddaughters to the ballet performances. He is a member of the National Trust, the National Gallery of Victoria, the Arts Centre, the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Maldon Museum & Archives Association, AFL, RACV Club, Club Ringwood and Ringwood Probus.

Major interests include, growing Australian native plants, photography, supporting the Melbourne Football Club, reunion luncheons and watching his 10 grandchildren grow and develop.

Ken's interest in Australian History developed when his wife, in later years, completed her Masters Degree in Public

History and became a tutor and research assistant in Australian History at Monash University. Ken admits however, that an early school report of his indicated '*A very successful year except in history*'.

Ken joined U3A Ringwood in 2003 to participate in the Table Tennis with an afterthought to enrol in Australian History in its first year. Later that year Rene Day, who had established the class, shifted residence to their farm at Merton. Uncertain of being able to attend each week, Rene sought assistance. Ken never regrets volunteering, even after 15 years.

The Australian History Class is a co-operative unit with determination of the year's theme by the members of the class. Participation is encouraged by discussion and with contribution by research and presentation from time to time.

Excursions are arranged to places of historical significance and to relevant exhibitions at museums, libraries and art galleries.

Ken also leads the Friday Morning Table Tennis and gives occasional presentations at Armchair Travel.

Looking for the Course Timetable?

Our latest course calendar is available on our web site, on our notice boards and from our office at Parkwood

To get onto our web site enter the following address into your preferred browser.

www.u3aringwood.org.au