



# MELTON CAMPUS INC.

Learning For Pleasure

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## **President's thought for the month.**

"If you cannot make yourself what you would like to be, how can you expect to have another person exactly to your wishes? We want to see others perfect, yet our own faults go unattended."

*(Thomas, A Kempsis—Paraphrased)*

## **President's message**

Here we are again and, as you are all aware, hopefully, our U3A here in Melton is going to be celebrating our 18th birthday this month. It is very encouraging to celebrate all those years and also to congratulate Basil, who was one of our founding members and also our treasurer for fourteen years so, Basil, we thank you so much for your time and dedication and all the hard work you have contributed to our U3A. Having said that, Basil has willingly stepped down as treasurer and handed over this very important position to Nola Camilleri who has an Advanced Certificate in Financial Management and I have to say thank you to Nola, you are doing a great job. Also a big thank you to Merlene who, as you all probably know has settled in as secretary. We are very lucky to have these two talented ladies on our committee to take over these two very important positions.

I would also like to thank Kathy who is doing a great job as our social coordinator.

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY BASIL!**

Joy- President

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## **From the Secretary**

We are now back into the swing of it after the holidays. The office clean up went as planned with the more manageable office space allowing greater efficiency with the many administrative tasks undertaken on member's behalf. The relocation of items was made with ease of access for all members in mind and, apart from the few grumbles from around the kitchen table, all seem to have adapted to the minor changes. If anyone feels inconvenienced by the new arrangements please talk to me about it, rather than about me as, by the time the information reaches me via 'Chinese Whispers' there is little I can do to resolve the issue.

A great turn out for the casino trip thanks to the terrific organisational skills of Kathy, which allowed us all to be winners one way or the other.

In the last newsletter I announced my intention of accessing and updating our U3A web page on Vicnet, providing relevant information for those with internet access. Unfortunately, it turned out to be a case of good intention, but impossible execution, as I fought in vain over many days to get the web host to accept the pages. I did, however, become very good friends with tech support before we all conceded defeat due to their aging technology. Still with the aim of bringing us into line with this century, technologically speaking only of course, the committee has decided to build our own web pages and I hope to have this up and running by the end of June.

**Can I remind all leaders, or the last person to leave to the building, to please make sure blinds are closed, lights and heaters are turned off and all doors pulled shut.**

Thank you - Merlene

## **The Djerriwarrh Bard**

At the review of the magazine, *The Djerriwarrh Bard*, conducted by the writer's group in April, the following recommendations were made:

- A new look magazine be released in June
- This magazine to be titled *The Times of our Lives*
- New magazine to have a change of layout to make it more reader friendly and to have page numbers increased from 38 to 56
- To invite and encourage submissions from all U3A members
- To increase the price to \$5.00

While there was much debate about the price rise, it was acknowledged the previous magazine had been sold at well below actual printing costs and, as the initial grant that had subsidised the printing had now run out, we had no option but to increase the price. We have met the price rise with an increase in content, and other changes that are certain to meet your approval.

Another change has been in a new editor, Carol Hogg, appointed by the committee. We thank Basil for his period as editor, a difficult role at the best of times, gathering and organising copy, editing and formatting etc. Thank you Basil. You will be a hard act to follow!

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## **Stage 3 Development Grant**

In October last year an application for a grant was submitted on behalf of the writing group for funding to purchase equipment that would enable ongoing production of the group's magazine. We are now pleased to announce we have received notification from the Office of Senior Victorians that this application was successful and thank Carol for her efforts in researching and preparing the grant application. This funding is for the purchase of equipment necessary for the production of the magazine and is not intended as a subsidy for printing. The intention is for the magazine to become financially self sufficient through its sales.

Although this grant was made for the writer's group it has been decided to expand involvement in the publication of *The Times of our Lives* to include non-writer's group U3A members. (see new group announcement on the following page for more details.

The new magazine will be published quarterly and we invite submissions of original work from all U3A Melton members, accompanied by a signed submission form. Relevant details will be placed on all notice boards in early June. We are looking for varied content so snippets of family history or anything relating to the *times of our lives* will be most welcome - poetry or prose, fact or fiction, happy or sad, past or present, serious or humorous, travel stories, growing up or growing older. We particularly welcome stories about positive aging. There is a preference for items to be typed and submitted with hard copy (on paper) as well as on memory stick, or via email, however, we are happy to look at shorter handwritten pieces and this can be discussed with the editor.

- \* The Tai Chi groups also benefited from this grant as the recipient of a small sum to purchase blank cds to record Tai Chi exercises for the members.
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## **Grant information**

Small government, community or philanthropic trust grants are made available throughout the year for different causes and are usually advertised in newspapers or targeted magazines. If you have an idea for your group that requires capital input, whether it is replacement of old equipment or a new innovation, these are worth following up. Bring your ideas to the committee first for approval and for assistance in filling out the grant application.

I have not received any news from groups for this issue, however, I can report on two new groups to begin later this month, *Let's Talk*, with Marian Sidwell and *Desktop Publishing Workshop* with Carol Hogg, bringing out total number of weekly activity sessions to seventeen.

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## LET'S TALK

Marian will be the leader of this group and she hopes to create a relaxed, informative and happy discussion group. She will commence the first session with an agenda of sorts but the aim of the group, hopefully, is that it becomes a weekly gathering field amongst the members themselves.

Suggested topics range from:

- Revisiting school days with a *show and tell* segment where objects could be brought along for discussion and/or laughter.
- Current affairs - where sometimes a debating team could be organised if thoughts are divided on a hot topic.

In other words, the subject matter will be anything and everything - even down to what has been found behind the sofa cushions.

We hope you can come along and support this new group in a setting where you will be able to talk, listen, laugh and slurp your coffee at leisure.

**LEADER:** Marian Sidwell

**START DATE:** Thursday 28 May - and thereafter every Thursday

**WHERE:** Room 3

**TIME:** 1.00 pm—3.00 pm

For further information contact Marian 53678604

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## DESKTOP PUBLISHING WORKSHOPS

Carol will lead this group in the practical application of desktop and small press publishing. Using Microsoft Word and Publisher and small press publishing tools produce the quarterly magazine, *The Times of Our Lives*, assist in the printing of the monthly newsletter, and the production of U3A publicity material.

This group will incorporate the submission/editing group from the writer's group and other U3A members who have established computer skills and an interest in desktop publishing and a willingness to provide practical assistance in meeting deadlines.

**LEADER:** Carol Hogg

**START DATE:** Thursday 28 May

**WHEN:** Every 2nd and 4th Thursday, with adjustments for school holidays and other regular U3A events

**WHERE:** Based in Room 1, using the library and computer room as required

**TIME:** 1.00 pm—3.30 pm

This nature of this group restricts the number of participants, however, if you have an interest in this area please contact Carol 9747 9848 for further information on group vacancies.

## GROUP LEADERS

Often group leaders are the unsung heroes within their own groups, turning up week after week, adding interest and knowledge to our lives that the rest of us are unaware of. We would all love to read about the activities of your group so please send those short articles in for inclusion in this newsletter.

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## Changes to office procedure

With the change of treasurer comes some changes to office procedure. The treasurer would like it known she will be in attendance at U3A on Mondays between 11am and 1pm to conduct any business relating to finance - payment of member fees, issuing of cheques, receipts etc.

This does not supersede the previous arrangements of the wooden drop box, which has been relocated from the desk drawer to the inside of the left door of the white cupboard, situated on the right side of the back wall of the office. If you have any queries about these changes please speak with the treasurer.

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### COMING EVENTS

**U3A 18th birthday party 26 May**

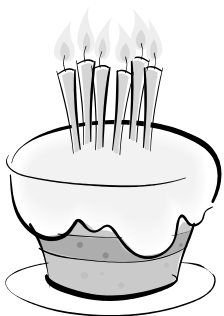
**Genealogy Talk 23 June**

**See Kathy's Korner for full details**



"That's the international symbol for 'Don't Rock The Boat'."

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## May Birthdays;

**Nola Camilleri, John Lauder, Joan Murphy,**

**Dorothy Volk, Pat Walsh, Basil Wurf**

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## The next newsletter will be in June.

If you have any news you feel should be included  
please have copy to the secretary by Friday 1 May