



Moorabool University of the Third Age

New U3A for the Shire of Moorabool

April 2009

Volume 1, Issue 1

From the formation of a steering committee last October the start of Moorabool University of the Third Age (U3A) began. Formed to operate in and around the shire of Moorabool. Our U3A was voted by the council of the umbrella body of U3A Network Victoria Inc to be a full member on the 4th March. Like other U3As Moorabool U3A is autonomous and will be run by volunteers. There will be no entry requirements for membership, no assessment of learning and no academic awards.

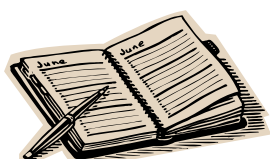
Moorabool U3A is a learning cooperative of mature age people who encourage healthy ageing

by enabling members to share educational, creative and leisure activities. Individuals can learn, at the pace they prefer and enjoy the fun of group interaction.

For the past few months leaflets promoting Moorabool U3A have been distributed around town.

Classes will start during May in term two of 2009.

Membership with Moorabool U3A is only a phone call away and the joining costs are low and are true value for money. Your annual subscription enti-



ties you to join any or all the courses and activities that we offer. There may be a small additional charge for some courses or activities such as excursions, or for craft or art materials, hired premises or use of technical equipment.

More classes will be made available as membership grows.

There are U3A internet contacts, U3A Talk, an email system, that links individuals and U3As in Australia and overseas in an online chat, as well as U3Aonline, an Internet U3A, that can provide prepared material, at cost, to supplement local classes.

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3-News

This is the first edition of Moorabool U3A's Newsletter.

3-News is to advise you of the activities of the U3A operating in the Moorabool area. It will primarily be for the Bacchus Marsh, Myrning and local areas, to be extended around Ballan as the interest grows.

Information Day to be held 17-Apr-2009

An information day will be held in the Village Shopping Centre in Main Street Bacchus Marsh on Friday 17th April 2009 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Come along and find out all about Moorabool

University for the Third Age. Members of the Steering Committee will be there to answer all your questions and to take registrations of new members. Moorabool U3A can help

you get involved in a range of new activities. By offering lifelong sharing of knowledge, new friendships, fresh opportunities for personal development and enjoyment will follow.

Writing Class — Genre ‘Who Dunnits’ — Course Leader—Jackie Matters

This class will be run democratically. It will offer either a group story, or individual stories to be decided by general vote. There will be many

exercises carried out throughout the course.

Ideally this class will eventually see each participant



published, even if only in an anthology of beginners. From time to time samples will be published in this newsletter.

Australian History — Course Leader—Gail D’Elton

In this class, we will look fleetingly at the early explorers from Europe, England, Asia and the Islands. Then we will go on to study how and why Australia was settled.

We will look from the time of the First Fleet, and our first Governor, Captain Arthur Phillip to subsequent Governors until Federation. We will study how some of those sent out to this country in the early days abused their positions. We

will learn of the ‘Rum Rebellion’ and Captain John Macarthur and his merino sheep.

We will also study the original inhabitants of our land. The legends of the Koori people some say began 50,000 years before the birth of Moses, before Celt, Pict or Saxon. We will look at some of the epic journeys of the early explorers. The tragedy of Bourke & Wills’ last journey, the triumphs and

disappointments of men such as Hume & Hovell, Mitchell, Sturt, Eyre, Oxley, Leichhardt, McDougall Stuart and others.

In this class, we will have wide ranging discussions, watch videos/DVDs, documentaries and other primary and secondary sources of knowledge about our vast and ancient land. (This class may be continued into further terms as required).

Dolls Houses and Miniatures — Course Leader — Jackie Matters

Dolls Houses—An Adult Interest with a fascinating history.

The history of dolls houses dates from the 1600’s or 1700’s, when merchant traders returned home with stories of the wonders to be found in foreign cities, bringing with them miniature samples of the furniture and furnishings, and to bring the full sized item on their next trip. In order to show the minia-

tures, people in Holland and Germany built special cabinets to house them, becoming houselike and became the dolls houses we have today. Standard measurements were developed of one twelfth scale.

For many people miniature things have a special allure and challenge.

Jackie also hopes to arrange an excursion to the Melbourne Miniatures Exhi-

bition in July 2009

Dolls Houses — An adult interest with a fascinating history which dates back to the 1600’s

Card and Board Games — Course Leaders — Jean Adams & Marian Harvey

What a handful four aces presents. Card games like Bridge, Crazy Whist, Euchre, Canasta and a range of other card games are on the agenda.

Together with Board games of Backgammon, Monopoly and Scrabble, these games can be played concurrently



with players choosing their choice of game.

You can be assured of lots of entertainment.

Quilting Group — Course Leader — Lynne Farrer

Lynne is a professional machine quilter, but in this class we will be learning the basics of quilting. Lynne will explain about the equipment that is needed for quilting, the types of material and

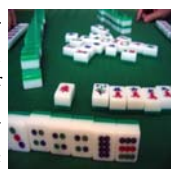
thread that is required and how to rotary cut. Lynne will also explain about the patterns that can be used. Lynne will hand out work sheets and answer any questions. Later we will have a further

class where we will learn to do hand quilting, either a cushion, pin cushion or a 4 block throw.

Mahjongg — Course Leader — Jan White

Mahjongg originated in China dating to over two thousand years ago. The English translation also added index letters and numbers familiar to card players. The name of the game (Mah

jong, or Mah jongg) is an anglicized version of a compound word, which in the dialect of Shanghai is pronounced 'Ma-chong'. Jan will teach us the



basics of learning the 'Western' version of Mahjongg i.e. the Australian version. Students will need to purchase a book which sets out the moves

Computer Studies — Course Leader — Eric Daws

Starting with the basics of computing, this is a course that grows with you. From power on through word processing, publishing, photo editing and for the more daring, into the examination

of the operating system. We can also explore the Internet, learn about email and how web pages are created. Learn what the Inter-



net address means. Eric took a Computer tips and tricks class at Western Region U3A (Footscray) for a number of years, and now is in Bacchus Marsh.

Book Club — Course Leader — To be advised

Do you have an interest in reading and discussing the contents of books? This group will borrow books from many



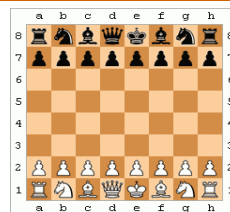
sources, have them available for you to read and afterwards the group will discuss the structure of the writing,

topic and intent of the book. It will give you an insight into the book world.

Chess — Course Leader — Peter Matters

Chess is a recreational and competitive game played between two players. The current form of the game emerged in Southern Europe during the second half of the 15th century after evolving

from similar, much older games of Indian and Persian origin. Today, chess is one of the world's most popular games, played by



millions of people worldwide at home, in clubs, online, by correspondence, and in tournaments. Come along and be involved in this engrossing game.

Think Tank—Current Affairs — Course Leader — Peter Matters

Discussion Group

For mature people to remain young in heart and mind it will no longer be sufficient to be kept busy - they need to take an active part in discussing community affairs. Bring along your ideas

and opinions and see what others think. This will be a lively and insightful session where ideas are shared and shaped. Belief is that politicians of all persuasions take the easy way out by trying to apply band aid solutions to

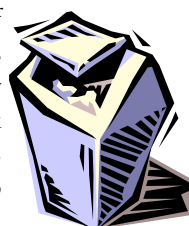
solving problems. It is easier than diagnosis in depth and applying painful but necessary cures which might cost them votes. Discuss how individually you may approach your representatives to talk of your concerns.

Clutter Busting — Course Leader — June Fryer

This course is designed to be conducted across two or three sessions on separate days.

Unnecessary clutter in your house and your life can cause distress! Come along to a lively and fun discussion group and

learn how to organise yourself and your life through a series of tips and suggestions. Try out some ideas and come back to the next session to discuss how it worked. Learn how to



say "no" to anyone who clutters up your life. Time allowed for individual problem solving.

Classes Beginning May 2009

P O Box 1074
BACCHUS MARSH Vic. 3340

Contact Gail D'Elton (Secretary)
Phone: 0413 569 709
email: mooraboolu3a@optusnet.com.au



- Chess
- Mahjongg
- Quilting Group
- Australian History
- Writing Group — 'Who Dunnits'
- Book Club
- Clutter Busting
- Computers
- Think Tank
- Dolls Houses and Miniatures
- Card Games — Bridge and others
- Board Games — Backgammon, Monopoly and others

See inside Newsletter for a description of some of the above classes.

Official Launch and Special General Meeting

Moorabool U3A will be officially launched at a ceremony at a local venue. Time and place will be confirmed shortly. We anticipate the occasion will take place in late May probably on Friday 22nd.

Many distinguished guests will be invited and all members of Moorabool U3A are cordially invited.

There will be a few short speeches followed by a Special General Meeting and afternoon tea.

The Special General Meeting has been called for the purposes of:

1. Electing a Committee of Management, including the office bearers of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. Other positions such as Assistant Secretary, Social Secretary, Newsletter Co-ordinator, Class Co-ordinator, Publicity Officer and Grants Writer will be designated at a later date, if required.

2. The appointment of an Auditor.

3. Advising of the amount of the subscription fee for the 2009 year.

Nomination forms for a position on the Committee can be obtained from the Secretary of the Steering Committee. (Contact No. 0413 569 709).