

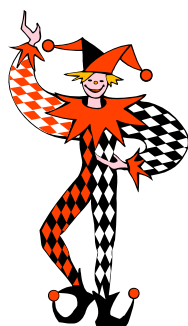


Moorabool University of the Third Age

April

Sourced from Wikipedia

April Fools' Day or All Fools' Day is a day celebrated in many countries on April 1. The day is marked by the playing of hoaxes and other practical jokes of varying sophistication on people, or sending them on a fool's errand. In some countries, such as the UK, Australia and South Africa the jokes only last until noon, and someone who plays a trick after noon is called an "April Fool". Elsewhere, such as in Canada, France, Ireland, Italy, Russia, The Netherlands, and the U.S., the jokes last all day. May Day (May 1) was celebrated as the first day of summer, and signalled the start of the spring planting season. An April Fool may have been someone who did this a month earlier. Another possible origin lies in the fact that when King Charles IX of France officially changed the first day of the year from April 1 to January 1, some of his subjects continued using the old system. In the eighteenth century the festival was often presumed as going back to the time of Noah. According to an English newspaper article published April 13, 1789, the day had its origin when Noah sent his dove off too early, before the waters had receded; he did this on the first day of the Hebrew month that corresponds with April.



Some practical jokes of note are:-

San Seriffe: The Guardian printed a supplement in 1977 praising this fictional resort, its two main islands (Upper Caisse and Lower Caisse), its capital (Bodoni), and its leader (General Pica). Intrigued readers were later disappointed to learn that San Seriffe (san serif) did not exist except as references to typeface terminology.

Alabama Changes the Value of Pi: The April 1998 newsletter of New Mexicans for Science and Reason contained an article written by physicist Mark Boslough claiming that the Alabama Legislature had voted to change the value of the mathematical constant pi. This claim originally appeared as a news story in the 1961 science fiction novel Stranger in a Strange Land by Robert A. Heinlein

In Denmark, with Copenhagen's new Subway, apparently, one of the cars accidentally had surfaced on the square in front of the town hall. In reality, it was a retired subway car from the subway of Stockholm cut obliquely, with the front end placed onto the tiling and loose tiles scattered around it.

Now, what classes are on April 1, a Thursday? Quilting is on a Thursday. Isn't it?



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Craft Workshops

Moorabool U3A is seeking expressions of interest for small craft workshops. Tuition is to include card making, scrapbooking, coloured sand art, and bead worked Angels and woven bracelets amongst other things.



A Book Club Thankyou

A note of appreciation.

To Emilio and staff at St Bernard's, thank you for our beginnings—you were great.

To Jade and Derek at Eleanor's Books, our deep appreciation for the warmth of your welcome and the lovely atmosphere you provided.

One and all, we wish you the very best of wishes for the future.

Yvonne Daws,
Leader, Moorabool U3A
Book Club.



Photo courtesy of Jade.

Grandma Changed

In the dim and distant past
When life's tempo wasn't so fast,
Grandma used to rock and knit,
Crochet, tat and baby sit.

When the kids were in a jam,
They could always call on Gram.
But today she's in the gym
Exercising to keep slim.

She's checking the web or surfing the net,
Sending some e-mail or placing a bet.
Nothing seems to stop or block her,
Now that Grandma's off her rocker.
ahajokes.com
(She must have been to a U3A.)

Play Reading Group

Have you ever thought of what is required for the putting together of a play, or if it's as easy as it seems to perform? What if you have a script and you need it to come alive. **No!** We just want to get together and enjoy a little play acting (not on stage). We may start with the selecting of suitable interesting plays to read and try to see what makes them work. This group will start on the 23rd April and continue on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the term from 2pm to 4pm.

That's all. [exit left (That's where the front door is. Isn't it?) Fx. Sound of door closing]

Fundraising

We tried out Tesselaar's fundraising offer this year to sell a range of flowering bulbs, and were pleased to raise \$210 of sales, of which we kept 45% or about \$95 for our efforts. The bulbs were easy to sell, and Tesselaar were pleasant and efficient to deal with. All orders were distributed quickly and time will tell if they flower nicely. (Send us your photos.)

Good luck all buyers.

Incidentally, the favourite order by far was freesias.



U3A Noticeboard

Moorabool U3A has a noticeboard at the Village Shopping Centre in a shop window facing the Post Office car park.



Members will be pleased to know that the recent storm damage at the shopping centre did not affect Moorabool U3A displays on the barrow or the notice board.

Marudai

A Japanese Marudai or Maru Dai (loosely translated as Maru meaning round and Dai table) is described as a frame or table for making a type of Japanese braid called kumihimo. Kumihimo or kumi himo is Japanese for “gathered threads”. The threads are wound on weighted bobbins called Tama. And the woven braid is pulled through the centre hole of the Marudai with the aid of a counterweight.

Braids can be woven into various shapes. The braid can be round, like a rope, or flat like a ribbon. There are many shapes possible in between (triangles, squares, pentagons, ovals, etc.) depending on the number of Tama used and the complexity of the pattern braided. It is reported that 16 or 24 tama are most commonly used for many braiding patterns. As few as 4 tama can be used to make a braid, and patterns that require 72 tama are not uncommon.

To make a braid, the Tama are moved and shuffled around the outer edge of the Marudai, in a specific sequence or pattern. As the threads are pulled over and under each other, a tight braid is formed. The process is repeated until the desired length of braid is made.

The top of the Marudai or mirror is usually circular with a rounded outer edge on the top and with a hole in the middle also with a smooth rounded edge. This can be supported with a number of doweling legs which are attached to a square base.

You can gather by all this that 3-news is getting involved with the manufacture of a Marudai. Keep reading as the full story develops.....

It might make another course for our U3A. Wait and see.

Philosophy class in April

This is a reminder that there has been arranged a special one off term break philosophy class for Wednesday 7th April 2010 from 2pm to 4pm. Chris Dargan has agreed to conduct this course. Chris is a regular tutor in history and philosophy at the Footscray, City and Altona U3As and is a historian. His classes at the City U3A commands a long waiting list. We are privileged to have his presence. Chris also supports us with our Chess demonstrations at the Village shopping Centre. Please register with the Secretary Gail, as soon as possible.

Creative Writing for 2nd Term

A number of people have shown an interest in the class but have not registered. To enable the class to start and for those already registered be able to attend we must fulfil minimum numbers required.

Margaret Carmichael-Leonard a Bacchus Marsh resident, ex secondary school teacher and winner of the 2009 Morning Peninsula Fellowship of Australian Writers Short story Competition (amongst other things) is taking the class on Creative Writing to start in the 2nd Term. Please register now.

Dollshouses and Miniatures

3-news received the following information from Jackie Matters about her Dollshouses group.

‘Due to logistical problems, Dollshouses and Miniatures had to be abandoned last year after a shaky start. However we expect to offer Building in Miniature next term.

Members can either make a small project or do their own work, all in the company of likeminded people enjoying themselves.’

Interested members, please register with Gail on 0407 929 312.





Acknowledgement

Moorabool U3A Inc. wishes to acknowledge the support of the following organisations.



Department of Planning
and Community Development
and
Adult Community & Further Education.



Department of Planning
and Community Development



Bacchus Marsh
Village
Shopping Centre



Bacchus Marsh
Retirement Living.



Bacchus Marsh
Community College Inc.
'The Laurels'



Bacchus Marsh
Rotary
Club



Moorabool Shire
Council
2009 Winter Grant.



Catherine King MP
Federal Member for
Ballarat



St Bernards
Catholic
Primary School



Bacchus Marsh
Baptist
Church



Eleanor's Books
Eleanor's Books

Darley
Neighbourhood
House



The Avenue
Bowling Club



Bacchus marsh
Primary School

Diary Notes

Please place the following dates in your diary .

- 1 An informal afternoon tea is being held on Friday 16th April at The Loot Café 2:00 to 4:00pm.
- 2 The Tea Time Talk morning tea will be held on Wednesday the 21st April at 10am. An interesting Guest speaker is being arranged.
- 3 Special one off Philosophy class Wednesday 7th April 2:00 to 4:00pm
- 4 Chess demonstration and promotion at the Bacchus Marsh Village Shopping Centre.

Any other items will be in the next newsletter or on the noticeboard off the Post Office car park.

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