
Myrtleford MAGPIE



MYRTLEFORD & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Welcome to the March 2021 edition of Myrtleford Magpie – #31

From the President

Term 1 has been quite a busy return to “almost normal” activities as many are making the most of the opportunity so far, getting out and about in the glorious weather, as Easter and Term 2 appear on the horizon. I had the pleasure of attending Health Talks, Bee Keeping and Knife Sharpening this term and am impressed not only in the depth of knowledge of our tutors but the time and effort that they take in preparing for and the care they take in delivering the courses. We are very fortunate indeed and we are also blessed in having available the number and variety of venues at which we conduct our activities. My calculations for Term 1 are that we are running 23 courses/activities across 14 different venues. This is testament to the work that the courses coordination/convening team do, the excellent relationships that they have with our many partner organisations and how our members have either run or supported the courses offered in workshops and outdoor

venues. Please join me in giving all a big pat on the back.

As we go to print, the new courses program for Term 2 is now complete, and the variety of offerings has expanded as promised - and Shakespeare is back too. See the summary of new courses and activities and the attached program, further in the newsletter. You may need to enrol promptly as some course have ‘COVID-limited’ class sizes.

A couple of updates as promised, on last issue.

Firstly, the Automated Electronic Defibrillator, (AED) that we are purchasing from grant funding. We have decided to upgrade the installation by making the AED 24-hour accessible, so that it further benefits our community. This means that the unit will be located in a secure cabinet mounted at the entry to the Senior Citizens Centre and under lights. We are currently seeking quotations, then additional funds for this to occur.

Secondly, the North Eastern Victoria Regional meeting was held via Zoom and most of the 15

U3As in our region were represented. Key items were:

- COVID-19 put a halt to many activities in 2020 but others continued on-line via Zoom, noting that many of the participants were older members of some U3As and have embraced, even mastered the technology.
- The benefit of sharing information and lessons learned. This means that we will be sharing our newsletters and our term programs with other U3As and they, theirs, with us. Jan Mock has already taken the initiative on this.
- U3A Network grant available to purchase a device and connectivity to participate on online courses.

I wish you a Happy Easter and look forward to seeing you 'round the traps'.

John Twyford

(President, U3A Myrtleford and District Inc.)

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Standish Street Surgery has teamed up with the Myrtleford RSL to deliver COVID-19 vaccinations to our local community. Those 70 years and older, and some others will be amongst the first to be processed, before the general public. If you haven't been contacted already, call the surgery to register and to receive this important vaccination at the RSL rooms.

Program for Term 2

You will see attached to this newsletter the new program for Term 2. There are still some of your favourite activities plus a few new ones.

Please enrol on the website:

www.u3amyrtleford.org.au or contact Yvonne Tabalotny if you need assistance to enrol.

Mob: 0468 482 971

A new activity:

"Interesting Structures and Places"

The first activity in this series starts on Thursday 8 April so please register for it asap if you plan to join in.

Did you know that the Department of Defence operated a flax mill at Myrtleford during WW2 and for many years afterwards? Or, did you know that there were five active gold mines at Gapsted in the late 1800s? Or, have you always wanted to visit a tobacco farm complex to understand how tobacco was grown and processed?

If you want to learn more and partake in some top smokos and lunches; enrol in the 'Interesting Structures and Places' visits – Series 1, kicking off on Thursday 8 April 2021. Convenors Jon Harrington and John Twyford will take you on a most enjoyable journey of local sites that are not usually open to the public where you meet hosts who are passionate about their interesting places. Only 10 places are available for each visit.

Coffee/speaker the next event will be on May 13 at 2.30pm

Painted Silo Tours: due to the popularity of this trip we have scheduled a second trip. The date for the second trip was initially planned for Monday 19 April, but our driver, Malcolm McKinnon, had to change the date to Monday, 3 May for family reasons. This trip is listed on the website under 'Courses'. Please put your name down.

Information re this tour is as follows:

Transport will be by bus. The total cost will be \$37. Malcolm McKinnon will be the bus driver and tour leader. Please pay your money at least a week ahead into the Bendigo Bank:
BSB 633 000

Acc # 1618 595 33 and reference your name against the deposit.

Meet at the Myrtleford Senior Citizens Centre at 8:30am on 25 March/19 April. Return time is 5.00pm

The tour route will include silos at Goorambat, Devenish, St James and Tungamah. Included in the price is a Devonshire morning tea at the Devenish Hotel. After visiting the last silo, we would head to Yarrawonga for a late lunch. Participants can either bring their own lunch or purchase it from one of the many eateries in Yarrawonga.

Current COVID -19 rules would require all participants travelling on the bus to wear a mask.

Carpet Bowls: if anyone is interested in playing carpet bowls could you register your interest with Yvonne Tabalotny Mob: 0468 482 971.

Our book – For A Better Life

As mentioned in the January edition of Myrtleford Magpie, book sales have generated a profit and the committee is looking for a project that will benefit U3A members, residents of and visitors to Myrtleford. We will have around \$10,000 to put towards a project or projects. The committee is still gathering ideas and plans to further publicise this fact using local media outlets. Subject to agreement by the Committee at its next meeting, it is expected that receipt of ideas will be open until the end of April 2021.

If you have any ideas, for a worthy project, please send it to Jan Mock or someone on the committee. You may be asked for further and more detailed information on your idea that would most likely include how U3A members could participate in delivering the idea, the benefits to U3A members and the wider community, costings and timeframes, etc. Good luck with your thoughts.

The book, *For A Better Life*, is continuing to sell. It is now available through the Myrtleford Newsagency, the information centres in Myrtleford, Bright and Mount Beauty, Beechworth Books, The Bright Book Shop and Edgars Newsagency and Booktique, Wangaratta. Copies can also be obtained from Judy Pitts, Yvonne Tabalotny, Philippa Cartwright and Jan Mock.

Coffee speaker: Fiona Nicholls – Chair of the Alpine Community Recovery Committee and Vice-Chair of Into Our hands Community Foundation

At the last coffee/speaker event on Friday 12 March Fiona Nicholls spoke. She is the chair of the Alpine Community Recovery Committee (Alpine CRC) looking at bushfire recovery after the 2019/2020 bushfires and the Deputy Chair of Into Our Hands Community Foundation whose reach includes Alpine and Indigo shires and Rural City of Wangaratta.

Both of these organisations can bring great benefits to our area.

The Alpine CRC is liaising with various government and local government agencies as to how the community would like to see the recovery for our shire. This committee has community representatives from Dinner Plain, Harrietville, Bright, Myrtleford, Kiewa Valley and the 2 Alpine resorts, Mount Hotham and Falls Creek.

Sally McDonald is the other representative with Fiona for the Myrtleford and district area. They would love to hear any suggestions you may have that would assist in the recovery for our community. They can be reached via email as follows: fionan@alpinecrc.org.au and sallym@alpinecrc.org.au

Into Our Hands Community Foundation was formed in 2012 as a result of the 2009 bushfires. This foundation was given \$1m to distribute back into the community over 10 years. Rather than wind up after 10 years, the board of the foundation is planning to raise extra funds to enable it to keep on giving into perpetuity. There are numerous ways they can attract funds; one way is through endowment. Many people have money to give away at the end of their life and often don't know where it should go and it often ends up going to a good cause but outside of our community. This means that monies/property that has been gained from hard work in our community is lost to groups and organisations outside of our community. This foundation now gives people a chance to donate to their community – keeping local money local. Contacts for Into Our Hands Community Foundation are:

Executive Officer

Sarah Thompson

0466 252 866

info@intoourhandsfoundation.com.au

Thank you, Fiona, for coming to speak to U3A Myrtleford and District Inc. We are look forward to seeing our region grow and being able to have input on how it may develop.

Additional dates to be aware of:

Sat 15 May. The long-awaited official book launch of *For a Better Life* (hosted by U3A) to be held at Club Savoy. Invitations will go out early April and you will need to register for this key event on the La Fiera Myrtleford Italian Festival 2021 program.

June 2021. Special General Meeting - to accept the U3A Myrtleford and District Inc 'Own Rules' version of our constitution. Notification to all members will be distributed prior to the event.

Do you have any photos of U3A activities?

Og Gog and Magog, Mount Buffalo



Gardening group at Tatanka gardens



Course Leader Jon Hansen, giving students a few pointers on how to work in harmony with bees.

If you have any photos or articles which could be included in this newsletter please send to Jan Mock, u3amyrtleford@gmail.com