



*Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year from the Committee*

Our year ends on 31st December and fees are then due. We are holding our renewal meeting 10.00am - 12.00pm Thursday January 8 in the RSL hall.

Call in to pay your fees and have a cuppa and a chat, electronic banking will be available.

You can also book in for your chosen courses. You can pay online BSB 633-000 A/C 137-271-003

The account name is Creswick U3A and please make sure you put your name in the reference section so that we know who is paying. There are no changes to the membership fees of \$30.00 per annum.

Thank you all for your support over the last 12 months and we look forward to seeing you in 2026. Have a safe and healthy Christmas with friends and family and rest up for another busy year.

Another trip down memory lane, this time to the Tangled Maze...



From Qantas Amazing Australia

The Tangled Maze at Creswick near Ballarat in Victoria is unlike most mazes throughout the world, which are constructed of evergreen cypress or other hedging. The walls of the Tangled Maze are made out of flowering climber plants, which scramble over frames. Plants that feature in the maze include clematis and honeysuckle.

The maze

The owners Jeff and Rosemary Green have created a mixed maze which is unlike any traditional maze in the world. The use of flowering climbers creates colour from late winter through spring to autumn. The perfume from the flowers, particularly the honeysuckle also adds to the experience of getting lost in this half hectare (one acre) maze.

The climbing frames divide the maze into a series of spaces which could be compared with a very small backyard, about 3x3m (10x10') bounded by living walls of climbing plants. The climbers would suit any small backyard, screening the area from neighbours or the street. The maze was begun five years ago with many of the plantings only three years old and providing good, dense screening.



The climbers used include: Clematis: There are 70 varieties of clematis including the large flowered Jackmanii hybrids and Clematis montana hybrids. The montana hybrids will flower for about a month in spring and then if pruned will flower again in autumn. They are easy to grow in most cool areas of Australia and are at their best in areas with cold winters and mild summers.

Chilean glory vine (Eccremocarpus scaber): This plant is an unusual climber not often seen in Australian gardens. It has orange, red or yellow tubular flowers. Although perennial, it is usually grown as an annual in cold climates. As its common name suggests it is native to Chile and Peru.

Firecracker Honeysuckle (Lonicera x heckrottii 'Firecracker'): A deciduous honeysuckle with large

pink and cream flowers and a strong perfume. Peak flowering is in late spring and summer. This plant is best in a cooler climate. It can be difficult to establish in climates with humid summers such as Sydney and north. In these areas select a cool, airy spot.

Other climbers include: perennial nasturtium (*Tropaeolum tricolorum*), banksia roses and the native climbers, scarlet running postman (*Kennedia rubicunda* and *K. nigrans*) and hardenbergia (*Hardenbergia violacea* 'Happy Wanderer').

Around the edge of the maze are beds of perennials which add extra colour to the scene. Plants seen in the maze are for sale in a nursery attached to the maze.



The property was sold to Noel and Judy Morrison who developed it adding a wonderful convention area and relocating their Misty Downs Nursery from Daylesford Clunes Road, Kingston to the maze. They planted a

magnificent garden of roses and perennials and weddings were a regular event in the gardens.

They also added an indoor ropes course and synthetic ice rink. Our U3A held its first AGM at the Maze and several other events. The untimely passing of Judy saw the Maze being sold to CAFS at auction in December 2017. As the *Courier* reported:

“Child & Family Services Ballarat (Cafs) is poised to launch an Australian first – a farm environment dedicated to help traumatised young people and their families.”

Located in Springmount, Victoria, the Cafs Care Farm hopes to lead the way using the natural environment, landscape and farming practices and exercise to support positive wellbeing and mental health while supporting families and children in crisis.



The interior of the reception centre.



Sunset over the mini golf.



The indoor ropes course.



The indoor synthetic ice rink.



On the right is the reception centre and restaurant which Noel and Judy constructed.





Acronyms for senior texting

- ATD – At the Doctor's
- BTW – Bring the Wheelchair
- CBM – Covered By Medicare
- FWIW – Forgot Where I Was
- GGPBL – Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low
- GHA – Got Heartburn Again
- IMHO – Is My Hearing-Aid On?
- LMDO – Laughing My Dentures Out
- ROFL...CGU – Rolling on the Floor Laughing...Can't Get Up!
- WAITT – Who Am I Talking To?
- WTP – Where's the Prunes
- WWNO – Walker Wheels Need Oil



Bobbing for poodles

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.