



Newsletter September 2024

Greetings to all Tamar Valley U3A members!

As we move through August, it is so heartening to feel a bit of warm sunshine, and to see daffodils and early cherry blossoms coming out! It has been a frosty winter, and we are very ready for Spring!

And with the Springtime comes our **U3A Annual General Meeting!!** We would encourage all members to attend and to participate in the election of your Committee for 2024/2025.

Indeed, we would also strongly encourage members to consider if they may wish to join the Committee or take on a specific role in keeping Tamar Valley U3A a vibrant and going concern. If you would like more information about the Committee and how it works, please talk to our Office Liaison person, **Viv Tyson**, on the office number **0411 150 378**, and she will be happy to tell you all about it.

The AGM will be held on 2 September at 2.00pm at the Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Museum Meeting Room. Afternoon tea will be provided.

Resignation of current President

For the information of members, I need to advise that I will be stepping down from my role as the current President of Tamar Valley U3A at the AGM, so a new President will be needed. I have also been busy in my time with TVU3A through my involvement with editing the Newsletter. **Maggie Fletcher**, one of our Committee members and a well-known local artist, has agreed to take on the task of producing the Newsletter after this September edition. Maggie has got off to a great start by contributing lots of items to this current Newsletter!

As I am moving on from my role as President, and from the Committee, I wish to give heartfelt thanks to the Committee members I have worked with over the last couple of years. Without their dedication and professionalism, the Tamar Valley U3A would be a lost cause. I wish them all well as they continue their great work for our members. Viv Tyson and Martin Price, in particular, have worked very hard in their respective roles.

HAPPENINGS

Things coming up

Saturday, October 12, 2024 at 7.30pm

The **2024 Tassie Mental Health Comedy Road Show** at Rowella

This is a free event. Tickets are available at : events.humantix.com

The Tamar Valley Folk Festival

“A Poet and a One Man Band”

Aug 31 Sat.2pm at The Yacht Club, George Town

Featuring our own Bruce Penn, and Rob Van Der Elst

Tickets \$10 Book as limited seats. Chris 0407 313 103

Knowing our local History

The Tamar Valley was internationally recognised by the reburial of the remains of Matthew Flinders on 13 July 2024.

Archaeologists announced in 2019 that they had rediscovered the grave of Matthew Flinders, the first man known to have circumnavigated Australia. He was discovered when archaeologists were digging under a park behind London's Euston Station.

After the rediscovery, a small village called Donington, Lincolnshire had started a group called ‘Matthew Flinders Bring Him Home’ (MFBHH) as they wanted Matthew to be reburied in his hometown.

Volunteers from the Bass and Flinders Maritime Museum were in Donington for the event.

Back in Tasmania, a service was held at the Low Head St. Paul’s Chapel, and since the reburial, the B & F volunteers have been invited to Parliament House to share their experiences and to have lunch with Nick Duigan.

Well done to our local artists!

The Inaugural Kinimathakinta/George Town Art Prize aimed at celebrating local talent and cultural diversity and appreciating the creativity that thrives in our region, was held in July. Both Bruce Penn and Maggie Fletcher were finalists. Congratulations Bruce and Maggie!

WHO ARE WE?



GWENDA MEACHER, long term U3A member.

(nee Wingrave, formerly Cartledge)

Now 96 but young at heart, Gwenda travels across with friends from the West Tamar to Low Head where she is actively involved with U3A as she studies 'The Age of Revolution with Rai Bruns' History Class.



Born Edith Gwenda Wingrave in 1928, Gwenda grew up in suburban Sydney and attended Epping Public School and Hornsby High School, followed by a decade in Agricultural Science at the University of Sydney.

In 1950, after the Public Service decided how much to drop the salary for a woman, she moved to Hobart to take up a position of an Asst. Plant Pathologist, and worked in Hobart until she and her husband adopted their son Gary in 1958, and their daughter Sally in 1960. Once the children were both at school she resumed part-time work. Her husband John who worked for TAA was transferred to PNG – Rabaul and then to Port Moresby. When Air Niugini was created they stayed on until PNG became independent, then returned to Melbourne. The children boarded at Sydney schools and stayed with Gwenda's family for weekends.

Life changed once again for Gwenda when her husband John died of bowel cancer. As Gary was married, and Sally was in Sydney, Gwenda returned to Tasmania and came to live in Beauty Point where she volunteered for Meals of Wheels, did the roster for several years, then took up teaching Horticulture part-time at TAFE. Later, on her own, Gwenda moved to her present home.

A little giggle

Q. Did you hear about the waffle iron with anger issues?

A. He just flipped.

Snippets



‘DON’T CALL ME DEAR OR MADAM’

I know it is meant kindly, but it really gets up my nose when I am referred to as *Dear* or *Madam*.

I was waiting in a queue to be served. At last, my turn to be served and the assistant smiled kindly at me as the man behind me demanded attention.

‘Certainly Sir, I’m sure Madam won’t mind waiting while we sort this out, will you, dear?’

‘Actually, Madam minds very much indeed.’ I leaned on my walker, stood my ground and gave her *the look*. The look my daughters called *The Duchess*, and nodded and forced a smile. ‘VERY much indeed.’

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Maggie hopes this “**Snippets**” section will become a regular column for us all to share life experiences and challenges, and let them be a source of entertainment as we relish our *Twilight Years*.

Contributions up to 150 words are welcome. Send them to Maggie at **ruthieduck@gmail.com**

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Gift (a poem by Czeslaw Milosz)

A day so happy.
Fog lifted early, I worked in the garden.
Hummingbirds were stopping over honeysuckle flowers.
There was no thing on earth I wanted to possess.
I knew no one worth my envying him.
Whatever evil I had suffered, I forgot.
To think that once I was the same man did not embarrass me.
In my body I felt no pain.
When straightening up, I saw the blue sea and sails.

THIS CRAZY ENGLISH

To be tied up



Ou – wound - 'round - wound



Recently, our Kiwi neighbours have been promoting **Random Acts of Kindness** which build that sense of community, safety and wellbeing. As they say, *All it takes is a kind gesture to make someone's day!*

Try one out and share this good idea!

- Share a smile and make someone's day
- Give a neighbour vegetables from your garden
- Pay it forward in the café line.
- Buy an extra grocery item to donate to food bank.
- Send cat or dog food to your local pound or RSPCA shelter.
- Send an encouraging text to someone who needs it.
- Let a car into the traffic ahead of you.
- Pick up litter in your street.

That's all, folks!