

Myrtleford MAGPIE



MYRTLEFORD & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Welcome to the July 2021 edition of *Myrtleford Magpie* – #3

From the President

As I write this message, the 21st and final stage (from Chatou to Paris - Champs Elysées) of the 2021 Tour de France is underway. For those elite athletes, it's just a short, leisurely ride – and quite flat, compared to the several other stages over steep terrain of more than 150km in length. For example, Stage 17 on 14 July took riders on a 178km journey over the Pyrenees starting out at the small hamlet of Muret, just 25km south of the city of Toulouse. Toulouse is known as La Ville Rose ('The Pink City') due to the terra-cotta bricks used in many of its buildings. So what, you say. Toulouse is also known as the birthplace (1972) of the international U3A Movement of which you are a member.

Watching the Tour de France back here in Australia can be a leisurely, learning experience as well, so long as one stays awake. There are so many sights that the broadcast captures. It's a history and geography class in its own league, not to mention the gastronomy classes packed into

the coverage each night spanning three weeks. Is there a tutor out there willing to run this multi-faceted, multi-layered marathonic course of study? Are there students in Myrtleford willing to change their circadian rhythm for nigh on a month to jump on board the 2022 Tour de France viewing course? I think the answer is 'no' to both.

This issue of the Myrtleford Magpie comes with much news. Firstly, as you enter the Senior Citizens Centre, you may notice that the Alpine Shire Council has kindly relocated the seat on the right-hand side to the entry to afford safe and easy access to the newly installed defibrillator. This seat is now at right angles to its original position and is in an ideal spot for the Finska activity – somewhere to sit while awaiting your turn.

We thank the Council for this work as we do also for the upgraded audio-visual facilities recently installed in main hall of the centre. This will certainly enhance many of the sessions that we may wish to run as part of our activities.

Term 3 started on 12 July and includes seven new activities – from Snow Shoeing to Welding for Beginners to the Robertson Brothers 1960 TV Variety Show performance. Most courses this term are well subscribed with a few spots available for each.

Finally, we are having our Annual General Meeting (AGM) next month. It will include an election for all committee positions. This is an opportunity to nominate yourself or someone else who you think would be an effective member of your committee. I commend all members to consider serving your U3A in this way. All the details are enclosed.

I look forward to seeing and chatting with you over a scone at the AGM.

John Twyford
(President, U3A Myrtleford and District Inc.)

COVID Restrictions

Due to the continuing lockdown, all U3A activities are on hold until Wednesday 28 July (at the earliest).

Once we have some certainty we will reschedule Christmas in July lunch – it may well be Christmas in August!!

Reminder to Update Your Personal Information

If your personal details change, could you please update the changes on the website. This includes your address, phone number, email address and emergency contacts.

If you have difficulty getting on the website please contact Yvonne Tabalotny (0468 482 971) or Jan Mock (0401 064 030) or email u3amyrtleford@gmail.com and we will help you.

Goodbye and thank you to Walter Brett who has been an asset to the Thursday's Card sessions of 500, and to Lifeball.

He kindly donated a number of new packs of cards, which will be put to good use.

Walter has now moved to Wangaratta, and we wish him all the very best.

Bus Trip to the former Asylum at Beechworth and Bonegilla

13 September

This trip will be a full day trip visiting the former asylum at Beechworth and going onto the Bonegilla Migrant Experience (migrant camp) just out of Wodonga.

Did you know that 1 in 20 Australians has a link to Bonegilla?



This trip will cost \$54 for the bus, and entry to Mayday Hills and the Bonegilla Migrant Experience. Morning coffee in Beechworth and lunch in Yackandandah will be at your own expense.

Please indicate on the website if you want to be part of this trip. We will ask for money to be paid when we are sure it will go ahead.

Snowshoeing – Tuesday 10 August

This year I am proposing to take a group from U3A snowshoeing. This activity has been done before in 2018 and 2019.

Depending on snow conditions the first choice would be to snowshoe at Mount Buffalo. If the snow is not suitable there, we would go to Dinner Plain.

I will be in contact with all the people who are interested prior to the event so please enrol on the website prior to 10 August. (Jan Mock)

Remember: If you can walk, you can snowshoe.

Coffee/speaker

I had tried to get Steven Bekker to talk on “My Life in Aviation” for over 2 years. Various things kept getting in the way, but when he finally made it, he certainly did not disappoint. We were treated to an amazing summary of his career in the Australian Air Force and the private air industry.

I was impressed that he had been a roulette pilot and a leader of that group, but that was only a very tiny part of his overall achievements. Steve has been a pilot, an instructor and a test pilot, of which there are very few in the world.

Steve has flown 110 different aircraft in the course of his career, which has taken him to many parts of Australia, the Middle East, Afghanistan, Europe, USA and Antarctica.



Steve in the cockpit of a Lockheed U2 high altitude reconnaissance aircraft flying at over 75,000 feet.

To fly at this altitude, Steve had to wear a complete space suit and prior to the flight his blood had to have all the nitrogen removed from it.

Although now retired from the Air Force, Steve still flies a glider, an ultra-light and a light aircraft.

Line Dancing

A new fun and energetic activity for our members.



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting for U3A Myrtleford and District Inc. is to be held on **Friday 13 August at 2.30pm at the Myrtleford Senior Citizens Centre.**

We would like as many people as possible to attend.

Every year elections are held for the entire committee. This includes positions for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 6 general committee positions. It is anticipated that all committee members will take on a role in the business of organising our U3A.

A **nomination form** is attached to this email for you to use.

In addition a **Proxy form** is also attached.

If you are unable to attend the AGM but would like to speak and/or vote at the meeting, you can ask another full member (who is financial) to represent you at the meeting, as your proxy. You must complete the attached form and your proxy must give it to the chair of the meeting prior to the meeting starting.

You can give specific instructions to your proxy as to what you want said and how you want to vote. If you do not give specific instructions your proxy can vote on behalf of you, in any matter, as he or she sees fit.