



University of the Third Age
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AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER, NO.57...



President Lynne Wilson. This month (newsletter assembler) Margaret Burbidge has asked me to tell you a little about myself, to be the member of the month.

I was born in Geelong where I attended Roslyn State School, Belmont High School and then attended the Gordon Institute of Technology doing a secretarial course. These skills have been very beneficial to me over the years with my typing and shorthand experience, not only job-wise but so many committees connected to my sons' interests and it is still going on!!!

One of my sporting passions was tennis where I played junior pennant. This continued over the years with a break in between whilst rearing my two sons and then took it up again, eventually giving it up as "the ball got too fast for me!!!".

Horse-riding was another passion. I never did have my own horse, but this sport saw me through teenage years until I was about 17, when I discovered boys!!! I did however have the pleasure of competing in the Melbourne Show and other local competitions.

I took up golf in my late forties. This became an interest for many years, once again playing pennant which has taken me to many different beautiful courses, chasing that little white ball.

Again in my late forties, I started singing with a ladies barbershop a capella choir, which was such a joy. The choir also competed against other choirs from interstate at Perth, Melbourne and Newcastle. Later I joined a soul gospel group in Queenscliffe, and then lastly, became a member of a group called "The Troubadours". We were complemented by a 4-piece band and performed nearly every week entertaining people in nursing homes in the Geelong and District areas.

At one stage of my life I was out there - yes, milking 320 cows!!! We were using a 26-aside herringbone dairy which was the largest in Victoria at that time, just before rotary dairies came into existence. Can you imagine - 52 cows in the shed at a time!!! Dirty work, but I loved it. This was where I first experienced country life in the Princetown/Simpson area.

After returning to Geelong I worked for the Department of Education for 18 years, my roles ranging from typist, Bursar and then Business Manager until retiring in 2003.

With my previous experience of country life, I decided to move to Ararat in 2008 which was one of the best things I have ever done.

Thank you Ararat. **Lynne.**

Guest speakers are not part of the U3A present agenda, so instead of inviting Ararat Advocate publisher Craig Wilson as speaker, an interview for our newsletter can be a happy substitute.

CRAIG WILSON INTERVIEW :

Today we reverse roles. Craig Wilson is a 1992 Walkley Award Winner for the stories he presented on the 'Mr Cruel' abductions as police reporter. The award was presented by then Prime Minister Paul Keating at a ceremony in Sydney. Craig is now editor of the new *Ararat Advocate* that we are all really enjoying, and he has agreed to be interviewed by U3A. Craig's interview is modelled on Benjamin Law's feature in 'The Age' Good Weekend, but not so forthright.



(Photograph Margaret Burbidge)

So Craig, where did you grow up?

I grew up in Dandenong like my dad did.

And where did you go to school? I went to Primary school in Dandenong and then Cleeland High School in Dandenong. My parents lived in same house in Dandenong all their lives, 45 years, until they passed. My mum was the state member for Dandenong North for 4 terms; 15 years.

What inspired you to take up journalism? I always wanted to be a journalist. First, I was a radio announcer for 4 years on country radio in Gippsland, and from there, I secured a cadetship into journalism at 3 AW as journalist, news reader, and producer of Neil Mitchell's program. Neil was a hard task-master, I learnt a lot from him, he taught me well - to be able to go to the next level. Away from the

microphone he is a thoroughly nice man, and while I didn't always agree with him working with him, I do hold him in high regard. I keep in touch with him to this day. The next 10 year period of my journalism career, was reporting Victorian Parliament to 3AW. I would go out with politicians, on the road, reporting to the news, and other different programs, starting in the Kennett era and I finished when Steve Bracks was still premier. Both completely different characters.

What was in between then, and now?....

I bought *Pyrenees Advocate* a year before ceasing the parliament reporting at 3AW. I tried to run it and work at 3AW at the same time and finally resigned 3AW to work full time with the *Pyrenees Advocate*. I owned the paper for 10 years, then I sold it and bought it back again after realizing I had nothing to do! In the meantime Jaala Pulford MP offered me 3 days a week work. I never had any intention to open an Ararat newspaper. I held the Advertiser in high regard, but they lost their localism. I would never have made the decision to open an Ararat paper unless it had closed. Reaction to the *Ararat Advocate* has been sensational I must say.

Locally, we knew you from the *Pyrenees Advocate*, and now the *Ararat Advocate*. Colleagues at U3A say they like the local community stories and pictures, that this works... sometimes a bit like having a chat with someone you know or know of Did you make a deliberate choice to go this way with your features?

I've just kept it local. We could have gone regional, but the regular complaint is that papers should project their local flavour and publish local stories. We don't go outside Ararat municipal boundaries. Same with the *Pyrenees Advocate*.

You chose to live in Ararat rather than Ballarat like some professionals who work in Ararat do...

I bought a house in Ararat about 2 years ago after looking for a couple of years, and I shifted in 18 months ago. I had always gravitated to Ararat, shopped here, not in Ballarat.

For Ararat community that's a very positive thing, is it because you're a country man, because there is less travelling, because you like 'the bush' or some other reason? I love the area. I loved Beaufort, but after I sold the business Ararat was the location. Keep up the great work Craig. Cheers.



It's fun reading Leigh Sales and Annabel Crabb's quirky podcast



“...meanwhile, Sales spent about four days in dribs and drabs making the [raspberry and pistachio trifle from Guillaume Brahimi's cookbook](#). We can almost hear the scream of horror undoubtedly emanating from Guillaume as Leigh makes this suggestion: 'It's delicious but I reckon you could cut some corners, like use packet jelly and custard. I used frozen raspberries too. Best of all, I now have half a jar of pistachio paste I can eat with a spoon.'
Check out the recipe link above and follow carefullyOr not!



Walkers.

Spectacular day, spectacular view, spectacular tiny flowers!

Sundew, (genus *Drosera*), any of the approximately 152 carnivorous plant species of the genus *Drosera* (family *Droseraceae*). Sundews are widely distributed in tropical and temperate regions, especially in Australia, and are

found in areas with sandy acidic soil.

Sundews. Photo Carmel Stringer.

U3A Ararat bush walking group commenced its third term program with a walk to One Tree Hill last Friday . A dozen walkers assembled at the Chalambar Golf Club car park where President Lynne welcomed us to the first walk for the term and sent the group on its way . Our fearless leader Margaret (Farrar) then led us on a mystery tour to the summit of One Tree Hill . Up and down various lanes and gullies, laneways and receiving warm welcomes from some big dogs we arrived safely at the peak.



Along the way Carmel and Jim Stringer found some interesting plants for us to inspect .

The weather was very kind to us and the views of the countryside were spectacular. The only downside was that Collingwood had defeated Geelong the night before and some of the Collingwood supporters were keen to relive "the game" but not to keen discuss the free kick statistics! Following our walk we adjourned to the Chalambar Golf Club and enjoyed a coffee, chat and cheered on **Shadys Pursuit** (a pacer) running at Mildura trots, part owned by one of our members that ended up running third .

Our next walk is in a fortnight and new walkers are always welcomed .

Pat McAloon (Ace CAT's supporter).

Margaret Farrar. Jim Stringer. Leigh Coutts. Pat McAloon. Peter Brennan. Harry Collins. Rod Davis. John Mawson. Photograph Pam Brennan.



Woodies. It's a long term project that Meri (White) started, but after overcoming problems with the build, and learning new skills, and help from Lew Day, its done. Well done Meri for showing commitment to the project. Hope the birds will come in numbers for you to enjoy.

Alex Orszaczki. Woodies group.

Photograph Alex Orszaczki.



Book group. Review of The Golden Age, by Joan London.

U3A Book Club book for July has been 'The Golden Age' by Australian author Joan London. Set in Perth in the 1950's 'The Golden Age' tells the story of changing post World war 2 Australia through the life of 13 year old Frank Gold. Frank is the only son of Hungarian Jewish migrants and we meet him as a patient in the children's Polio convalescent home, a converted hotel The Golden Age.

Australia is in the grip of the Polio epidemic and as Frank travels through the medical system associated with polio, we are introduced and learn about the children, families, staff and community of Frank's world.

In this novel, Joan London has examined the resilience of people of all ages, and how hardship allows us to know ourselves and develop the self-knowledge needed to survive. London writes about her characters with perception, understanding and compassion. Her prose is very enjoyable to read. 'The Golden Age' certainly was an interesting read when reflecting on and living in this latest pandemic. Available through Ararat Library.

Leesa Waterman. U3A Ararat Book group.



Craft group.

Hi from U3A Craft group.

We are a happy group of ladies who have a common interest in craft of all kinds.

We have done tassell dolls, cushions, clay craft, gift cards, paper folding,

Colouring, Zentangle, a crochet lesson, knitting and a few episodes of making Christmas decorations with foam and a hot glue gun.

(Much laughter and mess doing the last one), and many more items to do in the future.

During the school holidays last year we would catch up on Wednesdays for a cuppa and a chat at one of Ararat's local cafes. Hopefully we can continue this activity safely during the next holidays.

Wendy Lewis. U3A Craft group.

**Question to member Cathy Holland... 'what have you been watching recently Cathy'?
This is what she wrote.....**

'What I've been watching while Covid impacts on our lives'...

1. After Life (Netflix) Series 1 (6 parts)

Written, directed and starring Ricky Gervais as Tony Johnson

Tony, recently widowed, **is rude and crude but don't give up yet.** Watching his unpredictable behavior, it is unwise to make hasty judgments, as we see the real Tony emerging from his world of grief.

Tony is a friend to many on the margins of society as well as his workmates from the local newspaper. He is also a regular visitor to the Autumn Leaves Aged Care, home to his Dad who suffers from Dementia. We are introduced to a broad spectrum of humanity, which shines a light on loneliness and people's need for connection. I loved this series and look forward to more in Series 2. Ricky Gervais is masterful in his understanding of complexities in the lives of people in our community. In this series, he calls us all to witness the grief and loneliness associated with death of a loved one.



2. FILM (SBS on Demand). ARCTIC. Filmed in Iceland

Starring: Mads Mikkelsen and Maria Smaradottir

This film focuses on a man who crashes his airplane in remote arctic territory. He watches a rescue helicopter crash while trying to land nearby. Ultimately, he decides to embark on a deadly trek to a refuge hut, pulling a sled with the inert, but still breathing body of an injured girl who has just survived the helicopter crash.

I certainly can't remember any communication between the two characters in this film and the plot appeared shallow and inconsequential as they escaped polar bears and deep ravines in the frozen Arctic.

It is really 90 minutes of my life I will never get back!



SCAMS have recently come to my attention from two different sources, telling of intelligent people being caught. Beware of wolves in soft little lambie guise!

E&OE. MB.