



U3A LOWER NORTH

Sharing Skills and Experience with Friends

APRIL 2024



TERM TWO

University of the Third Age is now a global movement



Post Office Box 480, Clare, South Australia, 5453



Messages 0447 601 142, Email u3alownorth@gmail.com

Secretary: Bonnie Stanley 0400 039 420 bonnie@isces.com.au

Course Co-ordinator: Katherine Stoddart 0407 224 317 or 0447 601 142, asku3a@gmail.com

Chairman, newsletter & website: Claire Eglinton 0488 058 494, eclair5453@gmail.com

U3A Lower North website: www.u3alownorth.com Note changed address

Dear Members,

Greetings from a hollow in the Clare Valley where cooler autumn days are much appreciated. So good to live in an area which still has four distinct seasons when some States seem to have trimmed it down to two: floods or fires.

In the wake of a very disappointing turnout for the 2023 end-of-year lunch and film last December, the committee has been racking their brains as to what we should do about this annual event. For some time numbers have been dropping with every year presenting its own reason: seen the film already, COVID active, catastrophic fire danger. However over the past couple of years numbers seem to have dropped beyond the point of it being redeemable.

Some U3As have all members meeting regularly for guest speakers but our AGM and end-of-year lunch and movie were our only opportunities to meet *en masse*. Should we change the format or should we change the time of year or should we just drop it altogether and accept our members have no interest in mingling? All feedback welcome.

Within this unpromising social landscape, the committee have also been considering what to do for U3A Lower North's 20th birthday. Each year we celebrate our birthday with afternoon tea after the AGM but a major milestone seems to justify something more substantial.

The most ambitious suggestion is to host a State Rendezvous. For those unfamiliar with the idea, this is what SA introduced instead of the State conferences which some other States hold.

These less formal and more fun Rendezvous gatherings have previously been great successes when hosted by U3A Riverland and U3A Adelaide Hills though a city venture never captured enough enrolments to go ahead. These events are best held in holiday destinations such as Renmark and Hahndorf so the Clare Valley would seem a natural candidate. The host group draws up a program of local attractions, dinners and outings, mixed with U3A activities, and invites guests from all other U3As. (We have 20 around the State.)

Of course it does require some savvy organisers and is too much to be taken on by just our small committee. We would require the assistance of a specially-formed organising committee. This is an excellent way for anyone who doesn't want to make a long-term commitment to the usual committee to come on short term (12? months) and complete this one job.

Do we have the talent? Do we have the desire? Does anyone have alternative suggestions? Please let us know your thinking on this matter.

See you back in the classroom,

Claire

2024 ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Cards for Fun is thriving down at the Tourist Info Centre with Katherine using her well-known determination to challenge people into trying new games.

We now have three groups meeting at this great venue and we certainly hope the new management is as welcoming as the current one. It is not easy to find such good venues with on-site parking and barista so I hope all members treat it with the utmost respect.

Cryptics 2 have dropped the 'for beginners' part of their name as their membership now includes some old hands who find this time more to their liking. Beginners are still most welcome. Time changed to 2 pm and new venue being considered.

Petanque has attracted a healthy enrolment of 15 this year. They entered into a friendly competition with far more experienced visitors from Gawler and quite shocked themselves by winning the opening encounter. Gawler is expected to bring out their big guns for the return match on their home ground.

Group Leader Ian Stanley has been costing necessary maintenance on the Melrose Park playing surfaces and has been seeking grant funding to get the work done.

Music: Ukulele. I am so glad this attracted 11 enrolments in term one with only one drop out due to arthritis. Players are seeking a venue with more comfortable seating. Sore bums = bum notes.

Burra Art Group successfully trialled a new venue and have now officially moved to Shared Arts, 15 Chapel Street, Burra.

French for Travellers didn't make a come back in 2024. It is sad to see the demise of our last language course. Over the years we have taught: Chinese, French, Italian, German and even a little Gaelic.

Lunch Club continues to attract new members. Meeting on the second Tuesday of the month they have recently lunched at Sevenhill Hotel and Seed.

Auburn's Terroir was on the list for later in the year but I guess we will be joining the rush to get in before they close next month. It will be sad to see this venue empty. I remember when a former Auburn resident saw it about to be bulldozed. She jumped in and saved it by buying it and then had to find a use for it. Hospitality was the answer and since then it has seen several reincarnations but Terroir seems to have been the longest.

FILM MORNING

The Coffee and Chat group, always looking for new venues and entertainment, will be holding a film morning and morning tea at the Blyth Cinema on Wednesday 5 June. Cost \$22.

Anyone is welcome but must book a week ahead with group leader Doreen Hill on 0436 372 222.

The film is yet to be confirmed but they are hoping for 'Jerry and Marge go large' which will suit our age group perfectly. It is based on the true story of a retiree (Brian Cranston) and his wife (Annette Benning) who work out how to beat the Massachusetts lottery and win millions and use the money to revive their small Michigan town.

DIAL COURSE CO-ORDINATOR DIRECT

Members wishing to contact Katherine our Course Co-ordinator can phone her direct on her private number 0407 224 317.

For the sake of continuity on printed materials, etc., we have a U3A phone number but some people dislike leaving a message and being phoned back later. To avoid this Katherine says you can use her personal mobile which should bring a faster response. Despite her busy schedule, Katherine's goal is to eventually visit every group.

BURRA POTTERY GROUP

We are currently working on welcoming an existing pottery group to join the U3A family. It will not only expand our program but also give us another U3A activity in Burra.

2024 U3A ART EXHIBITION

The art group is one of U3A's longest standing activities and anyone wanting to check out what our talented artists get up to at their weekly sessions down at Auburn should visit the current exhibition at the Art House in Mill Street, Clare.

At this, the 17th annual U3A Art Exhibition, their artworks occupy two lovely, light-filled rooms of this gallery space provided by the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council for local artists.

The U3A artists work in various mediums, including acrylic, oil, watercolour and pastel, with a broad range of subjects and styles.

Come along and see the diverse range of paintings and cards on display. Open daily, except Tuesdays, 10.30 am to 3 pm. The exhibition started on Wednesday 3 April and will run to Monday 28 April.

STATEWIDE ONLINE COURSES

Any U3A Lower North member is eligible to enroll in Statewide online courses free of charge. Likewise our group leaders might like to extend their class online.

Current classes include:

Climate Information Inspiring Action. A Zoom group that hears about and discusses recent ideas especially on what can be done about it. Some members have knowledge or ideas to share while others raise questions or are keen to learn.

Bonjour. Marie-Antoinette Galletta teaches a 4-term French course for people who already have some knowledge of the basics. Textbook required.

Insightful Discussions. This group explores a wide range of issues relating to contemporary Australian life. Before each meeting, participants watch a nominated episode of SBS INSIGHT. It is then discussed in the online meeting. The range of ideas and experiences lead to interesting conversations.

Ciao! Developing an interest in Italy, the people, country, customs. A weekly topic is provided to prepare you for your turn to speak in a supportive group context, with, quite a lot of attention to fun and possibly only a little attention to homework and grammar. The online environment is very conducive to language learning says leader Julie Marshall.

Philosophy. An interactive course with Travis James. Meetings deal with topics of relevance comprising a presentation by a speaker followed by a period of open discussion. No prerequisites but members are urged to participate in the discussion and where possible to give a presentation to the group. The group has been running for three years at Adelaide U3A and has grown to a group in excess of 40 with a waiting list so this is a hybrid course with both in-person and online participants. The Zoom attendees will be able to see presentations and join the discussion.

Writing Critique Group. Margaret Penhall-Jones says her aim is to provide encouragement to aspiring writers in a safe, supportive group. Ideally, you will be working on a writing project, or want to test your ideas. Bring along your drafts or your work-in-progress to share and be prepared to listen to other writers. There are clear guidelines for giving feedback, aimed at assisting participants to be the best writers they can be.

See all Statewide courses and enrol at <https://u3asouthaustralia.org.au/courses-2/>

FACEBOOK ONLINE FRAUD

“This looks great, I can’t pick it up myself but my brother will come tomorrow. I can pay right now, what’s your PayID?”

If you’ve recently tried to offload some stuff on Facebook Marketplace or Gumtree, you’ve likely received similar messages to the above. The buyer will be prompt in their responses. No, they don’t even need to inspect it, they’re that keen. They have a relative who can conveniently pick it up! Oh, and they can pay you immediately, all you need to do is send your PayID – the phone number or email address you have given your bank so people can transfer you cash.

The transaction might seem too easy to be legit, and you’d be right to suspect it. If you give the scammer your PayID, you’ll receive notice to ‘upgrade’ your account for the payment to go through. Then, the scammer will say they’ve paid the necessary fee to do so, and you should pay them back. Once you transfer them the money – poof, it’s gone. And the old sofa you were trying to get rid of is still sitting in the hallway stubbing your toe every time you go past.

As Queensland University of Technology [online fraud expert Cassandra Cross](#) explains, Australians lost more than \$260,000 to this exact scam just last year. She also offers some valuable tips on red flags to watch out for, and actions to take if you have been taken advantage of.

As a newcomer to Facebook Marketplace, I found this story most useful. To read the full story, click on the highlighted link.

Excerpt courtesy The Conversation, August 2023.

PAYMENTS

- pay online: U3A Lower North Inc., Account No. 748828019; BSB 085 558. For identification use surname then initial, e.g. Roy Rogers = rogers,r. Emails: u3alownorth@gmail.com or
- post cheques made out to ‘U3A Lower North Inc.’ to PO Box 480, Clare, 5453; or
- Make a note of our bank details (or take this newsletter with you) and make the payment over the counter at our bank, the NAB, Clare (next to IGA, opposite Post Office).

REMAINING DATES FOR 2024

TERM 2: _____ Monday 6 May to Friday 5 July

TERM 3: ____ Monday 29 July to Friday 27 September

TERM 4: _ Monday 21 October to Friday 6 December

Annual General Meeting: _____ Friday 1 November

Enrolment day for 2025: _____ Thursday 5 December

DO YOU NEED TO UPDATE YOUR DETAILS?

RETURN new or changed enrolments ASAP: U3A office door box in Clare Town Hall, or P.O. Box 480, Clare SA 5453 (messages 0447 601 142, asku3a@gmail.com).

This is for existing members only. New members should complete a once-only New Members Enrolment Form (downloadable from website or on request).

Name: _____

I have changed my address/phone/email to: _____

Enrol me in: _____

Remove me from: _____

Newsletters by post [] or email []. **Payment** by cheque [] cash [] EFT [] PTO for all options .

All information kept in accordance with U3A Lower North Inc. privacy policy (see website).



2024: SECOND TERM ACTIVITIES

CLASS	LEADER	TIME	STARTS	VENUE
Art, Auburn	Ann Foster	Wed 9:30 am – 1:30 pm	8/5/2024	Auburn oval
Art, Burra	Ann Foster	2 nd Tue, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm	14/5/2024	15 Chapel St, Burra
Book Group 1	Hermann Weber	Alt Thu 10:30 am – 12 noon	16/5/2024	St Barnabas, Clare
Book Group 2	Kath Lock	Alt Thu 1.30 – 3 pm	9/5/2024	Clare Town Hall
Cards for Fun	Katherine Stoddart	Tue, 9.30 am – 12 noon	7/5/2024	Tourism Centre
Coffee & Chat	Doreen Hill	Wed 10.30 am	8/5/2024	Various
Computing	Quentin Fleming	Fri 10 am – 12 noon	10/5/2024	Clare Town Hall
Contract Bridge	Peter Wood	Mon 1.30 – 4 pm	6/5/2024	Tourism Centre
Cryptic Crosswords 1	Greta Handmer	Alt Thu 10.30 am	9/5/2024	25 Edward St, Clare
Cryptic Crosswords 2	Sue Mayfield	Wed. 2 pm	8/5/2024	Various
Current Affairs	Quentin Fleming	Alt Thu 1.30 – 3 pm	16/5/2024	Clare Town Hall
Drumbeat	John Monten	Mon 10 – 11.30 am	6/5/2024	To be advised
Exercise 1	Chris Roberts	Tue 9 – 10 am	7/5/2024	Lutheran Hall
Exercise 2 (seated)	Chris Roberts	Tue 10 – 11 am	7/5/2024	Lutheran Hall
Knit and Sew	Mary Clark	Tue 2 – 4 pm	7/5/2024	Clare Town Hall
Lunch Club	Katherine Stoddart	2 nd Tue. 12 noon	14/5/2024	Various
Mah-jong, Auburn	Sue Beaton	Tue 2 – 4 pm	7/5/2024	Tennis clubrooms
Mah-jong, Clare	Pam Murray	Wed 2 – 4 pm	8/5/2024	Tourism Centre
Mah-jong (Western)	Katherine Stoddart	Fri 10 am – 12 noon	10/5/2024	Tourism Centre
Music Appreciation	Helen Weckert	1 st , 3 rd Wed 2.30 – 4.30 pm	22/5/2024	10 March Ct, Clare
Music: Ukulele	Tamar & Steve Young	Thu. 10 am – 12 noon	9/5/2024	Clare Town Hall
Petanque	Ian Stanley	Tuesday 3 – 5 pm	7/5/2024	Melrose Park, Clare
Quilting	Diane Richardson	Thu 10 am – 1 pm	9/5/2024	St Barnabas, Clare
Scrabble	Carol Stewart	Mon 1:15 pm	6/5/2024	St Barnabas, Clare

STATEWIDE ONLINE COURSE TRIAL: view courses or enrol at: <https://u3asouthaustralia.org.au/courses-2/>