

CONTACT

VOLUME 24, No. 3 August 2020



MOONEE VALLEY NEWSLETTER
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

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From Brian (President)

Against the current backdrop of uncertainty on what future restrictions will apply to us, we have reluctantly decided to cancel all classroom face-to-face courses for the rest of 2020. Only online classes via Zoom will continue and possibly some outdoor activities. We've reached this decision considering both the likely outcome of easing lockdown restrictions and the overall health and welfare of our members. We won't exit stage 4 until the end of term 3. Term 4 is short at only 8 weeks and it is highly unlikely that we will have access to Council venues or be allowed to meet in groups before term ends.

While we recognise that not every course lends itself to online presentation some have been able to continue. For example:

- Elementary French, Intermediate French and Elementary German – by Zoom with John McMahon.
- Why you are who you are – also by Zoom with Bruce Findlay. This will conclude in five weeks but will be followed by another one of The Great Courses from the same presenter.
- Two of the Book Clubs are being well supported by Moonee Valley Libraries which is delivering books and organising Zoom sessions for the meetings.
- Terry Rickard's Modern Ethics commenced on 23 July by Zoom and is fully subscribed. It will run for the rest of the semester.
- John Vardis is continuing to use Zoom, as well as providing some instructional videos for members of his Tai Chi class. However, he is finding it a difficult activity to teach online and the numbers have dropped off somewhat.

- Carole Buhaj is emailing weekly work, including links to YouTube videos, to members of her Spanish 3 class.
- Jan Miller was planning to commence The Gentle Art of Japanese Stitching in October. However, after consulting those enrolled, it was agreed that this is now unrealistic and she has mailed them project kits. These include materials and instructions, which comprise both notes and links to online resources. Class members had already paid for the materials.

Working on-line is not all beer and skittles and we asked some of the participants in the Zoom sessions to describe their experiences. You'll see their responses further on in the newsletter. I'd encourage any tutor who's wants to explore what Zoom might be able to do to contact me. We can provide technical assistance to show what's possible and get you started. We are also on the lookout for anyone who might be able to lead a French for Beginners or a German for Beginners class

We've also been looking at ways we might provide something different for members. At the Bendigo Bank's "Pitch for Funding" in 2019, we were successful in gaining a \$1500 grant towards purchasing some Great Course lecture series. There are a multitude of topics available and we have purchased some we thought might interest members. We hope you will be interested to borrow them when covid restrictions relax. Please express your interest via uthreea6@gmail.com and we will work out a safe lending process.

Understanding the World's Greatest Structures (4 discs)

The development of human building techniques and materials as evidenced by significant buildings.

The World's Greatest Paintings (4 discs)

Topics range in historical sequence from Giotto to 20th century paintings

America's Musical Heritage (2 disc)

Investigates the history of American music using recordings kept at the Smithsonian Institute.

The Joy of Science (10 discs)

Covers the development of scientific knowledge. Astronomy, chemistry, physics, chemistry and biology

Big History (8 discs).

Starts with the birth of the universe then the birth of our solar system, evolution of life on earth and evolution of human beings and society.

London (4 discs)

The history of London is described from pre-Roman to the present day.

The Nature of Earth: An Introduction to Geology (6 discs)

The formation of earth, plate techtonics and continental drift are covered as are processes of erosion by ice and water.

A Brief History of the World (6 discs)

Ranges from the Stone Age to the globalized world of today.

Development of European Civilization (8 discs)

Begins in the medieval times continues to world war two.

The Great Tours: England, Scotland and Wales

British History is linked to structures that remain to reveal the past.

Experiencing America: A Smithsonian Tour through History (4 discs)

Feature objects kept in the Smithsonian and their relevance to American History.

The World's Greatest Geological Wonders: 36 Spectacular Site (6 discs)

Investigates remarkable features of landscape found on the earth's surface.

Wonders of the National Parks: A Geology of North America. (6 discs)

The geological wonders of the USA are described and explained.

Simple and Stunning Watercolour Techniques (1 disc)

Demonstrates a variety of watercolour techniques.

Everyday Urban Sketching (1 disc)

Demonstrates how to quickly and efficiently draw the urban landscape

Sketching People Places and Landscapes (1 disc)

Describes sketching techniques.

The Committee continues to meet via Zoom and we are turning our minds to what to what the rest of 2020 might look like (AGM?) and how we might operate in 2021. How we can best serve our members and provide the social interaction which is important? Uppermost in our minds is that early 2021 class sizes in many cases are likely to be restricted.

We'll outline our plans in the next edition of Contact due in November. In the meantime if you have any ideas about how we might keep things humming along and add interest please contact us at info@u3amooneevalley.com.au

As important as ever, keep the "stay safe" message uppermost in our minds – maintain good hygiene, keep your distance from others, if feeling un-well stay home.

Brian Smith

Here are some of the committee captured on screen at the last monthly zoom committee meeting.



Jan is the magazine editor, Brian is the president, Mandy is our vice president, the dog is a wellbeing specialist, Marjory is our office co ordinator, Geoff is the tutor co Ordinator, Maureen joined the committee this year, Jenny is our secretary, Edith is the MVCC liaison and venue coordinator and Barry is our data base and electronic procedures coordinator. Michael our treasurer and Jo our hospitality coordinator were present but unfortunately not captured on the screen.

From the Creative Writing class. (Written in July)

A poem by Deborah D'Cruz

Part 1 Dean : Rules are for Pussies

Dean has sneaked out to visit his mother
Knowing full well he'd run into his brother
They laugh about police fines and Dobbers and Wusses
All three of them agree that rules are for Pussies

Johnno in Craigieburn could do with some cheer
The lads stop by Dan Murphy's to pick up some beer
Surprise, they spot Marty, a slab on his back
On "compassionate grounds" they then invite Jack

Chores deferred to manana, Dean continues his rounds
Between Mornington, Sunbury, Point Cook, Carrum Downs
At McDonald's in Fawkner he dodges a sneeze
But within 48 hours has developed a wheeze

At the hospital he's questioned about contacts this week
He's indignant, shakes his head, it's too painful to speak
Afraid and remorseful for the harm that he's done
Dean never imagined he'd be killing his Mum

Part 2 Dean : JobKeeper / JobLoser

Dean's girlfriend's moved out, Mum's funeral's been done
So it's burgers, beer, Netflix and Keep Calm, Carry On
He's hearing "Covidiot" for the very first time
Anyone would think he'd committed a crime

He downloads the App, but then changes his mind
This Nanny-State we live in is still dishing out fines
Dean's bored, he's exhausted, he's putting on pounds
Where the hell's his sister when he needs her around?

In Melbourne's hotels there's a need for more staff
Jack and Marty get hired and tell Dean it's a laugh
His uniform arrives, life gets better each day
Free parking, free meals and excellent pay

The travellers turn friendly and use all their charm
It's only Strip-Poker, can't do too much harm
There's music and pizzas and Bundy & Coke
No worse than the basement where they gather to smoke

About a week later it's all over the news
People are judgmental and express quite strong views
While Dean and a blonde are comatosed on the floor
There's sirens on the street and a rap at the door

From Lilly Bajinskis

Switch radio or television on and all you hear about Covid-19. So, we might as well get used to it and know that life goes on along with all the restrictions. I confess to be fed up hearing about it. But, curiosity did grab me regarding Sweden's policy of no lockdown. They didn't want their economy to suffer. You can be sure, that lots of theories and stories will come out of the different responses. Sadly, many people have already experienced the trauma of bushfires. They have been left with profound feelings going to the very core of their existence! And now, more anxiety has come to visit them. Some lucky ones come to a realization about what is most important in life.

In my first month of isolation I enjoyed working hard in the garden, baking bread, cooking delicious meals being a bit bohemian and gaining weight. My days flowed freely into one another. It was a highlight in June, after eight weeks solo meet with friends on sunny days. We went walking in nature along the beautiful Maribyrnong river. But alas we have gone into lockdown again.

Pandemics have been around since time immemorial. The Black Death caused by rat plagues must have been most horrendous. Maybe in this day and age, nature is getting even with us because of atmospheric pollution and the plastics killing marine life.

I do miss our u3a classes, with the friendships and fun. They make our lives interesting. I especially love Singing for Fun where we can sing our hearts out. We get physical in the Woodies class and get lots of satisfaction making children's toys. I am missing hearing the interesting stories from my Creative Writing class. Let's hope we can see each other soon. It just might keep old age at bay.

From Patricia McLoughlin

Is common sense is becoming a rare commodity in our community? Who would have thought that new cases of coronavirus would be from people who felt unwell and got tested but then did not adhere to self-quarantine restrictions (and all a time of peak 'infectivity'.)

Thoughtless behavior in anyone's language.

Everything comes back to the individual to play their part in stopping the spread.

Some people are not taking the virus seriously because most deaths have among the elderly.

However, time is showing that no one is immune. Those who recover risk future complications.

Victoria is seen as a risk to the rest of Australia. This is ironic, because Victoria started out as state with the strictest restrictions. Our main hope is discovering a vaccination which will stop the virus in its tracks. We live in hope that this discovery will be soon so we can get back to living our lives.

From Pat Waldren

Almost a century ago we had a global crisis called the Spanish Flu.

Who would believe that in 2020 we are experiencing a viral pandemic called Covid 19.

Millions of people are facing economic hardships and death because of its rapid spread.

Being an unknown quantity, it took everyone by surprise and leaves no one exempt in its wake.

Age, colour, or status meant nothing to this avid killer just so long as it can spread its ugly wings.

We will always remember the long queues and stressed faces outside Centrelink.

Prior to the pandemic the economy was in poor shape. Corona virus might provide an excuse to hide the mismanagement of capital and world resources We know how the environment has suffered.

Could Covid 19 provide an opportunity to change mindsets?

Our first impression of Covid 19 was, that if all did the right thing we would be back to normality.

Five months later, we have not progressed in Victoria, we have actually regressed.

Feedback from our Members.

Though Zoom is not perfect it has helped to fill long days during the lockdown. Of course, I'm missing going to my classes and chatting with classroom friends each week, but Zoom has allowed one of my classes to continue.

Bruce Findlay has moved his Why You Are Who You Are to Zoom. We start with a video (part of a series) then, guided by Bruce enjoy an animated discussion on issues raised in the video. Although I can only see 9 faces on my iPad I can hear everyone and we all love catching up with each other each week.

I would have liked to enrol in the advertised Modern Ethics class, but the timeslot was difficult for me to manage for other reasons. Everyone in my class seems very happy that our class was able to continue. I've heard a number of classes are now operating on Zoom.

Jenny Fenby

Thanks to Zoom, Moonee Valley Library and our tutor Anne McRoberts, we are able to get together on Monday afternoon once a month and enjoy a book discussion.

It was a lovely surprise when the library posted a box of books to each member and it was delivered to our doorstep. Our latest book was "The Arsonist" and the questions provided by the library meant that we could discuss the many perplexing themes of this book.

The time passes very enjoyably as we experience each other's different points of view.

Thanks Anne for liaising with the library and leading our discussions.

Jan Smith

Every Monday at 10am I go online and learn German with John McMahon.

On Sunday evenings, John sends an email with attachments so we can print them in time for class on Monday. He also sends the link to get access to the class.

Over time, we have developed good practices where everyone mutes themselves to allow one person at a time to talk. A waving hand indicates someone wants to say something. We are able to see videos, hear recordings, or occasionally see John write on the 'whiteboard' facility. We have appreciated the opportunity for cerebral exercise in this strange time. Some positives in having online classes are:

- * We can see each other's faces, instead of guessing who is behind the masks.
- * It takes very little time to go from kitchen to class and parking is no issue.
- * Only your top is visible. Who cares if you are still in PJ's or trackie-dacks? Thank you, John.

Lorraine Johnson

The Tuesday francophiles were delighted when John McMahon, leur professeur, announced in April that French classes would continue via zoom. It has been an enlightening experience, particularly being able to have contact with fellow classmates and John in closeup!

The lessons last for an hour and a half and fly by. Every week John organises un mélange of activities involving comprehension, conversation and grammar in various ways: by video, questions, newspaper articles and sometimes in song - we join in if we know the tune! Also, we are currently reading and translating Albert Camus' novel "L'étranger" ("The Outsider").

We are very lucky to continue our lessons in this way. It is an escape from the everyday reality of Covid 19! Nous vous remercions beaucoup John.

Carolyn Reeve

Every Thursday afternoon I go online and enjoy a time of tranquillity and relaxation in my living room. This is the time when I participate in my tai chi zoom class with John Vardis. I am in my second year of doing tai chi and it is a great opportunity to lock "the moves" into my memory.

Thanks John. It is an enjoyable and useful addition to my week

Yana Fialka.

Because of the covid 19 we have not been able to attend classes at Ascot Vale. Terry, who runs our "In the News" class decided to ask for participants in an Ethics class which he conducts on line. I had to learn how to access Zoom and log in and when the twelve people achieved that, we had a fabulous meeting. It was so good to see old faces and some new ones. We spend a few minutes catching up before class and that helps to alleviate the loneliness that a lot of single people are feeling at the moment. Our discussions take us across many boundaries e.g Who should be first in line for vaccination when there is a vaccine? and Can human rights be equal when women don't have that equality? This sets us to thinking and with a varied lot of opinions, it has proved most interesting and a good way to keep in touch.

Sue Peel

We have been very fortunate to be able to continue with our class with Bruce every Wednesday morning via Zoom at 10am. There are 11 of us and Bruce firstly shows us a video for about 45" on a variety of topics and then we have a discussion.

We have covered an amazing array of topics such as:

Personal autonomy, Environmental mastery, Personal growth, Positive relations with others, Purpose in life, Self -acceptance, Openness, Persistence, Disagreeableness, Personality & Self Control

Next week's topic is "When personalities become toxic!" - so it is always thought provoking and very enjoyable. Happily, Bruce has now agreed to extend our meetings past the actual term to show us the rest of the videos - so we are very spoilt and fortunate!

Di Phillips



Here are the members of Bruce's class participating in their zoom session. We can't see the cats & dogs or slippers. Thanks for the screen shot Di. The class is based around Bruce's personal copy of the Great Course called "Why You are Who You Are."

The committee are wondering if members who have an interest in a topic might be able to investigate their dvd collections at home and contemplate running a zoom class in 2021.

My household is likely to come up with something to zoom next year.....it could be geology, it could be American History, it could be comedy. Time and technology will decide. Brian Smith

Practical Learning in the Time of Covid

I'm Still Learning is a local community-based group which aims to help people learn how to do household tasks. Topics can range from learning about:

- household maintenance tasks, such as replacing tap washers, fixing holes in plaster walls, replacing cracked tiles,
- cooking meals,
- car maintenance.

Since Covid lockdown, a number of classes have been running on Zoom. Sessions have covered topics like:

- how to sharpen tools,
- what tool is that?
- how to hang pictures on the wall,
- cooking a meal together then sharing it,
- using zoom,
- gardening. There is now a regular self-help gardening group on Tuesday mornings.

The enthusiastic, hard-working person behind these activities is Mandy Gosseti, and she is keen to expand the offerings of **I'm Still Learning**. If you are interested in joining others online at this time, contact Mandy at

info@imstilllearning.org

Make These Jokes **Really** Funny (By Selecting the Answers from below)

1. What goes up and down but doesn't move?
2. Where do you find an ocean with no water?
3. What is white when dirty and black when clean?
4. Mary's dad has 5 daughters. (May, Gay, Fay, Ray.?)
What is the name of the 5th daughter?
5. What travels round the world but stays in one corner?
6. What gets bigger the more you take away?
7. What becomes smaller when you turn it upside down?
8. What word becomes shorter when you add 2 letters to it?
9. What does every birthday end with?
10. What has 8 arms, 8 legs and 8 eyes?
11. Which side of an eagle has the most feathers?

Answers to choose from

The number nine. The letter Y. Short. Eight pirates. The outside. Stairs. A hole.
On a map. A stamp. A chalkboard. Mary.

Guess or Google

A postcard from The Loch Ard Gorge.
At 4am 1/6/ 1878, something tragic
happened near the gorge.

The tragedy was

The name of the girl pictured in the postcard is....

The boy pictured is.....

The famous statue washed onto the beach was....

They married? Tor F



The 45th President at Mount Rushmore.

The US state and hills where you would find Mt Rushmore is

The names of the 4 presidents carved into the mountain side are

The numbers of the 4 presidents on the monument are

The length of time a president can serve is ...



Carl Sagan was an astronomer. He is holding the Pioneer Plaque which he helped design. Such plaques were attached to Pioneer 10 and Pioneer 11.

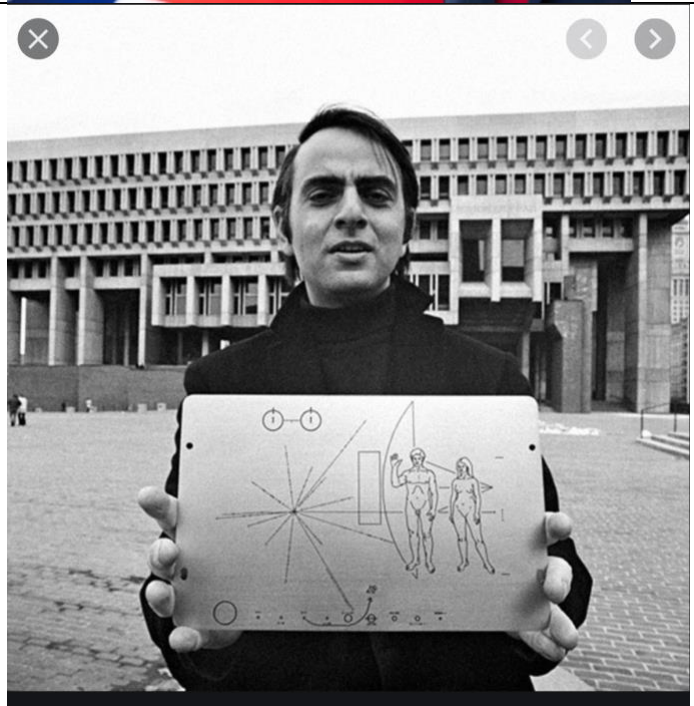
Carl Sagan's 1980 TV show about our solar system was called

The problem that happened when Pioneer One was launched was that

The purpose of attaching the plaques was to

The destination for Pioneer 10 and Pioneer 11 was

Some information given on the plaque is that ...



Here is the summit and death zone of Chomolungma in the summer of 2019.

Westerners used to call this mountain Mount.....

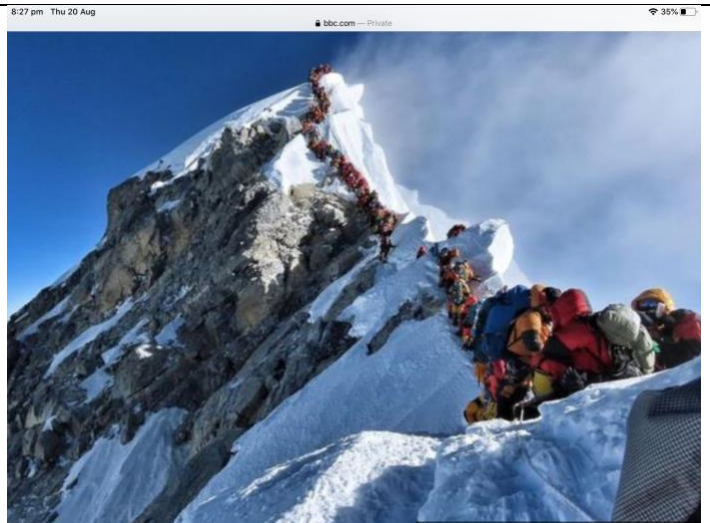
It's height above sea level is....

It is part of mountains range called....

The names of the first men to reach the summit (29/5/53) were.....

Climbers collapsing in the death zone can't be rescued by helicopter because...

A big event in London 4 days after the first successful ascent was....



Here is the 32nd President of the USA.

His name was

The length of time he served as president was unusual because....

The two major crises during his presidency were....

In his inaugural address he said. "We have nothing to fear but"

He was rarely photographed standing or walking because.....

His wife Eleanor helped draught the Universal Declaration of



The Victorian School Readers published the poem "The Inchcape Rock"

The poem was written by

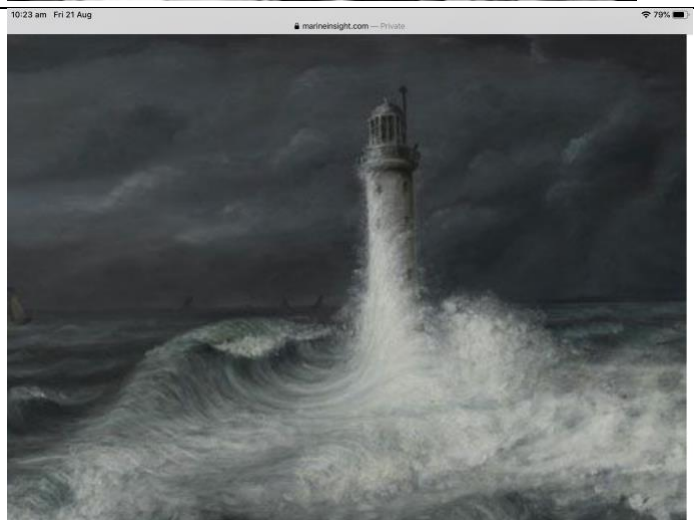
The dangerous reef is off the coast of.....

The "good guy" and good deed in the poem was.....

The "baddy" was a pirate named....

The moral of the poem is.....

The Bell rock lighthouse was built at the reef between the years



The number puzzle

Here is a numbers challenge for you to try.
Which group can fill in all the blanks? Can
you make up your own challenge sheet? The picture
clues are there to help you.

7 d a y s o f t h e w e e k

5 f o n a h

3 w m

11 p f t

24 h d

60 s m

52 w y

90 d r a

30 m h h

365 y

6 w H V

9 p s s

40 t A B

100 y c

26 l a

4 m t b a e

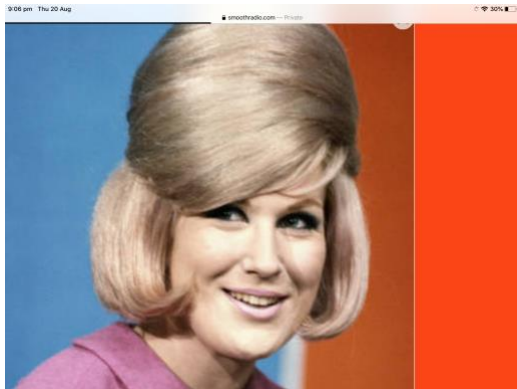


beware
of
red herrings
(and false leads)



Guess or Google

What can you recall from those teenage nights of listening to the top 40 on your transistor radio?



- a) Her brother was Tom Springfield. Her name was.....
- b) Her first hit song was "*I only want.....*"
- c) Two other songs she achieved success with are....
- d) She was American. Tor F



- a) His first recording was "That'll be the day" His name was...
- b) Another popular song he recorded was.....
- c) He died when.....
- d) The other artists who died with him were.....



- a) When she was 16 she recorded "It's my party and I'll....."
- b) Her name is.....
- c) The reason it was Judy's turn to cry was that.....
- d) She also recorded the hit "You don't



These brothers sang about falling asleep at a movie that wasn't so hot.

- a) The boys names were.....
- b) The girl who fell asleep at the movies was named.....
- c) The place they liked to do their crying was
- d) They felt they had been made to look like clowns by a girl called.....



- a) One of his first successful songs was "Poor little Fool. His name was...
- b) As an 8 year old, he starred in his parents TV show called.....
- c) One of his successful songs was " Hello.....
- d) When he was 21 he changed his name to.....

- a) Her first hit was "Anyone who had
- b) Her name was.....
- c) The club she attended where the Beatles also played was called.....
- d) The city where she grew up was called

- a) His first song was about making a splash in the bath. His name was...
- b) Another popular hit was "Dream.....
- c) His song about a maths procedure (regarded as a bit risqué.) was called...

- a) According to him, "the night has a thousand.....
- b) His name was.....
- c) The song he sang about something you can catch was called...
- d) In a song, his girlfriend ran off with another guy whom he asked to.....



- a. This one sang about going astray only 24 hours from.....
- b. His name was....
- c. The reason he could never go home was
- d. He also sang about "The Man who shot....."



- a) His name was Shelby (Sheb Wooley) and he saw a purple thing called.....
- b) The reason it came to earth was.....
- c) He also starred with Clint Eastwood in the cowboy series called.....
- d) The little furry creatures he sang with were called....



- a) His name (sounding like something you'd drop to moor a boat with) is.....
- b) He sang about a girl called D.....
- c) He also complained saying "I'm just a"
- d) He was American T or F



- a) She sang about "Heartaches by the number" her name was.....
- b) The someone stupid she asked to stop picking on her was
- c) She sang about a boy in trouble with this substance on his collar

U3A Moonee Valley acknowledges invaluable support received from
Moonee Valley City Council, Department for Victorian Communities, ACFE,
Hon. Bill Shorten MP, Mr Danny Pearson MP and Mr Ben Carroll MP.

