

August 2020

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This month's newsletter includes a CALENDAR! There are quite a few changes to pre-COVID times. The Hub is still unavailable, but Frances at GELC has stepped into the void, opening it up to **some** of our classes. With many rules implemented to comply with the pandemic, we must adhere to changed conditions:

1. Hand-sanitising at the door
2. Our temperatures will be taken
3. Numbers are limited to classes of 12
4. Members wanting to join a class must book (with me, Maria)
5. Anyone with his or her name down must notify the tutor if unable to attend
6. Class fees while we are at GELC will rise to \$2

My husband, Tony, and I have decided to have a weekly outing (while we can). Often it involves visiting places of geological interest. Over the past few weeks, we have been to Echuca, Halls Gap, the Devil's Kitchen, Lal Lal Falls and Trentham Falls.



Cheers, **Maria**
marialacey1@hotmail.com



President's Report August 2020

It's really good that we now have enough activities so that Maria is able to produce a timetable for August.

We have already been enjoying Book Club, Geology and WW1 Poets.

I attended Olive Mackay's funeral, representing U3A. Olive and her husband Geoff were staunch members of our club. Two lovely people who always had interesting stories and anecdotes to share. Olive particularly loved reciting poetry. Condolences to Martin and family.





Thelma recently gave us instructions how to use face masks effectively and I explained how to make your own.

- a. Cut out three rectangles 25cms by 15cms of polyester/cotton.
- b. Make a 1cm hem along the 25cm edges.
- c. Then a 1cm hem along the 15cm edges, making sure the hem is roomy enough to thread through with elastic (with a small safety pin).

A reminder that free travel vouchers are no longer posted to us automatically and have to be applied for either on line ptv.vic.gov.au/vouchers or by application form. I got one at our local railway station. Keep safe and well my dear friends.

Val

Secretary's Report August 2020

Hi, everyone!

First of all, I want to acknowledge former member Olive Mackay, who died shortly after Erma Tattersall. Olive was Treasurer on several occasions, indeed some years ago, she volunteered at a special meeting our U3A had to hold to elect a Treasurer. Prior to this no-one had been willing or able to take on this role. Olive was also an early active member of our Book Group, but eventually lost her enthusiasm for reading. Our sincere condolences go to Martin and his brothers.

As some of you will be aware, Frances Clarke at GELC has enabled us to conduct a few of our classes, for which we are very grateful. We are now attempting a full program, but with no Wednesday Specials, other than the monthly Lunch.

But there are some restrictions, with place limits being firmly enforced. So it is essential that members either email or telephone Maria to reserve their place for each class they wish to attend. This also applies very firmly to the lunches, as we need to fit in with whatever limits local restaurants and cafes have to apply.

Regretfully, Mahjong and Cards cannot be held at the present.

As from August 1st, our class fee will rise to \$2 per person. This ensures we can pay our way at GELC. Members should know that the Hub will not be opened for quite some time.

That's all for now – do take care, everyone – stay safe.

Wendy

Gerry's August Astronomical Note

On August 16th Venus can be seen above the Moon, and surrounded by many stellar luminaries, but Venus as usual continues to outshine them all. And the Milky Way is just waiting for anyone to seek out dark skies and just look up – absolutely beautiful.

Gerry



A Tribute to Erma Tattersall

The members of Maryborough U3A were deeply saddened by the recent death of long-time member Erma Tattersall. She was an active member of Maryborough organizations for many decades and joined U3A when it formed in 1996. She joined with many of her friends at the time, especially Phyl Ellis, Jean Ritchie and Jeannie Dowie. What they had in common were friendship, a keen interest in community well-being, a readiness to debate issues to reach an outcome, and a long-term commitment to education and sharing knowledge. They all saw U3A as an organization that could do a great deal for the age cohort of retired and senior residents of Maryborough and district.

Erma enrolled in many of our classes. She was assiduous in background reading and shared her insights and knowledge with U3A classmates. Erma was an independent thinker and the rest of us valued her views and her logical approach to discussion, which could be very lively at times.

Erma was also valued by members because she was prepared to help organize U3A activities and programs by serving as an office bearer on our committee. Her service included several years as President, a role in which she excelled because she ran a tight and purposeful meeting and encouraged committee members to contribute. Considering the personalities of the committee members at the time, this was a great accomplishment! She was always courteous to others and subtly dealt with the rare inconsiderate behaviour of some members.

It is important to note that Erma was a gender trailblazer in the pharmacy profession, in which she graduated in 1952. She had much encouragement from her family and won an academic scholarship to complete her schooling at Methodist Ladies' College. She has passed the baton of education to her grand-children, of whose achievements she was justly proud. On occasion she would bring her grand-daughters to our classes. We all enjoyed those times.

Erma attended my classes in philosophy, music appreciation, literature, and geology. She was widely read, very fond of classical music, a clear thinker, and a very experienced traveller. I was amazed that, when the geology class included studies of places such as the Kimberley, Uluru, the Flinders Ranges, Tasmania and Kangaroo Island, Erma had visited them all previously with husband Dale in caravan adventures.

We will remember Erma for all these things and I must add that I will really miss the club sandwiches which she, Phyl and Jean insisted on preparing for me when we went on geology field trips. They were delicious and I was grateful. It was a very pleasant surprise that her family had prepared little snack boxes for post-funeral service distribution with contents drawn from Erma's favourite recipes, including club sandwiches!

Alex Stoneman.

12 July 2020

Alex's Geology Update

It has been great to get back to class with so many enthusiastic U3A members. Our Term 3 course is dealing with the geology of the Eyre and Yorke Peninsulas of South Australia. At least we do not currently need a passport!



Our final geology lesson is on Thursday 6th August, when we discover the fascinating and ancient geology of the Yorke Peninsula, concentrating on the Copper Coast.

Our field trip will be on Thursday 13th August. Places included on our itinerary are Talbot, Caralulup, Lexton, Avoca, Percydale, Homebush and Wareek South. Total distance is 115 km. We will car pool and depart from

The Hub carpark at 9am and arrive back at 4.45pm. The route includes some gravel roads. You will need sturdy footwear and warm clothing, a pen and a water bottle. Bring your mobile phone too. The lunch break will be in Avoca so bring lunch or buy items in Avoca.

Music Appreciation Update

A class is planned for 1.30pm on Thursday 6th August. We will learn about the composer Anton Bruckner, and his fourth symphony. Prof. Greenberg [on DVD] will the session.



open

British Literature Update



We were scheduled to have a class on John Donne March 19th. You have not missed out because it will be held (all things considered) at 1.30pm on Thursday 20th August. An introduction will be provided by Prof. John Sutherland [on DVD].

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Classes will be at GELC and all the COVID-19 rules apply. It is essential to not attend if you are unwell.

U3A Annual Review: An Invitation to all members

At our U3A AGM in November the major Office-bearers [President, Secretary and Treasurer] present annual reports to our members. This year, as part of our membership growth project, we will also provide each member with a special booklet – a members' Annual Review, which showcases contributions by our members. The already submitted items are varied, mostly in essay format, and very interesting. The challenge for our members in COVID-19 pandemic conditions was to avoid boredom and write something to entertain the other U3A members.

This is a general invitation to members to put the brain into gear and take up a writing implement – pen, pencil, keyboard – and contribute an item of up to 300 words to our COVID-19 Annual review. It can be humorous, serious, instructive, meditative, thoughtful, or crazy BUT it must be interesting. I am happy to edit contributions if needed. Contact Alex for any queries or completed contributions. The deadline is **TUESDAY 1st September**.

That gives budding contributors ample time. Doesn't it? Give it a go!

Alex Stoneman. Email: alson@iinet.net.au

**Sue Purchas sent a wonderful email:
"Stay home and don't become a statistic"**

That is what my daughter said this morning. I spoke to Kylie at 10am this morning and she had just woken up after getting home at 10pm last night after a 13 hour shift at Northern Hospital. She is exhausted, as are all the staff while they work under the stressful conditions of COVID. One of the patients died during her shift.

Kylie spends all her working day wearing full blue PPE from her feet to her head. She wears the surgical mask, goggles and then a full face shield. She is a specialised nurse with a lot of responsibility and I am so proud of her.

Kylie was not well with a sore throat so had the swab last Tuesday and was in isolation at home in their bedroom away from her two boys and partner. Thursday morning, she got the great news that the COVID test was negative. Fantastic good news.

So, it was back to work on Friday and yesterday. Today she spent the day washing, cleaning, cooking and spending time at home with her family.

This is what it is like for these awesome people who put their lives, and those of their families, at risk.

As a mother I urge you to stay home and only venture out when absolutely necessary so that our children who work in major hospitals (and aged care facilities) are not overwhelmed, overworked and have their lives put at risk more than need be.

Stay safe and sane my dear friends.

Sue 

Janice Simpson has provided readers with a challenge:

One of the shortest stories (and some argue the most powerful) ever written was achieved in just six words. Here's how it goes: 'For sale: baby shoes, never worn.' It has been attributed to Hemingway but good old Wikipedia states that '...the link to him is unsubstantiated, and in fact the 'story' predates Hemingway's writing career.'

Regardless of who penned it, the story remains brilliant in its conjuring of a veritable cornucopia of imaginative possibilities.

My challenge for you is to write a short story, or several if the whim takes you, that follow the rules as set out below:

1. The story must be exactly 50 words in length excluding the title.
2. There is only one rule, see above.

Here's two 50-word stories I penned.

August Rain

When it rains hard in August, drops like gunshots smacking onto the fishpond, I think of my dead mother. She would love this rain. 'Good for the land,' she would say. 'Make the crops grow.' I like the rain, too. 'Good for the garden,' I say. 'Makes the vegies grow.'

Florsheim Shoes

I got on a train – I think it was a Bendigo train – and under the seat I found a pair of black Florsheim shoes. Never worn. Still in the box they came in. Exactly my size. Another time I found a supermarket bag of porno videos. They'd been used, though.

And what might the reward be for penning a story? Glory and fame, as I'm sure a few might find their way into this newsletter. Good luck and get writing! **Janice**

Libby McKinna has produced a wonderful poem:

AUTUMN 2020

It was a period unprecedented
And our lives became corona centred
Loss of freedoms and fun was resented
So I laid on my couch and watched Netflix

Thought my garden would look good augmented
With flowers and foliage sweet scented
Perhaps it could all be cemented?
So I planned on my couch and watched Netflix

I could've become food oriented
Observed sour dough as it fermented
Or opened the pantry and invented
But I ate on my couch and watched Netflix

When meeting via Zoom was presented
We appeared on the screen all segmented
Digital me wasn't well represented
So I curled up in a foetal position on my couch and watched Netflix

In this period unprecedented
So many plans could have been implemented
Instead my cushions are all now indented
Because I laid on my couch and watched Netflix



BOOK CLUB

Geoffrey Blainey's *Before I forget* in July generated a lively discussions. We don't have a set book for August but will discuss some of our favourite books.

Join us at 1.30 on Tuesday August 11th at GELC

WWI History and Poetry

1.30 Tuesday August 25th at GELC
With Riley Upton



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About U3A in Victoria

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U3A Online Australia

Online courses are sponsored by Griffith University

www.u3aonline.org.au

Birthday wishes for those with August birthdays.

Happy Birthday

Wendy Madden

Libby McKinna

Marion Ward

Sue Kelly

U3A Maryborough Inc.

Learning, sharing, supporting and encouraging retired and semi-retired members of our community through classes, activities and friendship.

from:

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