



From the Committee

All of our activities are now well underway and running smoothly, we are so grateful to our tutors for their contribution to the success of our U3A.

Unfortunately Kevan Pitcher has had to resign from committee due to ill health. Kevan has made a significant contribution with his always balanced, caring observations on committee matters. We wish Kevan all the best for his recovery.

A quotation from Dame Jane Goodall fits Kevan to a tee it is "What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make".

We wish you all a Happy Easter and as the weather cools it is an opportunity to have a look at our offerings and those of U3A Online. Take the opportunity to get out in a warm welcoming and caring environment with your friends.

Drawing for Beginners

The pencil touches the paper.
Lead freed from the wooden cylinder
marks the pristine surface,
wanders across the page,
sweeps in lines.
6B presses heavily, black, blackest,
pressure easing, sweeps the point
sideways.
Textures appear by magic
or design.
Tones of grey.
Slim 2B draws straight lines,
becoming fainter
then meander off the page.
Freeing my fingers from my mind
let's see what can appear
when you let the lead flow.

Marian Chivers – 11/03/2024

Thank you Marian we always appreciate original contributions from our members.

LOCAL HISTORY

Creswick Cemetery

Old & New

On 7 November 1856 Alexander Lewers wrote to the Colonial Secretary asking how to establish a Cemetery in the township...

"Previous to the survey of this town the diggers and the residents buried their dead on a piece of ground within two hundred yards of the township boundary and which ground has since proved to be on a lead of gold... the crowded state of the small plot of ground used as a burial ground at present makes it dangerous in the highest degree."

This would mean that the local residents of Creswick were probably burying their dead at this site as early as 1852. More research will need to be done to determine this as fact. It also means that the Old Cemetery which was near the Black Lead, now known as Calembeen Park, was never a gazetted cemetery and therefore a proper register was probably never done.

In March 1858 Alexander Lewers, Aenaes Ross McLeod, John Thomas Jebb, Jeremiah Coffey and Gilbert Amos were appointed as trustees of ground set apart at Creswick as a site for a general cemetery, this being off the Clunes road at North Creswick.

It was not until 20 December 1858 that the first burial took place, two-year-old John James Bunyan.

In March 1858 the Clunes Road cemetery was originally gazetted being 20 acres in size. On 12 March 1869 an area of 25 acres, one rood, 33 perches was temporarily reserved and gazetted. This gave the cemetery a further one rood, 33 perches.

In August 1869 improvements to the cemetery meant a substantial iron rail fence with a blue stone basement was erected along the south side with the original gates being moved down to the new fence.



A sexton's cottage was built in the cemetery in 1860 with an underground tank also being erected behind the cottage as the town water did not go as far as the cemetery at that time.

The long driveway has seen many changes over the years, It was originally planted with trees to form an avenue and after 1900 this was changed to lovely gardens the full length of the driveway.

In 1909 a permanent memorial was erected in the centre of the cemetery to remember those who perished in the Australasian Mine Disaster of 1882. Of the 22 miners that died on that fateful day 19 are buried at Creswick, two in the Old Ballarat Cemetery and one in the New Ballarat Cemetery.

As times changed so to did the facilities at the Cemetery. A Memorial wall for ashes was built in 1963 and extended in 1986. This in turn was also changed with a rotunda being built closer to the front of the cemetery and 7 walls erected to hold the existing ashes and many more.

In 2010 a rose garden for ashes was established behind Lawn C with 45 plots. This has been extended with a second row of roses and 88 plots. This area has a lovely gravel path winding from the gate between the roses and up to the rotunda.

In 1965 the lawn section was planned and over the next four years a water supply, paths and plinths for headstones were provided with the first burial in this section in 1969. The lawn section now consists of Lawns A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I and J.

In 1953 30 graves were set aside for returned servicemen which were dedicated in December of that year. In 2015 to commemorate the centenary of WWI all cemeteries in Victoria were presented with a lone pine tree; ours is near the Soldiers' graves and in 2017 this area was extended with a further 30 graves. In 2018 a flag pole, seats and monument with the "Ode" were installed to beautify the area.

The first sexton of the New Cemetery in 1858 was Mr. Benjamin White until his death; his son then became sexton until 1886 when Mr. Robert Wall Jnr., took that role with a annual income of £120, with residence. His duties included keeping the grounds in good order and the whole of his time was to be given to his duties as sexton. With seven sexton's since 1922 the last official sexton was Mr. A. Ellis who resigned his position in 1956. The sexton's house was let out from 1955 until June 1969 when it was advertised for demolition or removal.

The cemetery has been run by trustees since 1858, all of whom have been volunteers until their death or resignation. Since 1995 all new trustees are gazetted for five year terms.

There have been over 12,600 burials in the new cemetery since December 20, 1858.

Although the first registered burial at Creswick Cemetery is that of John James Bunyan in December 1858, on walking around the cemetery you will find some headstones with dates earlier than this. These people were possibly buried at the original burial ground in Drummond Street, but could have been buried at the Clunes Road site. We have records showing that some of these people were exhumed and reburied at the new cemetery, but it is quite possible that others were also moved at some time but not written up in the records. We have endeavoured to find the official resting place of all those buried at the cemetery, but unfortunately some records were not complete, so we do have some people listed that we don't know their exact plot number.

The photograph to the below is of the first burial at the Cemetery, Margaret ,Thomas Bunyan and John Thomas Bunyan were all born and died elsewhere , but they are recorded on the family headstone. Methodist section row 2 plot 247 and 248.



U3A & Probus bus trip

On the 13 March, Creswick Probus along with members of U3A Creswick & District enjoyed a trip to the Werribee Zoo and Rose Garden.

After morning tea, we visited the Victoria State Rose Garden which is managed by Parks Victoria and supported by many volunteers who help with the maintenance of the 5000 beautiful roses. This garden was awarded the International Garden of Excellence by the World Federation of Rose Societies in 2003.

After lunch we strolled around the exhibits of animals before boarding the Safari Tour by open train with a commentary of all the animals. We saw rhinos, giraffes, zebras, ostriches, bison, camels and antelopes.

Thank you to Trace for her wonderful information and safe driving. Thank you also to Barbara for arranging a very enjoyable day.

Glenda Dimond

**My good friend David lost his ID.
Now he is just Dav.**



The Pearly Gates Retirement Village

Our Motto: Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you!

These are some of the main points in the prospectus issued by the 'Pearly Gates Retirement Village' to those seeking to take up their offer of permanent (or temporary) residence.

- **Ownership:** The 'Pearly Gates Retirement Village' is a holy-owned subsidiary of Great Original Divinity Pty Ltd.
- **What we offer:** We have many designs to suit the requirements of every applicant, from tiny homes up to full mansions, all set in beautiful, fully-landscaped grounds – a veritable 'Garden of Eden'.
- **Activities:** If you love golf, we have courses tailored to your exact needs. Love playing card games? Every game you enjoy is available whenever you wish to play. Swimming? Our indoor and outdoor pools are the perfect temperature all-year-round. Table tennis? We have perfect lighting!
- **Sounds Heavenly?** That's because it is!
- **Visitors:** Unfortunately, as this is a 'gated' community you will not be able to receive visitors. However, you are encouraged to contact friends and loved-ones at any time, just not face-to-face.
- **Who may apply:** This offer is available to anyone who is willing to pay the price of admission. We encourage applicants from all races, colours, religions and sexual persuasions. All are welcome, and no-one will be refused admission.

Further details: Please email stpeter@PGRV.god

Russell Bowey

**My wife asked me why I spoke so softly
in the house.**

**I said I was afraid Mark Zuckerberg
was listening!**

She laughed.

I laughed.

Alexa laughed.

Siri laughed.



U3A Online courses

U3A online now has a number of new courses you can do them individually, use them as course notes to run a course or get together with a few like minded members and study together.

Some courses have a leader to help with your study. Remember if you study together in a private home our insurance covers you against damage. Contact Anne if you are interested.

Their website is www.u3aonline.org.au Click on any course you are interested in and it will give a synopsis and tell you if it has a leader. Here is a list of what is available.

- Banjo Paterson a study of his works life and times
- A history of Ancient Egypt
- A selection of Australian Poetry
- Afghanistan
- Ageing and Retirement
- Antarctica
- Anunnaki
- Armchair Traveller-Yorkshire
- Armchair Traveller-Norfolk Island
- Astronomy
- Australian Flora
- Australian History 1 –Prior to Federation
- Australian History 2 –Post Federation
- Autobiography and Journaling
- Basic English Grammar
- Big Bang Event
- Botany: the study of plants for enjoyment
- British Society in the early 18th century Britain
- China in Transition from Mao to now
- Classification of Stars Part 1
- Classification of Stars Part 2
- Climate Change
- Colours in our Life

- Continents on the Move
- Cyber Security
- Different Worlds– Different Geometries Part 1
- Different Worlds– Different Geometries Part 2
- Domestic History
- Droving and Herding around the World
- English Poetry from Chaucer to Ted Hughes
- Feared Diseases in History
- Food for Thought
- Genealogy Online
- Henry Lawson a Study of His Life, Work and Times
- History of Castles
- History of Education
- History of Espionage 1, 2 3, and 4
- History of Marriage
- Human Biology
- Introducing Fractals and Chaos
- Introduction to the Sun
- Introduction to Western Philosophy
- Joan of Arc
- Kings and Queens of England
- Right Left or Centre a Brief introduction to Political Ideologies
- Life Cycle of a Star Part A
- Maintaining Independence
- Modern Science parts 1-5
- My Life Story
- Myths and Legends
- Online Latin
- Improving Your Camera Skills
- Picnic at Hanging Rock a Film and Novel short course
- Play Ukulele by Ear
- Practical Psychology for Relationships
- Property to Partner—A history of Womens Struggle for Equality
- Recent Philosophers
- Religions of the World
- Renaissance Italy
- Resources for the Future—Renewable and Non Polluting
- Shakespeare – Rediscovering the Bard.

- Shakespeare's Histories
- Skills for using the media
- Story Telling With Pictures
- The Battle for Australia 1942-1943
- The Dinosaurs
- The Evolution of Life on Planet Earth
- The Floating Pagodas of Thailand
- The Great Transformation
- The History and Spread of the English Language
- The History of Mystery
- The Night Sky
- The Night Witches
- The Northern Sky
- The Romans
- The Shakespearean Cannon Mystery
- The Shaping of the Modern Mind
- The Short Story in Literature
- The Story of Science Parts 1-4
- Thoreau, Emerson and the Conduct of Life
- Towards Utopia
- Train Your Brain
- Unleashing Your Creative Spirit
- What is Wisdom
- Writing Family History
- Writing For Pleasure

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.