

CONTACT

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MOONEE VALLEY NEWSLETTER
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

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From Brian (President)

Like me you're no doubt looking forward to the loosening of some restrictions from June 1st. However at this point we are still not able to restart the majority of our U3A's program. But we are looking for ways to increase what we can offer. A few outdoor activities can get back to a "new normal" but for the rest of us there is as yet no change. Most Moonee Valley Council buildings remain closed and we will just have to wait on their re-opening. Libraries have re-opened for borrowing and returning books but meeting rooms are not available to community groups. Also, every person who visits a library is required to leave their name, address and telephone number (for contact tracing if required).

When we are allowed access to buildings again, it is hard to see how the great majority of our classes can return to business as normal. A strict spacing requirement of 1 person per 4 square metres has been announced and we can expect it to apply. Under these circumstances most of the meeting rooms we use will only accommodate a very small number of people. This will limit what activities we can resume. When we know more we'll let you know, but I don't expect much to change before Semester three.

I know we all enjoy the learning and social interaction of our U3A and are frustrated by the social distancing requirements. Please be assured that we continue to explore ways that classes and social interaction can be modified and continued. As you keep reading you will see some of the progress that's been made. If you have any ideas about how we might keep things humming and add interest please contact us at info@u3amooneevalley.com.au

In the meantime, it's just as important as ever to keep the "stay safe" message uppermost in our minds – maintain good hygiene, keep your distance from others, if feeling un-well stay home.

What else is happening?

The Committee has continued to meet via Zoom which works well. Here are a few items:

All social activities payments have been refunded.

All the Forums organised for the year have (regrettably) been cancelled.

Expenditure of the Woodies MVCC Grant was due to be completed by June. The Covid19 shutdown of the Men's Shed put paid to those plans. Harry Dobson's has successfully applied for an extension of time through to June 2021.

We applied for and received a Grant of \$4000 under the Federal Government's "Community Hub Volunteer Grants" scheme. We will use these funds for equipment such as webcams/video cameras to help expand the range of classes which can be offered online via Zoom.

On the chance that Emerald Street will re-open, Marjorie is drafting a volunteer's roster which may be needed sometime in the 3rd or 4th semester.

Barrie is working on re-development of our website. We now have some quotes and a preferred vendor and we're ready to move to the next stage.

With Emerald St shut we don't have access to a photocopier. This has prompted us to rethink the time, effort and cost in mailing out Contact. We've decided to distribute all future Contacts by email rather than hardcopy. Every person with an email address in our database will receive Contact this way. For those few members without an email address we will still print and mail Contact (less than 40).

In 2021 a mailing fee of \$5 will apply for members with an email address but who wish to receive a hardcopy.

From Geoff. (Course Coordinator)

No doubt you are all missing your classes and are keen to re-join them as soon as possible. At this point only two groups are "back to normal":

- The Golf group has returned to Riverside.
- Pedalling for Pleasure will resume and their first ride is scheduled for Friday the 5th of June (see the later item).

However, while our classes have been suspended our tutors have been keen to make sure that we don't lose contact with each other. Just a few examples of how this is happening include:

- John Vardis is using Zoom – the on-line video system - for his Qigong and Tai Chi for Health classes.
- John McMahon is also using Zoom for his French and German classes – see his description below.
- Moonee Valley Libraries are delivering books to our book club members and arranging for them to meet via Zoom to discuss them.
- John Adams is regularly sending out information to his Sun Theatre groups about operas and live theatre productions which are being streamed.
- Bruce Findlay will soon trial Zoom for his "Why You Are Who You Are" class.
- Many of our tutors have been sending out regular emails to class members, sometimes including information relevant to their courses or else just something to amuse them.

Here's a description from John Mc Mahon of his trials and eventual triumph using Zoom to deliver his language classes:

On-line Language Classes – from John McMahon

When U3A classes were indefinitely suspended towards the end of Term 1, I made up my mind to investigate several on-line meeting groups, so that we could continue our weekly French and German sessions in a virtual classroom.

Zoom seemed to offer almost everything I was looking for, with the advantage that it would be free and easy to set up. After several hours of tutorials, I felt ready to invite my students in French (2 groups) and German to join on-line classes.

We had an introductory session dealing with muting/ unmuting, setting up the video and basic zoom housekeeping. All relatively straightforward. My biggest problem was being cut off after 40 minutes. Classes would take a 10-minute coffee break, and I would start another 40-minute session. We now have a Zoom Pro account, thanks to U3A. There is no time limit, which allows us to run our scheduled classes for the allocated 90 minutes.

In the past few weeks using zoom I have learned how to integrate videos and printed resources into the meeting room. I have a whiteboard, which is quite manageable. Audio and picture quality are good. Classes can also be recorded, so that no students need to miss a lesson if they are unable to attend a class. My only problem so far has been in creating a link to mail out the recorded class videos. But with the assistance of one of my technically-minded students, I think that this issue has been resolved. I'm already thinking of overseas holidays when I might be able to pre-record a class or two! Yes, it's been a steep learning curve for us all. Zoom has certainly proved extremely worthwhile for me and my language classes. We could get quite used to this new arrangement.

Workshop projects on hold

With the ongoing support from our Moonee Valley Council's Community Grant, we, the "Wednesday Woodies" made a good start with our community projects this year. Having increased our size to twenty members, we divided into the following five work groups:

1. Toy Library repairs
2. Wingate Ave. Childcare apron stand
3. Strathmore Theatre Arts Group stage props
4. Playgroup grasshoppers
5. Kindergarten trucks.

In the five weeks we had prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, we managed to complete a number of these projects, with only the last-mentioned trucks and grasshoppers still a work in progress.



Members at work cutting wheels for wooden toys:

Confined to home over the past two months, some members have continued to carry out a number of personal woodworking projects as well as the many general house and garden maintenance tasks.



A Wooden Truck and Crane that David Kershaw has completed in his home workshop:

Like all U3A groups, the Woodies are hoping to meet again soon and we look forward to the day when Council reopens the Aberfeldie Shed.

Harry Dobson and Robert D'Silva

Pedalling for Pleasure

We had a very promising start to the year riding every Friday until COVID19 took over our lives. Many of our group have endeavoured to stay fit, healthy and sane by continuing to ride in pairs or on their own. Some of the group have been riding locally and others have been venturing further afield but it's just not quite the same without the once mandatory stop for coffee and a chat. This photo was taken in Docklands on our last U3A ride in mid March.

Good news!!— We will have our first post-covid19 group ride on June 5th.

Sue Carrol



Here's an example of how you can follow up interests using some online learning. Also consider looking at U3Aonline for their interesting array of courses.

Readings in Australian History – the history you were never taught

Are you interested in learning about Australian history from a local Aboriginal perspective?

Jim Poulter has tutored U3A classes in Australian History for the past eight years. He has also given many talks to schools and community groups, in order that we might better share and take pride in our rich Australian Aboriginal history and heritage. Jim has also written a number of books and newspaper articles on the subject. Over the last few years he has written a popular monthly column 'Birrarung Stories' for the Warrandyte Diary Community Newspaper.

As a retired Social Worker, Jim's close knowledge of our rich Aboriginal history and heritage does not come from abstract academic study, it comes from lived experience. His family first settled on the Yarra River at Templestowe in 1840. Close relationships were established with the local Aboriginal community, and these have endured through the generations. Jim has therefore been privy to the oral history both of his own family and Aboriginal families. He has known and worked with many iconic Aboriginal Elders and tribal people who have trusted him with their knowledge. Many of his publications have been in collaboration with or with the endorsement of Aboriginal Elders.

Jim has recently developed an online course and offered our U3A access to the nearly sixty articles which comprise the course. These have been grouped within eight themes, in order to guide your learning.

To aid reflection about the content and issues raised in each of the eight themes, questions have been posed as a stimulus for consideration and discussion with others. Perhaps you might like to contact other members to share your responses.

These files will be available on the website in the "Downloads" section:

<https://u3amooneevalley.com.au/downloads/>

Annual Trivia Competition.



I know many of you will be disappointed that the much-anticipated Trivia Quiz will not be going ahead this year. Just to sharpen your skills here are some sample questions from Michelle Cairns:

Q1: "Parasite" won best film at the 2020 Academy Awards. Where was it made?



- a. South Korea
- b. U.S.A
- c. Japan



Carol Channing won three Tony Awards, including one for lifetime achievement. (BPI)

Q2: Who wrote the music for “Hello Dolly”?

- a. Lerner and Lowe,
- b. Jerry Herman,
- c. Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Q3. A thalassophile is a lover of?

- a. Lassos,
- b. Salt,
- c. The sea

Q4: Which Australian State or Territory has the highest population density?

- a. NSW,
- b. ACT,
- c. VIC

Can you sort out these scrambled jokes?

The answers in the right-hand side column are not in the correct order. Can you match them up?

Question	Scrambled Answers
1. Which is faster? Hot or cold?	A. Your right hand
2. What has teeth but does not eat?	B. Baby tigers
3. What wears a cap but has no head?	C. A map
4. Why is 6 afraid of 7?	D. She wanted to see a butterfly
5. Which table has no legs?	E. An envelope
6. What is never used until it is broken?	F. All of them.
7. What is the smallest room in the world?	G. Hot, it's easier to catch a cold.
8. Why was the butter thrown out the window?	H. A comb.
9. What starts with E, ends with E but has only one letter?	I. When she is your mother.
10. What starts with T, ends with T and is full of T?	J. A bottle
11. How many months have 28 days?	K. The letter L
12. What do tigers do that no other animal does?	L. A vegetable
13. I have cities, but no houses and rivers but no water, what am I?	M. Because 7 ate 9
14. What part of London is in Brazil?	N. A mushroom
15. What is something you should keep after you have given it to someone else?	O. A promise
16. When will a net hold water?	P. A teapot
17. What can you hold in your left hand but not in your right hand?	Q. An egg
18. When is your Uncles sister not your Aunt?	R. When it is frozen.

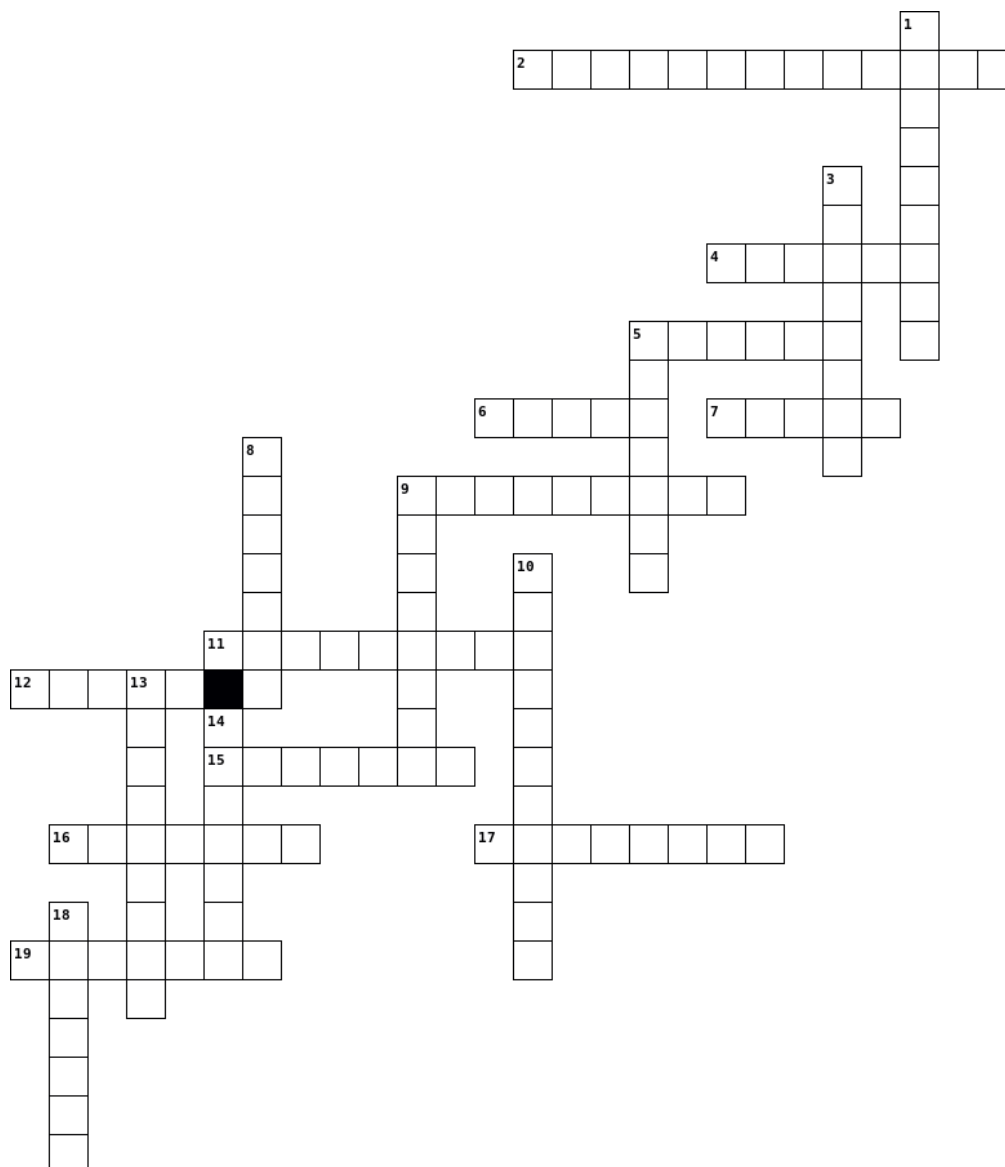
Powers of Observation:

See what you can do with this one:



Participants in the twins conference are posing for the camera. However four intruders who are not twins and do not resemble anyone else have taken up positions among the genuine twins. Which are the intruders?

The Puzzle Of Moonee Valley U3A (only surnames are used).



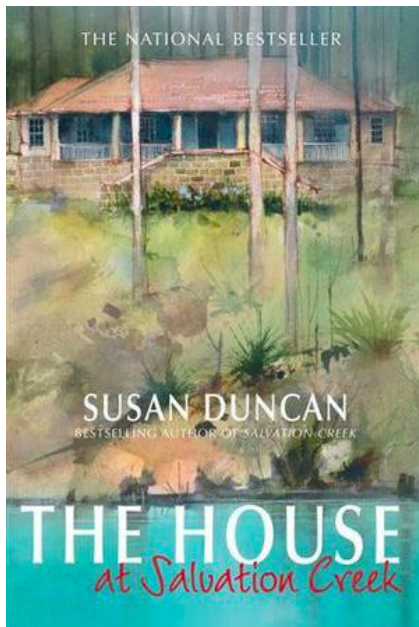
Across

2. You can dance round and round in this class
4. John teaches peaceful moves in this class.
5. He coordinates the courses.
6. Mr President
7. She liaises with MVCC and books our rooms.
9. This class cuts fabric up and sews them together.
11. A class swiping at a bunch of feathers.
12. He keeps us solvent.
15. A class learning to hit balls through hoops.
16. Our office is In a gem of a street.
17. Liz's latest History Class
19. ?affairs. Sandy Terry and Michelle keep us informed

Down

1. Nino and his golfers tee off here.
3. Merryl's class makes melodies.
5. A class trying to get pungs and kongs.
8. This tutor loves the industrial revolution.
9. a class heaving balls around the park.
10. Our founding scrabble/cryptic crossword tutor
13. Jenny Dwyer does this job
14. He teaches both French and German.
18. She teaches her class to be fit and flexible.

Picture Quiz. (Guess or Google?)



This house is on the shore of the Pittwater in NSW. It is the former home of a famous Australian Poet.

- What is her name?
- Her best-known poem is?
- The name of the house is.....?
- The nearby National Park is.....?



Revisiting the first Star Wars movie.

- The name of this movie was...?
- It was first released in 19.....?
- Leia and Luke never married because...?
- Luke Skywalker's father was named....?
- Hans Solo's spaceship was named.....?



Picture story book work of art showing a boy riding on a Wild Thing.

- The boy's name is.....?
- The name of the Author is.....?
- The onesie the boy is wearing is called.....?



A family in lockdown has replicated this famous piece of art.

- a. The name of the painting is.....?
- b. The name of the painter is.....?
- c. The gallery where you can see it is.....?
- d. It cost this much to purchase....?



Mother nature, seen any of these lately?

- a. The name of this caterpillar is?
- b. The moth has this pattern on its wings.....?
- c. How long does it stay in its cocoon.....?



Keep off the rocks!

- a. The name of this lighthouse is...?
- b. It commenced operation in the year.....?
- c. The 3 bodies of water mingling around it are....?
- d. Concrete bunkers at its base because.....?
- e. He gets on and off ships near here.....?



Astronomical pondering

- The distance from the earth to the moon is.....?
- The first moon landing mission was named.....?
- The dark patches moon the moon are.....?
- The moon's largest volcano is named.....?
- Some things left behind on the moon are.....?



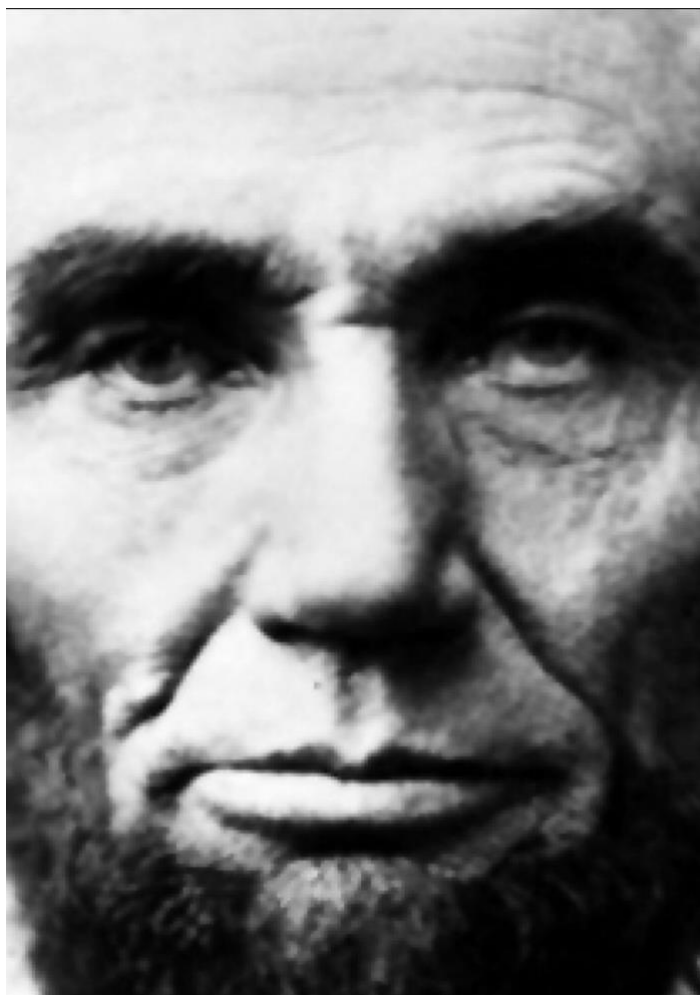
Chainsaw art in Slovenia.

- This is a statue of.....?
- She is wearing a blue dress because.....?
- The maiden name of this subject is.....?
- Countries next door to Slovenia are.....?



She was popular in the 1950's with school children.

- Her name was.....?
- She wrote about a **secret** group called.....?
- The **famous** group she wrote bout was called....?
- The sheepdog she wrote about was called....?
- The chair she wrote about was called.....?



An historic face.

- a. This man's name is?
- b. His home address from 1861-65 was?
- c. His most famous and moving speech was called...?
- d. The war he led was called.....?
- e. He didn't enjoy the victory for long because.....?

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