



Issue 57

CRESWICK
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

A0053344W

February- March 2020

NEWS

From the Committee

Welcome to 2020 another exciting and active year for U3A.

At the January leisurely lunch a whip around produced \$229.60 which was donated to the Gippsland fire victims. This was a very thoughtful action by the group, which the committee decided should be matched. We donated \$250 on your behalf to the Creswick CFA in appreciation of the work they do, and in particular their efforts in the recent fires in the district.

Unfortunately the fire season has just begun and we still have 3 months to negotiate, the season has been catastrophic so far in many areas of the state and country. Our sympathies are with other U3A members where ever they live who have been effected by the fires.

During term two we will be holding Be Connected classes on how to store information in the cloud. Inside you will see an article which covers some aspects experienced in a bush fire and this is mentioned.

Cloud storage involves storing data on hardware in a remote physical location, **which can be accessed from any device via the Internet**. Clients send files to a data server maintained by a cloud provider instead of storing it on their own hard device.

Why not try something new this year? Go through all the activities on offer and see what is of interest to you, it gives an opportunity to meet some new friends. Do not forget the Short Courses, there is no ongoing commitment and an opportunity to learn something new.

One new activity is the Town Walk which meets at the Town Hall 8.30 AM on Thursday this is a leisurely walk suitable to all.

A new combined Probus U3A activity is listed inside, the last one was extremely popular and some members have been retracing the route to explore further.

Do you remember the Herman cartoons? They were very popular, drawn by the late Jim Unger.

Herman was syndicated from 1975 to 1992, when Unger retired, running for 18 years in 600 newspapers in 25 countries.

I have put a few inside which prove that good humour is timeless, something some modern comedians could learn from.

First Term Short Courses.

The Infinite Game

1pm to 3.30pm - Thursday 13 February 2020 Neighbourhood Centre

Maximum 20 players

The infinite game is a game for our times, a highly interactive and fun game about how to live well together. It's a game about the values we hold dear that don't always agree with the values that underpin society. Imagine if life was a game, an infinite game in which we continually changed the rules to keep our deepest values in play and ensure that everyone could take part. What kind of player would you be? The infinite game project was started by Niki Harré from the University of Auckland. The Infinite Game was the winner of the 2019 Ashton Wylie Mind, Body & Spirit Literary Award.

In life there are at least two kinds of games: the infinite game and finite games. The purpose of the infinite game is to keep our deepest values in play and the aim of finite games is to win. The trick is to figure out what game you – or we – are playing and fix it when required. The infinite game is a cooperative game in which we all move forward, or fall back, together.

Register online or contact Anne. [You will need to hurry }

Climate change: What YOU can do about it

1pm – 3.30pm – Thursday 12 March 2020 Neighbourhood Centre.

Maximum 15 attendees

Australia is the developed world's biggest per capita greenhouse gas polluter with average annual emissions of 27 tonnes each (average annual emissions for Earthlings is 4 tonnes).

In this course you will learn about how each of us can take practical steps to reduce our carbon footprint and make a real difference to the amount of greenhouse gases released into the air.

Register online or contact Anne



"If you remember, I did mention possible side-effects."



"I know you take a shower almost every day. You almost took one Monday, you almost took one Tuesday..."

Invitation to join Probus again on another very interesting Bus Trip.

Destination is Coragulac House, Coragulac, with side visits to Beeac, Red Rock and Colac. Thursday March 19, departing Creswick Information Centre car park 8.45 a.m. returning at approx. 5 p.m.

Cost, including travel by coach, entry fees and a two course lunch is \$60 per person

Payment in full by 29th February. Into our bank account. Register online or contact Anne.

Places are limited, Book Early

Coragulac House is nestled at the foot of Red Rock scenic lookout. Built in 1873 by the pioneering Pastoralist “Robertson family”, the Homestead has been privately owned throughout its history. Now the current owners have opened the homestead to share its history.

From the moment you step onto this magnificent property you enter a world of elegance and grandeur. Coragulac House is a magnificent 30 room Scottish Baronial style blue stone mansion located in Coragulac Victoria. Set on 140 acres of prime farming land with stunning views of the Otway ranges.



Red Rock is located at the eastern edge of the Kanawinka Global Geopark, Australia's first Global Geopark, which stretches across western Victoria into southeastern South Australia. Volcanic activity in this area occurred between 4.6 million years ago and as recently as 4,500 years at Mount Gambier in South Australia. The massive volcanic activity which created the formations at Red Rock is believed to have taken place between 6,000 and 12,000 years ago. Spectacular views from the two lookouts on the cones, across the area's craters, cones, lakes and flat farmlands. To the southeast is Lake Colac with Colac clearly visible at its southern end, and to the northeast is Lake Beeac. To the northwest the volcanic peaks of Mount Porndon, Mount Sugarloaf and Mount Elephant are visible, and these and other landmarks are marked on a dial at the lookout. To the west is the huge salt water expanse of Lake Corangamite.

Digital Divide Challenge for Older People in Bushfire Recovery

Age more than any other factor defines digital inequality in Australia

The CEO of the Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria, Tina Hogarth-Clarke said many older victims of the bushfires could have a significant challenge in bridging the digital divide as they deal with the loss of personal information in the tragic fires.

“The loss of all personal information in the bushfire can become the MISSING LINK in the personal battle to regain the information that holds the key to progress in the recovery.

“The rapid transfer of all essential services online including water, gas and power, pensions, unemployment benefits, medical information, banking, transport concessions and almost everything that impacts on the daily lives of older people is already a major challenge for many Victorians and their families.

“These issues will be compounded by the bushfires where homes and property have been destroyed and important paperwork and personal identification is usually totally consumed by the fire.”

Ms Hogarth-Clarke said this can be extremely difficult for anyone involved in dealing with the aftermath of a bushfire and the loss of a home or business. The trauma of the current bushfires complicates the issue causing people enormous stress and uncertainty.

Very few organisations provide paper-based processes and if people need assistance to overcome this they can get in contact with COTA Victoria and other financial emergency services.

“The success of the enormous amount of planning and ongoing communication from government, agencies, the Insurance Council of Australia and local government will be an important factor in overcoming the digital divide during the bushfire reconstruction.”

COTA Victoria believes libraries throughout Victoria will have a major role to play in providing access for older Victorians to computer services and training, particularly in country and regional areas where distance is a major issue.

Ms Hogarth-Clarke said libraries have always been a vital community asset as a meeting place and can provide access to the internet to facilitate social connection with Facebook and emails.

COTA Victoria’s helpline: 1300 13 50 90.

Editors Note. This is one of the reasons we became involved with the Be Connected program enabling computer training for older adults. Take advantage of the sessions we will run during the year which will assist with these problems. Go online to the Be connected website <https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au> here you will find an interesting selection of topics from the very basics to the more advanced.

WA's native Christmas tree puts traditional pine variety well and truly in the shade

ABC Great Southern By Ellie Honeybone and Tom Edwards



Photo: The Christmas tree is an icon of south-western Australia where it blooms dramatically in summer. (Supplied: Quentin Knight)

Every year, the *Nuytsia floribunda*, or 'Aussie Christmas tree' as it is commonly known, bursts into bright orange life each December.

Key points:

The unique native *Nuytsia floribunda* can be dated back 40 million years

It is only found in the south-west corner of WA and is the world's tallest parasitic tree

It has significance in Noongar culture who believe their ancestors' spirits live within its branches

The specimen was the first WA wildflower recognised by Europeans after the Dutch sailed along the south coast in 1627 and spotted the brilliant golden flowers.

It has also been a 40-year subject of fascination for Stephen Hopper, a professor of biology at the University of Western Australia.

"Scientifically, it's just remarkable," he said.

"Its ancestry goes back 40 million years and it has a lot of remarkable attributes, for example most plants have one or two seedling leaves, this tree has four or five.

"No other tree in the world does that."



Photo: The native Christmas tree is home to many insect species. (ABC Great Southern: Ellie Honeybone)

The parasitic nature of the WA Christmas tree is another fascinating attribute — the species forms rings around the roots of plants and cuts through just enough to access the fluids from them.

"Consequently, it is able to live and flower and have cool leaves in the hottest of summer weather," Professor Hopper said.

"It's also pretty non-selective in terms of what it parasitises, to the point where on many occasions in the southern suburbs of Perth, people were losing their underground telephone lines.

"They complained and it was discovered that *Nuytsia floribunda* was wrapping around the telephone lines and cutting in, thinking they were roots."



Photo: Professor Stephen Hopper has been fascinated by WA's native Christmas tree for decades. (Supplied: UWA Albany)

Sacred home of spirits

The native Christmas tree holds a special place in the hearts of many Noongar people, including Menang man Larry Blight who lives on WA's south coast.

"We call it the moojar tree and it is a very significant tree because it's our spirit tree," he said.

"It also provides a lot of shade as well as [being] a food source of our insects and birds."

The trees are also used by Indigenous people to determine seasonal outlooks.

"For us they are indications of the summer," Mr Blight said.

"If they flower early, that means we're going to have an early summer or, vice versa, if they flower late we're going to have a late one.

"Generally they're in full blossom by Christmas every year."

Last trees standing

Nuytsia floribunda are often spotted in paddocks, the last tree standing after land clearing.

Historically, when Noongar people were engaged to help clear farmland, they refused to cut down the native mistletoe.

"The spirits of our ancestors are resting in that tree," Mr Blight said.

"If we were to break off any of that branch to take home or build a new shelter [using the tree], then we would have that spirit with us and that spirit certainly won't be happy."



Photo: The native WA Christmas tree has its own bright orange decorations. (ABC Great Southern: Tom Edwards)

The species will also likely be unperturbed by the effects of climate change, for a while at least, Professor Hopper suggested.

"It's hooked into all the other plant systems and gets moisture from them," he said.

"It's also clonal — it sends out these conduit-like major roots [and] up to 110 metres in length has been measured.

"So if you see a single Christmas tree and look around, any others nearby are probably all the same genotype."

Nowhere else on the planet does such a remarkable tree exist, and it holds a very special place in West Australian hearts.

"I'm in awe of them and very proud; all of those feelings rolled into one," Mr Blight said.

"These trees are something that every West Australian should be very proud of — that we are part of this country and part of the trees, and the trees are a part of us."



Photo: The native Christmas tree is sacred to Menang Noongar man Larry Blight. (ABC Great Southern: Ellie Honeybone)



Photo: The native WA Christmas tree has its own bright orange decorations. (ABC Great Southern: Tom Edwards)

My Bushfire Experience



Not long ago, a fire started close to my area. It moved fast, and through news reports, we watched it snake its way toward our sleepy, suburban neighbourhood. By evening, there were mandatory evacuations about 1km away from us.

It took me and my husband two hours to get home from work due to the road closures, and once there, we needed to evacuate, too. (Luckily, my two kids were with my mother, away from the fire.) I rushed around grabbing valuables and clothing. But then I froze.

I had no idea what I was supposed to pack. Sentimental photos? Artwork? I looked around my home and wondered what I could afford to lose. A neighbour reminded me to pack our important papers, and I remembered to wear the antique jewellery my grandmother left me.

But I was so panicked that all I ended up with were suitcases full of ill-fitting clothes, passports and paintings. (To my credit, I did not forget to pack the cat.)

Out of the many folks hit hard by bushfires, we ended up very lucky. It grew to about 5000 acres, but half a day after the fire started, the winds died down and firefighters were able to contain it away from our homes.

Evacuations are pretty common. Aside from natural disasters such as fires, earthquakes and hurricanes, people are often told to leave their homes due to transportation and industrial accidents. Our fire pushed me to become more prepared should a disaster strike again.

Here's how to prepare a evacuation "go bag" that you can quickly grab in case you ever need to evacuate.

Choose a bag. Each member of the family should have his or her own. Start with a backpack or a nylon camper's laundry bag with a drawstring.

Take photos of all the rooms in your home, along with all your valuables. Store these photos on a cloud server, and back them up on a flash drive.

Scan all your important documents, and save them on a flash drive. You could also save them onto a cloud server if you have an encryption service you trust.

These documents include:

- Driver's licence
- The deed to your house
- Your will and/or trust
- Proof of insurance
- Medical records
- Passports
- Birth certificates
- A list of personal contacts with their addresses and phone numbers
- Your kids' immunisation records
- Your pet's paperwork for vaccinations and medical history

Include the flash drives of your photos and important documents in your bag.

Add essential supplies to help you get by for a few days. This includes water (4L per person per day), non-perishable food, a first-aid kit, a torch, batteries, clothes, nappies and pet supplies. The Queensland government has a full [emergency kit checklist](#) that you can refer to.

Create an evacuation to-do list. Note the items you will want to pack during an emergency: Your "go bag", your pets, and a list of valuables (jewellery, paintings, photos) you can't live without. Also list your action items, such as turning off utilities and locking up your house.

When you need to evacuate, break out the evacuation to-do list, check off each item, and get the hell out.

Beyond the "go bag", here are other important ways to prepare yourself for an emergency disaster:

- Take a first aid and CPR class. Look up the Australian Red Cross for information.
- Buy — and learn to use — a fire extinguisher.
- Buy a fire and waterproof safe. I looked them up after a fire and realised they aren't as cost-prohibitive as you think, though they can still cost anywhere from a few hundred dollars to a few thousand.

- Learn now how to safely shut off all utility services — electricity, water and gas — in your home. Many fires are exacerbated by natural gas explosions after disasters. Share your knowledge with all the people in your household.

Make sure your pets are microchipped.

Reprinted from Life Hacker. www.lifehacker.com.au

HERMAN®



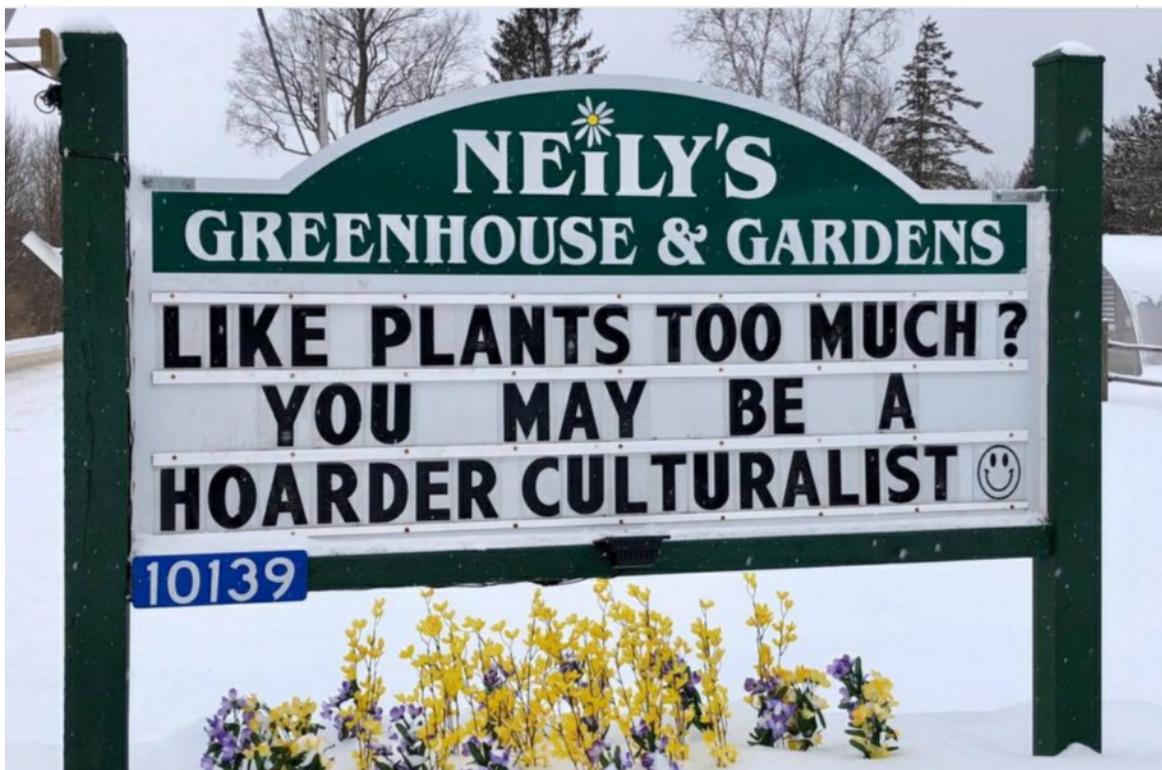
4-7 © LaughingStock International Inc./dist. by UFS Inc., 2009

"I don't want to worry you, but the guy who delivered the pizza was your financial planner."



10-12 © LaughingStock Licensing Inc., Dist. by Universal Uclick, 2015

"The doctor says he'll see the gentleman with the Ebola virus first."





And it seems to me you live your life like a Camel in the wind.

We welcome contributions from members and Geoff Rawson has responded. Geoff tells me that as he gets older his hearing has deteriorated and he sometimes mishears things. He sent a few examples and a challenge to others in the same boat to respond.

Tinned Beans [Tight Jeans] are bad for your health.

At 3 am a garlic [Garbage] truck driver discovered a body.

The coach described the ballet [Melee] with the other team as an unfortunate occurrence.

The footy show's new woman is a new breeder [News Reader]

Iraq will hold its first national erection [Election]

She was an orphan [Author] and a poet

This quite often occurs with song lyrics and I have put a few examples below

"We built this city on sausage rolls" by Jefferson Starship. Correct lyric: "We built this city on rock 'n' roll".

"These ants are my friends, they're blowin' in the wind" Correct lyric from Bob Dylan's 'Blowin' In The Wind': "The answer my friend is blowin' in the wind"

"I've got two chickens to paralyse" Correct lyric from Eddie Money's 'Two Tickets To Paradise': "I've got two tickets to paradise"

Every Time You Go Away, You Take a Piece of Meat With You" From Paul Young's love ballad, ...Every time you go away you take a piece of me with you.

I am sure you get the picture by now so we welcome feed back.



February 2020

1st February Leisurely Lunch Grapes Hotel
6th February Movie Once Neighbourhood Centre.

March 2020

5th March Movie Sweet Country Neighbourhood Centre.
7th March Leisurely Lunch Britannia Hotel Carisbrook

April 2020

2nd April Movie The Constant Gardener. Neighbourhood Centre.
4th April Leisurely Lunch Flanagans Border Inn

May 2020

2nd May Leisurely Lunch Ripples on the Res

June 2020

6th June Leisurely Lunch Oscars Hotel

July 2020

July 4th Leisurely Lunch Courthouse Hotel 63 Brooke Street Smythesdale.

August 2020

August 1st The Pig and Whistle Hotel Cnr Pearsons Road and James Lane, East Trentham.

September 2020

September 5th Leisurely Lunch The National Hotel 35 Fraser Street Clunes.

October 2020

October 3rd The Yacht Club 18 Lake Wendouree Foreshore Wendouree Pde Ballarat.

November 2020

November 7th Leisurely Lunch Quoin Hill Winery Quoin Hill Road Waubra.

December 2020

December 5th U3A BBQ Neighbourhood Centre Victoria Street Creswick.