

# Myrtleford MAGPIE



MYRTLEFORD & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER  
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

## Welcome to the July 2018 edition of *Myrtleford Magpie* – edition # 06

### Dollars and sense

HELLO, everyone. June 30 marked the end of our financial year so it's time for the boring but important stuff: U3A Myrtleford and District's finances.

A bank account for our incorporated association was opened in January, this year, with Bright Community Bank's branch of Bendigo Bank. A grant of \$2000 from Alpine Shire was the first deposit.

Since then, to the end of the financial year, a further \$5216 has been deposited, and expenses of \$1246 have been incurred. At 30 June, the balance in hand was \$6000.

Aside from the grant from the Council, the main sources of income have been a start-up grant of \$1964 from U3A Victoria Network and \$3035 in membership fees. The main items of expenditure have been for our branch launch in February, equipment for courses and stationery.

It has been rewarding to be part of the inaugural committee for U3A Myrtleford and District, and to meet so many enthusiastic, interesting members.

Now, if I could just win a game of Finska, I'd be happy!

*Yvonne Tabalotny, Treasurer*



### New courses for term 3

EXCITING news for many of you: part two of our Local History Course, *The past and us*, is starting on August 30 at the Old School Museum, Elgin Street, Myrtleford.

It is led by John Taylor, Myrtleford's 'Mister History' (as *The Myrtleford Times* dubbed him when he was awarded an Order of Australia Medal In January this year). There will be four sessions: 30 August, 6, 13 and 20 September.

An outline of the course is:

#### **Week 1: *Return to the 1930s: a decade of change***

- Electric light and reticulated water
- Recreation and entertainment
- Major building projects
- New crops of the future
- Rabbits, frosts and fires

#### **Week 2: *World War II***

- Myrtleford and district responds: enlistments, life on the home front
- Essential local industries
- Prisoners of war, internment of 'Enemy Aliens'.

#### **Week 3: *Forging a new way forward: 1946-1960***

- Major development and events of the post-war period
- The impact of immigration

#### **Week 4: *Reflection***

- Stories from the Pioneer Cemetery (excursion)

Details for this course can be found at [www.u3amyrtleford.org.au](http://www.u3amyrtleford.org.au) so please enrol if you wish to participate.

## Making computers work for you!

TWO computer courses started for U3A Myrtleford and District members in the first week of term 3.

The first is *Learn more about your computer* – tutored by Kay McGuffie. This course runs at Myrtleford Neighbourhood Centre on Mondays 10.30am-12:00pm.

The second course is *Computers: it's all about Word* – tutored by Cindy Lucas. This course runs in the canteen at Myrtleford P-12 College.

Both of these courses will be provided free of charge and computers will be available for your use.

*We thank both Myrtleford Neighbourhood Centre and Myrtleford P-12 College for their generosity.*

## Memoir writing turns a page or two

JOY Phillips is this term leading two courses on Thursdays for *Memoir Writing*.

She is an excellent tutor – and a published author – and all participants are enjoying her sessions. The first course is for *new participants* and runs 9:15am-10:45am, followed by the second – for *continuing members* – runs 11:00am-12:30pm. Both are presented at Myrtleford Senior Citizens' Centre.



## Are you a philosophical bird?

U3A Myrtleford and District members have an opportunity to join two courses offered with Bright U3A. These are:

- *Birdwatching*
- *Philosophy*

If either of these interests you please contact U3A Myrtleford secretary Jan Mock:

Email: [u3amyrtleford@gmail.com](mailto:u3amyrtleford@gmail.com)

Mobile: 0401 064 030

## Tapping into smart phones

DO you ever feel like throwing your smart phone at the wall because it's smarter than you?

U3A Myrtleford can help you work your phone to better understand and use its capabilities.

We can organise a course if there is interest.

Please let Jan Mock know if you would like to be part of a group to 'beat the phone'.

Email: [u3amyrtleford@gmail.com](mailto:u3amyrtleford@gmail.com)

Mobile: 0401 064 030

## 'Working with Children' check

U3A Myrtleford is developing a close working relationship with the Myrtleford P-12 College.

Opportunities to share our learning and experiences with the students is unlimited but anyone who's interested needs to have current 'Working with Children' check.

You can apply on-line at

<http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/>.

As a volunteer there is no fee – it's a simple process to complete and submit the form.

If you need help please contact Jan Mock:

Email: [u3amyrtleford@gmail.com](mailto:u3amyrtleford@gmail.com)

Mobile: 0401 064 030

## Lawyer talks wills and succession

REBECCA Carne, B.A. LL.B. LL.M (Applied Law), the head of general practice at Nevin Lenne Gross, was a wonderfully informative guest speaker for the U3A Myrtleford *Coffee Afternoon* on July 13.

Her areas of expertise include wills and estates, powers of attorney, administration of estates and commercial law in both Victoria and NSW.

Members and guests heard about how to choose an executor for a will, how to direct gifts and legacies, and how to set up an enduring power of



attorney, which is essential should you become unable to direct your own affairs.

Of particular interest, especially for farmers and business people, was information on succession planning, which ensures that a farm or business flows comfortably to the next generation.

The difficult discussions about preparation for physical decline and mortality were made easier with

Rebecca's concise, practical and cheerful advice on how to deal with these topics.

One personal resolve was to discontinue the family tradition of applying band-aids, bearing the name of the beneficiary on prized possessions. Handing it over prior to your demise was Rebecca's cost effective advice as well as ensuring that the gifts reached the person they were intended for.

The importance of a will being drawn up by qualified people, with an Advanced Care Directive to ensure your wishes are respected in the event of medical treatment, is of utmost importance to us all: that was a very clear message.

Thank you, Rebecca, for very enlightening and at times amusing presentation.

### Next Coffee Afternoon: Friday, August 10 'Before the Road Trains'

- Speaker: John (Don) Corcoran
- Myrtleford Lawn Tennis Clubrooms, 2:00pm

JOHN Corcoran was born in Sydney in 1936 and in the 1950s went to the Northern Territory as a stockman, attracted to the Top End by stories he had read by Australian authors Ion Idriess and Vic Hall, who had lived and worked in that country.

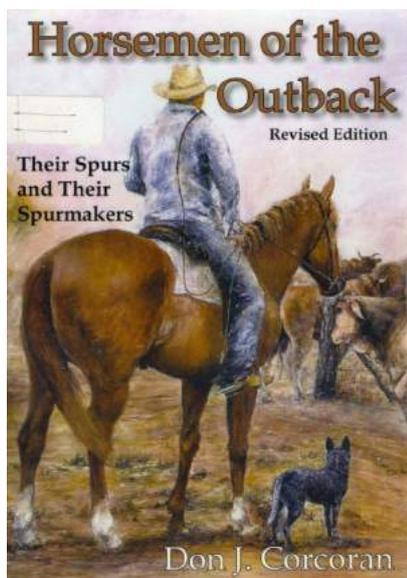
This was before the current network of all-weather bitumen 'beef roads' had been built, allowing cattle to be

transported by road train, rather than on the hoof, as they had been since the time of first settlement.

Over the years John realised that he was fortunate to have been working in the Territory at the tail end of the real droving days, and with the advent of helicopters, road trains and the like, the old time drovers were gone forever.

These times, and the way of life then, is the subject of John's talk today.

In 2003, John published a book titled *Horsemen of the Outback*, being stories of the men and women of



that era, and earlier, in their own words. A revised edition was published a few years ago and is available at Myrtleford Newsagency.

### Sharp blade shapes yield U3A gardeners hear expert advice



U3A MYRTLEFORD gardening course participants on July 13 took to a cool hillside near Buckland Gap to learn about tree-pruning from a skilled Beechworth orchardist.

Rob Tully, who in recent years has concentrated on pear production after many years of apple growing, showed the 12 gardeners who braved the bright but chilly day some of the most effective ways to prune trees for shape and fruit.

He led the demonstration above Three Mile Creek in a four-year-old orchard developed by Peter Kenyon and U3A Myrtleford gardening course leader Jamie Kronborg, where about 40 trees – including plum, persimmon, apricot, quince, apple, pear and citrus – have been planted since winter 2014.

The apples, planted as two-year-old saplings, were sourced from a Tasmanian specialist nursery. They number heritage varieties such as the Danish 18<sup>th</sup> century Gravenstein (Denmark's 'national apple'), French 16<sup>th</sup> century variety Court du Pendu Plat, and American 1830s-bred Hubbardston Nonesuch and 1866-grown Stayman's Winesap.

Rob showed the home gardeners how to prune to shape a tree as a 'vase' or as 'central leader' or 'pyramid'. He also demonstrated cutting techniques which prevent tree damage and so limit the risk of disease or pest incursion. The group then watched Rob prune and shape an older, larger Fuji apple in the kitchen garden where lower branch spread was restricting wheelbarrow and mower access between

the tree and the ends of four rectangular salad and vegetable-growing beds.

U3A course participants also saw in the orchard a one-year old sapling of a French-Canadian 18<sup>th</sup> century apple variety known as Fameuse, or Snow – one of two grafted in a workshop led by Stanley orchardist Henry Hilton at Black Barn Farm, near Stanley, in September last year.

- U3A Myrtleford gardeners meet fortnightly. The next session is on July 27 at Myrtleford Senior Citizens' Centre at 10:00am. Go to [www.u3amyrtleford.org.au](http://www.u3amyrtleford.org.au) for information.
- Charlie Showers and Jade Miles are developing a heritage apple orchard near Stanley and will host a grafting workshop on September 8. Go to [www.blackbarnfarm.com.au](http://www.blackbarnfarm.com.au) to book.

### Feast by hand and eye

#### U3A cooks dip into the world's cuisine

OUR next session of *Food, Glorious Food* will raise the temperature on Wednesday, August 1.

Noela Dawes will be the guest presenter making dukkah, zucchini relish and *torrone di mandorle* (almond toffee). Jessie Terteci will be back on August 27 making minestrone soup.

Both of these sessions will be held at the Myrtleford P-12 College at 3:30pm. Please enrol on-line at [www.u3amyrtleford.org.au](http://www.u3amyrtleford.org.au) where there will also be more information about each class.



Ann Orchiston *pictured above* from Myrtleford's Vietnamese Street Cart was guest presenter at *Food, Glorious Food* on July 11.

Judy Pitts said course participants really enjoyed watching Ann demonstrate her recipe for yummy **Vietnamese beef and vegetable rice paper rolls** and then making them.

The rice paper was filled with:

- cooked, shaved, marinated beef
- vermicelli noodles
- lettuce
- fine carrot sticks
- capsicum
- fresh chopped mint and coriander leaves



Here are the ingredients to prepare the beef:

500g beef (skirt or rump sliced thinly across the grain).

*Make a marinade of:*

- 1 tablespoon each of fish, oyster and soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon of sugar
- 1 clove of crushed garlic
- pepper to taste

Allow the meat to marinate for at least two hours in the refrigerator or, better still, overnight. Then drain the marinade and fry the meat in a well-oiled skillet. When cooled, put the cooked beef strips with the noodles, vegetables and herbs *listed at the top of this column* and spoon onto the prepared rice paper. Roll and cut to size.

#### Dipping sauce

- ½ cup of sugar
- ½ cup fish sauce
- ¼ cup of water
- ¼ cup of lemon juice
- 1 clove of finely chopped garlic
- plus chilli *optional*

#### Look out for...

NOTICES shortly to be issued for:

- U3A Myrtleford and District's annual general meeting, and
- a talk and afternoon tea on October 12 to coincide with Seniors' Week.