



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2025

Welcome to a new year of learning with fun and friendship. Such a large number of my friends are people I have met through U3A courses; a pre-selection of like-minded people? This was so obvious at the well attended Christmas lunch at Grindelwald, that we were all there, as much for the socialising, as for the food. I could hardly hear myself think. Although TVU3A may be small, it has a **wonderful sense of community** that is often lost when an organisation is larger. What a successful year 2024 was, and 2025 is shaping up to be even better, thanks to the **behind the scenes administration** by the volunteers making sure everything is running smoothly.

Request for a President: Our acting president Jill Brasch-Reaney has done an amazing job in this role since the AGM. She is happy to continue on a temporary basis, but would really **appreciate some assistance** until someone steps up to take on being President in her place.

The U3A movement: The U3A concept was **started in France in 1973** with a successful summer school for retired people, built on the idea that older people have the knowledge and skills to provide learning opportunities. There are no formal entry requirements, exams or awards. In 1984, the University of the Third Age began in Australia with the establishment of a U3A in Melbourne. The first Tasmanian U3A began in 1990. Our **TVU3A started at Beaconsfield in 2013.**

UKULELES

The TVU3A ukulele group also known as 'No Frets' is really active. As well as the ukulele class, they now accompany people for the **Deviot Hall Singalongs**, and perform once again at the **Tamar Valley Folk Festival** in George Town in January. Well done Bob and members of No Frets!



THE TVU3A CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Our very own Santa



A lovely way to finish the year with lunch and friendship at Grindelwald.

MAHJONG

The Mahjong group had a special lunch at Rosevears Tavern after a very successful year.



The group now has enough players that 3 tables of up to 4 are required. They cater for a wide range of skill levels, as some have been playing for years and others are beginners. It's interesting that some play with other groups as well, and have found a variation in the rules. That keeps them all flexible and their brains are challenged too.

Pictured is a mahjong hand called '**Windy chows**'. A chow is the equivalent of a run in cards. In the picture are the 4 winds (north, south, east and west) (plus a spare or duplicate) and chows in each of the three suits - bamboo, circles and characters.



PHILOSOPHY WITH RAIMUND BRUNS

Rai Bruns' Philosophy class members presented him with a bottle of Devil's Corner wine as thank you for another enjoyable year of examining such topics as the **problems of evil, and what kind of world do we really live in.**

Rai will be continuing with this Philosophy course on Friday mornings at the Low Head Bass and Flinders Bowls Club, as well as his popular Wednesday afternoon history class, ***History of the First Half of the 19th Century.***





WHO ARE WE ?

LYNDA YOUNG

Lynda Young is the tutor of the popular TVU3A Botanical art course, this is her story.

I have always loved to draw from an early age and studied art all through my 6 years at Hobart High School. I became a school librarian and always enjoyed any opportunity to put up displays!

In my 50's I attended a free botanical art session and was hooked for life! Over the next 20 years I participated in many workshops, entered gallery displays and learnt as much as I could in the various art mediums.

During Covid in 2020, being house bound and depending on neighbours in Brisbane for help I began to offer pet portraits as appreciation and another avenue opened up! I also began to incorporate plants with native animals and subsequently published a non fiction picture book for children.

Moving to Tasmania in 2021 I made friends in my street by canvassing free home art lessons and a regular art group began which is still going! Knowing the pleasure botanical art has bought me I offered my services to U3A and have now run 4 successful courses. I am always surprised at the hidden talents people have when they are encouraged!

Everyone can draw, given the tools, so hopefully, my next beginner group in February will have plenty of eager artists!

Snippets



GETTING OLDER WITHOUT GETTING OLD

Recent research shows that **creativity doesn't decline with age** as was previously thought, but it develops, adds more depth. It has been proven that **people who stay mentally active live longer**. From personal experience, I look to my own grandfather who was a saddler, creating hand sewn harnesses for huskies for the U.S. mission to the Antarctica, known as *Operation Deep Freeze*, out of Christchurch, New Zealand 1955 – 56 when he was in his 90's. When asked on radio why he still wished to work at that age, he responded 'why wouldn't I? It is what I love to do.' As a result of this I have started to look online to see the identities of those who continue to work until well into their senior years.



Frank Lloyd Wright was 77 when he was commissioned to design the Guggenheim Museum. He **completed 1/3 of his work between 80 and 92**.

When **Hokusai** painted **The Great Wave off Kanagawa** in 1833, **he was 71**, and is quoted as saying 'It is my greatest wish to reach 100, when my work would become marvellous. If I lived to 110, every dot, and every line would be as if coming to life. When he died at 88, his last words were recorded as: 'if Heaven will afford me five more years, then I will manage to become a true artist.'



Age is not just a number; we all face restrictions as we age, but it is this desire to keep learning, to keep growing mentally that drives the people who join U3A to **explore new fields of learning and to continue to achieve**.

If anyone has **personal stories to share** about people who continue(d) to develop new skills well into their senior years I would love to hear about them.

THIS CRAZY ENGLISH

The two letter word **UP** has more meanings than any other two letter word in the English language.

If you are **up** to it you might like to write **up** a list for yourself; though it is **up** to you as it might take **up** quite a lot of your time – if you are **up** to it once you get **up**, so long as you don't get **up** to mischief whilst making **up** for lost time whilst writing **up** a list.



What's UP?

You don't have to 'fess **UP** to me. I knew you were **UP** living it **UP**.

So you went **UP** for dinner and stayed there until time to get **UP**.

Now you are all dressed **UP** with nowhere to go.

Originally drawn for Newcastle U3A by
Maggie Fletcher

WORDS:

The following words were created in response to *The Washington Post's Invitational* which asked for readers to take any **word from the dictionary, alter it** by adding, subtracting or changing one letter to give a completely **new definition**.

Negligents: (Adj.) A condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown.

Eshplanade: (V.) An attempt at an explanation while drunk.

Coveid: (N.) A disease causing folk to hibernate in small, dark places.

Confidunce: (N.) Overly self assured actually an incompetent idiot

Knows. No's. Nose.

No one **knows** what **nose** they are to be given. If they had **known** the **nose** was to be a big red one then the **no's** would have won.

The years creep up upon you
And all at once you're there
You've hit the dreaded 50's
And there's grey streaks in the hair.

All at once you're young again
As you hold the baby near
It only seem like yesterday
And you shed a silent tear.

At first you think life's over
You're heading down the hill
The body it is ageing
No need to take the pill.

You look into that tiny face
And walk down memory lane
You know it isn't over
You have the chance again.

Then all at once it happens
A gift from God above
A tiny little baby

To love, to care, to cherish
This precious little man
And he'll return those feelings

....my nose is a 'fairy ski jump' - kersplot!!



WRITING FOR FUN

THE OVER FIFTIES or NANNA HOOD

To shower with all your love.

Because you're his special Nan.

He'll open up a treasure chest
Containing no not gold
But the key to second childhood
And you never will grow old.

By *Dolly Rimes*

A member of the TVU3A Tresca Writers.



A REMINDER:

Memberships. It is time to pay memberships - \$20 p.a., and to enrol for courses.

Electronic Funds Transfer: BSB 067-022 Account No: 1008 8174 Please identify this payment with your name.

Payments may also be made via credit card at tamarvalleyu3a.com.au

Our website now allows you to join, renew and enrol in a class Online through our member Wizard.

A full list of courses is on the tamarvalleyu3a@gmail.com site, as well as the NEW courses and how to enrol in them on the Courses Page.

Copies of our previous newsletters are also available on our website and we encourage you to share them with your friends who are non-members. Please contact us on tamarvalleyu3a@gmail.com or 0411 150 378 if you need help.

Computer support: One to one phone, lap-top, tablet and computer support is available at the Beaconsfield On-line Centre at 1 Grubb St., Beaconsfield on a Monday by arrangement. Ph: (03) 6383 1146 Wheel chair access.

NEWSLETTER: Submissions are welcome from TVU3A members.

Please contact Maggie on ruthieduck@gmail.com by 15 March 2025 for the April edition.

ITALIAN: Recommencing Thursday 13th February at Deviot with a progressing group.

If you are interested in starting off with this language please let us know. IF there is enough interest we can start a separate beginners' class with the aim of getting you up to speed and joining the 'expert'! This can only be accommodated at the start of term, so please let us know now.

CREATIVE WRITING AND ILLUSTRATION: This new 10 week class is to be held at the Bass and Flinders Bowls Club in Low Head starting on Wednesday 12th February from 10 – 12.

*We wish you all
the very best
for 2025!*

