

From the Committee

What an inspiration was John Moloney, our guest speaker at the AGM. There were quite a few not so dry eyes as he told this story.

Following a dedicated career as a cherished Ballarat police officer, John Moloney easily could have retired from a life of helping others. He just wasn't quite done yet.

Cops 'N' Kids was founded in 1995 to support children affected by cancer — the objective simple — to provide kids with a fun camp experience in a friendly and safe environment while allowing the families of seriously ill children respite from everyday anxieties and caring responsibilities.

The camp has developed from one per year for 16 children to now providing two camps per year; one in November for over 60 children and another in February specifically for Ballarat and district families.

Over four days, John's camps offer rides in police cars, helicopters, light airplanes, trucks, cars and motorbikes, as well as jumping castles, face painting, a mobile zoo, craft activities and music. Campers also enjoy a visit to the Sebastopol Fire Brigade, indoor playgrounds, gymnastics, movies, a visit to Sovereign Hill, the AURA sound and light show and a trip to Lake Wendouree.



"Whether it's supplying accommodation, entertainment or food or by volunteering to assist over the 4 days, it all contributes to putting a smile on the face of sick children," John said.

"After successfully running our first nine camps in Ballarat, we noticed an increasing number of children from the local community attending and an idea formed," John said.

What about a camp just for our local children affected by cancer and other life-threatening diseases and perhaps even those who had dealings with the police through tragic circumstances.



Valé

Andrew Cossenias



Andrew was member number 59 and a very valuable part of our group. He and Helen

played a major role in our development. In the early days, they hosted groups in their home. Andrew also initiated our popular card games. Together, Andrew and Helen ran the

Leisurely Lunches for a long period, and Andrew led Coffee and Current Affairs. In addition, he was a former committee member and treasurer. His contribution will live on. Thank you, Andrew.

Our condolences to Helen.

Robin Philip

Robin was the partner of our Secretary, Anne Chamberlain, and our



thoughts are with her during this difficult time. Robin led our Motor Cycle Group and, as a talented photographer, generously shared his expertise by teaching black and white photography. He was also a skilled plumber, and the work he did in transforming their home truly showcased his abilities. More than anything, Robin was a gentle and wise presence whose thoughtful advice was always valued. He will be greatly missed.

From the Committee continued...

Upcoming Event

Our **Christmas Break up** will be held on **6 December** at the Creswick Neighbourhood Centre as usual. Mark your calendar now as this is an unmissable event.

New membership system

U3A Network Victoria is adopting a new membership system, which is expected to be adopted by all U3As in Victoria. You will not notice much difference, except for the need to create a new password. Eventually, our website will also change to accommodate the new system. We will keep you updated when you need to do anything, and help is always available. Your membership number will remain the same.

Currently, there are two different systems in Victoria, and this system combines the advantages of each without too much disruption to either system. Having a single system will allow for a bit more consistency across the network while protecting the privacy of all members with increased security.

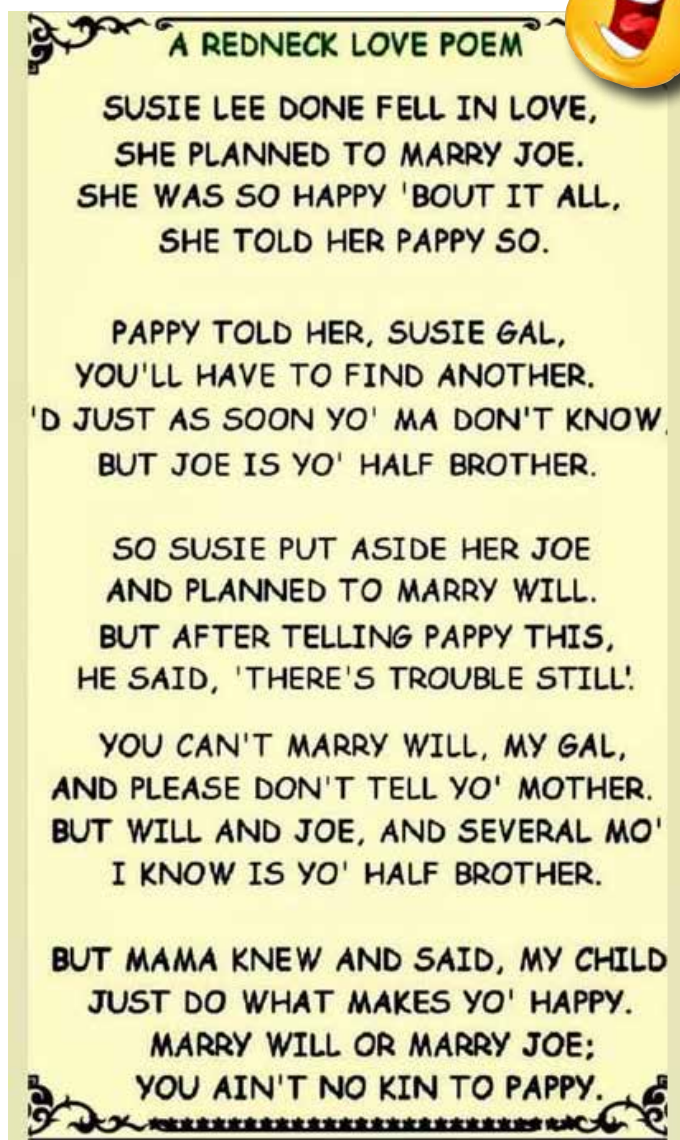
New Committee

Our AGM also welcomed the election of a new committee to guide us in 2025-2026.

President: Doug McCallum; Vice President: Bill Morrison; Secretary: Anne Chamberlain; and Treasurer: John Pigott. Ordinary Members are: Geoff McQueen, Colleen Dooley, Elaine Clark, Paula Duncan and Judith Reiniets.



"Grandpa, did you buy those pants when you were a lot taller?"



Although never achieving the fame of Tarzan, his African counterpart, Larry of the Lemurs was a common sight to natives of Madagascar.

Dinosaur World



Dinosaur World (also known as World of Dinosaurs) was a theme park located 1.5km east off the Midland Highway, outside Creswick. Only 4 hectares (10 acres) in size, it included around 20 life-size dinosaur models, a museum, playground and barbecue area.

Dinosaur World was opened in 1982 by Stephanie and Bill Myers, who built the first fibreglass models himself. They later sold it to the local

Plunkett family. The park was a success and described as a “Creswick tourism icon” by *The Courier*, attracting 30,000 annual visitors during the 1990s.

However, it was sold in 2000 and closed by the new owner in 2002 because she could not afford the cost of liability insurance.

Dinosaur World was situated on 7.3 hectares (18 acres) of natural bushland. Dinosaur World initially charged \$1.50 for adult admission and 60c for children. It included life-size dinosaur models, a museum, and playground and barbecue areas. The park was open daily from 9:30am–5:00pm, except on Christmas Day.

Bill and Stephanie Myers immigrated to Australia with their three sons in the mid-1950s, where Myers worked in textiles. He was inspired by a dinosaur theme park in Queensland and, despite many rejections for bank loans and scepticism from his wife, began building fibreglass dinosaur models in his garage. The family lived onsite in their house was situated above the kiosk.



Bill and Stephanie Myers at their World of Dinosaurs theme park.
(Supplied: Tim Myers)

DINOSAUR WORLD
A GREAT FAMILY DAY OUT!
 • 20 Life Size Dinosaurs • Activity Room
 • Picnic Area (inc.BBQ's) • Huge Playground
 • Fossil Museum • Native Wildlife
MIDLAND HWY, CRESWICK. VIC.
PH: 03 5345 2676
FAX: 03 5345 2598
 Open 10.00-5.00 Every Day (except Wed. & X-mas Day)
 7 Days during school holidays

Dinosaur World was a successful tourist attraction for Creswick, as visiting Gold Coast theme parks was not feasible for many families.

After the Myers retired in the late 1980s, they sold it to the local Plunkett family who also worked in the tourism industry. The Plunketts began manufacturing new dinosaurs—the largest of which was a 70 ft (21 m) long brontosaurus—and there were 25 dinosaurs by the late 1990s. Public imagination of the tyrannosaurus shifted after the first two Jurassic Park films; a second head was created for promotional purposes as the first was too “egg-shaped”.

Despite their success the Plunketts sold the park in 2000 because of how much time operating it took up. Creswick then had few other family attractions, and Dinosaur World drew many people to the area; it was recommended to families by *The Age* and the *Herald Sun*.

In June 2002, new owner Keah Otto closed Dinosaur World. She said there were many reasons for the closure, mainly that she could not afford the cost of liability insurance and WorkCover. She also said that it was “terribly run



down” when she bought it. Only a shed and the tyrannosaurus model remained at the original site.

David Plunkett said he was sad the park had closed and believed it would still be popular today if it had remained open.

When Tim Myers put out a call on social media asking for photos of regional Victoria’s World of Dinosaurs theme park, he was swamped. “I got inundated with people sending photos,” he said.

A volcano of nostalgia erupted over a carefree time in the 1980s and ‘90s when a weekend picnic looking at large motionless dinosaurs was a big day out.

“Bringing up those happy memories of what we used to do in the ‘80s, being a kid back then, people missed it,” Mr Myers said.



Photo By Sliat 1981 at en.wikipedia



A photo supplied to Tim Myers after his social media call-out for photos and information about the World of Dinosaurs theme park in Creswick.



Collecting lots of plants is not hoarding.

It is Hoardiculture which is an entirely different thing.



Thunderstorm asthma warning



Melbourne experienced the world's largest epidemic thunderstorm asthma event on 21 November 2016, with thousands of people developing breathing difficulties in a very short period of time. Our U3A partners with the Department of Health in issuing this warning for what can be a life-threatening situation.

During grass pollen season (1 October- 31 December) people may experience an increase in asthma and/or hay fever symptoms. Grass pollen season also brings the chance of epidemic [thunderstorm asthma](#).

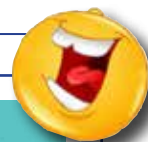
Epidemic thunderstorm asthma is thought to be triggered by a unique combination of high amounts of grass pollen in the air and a certain type of thunderstorm.

For people with asthma or hay fever, especially those who experience wheezing or coughing with their hay fever, thunderstorm asthma can be sudden, serious and even life threatening.

The **epidemic thunderstorm asthma risk forecast** will be issued throughout the grass pollen season from 1 October to 31 December.

To access the epidemic thunderstorm asthma risk forecast and receive up-to-date epidemic thunderstorm asthma advice and warnings during the season, visit the:

- [VicEmergency website](#) or download the app and consider setting up a 'watch zone' for your area
- [Health.vic](#) website
- [Melbourne Pollen website](#) or app



"We'll have to eat in the kitchen. Your dinner's stuck to the stove."



"Why don't you listen? I said, 'Send over a can of glue.'"

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.