



From Our President

Classes at Parkwood

As previously reported we are struggling with our power bills, particularly at Parkwood.

Although we have asked members to use our air conditioners judiciously, we have unfortunately found that air conditioners have not been turned off at the end of classes for the day particularly in the afternoon when there is no one on office duty to check all the classrooms before closing up and we have consistently found that air conditioner are set at 26 and 27 degrees C.

Such high heat settings are unnecessary and wasteful.

It's not reasonable to expect our Class Leaders to run their classes and take responsibility for doing all the other things that must be done, such as checking that the air conditioner is set at a reasonable temperature, turning off the air conditioners at the end of their class etc.

Accordingly all members are asked to assist in the running of their clas-

ses by ensuring that the air conditioners are set at a reasonable temperature and then being turned off at the end of their class and to close the blinds at the end of their class.

By doing this it will help our Tutors, your Committee and hopefully minimise increases in membership fees, which are our only source of operating revenue.

Finances and Membership

As previously advised, our operating expenses has for some time been exceeding our revenue (membership fees are our only source of operating revenue) so we have decided to increase all our membership fees by \$5.00 for the 2019 academic year.

We have endeavoured to avoid this step by focusing on increasing our membership numbers, but although we have recruited many more new members this year than most previous years, we have also lost a number of existing members due to age, health and their personal circumstances changing.

One initiative that we have taken, is to obtain a booking for a "sausage sizzle"

at Bunnings' Ringwood Warehouse on 11 November 2018.

This is greatly appreciated as Bunnings' sausage sizzles are very popular and a great way for community groups to raise money.

This is not only an opportunity for us to raise much needed funds and also publicise what U3A Ringwood does and why older people who are no longer full-time in the workforce should consider joining us.

This activity is something which does not require a lot of people to be involved (you can only realistically have a small number of people preparing, cooking and serving customers), but if you would like to assist, please leave your name and contact details in the office.

Deakin Community Award

On 6 August John Lawley was presented with a Deakin Community Award by Federal MP Michael Sukkar at a ceremony at Yarra Valley Grammar. (Ironically this was where John taught for many years.)

John was nominated for this award by our Committee for all the wonderful volunteer work he does for U3A. There were 125 awards presented on the



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night and John has proudly showed his award to all his classes. Michael Sukkar explained that there were many nominations that were rejected, so this makes John's one all the more special.

Retirement from Shi-ba-Shi

After very many years Beb Wolfers has retired from teaching Shi-ba-Shi. The class recently gave her a farewell lunch and gift.

A huge thank you to Beb for all the wonderful work she has done with U3A since Day 1. Another vote of thanks goes to Linda Robertson who has kindly offered to step in and lead the class.

2018 Term 4 Dates

Term 4 commences on Monday 8 October and finishes on Friday 7 December.

Have you travelled recently and got some nice photos to share?

Armchair Travel Class are looking for help from members to do a presentation on their travels (recent or not).

The once off presentation can be on Power point or on a USB and for the duration of 1 – 1.25 hours on a Tuesday at Kevin Pratt Pavilion, Norwood Sporting Club from 9.30 AM.

Those who can assist please contact the Leaders –

- Jennie Harvie 9729 9605 or
- Ruth Seferth 9762 7439

Jennie & Ruth would love to see more members join them on a Tuesday and experience "travelling in an armchair"

Getting to Know Your Class Leaders

In this issue we feature articles on the following leaders:-

- Jill Cowie – Tai Chi
- Linda Robertson – Shi-Ba-Shi &

Patchwork with Linda

- Jim Moroney – Film Appreciation
- Daryl James – A Taste of Life

Daryl James

Daryl's first full-time job was as a junior clerk with the then MMBW, where he commenced studying accountancy part-time. Although he states that he had good intentions, his progress was less than stellar as he often found that meeting his friends at "the pub" more appealing than attending classes or studying.

In his early 20s, he had a "light bulb" moment and realised that any prospect of having a fulfilling career was slipping away. He then commenced part time study as a mature aged student at RMIT and after 7+ years of diligent study, he completed a Fellowship Diploma in Business Studies (RMIT could not award degrees at that time as it did not have university status).

His progress did not go unnoticed and he was promoted to a role in the MMBW Industrial Relations Department at an exciting time when the MMBW was in the early stages of a massive construction program.

The MMBW workforce of 7500 employees was covered by 17 different unions and 15 different federal Awards so there were plenty of challenges.

He was involved in negotiating agreements, resolving disputes, appearing as an advocate before the Industrial Relations Commission and later managing the industrial relations on a number of major construction projects, including the Thomson and Sugarloaf Dams, Winneke Water Treatment Plant, Hoppers Crossing Pumping Station etc..

In 1979, he attended an intensive 8 weeks residential senior management course at the Mt. Eliza Australian Management College - an eye opening experience working and learning with managers from commerce and industry as well as Australian and overseas governments.

In 1992 the MMBW merged with a number of small water organisations and was re-named Melbourne Water Corporation. Shortly thereafter the business

focus changed and Daryl was a member of a small team responsible for the contracting out most of the Corporation's activities.

Change continued at an exponential rate and in late 1995 after being involved with the disaggregation of Melbourne Water into 4 small separate water authorities, he took up the role of HR Manager with Aero Space Technologies Aircraft Services at Avalon Airfield. Later he became the National Employee Relations Manager for Ansett Airlines' Maintenance and Supply Group, HR and IR Manager for Transfield Construction - Southern States, and since 2001 he has been an IR consultant.

Daryl was initially introduced to volunteering through the activities of his children. His involvement took on a similar pattern in that he first became a committee member and then later President of the Beverley Hills Preschool, then 4th East Doncaster Scouts, and then Yarra Valley AFS (international student exchange program).

Daryl was also involved with the Industrial Relations Society of Victoria, holding honorary positions of Secretary, Vice President and President and is a "Life Member".

In 2011, when Daryl joined U3A Ringwood (then called Third Age Ringwood), it was struggling to get a Committee together and he soon found himself "elected" to the Committee. The following year, virtually by default, he became President and with the exception of 2013, has continued in that role.

Daryl joined the Italian class in 2012, which he says he always enjoys as it is always interesting, the Tutor and class members are very supportive and for him at least, it presents a real challenge as he has a very limited aptitude for foreign languages.

In 2016, Daryl started the Taste of Life class. The class aims to taste different wines (and other beverages) accompanied by appropriate food or nibbles and discuss what they like or dislike about them. The class is run on a collective basis where each class member has an opportunity to choose what the Class tastes and to lead discussion about what they have chosen.

Daryl's current interests outside U3A are remaining relevant to his 3 adult children and their families (2 live locally but one daughter lives in Thailand), fishing (he states that he usually fishes a day before or a day after the fish are biting), relaxing with his wife, Coralie, at their beach house at Inverloch, walking and being trained by the family schnauzer, Meg, and maintaining his interest in industrial relations.

Jill Cowie

This leader is never still or never idle, always out to lunch somewhere. Jill went to school at MLC and then on to Burwood Teachers College and became a Primary School Teacher for Grade Prep until it was time to retire and have her family. During this time Jill joined the committees of most of the groups her children became involved in, never still, always on the go!

Thirteen years and four children later Jill returned to teaching doing Remedial Maths at Bayswater High School for 14 years, followed by another 12 years at Ringwood Secondary College (the High Schools had become Secondary Colleges by then). Jill would visit the Year 6 pupils at the nearby Primary Schools who were to be attending her High School to check their standard in Maths. She would work with the 20 to 30 students identified as needing help and take them through Year 7 and sometimes beyond to help with achieving the desired understanding of the mathematical problems and the basis of solving them. Jill reports that many parents were unaware that their children were struggling with Maths as primary school reports emphasize the positive.

Each year there were a small number of students who had given up both on school and on themselves – generally they were behaviour problems – they were potential 'school dropouts'. These students needed a lot of support before they got their confidence back and then all their school work improved. This particular method of teaching was both intense and very rewarding, but in her final couple of years left Jill feeling exhausted each night.

Jill and Ray retired in 2001 and their interesting lives began again. They have a caravan at Point Leo on the Mornington Peninsular and became involved with the Foreshore Committee and like many volunteers, carry out weeding, planting and the general upkeep of the area.

Jill belongs to Probus, and participates in their Book Club and their Dine & Discussion Group. Jill has been Treasurer, Vice President and President of Heathmont Ladies Probus. She belongs to another group called "BETA" where there is a nominated general topic for the year and each meeting a member gives a talk under this heading – Jill says it helps to keep the brain active.

Travelling is another love for Jill. In 1996 she and Ray travelled for 14 weeks to Darwin, and the Kimberleys, in fact the western side of Australia and then in 1997 they toured the east side of Australia up to Cape York for another 14 weeks. In 1999 they travelled to the UK and Europe, and have also been to Canada, Alaska, Japan, Singapore and many more countries.

Jill & Ray have been doing Meals on Wheels for the past 16 years and for this, and the many other volunteer activities Jill is involved in, she received a 2015 Deakin Community Award (U3A intended to nominate her but Probus beat us to the issue). Jill also received the Maroondah Australia Day Award for 2017 in which she was also awarded Citizen of the Year – such a wonderful achievement.

In her spare time in front of television Jill still likes to keep busy doing Cross Stitch and Sudoku.

Now to U3A matters – it could be said she is an "exercise junkie" - Jill joined U3A in 2002 and currently does Tai Chi, Exercise to Music, Yoga, and Line Dancing. She also manages to fit in Tennis as well. Until its discontinuance last year Jill also belonged to our Painting Class. Jill was U3A Ringwood President in 2010 and Secretary in 2003 and 2004 as well as being in charge of catering and organising our Christmas Lunches at our former home at the Senior Citizens Hall for a number of years. Jill and Ray have also worked as Newsletter Distribution and Labelling for many years. Now that our Newsletter is emailed to members,

rather than posted, they can take a "well-earned back seat" from this activity.

Jill is leader of the Tai Chi Group. After Jeanette McColl leads the warm up exercises for ten minutes the class does Shi-ba-Shi parts 1 and 2, Beijing 24, they are working on the Yang routine and the class ends doing Lohan and Lotus.

Jim Moroney

This leader has been passionate about films from a young age. While he was at primary school his next-door neighbour introduced Jim to the film "Merry Andrew" with Danny Kaye, and from then Jim continued almost weekly with Saturday afternoon matinees. He was totally hooked on films. Jim grew up in Launceston, Tasmania and continued in High School until Year 10.

Upon leaving school, he became apprenticed to PMG as a technician in Training. Once the course was completed in 1970, he transferred to Melbourne. Around 1980, ten years after arriving in Melbourne Jim began a program of ongoing study. Some say he was a "glutton for punishment". Jim would argue that it was a time where he grew an understanding of the world around him. He started a series of courses at night school – firstly a Tertiary Orientation Program at Box Hill TAFE where he was advised to enrol in Adult University to do a BA at Swinburne majoring in Political Sciences & Media Studies. He then commenced a course which gained him a Graduate Diploma in Business Administration which he then expanded into an MBA in Technology Management – in all 20 years of night school.

All the study took place while bringing up a family of three beautiful children. Jim was always involved in his children's activities, School Council and Basketball Administration, just to name two of them. During his years of study he continued contracting in the Telco area.

Upon leaving the workforce (Jim does not like to think of it a retirement) a friend from the Northern Suburbs U3A made comment to Jim that the best thing he had ever done after leaving teaching was to get involved in U3A and Jim decided to "follow suit" with U3A Ringwood whereupon he came and started the Film Ap-

preciation Class. This gave Jim the opportunity to share his interest, knowledge and the evolution of film to an interested group of participants.

During the years of study, Jim has formed the opinion that the media (movies and radio in the past and today social media television and streaming services) mould and influenced our values, thoughts and reasoning. Therefore, it is necessary to unlock the methods employed in the media to be able to stand back and evaluate what we are given as viewers/consumers. In one way Film Appreciation is designed to do this.

Whilst the technical elements of film are discussed the focus of the course is on the Humanities (Arts) side of film. Lesser emphasis is on the financing and production aspects of the film. Some suggest by learning more about film, it takes away some of the fun of movie-going. Jim totally disagrees and claims that it adds a fuller and deeper meaning to the cinema experience.

In each class Jim likes to firstly show a film (he keeps it a secret as to which film and therefore keeps members in suspense until they arrive for class) and then encourages discussion, particularly on "how the film presentation affects members", thinking of the images and stories portrayed and likes members to reflect about the influence on them. Attempts are made to provide some theoretical framework around discussions so that the film can be discussed at a meaningful and comparative level.

One leading film maker pointed out that the difference between a movie and film is \$30 million. A Movie often costs more than \$30 million to produce and a Film generally costs \$1 million or less.

Linda Robertson

This leader is absolutely passionate about quilting and many of you have seen her famous quilts as raffle prizes. Linda grew up in Singapore and she explains that High Schools there have only 4 years to finals and therefore Primary Schools have 8 years (versus Australia's 6 years for secondary).

After graduating from High School, Linda started her career with Telecom Sin-

gapore carrying out administration work. Then followed a cross-over to the banking system, firstly with MIT-SUI, a Japanese Bank, working in the business loans area and then in foreign exchange. Next employment was with the UK firm of Midland Bank, again in the foreign exchange department and finally to the foreign exchange department of the National Bank which is where she met Alex who was there to install a new computer system.

Every time Alex had to visit an overseas company there would be a stopover in Singapore where he would visit Linda and the romance began and the rest, as they say, is history. Linda had visited Australia before they were married in Singapore and days later the honeymoon began in Melbourne and they settled in North Ringwood. Linda applied for a job at NAB and due to her experience with them in Singapore, being granted the job was an absolute given and after two years there she went to the Melbourne based Bank of Singapore and with her technical administrative experience she was able to pass on that knowledge to employees using the new banking system.

When her children were young Linda became interested in Folk Art - painting on material. Her mother had taught her to sew when she was younger so combining the fabric painting with sewing created her love of quilting, in fact she says she became "addicted to it". A group of mothers from the Ringwood Heights Primary School (where her children attended) formed a quilting group and to this day Linda still meets and works with them on a monthly basis.

Linda also volunteered at Donwood Aged Care Facility visiting the residents and has donated quilts to Donwood, Maroondah Hospital, SIDS and many more organizations.

Later in the year Linda is off to the USA - New York and to a Quilting Convention in Houston and of course will also be visiting Singapore on route. Linda is currently doing a part time course at RMIT in Textile Certificate 3.

Because Linda felt her sewing work was rather sedentary, she decided to do some exercise and joined U3A Ring-

wood about six years ago and keeps very fit with the following classes – Shi-Ba-Shi, Tai Chi, Exercise to Music and Yoga. Linda has also been the Catering Officer for us for quite a number of years always making sure the supplies of tea, coffee and biscuits are ready for everyone.

When Bep Wolfers recently retired from Shi-Ba-Shi Linda offered to "step up to the plate" and is now leading the class, having filled in for Bep on previous occasions. Linda says Shi-Ba-Shi in Chinese means "18 Movements" and reputed to be invented in Singapore.

Although the Patchwork with Linda class is relatively small, this means that members are able to easily spread their work across the table. As well as quilts for beds, Linda has made some beautiful bags, altogether a very talented lady.

Summer School - January 2019

Our Summer School will be held again for three weeks next January and we have an interesting mix of classes for you to choose from – a few rather different ones!

You will have to stay in suspense until the 2019 Enrolment Pack appears in October with our Enrolment Days on 8th & 9th November. Watch for those interesting details.

Seniors Festival

The 2018 Victorian Seniors Festival takes place across Victoria throughout October. The Festival experience is all about getting out and about in your local community and beyond.

This month long celebration offers more than 2,000 occasions for fun, pleasure and the chance to try something new or different in a friendly atmosphere at little or no cost. Every council gets involved and have all kinds of different events happening.

There is a limited number of the 2018 Senior Festival guide available at the PCH office.