

Newsletter No 4 July 24th 2020

One of the inspiring community organisations in the North East

Management Committee Members

President: Rollo Kiek (0419814240) Vice-president: Tien Meakin (0408802665)
Secretary: Judith Falle (0428755701) Courses: Sue Woods (0409700678)
Speakers: Christina Callinan (0447761110) Treasurer: Henry Ziemnicki (0407931129)
Assist. Treas.: Karin Ziemnicki (0407615808) Web Site: Linda Parkinson (0407091742)
Committee: Luise Mock, Christel Willems, Sandy Sutherland
Newsletter: (co-opted): David Wood (0419514399)
Contact the Secretary: secretary@alpineu3a.org.au

Alpine U3A Courses 3rd Term

The Seniors Hall is now open for use by the Alpine U3A members and others who wish to hire it. There are COVID19 precautions but they are not onerous. The small meeting room and the kitchen are unavailable but members may bring their own food & drink. A list of necessary cleaning precautions is in the hall and some of the U3A courses are now underway. Courses currently being held are Advanced and Beginners French, Stretch, Intermediate Pilates, Pilates with a kick, Wednesday walking group and Thursday walking group. If you have any queries regarding our courses please contact Sue Woods on 0409700678 or Judith Falle on 0428755701. In spite of the resurgence of COVID19 in Melbourne we are not subject to the same restrictions although this may change at any time.

If anyone is interested I (David Wood) would be willing to conduct a special chemistry course entitled murder by chemical poison and I would be happy to do this via ZOOM into your home. Please let me know as we would have to arrange for a Zoom licence. Even without much knowledge of chemistry you should be able to follow this course where I will explain the fundamentals.

Committee of Management News

The most recent Committee of Management meeting was held on Thursday 23rd July and some of the matters discussed were:

- 50 new chairs are to be delivered to the Seniors hall on Thursday 30th July. This was a result of a successful bid for a grant under the Commonwealth Families and Community Welfare Program 2020. This was organised through Helen Haines' Office; this scheme being associated with the Commonwealth electorates. Consequently, we need to dispose of the old chairs including the cushions. Committee members will be in the hall from 10.00am to 11.00am next Tuesday, 28th July and members may come and help themselves to chairs as they wish. Be early so that you do not miss out on this great offer. Thanks to Judith for a great effort in winning a successful Federal grant.
- The Committee has been asked to assess the privacy issues concerning members' data that is held for official purposes. The Secretary maintains a membership list (computer based) which includes names, addresses, email addresses, & phone numbers. No hard copy is retained and the membership list is also held by the Newsletter Editor for newsletter dispatch purposes. This list is regarded as private information and is not shared with any organisation or other people. If there is anything on this list that you do not wish the Secretary and Newsletter editor to retain please let the Secretary know. Under such circumstances you will need to provide the Secretary & Newsletter editor with some details for Alpine U3A communications.
- We are regulated by Consumer Affairs Victoria and each year we must submit a return covering our governance, finances etc. Under the CAV regulations we are required to hold an AGM within 3

Newsletter No 4 July 24th 2020

One of the inspiring community organisations in the North East

months of the end of our financial year which for us is the end of June. Normally the Alpine U3A holds its AGM with the August Coffee morning and because of COVID restrictions this will not be possible this year. The Committee decided to seek an extension from the CAV until the 24th December. Hopefully we will be able to hold an AGM before that date. Meanwhile your Committee will continue to operate as at present, however, due to forecast Committee resignations we will need a new Course co-ordinator and Speaker organiser before the delayed AGM. Also, a new Secretary will be required for the next year of our operations. Please give this some thought and if you are interested in these positions or any other position please advise Judith Falle at secretary@alpineu3a.org.au

Newsletter Editor’s Commentary - Where are we with COVID19?

As you are all aware there has been a worrying outbreak of the Virus COVID19 in Melbourne but the good news is that in much of regional Victoria, including the Alpine Shire, the virus has not been evident. We are, of course, affected by the border closure with NSW and although I have not yet tested it, I understand that we can go to Albury for medical reasons. For the whole of Australia both the health and the economic outcomes are worrying. However, when we look at other countries, we are very fortunate. Australia has had approximately 4.6 deaths per million of population. How does this compare with some other countries? (See table below)

Country	~COVID deaths per million population
UK	680
USA	422
Canada	239
Israel	43
Greece	18
Australia	4.6
New Zealand	4.5

I believe that our leaders from both Federal and State Governments have served us well during this pandemic. In any serious situation such as this pandemic, mistakes will occur e.g. The Ruby Princess in NSW and the quarantine hotels in Victoria. With hindsight it is very easy to focus blame on Governments, but this is inappropriate and we, as a community, should instead, work within the Government imposed restrictions to help ourselves and others in an unselfish manner for the benefit of all. I was rather impressed by an article in the Age newspaper last week by Peter Fitzsimons who writing from his home State, NSW, entitled his article “Good on you, Victorians – we salute your fortitude”! Peter is a well-known author (e.g. *Victory at Villers-Bretonneux: Why a French town will never forget the Anzacs*. Random House Australia. 2016) and also Chair of the Australian Republican Movement.

In Peter’s article he empathises with Prime Minister Scott Morrison in saying “We are all Melburnians now”. He refers to NSW having “bolted every door, slammed every gate and burnt every bridge and made many caustic remarks about Victoria. He asks readers to “look up two words” – “Ruby Princess” and questions the rights of NSW citizens to lecture anyone in Australia. He expresses great concern at the “amount of stick” the Victorian Premier has been getting. He refers to some NSW people referring to Victoria as a “Socialist Leper Colony”. He also refers to a prominent Victorian politician who has been highly critical of the Victorian Government’s handling of the COVID virus situation, but his main claim to knowledge has been to call for the culling of bats in his electorate. Peter goes on to praise the efforts of both Premiers, Gladys Berejiklian and Daniel Andrews which we should all applaud. Peter quotes President Theodore Roosevelt’s famous words at the Sorbonne in 1912: “It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who

Newsletter No 4 July 24th 2020

One of the inspiring community organisations in the North East

comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds.....”

More on COVID19 – this time from the University of Melbourne

I have included some COVID19 video panel sessions from the University of Melbourne Medical Faculty in previous bulletins. Because of the 2nd wave of the virus there is an extra panel session which you may be interested to watch. You can view it here : <https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/bonus-episode-life-beyond-coronavirus-the-expert-view>

Are we, in Victoria, a Socialist Leper Colony?

Victoria has been referred to as a Socialist leper Colony by some of our neighbours from the North (see above from Peter Fitzsimons). Research shows that COVID19 and Leprosy have nothing in common other than those suffering from either may benefit from Vitamin D. Leprosy was and still is a very serious disease and everywhere research scientists were searching for a cure. This made me recall an interesting article that I recently read in one of my scientific journals (Royal Society of Chemistry – Chemistry World). It was written by Nina Notman who is a science writer in the UK. It features the story of Alice Ball who was an African-American chemist. Alice developed the first main treatment for Leprosy whilst undertaking a research program at what became the University of Hawaii. The Librarian at the University of Hawaii was asked if he knew if there was a chaulmoogra tree on campus and this led to a call to the Botany Department revealing that there was such a tree in the grounds.



Leprosy



Chaulmoogra tree

The Chaulmoogra tree was donated to the University by the King of Siam in the 1930s to thank the University for the help that Siam had received from the University in treating its leprosy patients. In fact, the University through the Chemistry laboratory of Alice Ball had succeeded in extracting some important chemicals known as ethyl esters from thick oil extracted from the tree. It was known that the oil extracted from the tree helped Leprosy sufferers and this led to Alice Ball focussing on the chemistry of the oil leading to the production of the ethyl esters

Newsletter No 4 July 24th 2020

One of the inspiring community organisations in the North East



Alice Ball

Alice's supervisor published her work after her early death and omitted her name on the publication. In those days this was a common practice.

Some years later a research professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) analysed Alice's work and realised that the discovery was hers. The research chemists of the day recognised her enormous contribution and she now has her name carved alongside those of Marie Curie and Florence Nightingale on the front of the main building of the LSHTM in London. The Chaulmoogra tree at the University of Hawaii was dedicated to Alice in recognition of her developing the first truly effective treatment for Leprosy.

Chemistry really is a fascinating subject!

Financial Counselling

In these worrying times of COVID19 and serious unemployment, many people may like to consider financial counselling. A member has advised me of a **free** service offered through Anglicare. Contact the Counsellor directly as noted below.

Anglicare Victoria

FINANCIAL COUNSELLING

Struggling with your debts?
Unable to pay your bills?
Thinking about bankruptcy?
Struggling with paying your mortgage?
Money tight due to Gambling?

FREE confidential help is available

Anglicare Victoria
St Luke's Region
Wangaratta

Date: _____
Time: _____
Worker: _____
Location: _____

Suellen
0427 955 449

p. 03 5723 7900
admin.wangaratta@anglicarevic.org.au
39 Owens Street, Wangaratta VIC 3677
www.anglicarevic.org.au

80% TOMORROW

Financial Counsellors can:

- Explain options, if you can't pay bills
- Suggest payment plans for gas/ electricity, debts
- Offer details of government concession and other assistance
- Support you with Centrelink matters
- Help to deal with credit card/loan repayments
- Give you information on the bankruptcy process
- Refer you to other services that may be able to assist

Financial Counsellors cannot:

- Take over your finances or handle your money
- Give investment advice
- Give legal advice
- Give advice on taxation matters
- Provide material aid

But we can help you find other services that can.

Can I have an interpreter?
Yes. Ask if you need an interpreter. Interpreters are free.

Newsletter No 4 July 24th 2020

One of the inspiring community organisations in the North East

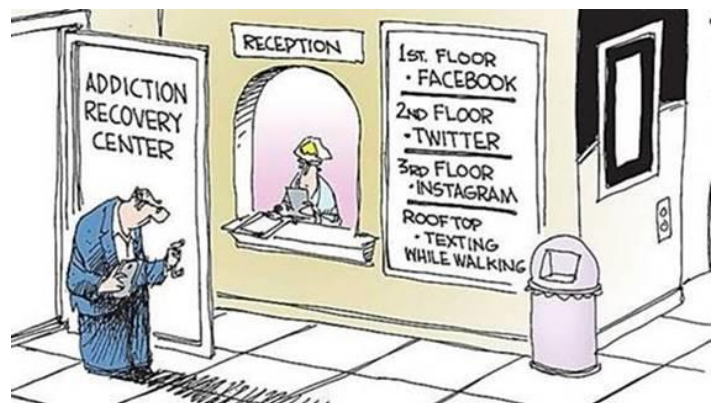
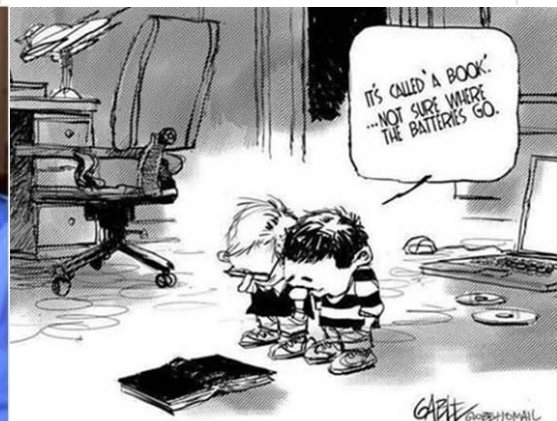
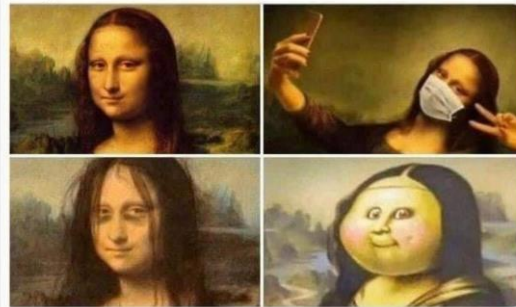
Now to brighten up the day!

If you used one of these:



Stay at home! You are in the high risk group.

4 stages of quarantine.



Meanwhile, keep safe, well & happy

David Wood (Newsletter editor) 24th July 2020