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PLEASE EMAIL ALL NEWSLETTER ITEMS AT LEAST 7 DAYS BEFORE THE START OF THE MONTH TO:

Lorraine Erenstrom on erenstrom@optusnet.com.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



As Dennis said in a previous report, travel in Australia stretches the mind, in terms of the distances involved and the varying nature of the countryside that you travel through. Sue and I drove through Mildura and Broken Hill. up the western side of NSW and Queensland to Cloncurry and Mt Isa, then east to the coast at Townsville and the south, through Brisbane and Sydney to Canberra and home – catching up with relatives and friends on the Sunshine Coast and our daughter in Northern NSW. 9,500 km in 8 weeks. A wonderful trip which we would do again if possible.

Bit of a shock coming back to the cold in Melbourne, but we were really thankful to pass through Sydney during the recent floods without incident.

U3A Waverley continues to slowly return to “normal” – whatever normal means nowadays. It seems that many members are taking the opportunity to travel at this time of the year, so some classes have lower attendances than usual. Others are still cautious about meeting, because of the resurgence of Covid.

Enrolments continue to increase slowly and, by the time you read this we should have passed 600 members. Still down from the nearly 800 members we had before Covid, but nevertheless quite respectable.

I noticed, whilst in the office the other day, that the lost property basket is overflowing, glasses, water bottles, jumpers, umbrellas..... If you think you may have misplaced something please ask at the office if it has been handed in. Pretty soon we will have to have a “clean out” and send anything appropriate to a charity organization.

Best wishes *Robert*

Vale - Sheena McLatchie

It is with great sadness we are advised that our Scottish Dancing tutor Sheena McLatchie passed away on 19th June.

Sheena, who gained her full Teaching Certificate in 1995, took over the teaching of the Waverley Scottish Society Monday evening dance class in 1997. Many U3A members enjoyed these classes.

Sheena taught Scottish Dancing at Waverley U3A in 2020 and 2021, working around lockdowns. She was a committed and passionate dancer and a highly regarded teacher -the SCD world is certainly the poorer for her passing

Sheena received a Sir John Monash Award for Positive Ageing Leadership from the Monash Council. In 2019, at a Teachers' Panel meeting. Sheena and her husband received a Branch Award for their outstanding service to Scottish Country Dancing through the Melbourne & District Branch Inc.

Our sincere and heartfelt condolences are extended to Bill and to the family.



New Course Commencing Soon

The Physics of History starts on ZOOM at 9:30 on Friday August 19 and thereafter every Friday morning until the end of November. Those enrolled will receive logon details in the week before the class commences.

The course begins with five lectures on elementary atomic and nuclear physics, followed by a series of lectures dealing with mysteries on Earth. The course finishes with a group of lectures that take on the problems of the cosmos, including the radical adjustment in our view of time and space, required by Einstein's theory of relativity.

The Physics of History enhances your appreciation of both science and history by addressing questions such as these:

- **How did corn spread across the New World?** Knowing the photosynthetic pathway used by corn, scientists can analyze Native American bones and chart the spread of corn cultivation, from its origin in the highlands of Mexico to New England over the course of 7,000 years.
- **When did the extinction of the dinosaurs occur?** Scientists have been able to narrow down June as the month when, 64.5 million years ago, an asteroid slammed into the Yucatan peninsula and wiped out at least 50% of all living species on Earth - all from a frozen water lily leaf preserved at a particular point in its life cycle.
- **Which is older, Stonehenge or the pyramids?** Archaeologists long considered Stonehenge to be much younger than the Egyptian pyramids. But in the 1960s, carbon-14 dating showed Stonehenge to be much older, predating the pyramids by hundreds of years.
- **How old is the Earth?** Analysis of a pair of *rare* atoms in meteorites shows that the Earth and the rest of the solar system formed 4.56 billion years ago. Clues in atoms also tell scientists about the early history of the Earth, where the moon came from, and that the explosion of a nearby star may have triggered the formation of the sun and planets.

Contact Robert Taylor 9886 1308 or 0417 525 228 for details.



| OPERATIONAL DATES 2022 | | | |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| Term | Starts | Ends | Public Holidays |
| 3 | 11 July | 16 Sept | |
| 4 | 3 Oct | 2 Dec | 31 Oct & 1 November— Melbourne Cup |

Current affairs U3A class

The CEO of Friends of Refugees is to talk to our class on August 8th for the first part from 9.45am.

Outsiders would be welcome.



My daughter went to a Mexican fast food and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimal lettuce'. He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg lettuce. (from Robert Taylor)

Don't stress about your eyesight failing as you get older. It's nature's way of protecting you from shock as you walk past the mirror.

I was lonely until I glued a coffee onto the roof of my car. Now everyone waves at me.

During a recent password audit by a company, it was found that an employee was using the following password:

MickeyMinniePlutoHueyLouieDeweyDonaldGoofyCanberra.

When asked why such a long password, she rolled her eyes and said "Hello! it has to be at least 8 characters and include at least one capital." (from June Valentine)

