



President's report

It suddenly struck me while I was with a wonderful group of friends attending an Armchair Travel session - (we had just been to Madagascar) - just how much U3A had enriched our lives. Certainly the weather was grey and rainy and it would have been tempting to stay home, but here was quite a large group of people enjoying each others' company. The presenter had spent considerable time on his terrific presentation, and behind the scenes, others had organised the event and provided afternoon tea. This is repeated many times a week over a variety of activities, and we are so grateful for these opportunities to mix with others, meet new people and engage with new activities. If you have not already done so, please enrol in some of these courses that are offered. You never know what enjoyment you may find. In the few years Oberon U3A has been operating, it has become an integral part of many people's lives. Thank you to everyone for your contribution - volunteers, organisers and participants alike. We all look forward to what Term 4 has to offer.

Nancy Brown

Term 3 Activities

"Lexi Kellam's felt making course was great fun and excellent for those who like instant gratification! We rubbed and rolled, wet and dried and threw our project to the floor all in the name of felting. In no time we had made a lovely, fine sampler using three light layers of wool. We then attempted a more ambitious project using different fibres, including silk fabric, in addition to our multiple layers of wool, to create a larger sampler, which included a pocket and a fringe in cashmere! We quickly discovered the possibilities are endless in the art of making felt." Jenn

"I recently attended the Facebook afternoon held at the CTC with Julie Stott which was extremely informative and helpful. I realised that I knew more than I thought, but not as much as I could have. Julie explained everything so well and went through all aspects of Facebook, and I came away with a much better understanding of all of its uses. Thank you for that opportunity." Kay



"In August a group visited the beautiful Vale Creek Winery at Georges Plains. The perfect weather was a promise of spring after the cold winter. We toured the wine making operations then moved upstairs for the tasting of many different varieties of wines, both white and red over a delicious lunch. The warm welcome by our attentive hosts made this a special day." Megan



"A happy group of disorganised photographers met at the CTC on August 2nd to be guided by Maree in the art of organising photos on our computers. Many of us have mastered the production of photos on digital cameras and mobile phones but fall down badly with the filing and general organisational side. No more is that the case! We learned that our

computers are just like a folder in a filing cabinet and if we place our photos in named folders, in order, we will always be able to find the favourite we are looking for from within the hundreds we have stored, when we want it." Don



"The pizza making class was great fun. Jan and Sue are wonderful cooks and highly organised. We made an orange and Grand Marnier pizza and a banana and choc-hazelnut dessert pizza. It wasn't so good for the waistline but we all went away very happy." Maree

"The popular Armchair Travel sessions attract groups of 20 on average. Dietmar's tour of Slovenia was highly interesting with great photos, and Col Bembrick, ably assisted by Glenda, gave a detailed and thoroughly prepared account of their travels through Madagascar. Again the photography was superb. These sessions are always highly enjoyable." Lyn



Once again, a huge thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, and to Oberon Council, the RSL club and the Uniting Church for the use of their facilities for our classes.

Coming up in Term 4

First up will be a lecture from Snr Constable Sue Rose, from the Chifley Command, on **Safety and Security** for Seniors. There have been 390 incidents of fraud within the last twelve months across the Command with a big rise in telephone scams, the most recent relating to "cold calling" by people purporting to be from the Australian Taxation Office chasing unpaid tax bills. Also emerging are incidents involving the pay wave function on credit/debit cards. Sue will give a presentation on general safety and how we can raise awareness and be proactive in dealing with scams and fraudulent schemes. Senior residents are a particular focus for these scams unfortunately. This session has a maximum of 30 participants and is open to the whole community so don't be slow to enrol if you are interested.

For all those wine lovers who would like to know more about what they are tasting Mark Renzaglia (Owner / Vigneron Renzaglia Wines) will be conducting a three session **wine appreciation** course at his property at O'Connell. We need a minimum of 15 participants but no more than 30. At \$30 per head this is great value!

Armchair Travel this term will take us to two very different locations: some **nationals parks in the USA with Sue White**, and we'll tour **South Vietnam and Cambodia** with Kathy Mooney. Fasten your seatbelts!

Tim Arnison and volunteers from OTHR will take us on a tour of the **railway station and workshop**, and explain what they have been doing and their plans for the future of the Oberon to Tarana railway line - as well as providing morning tea.

Barbara Coleman will return for those wanting to make a quick and easy **Christmas cake** and Maree Arrow will show interested writers how to generate a **Christmas letter** with photos, using Microsoft Word. Steve Watson will also make a return to the kitchen with his **sourdough bread** and **gluten free bread**, while Jenn Capel and Sue Arnison are combining forces to share ideas on **finger food**.

Glenn Stewart ran a very interesting class on **electronic banking** back in Term 2 and this will be repeated in Term 4 as a single session class. He has lots of tips about how to get the most out of your ATM, banking apps on mobile devices, and how to do internet banking. He too has tips and information on scams and how to protect yourself.

We've found a great spot on the Duckmaloi River, courtesy of Lexi and Mark Kellam, and this is where Lynne Causer will conduct her **fossicking** class. Hopefully the sun will have come out, and the river will have gone down, by the time this date comes around!

Did you know that Oberon is part of a trial program with **My Health Record**? Rather than "opting in" like the rest of the country, Blue Mountains residents, including Oberon, will need to "opt out" if they don't want to be included—not that that is a big deal because you have to make the effort to get your details uploaded and not much will appear without your consent. Find out more about this from Leigh Urquhart who will show you how to access your file, make changes to privacy settings and add your own information where appropriate.

Finally, we'd like to experiment with offering **table tennis**. We've chosen Friday afternoon for a start but if this doesn't suit interested people the day and times can be changed. In fact, if any class is on a day that doesn't suit let us know - some are "fixed" but if we know some people are being excluded because the day doesn't suit we may be able to make changes in the future.

Membership Renewals (\$20)

Membership fees for 2017 are due before the end of January. You can pay at the morning tea on 10th December, or send a cheque to the Secretary, 2795 Abercrombie Road, 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!

People who join as new members in Term 4 will have 5 terms of membership - till the end of 2017.

Public meeting to amend constitution

Notice is given that 5 - 10 minutes will be set aside during our Christmas morning tea to discuss a couple of proposed changes to our constitution. These have been recommended by your committee. They recommend that our Annual general Meeting be held in February each year (rather than May) and that, rather than nominations for committee positions being taken on the floor of the annual general meeting, they instead be in the hands of the secretary at least 10 days prior to the AGM. All members would receive reminders of this in advance, and then they would receive the names of those who have nominated before the actual AGM. If vacancies for positions still exist, nominations would then be taken at the AGM.

Invitation to Morning Tea - 10th December, 10am at the Community Centre. Bring family and friends with you!

Have a great term!