

From the Committee

As we approach winter the importance of warm and dry venues is accentuated it is easy to stay home but it is healthier mentally and physically to get out and mix.

Ever wondered if you could write poetry? Maybe you wrote poetry in a previous life and would like to start again?

Marian Chivers is offering a new short course starting Tuesday 16 July running for five weeks, 2.00pm to 3.30pm.

Enrol now and come along and explore your poetic possibilities in a supportive group. The group will look at forms of poetry, rhyming and non-rhyming, what is poetry and more.

New Residents

Saturday 25 May saw the new residents meeting which was held at the Senior Citizens Hall. There were 15 new residents in attendance which indicates how Creswick is growing. Our U3A have run these meetings in conjunction with the Creswick Railway workshops for several years.

U3A Online.

Have you thought about U3A online? You can join as an individual member or, as our U3A is a member, if you wish to use the material as the basis for either a short or long course we can arrange this. Anne is the contact.

There are far too many courses to list here and new courses are being added regularly. They cover World Affairs and History, Nature, Writing and Creativity, Lifestyle, Science and a number of short courses. To get access to the material you must be a member of a U3A which is also a member of U3A online.

If you wish to undertake a course with U3A Online, as an Individual person, you need to first become a member of U3A Online.

This costs \$35AUS per year from the date you join, and once a member you are able to enrol in as many courses as you wish, as Independent study,

without further cost, throughout your membership period. If you want to do a course with a Course Leader (when they are available) then you need to pay an additional \$5.00 for that course.



You can also participate in the social forums in the Members' Lounge and other member based online activities.

www.u3aonline.org.au

Valé Roma Wiseman

It is with deep regret and sadness we announce the passing of Roma Wiseman. Roma joined us in our first year and was member number 56. She was one of our first tutors and her subject was ancient history. She was a regular at leisurely lunches and the wine group. In July last year Roma celebrated her 90th birthday early as she did not think she would make it [unfortunately she was right]. Pictured with Roma is the drag queen who provided the entertainment for the day.

There were many stories of Roma's adventures and the song she chose to be her theme was *I Did It My Way*. Never was a song more appropriate as she certainly did. RIP Roma.



Interested in the History of Creswick?

Do you know we have an active group exploring our local history?

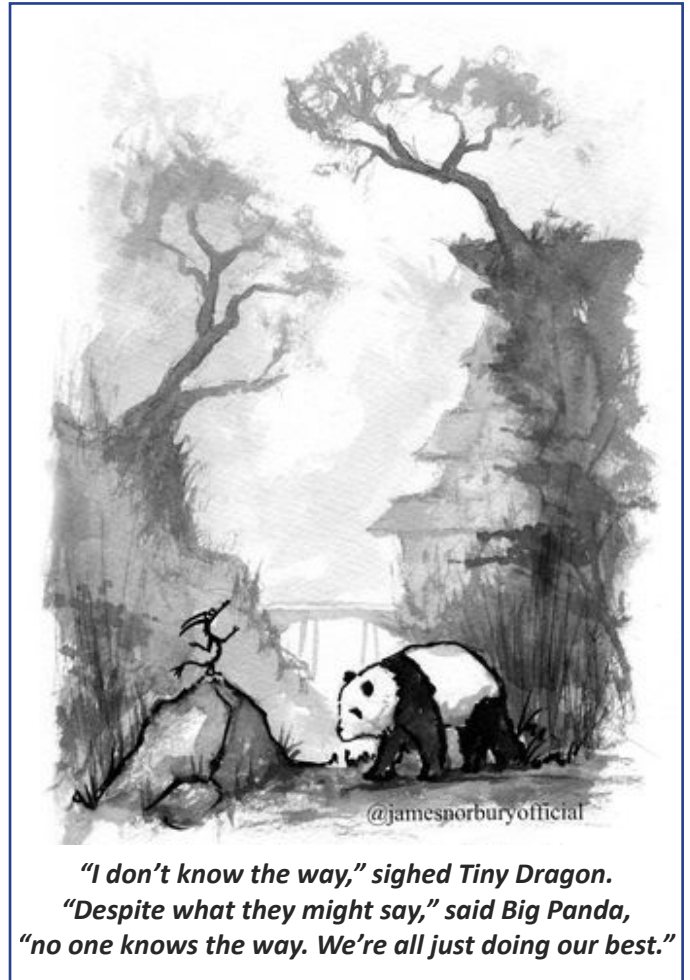
It meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday at the old railway station between 10.00 am and 12.00 pm.

This is an opportunity to get to know more about where we live and to challenge some of the myths.

Maybe Canasta is more your style

Canasta (/kə'næstə/; Spanish for 'basket') is a card game of the rummy family of games believed to be a variant of 500 Rum. Although many variations exist for two, three, five or six players, it is most commonly played by four in two partnerships with two standard decks of cards. Players attempt to make melds of seven cards of the same rank and 'go out' by playing all cards in their hand. It is the only partnership member of the family of Rummy games to achieve the status of a classic.

Our Canasta group meets every Friday at 10.30 am at the old railway station. There is a YouTube video *How to play canasta for beginners* which explains the game and its strategies.



BREAKING

HOW TO KNOW IF YOUR PANTS ARE ON FIRE

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Book Review

Recently I have been reading a book called **SLUDGE** written by Susan Lawrence, Professor of Archaeology at Latrobe University, and Peter Davies research fellow in Archaeology at Latrobe University. The book is published by Latrobe University Press. The book focuses on the filthy residue of mining and how it transformed the land. I thought this item about Creswick would be of interest to members.

The town's central business district runs along Albert Street, down the hill, and at the bottom, on the flats where the Midland Highway turns off to Daylesford and Castlemaine, the main road parallels Creswick Creek for several kilometres. Today this is where flooding occurs. In big storms like those of spring and summer Of 2010–2011 the creek floods the entire area, causing millions of dollars of damages to homes and businesses.

Though the flats were the heart of the local diggings back in the 1850s, Creswick Creek was not the problem. The real issue was a tributary running down the hill behind Albert Street – an apparently innocuous little creek that carried waste from major diggings further up the hill at Nuggety Gully.

The creek crossed Albert Street halfway down the hill and joined Creswick Creek in the middle of the flats, where the roundabout with the Midland Highway is today. Before it got there it dumped all its sludge in the heart of the Albert Street shopping district and everyone was furious. Albert Street shopkeepers petitioned to local council 'owing to the accumulation of sludge [the street] is impassable'. To avoid the sludge, passers-by were crossing to the far side of the street and it was bad for business.

All through the winter of 1859 the council debated the sludge question. In the end they obtained a grant from the Public Works Office in Melbourne and used the Summer months to start building a sludge channel. The new channel was completed just in time for the next onslaught of winter rains- and hence sludge.

The creek was diverted so that it avoided the centre of town, and then rejoined the Creswick Creek further downstream. Alas while shoppers could cross the street in comfort, it created new problems down on the flats.

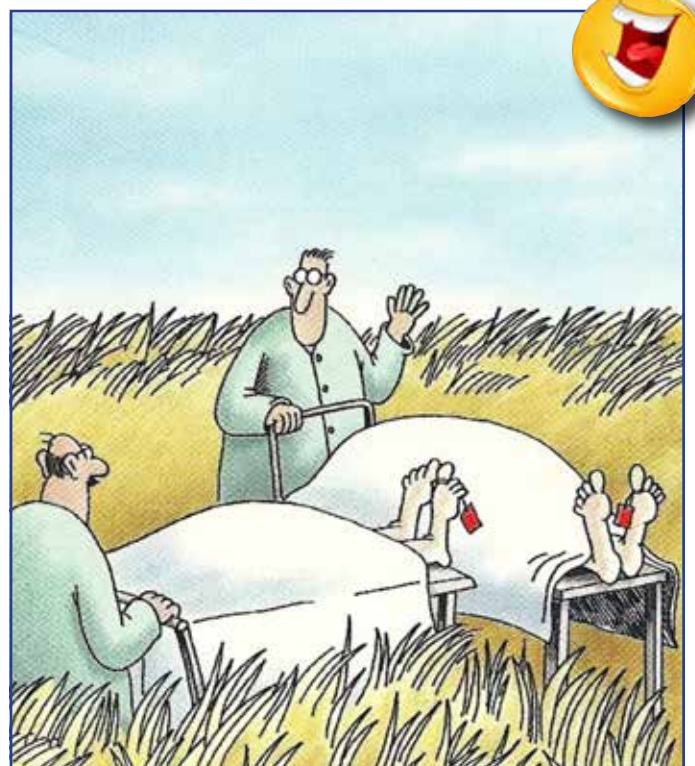
Now the sludge went directly through the Chinese camp at Black Lead, becoming a nuisance to



Creswick flood pictured in *The Courier*, 15 January 2011 and not part of the book.

Chinese shopkeepers and residents. Community leaders, including several European women married to Chinese men, organised their own petitions, demanding several times during the late 1860s and early 1870s that council clear the channel and improve the footbridges. They pointed out that they too 'promptly and cheerfully pay such rates as are from time to time imposed' and should be 'on a footing with our European brother burgesses'.

More work was done over the following years and Creswick's sludge channel is now as impressive as anywhere else's. Its drains and culverts, all solidly built in bluestone, are evidence in masonry of just how serious a problem sludge once was.



When a body meets a body comin' through the rye.

The history of Creswick Primary School No. 122

- 1854** Creswick opened as a national school and was called Creswick Creek National School.
- 1873** A site was chosen for a new state school.
- 1874** The new state school building opened and the students from the national school moved to the new school. The head teacher was A. Stewart. He was assisted by Peter Harrington and his wife.
- 1880** Night school opened.
- 1908** Domestic arts (sewing and cooking) and woodwork rooms opened at Creswick. Students from other schools came to Creswick for lessons in these subjects.
- 1940** After 1940, the sewing, cooking and woodwork rooms were closed. They were later used for art and craft, films, TV, sport and assembly.
- 1970** The school was renamed Creswick Primary School.
- 2004** Creswick Primary School celebrated 150 years.

Source: Victorian Government.



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.