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A word from the President.

Dear Members

Now that we are returning to 'some form of normality', I trust that you are all taking advantage of the reduced COVID restrictions and are now getting out and about.

It was great to see people back in Melbourne City returning to Football matches and the Grand Prix Motor racing. Personally, I was happy to attend Marvel Stadium where Essendon was able to have their first win of the season. For those who stayed at home, there were some great sporting events on TV including four group 1 races in Sydney, the running of the Grand National Steeple chase in England and the Masters Golf Tournament at Augusta in the USA.

If sporting events are not "your thing" then maybe you enjoyed watching a Netflix or Stan program or just reading a good book. Maybe you've been for a trip into the country. Whatever you've been up to we would like to hear from you.

Please send a few notes to **Jenny Brodie** our Newsletter Editor or call her on **0417338527** and let us know what has been going on in your life.

Earlier this year, I was able to head off on a 9 day road trip to Tasmania. In this Newsletter I have included some notes on my trip which I hope you will enjoy reading.

It is great that we have now concluded our first term of classes at Hume U3A without too many hassles. I trust that you and your family have escaped catching the COVID virus so far and whether or not you have --that you are now enjoying good health.

Yours sincerely

*Geoff Mackay,
President Hume U3A*

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity. An optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

Winston Churchill

Cook and Dine

A **monthly** get together on a Friday night, to enjoy good food and great company.

Each month the group decides the menu for the following month. Tasks from preparation through to cooking and clean up are shared amongst the group.

Generally a 3 course meal is enjoyed at a cost of \$10 per head.

It's as easy as registering your interest on our website.

Cook and Dine is back. What better way to celebrate than with a grazing table? Something for everyone.



Enjoying the flavours of a grazing table. Yum



TIME TO GET OUT AND ABOUT EVERYONE

Our social calendars have been pretty light on recently but now that we can move further afield, how about a trip or two? Day trips are a great way to start. Call Anne with your ideas. She would welcome them.

Anne De Gabrielle 0403 067 626 or email membership@humeu3a.org.au



Where would you like to visit on a day trip ?
Geelong perhaps or Ballarat.....
Anne needs your input to plan a trip.....
Ed

Happy Birthday

Best wishes to all U3A members who recently celebrated a birthday, and to those, who have a birthday to look forward to in April and May.

Getting out and about and visiting our beautiful country.

LEARNING TO LIVE WITH COVID -19 IN TASMANIA

Many people, including our Prime Minister, are saying that “We have to get on with our lives and learn to live with Covid-19”. With this thought in mind I recently headed off on the Spirit of Tasmania car ferry in my trusty 20 year old Mitsubishi Magna for a nine day trip around Tassie.



There are many reasons for choosing Tasmania as a holiday destination – however for me the most important ones were:-

- to attend the Hobart Cup Horserace meeting on February 13th and
- to play golf on the famous golf course at Barnbougle (which is rated as one of the top 10 courses in the world). I recommend that all golf lovers

should at least google it even if they never get to play the course.

For all who want to know whether or not I won at the races my answer is always the same --- I came out “about even”.

In addition to these two events I was able to visit the coastal ports of Swansea Triabunna and stay at Bicheno where the seafood was fantastic. I was surprised by the number of wineries located on the Eastern seaboard. One winery I would recommend is Devil’s Corner which overlooks Coles Bay and Freycinet National Park where you can taste the local seafood or wood fire pizzas.



To add a bit of culture to my trip I visited the Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre

in Deloraine. In the early 1990’s over 300 volunteers from the local community were involved in a project to create a Yarns Artwork in Silk. It is now located in the Visitors Centre in Deloraine and incorporates over 200 square metres of silk, plus tulle, wool, cotton, velvet, lace and enough thread to circle the world several times. Truly a magnificent piece of work.



This is what happens to you in Tasmania when you don't follow the Safety Rules around mask wearing. On my recent trip to the Apple Isle I must have been warned 100 times when entering shops to pull my mask up over my nose. In the end the authorities decided to lock me up in Scottsdale - (only joking).

Geoff Mackay

THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD AND COUNTRY VICTORIA

We didn't travel overseas as Geoff did but we packed the van and travelled along The Great Ocean Road. First stop Apollo Bay. While we enjoyed our few days there the beach side town is still slowly recovering from all we have dealt with over the last couple of years. Maybe it was the weather but it didn't feel as vibrant as I remember.

We visited the Cape Otway Lighthouse, for the first time, while in Apollo Bay. Situated on the "shipwreck coast" we spent an amazing afternoon learning about the early history of the lighthouse and its keepers. Amazing, tough and resilient people. The lighthouse is the oldest surviving lighthouse on the mainland. In the 19th Century it was often the first sight of land migrants had seen in months after leaving Europe.

In 1942 the Royal Australian Air Force built No 13 Radar Station at Cape Otway Lighthouse. Its operators were the "Eyes of the Fighter Sector". Their prime purpose – the detection and interception of the enemy.



We would love to hear your recent stories and pics. Maybe you went on a day trip or visited the Sistine Chapel exhibition or went to Moomba. Email me at jjbrodie5@bigpond.com with a photo and a few words.

Jenny Brodie



Port Campbell provided us with a great opportunity to visit more of the coastal rock outcrops. Mother Nature provided us with a beautiful clear day to visit places like London Bridge, which is no longer a bridge but still majestic, and The Grotto among others. Breathtaking as always.

Our final stop was Camperdown among the Rocks and Volcanic Craters.

Camperdown is an agricultural centre located on the world's third largest volcanic plain and surrounded by large

salt and fresh water lakes. The top of Mount Leura gives you stunning views of the surrounding volcanic peaks, plains and lakes. The town has a great little botanical gardens a lookout over Lake Bullen Merri and Lake Gnotuk and has a great little cafe on Lake Purrumbete.

A trip down memory lane for those who have lived in Gladstone Park for a while and ever shopped at the newsagent.

Thanks Margaret Skellet



In 1994 the Gladstone Park Newsagency came Runner up in the Victorian Newsagent Awards. Congratulations



Recognise any faces?

A REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS THAT: Zoom sessions (1 hour) with a weather theme, will be presented in conjunction with U3A Sunbury during May

2nd May: "Of Droughts and Flooding Rains – Rainfall Variability in Australia",

In this talk we look at the long history of droughts and floods in Australia and their devastating impact on society. In an attempt to predict these extreme events "long range" forecasting became a hot topic, with early practitioners such as Inigo Jones and Lennox Walker becoming household names in the 50's and 60's.

Towards the end of the talk we look at modern progress, with sea surface temperatures identified as important rainfall drivers.

9th May: "From Gods to Gigabytes - A Brief History of Weather Forecasting"

This tells the fascinating story of humanity's love affair with the weather – together with the strong desire to predict it.

Many different forecasting methods have been tried down the ages such as using prayer and sacrifice to the Sky Gods, observing the behaviour of plants and animals, looking at cloud patterns and in more recent times using science, technology and mathematics as the main forecasting tools. Modern weather prediction is one of the more recent scientific endeavours. Mathematics, physics and chemistry can be traced back for centuries but mathematical weather forecasting is barely 100 years old and has made astonishing progress in such a short time.

16th May: "East Coast Lows (ECL's) – the Demons of the Shoreline"

This looks at the causes of ECL's and significant historical events they have produced – the wrecks of the Dunbar (1857) and Maitland (1898), the Bondi tragedy (1938), the Sydney and Central Coasts (1974), the Pasha Bulker (2007) and Collaroy (2016).

The improvements in predicting the development of ECL's is looked at, together with the theoretical and instrumental progress that has underpinned this progress.

Register your interest via our Website or email
Peter Lazarus at:
webmaster@humeu3a.org.au



Dine Out

On the last Friday evening of the month Hume U3A members can Dine Out.

We dine at various hotels and restaurants locally, enjoying food, drink and good company.



23rd May: "The Forecast for D Day"

Arguably one of the most important weather forecasts in recorded history the weather prediction for Operation Overlord – the invasion of German occupied Normandy in June 1944 - is a fascinating story. The weather for the first day of the operation - called D Day - was of paramount importance and here we look at the behind-the-scenes decision making that went into the weather predictions involved.

We extend our thoughts to the family and friends of Peter Coulson who recently passed away. Peter was a member of the U3A Astronomy Class.

Dine Out 2022

When: Friday April 22nd
Where: Taylor's Lake Hotel
7 Melton Highway Taylors Lakes
Time: 6.00pm

Call Anne or Pat to make a booking at least 3 days prior to ensure you have a seat at the table.

Anne: 0403 067 626 or Pat: 0400 092 027

If you haven't been to Dine Out before and would like to join please contact Marilyn Rohweder at membership@humeu3a.org.au

Alternatively, log on to our website. Choose courses and scroll down to Friday courses, select Dineout and follow the prompts.

KaBloom

Visit KaBloom in the gorgeous Dandenong Ranges to enjoy a most extraordinary day out. The fields at Tesselaars are filled with millions of colourful blooms, and is open every day (including Easter) until April 25th.

Call Anne **NOW** if interested on **0403 067 626**.
Check it out on www.kbloom.com.au



EASTER TRIVIA

The world's largest Easter egg. Is found in Vegreville, Alberta, Canada. Standing 31ft tall and 18ft wide it weighs 5000lbs and took 12000 hours to make. It is more of a jigsaw than a sculpture, as it is made from 3500 pieces of aluminium

Ever wondered why Easter Sunday changes date every year? It's due to the lunar calendar and the position of the moon. Easter in fact falls on the first Sunday after the full moon that takes place on or after March 21st, which is said to signal the start of spring in the Northern Hemisphere.



Easter Bunny is on its way. Happy Easter U3A. Love Margie xx



Easter blessings to you and yours

Floral Art

The class is for beginners but the current ladies have progressed.

It doesn't matter if you have never done this before as each arrangement is demonstrated and then you will be helped with your design. New students definitely wouldn't be left behind.

Maximum in a class is 6 as anymore makes it difficult to help everyone. You will need an old towel, floral snips (Bunnings) apron and a turntable (available from Kmart)

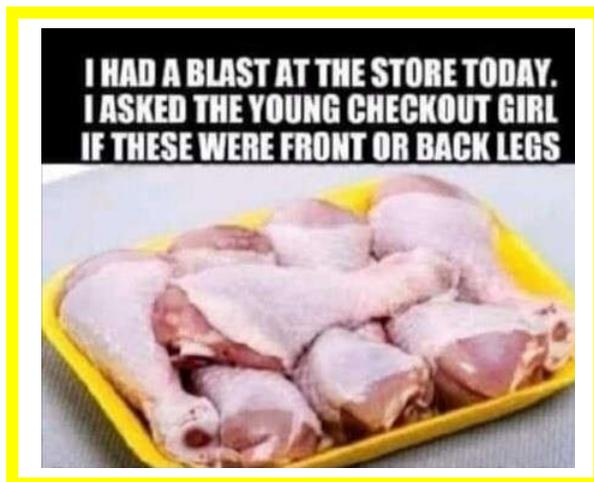
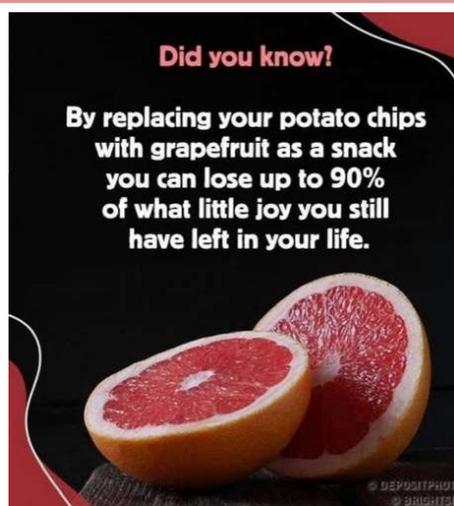
Cost per **fortnightly** session depend on the arrangement, but we try to keep the cost below or up to \$25, occasionally a little more.

EASTER WREATHS



The theme of March – April Floral Art class was Easter.

To celebrate Easter each class member made an Easter wreath.



Why not check out www.hume.vic.gov.au for publications and activities of interest.

Search for “Active Ageing” and “Newsletters” once the Home page is opened

Our newsletter in its current form has been published for 5 years so it was timely to review member interest. An email questionnaire was sent to 169 members with a 20% response which, while disappointing, provided valuable feedback.

Respondents indicated they would like more U3A news, updated course information and 25% of responses indicated they would prefer less jokes and puzzles. In addition there were those members who felt the newsletter was fine as it was.

In response to member comments this edition has current course information for Dine Out, Cook and Dine and Floral Art. Each newsletter will now contain at least two courses updates, reports and photos if possible. As for jokes and puzzles, they will still be included, some editions more than others.

If you wish to comment on any feature of the newsletter email: jjbrodie5@bigpond.com or call

Jenny on 0417 338 527. Very happy to have your input.

Next Edition June 2022

The Committee of Hume U3A would like to thank Maria Vamvakinou MP and her staff for the printing of this newsletter.