



NEWSLETTER April 2015

Message from the Editor

Welcome to this, the first U3A Online Newsletter for 2015.

If this is the first time you've ventured into looking at a U3A Online Newsletter, then welcome! Also a warm welcome to all our long-standing members who make the U3A Online such a valuable resource.

This is my first edition as the editor, so any feedback, comments on your U3A Online courses and what you enjoy, plus articles for future Newsletters (eg a profile of you, as one of our members!) will be welcome!

Cheers

Kerry



Committee Members Face to Face Meeting Feb

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President's report – April 2015

This is my first report as President of U3A Online and the first thing I want to do is acknowledge the tremendous job Di Delchau has done. She was initially Administrator for 1 year, then President and Administrator for the following seven years. Currently our Administrator again, she continues to amaze me with her constant patience and attention to members' queries and problems. This is not always an easy task and she deals with it all diligently and calmly. Thank you, Di, for a great job!

In February this year, the Committee of Management held its annual Face-to-Face meeting in Hobart. It was a highly productive meeting where the discussion largely centred on how we can promote and develop U3A Online. Many suggestions came forward and each of the Committee members has taken on jobs to achieve the goal of increasing both awareness and membership. And I am pleased to report that many of those jobs have been completed or are ongoing and we are seeing an increased interest in our website.

The new website is up and running and, although any website will at some stage suffer glitches, it appears to be running well and we have had a "tidy up" of various pages. Some new Courses have been added and our Course Editor, David Mitchell, is working on several more. The General Discussion forum is now being used more frequently and if you like a good chat about all sorts of topics you can find them on the Members Lounge page.

We now have a Face book page up and running and I encourage you to look at it and add comments. I understand that FB is not everyone's cup of tea but we must remember that it will be for most seniors in the future and we cannot hide our heads in the sand about changing IT usage. You can find it by putting 'U3A Online' into the search box.

And finally, don't forget, that if you belong to a face-to-face U3A your group can buy a site license and use all the Courses as a resource for your own U3A.

Happy studying!

Jean Walker

**Committee of
Management meeting
Friday February 6th,
2015 Hobart**

7 Committee of Management Members were in attendance for the annual Face to Face Meeting, with apologies received from the other 3 members.

Reports were tabled from the Treasurer, President and Course Coordinator. Some of the discussions arising at the meeting revolved around these points:

- ◆ More information about course writers and type of multi-media needed will be included in the overview of each course so that prospective students will be able to quickly check to see if the course will meet their needs.
- ◆ Information on our very valued behind-

the-scenes

Committee's Support people will be in the ABOUT section on the website. That way we can all be aware of how much work they are generously contributing!

- ◆ The Members' Lounge will be revamped to make it more appealing and user friendly; Website will be continually evaluated and updated as needs arise; courses and their suitability and presentation styles will be continually assessed.
- ◆ Ways of promoting U3A Online were discussed with a view to growing our membership. Then, more and varied courses will be offered. This will help us to meet our brief to offer older and isolated people the

chance to study at

home.

Some Useful Websites

1. Linking Tasmanian Seniors

<http://linkingtasmanianseniors.org.au>

2. Telstra Country Wide

<http://telstra.com/countrywide>

3. Telstra BigPond

www.bigpond.com

4. Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association (ASCCA)

<http://www.ascca.org.au>

5. Adult Education

www.adulteducation.au

6. O.P.E.N. (Older Persons Electronic Network)

www.lcg.org.au



Seniors and Computers

As we Silver Surfers know, sometimes we have trouble with our computers.

I had a problem yesterday, so I called Eric the 11 year old next door, whose bedroom looks like Mission Control and asked him to come over.

Eric clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem.

As he was walking away, I called after him, 'So, what was wrong? He replied, 'It was an ID ten T error.'

I didn't want to appear stupid, but nonetheless inquired, 'An, ID ten T error? What's that? In case I need to fix it again.'

Eric grinned...'Haven't you ever heard of an ID ten T error before? 'No,' I replied. 'Write it down,' he said 'and I think you'll figure it out.' So I wrote down: ID10T

I used to like Eric.

HOMOGRAPH FUN



Here are a few homographs that sum up the complexities of the English language:

The bandage was wound around the wound.

The farm was used to produce produce.

The tip was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.

He could lead if he would get the lead out.

When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.

I did not object to the object.

The insurance was invalid for the invalid.

There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.

They were too close to the door to close it.

The buck does funny things when the does are present.

Technology

Technology



Streaming

Do you want to watch the latest movies at home?

You can!

You can have affordable and legal access to thousands of movies and TV programs simply by downloading them.

This is called streaming.

But to do this, you need IPTV. (Internet Protocol TV (SmartTV))

This means any television that can be connected to the Internet. The television can then access streaming media services, video-rental services, Internet music stations, Web browsers, connect to the internet for email and researching, and interface with social media sites.

Instead of receiving TV programs as broadcast signals that enter your home from a rooftop antenna, satellite dish, or fiber-optic cable, you receive the programs/movies by streaming them so that they are downloaded and played almost simultaneously through your Internet connection.

This is where the NBN comes into play as you will need a broadband connection with a carrying capacity of maybe 10-100 Mbps (**M**ega **b**its **p**er **s**econd). Without the NBN you would be fortunate to connect at 1-10Mbps

Smart TVs use either a direct, wired Ethernet connection or built-in Wi-Fi to connect to a home network for Internet access. Most models today have built-in Wi-Fi, but check before you buy.

The NBN coupled with a Smart TV will revolutionize how you access your entertainment. Perhaps we can eventually say goodbye to the add-laden/repeats of the dish and watch what we want when we want.

Keep this info in mind if you're upgrading to a bigger and better TV and make sure it is a Smart one!





Book and Video Review

Enigma

Robert Harris

Since Anzac Day is coming up, I thought this book may be of interest. It's about the Enigma code used during the last war and the code breakers who worked at this establishment. It is a work of fiction with a factual background. An exciting tale and a love story as well.

You may have seen the film "*The Imitation Game*" which was more documental and about the same subject.

Heritage

Judy Nunn

The building of the Snowy Mountain Hydro-Electric Scheme, 16 major dams, 7 power stations, a pumping station, 225kms of tunnels, pipelines and aqueducts built between 1949 and 1974 is the background of this story. The immigrants and displaced people who worked there, many whose lives had been destroyed by the ravages of war felt a new world was opening up for them when they arrived at Cooma New South Wales, the town central to the Snowy Scheme. Ruth, a beautiful Jewess arriving from the hell camp of Auschwitz is one of the many characters' Tales to be told.

Upcoming Courses

The following Courses are being run **with a leader**. They may be of interest to you. Check them out on our website!



Story Telling with Pictures

4th May – 7th August



Skills for Using the Media

4th May – 21st August

You may also be interested in the

Asia Pacific International U3A Conference

on in Brisbane 28-29 May 2015

Check out the details at <http://www.u3aqldconference.org/>

Some of the speakers include

- Professor Jan Thomas, Vice-Chancellor University of Southern Queensland, KEYNOTE SPEAKER
- Mrs Barbara Lewis, Chair of the Third Age Trust, U.K.
- Prof. Carlos Santos, Deputy Secretary General of IAUTA, Portugal
- Mr Tom Holloway, World U3A, India
- Mr Kim Seng Goh, President of U3A Singapore

Cost: \$150 with optional extras (Stradbroke Is Trip, Gala dinner). Venue: the restored Brisbane City Hall.

Member Profile

This month we are excited to share with you a travel story. Di Delchau has recently returned from an amazing trip to Antarctica and here she gives us an insight into the continent, the trip, and as well, something of her own adventurous spirit. Thanks Di!

If you have a story to share, we'd be happy to hear from you!

Antarctica – the 7th Continent

At the end of January this year my husband, Brian, and I were talking about the possibility of going on a Cruise. Not being keen on the idea Brian made the comment, “the only way you will get me on a cruise is if it is to Antarctica”. Not being one to resist a challenge, within two days we were booked to fly down to Ushuaia on the Southern tip of South America – the most southern town in the world – to embark on a cruise to Antarctica --- Brian was in a state of disbelief at what I'd done --- but I told him that it was HIS suggestion. 😊

The cruise left Ushuaia, late afternoon, on the 4th March. We cruised reasonably calmly down the Beagle Channel and were to enter the Drake Passage that night but the radar showed a massive storm with predicted waves of up to 18 metres so the Captain wisely decided to anchor in the Beagle and hope the storm would pass for us to enter the Drake in the morning.

This was a great decision and the next day we started down the Drake Passage, around Cape Horn and down towards the Shetland Islands and Antarctica. The waves were 5/6 metres so it was quite rough and a large number of the passengers were sea sick --- thankfully both Brian and I were OK.

It took just over two days to get to the Shetland Islands. During this time we had briefings about the Zodiacs that we were to be going ashore in, information sessions about the expected wildlife and historical information about the areas we would be visiting. There were wildlife watches out on deck and we saw wandering Albatrosses and other birds and as we neared the Islands there were seals and penguins in the waters around the ship.

The weather was cold but we had been issued with parkas that were really, really warm and weather proof so it was OK --- we got to keep the parkas. ☺ We had also been issued with rubber boots to wear for all the landings. We went ashore twice a day and stayed there for a couple of hours, or the “outing” included some zodiac cruising among the icebergs and to historical places.

It was truly amazing and so very, very beautiful. Television and pictures do not come close to expressing how wonderful it really is. The size of the icebergs, the colour and the wonder of it all has to be seen to be appreciated. We were very lucky to enjoy good weather for most of the time which meant we got to do the landings and could get some good photos. We saw Humpback and Minky whales, Chinstrap, Gentoo and Adelie penguins and Fur, Crabeater and Leopard seals --- and NO, Polar Bears live in the Arctic, Not in the Antarctic ☺

The Gentoo penguins, in particular, were in the thousands and although there was supposed to be a “keep at least 50m from the wildlife” that was impossible. If you sat down and just waited they would come up and peck at your clothes or climb on top of you, sometimes going to sleep there. We were not to go to, or touch, them, but they could come to us

and they did. It was lovely despite the smell and muddy areas that were created by so many being there. We had four landings on the Continent of Antarctica so have really been there!

Because the opportunity was provided I joined the Antarctica Polar Plunge club by jumping into the 2°C water. This was controlled and we had a belt with a rope attached and jumped from the side of a zodiac into the water --- needless to say it was absolutely freezing to the point that the brain ceases to function for a few seconds. However it was great fun ---out of the water grab a towel, scull the shot of vodka waiting for us and then up to the hot tub to warm up. Getting into the hot tub was quite painful initially because the heat contrast was so great. 39 people out of the 111 on board did the plunge. Brian is more sensible than me so did not do the plunge.

It was an amazing experience going to Antarctica and if you have even half an idea that you might want to go there just do it, you will not regret it.

Di

