

## From the Committee

Friday 24 June saw the opening of the Park Lake Art Show in the Neighbourhood Centre Hall.

As part of our community involvement Creswick U3A sponsored a prize for one of the works of art. The 12 pieces selected will be featured in a 2023 calendar which will be on sale later in the year. Our winner, much to our delight was one of our members, Russell Bowey.

The standard of entries was very high and being a judge would not have been an easy job with the mix of paintings, photography and handcrafts making it even harder. Several of our U3A members had entries underlining the talent there is among us.

Congratulations, Russell.



*Russell's winning entry "Misty Morning".*



*Bill presents Russell with his prize.*

## Christmas celebration

After a two-year hiatus we are having our Christmas break up this year. It will return to the Creswick Neighbourhood Centre and will move to the second Saturday in December to avoid conflicting with the market.

The date is Saturday 10 December. There will be no leisurely lunch on the first Saturday.

The menu for the Christmas lunch will include turkey, ham, roast potato, roast pumpkin, carrot, cauliflower and cheese sauce, peas, and bread rolls. Vegetarians can be catered for.

Dessert will be pavlova and Christmas pudding.

This will be a fully catered lunch and the cost is \$35. **Bring your own drinks and glass.**



## Valé Geoff Fiddian

It is with regret we acknowledge the passing of our Creswick History Tutor and former committee member, Geoff.

Geoff had a passion for all things Creswick and an encyclopaedic knowledge of music. A very early member, he was an enthusiastic supporter of the Heritage Fruit Group as were all of us who participated. His dry sense of humour and his willingness to share his knowledge he will be sorely missed. Our thoughts are with Geoff's family.

RIP, Geoff.

## Valé John Lawson

Unfortunately we have lost another very long term member in John Lawson. John had not enjoyed good health. However, throughout his membership he always presented a positive outlook on life. An avid card fan, Leisurely Lunch and Coffee and Current Affairs attendee, his smiling face will be remembered long after his passing. Our thoughts are with Marie and the family at this sad time.

RIP, John.

## Valé Earl Ingleby

Former member, tutor, committee member and webmaster. Earl was a renowned artist and sculptor. His life was very interesting having spent time overseas, particularly in Milan, studying art and artists. An example of his work is outside the Creswick Hub, carved from redgum. He initiated many art exhibitions around Creswick and was active in the Words in Winter event.

Some of you will remember the sculpture group he ran at the Neighbourhood Centre which resulted in the artwork in the garden. This was so popular we had to run it in two groups. He also ran the film group, and was a member of the computer club we ran in the early years. He was a foundation member of Creswick Railway Workshops and a very early member of our U3A.

We do not have the space to list all Earls achievements and he will be sorely missed.

RIP, Earl.

## Don't forget to claim your \$250 power saving bonus.

### How do I claim the \$250 Power Saving Bonus?

You need to register on the [Victorian Energy Compare website](#). Registration is open from now (1 July) with payments to follow shortly after.

The offer has been extended after the first initial allocation was exhausted.

## Keeping the Station clean

### The Creswick Railway Station does not have a cleaning service.

Could everyone who uses it, not just the tutors, please clean up after your group has finished.

Remove rubbish if the bag is full, sweep or vacuum the area and make sure the heater and urn are turned off. Keep the toilets clean for other users.

If you get a routine going this will only take a couple of minutes and make the venue more attractive to all users which is mainly U3A.

## How to access early treatment for COVID-19

### From Council On The Aging

**The Victorian Government advises that vaccination still provides the best protection against COVID-19. But if you do contract COVID, there is now treatment available that can prevent you from becoming seriously ill.**

Lagevrio and Paxlovid are antiviral tablets that are being used for early treatment against COVID-19. They need to be taken within the first five days of symptoms developing in order to be most effective. That's why it's important to get tested as soon as you start to develop symptoms – particularly if you are at a higher risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus. It is also worthwhile to discuss with your doctor ahead of time how you will access these medications if you need them.

Antivirals are now available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for people over 70. For people with two or more risk factors for severe disease, the age limit has been lowered to 50 (over



30 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders). This means you will pay as little as \$6.80 for one of these treatments if you have a concession card.

Risk factors that can increase your risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19 include:

- living in residential aged care
- living with disability with multiple conditions and/or frailty (but not limited to living in supported accommodation)
- neurological conditions like stroke or dementia and demyelinating conditions such as multiple sclerosis or Guillain-Barre Syndrome
- chronic respiratory conditions including COPD, moderate or severe asthma
- obesity or diabetes (type I or II requiring medication)
- heart failure, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies
- kidney failure or cirrhosis
- living remotely with reduced access to higher level healthcare.

You can't get Lagevrio and Paxlovid at the counter – you'll need a prescription from your GP, or a GP at a respiratory clinic. Please note that Paxlovid is not recommended for people with severe kidney or liver disease. You should talk to your GP about alternative treatments if you have either of these conditions.



## Combined Probus U3A trip Wednesday 14 September to Narrapumelap Historic Homestead

**Restoring a historic south-west property has been a labour of love for Kevin McIntyre.**

For the past 18 years he has spent weekends working on Wickliffe's Narrapumelap homestead, which was built in 1873 and is considered one of rural Victoria's finest examples of French gothic revival architecture. Its original owner, John Dixon Wyselaskie (1818-1883), was a successful pastoralist and philanthropist.



Mr McIntyre's parents bought Narrapumelap at a Melbourne auction in 1951 and today live in a more modest residence nearby. The homestead was badly damaged in the 1980s when vandals broke in and smashed its ornate fireplaces.

The trip cost is \$70 per person subject to fuel prices remaining no higher than they currently are. Morning tea at Lake Bolac, lunch (sandwiches and slices) at the property, and a tour of the house and garden are included. We are grateful to Probus for including us on this very interesting trip.

*Please note: when you register and pay if you cannot go it is your responsibility to find a replacement. We will do what we can to help but if a replacement cannot be found no refund is available. These trips are priced on break even, not profit.*



## Peter Johanssen, my Great-Grandfather



**Peter was born in Smythesdale, Victoria in 1862. His parents, Johann and Magdalena Johanssen (née Kniphals) arrived from Germany in 1855 and 1858 respectively, and married in Melbourne in the German Church in 1858.**

Peter's early life was in the Piggoreet and Smythesdale area. Aside from his Piggoreet school enrolment, I can find no further mention of him around this time other than on his younger siblings' birth records.

I discovered that his father, Johann, was involved in several gold mining ventures, was in business as Japp & Johanssen Builders in Piggoreet and later had his own business as John Johanssen Undertaker.

There is a period from about 1877-1886 where I can find no sure mention of Peter, until his marriage to Sabina Hale in Melbourne in 1886. At the time of his marriage he was living in Clifton Hill and working as a grocer's assistant, so it may be that he had come to Melbourne before that time. In the 1886 rate records I found an entry for a Peter Johanssen, labourer, who was working for a carrier in South Melbourne. I wonder if this was my great-grandfather. The birth records of his first three children show he lived in Burwood Road, Hawthorn and worked as a grocer. Rate records have enabled me to see that Peter's father had moved to Allendale by 1882 and that he and his older son Johann were working as cabinet makers. The following year they were owners of a store. Following his father's death in 1892, Peter returned with his family to live in Allendale.







*The Johannsen house in Allendale, Victoria [1903-1904].*

In rate records, I found that he went into the family business with his older brother, which became known as *Johannsen Bros, Carpenters*. They turned their hands to many things including carpentry, building and undertaking. Peter and his family resided in Allendale for many years.

I found many newspaper articles showing that during this time he held positions of office in a number of local organizations – including the Methodist Church (where he was a lay preacher and Sunday school teacher), the Allendale Relief Fund, IOOF and the Catholic Young Men’s Society. In 1918 he was involved with the running of ‘Our Boys Day’ which was a special effort for augmenting the

fund of the State War Council for the assistance of soldiers. He was clearly a civic-minded person! As these organizations held regular meetings, his life would have been a busy one (especially as he had seven children!).

By 1920, a number of Peter and Sabina’s adult children were living in Melbourne. An article from *The Argus* on 4 November 1920 mentions a farewell and presentation to Peter upon the impending move of the family to Preston. In 1922 the electoral roll shows that Peter and Sabina were living at the same address in Preston with two of their children. His brother Johann died in 1920 and I can find no mention of the family business after that time.



*Methodist Church and School, Allendale. [ca. 1908] H96.200/1628, Pictures Collection, State Library Victoria.*