



TVU3A NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025

Our TVU3A is ticking along nicely with numbers of full classes. We **welcome more tutors** for any subjects that you have to offer **whether it be long or short courses**. It is not necessary to think of this as a permanent commitment, just whatever is possible to offer to others at this 3rd stage of our lives. We hope someone will take on the **position of President** to give Jill Brasch-Reaney a break from the responsibility of holding down that role.



JILL BRASCH-REANEY

Acting President

I have always been interested in learning. I tackled an Arts degree in my 50s, gave talks to School for Seniors when I lived in Burnie and looked for opportunities once I moved to Beaconsfield from the NW Coast to be with Bill Reaney.



I had been introduced to Mahjong when I was on my own and so I looked for a group here in the Tamar Valley. In those days the U3A group met in Beaconsfield just down the road so I met new friends that way.

Since then I have become involved in the administration of U3A, currently acting as President, a position I have held before. I look forward to handing the reins over to someone at the meeting in September, and will mentor a newcomer if it helps.

I believe our group has lots to offer the thousands of retirees up and down the Tamar River. We are very grateful to our tutors and welcome new ideas about classes or even short talks. Call our mobile office on 0411 150 378 to give us your thoughts - the phone is answered regularly.

Jill Brasch- Reaney

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Many people I mix with at U3A live away from their families. Often our offspring and siblings are, as in my case, in another country, and our creative process has often been interrupted by the need to face the challenges that life has placed in the way. It was with a sense of excitement that I embraced retirement with the belief that at last it was MY time. So it has been to a certain extent, but I find overwhelmingly, that many who became carers, have had to accommodate a change in our own physical ability and the dreams of our younger years.



TVU3A has become a lifeline, a 'meeting of minds'. The focus for a group of locals to mix with people of like type; to again realise some of those dreams that have been held hostage by the ageing process.

At least we **can** retire and follow those dreams. We are in the truest sense of the word, **a community** – individuals with a shared sense of belonging and identity, with a feeling that we matter to one another.

We are always looking for, and welcome new tutors and new faces. We recognise that other U3A groups are larger - but we have that special energy of familiarity- we are not an organisation, we are a community, a 'Family of Friends'.

Snippets



Ever wonder how other people see you?

In my 50's, I was living an alternative lifestyle in the NSW bush. I was outside cooking the stew over our wood-stove, dressed in a long skirt, wearing a large straw hat, surrounded by calves and cows from the Common, when a tour bus stopped and out jumped Asian tourists with their cameras! 'Click! Click! Click!'

How DID they see me?



The Tambaroora kitchen

MARCH HAPPENINGS

Bob Jenks' Thursday Deviot Hall Ukulele Sing-along devotees seem to have so much fun! I am sure that the 'Sweet Irish Lassie' from the St Patrick's Day jam session must related to the TVU3A Santa – there is a definite family resemblance.



The Sweet Irish Lassie and Mary



In [C] Dublin's fair [Am] city, where the [Dm] girls are so [G7] pretty, I [C] first set my [Am] eyes on sweet [F] Molly Ma-[G7]lone As she [C] wheeled her wheel [Am] barrow Through [Dm] streets broad and [G7] narrow Crying [C] cockles [Am] and [C] mussels, [Am] a-[C]live, [G7] alive [C] O!

A[C]live, alive [Am]O! a-[Dm]live, alive [G7] O! Crying [C] cockles [Am] and [C] mussels, [Am] a-[C]live, [G7] alive [C] O!



HISTORY OF THE TAMAR VALLEY U3A

by CAROLINE RICHARDS

In 2010, newly retired, I arrived in Tasmania looking for my “forever home” in the Tamar Valley where a strong “sense of community” existed. Seniors Week October 2011 provided the first opportunity to explore activities in my region.

My previous experience was in aged care in Melbourne. In 2009 I began working with Melbourne and Sherbrooke U3A's, and as 6,000 seniors resided from Legana to Greens Beach, I believed having done it once I could do it again in the Tamar region!

After 5 months of canvassing friends, loitering in cafes, community houses, etc. accosting seniors re their interest, enough tutors were found who accepted that this was an unpaid role. Geoff - Tai Chi, Rai - Philosophy, Graham - music appreciation. Marie, staff at one coffee shop and a French speaker, offered her services as tutor for Conversation French! All tutors were more than willing to accept it was an unpaid role.



April 2013



Caroline Richards, Convenor Tamar Valley U3A and Noeline Brown, Ambassador for Ageing at the U3A NSW Network National Conference.

A Steering Committee was formed to follow the tried and true U3A manual step by step. Brochures were developed and distributed throughout the region. Two large advertising banners were produced, and a Public Meeting held on 18th February 2013 had Kerry Finch MLC as MC with his superb microphone system. Noeline Brown, comedienne and Commonwealth Ambassador for the Ageing our guest speaker, wowed the more than 150 attendees. 15 venues were offered.

Full classes started in April 2013. Membership steadily climbed via word of mouth and new classes evolved. As it had been suggested that Kerry Finch talk with Caroline Richards, a meeting was held with Anne Lockett & Judith Chamberlain and I was asked if I was willing to act as mentor in the initial stage. Pure joy. In 2014-15 I went on to develop a State body along with Pat Colby from Clarence U3A in Hobart,

meeting in Campbell Town, uniting the North & South chapters so we could then apply for National membership making the Tasmanian U3A's eligible for annual Federal funding of \$1 a member.

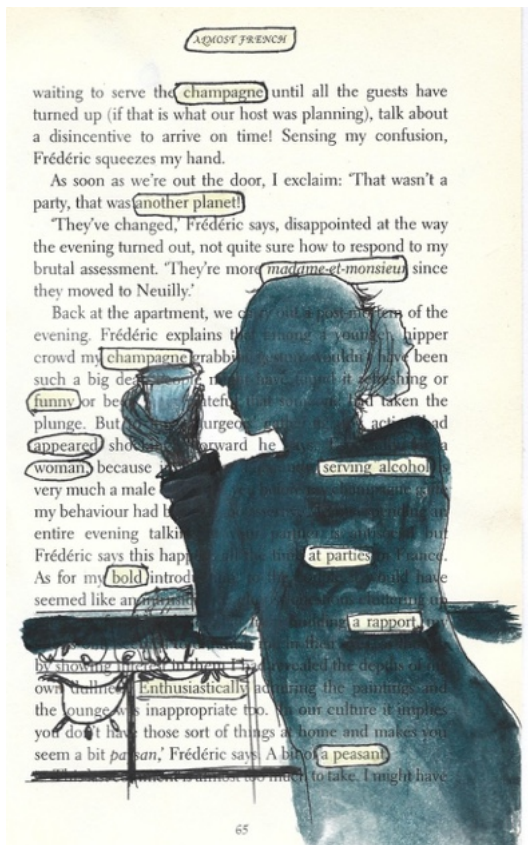
Now personally, I am happily attending weekly creative writing & art sessions at Tresca and Low Head.

Go TVU3A!!!





CREATIVE WRITING AND ILLUSTRATION



Almost French.

Champagne.

Another Planet.

Madame et monsieur champagne?

Funny woman appeared serving
alcohol at parties.

Bold. A rapport. Enthusiastically a
peasant

Although this is only a short course, a lot of wonderful imaginative work has been created.

We started with a genre known as *Blackout Poetry* where we take a page from a book and create a poem from words circled, then illustrate it. 'Almost French' is a poem created with Blackout Poetry.

As with U3A there is no homework, this class is set 'FunWork' where they are given a challenge to create.



Dobbins Dimples lives
with his mother
Winnie Wimpole (she's
no whim)
deep in the forest with
a cat in their
fishbowl.

Winnie creates a spell:

A pinch of lavender
and a twitch of thyme.
Two big fat frog legs
and stir all the time
With a swirl of dust
and a cup of wine.

Just what will come? We
must trust.

A.F.

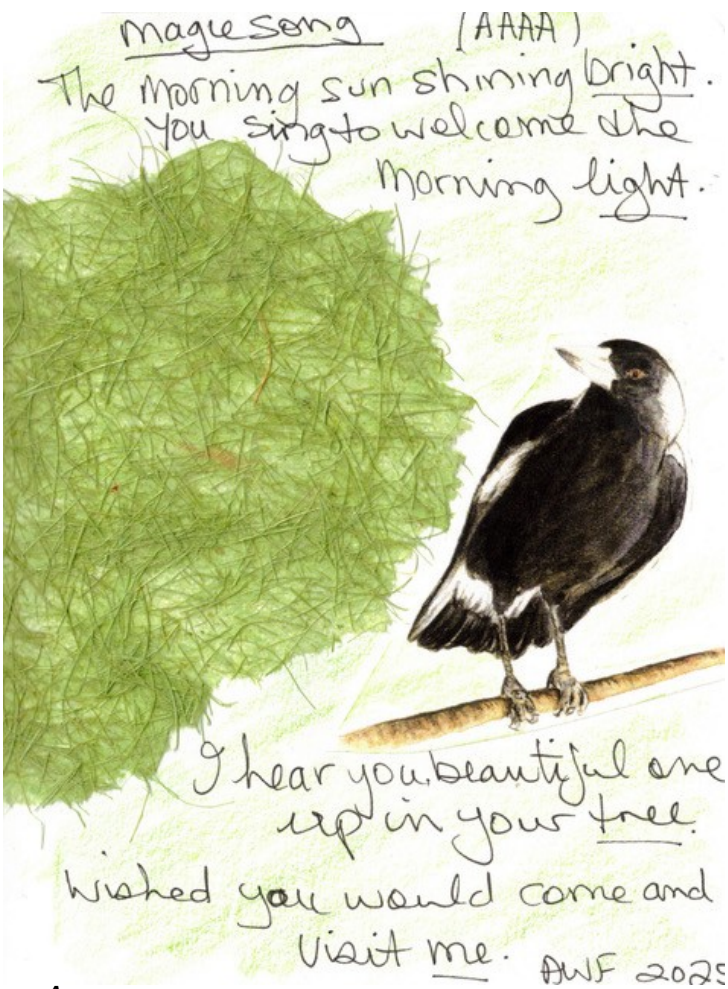
Ann Williams Fitzgerald

This class exercise set and drawn by Maggie was taken to the next level by Ann

As in all the art and creative writing presented the copyright stays with the creator.

With so much talent in the Creative classes there is almost a need for a monthly journal to showcase the art – oh for more energy!

This lovely blackbird image by Ann Williams-Fitzgerald is in response to the Mindfulness exercise where class members were encouraged to look out the window every day and create an illustrated poem.



Autumn.

Mild temperatures,
Darker mornings
Long shadows,
A soul soothing balm.

Fionna Teys

Enjoying Autumn,
Then life will get in the way.
So! Art Through living!

Fionna Teys

Another mindfulness image with haiku by our talented artist Adrienne Smeeton.

With each wistful sigh
in the garden of wonder
dreams bloom silently



We had a lot of fun with the 6 Word story created by Ernest Hemingway

Hot day. Warm waves. Shark bait.

The family called. Face time. Pixelated.

Feet up. A knock. Quickly. Hide!

Wedding dress. Worn twice. Going cheap.

Ernest Hemingway: For sale: baby shoes, never worn.

Margaret Atwood: "Longed for him. Got him. Shit."

PEOPLE



Congratulations to Jenny Feldheim on her special birthday. Jenny is a regular and long term attendee at several TVU3A classes. Looking good Jenny.



Back from the U.K. after several years Ian Russell is enjoying playing his uke at Deviot; here he is with Tony. Ian has been a TVU3A member for over a decade. After being caught up with COVID restrictions in England, Ian was at last able to return to Tasmania a few months ago. Welcome home Ian.



Christmas with the popular and active group 'Writing For Fun' that meet on a Tuesday 10am at Tresca in Exeter with Jen Kilvert.



Thanks to Moira Wellman for keeping us supplied with photos from the Writers and Ukuleles. Here Moira is with her husband Mike and their motorbikes.

Members and tutors are invited to submit photos and articles about their classes and happenings to the editor of the TVU3A Newsletter. Maggie Fletcher. ruthieduck@gmail.com

Tamar Valley U3A Website: tamarvalleyu3a.com.au TVU3A mobile office: 0411 150 378