



U3A Frankston Inc. Reg. A0012933T  
ABN 66 471 091 445

# *Newsletter*

November 2007

**A Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year  
to all our Members  
and friends.**



**When writing to U3A  
please address all mail to:**

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

***The year 2007 is coming to the end and this is the last Newsletter in 2007; and, importantly, the programme with our courses for 2008 is enclosed.***

Jeanie has prepared this document for 2008 and members are invited to study the contents and follow the guidelines re enrolling and paying the dues for next year. This is a major effort and we thank Jeanie for completing this major project.

The subscription is the same as for this year; \$30 per person, \$50 for a couple, \$15 for associate members who are members of another U3A branch; and tutors who do not follow any other courses are honorary members.

At U3A we are all volunteers and we are constantly looking for new tutors and new members. We encourage members to give thought to their suggestions and ideas and pass them on to the Committee.

This year we had discussions with senior members of Frankston City Council and with our Members of Parliament seeking their support about getting new facilities for Frankston U3A. Secretary David Abbott will include a report of these meetings in this newsletter.

We thank the tutors who have enrolled for 2008. The Committee is looking forward to another good year "enjoying learning in retirement".

Also, this is a reminder to Members and Tutors to encourage participation in the "I Love Frankston" Parade and Christmas Lights celebration on Saturday, November 24. The Parade will start at 3:00 pm and

many organisations will take part. Please let U3A be well represented.

Finally, on behalf of the Committee, we wish all our Members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Theo De Jong, President*

### ***A SPECIAL "THANK YOU"***

We wish to thank Jeannie Laine for the initiative she showed in approaching the Principal of the Davey Street Primary School to acquire from the school their old computers which would otherwise have been tossed away. We now have these computers and are setting up a room for the 2008 beginners classes in 2nd and 3rd terms.

*Office Manager*

### **VALE**

#### **Roger Reidinger—26 October 2007**

It is always difficult to say 'goodbye' to a class member. Roger (the 'Yank' as he called himself) was a member of the Tuesday Art Group and on Fridays was quite vocal in the Current Affairs class.

Roger passed away peacefully, with wife Mary (also a U3A member) and his children by his side.

It was a pleasure to have known you, Roger.

*Jeannie Laine  
Art Co-ordinator/Tutor*

# SEARCH FOR A NEW HOME FOR U3A FRANKSTON

*In November 2006 we were advised that we must vacate our current premises by 2010. They are on Crown Land classified as Public Recreation and development for that purpose was being planned.*

Your Committee immediately established an Accommodation Sub-Committee which made contact with the Frankston City Council, State and Federal Members of Parliament and the Principal of the Davey Street Primary School who mentioned that the school had spare classrooms.

A number of meetings were held with each of the above to develop options for consideration in the search for new premises.

The most recent meeting took place in the U3A office on 11 October 2007 and was attended by Jeanie Wannan and David Abbott of U3A, Peter Harrison and Brett Ould of the Frankston City Council and two Federal Ministers, Bruce Bilson and Mal Brough.

The meeting considered all options, but concentrated on our preferred option, the development of a site in Joy Street, some 400 metres from our office.

This site is currently occupied by a Maternal and Child Care Centre and Kindergarten — as well as three unused tennis courts. The Frankston City Council proposes to develop it into a 'Lifelong Learning Hub' which will include facilities for U3A Frankston.

Planning approval and probably Federal funding will be involved and all this will take time, so we have written to the CEO

of the Council urging them to give the project a high priority to ensure completion by 2010.

It is of interest to note that Bruce Bilson, in a letter to voters in Dunkley, declares that he will '... support the development of a Frankston East Lifelong Learning Hub at the Joy Street site'.

Members can be assured that the Committee will vigorously pursue this matter until new premises are secured for U3A Frankston

*David Abbott, Secretary*

## Pondering old age

How do I know that my youth is all spent?  
Well, my get up and go has got up and went.  
But in spite of it all I am able to grin  
when I recall where my get up has been.

Old age is golden-so I've heard it said-  
but sometimes I wonder when I get into bed,  
with my ears in a drawer and my teeth in a cup,  
my eyes on the table until I wake up.

Ere sleep dims my eyes I say to myself,  
"Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?"  
And I'm happy to say as I close my door,  
my friends are the same, perhaps even more.

When I was young, my slippers were red,  
I could pick up my heels right over my head.  
When I grew older, my slippers were blue,  
but still I could dance the whole night through.

But now I am old, my slippers are black,  
I walk to the store and puff my way back.  
The reason I know my youth is all spent,  
my get up and go has got up and went.

But I really don't mind when I think, with a grin,  
of all the grand places my get up has been.  
Since I have retired from life's competition,  
I accommodate myself with complete repetition.

I get up each morning, and dust off my wits,  
pick up my paper and read the "obits".  
If my name is missing, I know I'm not dead,  
so I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed

# Funding U3A's Activities

*If I asked you where the money to run U3A came from, then you would most likely reply "From Members subscriptions."*

Well, you would be partly right. In fact, 60% right.

U3A Frankston has an annual budget of approximately \$16,000 of which Members subscriptions provide \$11,000 with the balance coming from grants from a range of different sources.

Our most reliable source is Adult Community and Further Education (ACFE). It is an ongoing grant based on the number of courses we run. Last year our 37 courses earned us \$4,700.

Other grants are 'one-off', meaning that we have to put up a proposal for funds for a specific activity or piece of equipment and these proposals are considered along with those from other U3As.

There are several sources:

- Department of Planning and Community Development (PCD);
- Department of Health;
- Community Support Fund;
- Volunteer Small Equipment Grants;
- Local Council;
- Private Enterprises.

U3A Victoria Network has an agreement with PCD whereby PCD will provide \$1.4M over the next four years and this is distributed to the most deserving proposals submitted by U3As, as judged by Network. Types of proposals include:

- Promotion of U3A to the local community;
- Skill training for tutors;
- Equipment and teaching aids;
- Partnerships with community volunteer groups;
- Website development.

The Department of Health has funded equipment for chair aerobics, weight training, lifeball and similar items.

Last year we were successful in obtaining a grant of \$2,000 from Frankston City Council to purchase a projector. This year we have applied to PCD for funds to establish our website.

I invite tutors to give thought to any needs their classes may have for additional facilities and to advise Jeanie.

Also, are there new courses we should consider establishing if funding is forthcoming?

*David Abbott, Secretary*

## **FRANKSTON CITY COUNCIL GRANTS**

Each year our Council invites Organisations within Frankston to apply for a Grant which will assist them to provide a benefit to the general community. Amongst the organizations to apply in 2007 were U3A, Senior Citizen Clubs, Recreational Groups, Environmental Groups, Community and Family Service Organizations, as well as Arts and Cultural Groups. Some 87 applications were received and 67 were successful. A total of \$180,000 was given, with U3A receiving \$2,200.

Our proposal was for the purchase of a projector which would be used in conjunction with a laptop computer to enable our tutors to make Powerpoint presentations (a new-tech version of the old overhead projector.) It is intended to incorporate Powerpoint in the Intermediate Computer Course and to train those tutors who wish to make use of this modern facility.

The presentation of the grants was made at a ceremony at the Cultural Centre on 20 June when the 67 representatives were each handed a cheque by the Mayor. The most lasting impression I received at the ceremony was the realization that behind the 67 representatives were the total membership of the Groups — at a conservative estimate 3,000 volunteers — and we at U3A are part of that army of service providers to the community of Frankston.

*David Abbott, Secretary*

## **BUSHWALKING GROUP — MARYSVILLE 2007**

*A 'camp' was arranged for four nights at Marysville in the last week in March. The term 'camp' is a bit misleading. It suggests pitching tents, sleeping on the ground, cooking over open fires and generally living rough. Not a bit of it! The joint Frankston and Mornington U3A Bushwalking Group do these things in style. Our accommodation was luxurious, spacious and very comfortable. Our rooms had ensuite bathrooms and the whole place was warm and cosy.*

We drove from Frankston, through Healesville and over Black Spur. Some of us had lunch at that well-known establishment, Fraga's, while others lunched at The Bakery. After checking in at Nanda Binya Lodge we were welcomed by our hosts, John and Briarel Malcome. Settling in consisted of dumping our gear in our rooms and indulging in pre-dinner drinks. Dinner was served by our hosts, as were all our meals. This had been an exhausting day so most of us, apart from some diehard card players, turned in early.



The next day we got down to serious business. We piled into our cars and drove to nearby Cambraville. The planned walk took us through magnificent rainforest under towering mountain ash, the tallest flowering plant in the world; through great stands of tree ferns and, in spite of the drought, beside rushing streams. The morning's walk ended at Cambraville which was an old logging town. Unfortunately, it was destroyed in bush fires about 20 years ago and was abandoned. There is very little trace of it left.

In the afternoon we walked up to the summit of Lake Mountain. This was more strenuous than the morning's walk, but the views were worth it. Great sweeping views of the ranges stretching into the distance, with Melbourne just visible through the haze.

After a very happy hour back at Nanda Binya another fine dinner was served. Later the crew indulged in card games, reading or television before retiring to bed.

The country around Marysville, besides being hilly, is largely forested — with many streams and small rivers. Next day's walk was again through thickly wooded country following the Taggerty River. When we eventually emerged from the forest onto a main road, we were not sure of which track to take back, so we called into a nearby house to get advice. The house and garden turned out to be a tourist attraction complete with a gift shop. This proved irresistible to some. The owner was very obliging in lending us a detailed map, but it took some effort to get some of the ladies out of the gift shop. I think the owner was a bit sad to see us go although quite pleased with the unexpected business.

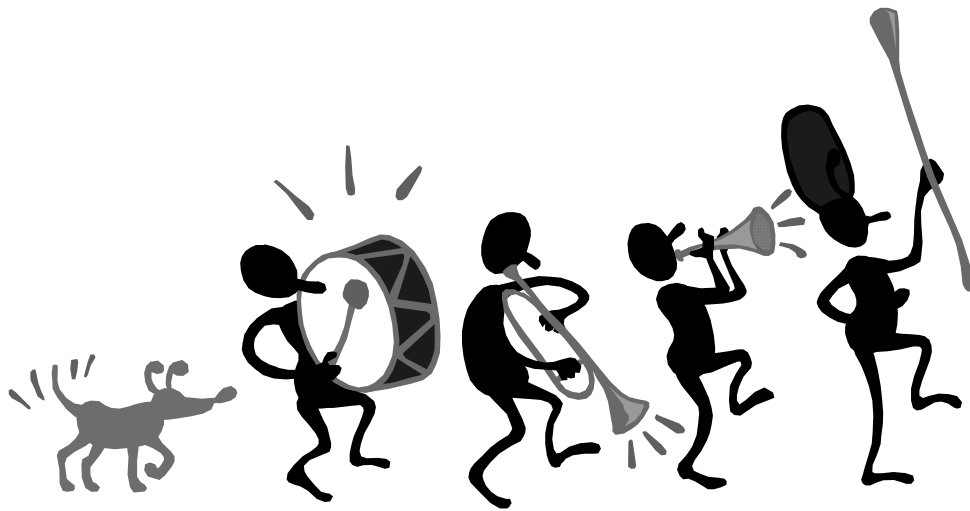
It rained quite heavily over that night. Next day the bush was very wet and the river was running quite high, and as a bonus the leeches were active. The track we had chosen ran along the river occasionally crossing from side to side.

Crossing the river was by very substantial bridges constructed and maintained by National Parks. However, at a couple of places the bridges were being rebuilt and were little more than skeletons, which made crossing them quite an adventure. Other than clambering over some enormous trees which had fallen across the track and fending off marauding leeches we managed the walk and arrived back in civilization.

Wildlife was a feature of our holiday. At Nanda Binya we would enjoy a coffee on the verandah overlooking a bush garden and watch all sorts of birds feeding and scavenging. There were rosellas, butcherbirds, cockatoos, wrens, robins and a myriad of others. On the tracks we caught glimpses of lyrebirds and wallabies. It was a very satisfying interlude. Perhaps we will try it again sometime.

# **PARADE REMINDER**

We hope you and your class  
have made plans to take part in the  
'I Love Frankston' Parade  
on Saturday Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> 3pm-5pm.  
Frankston U3A has position 48 in the  
order of marching.



A copy of the map of the walk is in the tea room  
showing the Start and Finish points.  
Don't forget, if you or your class have anything for  
display on the day (paperwork, art, craft etc.),  
please label it and leave it at the Office.  
It will then be put on our display table  
near the Council Offices.

Thankyou – and we hope you  
enjoy the day.