



Fossicking on the Duckmaloi

President's report

After the Christmas festivities and a welcome Summer break, we once again gear up for another term of U3A activities.

Last year saw our organisation go from strength to strength, with strong membership numbers, and success in the Community Business Awards. Jenn Capel accepted the award on our behalf and the trophy has been much admired. Jenn also was successful with her application for a grant to purchase a bike trailer to enable the cycling group to travel to suitable venues a little further afield. Overall, the way the over 50s in our community have embraced what U3A has to offer has been quite extraordinary. Of course this success doesn't just happen, and we all owe a great debt of thanks to all those people who organise programs each term, and to our volunteers who give their time and expertise to provide courses. Once again we have put together another term full of activities we hope will interest and engage. Some are old favourites, others are first timers. We are always on the lookout for new volunteers and new activities. Whatever you sign up for, I am sure you will experience the fun of engagement and the camaraderie of both old and new friends. A happy New Year to you all and an interesting Term One.

Nancy Brown

Last term's activities

Once again, a huge thank you to all our volunteers for so generously giving up their time to share their skills and experiences with our members. We had a great turn-out at our end of year morning tea - at least 75 members and friends came to view artworks and performances and meet up with others. If you haven't yet come to a morning tea do make an effort - our next one will be on Saturday June 24 - mark it in your diary now!

Wine Appreciation: O'Connell winemaker, Mark Renzaglia, led a group of enthusiastic U3A members through 3 sessions of wine exploration at his vineyard. We were a varied group - quite mixed in our tasting experience and level of wine knowledge. Under Mark's experienced eye, we tasted a variety of red and white wines and attempted to assess the qualities of each. We walked amongst the vines and sat

beneath his shady verandah, drinking in the views along with the product. Mark presented a variety of wine styles, some local and others from more distant and well recognised grape growing regions of Australia. Gradually we developed a better understanding of the connection between appearance of wine in the glass, its nose and elements of taste and some recognition and of the reasons for the differences between wines and wine quality. The three sessions in convivial company were most helpful in our wine education, and especially enjoyable under such knowledgeable guidance. Moves are afoot to develop an ongoing wine appreciation activity group, incorporating food! (Lexi Kellam)

Small Foods: What a happy event and yummy! With very enthusiastic guidance by Jenn and Sue, we were ushered into various cuisines - Vietnamese noodle vegetarian rolls, Thai cucumber cups, prawn toasts, herbed pikelets with pear and blue cheese topping, as well as favourites such as mini sausage rolls and herbed cheese tarts. We were quite busy! Tasting the results was great fun and armed with recipe sheets we were ready to test family and friends. You couldn't help learning something from such a presentation - definitely to be recommended. (Margaret Beilharz)

A spade, a sieve and a pan.....**Fossicking:** Mark and Lexi Kellam kindly hosted a fossicking excursion to the Duckmaloi River, which conveniently, is quite close to their home. A small group of enthusiastic fossickers was given some excellent tuition by Lynne Causer, who is a very successful fossicker and patient tutor. Lynne brought everything that was needed for everyone to have a happy day playing in the river.

The sun was shining, which is always handy when looking for something that gleams in one's pan, and the water was delightfully cool. The simple pleasure of paddling in the water, focussing on what is swirling about in the bottom of a black dish, was both absorbing and relaxing. Some of the participants found some small gems which was rewarding and the billy tea by the river capped a thoroughly enjoyable day. (Jenn Capel)



Keith Potger's ukulele lesson

The Ukulele group was lucky enough to have a lesson with Keith Potger when FOOLS invited him to Oberon to give a concert in November. This was a fantastic opportunity and the Uke players went away feeling much inspired with some great tips.

OTHR Railway tour: Tim Arnison and a band of helpers from OTHR hosted an information packed morning at the grounds of Oberon Railway station. The work carried out by these volunteers is simply amazing and the visit was most worthwhile. If you haven't been, then don't miss out the next time this tour is offered! (Maree Arrow)

Coming up next term

New ideas are always welcome! If you have any suggestions for new activities, please pass them on to the committee.

Golf for beginners: Joan Graham has been a golfer for 40 years, and even though she describes herself as "still learning", she plays a very consistent, thoughtful game and has much to offer newcomers. If you would like to learn the basics, on a wonderful course, sign up for Joan's Monday afternoon class. It will be an excellent introduction to the game at no expense.

A talk on the Opus Anglicanum exhibition by Alison Snapp: Alison has been a professional freelance embroiderer, teacher and designer for the last 36 years. She has taught classes all over Australia and New Zealand and in the United Kingdom. Her special interest lies in the embroidery of different cultures and ages from around the world. She has written a number of books and numerous magazine articles on embroidery.

In November, 2016 Alison visited London for the Opus Anglicanum exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum. In medieval England professional embroiderers produced spectacular embroideries that were much in demand by European kings and popes. Curators at the V&A Museum borrowed pieces from all over Europe, the USA and Great Britain. These embroideries are both ecclesiastical and secular and they are on display at the Museum until February 2017. Alison will speak about the embroideries, embroiderers, materials and their history.

Alison also has a collection of antique embroideries from all over the world, including samplers, quilts and other pieces which date from the eighteenth century onwards. She will bring and speak about these interesting textiles and the people who made them. This talk will be open to the whole community. So if you have interested friends who are not U3A members, feel free to book them in.

Bus trip to Canberra: Versailles: Treasures from the Palace at the National Gallery of Australia is a wonderful opportunity to view an extravagant and tumultuous period in French history. In a day excursion to Canberra, members will see more than 130 paintings, intricate tapestries, gilded furniture, monumental statues and other objects from the royal gardens and personal items from Louis XIV to Marie Antoi-

nette. Cost is \$50 to be paid when booking your place on the coach.

As well as the above, **Brenda Lyon** is returning with a full day course on bulbs, tubers and rhizomes suitable for Oberon. **Shane Evans** will work his magic with a session on sound and music and how to download them from the internet and your computer to your mobile devices. **Sue Arnison** has new delights in store for breadmakers and **Steve Watson** will run the first of a series of classes on fermenting. **Don Capel** will get the bike riders moving again, and the chances of going further afield will be greatly enhanced when a 10 bike trailer arrives. **Armchair travellers** will visit Norway and Alaska. People new to the world of tablets and smart phones will have an opportunity to brush up on their skills with iPads, iPods and iPhones.

Regular class updates

Jenn Capel is going to change her early in the week **Pilates** class from Tuesday to Monday mornings at 8.00am. Newcomers are welcome! **Balance 'n' Bones** classes continue at the Oberon RSL each week of the year on Monday and Tuesday mornings. Those interested in a short dance routine to get the body moving can join our "Latin Dancercise" group with three different routines followed by a warm down. Classes commence at the same venue at 8.10am and end just before the 8.30am "bones" class. For more information about either of these classes, call Megan on 6336 5343, but enrol through the usual channels by contacting Sue Arnison. **Table Tennis** will continue on Friday afternoons for the time being. We have access to a very good facility at the Tennis Centre - if you are vaguely interested why not enrol and give it a try?



Membership Fees

Many thanks to those who have already paid. Renewals are due before the end of January. Post to Jenn Capel at 2795 Abercrombie Rd, Black Springs 2787, or drop your payment in an envelope, with your name on it, to Arrows newsagency, or pay by direct deposit to BSB: 882 000 Account Number: 54491 Account Name: Oberon U3A Incorporated **Make sure you include your name as the reference!**

Oberon U3A AGM: February 28

Our Annual General meeting is on **Tuesday, February 28 at 3pm** at the **Community Centre**. Do try to come if you can. We need about 20 people for a quorum. Accompanying this newsletter is a nomination form for the Committee, as well as a draft description of the roles of each of our committee members - this is still a "work in progress". Oberon U3A's constitution requires committee members to stand down from their positions after three years (they can change to another role but they can't stay in the same role). This year the position of President, Publicity Officer and Minutes Secretary will definitely need to change under this rule. You might be interested in joining the Committee. If so, fill out the nomination form and get two members to sign it and send it to our Secretary, Jenn Capel (address above), by 3pm on Friday, February 17 at the latest. Scanned copy can be emailed to oberonu3a@gmail.com by that time and date.

Have a great term!