

From the Committee



We will be celebrating **Christmas in July on Saturday July 4 at the Doug Lindsay Centre**. Cost is \$38 per person for a traditional two-course Christmas Lunch. The bar will be open to purchase drinks at bar prices and coffee and tea will be supplied. Arrive at 12.00 pm. Further details will follow but mark it in your calendar.

As the cold weather sets in it is very easy to hibernate in the warmth but it is important to get out and about meeting friends.

Rates of loneliness and social isolation vary around the world. A recent meta-data analysis from Lim and colleagues found 34% of adults in Australia were lonely, with 21% having episodic loneliness and 13% having chronic loneliness

Loneliness and **social isolation** are not the same; they are distinct concepts that can occur independently of each other.

Loneliness

This is a subjective feeling of being alone or disconnected from others, regardless of the social interaction with others one has. A person can feel lonely even when surrounded by friends or family if they perceive their relationships as lacking depth or meaning.

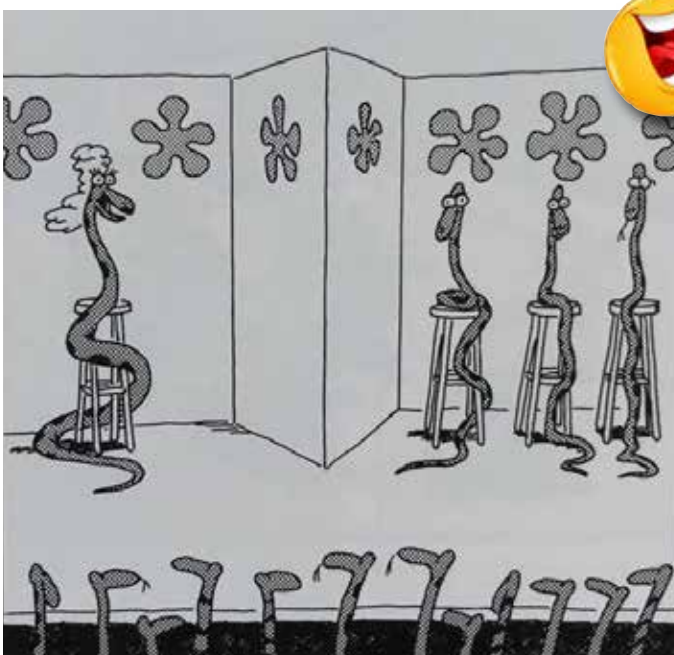
Social isolation

This refers to an objective state where a person has minimal contact with others, lacking social connection or support. A socially isolated person may live alone or have few social interactions, but they may not necessarily feel lonely. Both conditions can lead to negative health outcomes such as depression and cognitive decline increasing Alzheimer's risk.

Please do not put yourself at risk when our U3A offers you the opportunity to interact in a warm and safe environment.

We care about you and your health and wellbeing.

Did you know the worlds largest U3A is Sydney with 4,500 members and that per head of population U3A Australia has the most groups in the world.



"Bachelor No. 3: Who would you rather swallow – Mickey Mouse, Speedy Gonzales, or Rocky the Flying Squirrel? ... And why?"



Becoming a rogue in his later years, Dumbo terrorised the world's flyways.

Lothair Mine Dispute, Clunes 1879



The Clunes riot was the first occasion that armed police used force in an industrial dispute in Victoria. The miners took strike action over pay and hours of work. On 9 December 1873, the townspeople formed a blockade against a small contingent of police who were escorting Chinese strike-breakers to the Lothair mines.

In September 1873, Directors of the Lothair Mine, near where the railway station now stands, decided to change the method of payment to the miners from contract rates to seven shillings per shift and requested the men to work extra shifts on Saturday afternoon, 3pm to 11pm, and

Sunday night from 11pm to 7am on Monday morning.

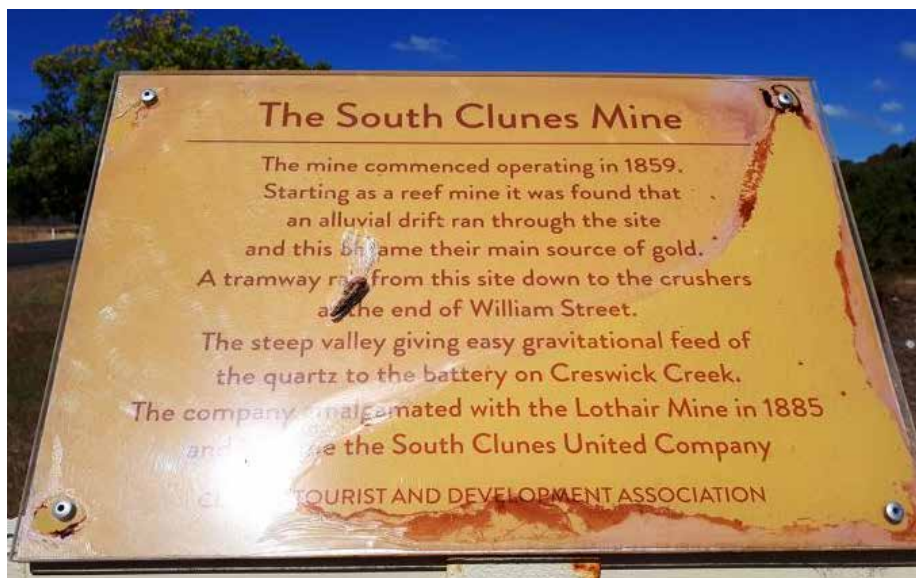
This meant that the miners would have to work two extra shifts per fortnight for the same money. Additionally, the miners were unwilling to work on the Sunday, as many in the region were angered that the sanctity of the Sabbath was to be broken.

The dispute seems to have been compounded by work conditions in the Lothair Mine which was poorly ventilated. Some miners wanted it fixed. An Old Miner wrote that he had 'through foul air' in the Clunes mines, been laid aside, and many are in their graves. The Lothair Mine, he wrote,

"...has only one shaft, no means of insulation, and in case of water breaking in, they have no means of escape. Allow me to urge my brother miners not to allow anything to induce them to resume work till some means are set on foot for the preservation of their lives."

Negotiations proving useless the miners, backed by the newly formed Clunes Miner's Association, went on strike.

By the end of November, the Lothair directors had accepted that the Sunday night shift would not be worked, but refused to give ground on the Saturday afternoon shift.



After the strike had dragged on for nearly 14 weeks, the directors of the Lothair mine – who included James Francis, the Premier of Victoria, and the wealthy businessman Peter Lalor, previously a Eureka rebel, met and agreed to hire blacklegs if needed, finally deciding to work the mine with Chinese labour and engaged a large number of Chinese miners from Ballarat and Creswick. Word reached Clunes on the afternoon of 8 December 1873 that coaches were waiting in Creswick to transport a party of Chinese to Clunes and word went around the town to rally the miners.

William Blanchard, as town mayor and Miners' Association president, sent Jimmy Hewitt, bellman, around the streets to summon every soul to a public meeting in the 5000-strong town, and all other activity – industrial, commercial, agricultural, domestic – ceased in Clunes for the day. Then, in the afternoon, a group of many hundreds of people marched behind the Clunes Brass Band along Service Street, Bailey Street, Talbot Road, Fraser Street and several other streets, stopping before the

town hall, where speeches were delivered by civic and religious leaders stating that those who dared labour on the Sabbath would not enter Clunes.

News came through at dawn that the coaches and a mounted escort had been sighted and would soon be along the Ballarat Road.

An estimated 1000 people – men, women and children – rushed en masse up the hill then out along the Ballarat road, stopping at the intersection with Coghill's Creek Road, near the edge of town. Farmers nearby called on the leaders to take their drays, ploughs, harrows, assorted agricultural equipment and some loose lumber to build a barricade, which they hastily did.

"When women are led to take up arms, we may be sure the cause is one in which it would be utter folly for the adverse party to persist." – Bendigo Advertiser.

They were still piling on rocks when, at around 7am, the Cobb coaches and police escort drew into sight. McPhee, driving the first – an immense, handsome vehicle with a splendid team and evidently bent desperately

on driving over any mortal opposition, cracked his whip and bore down upon the miners.

"...the great and real barricade was the living acting mass before them. There was a little parley, but it was to no avail. An attempt was made by the police to break through, but the attempt was easily frustrated..." – Creswick Advertiser

Then came the police effort. This consisted of Sergeant Larner climbing down from the coachman's box – slipping as he did so and falling to the ground, badly gashing his temple – and assisted by Constable Durack, who dismounted his horse, clambering onto the barricade. One brandishing a carbine, the other a pistol, they ordered the townspeople to stop throwing stones at them and the coaches. Their bold gesture was undermined by an unidentified trooper at the rear, who shouted to the miners, *"Don't be frightened, boys"* calling out that none of the squad bore loaded weapons.

"Crowds rushed over the barricades and surrounded the coaches. They struck them with sticks and threw stones at the Chinese, and drove them away. The police fought well, and did all in their power to beat the men off and to save the wretched Chinese, but it is feared that these got severely punished, although they hid as much as possible under the seats and behind the luggage. There was much praiseworthy forbearance from unnecessary force and stoning, as soon as the police gave in. Senior Constable Carden came forward and gave his word that no further attempt would be made to intrude the

Chinese, and his announcement brought three loud cheers. The whole barricade was removed and the material placed where it had been taken from.” – Ballarat Courier

Less than an hour after it began – around forty minutes – the confrontation was over.

By 8.30am the barricade had been dismantled and components returned to the owners, glass shards from the smashed windows of the coaches swept off the dusty road, and, led by the Clunes Brass Band, the demonstrators were parading back to the Town Hotel.

The miners, “...accompanied by troops of women and children, proceeded to the residences of several miners who had rendered themselves obnoxious by continuing work...warnings were given those offending men to leave the town...”

A most contrite Bryant, the manager of the Lothair mine, declared that he was never in favour of the company’s changes, and offered to donate £50 to the Clunes hospital. The day ended with the 800 members of the new Miners’ Association marching five abreast through the town behind the brass band, and triumphantly singing “God Save the Queen”.

Of course, it was not the end of the affair. In early evening a squad of 15 armed constables arrived from Ballarat, setting up a guard-post at the mine, and assertively re-establishing peace in the town. Five of the more rowdy barricaders – Thomas Nelson, William Pearce, Bernard Began, Joseph Tonkin and Martin Grady – were soon charged with obstructing police, and each fined £5 by the district magistrate later in the month.

Editors Note: I have assembled and condensed this article from a number of sources the best of which can be found on the Clunes Museum website. The location of the mine can be found at 10-20 Boundary Street, Clunes and is a reserve near the station.

Located on both sides of Victoria Street in Clunes, the South Clunes Mine commenced operations in 1859, starting out as a reef mine.

An alluvial drift was found running through the site, and this became the mine’s main source of gold.

The company amalgamated with the Lothair Mine in 1885 and became the South Clunes United Company.

Who remembers Springmount Pottery?

Doug Alexander (1945-1981) studied at the Ballarat School of Mines, then worked for a period at Bendigo Pottery before going to New Zealand in 1968 and setting up the Red Barn Pottery at Kerikeri in the Bay of Islands. Returning to Australia in 1970, he established a new studio at Springmount Pottery in Creswick.

Always interested in setting up a St Ives style workshop, he took in Graeme Wilkie as his first full-time student in 1971.

In 1976, he left Creswick to become the first resident potter at the Cuppacumbalong Craft Centre, Tharwa, ACT, converting an old barn into a pottery with the help of his first ACT trainee, Ian Jones.

By 1978 he had five trainees and a functional line of 65 items. At the height of his career, in 1981, he died unexpectedly.



Australian Springmount Pottery Bowl, Gum Leaves, Kookaburra – Barry Norman.

Production work made at Springmount is marked with an impressed 'SP'.

The pottery was acquired by Tina Banitska of the Convent Gallery in 1976. She developed it as a

workshop, employing throwers and decorators to make works to her design, and initially selling these through the Springmount Pottery Gallery on Main Street, Ballarat.



Springmount Pottery Tea Set.



Ceramic Art Vase, Springmount Pottery.

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.