



# Newsletter August 2022

**Apologies...the Editor missed the deadline for the June Newsletter, so there wasn't one!**

We have moved right on to the August Newsletter. Enjoy!

## **Why is English so Hard to Learn**

**By James Donovan (2015)**

We'll begin with box; the plural is boxes;  
But the plural of ox is oxen, not oxes,  
One fowl is a goose, and two are called geese,  
Yet the plural of moose is never called meese.

You can find a lone mouse or a house full of mice;  
But the plural of house is houses not hice.  
The plural of man is always men.  
But the plural of pan is never pen.

If I speak of a foot, and you show me two feet,  
And I give you a book, would a pair be a beek?  
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,  
Why shouldn't two booths be called beeth?

If the singular's this and the plural is these,  
Should the plural of kiss be ever called keese?

We speak of a brother and also of brethren,  
But though we say mother, we never say methren.  
When the masculine pronouns are he, his, and him;  
Just imagine the feminine....she, shis, and shim!

## U3A News

- There will **NOT** be any more Monday afternoon Games' groups at Beaconsfield House, for this Second Term, as attendance during First Term was very low.
- By special request, we will offer a **Trivia Afternoon** at some point, for people who like Trivia but are not keen to go out on winter nights. Details will be confirmed closer to the time.

## NEW PROGRAMS STARTING SOON

We have a proposal for a new **Gardening Course** to run in Spring of second Semester, to look at gardening for retirees. The plan is for the short course (3 sessions only) to cover start-up issues such as:

Developing a resource list  
Assessing your garden  
Identifying problem areas  
Labor intensive areas  
Sustainable practices

Hopefully, this will help members give a “kick-start” to their spring gardening, and offer some tips and techniques for when you are a bit more challenged in the “bending and kneeling” areas of garden work!!! Course will run in **September**. Contact Anne Brelsford to find out more, on 0402 582 402 or email [annebrelsford@hotmail.com](mailto:annebrelsford@hotmail.com)

## Scams Awareness Session 18 August

The next U3A Talk will be a session on “Scams Awareness”, and it will be on **18 August at the Hub in Exeter (on Murray St, Exeter)**. The session will run from **1:00pm till 3:00pm** with time for questions and coffee and biscuits afterwards.

**If you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please do so.**

**Devansh Sharma** is our presenter for this session, and he is the **nbn** Community Ambassador for Tassie and he focuses on lifting digital capabilities and increasing community awareness and an understanding of **nbn** services and digital literacy. He

works through foundation level programs and activities, and community engagement at events such as this scams awareness session.

The digital divide is a significant issue within modern Australia., and this term refers to the fact that some people have ready access to computers and the internet, and others do not. Current research suggests that 1 in 4 people in Australia are still digitally excluded (Australian Digital Inclusion Index 2021), and these may be people with low levels of income, education and employment, those living in some regional areas, people aged over 65 and people with a disability. Some people simply grew up in a non-computer world, and it is hard to catch up at times.

**Here's a bit about our scams awareness session:**

With an ever-evolving digital world, it is important to have skills to communicate online with family and friends, operate smart devices, access information, and store data safely and securely. We need to have an awareness of the dangers and the ability to keep safe on-line.

In our scams session we'll talk about the various types of scams that are out there, and learn tips and tricks on how to stay safe online covering topics such as creating passwords, identifying misinformation on the internet, etc. To make it a bit of a fun learning experience we'll also play a round of 'scams bingo'!

Please phone Anne on 0402 582 402 to book in (this helps with our catering).

## **Tamar Valley U3A AGM coming in September**

Please note the Tamar Valley U3A **Annual General Meeting** will be held in **September** (*Date to be advised*).

As it happens, many people *make sure they are somewhere else* when they hear an AGM is coming!! But we would really appreciate our U3A members coming along and supporting your committee.

As well, all Committee positions will be open for new candidates, so give some thought to becoming a committee member, and helping us to keep U3A alive and well in the West Tamar. If you think you would like to nominate for any position, please contact Anne (0402582402) for a brief description of what the job entails, and also to give us advance notice of your intention to nominate.

## General Community Information

The following information is not part of U3A, but may be of interest to U3A members, their families or friends.

- There is now a good **Bridge group** operating at the Beaconsfield Neighbourhood House from 1.00 till 3.00pm on Mondays, so an opportunity for keen Bridge people to play, or new players to learn! All enquiries to Beaconsfield House on 6383 1110.

## For developing writers

Are you a writer in your spare time? Do you have stories or poetry or creative novels swirling around in your brain? Are you aware of the “**Fellowship of Australian Writers Tasmania Inc**” group?

This group physically meets in Hobart, but they produce a terrific state newsletter which gives information on forthcoming events of interest to writers, and also meetings for members of similar groups (e.g. Eastern Shore Writers, Society of Women Writers, Deloraine Writers’ Group etc).

As well, the Newsletter lists competitions budding writers can enter. This month they mention the FAW Tasmania 2022 Beatrice Clarke Award for Young Poets 14 and under, which would be great to mention to any young poets you know! Also the Lake Macquarie FAW 2022 Alice Sinclair Memorial Writing competition, with a theme of “Out of the Shadows” and a small cash prize for poetry or short story winners.

To find out more, send your enquiry to The Fellowship of Australian Writers Tasmania Inc, PO Box 234, North Hobart TAS 7002.

Just a giggle:

*I entered ten puns in a contest to see which would win.*

*No pun in ten did.*

## **Helping our neighbours**

If you know anyone who is doing it tough in the present circumstances, the following information may be helpful. The NILS network provides interest free loans of up to \$1,500 for essential household items including whitegoods, car registration and repairs, and furniture.

To be eligible for a loan you must have a pension or healthcare card, have lived at your current address for at least 3 months, and, of course, be able to repay the loan.

Tresca volunteers can help with NILS applications so phone 6394 4231 to talk to someone at Tresca; or you can phone NILS on 1300 301 650.

## **Covid reminder**

We will continue to follow good Covid guidelines, but we also expect people to use their own good sense.

- Don't come if you are unwell.
- Don't come if you are in quarantine.
- Don't come if you are waiting test results.
- Don't come if you have been a close contact.
- Don't come if your immune system is compromised.

People who have not been vaxxed should check directly with the Tutor running any particular class for permission to attend.

For general Talks, it is advisable for non-vaxxed people to do a RAT test, and if clear, they would be free to attend.

**Thank you everyone!**