



President's report

Another term has flown by and U3A continues to be a regular and enjoyable part of many members' lives, providing friendship and the pleasure of trying new things. Membership continues to grow slowly, and overall numbers are most impressive for a small community. Thank you to all those course presenters who give their time and expertise so freely. Without you, we would not exist. A reminder that our AGM is on at 2.30pm at the Community Centre on Thursday, May 11th. Please come along, have your say and help choose our Committee for the next 12 months. Have an interesting and enjoyable Term 2.

Nancy Brown

Term 1 Activities

Our membership has hit the 200 mark so some classes are getting a little crowded while others fill up very quickly. We booked a small bus for the Tom Robert Roberts excursion and that filled within one and a half days of the program going out so we had to change to a big bus and ended up sending 42 people along. The message here is don't dawdle - if something interests you enrol early. And remember, the fact that you have been doing a class for ages does not guarantee you entry - you need to enrol along with everyone else in order to keep your spot.

Some feedback:

Armchair Travel participants have decided that these sessions are almost as good as being there yourself! Last term we travelled the Canning Stock Route with Christine Parker and Iceland with Graeme and Lyndall Precians. And the photos were wonderful. The Aged Care Advice workshop with Eric Hiam was a very valuable presentation which helped clarify the potential minefield of accessing aged care. The session was very well attended, and many questions were answered which will help anyone to achieve the best outcome when considering Aged Care, either for themselves or a relative. (Nancy)

Nancy Dennis runs the very popular Singalong group, playing her keyboard and accordion. She knows all the old popular songs of yesteryear, which have been compiled into a very good song book by Brian. Participants think the singing gives them a good, optimistic feeling for the rest of the day. Everyone takes turns picking the songs to sing and the time goes very quickly.

As you probably already know, Mahjong is basically a Chinese Game played with tiles which have the different symbols carved and painted on them, and they are very beautiful. In China it is a gambling game but the Western World has adopted it so it has evolved it into a much different game.

However our Oberon group plays the old Chinese Version (without the gambling) which is much simpler but is still quite intriguing. Because the group enjoys it so much they play all year round even when U3A is having a break. All are welcome to come and learn this game. (Shirley) Bridge is widely acknowledged as one of the best games on earth and Oberon U3A has been very fortunate to have Ed Barnes introduce members to the joys of the game.

Thirteen members signed up for the lessons and there have been very few absences. The two and a half hours on a Thursday morning fly by as members work on grasping the essentials of the game under Ed's expert guidance.

Members are planning to continue to play once the term has ended, with a regular venue and time yet to be decided. Others who already know how to play Bridge will be welcome to join the group.

In the words of *Omar Sharif*, "Many games provide fun, but bridge grips you. It exercises your mind. Your mind can rust, you know, but bridge prevents the rust from forming." (Jenn)

Tom Roberts Exhibition: Congratulations and thanks go to Griffo, our very experienced bus driver, who did an amazing job getting all 42 of us from Oberon via Abercrombie Road through to Goulburn (and all in the same amount of time it takes most to drive in cars)?? ! We stopped for a welcome

morning tea at Goulburn in Victoria Park before hopping aboard again to complete the journey to the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra.

The Tom Roberts Exhibition was a busy and popular one, We all seemed to be going around again and again for another 'look', so much to see! I particularly enjoyed his vast array of portraits and reading about his trips away either on his own or with friends and fellow artists to literally camp out to capture the true Australian bush and landscapes. I could've stood for ages and gazed at his most famous pieces – which I think most would agree on – 'Shearing the Rams', 'Golden Fleece', 'Bailed Up' and my personal favourite, 'A Break Away'.... Gobsmaacking is how I would describe the huuuuge 'Big Picture' of the 'Opening of the First Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia'.

We had plenty of time to wander around other exhibitions and to enjoy outside features like the Sculpture Garden on the banks of Lake Burley Griffin. A great day! (Deb)



Thank you

We always do this but how could we leave it out? We are so lucky to have such wonderful volunteers many of whom keep coming back week after week, term after term. Thanks to the Oberon RSL, Oberon Council, and the Uniting Church for letting us use their facilities last term. Thanks also to Oberon Council for negotiating a good rate for our very successful Aqua Aerobics classes - members not only got fit but had a most enjoyable time under the guidance of the very capable and entertaining Sharon Lawson. And a huge vote of thanks to all our volunteers: Megan Sovik, Lynn Agland, Brenda Lyons, Kay Jones, Katie Dullard, Lorraine Fielding, Eric Hiam, Lynne Woods, Nancy Dennis, Barbara Coleman, Jenn Capel, Sue Arnison, Christine Parker, Graeme and Lyndall Precians, Jan Hazelwood, Shirley Arrowsmith, Nancy Brown, Ed Barnes and Matthew McManus, Rosalie Manhood, Don Capel, Maree Arrow, Julie Stott, Shane Evans and Richard Harrowell. We would also like to welcome Mikaela Piper back this term and extend our very best wishes to Barry Wilton for a solid recovery following a rather prolonged period of ill health.

If you ever want to personally thank a volunteer after a class, as well as talking on the spot, you can send an email to our u3a address and it will be forwarded immediately. Just a thought... Sometimes it's very nice to get some written feedback...

Coming up in Term 2

The Creative Arts class will be delighted at the return of Mikaela who has had a two term break. Mikaela intends to put some focus on still life this term while also allowing time and space for students to pursue their own interests.

Bernie McShane will share his extensive knowledge of fly fishing and include one or two actual fishing sessions before the season officially finishes on the June long weekend.

Janet Baljeu would love to share her interest in, and knowledge of, Ancient Egypt in four sessions, while Grace Cunynghame and Alanna Armstrong will help beginners interested in Bonsai to get started in this ancient and fascinating hobby. People with established plants are also welcome to come along if they would like some tips on pruning and maintenance.

Glen Stewart has 15 years banking experience and is currently the Manager at CBA Oberon. He'd like to help people to get comfortable and confident with electronic banking. He will run three short sessions at the CBA but we stress that this is open to members of any bank.

Robin Toedter and Ros Adams have run some very successful sock knitting workshops in Oberon and are keen to share their skills with U3A members - take advantage, especially as the cold weather will soon be upon us!

Favourite Walks, an "oldie but a goodie", returns for the next couple of terms. These walks always finish up with a hot cuppa and a biscuit even if it is out of the boot of a car. Shirley Arrowsmith is returning for her third time with a stroke awareness session - this will be very brief but informative and not to be missed if you haven't been to one already. This is vital information that we all should have.

There will be repeat sessions for beginners on tablets e.g. the iPad and the Samsung - these seem to be needed regularly as more and more people acquire this form of portable technology.

Last year Janina Knight's mushrooming activity went down very well so we are repeating it this term with some bread making thrown in as an extra. Learn from two experts - go into the forest and select the right mushrooms before learning how to cook up a delicious meal!

The beginners bridge class in term one has been so successful that we are sure they will continue into term two - not as beginners but as accomplished players! If you can already play and would like to enrol contact Maree.

And finally Col and Sue Roberts have offered a truffle hunt followed by a light meal where you will get to taste some truffle. Their weekend tours are highly popular and are usually booked out so Oberon U3A is very lucky to have this opportunity to watch the truffle dogs in action and sample some of Col and Sue's wares.

Volunteers wanted

We are on the lookout for someone to teach Photography - how to take a decent photo for starters and then perhaps a little more. We also need travellers to share their experiences for Armchair Travel. In fact we welcome volunteers who are prepared to share their interest or skills in anything - variety adds to the spice of each term's activities.

Annual General Meeting on May 11th

Please come along to this and show your interest and support. There will be four main items at this meeting - the confirmation of the minutes of the last AGM, the presentation of reports of Oberon U3A activities over the past year, the presentation of the Treasurer's report, and the election of a management committee for the next 12 months, and any other general business that may arise.

Important dates

Friday April 29th: enrolments for Term 2 close

Monday May 2nd: Term 2 starts

Wednesday May 11th: Oberon U3A AGM 2.30pm at the Community Centre.

Saturday June 25th: Term 2 finishes with morning tea at 10.00am at the Community Centre. Please come along!

Have a great term!