

From the Committee

We are all looking forward to our activities recommencing and it is a reminder of just how valuable our tutors are. No U3A can exist without them and we are very lucky to have so many willing to share their knowledge.

Thanks also to the committee for their efforts in steering our organisation to the success we are. There are a number of new activities available details for which are on the website. If you have an idea for an activity whether it be a short course or ongoing contact Anne and she will help you put it together.

Our January enrolment meeting was a wonderful occasion with over 40 members attending and enjoying a chat with each other. A big vote of thanks to the cooks John Bunn and President Doug for the cooking of the delicious sausages.

Our Christmas Celebration was as usual a super day, the weather was very kind and good food with good company is always a winner. We have already booked the caterers for this year.

Congratulations to member Margaret Giles for her nomination as Hepburn Shire Citizen of the Year, a great honour.

Australia's first U3A began in Melbourne in 1984 and Victoria now has 104 U3As with over 30,000 members. These are based in metropolitan, regional and rural areas, and follow the

British self-help model of teaching and learning over a wide range of subject areas, dependent upon the membership's expertise, knowledge and skills.

U3As in New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory, South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia have formed state networks to support the U3As in their state or territory with a range of resources. Each Network has its website from which local U3As can be located.

Creswick & District U3A was formed in April 2009 and has been an outstanding success since its inception. We have been responsible for many innovative classes such as 'Heritage Fruit' which was the only such class in Victoria, we were the first in country Victoria to run 'Back in the Game', and among our first courses were Indigenous History, run by Dr John Morris, Creswick History, Australian Movies, Leisurely Lunches and Meditation, all commenced then and continue today.

We owe a lot to those who had the foresight to form Creswick & District U3A and will be eternally grateful for their pioneering our success.

The committee hope you enjoy your activities throughout 2023.

Right: Our Christmas celebrations under the oak trees at the Community Centre.



Start the conversation on ageing well

Melbourne Convention Centre 11-12
February 2023

The Expo is open 9.30am - 4.00pm both days.



Whether you are preparing for the future or caring for a loved one, the **Care & Ageing Well Expo** is the perfect place to start, showcasing the products, services, information and education available to assist you in the decision making process.

Over 55s are invited and encouraged to discover the services available to them, with the Expo showcasing comprehensive living solutions for older Australians and features speakers with a wealth of knowledge and advice for getting the most out of your later years.

Hear from experts across a wide range of aged care topics such as ageing well, home care planning, caring for those with dementia and more. The Lifestyle Stage will provide a continuous stream of information from industry experts.

The Uniting AgeWell Chat Lounge is another great source of information, with a focus on ageing well, staying healthy and consultations with health professionals. Both stages allow guests to ask questions and discuss further with the speaker after their presentation at the adjacent Q&A booth.

With over 80 aged care exhibitors, the types will include Residential Care, Home Care, Retirement Living, Equipment, Service Providers, Health Care, Legal and Financial, Medical, Consultants, Technology and Support Groups.

In the centre of the Expo is the Retreat, a lounge area to relax and regroup over a coffee or a bite to eat from the pop-up café with friends or colleagues.

Use the comfortable seating to reflect on the great source of information and plan out what's next!

The expo is free to attend, however we recommend pre registering online before the Expo to receive updates and make entry more streamlined.

<https://www.careandageingexpo.com.au/melbourne>

The types of exhibitors will include:

- Residential care facilities
- Vulnerable care groups
- Equipment providers
- Service providers
- Allied health providers (physiotherapists, counsellors etc)
- Financial and superfunds
- Medical
- Consultants
- Technology
- Support groups
- Home care providers
- Retirement living providers



"Well, if I'm lucky, I should be able to get off this thing in about six more weeks."

Chinese of the district

Source: Creswick Cemetery History

Almost from the beginning of gold mining in Creswick, Chinese were prolific in the town. Overnight the Chinese population rose from around 500 to over 4,000 at the height of mining in the district.

The following is an extract from J. A. Graham's "Early Creswick" pages 61, 62, & 63. John Alexander Graham was born in Creswick. He grew up not far from the Chinese Camp and was able to write about it first hand.

By the end of the 1850's the Chinese camp was established on the Black Lead. This "China Town" resembled a tiny section of the ancient Celestial Empire transplanted into the New Eldorado. There the denizens of this unique village conducted their fan tan shops, which were crowded with gamblers counting out the Chinese coins and chattering in their native tongue, almost obscured by tobacco smoke. In small bunks clamped to the walls lay opium smokers leisurely drawing in the fumes which wafted them to the realms of morpheus.



Monument erected in April 2010 to commemorate the Chinese in Creswick.



Valé Frank Walsh

Frank was member No. 49 and loved his U3A activities. He was an avid Card Player, Dancer, Croquet player, (Kate tells me he invented the back shot). film viewer and loved our BBQ. He was a popular member and everyone who knew him will have a story to tell.

He loved his cars and this photo was taken on his 85th birthday which was held at the Commercial Hotel in Kingston where the owner took him for a drive in the car they use for weddings. Frank had a Chevrolet hearse probably from the 1970s and owned by Verey's funerals as his last mode of transport.

Frank will be missed by those of us who were lucky enough to spend time with him and his family.

RIP Frank.



In the business street individuals walked in single file, resembling a caterpillar, talking to others in the line without turning to address them.

Their hair hung in long plaits which were lengthened by the addition of black braid and were designated “pigtails” the loss of which was a stigma greatly dreaded by John Chinaman.

Joss Houses were in close proximity, where sinners and saints beseeched the mercy or blessing of their idols.

Some of the inhabitants of China Town were to be seen heavily laden with baskets swung by ropes from the ends of bamboo poles. The load was balanced either on one shoulder fore and aft or beamwise across the backs of both shoulders. The bearers moved with the characteristic rhythmical trot of the Chinese, and their stamina was a continual source of wonder to Europeans. Many wore the broad brimmed, parasol shaped, cane hats and were often seen carrying a bottle of gin suspended on a strip of wire or string. A few of the more affluent were attired in navy blue silk pantaloons and braided jackets, with heelless shoes turned up at the toes.

Funerals were of great interest to the boys and girls of Creswick. Two Chinamen usually sat with the driver of the hearse and scattered to the winds slips of sand coloured paper extensively perforated. These slips the boys believed, were intended to hold the evil spirits in subjection and frighten away the devil.

The feeding of the dead was an elaborate ceremony. Roast pigs, puddings, oranges, cumquots, fychang toffee and strange concoctions were placed on the graves; quantities of coarse blotting paper were burnt in a brick furnace; hundreds of tallow candles painted pink, with strips of cane inserted into them, were placed in the ground and lighted. It was the invariable experience that the dead were not hungry, as they made no appearance, and the good things were transported to China Town, where a feast for the living was joyously celebrated.

The Chinese were expert gardeners, and supplied the community with vegetables. They were industrious, honest, generous, and law abiding. In the course of time their number dwindled, until only a remnant was left.” The last Chinaman “Bobby” passed away in 1923, until his death he lived at the Black Lead just above the Swimming Pool.

To Remember the large part the Chinese played in the history of Creswick, the Creswick Cemetery Trust and the Chinese Memorial Foundation Inc., have combined to erect a monument in the Cemetery to

remember all of those Chinese who lived and died in Creswick. November 2010 another memorial was erected with the names of the Chinese who are buried in Compartment 6 at the cemetery.

Editors Note: Black lead is now Calembeen Park.

The Year of the Rabbit



This Year of the Rabbit, welcomed in on January 22, is said to symbolise longevity, peace, and prosperity. There are two

different systems used to introduce the Year of the Rabbit — the lunar calendar which begins on January 22 and the solar calendar which begins on February 4. The lunar calendar is based on the annual cycle and movements of the moon, while the solar calendar is based on sun, and is divided into 24 solar terms. The Lunar New Year of the Rabbit begins 14 days ahead of the Solar New Year, which is also called the Start of Spring. Ancient Chinese art forms also use other calendars and systems to record and divide the year. They are less common, but some are still used today.

This Lunar Year of the Rabbit is particularly special because it’s a leap year with a rare two February’s and 13 months, instead of 12 — it makes the year unusually long at 384 days. Because the Year of the Rabbit is so long, it includes two Solar New Years — one on February 4, 2023 and the other on February 4, 2024.

This is a phenomenon known as the “double springs”, with the next not scheduled to occur for more than 1,000 years.

Source: ABC News Sydney.

U3A Membership Policy

When a member pays the required membership subscriptions they become a member of Creswick & District U3A and must follow the Terms and Conditions of membership. Listed below are some of these conditions. The complete list of Conditions and Policies is available on the [website](#).

1. Always act in the best interests of the U3A and never do anything to bring the U3A into disrepute.
2. Abide by the terms and conditions of the constitution.
3. Treat fellow members with respect and courtesy at all times.
4. Comply with and support the decisions of the elected Committee.