

2021 Annual General Meeting rescheduled

With restrictions easing further in November we have decided to postpone our AGM until Thursday 25 November. This will allow more members to attend. Time and venue: 10.00am at the RSL Hall.

From the Committee

We have received advice from the Creswick Neighbourhood Centre that only those fully vaccinated will be allowed to volunteer or attend the facility. Many facilities are now making this a requirement and following advice from U3A Network Victoria, we have decided to propose the following motion at the AGM.

That the terms and conditions of membership be altered to read:

All members will, in line with Government requirements, be required to provide proof that they are fully vaccinated to participate in any face-to-face classes. Vaccination status will need to be shown to each Tutor prior to participating in your first activity. It will not be enough to simply say that you are vaccinated; proof must be shown. This rule to apply as long as Government requirements relating to vaccination proof are in place. Those with a valid medical exemption will be able to continue. Alternatively, proof can be supplied to the Class Coordinator who will advise the Tutor.

This information will be stored in the membership database and no electronic or hard copies of the certificate will be retained.

Many venues are requiring a guarantee that members who attend are fully vaccinated, particularly those that also are workplaces. We will not reveal the status of any individual member to a third party if this requirement is met; instead we will merely acknowledge that participants meet the terms and conditions of membership.

Members who are not vaccinated are welcome to take part in online activities such as U3A Online, Kanopy <https://www.kanopy.com> which is available through the Central Highlands Library Service and contains a vast library of movies and documentaries, or a dedicated YouTube channel which is being set up.

Christmas Leisurely Lunch

The Leisurely Lunch scheduled for 4 December will be a Christmas lunch at the Wallace Hotel.

The menu will be fixed with Pork, Turkey, Ham and Roast Vegetables with a choice of Plum Pudding with Custard or Trifle for sweets. Special dietary requirements can be catered for. Cost is \$28 per person. Why not join us for a great afternoon. Book [online](#).



University of Melbourne trial

Dear Creswick & District U3A team,

I'm emailing to let you know about an exciting trial being run by The University of Melbourne called HOMESIDE, which is exploring the effects of music and reading/word-based interventions for people living with dementia and their family caregivers.

The interventions are designed to be personalised to each person's preferences and needs, and delivered by the family caregivers, who are trained and supported by health professionals throughout the 6-month study. We hope that the interventions will offer opportunities for people with dementia and their family caregivers to share meaningful moments together and give caregivers tools that can help in the care and management of their loved ones.

We would be incredibly grateful if you could help us to reach potentially interested caregivers and people with dementia by sharing information about HOMESIDE with your network, by including our study information in a newsletter. This YouTube invitation that can also be shared with carers:

- <https://youtu.be/g5EfX0dcGDs>.

More information can also be found at our website:

- www.homesidestudy.eu/Australia.

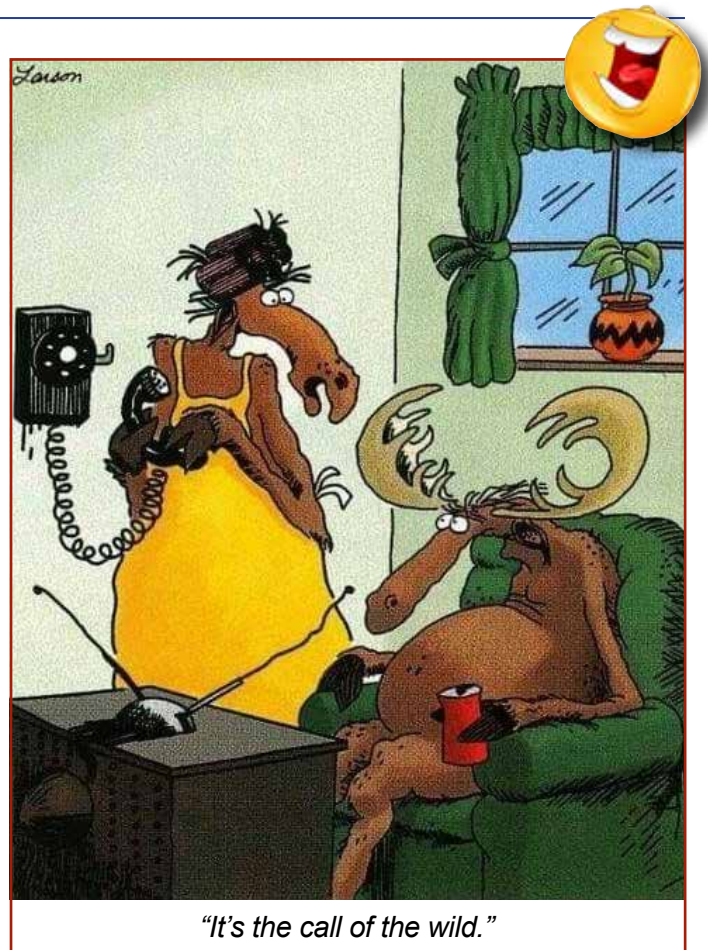
Anyone who is interested to contact the HOMESIDE email address:

- homeside-australia@unimelb.edu.au

Our thanks in anticipation,
Hilary Farmer
The HOMESIDE Team

Fake news about the Age Pension

There has been scaremongering lately about the government introducing the cashless debit card system for pensioners. In a letter to Ian Yates of COTA the minister Anne Ruston stated. "I would like to reassure you formally that the Coalition government does not, never has and never will have a policy to require age pensioners to have their payment placed on to a Cashless Debit Card," Senator Ruston wrote. I hope this reassures those of you who may have been worried about the publicity surrounding the issue.



A growing global problem

SMS scams have seen considerable growth in the past few years. ScamWatch reported a near-doubling of yearly losses between last year (\$3,091,790 lost) and this year, as of August (\$5,889,596). SMS scam reports have also shot up to a total 39,531 reports this year as of August – up from last year's total of 32,337.

Since last month, Australians have been increasingly targeted with SMS messages carrying the flubot malware. This malicious software (malware) migrated from Europe to Australia, and targets Android devices with the intention of stealing online banking credentials.

Spotting scams is becoming increasingly difficult. Scammers use various techniques to trick targets, including: pretending they have authority. For example, by pretending to be DHL or the tax office convincing you there is limited time to respond. This can prompt panic and an urgency to respond. offering something of value or attraction to incite a response, such as a fake lottery win.

Or threatening you with a consequence, such as a fake penalty or fine. Legitimate organisations and agencies will rarely (if ever) use overly casual,

hostile or threatening language in an SMS. To stay safe and alert, you must keep this in mind.

If you ever receive a suspicious SMS message, don't reply or click on any attached links.

If the message purports to come from an official organisation, always contact the organisation directly (never trust any contact details included in the message).

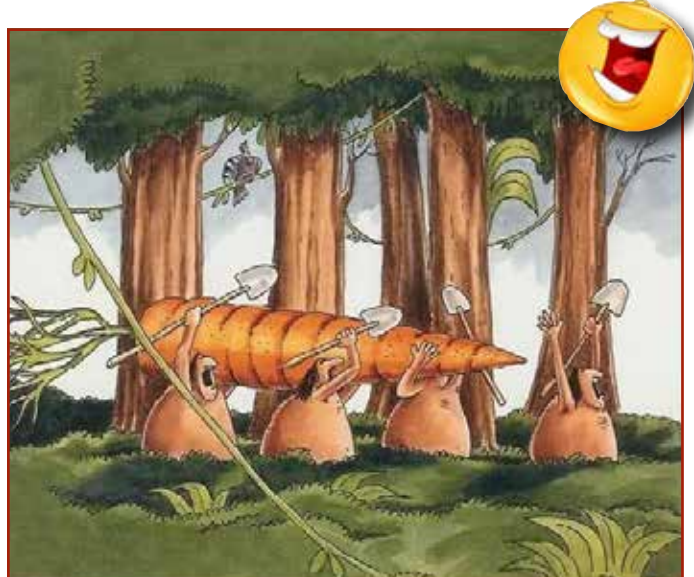
If your phone supports the option, block the number – and consider reporting it to the [Australian Communications and Media Authority](#).

If you think you have fallen victim to a scam, it's important to remain calm.

The first thing to do is seek advice from the relevant organisation, which in Australia is ScamWatch. If you're concerned your banking details may have been compromised, contact your bank immediately to block any rogue transactions, prevent future transfers and change your details as necessary.

If you have disclosed your password, you must change it immediately across all sites and services the password is used for. And if the issue is affecting a work-related device, contact your IT department to check whether your device has been compromised. This may require it to be checked for malware, cleaned and/or re-imaged.

Finally, always ensure your mobile devices are kept up to date with patches and software upgrades. While this might not stop the SMS messages, you will benefit from system updates designed to protect you. The [Australian Cyber Security Centre](#) has further advice on what to do if you've fallen victim to a scam.



Early vegetarians returning from the kill.

Callout for Volunteers for Cresfest

Have you thought of volunteering for Cresfest 2022?

The inaugural CresFest takes place in various historic buildings, local pubs, cafes and in the great outdoors in and around Creswick, over the weekend of 1–3 April 2022. Savour two of life's transformative pleasures, music and dance, amid Creswick's historic architecture and wooded surrounds.

Live performances include: Emma Donovan and the Putbacks; Eric Bogle Trio; The Royal High Jinx; Fools; Parvyn Singh and Josh Bennett; Evan and Mischa; Zourouna; Melbourne Scottish Fiddlers and more.

CresFest is all about the collective joy of music and dance. We want to offer as many opportunities as possible for you to perform, learn, meet new people and be a part of CresFest.

Cresfest Volunteers will be the backbone of Cresfest. They will facilitate a friendly atmosphere for three fabulous days. We are looking for more-or-less local people with a good knowledge of Creswick: enthusiastic, friendly, helpful people who will be an important ingredient of the fun festival atmosphere. We are grateful for your time, talent, passion, experience, knowledge and hard work, and we will take care of our volunteers. We won't be able to do it without you!

Volunteers will be checking tickets, supervising venues, doing a COVID clean (depending on what the regulations are in April), checking COVID vaccs certificates (ditto), helping members of the public find their way around town and the festival, and helping in many other ways.

Volunteers agree to carry out tasks of about 4 hours per day, in return for a Cresfest T-shirt, a Festival Pass which grants free access to many (but not all) events, one free ticket for a special event and a discounted price for any other ticket you buy.

If you are interested, please sign up online here: <https://www.cresfest.com.au/get-involved/volunteer>

CRESWICK HISTORY

Alexander Thomas (Tom) Evans AO, 1917–2019

Tom Evans was born at Mrs Tank's Private Hospital in Cambridge Street, Creswick in February 1917. He was named Alexander after Alexander Peacock, but his brothers called him Tom, the name by which he was always known.

Tom's father, Henry Phillip Evans, ran a general store at Allendale, but with the demise of mining, relocated to Smeaton in 1911. His mother was Effie Brawn whose family were miners locally, going back to 1854.

Tom attended Smeaton State School, before continuing his education at Ballarat High and attending night school at the SMB for Commercial subjects. On finishing school, he worked in the family store at Smeaton and then at Woolworths for three years.

Tom's two brothers joined the army during World War II and, his parents then being elderly, he returned to run the family store, which he did from 1940 until 1960. It was a good business and entailed interstate buying trips for young Tom.

Tom Evans became one of the major organisers in Smeaton, with many interests in the various sporting bodies of the district. He was responsible for the building of the Bowling Club at Smeaton and was its first President. He formed the Mt Prospect Tennis Association, bringing together the 10 or so Clubs in Creswick and District and becoming President of the new Club. Tom also reformed the Clunes Football League after the Second World War and ran the inaugural meeting, having invited the previous President and he then became Vice President, Secretary of the Smeaton Football Club and a playing delegate to the League. Tom played with Smeaton until about 1950.

Concerned about water supply problems, Tom applied directly to the Government for financial assistance towards construction. Smeaton obtained its water supply, and this later developed to supply reticulated water in the Creswick District to Newlyn, Kingston, Allendale, Springmount and Broomfield.

Tom's admiration of Alexander Peacock developed into an interest in politics and when he became frustrated with local issues in the mid-fifties, he stood for the Shire of Creswick, was elected and served from 1955 to 1962. In 1957 he was asked

to stand for the Liberal Party against Russ White, for the State Government seat of Creswick, but was beaten on preferences. At the declaration of the poll he asserted that he would return and did, being elected in 1960. He beat a City Councillor who was supported by Henry Bolte for the preselection. Bolte was not happy and Tom believed he was never forgiven.

They clashed again over the supply of natural gas, when Premier Bolte said the only city west of Melbourne to get the gas would be Geelong. Tom

argued successfully and Ballarat was added, and later Creswick. He had other disputes with Liberal Premiers Hamer and Thompson over replacing trains with buses, and over shopping hours but was able to use his strong local support and standing to put political pressure on his leaders to listen to regional voices on the matters.

Tom had resided in Ballarat but moved to Creswick in 1968. He had worked on many Ballarat development organisations, but now he concentrated more on the Creswick District, improving the rail passenger service and helping restore Anderson's Mill in Smeaton.



Another of Tom's achievements was his battle for accommodation for the elderly, the first step being the creation in Creswick of a block of housing commission units in Cambridge and Hill Streets. He was also involved with the formation of the Elderly Citizens Club.

In the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2008, Tom was awarded the Order of Australia for his service to the Parliament of Victoria. The medal was presented at the John Curtin Hostel in Creswick where Tom spent his latter years.

With respect to his political days, Tom said the secret of success was to listen to what the people wanted and what they said. He practiced this aspiration all of his life.

When he is spoken of in Creswick, and the District, he is always described as a man of the people who was always ready to listen and had time to attend to their problems, no matter on which side their politics lay. His personality and integrity were respected and are still spoken of today.

Tom Evans passed away on 30th August, 2009. He was a man of principal, virtue and ethics who dedicated his life to public service and the community, and as such finds his place on the Creswick Civic Honour Roll.

Information taken from Creswick Historical Society Honour Roll



Don't forget to book for our Christmas Leisurely Lunch at the Wallace Hotel on Saturday, 4 December!