



Focus on Port Sorell U3A July 2018

Port Sorell U3A first term was very successful and our second term is about to burst into full swing. There are new classes that have commenced from May, "Cooking for Men" and "Exercise to Music" as well as "Dragonflies and Teepee Lanterns" which were featured hanging in the trees at the recent highly successful Mulled Wine Fest held in Shearwater Village. Ongoing classes, which run for the full year, have started at full pelt.

June also saw the commencement of new classes and from all accounts these are being well attended, are most enjoyable, provoking plenty of food for thought and healthy debate. The Photography Group continues to astound with beautiful photos of local and further scenic beauty. Members of the group share their talents by posting some of their works on the U3A Facebook page for our enjoyment...such hidden talent and beauty to behold. I hope members are accessing this social networking medium and remember it is a tool for all to use if you are wanting to post something that you may think is relevant to fellow U3A-ers, especially if you are sharing a class or group experience!!

The U3A Choir recently lent its talent to a successful fundraising event for Rubicon Grove and Judith Chamberlains "Shakespeare the Gardener" is eye opening to the depth of talent of this wonderful literary giant whose capacity for learning and gleaning information was immense. Such a lot of action, wealth of learning, physical and mental activity being enjoyed by our large membership which brings me to the realization of the hard work and effort undertaken by our Programmer Di Kelly who has taken on this role since the very beginning of U3A Port Sorell and has grown the opportunities for every member of this vibrant group.

Programme Co-ordinator wanted

It is important to acknowledge that all the roles held by committee members are done on a purely voluntary basis and these positions as they become vacant require enthusiastic members of our U3A to fill them, the Programming role being one of them. Di Kelly is putting out the call to members to offer their services and consider working with her in a mentoring role to learn the process. It cannot be emphasized enough that as Port Sorell U3A grows we rely on our community to add their full support.

Morning/Afternoon Tea – Volunteer/s wanted

Our hard working Ellie-May Clancy has ensured that all our needs have been met for morning and afternoon teas. It is now time for her to hang up her "Tea Bags" and allow some else to take up the spoons... Please contact the U3A office if you think that this is a role that you would enjoy taking on so that we the members can always enjoy a tea/coffee and a biscuit during our classes and special events. Please note that role helps to maintain that great sense of togetherness and communication as there is nothing better than a chat over a "cuppa".

What's Happening this Month?

Courses starting in July:

03/07/2018 Musical Theatre Act 2
04/07/2018 Bushrangers and Black trackers
16/07/2018 Bird Walks – monthly
19/07/2018 & 02/08/2018 Bird Talks -2 sessions only
26/07/2018 Geography – Planet Earth

Special Events: See fliers posted at Banksia Centre and the U3A notice board at IGA, Shearwater Village for more details

17 July at 2.00pm – 4.00pm Travelling in Japan

Guest Speaker Murray Giles presenting a range of topics from social, environmental and cultural.

20 July at 2.00pm – 4.00pm The Body Corporate with Bev Sienesi

Bev will discuss many aspects of living in a Strata Unit from Body Corporate to Getting along with others

Hello U3A members, once again a very successful Information/Morning Tea was held on 17 August 2018 and opened by Barrie Porch singing a fine rendition of "We Are Australian". A warm welcome was extended to all current and potential new members and a big thank you to all our hard working U3A tutors and committee members who volunteer their time and provide our group with such great service and tutelage in a comprehensive range of subjects. Barrie extended an invitation to the members to consider volunteering for a position in one of the many roles required to keep the Group successful. Appreciation was given to Sam and Sonia the hard-working staff from Camp Banksia, for their assistance with the venue.

Our Guest Speaker, Mr Ian Hubble who represents Library Aid International and is a tutor with Wynyard U3A spoke on the work performed by this small group in Burnie who collect books for age groups 3 -18 which are sent to aid overseas schools in need. All books are gratefully received.

A reminder from John Sumpton for all members to re-enrole for ongoing classes to ensure that class registers are kept up to date and as most communication is through email, he advised that this makes information dissemination much easier. Enrolments closed on the 24 August, with 40+ classes being offered for Term 3 and over 574 enrolments for these classes have been recorded which indicates the hard work done by Program Coordinator, Di Kelly whom we thank most sincerely. Classes have commenced and no doubt another very successful term is pending.

Several tutors provided a profile of their courses, from Community Singing to Board Games for fun and engagement. Demystifying Computers and Bicycle Repairs for some practical fun and of course, the physical pursuits with Croquet and Petanque, which provides gentle exercise and social engagement.

Health literacy, how to manage Blood Pressure/Bone Health

Special Events

Points to Ponder Prior to Passing Over

Dr David Saner

14 September 2018, Banksia Centre, Pitcairn Street, Port Sorell

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Cost \$2

Bookings essential: U3A Office Banksia Centre or Phone: 049 916 2539

Dr David Saner will be discussing 'medical decision making towards the end of life. Making decisions regarding life and death matters before we get to the terminal phase.'

Film: Albatross on Midway Island

Geoff Shannon

12 October 2018, Banksia Centre, Pitcairn Street, Port Sorell

2:30pm – 4:30pm with wine and cheese

Bookings essential: U3A Office Banksia Centre or Phone: 049 916 2539

The film approximately 90 minutes. Further information will be provided closer to the day.

Please remember, if any member wishes to submit articles to share, please email me jmcg1708@hotmail.com as I have no doubt there are many scribes within our U3A community just waiting to post their experiences... Jean McGrath

Hello U3Aers, once more we are hurtling towards the end of the year and of course another successful Term is coming to a close and our Programmer, Di Kelly needs to be acknowledged for her supreme effort in garnering the many Tutors who present programs of such interest to us.

The special event movie, "The Albatross on Midway Island", presented by Geoff Shannon on October 12 was an amazing heart rendering experience. The devastation and havoc being reaped upon these beautiful birds caused by environmental carnage of plastic waste was highlighted in this beautiful documentary. Geoff presented guest speakers, both PhD Graduates who spoke about their respective work and experiences in attempts to reduce the harm to the Birds and their Chicks and working with corporations in an attempt to reduce plastic waste. The afternoon was rounded out with Wine and Cheese, very much appreciated by the attendees.

A further note to all participants is that the U3A Insurance Policy is available to view on the Website for those interested parties who want clarification of coverage.

Articles provided by U3A participants are greatly appreciated and I would like to thank Julie Fitzpatrick for her article on Demystifying Computer Programming with Brien O'Connor and Anne Lockett who as provided an article with photos for the Craft Group.

Have you got the squiggly bracket in the right place or **Demystifying Computer Coding with Brian O'Connor**.

Do your grandchildren write you off as an analogue in a digital world, then, this is the course for you. Brian is a former teacher and engineer and his first stroke of brilliance was to have ten students working on 5 computers. Team- work is not only more productive, slightly easier on the tutor, but much more enjoyable for the students. Brian also supplied and had pre-set the 32 pin micro-controller which had liquid crystal display, light and talked us through writing programs which enabled the light to flash and change colours and write sentences.

In the process we learned about binary, bytes and nibbles, reading from right to left, hexadecimal, ASCII table, the value of */ and }. I will admit to glazing over when we got into conversion of hexadecimal to binary and numbers to the power of etc. Programming is not a walk in the park, it is easy to make a mistake as my partner and I discovered with something as simple as an incorrect placement of the squiggly (curly) bracket.

An opening curly bracket, must be followed by, a closing curly bracket. Fortunately Arduino in which we were working has a feature to check, as well as a helpful help menu.

Demystify, maybe to some but there are still mysteries to me, wanting to know more, yes. I am sure our patient Tutor Brian, went home weary, having deftly juggled a range of competencies and curious, sometimes totally left field questions without making any of us feel foolish. We all thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Please remember, if any member wishes to submit articles to share, please email me jmcg1708@hotmail.com as I have no doubt there are many scribes within our U3A community just waiting to post their experiences... Jean McGrath

CRAFTERNOONS 2018

The U3A craft group meets weekly at Tranquilles B & B. It is a lovely light space provided by Garry & Margaret who always have the room set up ready for us. We are now a full group of 20 happy stitchers who are most supportive of one another. Every week we have "show & tell" for any finished articles that we have watched develop. There is never a time when there is not a finished article.

In April we had a bus excursion to Ulverstone, Wynyard & Burnie to see visit craft outlets, shop, lunch & finish up at the Makers' Market. Everyone had a great time. We also have visiting crafts people to show

their specialties. In May we welcomed Judy Marshall (Devonport Embroiders' Guild) with several pieces of her expert embroidery pieces. Judy also talked about the miniatures which she has made over many years & which were featured in a recent exhibition in Launceston.

In June we were very privileged to have Sally O'Wheel (who is involved with the Australian Quaker Tapestries) provide a showing & talk about these special pieces of history. Sally had most of the tapestries with her on route to the Australian display in Queensland.

During August we visited the Rubicon River Arts exhibition in Latrobe & finished up with coffee at the Crowded Lounge. Some of our members are also members of the RRA. It was great to see the group's new space called the Hub. We aim to finish the year with another outing to Latrobe to see the Devonport Embroiderers' Guild exhibition at the Courthouse Museum from 19th Nov – 2 Dec.

We look forward to another productive year in 2019.

Anne Lockett

Group Leader



Jenny's embroidered cushion cover



Delphine's finished poncho



Some of the group sharing patterns



Rose-Mary and Vickie shopping in Wynyard

Member Request for disused rechargeable batteries:

To all members, I have recently built a recumbent tricycle from recycled bicycle parts and planning to add electric assist to it. Part of this plan is to build my own battery from rechargeable batteries found in rechargeable battery packs. If you have any that are no longer useful, I would be happy to recycle them.

The battery packs I am after are generally found in laptop computers, cordless power tools, cordless vacuum cleaners etc. If you would like to contribute your battery pack to my project I can be contacted on - Mob: 0415 400 351

With thanks, Patrick Calmels

Upcoming Classes:

Circle Dance: Recommences on Monday 12 November from 2.00 – 4.00pm and will run for six weeks.

Health literacy, on Bone Health has been postponed to the 19 November, 1:30pm at the Banksia Centre

Special Events:

David Jones presents **WW1 - "The Last 100 Days Defeating the German Army"**. This presentation coincides with Nov 11, Armistice (Remembrance) Day. David's presentations are always amazing, factual and well worth attending.

Date: 09/11/2018 at 2pm

Booking Essential; Banksia Centre, Pitcairn St, Port Sorell. 0499 162 539

End of Year Function: will be held on the 23 November between 5 to 8 pm at Camp Banksia. As last year it will be BYO drinks, glasses, cups etc with Finger Food to share and a \$2 cover charge. Tea/coffee/water to be provided

Focus on Port Sorell U3A November 2018

Another successful year is quickly drawing to an end and there are just a few events to remind U3A members. Term three ran 39 successful and well-attended classes as well as Special Events and Health Literacy information sessions.

As a current member and relatively new arrival in the Port Sorell community, I have found U3A an absolutely wonderful organisation to engage with and develop new friendships whilst at the same time engaging mind and body with learning and development. There are a wide variety of options to choose from including gentle activity to more mind stimulating classes, so definitely worthwhile being involved.

The success of U3A can be attributed to the hard-working committee, tutors and the many volunteers who man the office and ensure that all runs smoothly. U3A Members should consider a role within the organisation as committee positions become vacant. For the successful continuation of this group there is always need for enthusiastic people to bring new ideas and energy. All roles are volunteer positions and a great opportunity to give back to your community and at the same time having fun...

Membership Renewal

U3A members should by now have received their renewal notice for 2019. The membership fee remains at \$45, and memberships should be paid by the end of December. While memberships can be paid by post or EFT at any time, those intending to pay cash at the office will need to do so before the office closes for the year on Friday December 7th.

Armistice Day

David Jones presents WW1 - "The Last 100 Days Defeating the German Army". This presentation coincides with Nov 11, Armistice (Remembrance) Day. David's presentations are always amazing, factual and well worth attending. Friday 9th November at 2pm. Booking Essential, Banksia Centre, Pitcairn St, Port Sorell. 0499 162 539.

"Rhythm of Life" Concert

Make sure this is in your diary and bring a friend - its open to everyone. A splendid afternoon of wonderful music, with afternoon tea thrown in and all to support a good cause, supporting the Leukemia Foundation and featuring the U3A Port Sorell Choir - Resonance Choir, accompanied by Heather Grainger and Yvonne Yaxley

2.00pm Saturday 17th November 2018; Banksia Centre, Pitcairn St. Port Sorell; Admission \$15.00; Concession \$10.00 Bookings not required.

End of Year Function

The end of year function will be held on the 23 November between 5 to 8 pm at Camp Banksia. As last year it will be BYO drinks, glasses, cups etc. with Finger Food to share and a \$2 cover charge. Tea/coffee/water to be provided.

Please remember, if any member wishes to submit articles to share, please email me jmcg1708@hotmail.com as I have no doubt there are many scribes within our U3A community just waiting to post their experiences... Jean McGrath

Focus on Port Sorell U3A December 2018

Another successful year has drawn to an end and the office closes on Friday 07 2018 and a well earned rest for all of our hard working volunteers who attend Monday to Friday keeping the wheels turning and our members informed of all the events happening; well done and a have a happy Christmas and New Year.

Discovering U3A Port Sorell:

Have you ever wondered what will I do in retirement? A daunting question for us when we are on the verge of retirement but not quite ready to lose the stimulation of meeting colleagues and sharing ideas and communicating with a wide variety of cohorts on a daily basis. So what to do to fill the void?

Have you considered joining your local U3A Port Sorell Group, a volunteer organisation providing a wide variety of educational, creative and leisure opportunities in a safe and friendly environment for retired and semi-retired participants? The Group is growing and has reached a membership in the high 300's, which is indicative of the enthusiasm of our local community. The ethos of the group is one of sharing skills, knowledge and life experiences with an emphasis on everyone having the opportunity to "Teach the Teacher", with enthusiasm and having fun in a safe environment, and offering the opportunity to meet new people and engage with the wider community.

Information about U3A can be found on the website and accessed through: portsorellu3anet.org.au or contact 0499 162 539. If you are new to the community (Port Sorell/Shearwater/Hawley district), then this may be the opportunity you are looking for. Classes operate on a daily basis, (Monday to Friday), each term and generally runs approximately 40 classes each week.

Term 3 has now come to an end with only a few classes still running. Again much needs to be made of the time and energy given by our dedicated tutors and coordinators of an ever-growing list of classes being offered. This term has seen some new and exciting classes being presented and I am sure that next year will be the same. In our last Focus an article written by one of our participants was presented on the class 'Demystifying Computer Coding' and was received with much enthusiasm.

I would encourage all U3A members to submit articles to your Focus as we are interested in hearing from all perspectives what pleases and excites us. Include photos as well as we are always curious to see what other groups are doing.

Key Dates 2019:

Office opens: Monday January 21 2019

Annual General Meeting: March 20 2019

Term1

11 weeks Monday 18 Feb – Friday 3 May

Enrolments Open – Monday 28 January 2019

Information Session and Morning Tea – Friday 01 February 2019

Enrolments Close – Friday 08 February 2019

Public Holidays Term 1:

Monday 11 March 2019

Friday 19 April – Good Friday

Monday 22 April – Easter Monday

Thursday 25 April – Anzac Day

Holidays at the end of Term 1: Monday 06 May 2019 – Friday 24 May 2019

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year 2019 and 'May the Focus be with you.'

Please remember, if any member wishes to submit articles to share, please email me jmcg1708@hotmail.com as I have no doubt there are many scribes within our U3A community just waiting to post their experiences... Jean McGrath.