

Committee Members

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Coffee morning Friday September 7th, 10.00am for 10.30am sharp

The guest speaker this Friday is Scottie Graham



Scottie is a past employee of Parks Victoria based in Mount Beauty. He will be talking to us about his over 30-year involvement in fire suppression, investigations and working in the research and development of fire equipment. His main focus will be on fire suppression in the North East of Victoria covering some of the largest fires in Victorian History. He will also talk about the development of fire suppression techniques and their changes and development.

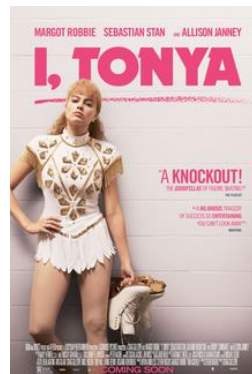
As we approach a potentially very dangerous fire season this is a "must experience" talk so please be there on time to hear Scottie.

August Coffee morning

The August Coffee morning was the AGM and it was very well attended. A new Committee was elected the members of which are listed at the head of this newsletter. Welcome to Karin and Linda who have already participated in a lively Committee meeting. Also, thanks to Ken for taking on the vital treasurer's role. We have vacancies for a Vice President and the course coordinator and we would welcome additional members to fill these important roles.

There was time for me to give a short talk on Stephen Hawking's new voice which unfortunately he did not use in public as it was only developed shortly before his passing. At the end of the talk I recommended that members might like to read his 1988 book "A brief history of time". To quote Carl Sagan from the Introduction "*Hawking embarks on a quest to answer Einstein's famous question about whether God had any choice in creating the Universe. Hawking is attempting, as he explicitly states, to understand the mind of God. And this makes all the more unexpected the conclusion of the effort, at least so far: a Universe with no edge in space, no beginning or end in time, and nothing for a creator to do.*" It's a challenging book but well worth reading. To quote Stephen Hawking from his introduction, "*Someone told me that each equation I included in the book would halve the sales. I therefore resolved not to have any equations at all. I did put in one equation, Einstein's famous equation $E = mc^2$. I hope that this will not scare off half of my potential readers!*"

Film Night – 2nd Wednesday of each month – Wednesday September 12th at 7.00pm – Seniors Hall – Film: "I Tonya".



Australian, Margot Robbie, star and co-producer of the movie.

Robbie received critical acclaim in 2017 for her portrayal of the disgraced figure skater Tonya Harding in the biographical film *I, Tonya*, which she also produced, receiving a nomination for the Academy Award for Best Actress.

In 1970s Portland, Oregon, four-year-old Tonya Harding is forced to ice skate by her abusive mother, LaVona. As Tonya grows up, her parents take her out of school to focus on her skating career, and she trains under coach Diane Rawlinson. Tonya rapidly becomes one of the best figure skaters in the United States, but is held back by her "white trash" reputation, home-made costumes and unconventional choice of performance music. This fascinating true story has many twists and turns and is a real credit to Robbie for the many plaudits received Worldwide.

Activity Groups

I am very sorry to say that the German class conducted by Annmarie Freyburg has now concluded. Annmarie has devoted much of her time to this course and it has proved to be one of the very popular programs over many years. All good courses have to eventually conclude and it is a great credit to Annmarie that she has inspired many students for over 12 years with this program. Well done Annmarie and thank you very much on behalf of all members of Alpine U3A.

The course leaders or tutors take on a major responsibility and I am only realising the significance of this as I work through the chemistry course during its first year. The same is true with Judith Falle who teaches the Maths program. I guess that I figured that U3A maths would be dealing with tough equations and calculus etc. Not so! Judith really makes the program interesting with challenging numerical and geometric tasks revealing how little I know and how much everyone else in the class knows! She even had the class members undertaking body measurements at the last session that I was able to attend. I did not find that some of the resulting figures were at all flattering.



Senior's Hall Changes & Activities

Last month I reported that we now have a bicycle rack outside the hall and thanks to the Seniors Committee for instigating this and to the Men's Shed for construction and installation.

At the last Seniors Committee meeting it was agreed that the interior of the Hall could do with a "facelift" and hence it will be repainted to give it a more modern touch. Also, the curtains will be changed to something more modern.

This will not be complete by the time of the Seniors Festival in October and because we are to have an afternoon free film showing for Seniors in the district, including Alpine U3A members, we will provide some "blackout" curtaining on the Tawonga Crescent side of the building. Laraine Zejbrik has this in hand and we really appreciate her and her team's efforts with this task.

Seniors month is October and the free Alpine U3A film show for all seniors in the district is at 2pm on Wednesday October 3rd. I am delighted to say that Red Cross is to provide a wonderful afternoon Tea so the whole afternoon should be a very special occasion. The film is "Finding your Feet" which is a terrific comedy and it will have us all laughing.

More details will be provided in the next Newsletter but please note the date for the film. All seniors in the district are also invited to the October Coffee morning.

David Wood (Newsletter Editor) (2nd September 2018)