



RINGWOOD



Newsletter Term 3

July 2023

YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2023/2024

At the U3A Ringwood Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 23 May 2023, a new Committee was elected for 2023/2024. The Committee continues to be stable, with the 4 Office bearers and 4 of the 2022 Committee being re-elected. We also have 2 new members elected to the Committee, Yvonne Bruinsma and Doug Parlee.

Your Elected Committee for 2023/2024 is as follows:

President:	Daryl James	Vice President:	Alastair McCracken
Secretary:	Jeanette Cain	Treasurer:	Alex Robertson
Committee Members:			
	Lynn Blackbell	Yvonne Bruinsma	Heather McCracken
	Doug Parlee	Richard Prior	Peter Wakeham

MEET YOUR NEW MEMBERS OF THE U3A RINGWOOD COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Doug Parlee

Doug is a newcomer, having joined U3A Ringwood this past year and is enrolled in the Elders and the Law course. Doug is originally from Canada but migrated many years ago. He is semi-retired, working part time, attending exercise classes and U3A Ringwood, as well as helping out as a tutor at Swinburne University. It's a great balance, he says. He tells us that has a wonderful wife, 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren. Doug's work experience has always been around computers working for consulting companies (NOT PwC), finance, government and utilities, centred around project management. Doug looks forward to working with the committee and providing additional coverage on the IT side of things.

Yvonne Bruinsma

Yvonne has lived in the North Ringwood area for the past 15 years after previously living around the Melbourne Airport area for many years. She moved into the area for a tree change and family reasons. After working as a Customer Service Manager in the International Freight Industry, and then attending to family and tree change commitments, Yvonne found a need to expand her interests and decided to join U3A Ringwood. Yvonne is currently involved in the following classes: **Researching Your Family History**; Computer Help; Patchwork and Quilting; Line Dancing; Share Market Discussion Group; Elders and the Law; and Create a Card. Yvonne says that she not only enjoys the activities at U3A Ringwood, but more so, the social interaction. Yvonne decided to nominate to join the Committee as she felt that she wanted to contribute to the organizational aspects of U3A Ringwood.

Yvonne is looking forward to being involved at Committee level.



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INTERESTING PROGRAMS OF OUR APPRECIATION CLASSES OF MUSIC, ART & FILM

MUSIC APPRECIATION

During Term 1 & 2 of 2023 the Music Appreciation Class has continued with Classical Destinations visiting composer's countries of England and France to learn more about the lives of Holst, Vaughan-Williams, Bizet and Saint Saens. We were also lucky enough to borrow from the library two DVDs on Beethoven's 5th and 9th Symphonies where the well-known conductor Herbert von Karajan was conducting the orchestra with his eyes closed, visualising the music in his mind.

Members have done very interesting Presentations on Berlioz, Vivaldi and Rachmaninov and we have so enjoyed some DVDs firstly on Andre Rieu in Australia which was 2.25 hours long where we had to extend our class time but well worth every minute of it. Toes were tapping and heads were swaying to the well-known music. Our last day of 2nd term we are looking forward to another Andre Rieu entitled Under the Stars – Live in Maestricht, Holland, giving us the pleasure of listening to music we all know and love.

Additionally, class members headed into the city by train to a Concert at the Recital Centre followed by lunch – something that used to be an annual event for the class however Covid put an extended interruption to this event.

FILM APPRECIATION

This class is led by a 'film aficionado' Jim Moroney – what Jim doesn't know about film is not worth knowing. Jim continues to carefully choose some very thought-provoking films for us to view, ponder and discuss. Most of the films have been full length foreign language films with sub-titles, from France, Belgium and Sweden.

We have viewed and discussed a number of acclaimed Ingmar Bergman films which in 'Bergman style' were dark and left class members wondering about the man's mental health. On a lighter note, we have viewed and discussed 3 films directed by Belgium brothers Luc Dardenne and Jean-Pierre Dardenne, 'La Promesse', 'Kid on a Bike' and 'Two Days and One Night'. Being able to view and discuss 3 very interesting films by the same film makers, enabled us to see that there was a similar pattern in story-line (there is some good in almost everyone), their creative use of tight spaces and re-occurring images as well as the use of tight film angles to strengthen the message that the film maker wants to deliver.

The number of members who are now 'discovering' this gem of a class, which is held on Friday afternoons, is increasing, but there are still some vacancies (it is a satisfying way to finish the week).

ART APPRECIATION

Art Appreciation has taken a slightly different direction this year. In our Art classes, we used to focus on, and learn about classical western Art styles. However, this year, with different class members, we are really pursuing the interests suggested by the class. We started with bringing in our "Treasures", to explain to and share with the class.

One treasure was a Chinese sleeping pillow which took us on an exploration of Eastern Art. We had little or no background on Eastern Art, so this was an interesting journey of discovery. We were surprised what a wide-ranging impact Japanese Art has had on Western Art. It certainly was an eye opener for us all. We then moved on to look closely at the art of glass making, starting on the island of Murano, Italy, then moving on to the USA, where we explored how glass art has evolved over the centuries, to make it into the fascinating creation it is today. Following this we moved onto Art Nouveau, and are now learning about the Art Deco movement, which is bringing us closer to the present.

With all the discussion, range of Art styles and materials, and the Treasures, we have vibrant, really interesting Wednesday mornings. Also, our class is now full!

A TASTE TOUR OF THE WORLD OF WINES

In Term 2, we continued to largely taste European wines which are lesser-known in Australia.

The wines have generally been lighter than what we have traditionally drunk in Australia in years gone by.

We have tasted a range of wines, both red and white, from various regions of France, Spain and Italy and just to show our flexibility we have also tasted a selection of Australian made wines.

The wines tasted in term 2, include a range of Rose from Italy and France, Gamay (Beaujolais) from France, Primitivo and Nero D'Avola from Southern Italy and Grillo from Sicily.

We were also fortunate to taste aged Marsanne from 'Bird of a Wire' wines which show-cased how good wines made with this much underrated grape can be.

The Bird on a Wire wines which are made by **Caroline Mooney from grapes sourced from the Yarra Valley**, were made available by our class member Jeannette Bridgeman, (Caroline just happens to be Jeanette's daughter-in-law)

We continue to be able to draw on the extensive knowledge of Co-Class Leader Ron Collins, who in his past life was amongst other things a vigneron.

This class remains very popular, not only for the actual wine tasting, but for its social interaction. Unfortunately, for those members who are not currently enrolled in this class - this class is full.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CLASS LEADERS

STUART MAILE

This leader is a "History Buff" through and through. Whilst born in the UK, Stuart grew up in North Ringwood and went to school at nearby Ringwood Heights Primary, followed by Norwood Secondary College which is where he developed his love of the subject of History. At Melbourne University he did an Arts Degree followed by his Diploma of Education beginning his teaching career at Parkwood Secondary College in 1984. He taught English, History and Revolutions at Parkwood until the school closed down in 2012. He transferred to Norwood Secondary College and taught there until he retired in 2020.

After his marriage to Tracey, they lived in Lower Plenty and then returned to North Ringwood in 1986. In 1990, due to Tracey's work with Ford Australia, they spent a year living in Hiroshima, Japan and Stuart recalls how the Japanese people were so helpful when you needed assistance and directions, even at times, not only explaining where to go but walking with you until you achieved your desired destination. Stuart and Tracey have been back to Japan for several visits since then. They have also visited Russia, China and many places in Europe.

Stuart's many interests include the love of sport including AFL, Cricket, Soccer and Golf. Until recently, he was running 25 kms a week, but back surgeries have slowed him significantly. He also loves reading and playing computer games. Never one to stay idle, Stuart also belonged to the Melbourne Welsh Male Voice Choir until lung problems made it impossible to continue. The choir has performed at many venues across Melbourne, including the Arts Centre. Whilst he has been forced to "retire" from singing, the choir maintains its excellent standard and is always looking for new members.

Since retirement in 2020, Stuart now drives for Eastern Volunteers and says that the clients are always so appreciative of the service. Like the choir, EV are always looking for more volunteers to help with the driving. This takes up several days of his week but he just loves it.

REVOLUTIONS CLASS



While driving for Eastern Volunteers, last year, he transported one of our members to the Parkwood site and their conversation led to Stuart accepting the opportunity to become our Revolutions Class Leader. Stuart found it ironic that 10 years after leaving Parkwood he was back teaching Revolutions. He was struck by the many changes. The gym, foods and science building and technology blocks (woodwork, pottery etc) have all been demolished. The building which houses U3A and the Toy Library used to be just 4 large classrooms. He is pleased that the council has managed to adapt the buildings to support various community groups.

In the Revolutions class, Stuart tends to let loose with white board markers drawing dates, maps and lots of chaotic lines going everywhere. He hopes that the class keeps up with his sometimes manic style. He likes to supplement his lessons with YouTube videos and online Quizzes games.

Stuart is also keen to get a new class going of the 500 Card Game. For over 40 years, he and fellow teachers would gather at lunch to play the game of 500. Over that time, they have “modified” some rules and bidding to (in his opinion) improve the game as it focuses more on skill and less on luck.

NEW FLORAL ART CLASS TO COMMENCE 3RD TERM



A new class is starting in Term 3 being the last Thursday of the month from 11.00-12.30 pm at Parkwood in Class Room 4.

Linda Grigg is a very experienced Floral Art Teacher spreading her talents around in many different groups and winning various competitions with her lovely work.

The dates for the rest of the year are 27 July, 31 August, 26 October and 30 November, 2023

Check out details of three of the floral art classes , below, for what to bring and what you will be making and the cost. If you are interested, please enrol as soon as possible as places are limited.

Each session of Flora Art has its own enrolment in our membership system so you will need to enrol in each if you wish to attend all of them.

ROSES & STICKS IN A BOX



This design is ideal for a gift. If you keep it for yourself you will need to add a small amount of water every few days to keep the floral foam damp. If the floral foam is kept damp, when the roses die they can be easily replaced with fresh flowers to extend the life of the arrangement. For \$25, Linda will supply everything you need to make this arrangement. You will have a lovely gift to give someone or to enjoy in your home. You will need to bring flower cutters, scissors, an old towel, a box, or basket no smaller than 20cm square, a standard size bucket is also suitable. An instruction sheet will be provided for your future reference.

NEW FLORAL ART CLASS TO COMMENCE 3RD TERM CONT'D



BASIC TABLE CENTRE ARRANGEMENT WITH CANDLE

You will need to bring with you:

Flower cutters, an old towel, pen & paper, a box or basket approx. 35cm x 35cm to take your arrangement home.

Please do not buy flower cutters etc, if you don't have any, as Linda can lend you some for the first lesson & explain what you will need for further sessions.

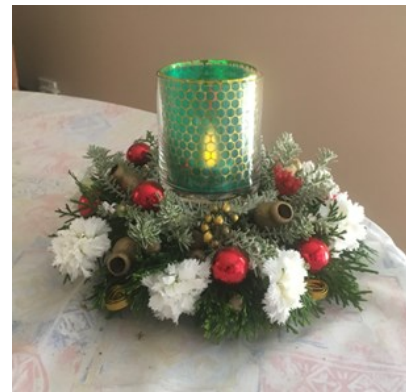
These arrangements are a good way to start learning floral art techniques. What you learn can be used for various other arrangements.

The photos are just a few examples of basic table centre arrangements.

Flowers & foliage may vary due to price & availability. Everything required to make this arrangement will be supplied for \$25.

An instruction sheet will be provided for your future reference.

Linda has made the glass candle container out of a plain kitchen glass.



DOROTHY PAUL PLATE (CRESCENT ON A PLATER)

This design is ideal to put on a coffee table or dinner table. It is best viewed from above.

Once you have learned the technique, the plate can be re-used & various flowers & ferns from your garden can be used. It is ideal for flowers with very short stems which have limited use in vases etc.

It is a long lasting idea, just add a bit of water when needed. To extend the life of the arrangement, dead flowers can be removed & replaced with suitable flowers from your garden.



IMPORTANT DATES

- **Monday 12th June 2023.** There are no classes on Monday 12th June due to the King's Birthday holiday.
- **Term 2** ends Friday 23rd June 2023.
- **Term 3** starts 10th July 2023 and ends on 15th September 2023.

NEW FLORAL ART CLASS TO COMMENCE 3RD TERM CONT'D



Linda will supply everything required for this design for \$20, & you will have an arrangement to take home. I will include an instruction sheet for future reference.

You will need to bring, flower cutters, an old towel, a box or basket etc. (a bit bigger than a dinner plate) to take the arrangement home.

All flowers & foliage may change due to availability.

The water can be tinted.

Linda is happy to discuss what participants would like to learn. Email her if you have any queries at lindagrigg@optusnet.com.au



CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT AND SECURITY

To prevent injury and to secure our property please ensure that:

- Chairs with arms **are not stacked** with the chairs without arms. If stacked together the chairs can become jammed together and cause injury when forced apart. Chairs **are stacked not more than five high** to enable members to take them down to use. This is important for PCH and KPP locations.
- Window blinds (where fitted) are fully down at end of class. This is to protect our equipment from prying eyes.

Our PCH air conditioner remotes are set to AUTO mode. This means the air conditioner will automatically heat or cool the classroom to the temperature you set on the remote. This works regardless of season. Please do not change any air conditioner remote settings other than temperature. For more information on PCH air conditioners check out the relevant notice in each PCH class room.

COVID AND FLU

Older Australians are being urged to get their booster shots, with COVID and influenza cases rising as Australia heads into winter. It is reported that Victoria experienced a spike in flu and COVID cases in April, largely due to travellers importing the northern hemisphere's winter outbreaks, and as a result, Victoria is now heading towards an early winter peak. If you haven't had your COVID booster this year, you are at higher risk of contracting the virus and if you do, experiencing more severe symptoms should you become infected. If you haven't already had your 'booster shot' or it has been six months since your last infection, it is important to get your COVID booster as soon as you become eligible and of course, your 'flu shot' to increase your overall protection through winter.

As the majority of U3A Ringwood members are over 65 years of age, a demographic considered to be more at risk of severe implications should they be infected with COVID, we continue to mandate members being vaccinated against COVID as a condition for attending our face to face classes and events. This policy is reviewed at each committee meeting to ensure that it continues to reflect what is happening in the community and government recommendations.