

Batesford Community Hub, 94 Batesford Rd, Chadstone 3148 Tel: (03) 9832 5855

Email: u3awaverley@gmail.com. Webpage: www.u3awaverley.org.au.

PLEASE EMAIL ALL NEWSLETTER ITEMS AT LEAST 7 DAYS BEFORE THE START OF THE MONTH TO:
erenstrom@optusnet.com.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another month has passed without the ability to meet each other at the Hub or at Notting Hill (for the Ballroom Dancers). There are very hopeful signs that Australia has missed the worst of the effects of the virus but, nevertheless, the fatalities have been significant – especially for those directly involved!

I still cannot see that we will be able to resume normal activities before the beginning of term 3, even if a gentle easing of restrictions start at the beginning of May. It may well be later than that depending on how the easing of restrictions affects the situation. In the meantime it has been great to hear from members telling me how they are keeping in touch with each other by telephone and using computer-based communication tools such as Skype and Messenger. A number of groups have started "chats" on Zoom and are exploring ways in which they can use this technology to maintain their class activities – even in a modified form. The committee has established a working party to devise mechanisms where we can best support these activities and assist others who want to try using such technology, but who have little or no experience in the area. The working party is expected to meet for the first time in the week commencing April 26. U3A Network has also been very busy developing materials for U3A's and their members and we will utilise as much of their experience as we are able.

On another matter, 2020 marks the commencement of our 10th year at Batesford Hub (we started at the beginning of 2011) and our lease arrangement with Monash Council is up for renewal – in fact it has actually expired! The committee has appointed myself and Treasurer Maree Brown to enter into negotiation on the matter with council officers. Council has already indicated that they expect the current arrangement to continue, but perhaps, in a different form. We do not know, yet, what that means as we have yet to meet with them.

In the meantime keep safe and stay well. Many organizations have made suggestions as to how we senior citizens may best do that. A couple of members have sent me links that they may have found helpful. I include them for those who would like to give them a try.

A Simple Tai Chi Exercise <https://www.facebook.com./307989967631/posts/10157378043472632/?vh=e&d=n>

Easy exercises for the elderly https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6_zJtbzMho

Robert

The Advanced Italian Class

The Advanced Italian Class has resumed after the holidays and has been embraced with great enthusiasm from the members. I contacted all the class members and asked if they wanted the class to continue on line and obtained permission to use their email addresses. Then I set up a distribution list of participating members who are now sending their presentations directly on line to the other class members. It is not conversation but we are using our Italian with comments flying back and forth between members.

So far our topics have covered Opera in Sydney, shopping in Italy in virus times, Easter in Australia, a holiday in South America, a holiday in Gippsland, the canals of Venice, virus vocabulary, how the "Decameron" came to be written and a video of a dog doing yoga in Italian.

Elizabeth Sinclair

The History of Art Class

John Thompson the Tutor of the History of Art is sending out invitations to his class to try their hand at art reviews of several chosen pieces in 500 words or less and then circulate them to each other. This sounds so enjoyable and inspiring.



**This virus has done what no woman has been able to do...
cancel all sports, shut down all bars, and keep men at home!!!**



You know the lockdown rules! Only dogs are allowed to go for a walk.



The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house, and their children are yelling at them to stay indoors! 😊

Do not call the police on suspicious people in your neighbourhood! Those are your neighbours without makeup and hair extensions!

Class Emails

Email Members with Enrolments

This process will send an email with the details from

webmaster@u3awaverley.org.au

CC email address. Use semi-colon to separate email addresses

clear text

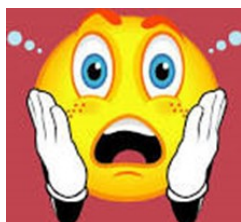
Subject text

During the current suspension of classes, it is good to see Tutors using the Send Emails facility in U-mas to communicate with their class/es. However, it is

essential that the default "from" address be overwritten with another Email address (presumably your own) to which replies can be directed. Failure to do so results in replies coming to the Webmaster mailbox. I have many activities in our U3A, but being a post office is not one of them, so replies are deleted. Often I do not know who the sender was, anyway. So, please, if you expect replies (or even if you don't) *always* overwrite that "from" address!

Geoff Fitzpatrick, Webmaster

SENIOR DRIVING - As a senior citizen was driving down the freeway, his car phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, 'Herman, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on Interstate 77. Please be careful!' 'Heck,' said Herman, 'It's not just one car. It's hundreds of them!'



RELATIVE IMPORTANCE IN 2020, SO FAR

COFFEE

CAR

INTERNET

SHAVING

ALCOHOL

TOILET PAPER

SWEATPANTS

JAN

FEB

MAR

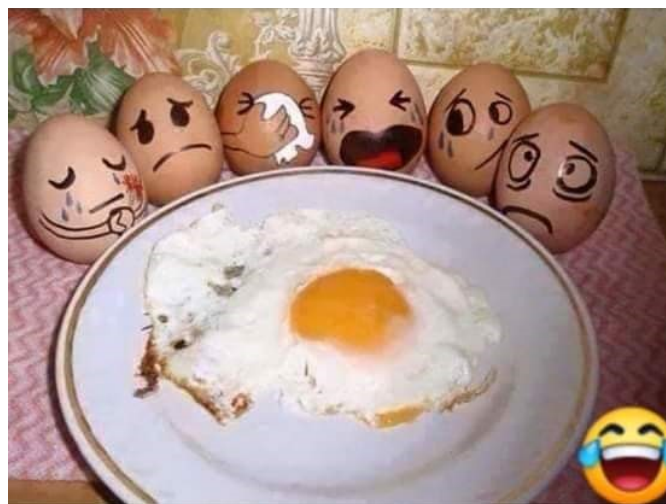
APR



Giddy from June, I set my Scrabble group a challenge of finding more than 60 words from the letters in EASTER. some were successful; however the prize of an easter egg had to be eaten by me because by the time we are back in class it would have been past its use by date! I have also set an Anzac Day word challenge to find more than 100 words from the letters in REMEMBRANCE.

Cheers, **June Valentine**

Until further notice the days of the week are now called **thisday, thatday, otherday, someday, yesterday, today and nextday** 😊



She died last Fry Day. Thank God she wasn't beaten. Don't worry, she went over easy. She's now on the sunny side. She's definitely in a better plate.

Some of us in our Creative Writing Group have each others email addresses and have decided to write stories and send them out to each other. Maybe other classes can do something similar to keep our minds active and keep in touch. Try and think of a way to do this, it's fun and so good to be in touch. One of our members who is normally very busy has decided to take this time of isolation to write her own life story. We should all try to do this to leave a precious legacy for our families.

Life in CV times

Gail Robinson

It was only a couple of weeks ago
And we were still going to Rome,
We thought it was flu and nothing so bad,
We never dreamed we'd have to stay at home.

The first hint of anything going on
Was a friend who said to me
"Why can't we get any toilet paper"?
How stupid can some people be?

But that was the start of the craziness,
And some people were selfish and cruel,
What had we become we often could think,
That these people could be such fools.

Please stay at home our government asked,
And most of us did just that,
Except for the usual idiots,
Who have the brains of a gnat.

Sometimes I think it's a blessing
To force us all to slow down,
To appreciate the peace and quiet
And not have to rush around.

But then I think don't be stupid Gail,
You're missing your little bubbas,
And cuddling them and kissing them,
Oh and also missing their mothers.

Thank goodness we don't live in the United States,
With an idiot who's in charge,
Their number of cases is out of control,
And the death rate way too large.

And for us, little things began to change,
We know one day this will end,
Will history judge how we handled this,
And how we began to mend.

Perhaps God has given us breathing space,
To change our selfish actions,
To be much nicer to each other,
And quieten our reactions.

2020 Scourges

Kevin Delaney

We drove through two hundred kilometres of burnt out forest
The result of the bushfires of last January and February
Such devastation to former lush temperate rainforest
We remember stately mountain gums and messmate
stringybark

The profusion of wattle, banksia and tea-tree
So many gullies with abundant displays of ferns
We loved that luxuriant verdant bush that we knew so well.

This forest we found so different, such a contrast
Blackened tree trunks so austere, drear, oppressive
The undergrowth missing, destroyed completely, gone
All was encompassed by a shroud of mordant charcoal
Appearing as a desolate and lifeless wasteland



Our Australian bush is adaptable, regenerated by fire
New growth is appearing, shoots from epicormic buds
Short sprigs of fresh young leaves on small branchlets
These short, off-shoots replenish the tree trunks with an
exuberance of green

In the gullies scarred tree ferns sprout healthy fronds
Bracken the first of the undergrowth awakening everywhere

Life has a new beginning. Here is resilience. Here is hope.

Now our lives are scarred by a new pestilence -

A novel coronavirus, a pandemic, Covid 19

This appalling plague evolved in China envelops the Earth
Shrouding us all in an oppressive blanket of ignorant fears
Our best escape – confining ourselves in isolation.

Here too we can find ova of new life

Neighbours reaching out with encouragement

Being renewed by the simple beauties of nature –

The little bud awakening to become a gorgeous rose

The distant whisky clouds growing to a magnificent sunset

The phone call from a friend who is thinking of you

The loving trusting eyes of a grandchild reaching out from your
computer

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