



From Our President

After conducting a lengthy evaluation, the Committee has decided to introduce a new computerised membership records system later this year.

This system, called UMAS, is being used by more than 30 other U3As in Victoria and the feedback from those U3As has been overwhelmingly positive.

UMAS will amongst other things, enable existing members to choose to renew their membership and enrol in classes, either on-line or continue to use a paper membership and enrolment forms.

Potential new members will also be able to join U3A Ringwood and enrol in classes on line or by lodging a paper membership and enrolment forms.

UMAS is intended to reduce administration time and effort, make it easier to obtain information from the system and to allow members to access their own personal information (secured by their own personal password) and make changes as they become necessary e.g. change their email address, their home address or telephone number etc. and enrol in classes.

Over the next few months the committee will provide members and Tutors with more information that will assist them to use our "UMAS" on line membership sys-

tem when it becomes "live" - it's easy to use.

U3A @ Bunnings

As you are aware we held a sausage sizzle on 3rd March 2019 at Bunnings Ringwood which not only



allowed us to publicise what we do, but also raise some much needed funds.

The weather wasn't kind as it was a very hot day which affected our takings but we still made a profit and publicised U3A Ringwood.



We planning to hold another BBQ at Bunnings Ringwood later in the year.

A big thank you all members who responded to our request for assistance for the March BBQ.

We were overwhelmed by the response to our emailed request.

Shop at Ritchies IGA North Ringwood?

If you shop there, did you know that you can get discounts if you have a Community Benefit Card.

Please call at the office to collect a card and reap some rewards.

Getting to Know Your Class Leaders

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

- Elaine Craig
- Jim Poulter
- Angela Thomas

Elaine Craig

This leader was always a passionate reader but did she grow up in the wrong suburb for her interest?

Elaine grew up in Caulfield and went to primary school at Gardenvale. She lived right on the border of Caulfield and Brighton (in fact just one house away). However, there was no library in Caulfield but one in Brighton. With a Caulfield address, her family could not be members at Brighton Library, but fortunately her father worked in Brighton, and



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Elaine and her brother attended school in Brighton, which gave the 3 of them the chance to be members at Brighton Library. This vastly helped Elaine's love of a place to borrow books and after a few years in the children's section she was ready to borrow from the adult's section.

Following matriculation, she started with a diploma at RMIT, completing a 4th year when the course was upgraded to a Degree in Librarianship. Her early working years were in what was known as "Special Libraries", the other possibilities being "Government Library" or "University or School Library". Elaine worked for BHP, Australia Post, Industrial Relations Bureau and CSIRO.

Returning to the workforce part time after having her family, she worked in the Public Library system of Eastern Regional Libraries and later Whitehorse Manningham Libraries where she was mostly based at Doncaster. This is where Elaine became interested in Family History when she did a course to enable her to assist the general public in their research. However, back 34 years ago, research methods were by books and microfiche. In the mid 80s when computers came into use, it changed research methods completely. Converting from book to digitization once again made things very different.

Elaine's interests are travelling, especially around Australia which involves a great deal of walking. She has also travelled in the UK, Spain & Portugal, Italy and New Zealand.

Because she loves walking, she belongs to the Knox Ramblers, where each week the group generally meet at a given location and where necessary car pool to the starting point, walking up to about 10 kms per session, experiencing lots of different walking tracks and areas usually in the eastern suburbs.

Following her father's interest in photography, this love is shared by both Elaine and her husband Greg. Greg likes to take landscape photos whereas Elaine likes close ups of focal points on buildings etc. They did a trip around Australia in 1991, with their 2 early primary aged children for a school term and

during this time shot 36 reels of film, having about 36 photos per reel. This was before the days of the current digital cameras.

Again, another interest finds Elaine belonging to a Garden Club, interestingly named "Dibble & Hoe" where they meet monthly and visit other member's gardens or some of the various ones open to the public.

Now to U3A matters – how does Elaine like to conduct her Family History on Line class? One of the most important things she emphasises is being organized, filing all information in folders arranged by each person, and chronologically, listing your family members full names and dates of birth, places of birth which instantly helps in the finding process, and always locating the original record. Elaine uses examples from her own family members to illustrate the different methods of researching your family history.

Elaine also belongs to our Let's Do class.

.Jim Poulter

This leader has achieved such an incredible amount since leaving school at Year 11 and now with so many degrees behind him, he continues to accomplish with everything that he touches.

Jim's early education was at East Ivanhoe Primary School followed by Scotch College where he left after Year 11 and joined the Public Service as a Clerk. He then worked in the welfare field at Turana Youth Training Centre where he became a "whistle blower". He went to night school and did a TAFE Certificate in Youth Work.

Jim wanted to go to University but had not completed Year 12 Matriculation so he decided to do that by correspondence at night. After marrying and starting a family studying again took over and he completed a 4 years degree course at Melbourne University. This was followed by a Post Graduate Diploma of Criminology. One particular unit of this latter course was on Objectives of Sentencing and instead of using words he drew a model and subsequently received Honours.

In his final year of Social Work in 1968, Jim transferred from Turana to the Probation and Parole Service.

This is where he found that Aboriginal people were happy to report to him due to the way he dealt with him, having a very good understanding of their culture. Jim then moved to Bairnsdale where he achieved the wonderful result of halving the juvenile aboriginal crime in the area.

The Poulter family were early settlers in the Middle Yarra region of Melbourne in 1840. Jim grew up hearing many tales of frontier times and the friendships his forebears had formed with the local Kulin people. This was no doubt the background to Jim's understanding of Aboriginal culture and how to relate to them.

Moving back to Melbourne he became a Social Planner at Diamond Valley from 1972 to 1975 where he dealt with the domestic violence problem and utilised a Women's Liberation Class to assist in dealing with this problem.

Jim then had a job offer with the Federal Social Security Department (now Centrelink) where he devised and managed the first Aboriginal Liaison Service in Australia. He knew that the best way to help deliver Aboriginal services was to employ them in the role. After three years he had trained an Aboriginal person to take over. He was then seconded to the State Government in 1975 to set up the Aboriginal Affairs Unit of the Premier's Department. Here comes the study again – on returning to the Social Security Department as Special Projects Manager, he completed an Honours Degree in 1978, followed by a Masters Degree in 1983.

The next area for Jim was the Child Protection Service where he again became a "whistle blower" and exposed a number of scandals. Here again he could not rest from improving his knowledge and did a PHD on the Validation of Child Sexual Abuse.

After this he joined Thomas Embling Hospital in 1997 where he designed innovative rehabilitation programs for the criminally insane. He pioneered existential programs that helped the patients understand their life journeys and descent into psychosis.

Moving on to the interests of this very busy man – at 12 years old he started doing Pole Vaulting and at 16 joined the Ivanhoe Athletic Club becoming a member for 25 years, followed by Doncaster Athletic Club for

37 years. He has held State Records in Decathlon and Triple Jump and still competes in interclub and Masters Athletics to this day.

Jim received Citizen of the Year from Manningham Council in 2012 and then in 2018 he was given the "Keys to the City".

Over the years Jim has written children's stories and more than 25 books on our Aboriginal history and heritage. There have been around 5,000 copies sold of his "History of Templestowe – A Folk History" – in total all his book sales have achieved around 70,000 copies.

As a Tutor at U3A Manningham Jim lectures on Australian History with an Aboriginal focus and it is this that he carries over to U3A Ringwood. By his own admission he is a very organised person and has been a guest speaker at the U3As of Boroondara and Nunawading to name just a couple. He also speaks to other groups including Probus, doing approximately 60 talks a year.

We are so privileged to have him at Ringwood including the many stories he can share with his class.

Angela Thomas

If it is a hot day, you will not see this leader out in the garden or anywhere outside for that matter – like many others, she admits to not liking the heat.

Angela was born in England, near London, and came to Australia when she was five years old. Her father was employed by the Shell Company and after the war when Shell offered him the choice of transferring to Melbourne or Cape Town – of course he chose Australia.

After being put up in different rented accommodation by the Shell Company, her father purchased land in Ringwood and built their house. Angela and her brother went to primary school at Winnington Grammar, which was then located where the current police station is in Ringwood Street. Secondary education was at Tintern Grammar, and after graduating Angela went to Melbourne University and did an Arts Degree.

Her first teaching placement was at Yallourn High School where she taught French, History and English. Back then it was not equal pay for women, and the male teachers thought this rather unfair, and so they volunteered to do all the yard duty on behalf of the female teachers.

Angela later returned to Melbourne with a teaching post at Altona High School. After marrying it was back to the country where she taught part time at a Private Girls School at Albury where the discipline was just great. In order to be closer to the grandparents, she moved back to Melbourne again and took up a position at Ringwood Secondary College. Upon retirement from full time teaching Angela did tutoring from home of VCE students, a few of which were Asian students.

Angela's interests have always been reading, with a particular love of History and French literature and novels. She also enjoys films and theatre and visiting Art Galleries, together with a love of travel and a fondness for gardening. Angela goes to a Watercolour Class at the Ringwood Community Centre in Bedford Road.

Other U3A classes that Angela attends are Drawing and Sketching and also Advanced French. Her particular interest in continuing with the French class is largely due to the fact that her son married a French girl and lives in the north east of France.

The Book Club at U3A Ringwood was started by Sandra Lambe and Angela became leader in 2017 when Sandra retired from leading it. The class is limited to ten members, as that is the number of books issued by the Ringwood Library each month. Angela collects the books and issues them to members along with the date of the next meeting. All members are encouraged to say what they honestly thought of the book each month, even if they do not like it and to enlarge on the reasons why they enjoyed it or otherwise. Naturally, there is a diversity of subjects covered by the various books. Members are also encouraged to recommend reading material to the class for the holiday times.

Watch this space!

In Term 2 Newsletter and beyond we are going to feature "Interesting Members" – some people who have fascinating stories to tell, places they have worked, people they have met or even special places they have travelled – who knows what tales we may uncover.

Perhaps you know someone who falls into this category and could recommend them.

Term 2, 2019 Dates

Term 2 commences on Tuesday 23rd April (Easter Tuesday) and concludes on Friday 28th June.

The first week is a rather short week with Anzac Day falling on Thursday 25th. There is also another public holiday on Monday 10th June for Queens Birthday.

U3A Ringwood 2019

AGM

Our AGM for 2019 is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 14th May at 1.00 pm at Kevin Pratt Pavilion, Norwood Sporting Club, Mullum Road, Ringwood.

Following the election of office bearers, there will be afternoon tea available.

Cans of Drink for Sale - \$1 Each

We have a number of soft drink cans left over from our Sausage Sizzles at Bunnings and these will be past their "Best before date" before we get to the next BBQ, planned for Term 4.

The drinks will be in the refrigerator at Parkwood and on sale to members.

Please help yourself and leave the money in the office in the box provided.