December Newsletter 2019
Editors : Tony Keys | Publication Date : 1st December 2019

U3A Albury-Wodonga 2019 Committee Members
Edward Voogt (President & Member Services Director) • Dianne Fontana (Secretary)
Doug Reid (Treasurer) • Pat Madin (Programme Director) • Peter Massey (Systems Director ) • Diana
Pape • Tony Keys (Newsletter) • Rod Farr (VicNet & Regional Liaison )• Lyn Reed • Anthony White

Seasons Greetings from the U3A committee. We wish you a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. Be safe. We look forward to seeing you in February, or maybe earlier.

Christmas Celebration
6th December

The German Austrian Club
5 McFarland Rd, Wodonga
(See below for details)

Term 4
7th October - 6th December

Term 1, 2020
3rd February - 26th March

Enrolments for 2020
At the U3A office, Cracknell Building

Next Committee Meeting
Friday 7th February
People thought the Murray River was the "Australian Mississippi" and they were going to have paddle steamers like those in the US.

On 2 October 1855 the PS Albury arrived in Albury to great excitement. It was the first paddle steamer to make its way this far up the Murray River and had been built specifically for this area, travelling between Goolwa in South Australia and Albury. The PS Albury was built in Glasgow and brought out in parts. It carried freight and passengers. Its twin ship, the PS Gundagai was designed to do the trip between Goolwa to Gundagai.

Prior to Federation, there was competition between the three states of South Australia and the newly separated New South Wales and Victoria (1851) along the Murray River. It was generally expected the border would be along the Murrumbidgee River.

Queen Victoria decreed the Murray River was on the NSW side but that both Victoria and NSW could use the river. Albury was significant because of the “Crossing Point”. Unlike the canal system in Britain, the Murray River was not controlled and thus subject to floods and droughts.

In 19th Century Australia, people were looking for ways of making a living. With the Industrial Revolution occurring on the other side the world, wool was a popular investment. The use of paddle steamers to transport freight from properties to Adelaide made this viable. However over time there was a reluctance to invest.

Drought impacted – one period of 5 years meant wool was stuck in sheds – and “snagging”. The original PS Cumboroona sank on its first voyage due to snags.

William Randell (English), flour miller, and Francis Cadell (Scottish), ship builder interested in steam engines, were both entrepreneurs. Both built paddle steamers. Randell build the PS Mary Ann and Cadell built the PS Lady Augusta. Both paddle steamers arrived in Swan Hill on the same day in 1853.

In October 1854 Cadell tried to bring the PS Lady Augusta to Albury. He got to...
Howlong and returned home. Reasons he gave were, “too many snags”, his boat was “uninsured”, and there was “no profit going further”. He also wanted to get work from the NSW Government clearing the river of snags between Howlong and Albury.

When the PS Albury was travelling towards Albury in 1855, progress was tracked along the river. Captain Johnston took a party of 300 locals for a cruise upriver to celebrate after his arrival in Albury. Though the papers reported it was a “sober” occasion, unfortunately on the return journey one man drowned and Captain Johnston broke his leg.

The original PS Cumberoona travelled between Albury and Echuca.

The railways essentially killed off the steamer trade. In 1873 the rail link between Melbourne and Wodonga curtailed trade to the port of Albury. Once towns between Albury and Echuca were linked by rail, the steamer trade withered.

Lyn Reed
E&OE

OUR FEATURED GROUP:

Writing For Pleasure

Can you write a microstory story that is exactly 100 words? The creative writing group can!

Muscular bodies glistening with sweat,

As they pursue their prey.
Tackling them to the ground with such ferocity and skill.
Who will triumph and win the race?
Tiring bodies feel the strain,
They must work as a team to make any gain.
The race to the line is all that counts.
Who will get there first and take the prize?
Black and White or Green and Gold?
World Cup Fever hits the crowd.
The whistle blows.
The fight is over!
RESULT?
FIJI. 21.
WALLABIES. 39
What a game!

Gina Watson

Sadly everyone seems to have had a traumatic event in their lives and some have had more than their fair share.

Now that I’m at the “elderly” stage I have decided to try to convince people, still carrying the baggage, to let it go.

What happened, happened and there is nothing anyone can do to change that. Put that baggage down and go forward 10kgs lighter. Look forward, not backward and live for today not yesterday.

Easier said than done? Maybe, but “switch channels”, do something new, ring a friend and see if you feel better. Good luck!

Linda McMaster

A CLOSE SHAVE

“Smoke, next door!”
“I’m off,” Tom said, sprinting to the fire truck. He skidded through the gate tooting
urgently and his neighbour jumped on the back. The grass fire was racing south. Richard switched on the hose. Suddenly the wind changed direction, the fire galloped towards them like a red steer. The truck wouldn’t start, “matches?” they patted their pockets, “glove box?” Tom shucked the matches at Richard who lit the grass downwind. They waited, sweating. Then they pushed the truck onto the burnt patch. Both men froze as the fire crackled around them. Then they hightailed home on foot.

Catherine Cutler

Laughter is the Best Medicine

Christmas Crackers

· What happens to elves when they behave naughty? Santa gives them the sack.

· What is a snowman’s favorite breakfast? Ice Crispies.

· Why didn’t the skeleton go to the Christmas party? He had no-body to go with.

· Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? A Mince Spy!

· What do you call a greedy elf? Elfish.

· What do zombies eat with their Christmas dinner? Grave-y.

· Who delivers presents to baby sharks at Christmas? Santa Jaws!

· What did one snowman say to the other snowman? Can you smell carrot?

· Why did Santa put a clock in his sleigh? He wanted to see time fly!

Exciting New Activities

U3A SOCIAL CLUB
Events January 2020

FRIDAY MOVIE MORNING

Host: Nola Merrett
1st and 3rd Friday of the month
Dates: 3rd & 17th January

Regent Cinema Centre
Dean St Albury 2640

Time will vary but will start before 12.30pm.

Movie showing and start time will be sent via email a couple of days beforehand.

Cost: $12.50 holidays $9.00 term time.

We will meet in theatre 15mins before start time.
Optional post movie discussion at ZOI Expresso. Turn left when exiting theatre go to end of block.
**MUSIC MORNING**

Host: Alison Higgins  
Date: Tues 14\textsuperscript{th} January  
Time: 10.00am – 12.00pm  

Alison Higgins has a collection of classical and some musicals and has offered to have a Music Morning on a Tuesday in January. She is able to provide tea, coffee and cold drinks if others could “bring a plate”. She says her home is comfortable in the summer heat, and there is plenty of parking. Please call Alison on 02 6056 8110 to let her know you are coming and for address.

**SOCIAL COFFEE**

Host: Pauline Harris  
Date: Wednesday 15th January  
Time: 10.00am  

Gables Cafe Wodonga  
1/156 De Kerilleau Drive  
Wodonga 3690  
(Beside church)  

Variety of food available.  

RSVP paulinegharris@bigpond.com by Monday 13th January

**WODONGA BOWLING CLUB**

“Come and Try Session”

Host: John McCormack  
Date: Friday 17\textsuperscript{th} January  
Time: 3.00pm – 6.00pm  
Address: 64 Hovell Street, Wodonga 3690  

Cost: $10 per head or $20 if nibbles wanted  

Instructions will be provided. Barefoot or flat soles.  
John McCormack 0419 576 423

**LUNCHEON AT THE WINERY**

Host: Eddie Voogt  

The AWU3A Social Committee is planning to have a "Lunch at the Vineyard" probably in Rutherglen in late January 2020 as a catch up before the resumption of normal classes in February.

To assist in our arrangements we need an indication of the number of members keen to participate. This is not a commitment.

Please indicate the number of people you are responding for. Would you self drive or prefer a group bus in which case the cost could be $10-20 extra per person.

It is proposed that we arrange a fixed price limited choice two course lunch menu. Wine and other drinks purchased separately by the individuals. We will seek to arrange brief presentation by the proprietor/winemaker.

There will be no opportunity for bill splitting, food will be pre paid.

Please respond to Rod Farr, farrs101@gmail.com BEFORE Monday 16\textsuperscript{th} December 2019.

Place, date and time will be sent via email once details confirmed.
Easy Pleasy Walking Group

Host: John Whale

Next year starting in March we are planning to commence a monthly “Easy Pleasy Walking Group” which will take interested members of U3A through some of the historically significant and botanically interesting green spaces that we are lucky enough to have on our doorstep. These walks will not be physically challenging and will cover between 2.5 klm to a maximum of about 5 klm at a very casual pace so that we can absorb the fauna and flora on display.

Currently the first 4 venues under consideration are:

- Wonga Wetlands, its history and surroundings.
- Yindyamarra Sculpture Walk along the Murray.
- Albury Botanic Gardens including Agathis Robusta planted in 1910
- Noreuil Park and Captain Hovell’s Tree ending up at the River Deck.

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Exciting News about U3A Courses

U3A Online is the world-first virtual U3A operating exclusively online.

U3A Online provides short courses for older people who enjoy learning but prefer the freedom to study where and when they choose. Their courses are open to all older people, or younger disabled people, anywhere in the world. They are especially suited to older members of the community who are isolated either geographically, or through physical or social circumstances.

https://www.u3aonline.org.au/

U3A Online provides other services too. We support U3As from anywhere in exchanging ideas, resources and information through our website, and we encourage older people to harness the internet's seemingly unlimited educational potential. Our courses are available to U3As and other related organisations for face-to-face teaching via a site licence agreement. Retirement villages and Aged Care facilities are also able to access the courses under site licence after taking out an organisation membership.

Our local U3AAW Inc. can join for $15 pa and gain access for face-to-face teaching for any of the listed courses at $20 per course. Thus, if you would love to have a go at presenting or co-presenting a course of particular interest but did not think you had the resources, just have a look using the link below to find something suitable.

https://www.u3aonline.org.au/courses

Have a chat with the Course Co-ordinator, Pat Madin and you could up and running by Term 2, 2020.
2020 Enrolment
To enrol for next year go to the U3A office (Cracknell Building) where you can get the 2020 Course Guide and enrolment form. You can pay by cash, cheque or card. The Guide and form are also available on the U3A website (address on first page).

U3A CHRISTMAS PARTY

Your committee cordially invites you to join them for a morning tea to celebrate the festive season and the completion of an enjoyable 2019.

Where. German Austrian Club Inc
5 McFarland Rd, Wodonga (off Pearce St.)
When. 9.30 am Friday 6th December.
Cost. GOLD Coin Donation

Sandwiches, Cakes, Tea and Coffee provided.
(We request that you Do Not bring home made food items)

Entertainment. A Theatrical Performance by the Play reading Group and Carol Singing with Leah Whale on keyboard.

Come, Join the Fun and Good Company!