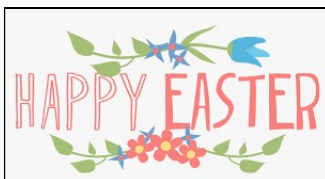




Also in this issue –

- ❖ **President's Column**
- ❖ **2021 Network Conference - Rekindle The Spirit**
- ❖ **A Taste of the Riverina tour**
- ❖ **News from U3As**
- ❖ **A Modern Gettysburg Address**

And more ...



Editor: Ainslie Lamb
ainslie2518@gmail.com

U3A is Back on Track

Recently at a strategic planning workshop, participants were asked “ who do you see as U3As main competitors and do you think they are doing a better job than us? If so, why?”

The responses considered alternative organisations such as Probus, Seniors Clubs, Men’s Sheds and the proliferation of “Over 55 “ lifestyle activities, but concluded in essence that there was no other organisation that offers the full experience of mentally stimulating, physical and social activities that U3A does.

What is unique about U3A is the ability and generosity of its own members to offer affordable activities for ‘third agers’ using the skills, experience, knowledge and abilities of the members themselves. ‘ U3A’ is not a monolithic organisation but a movement exemplified by autonomous groups operating within and an integral part of their own communities.

As the contributions from several U3As in this issue of *Newslink* illustrate, U3As offer a diverse range of subjects and activities according to the resources accessible to them and the availability of suitable tutors and small group leaders, all of whom are volunteer members of U3A. And those leaders have demonstrated the capacity to be creative and to adapt to technological change. They and their administrative committees have kept their U3As operating despite the restrictions imposed by Covid, and discovered new ways of doing so. Bravo!



Great Expectations - Photo from Central Coast U3A Newsletter

From the President's Desk



2020, a year like no other in our experience, has thankfully passed. The many challenges gave us time to reflect and consider how to respond. And respond you did with vigour. You clearly demonstrated your steel, endurance and creativity by continuing to deliver in your commitment to U3A and its vision. Being a member of U3A enable us to thrive, delivering meaning and purpose. It adds value to our lifestyle which enriches us.

Welcome to 2021, the year in which we will do our best to continue to positively move forward within the constraints of COVID.

What a joy to be back attending classes, renewing friendships and sharing the stories of how we all coped with 2020.

Come and join us in wonderful Wagga Wagga to ***'Rekindle the Spirit'***, celebrate our achievements, reminisce our challenges and successes, reinvigorate our energy and renew our purpose to go forward. This is a great opportunity to explore another part of our wonderful state and its largest inland city in the heart of the Riverina. Join the locals on the Wiradjuri Track Walk along the Murrumbidgee River to the beach (yes, Wagga has a beach). Take a stroll around Lake Albert or visit the vast Botanic Gardens. Marvel at the exquisite artistic glass exhibits in the National Art Glass Collection. Funky laneway art is found along vibrant Fitzmaurice Street which also hosts many trendy cafes and eateries. Wagga is the place to be in April. To find out more about the conference and register, log onto the Networks website. The big arrow points the way. Please register by 5 April for catering purposes.

See you in Wagga Wagga.

Best wishes , ***Laurene Mulchay***

U3A Network NSW Committee contacts

President, Laurene Mulchay, president@nsw.u3anet.org.au

Vice- president, John Sharkey, vicepresident@nsw.u3anet.org.au

Secretary, Roger Curran, secretary@nsw.u3anet.org.au

Treasurer, Geoff James, treasurer@nsw.u3anet.org.au



Port Macquarie Hastings Chess players deep in concentration

Photo by Gail Mendoza



At the Wagga Wagga RSL Club, Cnr Kincaid and Dobbs Streets Wagga Wagga

Full Conference Program available at nsw.u3anet.org.au

Monday 12th April -

- *Registration* between 12 noon and 5.00pm in the Mirage Room, to collect your conference package.
- *6.00pm. Mirage Room -*
 - **Welcome to and Acknowledgement of Country**



Aunty Isabel Reid, Elder and advocate for the Stolen Generation, is the Senior Australian of the Year award in NSW.

Ms Reid is the oldest living survivor of those forcibly removed under the NSW Aborigines Protection Act 1909-1969, an act that removed children from their families because they were Aboriginal.

An Elder of the Wiradjuri people, Ms Reid raises awareness about the Stolen Generation to prevent it ever happening again.

7.00pm – Conference Dinner - Guest Speaker - David Gilbey, Adjunct Senior Lecturer in English at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, President of Booranga Writers' Centre, author, poet and broadcaster.



Footnote – The U3A Network was founded in 1991, as the NSW U3A Council, changing its name to U3A Network NSW in 2006. The first Conference was held at Penrith on 1993.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM - Tuesday 13th April

**9.00am - Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country
Welcome to the Conference**

9.00 – 10.00am - Workshops

Workshop 1 - *Redesigning our Path* - Presenter Steve Morton, Southlakes U3A

Workshop 2 - *U3A – What's That?* – Presenter, Laurene Mulcahy, President U3A Network

Workshop 3 - *Rekindle the Spirit of your U3A* – Presenter Lorraine Beukers, Port Macquarie Hastings U3A

10.00am – Morning tea

10.30 – 11.30am - Annual General Meeting, U3A Network NSW Inc.

11.30 – 12.30pm - Forum 1 – Reaching Out With Technology

Facilitator – Roger Curran Presenter – Susan Webster, President U3A Network Victoria

12.30 – 1.30 – Lunch

1.30 – 2.30pm - Forum 2 – Revitalise – A Possible Strategy for the Future

Facilitator Steve Morton, Southlakes U3A

2.30 - 3.15pm – Curiosity Sparked by Investigating DNA

Presenter – Dr Gordon Murray, former research scientist with the NSW Dept of Primary Industries, , working on plant pathology. At U3A he has developed a course on understanding the importance of DNA

3.15 – 3.45 – Afternoon tea

3.45 – 4.50pm - Report Out from Workshops and Forum 2

4.50 – 5.00pm - Invitation by Orange U3A to 2022 Conference 5.00pm – Conference Close



Old Railway Bridge and Shibble Walking Bridge, connecting both sides of the Macquarie River at Dubbo.

From Dubbo U3A website Home Page

A Taste of the Riverina – Pre-conference tour

This educational travel program, organised and offered as a **Shoalhaven U3A course**, will operate during the 4 days prior to the U3A NSW Wagga Wagga Conference and is primarily (but not exclusively) for U3A Network Conference attendees.

Commencing on Friday 9th April and visiting Junee, Coolamon, Griffith and Leeton it will culminate in Wagga Wagga on 12th April in time for participants to register for the conference.

Highlights include the Junee Chocolate and Licorice Factory, Coolamon Cheese Factory, Catanua Fruit Salad Farm at Griffith, and other cultural features of the towns visited.

Participants will travel by private car to minimise the cost and car-pooling is suggested. An itinerary is available when expressions of interest are emailed to Denis Simond at densimond@bigpond.com

Program Per Person cost: Single Room \$670.
Double or Share Twin Room \$485
Partners of Conference attendees may accompany participants. The cost includes: 3 nights accommodation, all entry fees as listed in the itinerary, 1 Continental Breakfast, 2 Dinners, 1 Afternoon Tea and Services of a Program Leader.

The program will operate with a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 16, which is dependent on room occupancy types utilised.

Full itinerary and further Information can be obtained by phoning Denis Simond on 0407 776 778 or densimond@bigpond.com

Enrolment can be made online with U3A Shoalhaven and no membership fee is required.

Balance'n'Bones - fit for purpose

From Dianne Grigson, U3A Bateman's Bay

When U3A Batemans Bay lost one of our fitness tutors and it looked as though her classes would have to close we decided to trial using the U3A Network video, Balance 'n' Bones.

One of our course Co-ordinators had attended a class given by Beth Denny at a Network conference and had purchased the video so we were able to preview it. We subsequently purchased two copies and set up a class.

This has proved so popular that we now have two classes running each week. The only equipment needed to do this is a TV screen and a DVD player. As very few of the venues we have access to has av equipment one of our handy members has mounted a donated tv on a trolley which can be easily moved in and out of storage rooms, and moved to a new venue if necessary.

Our members love this class and we all feel that we know Beth and her demonstration class. The video is easy to follow, and contains two separate programs, a beginners and an advanced so is suitable for those new to exercising as well as the more experienced.

We can thoroughly recommend Balance 'n' Bones to any U3A which does not have a fitness tutor available.

Copies of the Balance'n'Bones DVD are available for sale at \$25 each, inclusive of postage, for U3As or individual members who would like to continue the course at home.

To obtain copies, contact Ainslie Lamb, (ainslie2518@gmail.com) for banking details to pay by direct deposit into the Network account.

The Trip to Paris

Zooming With Continuing French

Helen Galer, Batemans Bay U3A

In Term 4 2020 the U3A Continuing French class travelled to the Le Louvre in Paris.



“What? Impossible!”

“Covid has grounded us all” I hear you wail; but nothing is impossible for this intrepid class of Francophiles.

We travelled in comfort “class zoom”.

In Paris, whilst visiting the Louvre, the class carelessly mislaid one of their party. To their horror, they found she had been kidnapped and was to be ransomed by terrorists. The terrorist’s intention was to exchange her for a painting.

Undaunted, the class set out on a quest to liberate their friend. Clues took them from “la cour carrée” (the square courtyard) to deep underground.

There, hidden in the foundations, is where Philippe Auguste laid the first stone in 1190 for the original “chateau fort”, a military stronghold.

Investigations revealed few clues. Historians believe the area was already named “Le louvre” because it was infested with wolves.

The search continued. Fortunately “les louves” (the female wolves) were long gone and the class was not eaten. They roamed the labyrinth of rooms and corridors, 14 kilometres in all, then the 10 thousand steps and staircases, searching for their classmate. They watched a security video hoping to catch sight of the “le rapt” (abduction) as it happened. They listened in and hung on every word of French they heard. Finally, they sifted through documents searching for the codes which would open locks they encountered on

the barriers leading them closer to their hostage friend.

After much diligence, and a concerted effort, the class found the room in which their friend was held hostage. On the wall was the coveted painting that was to be exchanged for the hostage.

We are pleased to say, that the Gendarmes were able to liberate the class member and the painting. “Pierrot” (a sad clown) remains safe at the Louvre for you to see in person when Covid is no more.

The class was ecstatic to have their friend back, and pleased that their grasp of the imperfect tense and the passé composé tense had allowed them to unravel a very French mystery in a virtual reality.

Relieved to have found their friend the class quickly returned to Australia.

Booking flights is easy when travelling Zoom class.

Last seen, students were practising their French whilst showing each other such things as books they are reading, pictures they like, souvenirs they have, hats they are making, sculptures they have made, and walking the class around a “potagère” (vegie patch) ...all via Zoom of course.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-DOGB4iVBM> (video the class watched)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=617_B-rHzLc



Terrier (Puck)

*Sketch by
Irene McHugh.
U3A ACT*

Excursion to *piyura kitina* (Risdon Cove)

By Lucia Ikin and Rose Farrell, Hobart U3A

A group of 30 members of U3A Hobart gathered on February 22 at *puyri kitina* (Risdon Cove). Many members had not been to visit this location and expressed their enthusiasm for being able to do so now.

We enjoyed morning tea with a variety of bush tucker in the impressive cultural centre - a pyramidal construction. We then went on a leisurely walk around the area, accompanied by our Aboriginal guide and cultural interpreter Dewayne Everrettsmith. For lunch we sat around a fireplace, under the trees, near the cultural centre.



Many before us had set foot on these grounds. British colonists and convicts had carried out battles on this Aboriginal land whereon we now stood, involving great loss of its Aboriginal custodians. We heard about Aboriginal cultural thinking ...“*the land owns us*” rather than western cultural thinking such as “we own the land”. Our guide answered many questions to give us insight into Aboriginal culture and way of life, for instance, “*We do not write anything down, all our history is passed on verbally*”.

Personally, it meant a lot to me, to be able to visit this location and to be talking with Aboriginal people, rather than listening to talks about them. We were able to engage with the Aboriginal perspective directly, rather than observing from a distance.

We all now live in one *Iutruwita* (Tasmania).

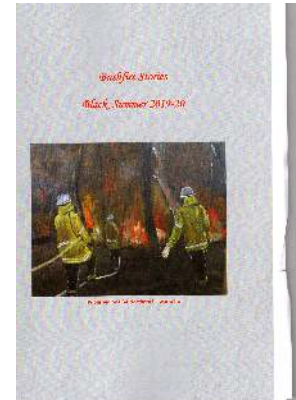
Thank you to our guide Dewayne.

Bushfire Stories – Black Summer 2019-2020

From Northern Illawarra U3A

Australia has always had bushfires, but the bushfires in New South Wales in 2019-2020 exceeded living memory in their extent and intensity. The event is now colloquially known as Black Summer.

Northern Illawarra U3A has produced a book of stories from several South Coast people, including U3A members, affected by the fires.



The suggestion for collecting the bushfire stories came from the U3A South Coast Regional Representative Margaret Stratton, prompted by reading a letter in the *Sydney Morning Herald* which stressed the importance of allowing and encouraging those affected by disasters to express their thoughts and feelings about fear and loss experienced during the event. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the volunteer service and courage of civilian firefighters, some of whom died in fighting these fires, and on community response to help people who were under threat of the fires.

Most of the stories in this book were recorded close to the events they describe, others are more reflective written in the aftermath of the fires and in the rebuilding stage of recovery. They express the range of emotions and responses that a devastating event can engender – courage, resilience, fear, the generosity and kindness of strangers, the slow-motion effect when in danger, the numbness that sets in with the dawning realisation of loss not just of buildings or property but of irreplaceable items that record memories of the past, even the uglier side of human nature, then recovery and adjustment to return to normality.

Bingara U3A Goes With the Flow

From Ros Moulton

The town of Bingara is situated on the Gwydir River, a part of the Murray-Darling Basin and so the town water supply is pumped from a gravel pit beside the river. A few years ago, the water supply while abundant was to say the least a bit muddy. In fact on some washing days your whites would come out somewhere between pink and brown in colour.

In 2010, a new water treatment plant controlling water for the whole Gwydir Shire was built funded partly by the State Government and partly through an increase in the Shire's water rate.

As water has been much on everyone's mind in the recent drought years, Bingara U3A decided to offer a tour of the water treatment facility at the beginning of February.



What an interesting event! It seems that Bingara's town population of around 1300 uses 2.5 megalitres of water per day. The pumps which are computer-controlled come on automatically and pump around 39 litres per second through the plant and about 45 litres per second of treated water through to the town's two reservoirs which hold around 1.3 megalitres each.

In the old days (10 years ago), the system involved a man who a couple of times a day would take his binoculars outside and look at the float markers sticking out of the reservoirs on the hill above the town. He would then

turn the pumps on until the marker indicated that the reservoirs were full. Now pumping is done automatically by telemetry when the water level drops and the whole system is connected to the internet and can be controlled and tested remotely if necessary.

Northern Rivers (Lismore U3A)

From Pat MacLaren-Smith

NR U3A Lismore have replaced our face-to-face Tuesdays with U3A with Zoom ... at least while COVID restrictions are in place. We have explored a wide variety of topics using PowerPoint and Youtube to complement the speaker, some weeks having open conversation on a chosen topic.

To name a few -
What does it mean to be Australian ?
The History of Bread (*pictured*)
History of our Flag
Kindness



Heat and rain have restricted some of our outdoor activities but most classes have resumed and numbers have been pleasing in most groups.

Alice Springs U3A

From Pat Beattie

Here at Alice Springs U3A we have been fortunate that, in spite of Covid affecting other states, all our activities have been able to continue.

Because of the recent installation of a smart TV in our meeting room, the Music Appreciation Group has recently discovered the joys and incredible resource that is YouTube. We sit ourselves comfortably in the 'stalls', have our tea or coffee and enjoy wonderful performances of piano concertos, symphonies, violin concertos etc all for free.

Eastlakes U3A

From The Echo, January 2021, by Lorraine McEwan-McKenzie

Grants and Projects - Last year we put in for a number of funding grants and I am delighted to tell you that we won them all! This is going to mean huge things for our volunteers who have nominated to be involved in special projects and working bees. Here's what we have achieved from our grants:

Volunteer Support Program - \$2,200 to purchase a battery operated chainsaw and a commercial grade mulcher, assorted garden tools and PPE gear for volunteers

Lake Macquarie Environment grant - \$5,000 to replace the existing broken water tank on the Western side of the building, erect a set of composting bays, plant a native garden to increase bio-diversity and develop and deliver educational programs to increase environmental awareness for our members and the community.

Hunter Water – Love Water Grant - \$7,295 – lay a concrete slab behind the proposed new shed, install a 10,000 litre water tank and have that connected to the toilets in the hall to save water.

Community Building Partnership Program - \$27,500 – Erection of a shed extension on the eastern end of the building, purchase of a ride on lawn mower.

This seems like a lot of money for us, but many of these projects require us to contribute towards them either in money or in kind (volunteer labour) – which we have plenty of. The things we will need to purchase to contribute – particularly to the shed will be the installation of a security grill door to prevent theft and the fitout of the shed with shelving, benches and storage facilities.

Southlakes U3A (Morisset)

From Susan and Richard Coggan.

There was joy on many faces as U3A classes were able to meet again after a prolonged break of over 10 months.

Classes have got off to a flying start for 2021, with the ever-popular Ukulele, Balance & Bones and Tai Chi classes filling up rapidly. A range of over 30 courses have been offered, but unfortunately current Covid restrictions are preventing the very popular Singing for Pleasure from running.

There are 3 Photography courses running, with the creator of this photo, Neryl Richards, attending all three classes.



Here is the walking group enjoying their Wangi Wobble in glorious weather. While enrolments are about 75% of initial 2020 membership, the boots are definitely on for the walking group!



News from Myall U3A

By Sonja Ridden, Secretary

I am happy to report that Myall U3A started the new year with renewed strength and vigour. So many of our members who had been too concerned about Covid-19 to regroup after the lockdown have now re-emerged and have thoroughly embraced all that we have on offer. Apart from the choir who, of course, have been unable to sing and the theatre group, who've also been severely hampered by the Covid restrictions, virtually all courses have restarted and report attendance of good numbers of enthusiastic participants.

One of the outstanding successes we can proudly report is the enthusiasm shown by our garden group members who are keenly involved in planning to plant a community garden. We are hoping for some grants to come our way so as to start this exciting process sooner rather than later.

Being incredibly fortunate to have some extremely knowledgeable members in our midst, our Friday presentations are going stronger than ever with really interesting topics being presented and discussed.

Another of our significant achievements was last year's publication of our writer's group's beautifully presented book "*Write By The River*". Filled with a collection of poems and short stories we were honoured to have Kate Washington MP launch this unique exploration of the wonderful area in which we have the great pleasure of living.

The art group of which I am the convenor boasts a rather large number of new members who seem to be enjoying the experience. Having steered our art group since last year's lockdown I am thrilled to see the influx, even if we are currently bursting at the seams. One of the initiatives of which I am especially proud is our involvement in a charity that raises funds for the education of children in underdeveloped countries. This initiative is the brainchild of an amazing 16 year young

lady, who was touched by the plight of young children whom she had the opportunity to visit in Mozambique and with whom she found connection through art. She, immediately upon her return to Australia, set about fundraising for these and other underprivileged children all across the globe through art in a variety of different ways. One of these is an annual exhibition of small artworks, which are donated by artists of all ages and are sold for a very reasonable price. I was incredibly proud to see how our art group embraced the opportunity to participate and how gladly and excitedly they created wonderful works for this worthy cause. No doubt our generous art group members will be just as thrilled to participate in this fundraising initiative again this year.

As it is simply too far-reaching to mention each of our groups individually but all of us at Myall U3A committee are proud and feel honoured to be part of such an excellent, compassionate and wonderful community as our local U3A.

Packed Lost Found Exhibition at Taree

From Manning Valley Term 1 2021 Newsletter

U3A members enrolled in the Art in the Gallery course in term 4 2020 were fortunate to attend this profound and moving exhibition at the Manning Regional Gallery – a visual and written documentation process of November 2019 bushfires in the Mid-Coast Region - a collection of visual stories, documenting peoples' experience through objects that they packed, lost or found during and after the fires.



Art in the Gallery participants in December with Gallery Director Rachel Piercey and Assistant Gallery Director Jane Hosking.

Liverpool U3A Art Appreciation Tour

From Rose Nancallas

32 Liverpool U3A Art Lovers visited the Liverpool Art Society (LAS) Exhibition at Casula Powerhouse in December 2020 for a guided tour and then lunch at the Bellbird Cafe.

The works included those of 'dual citizens' Tony Best, Linda Ferlazzo, Di Hallinan (*photo below*), Trevor Reubens, Joe Smetanin, Laurel Stewart and John Tregoning. They are members of both U3A and LAS.



Is this the most intriguing U3A Course ?

Ballina Byron U3A offers *Ageing Disgracefully* - a one year course, each term will be different. *Need to be bold with a sense of humour. Challenge your attitudes and expectations by looking at life differently.*

Term 1: Weekly seminar with speakers and discussion

Term 2: 3-4 sessions working on a project of their choice, then present creatively to the group.

Term 3: Deeper look into topical subjects

Term 4: wait and see!

For more info contact u3abalby@gmail.com

Resources Available on the Network Website

Have you had an opportunity of reviewing what's available for U3As on the Network Website? They are recommended for Committee members to familiarise themselves with the practical resources available, and for new members to U3A to understand the history and philosophy of the U3A movement.

There's quite a trove of information and support especially under the "Resources" menu :

- Remote Learning sites for ideas and resources to access online
- Some 'virtual ' travels
- Information about cyber security
- Enhance TV subjects
- The "*Better Safe Than Sorry*" Fire Prevention video which is geared to older citizens
- The *Brain Games Project* and *Keep The Marbles Rolling* courses for U3As
- *The U3A Guide to Public Relations* - useful ideas for publicity officers.

Under the "U3A Network" menu, check out the sub-menu "About U3A and The Network" to find

- the historical and philosophical background to the U3A Movement
- The History of the U3A Network in NSW 1991-2016
- International models of U3A, including a chapter on U3A in Australia

The 'U3A movement' was founded in France at Toulouse University in 1972 – the most successful form of adult education world wide.

How did U3A come about?

By Jim Nichterlein

Something like the style of U3A found throughout the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland and Canada cannot just come out of nowhere. A number of people come together share ideas and then decide to act on those ideas for an institution as widespread as U3A to begin take hold and then flourish. Who were those people?

The 1960's - the swinging sixties - were a good deal more than Carnaby St, mini skirts and the Beatles. The 60's were also a time when deep rooted change took place throughout Western society. One of the places in which that change began to take shape was within the University of Cambridge, where a group of historians of ideas and of society along with sociologists began to re-examine how a civil society came to change over generations.

One of those was the historian and political philosopher Peter Laslett. Laslett, like many of his generation, had found a promising career in academia disrupted by the WW 2 with the need to recast his career after the end of the war. Perhaps because of that disruption. Laslett was especially sensitive to the idea that a generation had missed all important educational opportunities through six years of the war.

Together with a small band of like minded people mainly in Cambridge, Laslett championed ways of making up those missed opportunities through spreading his ideas by radio talks and then in his advocacy of what was to become the *Open University*. This was a different kind of institution that was not a grand public institution, but offered in hundreds of different places where teachers and learners met after hours in school classrooms or in village halls to make up for missed educational opportunities.

An extension of the same idea lay in the idea of U3A which Laslett sketched out in his important book *A Fresh Map of Life :Towards the Third Age*. In that book he outlined a body

which would not have examinations and not award degrees, but which would recreate in a contemporary way the society of teachers and learners sharing knowledge to be found in the earliest universities.

In a monetised society, the idea of giving knowledge and experience away basically for free was and still is revolutionary. Your U3A is Peter Laslett's gift to you.

Why is it the University of the Third Age, What is the Third Age?

In the last issue of *Newslink*, I looked at why U3A is correctly called a university, but why of the "third age"?

What is the Third Age? Many know about childhood as the first age and our working life as the second but the third?

The idea comes from one of U3A's founders, Peter Laslett, and stands for what we can call the time for self realisation. Let me expand.

The first and second ages are in reality two different forms of dependence; at first on parents and then secondly on others for work. The third age then becomes the age of completion of our personality through self realisation. Laslett thought that this came about by learning from the interests of others and then teaching others our own interests. The third age is thus not retirement, nor the time for lounging around on cruises to nowhere, but a very active time mentally and physically.

Very few of us had our dream jobs when we were employed and even if we did, even they had times of stress and boredom. In the third age we are freed of both stress and boredom and are able to do things simply because individually we find them interesting and often absorbing and equally importantly, amongst like-minded others. Self realisation is not solitary "desert island stuff" it comes through being in a community of common purpose. U3A as Peter Laslett envisages U3A is above all such a community.

Book Review - *What Is To Be Done?* by Barry Jones, AC (Scribe, 2020)

Barry Jones – polymath, public intellectual, quiz king, lawyer, author, academic and politician - is one of Australia's deepest thinkers. In 1982 he published *Sleepers Awake*, anticipating the impact of technological change - especially in information communication, manufacturing, and employment and training - and anticipated the effects of the post-industrial world. As Minister for Science in the Hawke and Keating governments (1983-1990), he acknowledged the evidence and challenges of climate change. He describes this latest book, subtitled '*Political Engagement and Saving the Planet*', as 'not so much an update or a revision [of *Sleepers Awake*] but a sequel, addressing the massive global changes that have occurred since'.

There are so many issues and ideas in this book, that transcend current politics, and argue for essential and urgent change on bipartisan and global scale. Too much to encapsulate here, but summed up by the author (at p. 352-3) in a modern version of Abraham Lincoln's 1860 Gettysburg Address – in the same length of 271 words.

***A Gettysburg Address for 2020* – by Barry Jones**

A score of years ago, we entered a new millennium, facing great challenges. World population explodes: in both rich and poor nations, men and women live far longer, and now consume the Earth.

Earth's raw materials are finite. Water, forests, farmlands are threatened by 'a massive experiment with the system of the planet itself', causing climate change, droughts, floods, hurricanes. Rich powerful nations exploit the weak and paralysed.

Now we are engaged in great global conflicts of values. Gaps between inconceivable wealth and desperate poverty create hatred, wars, fundamentalism, and terrorism. Science and technology destroy boundaries, but nations turn inward, becoming tribal; political leaders reject global goals of compassion, reconciliation and understanding. Racism, nationalism, militarism, religious hatred, democratic populism, suppression of dissent poison democracy's wells. Some leaders use propaganda, resolve problems by suppression, promote fear of difference, attack organised labour, weaken the rule of law, use state violence, torture, execution. Evidence-based policies are displaced by appeals to fear and anger.

The great tasks before us are to dedicate ourselves to overcoming fear of difference, recognise that environment and economy are bound together. The human condition is fragile, and we must not confuse prejudice with principle.

We must consecrate ourselves to the unfinished work of saving Planet Earth, our home, where our species *Homo Sapiens* lives and depends for survival. All nations, and all people, must dedicate themselves to protecting our global home instead of promoting national, regional or tribal interests. We must highly resolve to save the air, save the soil, save the oceans that ensure that our species, and the noblest aspects of its culture, shall not perish from the Earth.

Dr Barry Jones AC FAA, is the National Patron of U3A Alliance Australia

