



Talented local sculptor, Harrie Fasher shared her story with U3A members

President's report

Oberon U3A is now into its seventh year of existence, bringing entertainment, mental stimulation, physical fitness opportunities and lots of social interaction to residents of our local area who have joined this remarkable organisation. For a number of years now, membership numbers have hovered around the 200 which is impressive, given that the population of the Oberon Local Government Area is only around the 5000 mark.

Thanks must go to the many people who have volunteered their time and their expertise to the organisation over the years, whether as committee members or facilitators, or just helpers. The organisation could not exist without them.

Thanks must also go to the Oberon Council, which has been extremely supportive, ever since Oberon U3A commenced. Council helps us in many ways but especially in providing venues for our many activities, free of charge, which is a huge bonus for members, as it facilitates holding the membership fee at the very reasonable rate of \$20 per year. We are also very grateful to Oberon RSL for providing a venue for our classes. Council's help with our application to the Veolia Mulwaree Trust for funds to purchase a data projector at the end of last year was also very much appreciated.

Another term is about to begin with a number of different activities on offer. I do hope you find at least a few courses that pique your interest enough to enrol.

Graeme Precians

Farewell to the Hawkes

Oberon U3A would like to give a huge thank you to Lyndle and Jim Hawkes who will be leaving Oberon in the coming months. We wish them all the very best for the future and trust that their new community treasures them as much as the Oberon community does. Lyndle has co-ordinated the table tennis group for the past couple of years and Jim launched the Heritage Restoration group last term. Both Lyndle and Jim will be greatly missed.

An afternoon with Harrie Fasher was a great success, with nearly 30 people coming along to hear Oberon's very own celebrated artist tell her story about the road to becoming a sculptor. Harrie's laid back presentation was both entertaining and engaging. How Harrie created and then displayed her

stunning "The Last Charge" sculpture, both at Bondi's Sculpture by the Sea and in the Bathurst Art Gallery, was amazing. Displaying another sculpture, called Transition, (winner of the Rio Tinto Sculpture Award) at Cottesloe's Sculpture by the Sea, was also a major challenge. The gathering was left wondering what will be the next step in Harrie's exciting career, as she moves into bronzes. The conversation continued after the end of Harrie's presentation over a delicious afternoon tea.

The U3A Heritage Machinery Restoration Group, formed last term, attracted the interest of eight men initially and this number is growing. The group meets once a week with the aim of restoring old equipment back to working condition or to display condition, where its original use can be seen and understood.

Currently, two items belonging to the Oberon and District Museum, a chaff cutter on a timber frame and a drag saw with a TVO Bussacot motor, are in the group's care. "It is amazing the skills, experience and knowledge that are shared on a job like this. We all enjoy ourselves and get great satisfaction from a successful renovation," restoration group member, Tim Arnison commented.

Col Roberts reported that the Museum committee is delighted with the restoration of the chaff cutter and is looking forward to seeing to fruition other projects taken on by this band of enthusiasts.

Photo right, Jim Hawkes, Bob Mills, Phil Harper, Tim Arnison, Terry Boyce looking very pleased with themselves. How fortunate Oberon is to have so many talented and generous volunteers!



Our first Trivia night late in May was a huge success. We filled the function room at the Community Centre and guests were challenged throughout the night by Julie Cutbush's questions. It was Julie's idea to hold the night to raise funds for Dementia Research. Julie then did the organising, with some help from Sue Arnison and Jenn Capel, and Julie came up with all the questions and activities. A fun activity, worth bonus points to the winning team, was the task of sculpting a mermaid out of playdough. The resulting creations were particularly funny, although some of the artists might be offended to hear that interpretation! \$640 was raised on the night. Stay tuned for another Trivia night next year.



Participants agreed, it was a fun night!

Telling Oberon's Stories This group has met twice and has been given a firm grounding in oral history protocols and interviewing techniques by Susan Lacey, who is acting in an ongoing capacity as the group's guide. The project's aim is "to record the memories and oral history of our town and our community. To do this sensitively and efficiently, and to make the material widely available for current and future generations." This will be an ongoing project and the group welcomes new members.

Coming up next term

Drones Ian Fowler, who has 40 years of experience as a film maker, has kindly agreed to share his skills and knowledge in the field of drone photography. Over his career, he has seen huge improvements in technology, and projects that in the past might have involved small planes or helicopters costing thousands of dollars, are now being completed at a fraction of the cost and effort, with the use of a small drone! See some of Ian's aerial work on Vimeo using the link <https://vimeo.com/showcase/5969124> We recommend "SnOberon" and "New England and Nova Scotia" just for starters. Ian's course will take place at the Oberon Golf Club where participants will hopefully get some "hands on" experience flying a drone over one of Oberon's most scenic areas.

Jim and Barry's sheds Jim Hawkes, our current leader of the Heritage Machinery Restoration group, has a magnificent shed where he houses his steam engine, a 1930s truck, a vintage dray and other wonderful projects. Barry Hughes has a marvellous tractor museum, with lots of other interesting items on display. These two men are opening their sheds for a U3A tour on the very first day of term. Come along and see the work of two of Oberon's talented men who have an eye for history and the skills to carry out significant restoration projects. Afternoon tea will be provided.

Golf with Joan Graham is being offered on Monday mornings throughout Term 3. Joan has kindly volunteered to teach people the basics of golf, including how to grip the club, plus gain hints on stance and club selection, as well as practice at hitting the ball! Clubs and balls can be provided, so that people have a chance to try golf, without having to purchase any equipment.

Cabbage tree hat making was a thriving cottage industry in the Hawkesbury during the 1800s and early 1900s. A cabbage tree hat was included in items held by the police to be sold at public auction in 1841 and the bushranger Ben Hall was photographed with a cabbage tree hat, supposedly around 1864!

The traditional skill of cabbage tree hat making is being kept alive by Sue and Don Brian, who have developed a passion for traditional hat making skills. There will be a cost of \$100 for two sessions, with a hat to take away at the end.

Taste of Thai dinner Fancy a night out and a delicious meal? Save the date for Wednesday, August 28, 6.30pm. There will be a set menu for \$25 so no decisions to be made!

Favourite walks will return this term, once a fortnight. Dust off those walking boots and enjoy the opportunity to get to know some of the best walks in and around town.

Armchair Travel will see participants travelling 9000 kms on a camping trip to Darwin and back with Alan and Rhondda Pearce, as well as a walking holiday with Hamish and Janet Gidley-Baird to Georgia, Azerbaijan and more.



Nice to see there's some down time for the Heritage Machinery Restoration group. Phil Harper, Bruce Lothian, Tim Arnison, Terry Boyce, Jim Hawkes.

The 500 group in particular and members of Oberon U3A, wish Rosalie Pholie all the best for the future in her move to Yass. The 500 players want to thank Rosalie for her enthusiasm and enjoyment whilst she played. She will be missed. The group would welcome new players anytime!



Bridge is going well, new players are welcome!

Dates for your diary

Term 3: Monday, July 29 – Friday, Sept 20
 Term 4: Monday, Oct 21 – Friday, Dec 13
 End of Year Morning Tea: Saturday, Dec 14, 10 am, at the Community Centre.

Have a great term!