



## Moorabool University of the Third Age

June 2009

Volume 1, Issue 2

### Information Day at Village Shopping Centre

During April and May, Moorabool U3A held information days at the Bacchus Marsh Village shopping centre. On both days members of the Steering Committee were on hand to hand out information packs to prospective members. The promotion also involved both a demonstration of Chess and public

involvement in the game using the large chess pieces. Some of the members of the public wanting to play were children.

As a result of the

publicity received we were able to sign up ten new members to our U3A.



Left: Peter Matters and Chris Dargan by the U3A Network banner



Left: Peter Matters contemplating a difficult move.

Above: Who said that Chess is child's play?



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#### Steering Committee

From last November at the formation of the Steering Committee through the registration in March to now the management of the U3A has been by a dedicated number of people. They will step down when the election of the full Management Committee will occur at the Special General Meeting. See back page.

3-News would like to thank the members of the steering committee for their setting up of our U3A..

### Special General Meeting and Launch of U3A

Moorabool U3A will be officially launched at a ceremony at the Avenue Bowling Club on the 19th June 2009 preceded by a Special General Meeting for members only at which the Committee for the balance of the year will be elected.

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

There will be a few speeches followed by afternoon tea. The keynote speaker will be The U3A Network President Ruth Hawley.



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## Dolls Houses and Miniatures — Course Leader — Jackie Matters

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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 miniature samples of the furniture and furnishings, and to bring the full sized item on their next trip. In order to show the miniatures, people in Holland and Germany built special cabinets to house them, becoming houselike and are now

the dolls houses we have today of one twelfth scale.

Jackie reports that the group have used polymer modelling clay to make tiny cherries, daisy flowers, arum lilies, and a 'little yellow duckie' All items were cooked in Jackie's portable oven.. They also are making mini boxes and baskets out of mock wickerwork. This is a course that will build on you.

Jackie also hopes to arrange an excursion

to the Melbourne Miniatures Exhibition in July 2009

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

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

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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 including Dominoes

You can be assured of lots of entertainment.

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## Reading Group — Course Leader — Yvonne Daws

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This group meets for the simple pleasure of reading books, talking about books and finding ways of locating and getting hold of books. Yvonne reports that in our first meeting the group enjoyed a highly satisfying exchange of favourite authors and their work. We followed that up with a gentle stroll to an

"Op-shop" where we found some old favourites and new attractions, and all at a very reasonable cost. Bacchus Marsh has a good supply of both readers and books and the local Library is very willing and able to secure loans of any books requested. In all, this is a promising



start for our group, and with time we expect a few more members to come along. We have no set books to read, just those currently being enjoyed. We expect also to occasionally lend or exchange books amongst ourselves.

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## Computer Studies — Course Leader — Eric Daws

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Because of the varied levels of knowledge held by the many participants of this course, the course has morphed into a self help group. The more advanced assisting

with the beginners in the fundamentals of using the mouse and keyboard, whilst the more advanced studied screen resolution and determining



the measurement of photos in pixels as well as more advanced topics. We will continue with basics through to advanced Microsoft Word.

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## Mahjongg — Course Leader — Jan White

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Mahjongg originated in China dating to over two thousand years ago. 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

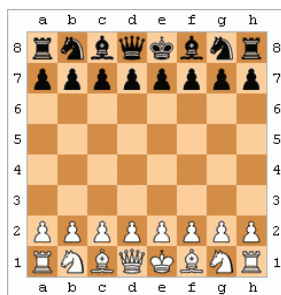
and the terminology of the game. Reports indicate that the group are enjoying the experience of this engrossing game.

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## Chess — Course Leader — Peter Matters

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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 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 in many

varied locations. Come along and be involved in this engrossing game. Demonstrations are being held at the Bacchus Marsh Village shopping centre as part of our information days. (see item on the front page). With its success, lessons are now being carried out by Peter Matters.

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## Think Tank—Current Affairs — Course Leader — Peter Matters

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A 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. By all accounts Peter has succeeded with his aim to stimulate his listeners to look at pressing public problems with detachment and lateral thinking.

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## Clutter Busting — Course Leader — June Fryer

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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 will be allowed for individual problem solving.

This course has been deferred until the spring.

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## Australian History — Course Leader—Gail D’Elton

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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 has been deferred into the third term).

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## Quilting Group — Course Leader — to be advised

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Unfortunately this group failed to proceed as the course leader received a paying job. We are arranging a

replacement leader for this course and hope to run it either in the 4th term 2009 or in the 1st term 2010.

The course being planned will show us how to do machine quilting.

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## Special General Meeting

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

There will be a few speeches followed by 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 and 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 are now available and can be obtained from the Secretary of the Steering Committee. (Contact No. 0413 569 709).

The Special general meeting will start at 1PM

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## Morning Coffees

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After the successful morning coffee in April it is proposed to hold others on a regular basis. We apologise for not holding another one as the Committee have been busy firstly with making sure that the classes and groups settle in and to prepare for organising the launch of our U3A. Some of the people whom have expressed interest in speaking at our Morning Coffees are a Vet, Financial Adviser, Politician, Cartoonist/Comedian, and Genealogist

We propose to hold the next morning coffee as soon as we have arranged a suitable venue.