



Memories of U3A Ringwood Member Graeme Tibb

Graeme who was a member of National & International Affairs and Elders & the Law passed away suddenly on 21 December 2019.

Like everyone else in U3A Ringwood who knew Graeme, I will miss him. It will come as no surprise to anyone who knew Graeme and I, that he and I had very different views on many matters – most notably politics, and he and I knew well in advance where many of these “seismic” challenges lay.

Notwithstanding these differences, I have no hesitation in describing Graeme as a friend, and I welcomed and invited Graeme’s considerable support in Elders & the Law – now entering its sixth year at Ringwood.

I also concur with the wise remarks of our loyal and long-term member – John Hogan – when he suggested that, following Graeme’s sad and sudden departure – that U3A Ringwood would/will need to invite another, right wing lawyer to “balance the ledger.”

I also agree with Graeme’s wife Barbara when, on Graeme’s behalf, she generously said that Graeme “enjoyed the friendship of a fellow professional.” Like Graeme, I enjoyed my sport – both as a competitor and

an observer. Clearly Graeme was an above average cricketer and I like to believe that I reached a similar standard in tennis.

I fully related to one of Graeme’s sons at his eulogy on behalf of his Dad when he said that Graeme loved “cerebral” discussions on changes and developments in the law. Additionally, as I said to Graeme’s daughter Anna, at the funeral, I believe that Graeme’s father (and, by extension, Graeme) occupied the same Melbourne building as McCracken & McCracken at 317 Collins Street, Melbourne – the same location where I met my lovely wife.

“Requiescat in pace” my friend.

Alastair McCracken.

Welcome to our New Leaders

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new leaders to U3A Ringwood.

- Judy Miles – Yoga for Beginners
- Diana Long - Beginners French
- Alfiero Neri - Italian for Travellers
- Ron Collins – Taste Tour of Southern European Wines

Interesting Members

In this issue, we are featuring articles on our Course Co-ordinators.

Richard Prior

Richard belongs to the following classes - National/International Affairs, Elders & the Law, Art Appreciation and Armchair Travel.

He was born in Devon, UK in 1945 and has no memory of his life in England as, at age three, his parents decided there would be a better life for them in Australia and so the family sailed to Australia as part of the so called “Ten Pound Poms”. Originally, they planned to settle in Fremantle but ended up in Melbourne and started their life here in one of our hostels, shortly thereafter moving to Cheltenham.

Richard’s secondary education was at Eltham High School. Primary education was at various schools, as the family moved several times.

Having left school at Year 11, Richard went to work for the State Electricity Commission (SEC) where he undertook a Cadetship gaining experience in the Accounts, Staff, Administration and Meter Reading Departments and over the next 3 years he studied at Taylors Business College. He then went to work for an Insurance Company in the Underwriting Department, dealing with both Business & Domestic insurance. He then progressed, as an Insurance Inspector involving Risk Assessment & Business Development. From here, Richard moved into Insurance Broking



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and then set up his own business in the late 1960s specialising in Transport Companies and Timber Industries in both Melbourne and East Gippsland. He subsequently sold that business in 1985.

Following a chance meeting and introduction, Richard changed direction, subsequently joining a Stockbroking Company and after training was the “intermediary” between the office and the trading floor where, before computerisation, the prices were all chalked on a trading board and you needed to have a big voice to be heard. This was at times quite frenetic. Richard then undertook, with Research Dept. visits to various companies to assess their business plan & prospects for potential investment. Following on from learning these aspects of a Stockbroking Company, he moved to a Dealing Desk as a Broker.

Then came the Stock Market crash of October, 1987! The company he worked for, was subsequently taken over. However, core partners & some staff commenced again and following several restructures, Richard & three co-directors operated Melbourne Office. During this period, the Practice expanded into Financial Planning, Investment Advice, Superannuation & Retirement Planning, in addition to Stockbroking.

Richard sold his interest in June 2007 & retired in June 2009.

After his retirement, Richard joined Donvale Probus and later came to U3A Ringwood where about two years ago he was co-opted (or “arm twisted” as we say) in joining the committee and becoming a joint Course Co-ordinator with Ruth as well as working on the Summer School Subcommittee, and he is also organising our presentations on various interesting topics, held at Norwood Sporting Club on a monthly basis.

Richard’s personal & leisure interests from a young age embraced hockey, cricket and tennis, all of which he played, including being State Representative for the Greensborough Hockey Club and also playing coach of the Croydon Hockey Club. He played

with the Croydon Cricket Club & Park Orchards Tennis Club where he met fellow U3A Ringwood member, the late Graeme Tibb. Richard continues his love of sport by being a long-term member of AFL Geelong and also of Melbourne Cricket Club.

Richard loves to travel & has recently calculated that he has visited some 42 countries around the world. His other loves are film and live theatre and he has been to various film festivals, the latest being the Singapore Film Festival in November, 2019.

Ruth Wilson

Ruth attends the following classes this year –Film Appreciation, Book Club and Let’s Do.

Ruth was born and grew up on a farm in Roydon, on the border of Hertfordshire and Essex. The farm was arable and milking cows and later arable and sheep.

Her Mother was a nurse and decided her daughter should do the same, so Ruth left school at 17 years old and after a year of a pre nursing course and domestic science she left for the London Hospital (the same hospital where her mother was trained). This hospital is featured in “Call the Midwives” and about at the same time as Ruth’s training.

After a year following graduation, Ruth returned to the London Hospital to do her midwifery training.

On one of the weekends off when Ruth went home, a ewe was having trouble lambing and as her father hated suffering and the slaughterhouse was closed, the Vet was called. Obviously, as Ruth was doing midwifery, she was interested. A caesarean was performed and later the ewe and lambs were given to her and her fiancé (the Vet) as an engagement present.

After they were married, Ruth and Robin were planning to go to a Greek Island and both work there, however, this plan fell apart when Ruth became pregnant with their first child and so they stayed on in the village of Roydon.

With one son in tow, they emigrated to Australia in 1964, Robin having been offered a job at Cobden in the Western District of Victoria. Later they moved to Mulgrave when Robin worked in the Veterinary Drug Industry. Robin set up his own practice in Boronia in 1968 from a shop, and later to a house with the surgery built in the back garden. Though Ruth, by now, had three children, she was still expected to answer the phone and help assist with any surgery. Fortunately, the practice did well, and it was not long before lay staff and another vet were employed. This gave Ruth time to become a Cub Leader, work on the committee of the Girl Guides and do the usual Tuck Shop duties.

As she was still bored, Ruth returned to nursing, firstly at Cabrini, Malvern, working in the operating rooms but later, to save time in travelling, at Mitcham Hospital where she stayed until retirement.

Upon retirement, Ruth joined U3A Ringwood as she was interested in Australian History. Later she joined the committee as a Course Co-ordinator and served as Vice President in 2015 and 2016.

As another of her retirement interests, Ruth also joined (MMBC) Mullum Mullum Bushcare Group, but recently resigned due to her arthritic knees – “Old age”, Ruth says, “is no fun!”

Ruth feels her role as Course Co-ordinator is most important in keeping in communication with the wonderful leaders that U3A Ringwood is so fortunate to have, who are prepared to give so much time and commitment. Richard is a great asset to the role they have both undertaken.

Class Timetable Changes

The new **TASTE TOUR OF SOUTHERN EUROPE** class is on the 2nd Wednesday of each Month rather than 2nd Tuesday. There are still places available.

Summer School Wrap

Here are some comments from members on our Summer School Classes.

The History of Jazz – Leader John Robertson

“John had put in a lot of work to make his class informative and fun. We were invited to relax with a glass of wine and enjoy the sound of jazz through the years. We looked at early film of musicians such as Louis Armstrong, Miles Davis and even Danny Kaye. John took me back in time, awaking memories.”

Shining a Mirror on Sport – Leader Glen Chandler

“Glen ran her course which prompted very lively discussion and made us think about the contribution of sport to our lives.”

“Our Tutor, as always eloquently demonstrated her excellent research in this interesting and popular part of Australian and worldwide culture. She did so in an enlightening, thought-provoking and challenging way – ensuring considerable participation from inception to completion.”

The World of Fossils – Leader Francis Holmes

“This course run by Francis showed us that a little knowledge and keen enthusiasm will open up marvels within easy reach of Melbourne.”

“Fossils was fascinating – some of the group were much more knowledgeable but for some it was mind boggling. The different ages of fossils found was most interesting, with some from as close by as Limestone Road, Yea.

Might not be much wiser but realised the ages of fossils and where found was very varied. Obviously, our leader and his wife spent many, many hours going through ‘disturbed’ grounds.”

Gastro Intestinal Tract – A Recipe for Good Health – Leader Kathie Bishop

“The following are some of the com-

ments used to describe the class by attendees: Fun, Informative, Knowledgeable Teacher, Interesting. We gained a better understanding of how the human body works using the diagrams. Excellent Handouts.”

An Expats Life in Hong Kong – Leader Diane Batchelor

“Diane gave a most interesting and informative talk based on her family’s years in Hong Kong, both working, and being able to do this with the aid of a live-in paid helper’s care of children, meals and household chores for 6 days a week.”

Floral Art – Leader Jeanette Cain

“I cannot imagine a more enjoyable way to have spent the last three Tuesday mornings. Floral art for me was a bit like doing meditation. I felt totally in the moment creating something beautiful. No other thought entered my mind. Each week I learnt new and creative ideas that will inspire me to attempt new arrangements”

“I think we all appreciated how much work and thought you put into our three classes, making each one different and teaching us some very handy techniques on wiring flowers and stapling foliage. It was amazing to see how everyone did their own individual arrangements each week, even using the same flowers and greenery.”

Wine Appreciation – Leader John Robertson

“In tasting the white wines supplied by John the general consensus was that Pinot Gris was better than Pinot Grigio and with the red wines we felt the Merlot surpassed the other reds. All this was accompanied by a platter of biscuits, cheese and meats.

We concluded the class with a visit to Rob Dolans Winery and had the pleasure of sampling a dozen of their wines and experiencing from the young lady presenting them, whose knowledge of wines, particularly of the Yarra Valley was delivered in a way that left the four participants very happy they visited the facility”.

Elders & the Law – Leader Alastair McCracken

“Our esteemed leader with the ready, infectious laugh is very knowledgeable and guided us on a wide variety of legal subjects including civil disturbances, scandals to police corruption and a wide range of world and local politics.

A joke or two was shared and it is well known that Alastair is a notorious name dropper with his wife Heather on hand to interject with a frown, a wave of her hand and her admonishment – you did not know him”.

The History of Film Making – Leader Jim Moroney

“The History of Film Making was split into the American Industry on Tuesdays and the Australian industry on Thursdays. Thank you to our class leader for selecting such interesting material to keep us all awake and excited for three hours. Each session started off with a film on the development of the industry from silent times to the present.

Family History on Line – Leader Elaine Craig

“Elaine outlined the basic ways to gain free access to source materials at our local library. Have decided to continue the class this term and was delighted when she showed the page in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register on the large screen which showed the cemetery where my Great Uncle Alfred John Beauchamp is buried who sadly died of wounds on 2nd December 1918, three weeks after the armistice. I had old photos of the location and visited it in France some years ago.”

Volunteers Wanted

Do you have any experience in web design, network support, application support etc? If not do you want to learn?

If the answer is YES to either question please contact Alex on 0400443460.

Maroondah Council Events

Maroondah Council have advised us of the following events that you may be interested in:

Seniors Dance Series

Held from 24th Feb to 20th April at Wyreena Community Arts Centre, Croydon. Transport can be arranged for those over 50yo. Light refreshments provided.

Places are limited, so book early! Visit Council's website and search for Wyreena Seniors or call them on 1300 88 22 33.

Keeping Safe Online

Women are more likely to be the target of online abuse which can damage their confidence, self-esteem and feelings of personal safety.

This free session is for women 18+ and provides an opportunity for participants to increase their knowledge on the safe use of technology and where to go for support if needed. Topics covered include:

- Dealing with online harassment
- Safe use of technology
- Social media – private & professional
- Online shopping / dating
- Resources and where to get support

It will be held on Wednesday 11 March 2020 at 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Light refreshments served from 5.30pm. The event will be held at the Realm Library - Level 2 171-175 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood, Victoria 3134.

To book a place visit:

www.trybooking.com/BIKRJ

Walking Cricket

This event is run by Maroondah Council and U3A Croydon. Contact U3A Croydon for more information.

Walking Cricket is played in a walking format for men and women of all abilities. The game played indoors with moveable stumps, light bats and modified cricket ball.

There is 6-8 per side with 2 batting and 6-8 fielding in a mesh enclosed area. The session goes for about 1.5hrs followed by a socialising session with

afternoon tea. Cost per participant is \$5 per session.

Walking Football

This event is run by Maroondah Council and U3A Croydon. Contact U3A Croydon for more information.

If you are more inclined for a little more movement, you could join Walking Football. The game is played indoors of 5/7 a side mixed team format. Registration can be made [here](#). Watch this [video](#) produced by Football Federation Australia. The game is played in a walking format for men and women of all abilities.

The session goes for about 1.5hrs followed by a socialising session. Cost per participant is \$2 per session.

Membership System

Changing Classes

We hope you are enjoying our 2020 classes and our new online membership system. If you want to enrol in additional U3A Ringwood classes you can do this:

- online via our new online membership system
- by sending us an email or
- by calling the Office on 9876 2925.

If you want to remove your enrolment in a class please send us an email or call us on 9876 2925. You cannot remove yourself from a class online.

System Changes

You should notice a new look for our online membership system next term.

It should be easier to read, and use, on mobile devices such as tablets and smartphones.

Cleaning at Parkwood

Just before our classes commenced for the year, our Committee Member,

Lynn Blackbell cleaned all our rooms from top to bottom, even the skirting boards.

It is important to keep our rooms in this lovely clean state and therefore each class has been given some "Cleaning Duty" dates. These dates are indicated on each of the class rolls, duly highlighted, so that they cannot be missed.

Members are required to vacuum the floor and dust all surfaces, particularly window sills that seem to gather dust and insects rather frequently. Dyson stick vacuums are in the storerooms of Class Rooms 1 and 4, and cleaning cloths in the kitchen cupboards.

Term 2 Dates

Tuesday 14 April to Friday 26 June