

Myrtleford MAGPIE



MYRTLEFORD & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Welcome to the August 2018 edition of Myrtleford Magpie – edition # 07

What's been happening?

AS I have been away in Italy for a couple of months I needed to catch up on what has been happening.

Apart from new courses, some committee members attended a recent U3A Bright committee meeting. We are keen to work together and allow both branches' members to access courses that we each offer. This not only increases the number of courses available but it also allows friendships from the two towns to develop.

Our own committee had a planning session last week where we discussed progress to date and where we want to go in the next year.

The committee is very pleased with the support we had from our members and we look forward to delivering a program that is exciting and interesting for you all. In the meantime enjoy what you are doing.

Nino Mautone, President



OPPORTUNITIES: U3A Bright's Roy Ward with Myrtleford's Jan Mock and Nino Mautone.

New courses for term 4

Floral arrangement workshops

A SERIES of workshops will be conducted at L'Amour Florist, 161 Myrtle Street, Myrtleford on the following dates:

October 2: Arranging your own garden cut flowers
5.30-6.30pm

October 23: Guidance in making floral arrangements (approx. cost \$15) 5.30-6.30pm

December 6: Making Christmas door wreaths (all supplies provided – approx. cost \$25) 5.30-6.30pm

Beekeeping

Mid-November (date to be confirmed). There will be two sessions each of two hours, with the second to be a practical session. There's no charge but participants will need to wear long sleeved shirts, long pants, a net fly veil over the head, and a brimmed hat to keep the fly veil off of their face.

It is very important to identify yourself if you are allergic to bees.

Mathematics

Come and learn the mysteries of algebra and geometry starting at basic levels. Course will comprise three weeks of each discipline.

Calligraphy

Ann Dugdale from Myrtleford Art Supplies will run a four-week course in calligraphy starting in October. Sessions will be held on a Tuesday morning for one hour at her shop in Myrtle Street.

Art techniques

U3A Bright has invited our members to join in an 'art gathering' at the Bright Art Gallery on Tuesday mornings 10am-12pm. Bring your own materials.

Coffee and biscuits supplied. Contact Steve McCall 03 5752 1074 for details.

Woodwork will also be offered starting in October. Details of these new courses plus on-going courses are available at www.u3amyrrtleford.org.au or call Jan Mock 0401 064 030.

Victorian Seniors Festival

OCTOBER is Victoria's Seniors' Festival month with the main celebrations from October 7.

U3A Myrtleford and District has decided to offer two activities to celebrate this week in Myrtleford:

October 8

U3A Myrtleford and District will host a **Finska tournament** in Myrtleford Piazza. This is open to anyone in the area. Finska is a fun game that anyone can play – no special skills required – and after a play-off there'll be coffee across the road at Café Fez.

October 12

We look forward to welcoming **Judy Brewer** as speaker at a special Seniors' Festival coffee afternoon. Many of you will know Judy – Mudgegonga farmer and chair of Amaze, Victoria's peak advocacy organisation for people on the autism spectrum and their families and supporters.

Judy was founding chair of the national Co-operative Research Centre for Autism and in 2016 was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to those with autism, to refugees in rural Australia, to women and education. Her husband is former deputy prime minister and diplomat Tim Fischer AC, who helped to launch U3A Myrtleford and District when it opened in February, this year.

Judy will speak at Myrtleford RSL rooms, off Smith Street, at 2pm. Coffee and afternoon tea will be served. This important event is open to all and we hope to have a large crowd to welcome Judy.

Tapping into smart phones

SIX people are interested in finding out ways to get the best from their smart phones.

Jan Mock has been negotiating with Myrtleford P-12 College principal Zlatko Pear to seek help from some students to act as tutors. This could be exciting as it will bring two distinct age groups together and we can all learn from each other.

Jan will liaise with the student tutors and we plan to run the sessions in early October.

Please let Jan know if you would like to be part of this group, if you have not already registered your interest, to 'beat the phone'.

Email: u3amyrrtleford@gmail.com

Mobile: 0401 064 030

Coffee afternoon: Friday, September 14 Cathy McGowan AO MP talks of life

FEDERAL Member for Indi Cathy McGowan AO MP will discuss 'twists and turns experienced in a lifetime' and the importance of 'staying connected and learning as we get older'



Cathy needs no introduction. She was elected to federal parliament in 2013 and re-elected in 2016. She was born in Albury and educated in Beechworth and Melbourne. She later became a rural teacher and electorate officer before taking a job with the Victorian agriculture department. She also farms in the Indigo Valley.

Since her election to parliament she has been a member of the House of Representatives' standing committee on agriculture and transport, select committee on regional development and decentralisation, and joint House-Senate select committee on constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Cathy was unable to attend the launch of U3A Myrtleford and District earlier this year she has agreed to come and speak with our members at our regular monthly coffee afternoon. We hope many of you are able to attend and hear Cathy and ask her questions.

August coffee afternoon

Writer talks of droving book

MYRTLEFORD'S John Corcoran spoke at our August 10 coffee afternoon about his book on a rather surprising topic.

Titled *Horsemen of the Outback*, the colourful work recounts John's collection of personal histories, exploits and dramas of Australia's cattlemen, drovers, and the people who manned (and womanned) northern Australian cattle stations. What connects their stories is the manufacture and use of spurs.

John's collection of photographs of spurs, and their owners, leads into the history and lore of working with horses before bitumen and cattle trucks.

Tales include those about impeccably dressed roughriders entertaining the crowds in the 1920s in the 'Wild Australia Show', drovers who spent months on the 1600-kilometre Canning Stock Route in Western Australia, an enthusiastic couple who initiated bullfighting and invited a Spanish matador to

Australia, and fearless rodeo riders. All come alive with John's writing.

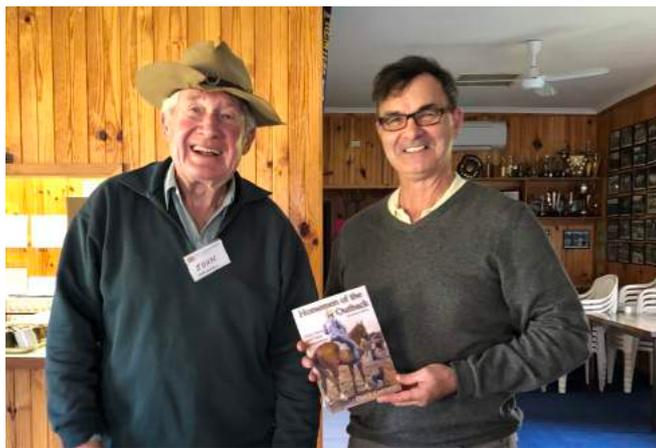
Woven throughout the book are poems and ballads written and recited by drovers and roughriders to celebrate those times.

Quoting drover Jack Sammon from 'Rusty Spurs'...

There's a pair of spurs hanging on a nail in the shed, the straps are dry and cracking and the metal's rusty red.

My father gave them to me when he taught me how to ride and well do I remember how I strapped them on with pride.

John (Don) Corcoran's *Horsemen of the Outback* can be ordered at Myrtleford Newsagency.



HIGH TALES: John Corcoran with John Twyford, holding John's book, at the August coffee afternoon.

Fun 'Christmas in July'

THANKS to the Happy Valley Hotel – and Wendy King in particular – members of U3A Myrtleford and District had a fun night on July 25.

We were treated to a beautiful 'Christmas dinner' complete with pudding and fruit mince pies.

The hotel even went to the trouble of decorating the room and putting bon-bons on the table for guests.

Thank you, Wendy and your staff – it was a great night.



HAPPY DINNER: Wendy King with Jan Mock and Jamie Kronborg at Happy Valley Hotel.

German language class

U3A Myrtleford and District's conversational German classes have proved so useful for students that they have continued informally under the guidance of Monica Grimm.

The photograph *below* shows students testing their new language skills at an informal meeting in the home of one of the students.

Kartoffelsalat, Schnitzel, frisches Brot Elsasser Apfel Kuchen und Kaffee were discussed at length.

Conversational German is available each Wednesday at 11am at the Myrtleford Senior Citizens' Centre during September.



Garden vision in Stanley

OUR ever-growing gardening group enjoyed a fascinating tour of Genevieve Milham's extraordinary 'Planetrees Estate' in Stanley on August 10.

Genevieve, an architect and world traveller, bought the former sawmill site in the heart of Stanley village in 2008. With amazing vision and detail she transformed the rough, clay-bound 2.4-hectare plot into an eclectic garden richly planted with exotic trees, shrubs and perennials. It also features a natural swimming pool. See www.planetreeseestate.com.au for Genevieve's story.



The gardening group is led by Jamie Kronborg and will meet again after a month's break on Thursday September 27 (note change from the usual Friday because of Victoria's AFL Grand Final public holiday on September 28).

It will then return to a standard fortnightly cycle from Friday, October 15, meeting at Myrtleford Senior Citizens' Centre from 10am.



GRAND DESIGN: Genevieve Milham (centre) describes elements of her 'Planetrees Estate' garden to U3A Myrtleford course participants.

Reminder: '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 are 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

Mobile: 0401 064 030