



NEWSLETTER December 2024



The end of the semester is rapidly approaching and it is time to think what classes you will be enrolling in for next year. Such a good selection of creative, educational, mentally challenging social and fitness options. At this stage, there are classes being offered in Botanical Art, Casual Art, Creative Writing, Creative Writing and Illustration, Exploring Your Inner Creativity, French Conversation, Fun with Cryptics, History, Italian Conversation, Mahjong, Philosophy, Scrabble, Sing-alongs, Square Dancing, Table Tennis, Ukulele, and Yoga.

We are hopeful that the 'Talks' will resume and are looking for a co-ordinator for these. If you are able to help please let us know. It was such a popular event.

Three of these classes are being held on the East Tamar at the Bass and Flinders Bowls Club at Low Head. 'History, The Age of Revolution' and 'Philosophy' with Raimund Bruns, and a new 10 week course with Maggie Fletcher, 'Creative Writing and Illustration', also to be held at The Bass and Flinders Bowls Club at Low Head, Maggie's class will focus on illustrating creative writing for both children and adults, such as writing and illustrating poetry and humour as well as picture book format both fiction and non-fiction. This will be a supportive as well as a teaching environment as people explore this genre.



Layout roughs for The Big Foot Kid - c. Maggie

*Life is a great big
canvas and
you should
throw all
the paint
on it
you can!*

Danny Keay

Copyright Maggie Fletcher





WHO ARE WE?

BOB JENKS

Bob, a TVU3A Committee Member and popular ukulele tutor runs a class at the Deviot Hall on a Thursday. This is his story.

I was born and grew up in Birmingham UK, with my parents, grandmother, sister, and 3 brothers. After leaving School I started an apprenticeship at a large Tipton Company called Brockhouses, and ended as Design Draftsman in their Drop Forge Division. After a couple of years, my wife Dor and I decided to join my mother, sister, and brother, and as 10 Pound Poms we emigrated to Brisbane, Queensland in 1972. We stayed with my brother and his family, initially in Redcliff.

The next door neighbour happened to be Bill Stevens, who brought the first registered Staffordshire Bull Terriers to Australia. We managed to obtain our first Staffy from him in 1974 and have been engaged with the breed ever since.

In 1977 we moved to Mackay North Queensland, where I joined the Sugar Industry at Marian Sugar Mill and worked in the sugar industry for the next 30+ years. We became heavily involved with the local dog clubs as breeders and trainers, showing and trailing in many positions, both at the Mackay Club and later when we were part of a group that started the Sarina Club. We also built and operated Dog Boarding Kennels and Cattery for twenty years. Through this time we were fortunate to be able to travel to many parts of the world, and still enjoy travel today. During this period, a friend working at another sugar mill, encouraged me to learn to play tenor banjo, and play in a group he was part of, but I was occupied with other things. When we retired in 2009 we moved to Tasmania, where I decided to take up my long forgotten banjo and find someone to teach me. The teacher I found told me he would not teach me as he had taught banjo's and was fed up with them, but as I had tried a ukulele 50 years earlier, and he was starting a Ukulele course which I joined.

There being no clubs for ukuleles at this time I started L.U.G. in Launceston, then in 2010, I was approached by TVU3A to act as a tutor for a ukulele course, which has been running ever since. The Ukulele group would not work without Mary Mace helping, as well as other group members who help and also, I hope, enjoy being part of the group.



SING-ALONG SESSIONS

The first Sing-along session will be held at the Deviot Hall in Deviot Rd, at 1pm Thursday 9th January 2025.

Come along and join in the fun!



Snippets



In my senior years and dependent on the Age Pension I no longer buy quality bottled wines for my personal use. Instead, I have a selection of special bottles that I decant Chateaux Cardboard wine into. I take comfort in the words of the German/Swiss poet/novelist Herman Hesse who wrote:

'I am not fond, for everyday at least, of racy, heady wines that diffuse a potent charm and have their own particular flavour. What I like best is a clean, light, modest country vintage of no special name, with the flavour of the land; of the earth, the sky and the woods.'



Overheard when our local Santa threw lollies to an onlooker as he rode by in the fire truck.'

Who is it?' The onlooker called. 'It's Santa' he replied. 'Who did you think it was?'

WRITING FOR FUN

Submissions from Jen Kilvert's Tuesday writing group at Tresca

THE DREAMER

She pushed the large green door.

This elfin-faced brown eyed girl was a dreamer.

Behind the green door in dreams there was always a meadow and beyond, trees.

But now there was, mist and chill.

A warm arm reached out; now she was entering the realm of sleepwalking.



Jen

THE MOUSE AND GLADYS, THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

Gladys reclined in the steaming bath. From the roof of the lean-to, Freddie the cat leapt through the small open window with a mouse in its mouth.

Gladys screamed! Freddie dropped the mouse into the bath.

Naked, Gladys fled downstairs and through the open door.

Shepton Mallet has never recovered.



A 50 word story by Moira Wellman

(This story screams out to be illustrated! Watch this space once the illustration course starts!)

HAVE YOU BEEN NAUGHTY OR NICE?

Santa has been seen here at East Beach with his laptop and stubby doing a quick catch-up on who has been naughty or nice. Now with Google, Santa knows it all! There's no getting away with hoping no-one noticed!



DID YOU KNOW?

Fun facts for music lovers ...



In 2015 a new species of black tarantula was identified near Folsom Prison in California ...



it was named *Aphonopelma johnnycashi*.

And, in the same year, a newly described crustose lichen was found clinging to trees in the southern Appalachian Mountains, hence

...

Japewiella dollypartoniana.



Leonard Cohen inspired two nominations in 2021 ...



Loxosceles coheni (a species of recluse spider from Iran)

Cervellaea coheni (a weevil from South Africa).

Look them up, and maybe find more!



*There was a row amongst the oarsmen
about how to row.*

C. Maggie Fletcher

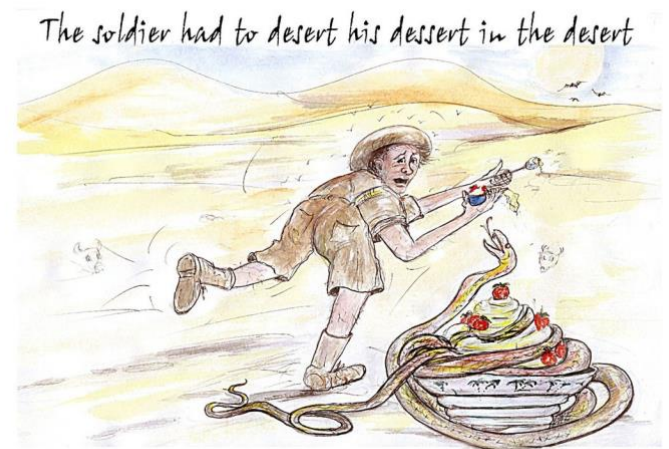
Submitted by Sue Christmas

THIS CRAZY ENGLISH

Recently, whilst reading an article about how the invention of the iPhone by Apple in 2007 changed the world as it gave instant communication and access to universal and definitive time, I was reminded me of this quote by the Roman playwright Plautus in 200 B.C.

'The Gods confound the man who first found out how to distinguish the hours. Confound him too, who in this place set up a sundial to cut and hack my days so wretchedly into small pieces. I can't even sit down to eat unless the sun gives leave. The town's is so full of these confounded dials!'

Plautus 200 B.C.



The Washington Post's Style Invitational asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting or changing one letter and supply a new definition.

Inoculatte: to take coffee intravenously when you're running late.

Sarchasm: the gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

I challenge our U3A members to come up with some new definitions!



THE AURORA



Tamar Valley residents were treated to a stunning southern lights display as strong solar winds interacted with the earth's magnetic field which lit up our skies during October. Like many others, I was fortunate to wake up at 4am to see the skies' stunning display of the dancing lights. One of our members, Merryn Bolger, took this photograph at Hillwood.

In Iceland on 24th December, in a tradition known as Jolabokafloppur or 'Christmas book flood', Icelanders give each other books, then settle down to read them with a cup of hot chocolate.

That is MY sort of Christmas!



**IN ICELAND, YOU EXCHANGE BOOKS ON CHRISTMAS EVE
AND SPEND THE REST OF THE NIGHT READING.
PREFERABLY IN BED. WITH CHOCOLATES.**



Our own very popular TVU3A ukuleles
will be performing at the Tamar Valley Folk Festival on the 18th January 2025

REMINDER: Tamar Valley U3A membership renewals are due in January.

ANNUAL membership for 2025 has now been set at \$20 per year for as many courses as you wish, plus a gold coin donation to help with ongoing costs.

Electronic Funds Transfer: BSB 067-022. ACCOUNT NO.1008 8174. Please ensure you identify this payment with your name.

Payments may also be made via credit card. The website is tamarvalleyu3a.com.au

NEED SOME HELP ?

If you have any queries please contact us on 0411 150 378 or by email;
tamarvalleyu3a@gmail.com

2025 SEMESTER: The 2025 semester will officially start on Mon 10th February and will go through until Mon 4th August. However some classes starting and finishing dates vary. The classes at East Tamar will start the week following this on Wed.12th February. It is wise to check with the individual tutors.

Newsletter: Submissions are welcome from TVU3A members. For the next (February) issue please contact Maggie on ruthieduck@gmail.com by 15th of January 2025.



WISHING YOU

All

A VERY

HAPPY

CHRISTMAS

Art by Maggie Fletcher