

AUSTRALIA U3AAA BULLETIN No. 20 JULY 2017



This issue:

- The U3AAA pack has a new leader
- Member reports:
 - U3A Online practice what they preach
 - SA cruising along, wine in hand
 - Victoria: balance tipping towards the physical
 - Queensland jumps from conference to winter school
 - NSW's little-known hookers and strippers
 - WA gets noisy at State library
- Reward volunteers with free film passes

From the Editor

Well done to all contributors who took me by surprise this issue: all articles submitted within a day or so of the deadline. Just as well as we need to get this to members promptly so they can take advantage of the offer of free tickets to preview screenings of *Maudie*.

This issue announces a change of leadership for U3AAA so on behalf of fellow delegates I send a big thank you to Ainslie Lamb for her long-term commitment to creating a national U3A network. Despite stepping down from the NSW committee, and thus U3AAA, I am sure Ainslie will stay close at hand.

In the last few years, a change of State officers has twice seen U3AAA in the unusual position of acquiring a chairman mid-term who we had never previously met. When you read the profile of our new chairman, I am sure you will join me in giving a tick of approval.

Welcome back from an extremely short retirement to our old friend, Elsie Mutton in Victoria, whose farewells may yet equal Nellie Melba.

Please keep pushing information in previous editorials about the need for good quality photos as it doesn't seem to have reached the general membership yet. Often photos submitted are just not fit for publication: dark, blurry or pixelated. With so many U3A photography groups, we should be able to do better. Perhaps workshops on *Taking Better Publicity Shots* should be on the programme at future State events.

Do act quickly to take advantage of the free film tickets on the back page. It celebrates the life of an unusual figure in Canadian culture: an unconventional artist little known to the rest of the world. U3A has been allocated just 5 pairs per screening. As before, RSVP is entirely online, each person follows the link and downloads a pair of tickets which are then printed and taken to the cinema on the night. Dates and locations are displayed when the link is followed. If there is any discrepancy, trust the website as I might have made a typo. Answering any survey after the screening will help ensure we are invited again.

Given the quantity of our members who have flown north for the winter, I am surprised the world hasn't toppled out of balance with the massive shift of weight. For those stalwarts who, like me, have stayed at home acting as ballast, I hope you are keeping warm and toasty. With some icy mornings here in the Clare Valley, Explorer socks and Ugg boots have become essential office wear. Definitely not taking photos of that.



Happy reading.

Claire Eglinton U3A Lower North South Australia

From the Outgoing Chairman Ainslie Lamb

At the 2017 U3A Network NSW annual meeting at the end of June, I stood down as president of the network. In consequence, I stand down as chair of the Alliance, and the incoming NSW network



president, Ian Robertson, assumes the chair of the Alliance. Allan Haggarty (with his corporate memory of Alliance matters, a valuable resource) will continue as secretary.

I am pleased that, as part of my chairmanship, the Alliance has been able to review its *raison d'etre* as expressed in the revised memorandum of association, and I express my thanks to all of the Alliance member representatives for their co-operation and collegiality. I wish the Alliance well in its future endeavours. And now, to introduce my successor . . .



From the Incoming Chairman lan Robertson

As the incoming chair of the Alliance (not by design, but default as the new president of the NSW network) I'd like to introduce myself to you.

My involvement with U3A has been relatively brief, at least compared with my predecessor, Ainslie Lamb. I first joined my local U3A (Sapphire Coast, centred on Merimbula on the Far South Coast of NSW) in 2013, at the relatively young age of 57. It wasn't long before one of the local committee members approached me to get more involved, and before I knew it I was assisting with organising the program, and eventually, a couple of years later, taking on the role of U3ASC president.

As part of this increased responsibility I attended the NSW network annual conference in 2015, where I met Ainslie and Ron Browne, who of course are stalwarts of the U3A movement. Ainslie invited me to nominate as network vice-president for 2016, with an eye on the future — a future which came to pass at the network AGM just held when Ainslie stepped down. So here I am.

Prior to retirement I owned a small business for a number of years; a bookshop and ABC Centre in a medium-sized town in rural NSW (Cooma). During the seventeen years I owned the business, I became involved with the Australian Booksellers Association, serving a number of years on the national executive, including a stint as treasurer, and over the years I have also been on various local, state and national committees relevant to whatever I have been involved with at the time whether it be from personal interest or because of my work. These have all been volunteer positions, and include chair of Shelter NSW (a housing lobby group), president of Cooma Monaro Railway (a heritage train operator) and in my callow

youth president of the CCAE (now University of Canberra) students' association, where my inability to stay quiet originated. In short, I have been active in voluntary organisations for all my adult life and so I believe I bring a range of useful skills and knowledge to the U3A Alliance.

One thing my background teaches me is that the keys to a successful organisation are mutual respect and open and honest communication, which for me means a willingness to listen and to learn from those around me. Especially as the 'new chum' on the block, I don't seek to impose any ideas on others, but rather I seek guidance and support in a collegial spirit from other members of the Alliance. I therefore look forward to meeting you all, and working as part of the team that furthers the interests of U3As across the nation.

Ian Robertson
Chair,
U3A Alliance Australia





2017-18 Diary Dates

2017:

- **4-5 September:** U3A Victorian biennial conference. Rendezvous Hotel. Flinders St. Melbourne. Theme of the conference is *Communities working together* with the sub themes *U3A and the Community* and *The Power of your Community*. More info at: www.u3avictoria.com.au or the conference website www.u3avicconference.com.au Cost is \$100 for 2 days and \$65 for the dinner on day 1.
- **13 October:** U3A SA Annual General Meeting followed by quarterly meeting. 10 for 10.30 am, Tea Tree Gully campus. (Yes it is Friday the 13th.)
- **25 October:** Deadline for next issue of Bulletin. Start collecting photos now.

2018:

12-13 April: U3A Network Conference and Annual General Meeting, hosted by U3A ACT at the University of Canberra.

U3A ONLINE

Our indomitable president, Jean Walker, is travelling overseas and has asked me, Annie Webster, to fill in here and there during her absence. One of the matters requiring my attention is Jean's regular contribution to the U3AAA bulletin. So here I am, taking the bull by the horns.

As befits our virtual U3A, for May's committee meeting we embraced the digital age and connected via Flash Meeting technology. For anyone unfamiliar with this video-conferencing tool, it allows participants to meet 'virtually' face-to-face while sitting comfortably in front of their home computers. What a wonderful world we live in, that provides this instant contact even when we are thousands of miles apart. Something celebrated by every granny or grandpa who has ever used Skype, Face Time or WhatsApp to meet up with their distant family members.

But hi-tech capabilities aside, the U3A Online CoM recognises too, the importance of a more direct and personal approach. We agreed that various committee members would attend different forums, conferences and meetings around Australia and New Zealand to promote our organisation. To that end I was able to give brief presentations at two recent Auckland U3A Network meetings, and have offered PowerPoint presentations to our local Auckland groups. I'm sure all CoM members would welcome the opportunity to do the same, and rally more terrestrial U3As to sample the cyber-courses offered by the online version.

After much discussion we voted to increase the annual U3A Online Individual Membership fee from A\$25 to A\$30, effective 1 July 2017. Organisation Memberships and Site Licences are unchanged. I urge you to visit our website at u3aonline.org.au for further information about the courses we offer and how to join.

Annie Webster Vice President U3A Online



STILL SEARCHING FOR A WEBMASTER

It is time for the U3AAA website to have a refresh. It will probably involve finding a new hosting service, redesign and then ongoing maintenance to keep it current and relevant.

If you have the skills and would like to be involved in some part of that operation, please let your local U3AAA delegate know.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Big news in South Australia is the success of our first regional gathering, hosted by our youngest U3A, Riverland. Registrations for the Riverland Rendezvous took place at Banrock Station Wine and Wetland Centre which provided an incredibly scenic venue for our quarterly meeting. Hiring these trendy premises was not a cheap exercise but the mood it engendered was priceless. Pity we can't bottle it. Energy in the room was palpable and all delegates were leaning in and keen.

Ninety members from U3A groups throughout South Australia lived out their motto of "Staying active mentally, physically and socially" over the three days, Tuesday 9 to Thursday 11 May. Wednesday featured workshops as diverse as backgammon, smart phones and wine appreciation. Attendees also enjoyed a tour and tasting at the 23rd Street Distillery.

Right: Members from various U3As joined to share new skills . . . and just have fun.

Below: Tony Guster doing it tough at Banrock Station on Day 1.





There was ample opportunity for walks along the river to birdwatch and learn about the local history and environment. A highlight was a spectacular moonrise over the Murray viewed from the balcony of the Renmark Club, followed by a dinner with guest speaker Mark Randell, historian and descendant of Captain William Randell of early paddle steamer fame. Clever organizer Brent Morrell scheduled the whole event to coincide with that full moon. Brent must have excellent contacts because he also organized magnificent weather for all three days.

A cruise on a paddle steamer, complete with cream tea, was a popular finale to the three days in the Riverland. Grateful thanks from U3A South Australia to everyone involved in making this event so successful. We have heard nothing but positive feedback.

Right: Rolling down the Murray, Margaret and Peter Adams (U3A Gawler) enjoy the sunshine on the PS Industry's stern deck with Janet Hemsley (U3A Adelaide Hills).



Everyone who attended was in favour of holding another such event but other host U3As will have quite a challenge to match the high standards set at this justifiably popular holiday region. Treasurer Shirley Sims said they are also lucky at Riverland to have members with great skills. One of them organized fully-automated online registrations so they could easily monitor which sessions were filling up.

Riverland vice-president Marion Woodbury summed it up: "Yes, it was a lot of hard work over approximately nine months, but accolades and positive comments over the three days, made it really worthwhile. The added benefits to the committee were something we did not really envisage: recognition and appreciating each members' particular skills and forming strong bonds; getting to know each other and the partners of committee member better and appreciating their support."

Carmel Teusner reported that U3A South Coast increased membership by over 80 (25% of 2016 enrolments) in the first six months of this year thanks to a marketing push supported by State network funding. That is the best answer to those who say it can't be done.

Noeline Laing, from U3A Charles Sturt, turned 100 at the end of April. Any member who reaches triple figures and is still driving themselves to U3A probably deserves a car park with their name on it. 'Centenarians Only' would probably suffice.

Claire Eglinton Secretary U3A South Australia



VICTORIA

In the previous edition I advised of the changing of the guard for Victoria. We became excited at the new President John's new thinking and leadership for our U3As. Unfortunately due to personal reasons John found it necessary to resign as from 10 July. After discussion it was decided the smoothest way forward was that I step back into the role as Acting President until the 2018 AGM in March.

Accommodation Handbook: We have finalised a handbook titled *Premises and Facilities*. This handbook will hopefully assist our member U3As when talking to their local MPs, councillors and council officers. It will be available on our website.

Technology: Speaking of which, Network now has a new modern-looking website. It is operating but still needs some tweaking before we are totally happy with it.

Another initiative is the development of a website template. This has been taken up by a number of our U3As who did not have a website or wanted to upgrade their current one.

Funding: Under our new funding agreement with the Department of ACFE (Adult Community and Further Education) we have new exciting challenges ahead. It is a change from where they gave us money which was disseminated to our member U3As, to be project driven by the Network office. We worked on an agreement that would be of value to the U3A movement and have 18 months to develop and deliver. Exciting times ahead.

U3A Network Victoria State conference: Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 September. Rendezvous Hotel, Flinders St, Melbourne. The theme of the conference is *Communities working together* with the sub themes day 1 *U3A and the Community* and day 2 *The Power of your Community.* We have been fortunate to have some great speakers presenting. Just as a taster: Kate Tourney, CEO of the Victorian State library; Penny Burke, Essence Communication; Anna Burke, ex speaker Federal Parliament; and Gerard Mansour, Commissioner for Senior Victorians. To find out more go to Network Victoria website www.u3avictoria.com.au or the conference website www.u3avicconference.com.au Cost is \$100 for 2 days and \$65 for the dinner on day 1.

Change:_Have you found there has been a slight change in the types of classes members are looking for? Here in Victoria some of our U3As are seeing a change. Once it was around 80% academic and 20% craft/exercise. Now there is a balance of 50% in each category.

This is emphasised by Gerard Mansour, the Commissioner for Senior Victorians, in a report *Ageing is Everyone's Business*. "The importance of building resilience and staying connected becomes more pronounced as we age" he says. U3As need to take up the challenge and where possible arrange classes to accommodate all retired members of the community stay involved in our community and be prepared to look after each other.

One Million Stars project. U3A Ballarat. The One Million Stars project is a global weaving project to end violence. It encourages people to practise kindness to peacefully shape our communities through simple woven stars. In partnership with the Queensland Government, one million stars, is engaging individuals, groups and communities and the stars are to be displayed as part of Festival 2018 during the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. It will show what we can achieve when we work together. Many groups in Victoria came on board after

U3A Ballarat took up the challenge and they now have a class where members gather to make the stars and help the project reach its final total. Some of the stars have been showcased at local businesses in Ballarat.

the death of Jill Meagher.



Above: Lidia Aitken sharing the skill and story of One Million Stars

Left: U3A Ararat walkers conquer our mountains! Top of Mt Langi Ghiran and a wonderful view of the area.

Below: These members are enjoying keeping fit and active with classes at U3A Mornington

Elsie Mutton Acting President U3A Network Victoria

Live Learn Enjoy





QUEENSLAND

Recent highlight has to be the 2017 U3A Network Qld Conference hosted by **U3A Twin Towns** in May. U3A Twin Towns is a relatively small U3A with around 300 members and

their committee and conference subcommittee (left) are to be complimented and sincerely congratulated on providing a conference that ticked all the boxes. Great teamwork!

For a pre-conference day out nearly 50 took a boat trip along the Tweed River to



visit the Margaret Olley Art Centre, followed by lunch. I heard this was just the best day out!

There were many enjoyable speakers over the couple of days: speakers who prompted serious thought and those who inspired a real belly laugh. Among these were, Dr Stephen Holden who described himself as an "unbranded researcher" and shared his wisdom, older to the younger, and along with "Prudence", took us all back to the 60s. Professor Mark Hughes spoke about the challenges and opportunities for LGBTI older people, and then there was Ellie Wilkie, her paintings and poems. Tracey Coles from the Office of Fair Trading covered annual return costs, the stipulation of age requirements in your constitution, audit requirements depending on your annual income/assets and registering with the ACNC.

Discussion groups included: Efficient and Effective Committees, Future Planning, Financial Management, Sponsorship, Social Programs, Managing Risk, and of course, Attracting and Retaining Volunteers and Members. The key points from these discussion groups have been circulated to all Queensland U3As and will be invaluable.

Thank you to **U3A Noosa** for hosting a regional Presidents Council in March at their Tewantin campus. **U3As Sunshine Coast, Bribie Island, Redcliffe, Caboolture and Gympie** enjoyed the interchange of ideas and hospitality. High on the agenda was a discussion on how to attract tutors and retain them. This always seems to be a hot topic.

There was a full Presidents Council meeting at the Conference. The agenda included presentations on internet banking by Janese Lowe (Redlands) and Rosalind Baker (Cairns) and Dawne Clark (Sunshine Coast) on strategic planning. Thanks to U3A Brisbane for donating a copy of their 30th anniversary book *Forever Learning* to each U3A present.

In June, **U3A Rockhampton** hosted our first Central Queensland Road Show at the Frenchville Sports Club. Country hospitality ensured a beautiful morning tea and lunch. Attendees were from **U3A Capricorn Coast** and **U3A Mackay** (a 600km round trip!)

After a full day 'sharing thoughts and ideas' — Phill Morisette, Joan Cooper and Maurice Dittman (Rockhampton) with Julie Porteous, Iris Murray and Greg Doolan (Network).



We are delighted that, once again, Network Qld has been successful in receiving a **Volunteer Grant** of \$3400 from the Department of Social Services (Federal Government) which will provide fuel vouchers and also two professionally facilitated training workshops. We are planning a Grants Writing workshop in Brisbane on 19 September and a Good Governance Workshop in Townsville on 4 October. With the long distances between U3As within Queensland it is quite remarkable that so many U3As are prepared to attend one or both of these workshops and we are thankful that the DSS has supported us with the funds to help pay for fuel and training.



U3A Redlands is letting people know that there is a U3A in town. We are grateful to the Redland City Council for agreeing to erect and maintain the sign which is on the main road into Cleveland from Brisbane.

Network Qld has submitted a proposal for further funding to continue the awareness campaign *Connecting Seniors to Lifelong Learning*. At our meeting with the Minister for Seniors, Hon. Coralee O'Rourke and the

Director, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, Karin Finsterle, we were encouraged to think outside the box and consider the recently announced program *Advancing Queensland: an age-friendly community grants program*. There are only three applicable categories (outdoor spaces and buildings, transport, and housing) and we were unable to come up with something unique in the time frame.

U3A Brisbane once again conducted their famous Winter School, 3-8 July. With 60 speakers presenting on just about anything you could think of during this week. The Winter School concept was established over a decade ago by Life Member, Anne Douglass who is still involved as a consultant to the current organizing committee.

The event is mostly held at U3A Brisbane's state of the art premises in the Brisbane CBD but other venues, like the State Library of Queensland auditorium, are used for presentations such as the keynote address by eminent Queensland paleontologist, Dr Steven Salisbury. Accommodating 265 people this venue was booked out. Winter School normally attracts over 2,000 attendees and is the premier fundraiser for U3A Brisbane.

Julie Porteous President U3A Network Qld Inc

NEW SOUTH WALES

The 2017 Annual Network Conference, hosted by Sydney U3A on 29 June, at the historic Sydney Town Hall, was well attended and received. The conference was formally opened by the NSW Minister for Ageing, the Hon. Tanya Davies MP. Highlights of the conference were four excellent keynote speakers, who explored the themes of Creation and Creativity.

The opening session was a presentation by **Professor David Christian** of Macquarie University, on the *Big History Project*, a teaching program funded by Bill Gates to teach an interdisciplinary, comprehensive and organic view of the history of the Universe from the 'Big Bang' to the present time, and particularly of the place of Planet Earth in it.

To introduce his conference lecture, Professor David Christian illustrated his approach with

the Vincent van Gogh painting, Starry Night Over the Rhone, (1888): it embodies Stars and Cosmos (Astronomy), Planet Earth (Geology), Water, when life evolved (Chemistry, Biology), Cities, Churches and Human Civilization (Anthropology, History), Modernity (Science, Technology) and "you and me trying to figure out our place in the Universe".



He explained the development of the Universe and human history in terms of the expansion of and access to energy from the time of the first atom (the Big Bang), the appearance of stars and chemical elements, life on earth, and the evolution of humanity, to the present effects of population growth through the development of agriculture and use of fossil fuels to climate change, leaving us to ponder how to maintain a sustainable world.

It may sound somewhat overwhelming, but the lecture was both riveting and enlightening. It is an ideal topic for U3A groups to discuss, either as a short overview as explained by Professor Christian's PowerPoint lecture (available from u3answ@gmail.com), or as a term length course MOOC undertaken from https://www.coursera.org/learn/big-history.

Margret Meagher, Director of the Australian Centre for Arts and Health, outlined current research into the relationship between the arts and creative expression, and physical and mental health, including relief from depression. She was followed by **Chris Mead**, Director of the Creature Tales and Arts Health Agency Tasmania, which is currently providing training for aged care providers and young staff to provide creative activities for dementia and other very elderly patients. Chris's message was that Creative Ageing opens doors. As he expressed it, "making art is like ageing itself – a process of reflection, adaption and choice".

Finally, Professor **Toni Robinson**, University of Technology Sydney, demonstrated the development of technologies designed to support independent living, not necessarily limited to older people. These included 'smart' everyday items designed to measure activity (e.g., a fork to measure food intake, a walking stick to measure physical activity), a sensor

link to a caregiver to monitor any problems, a kettle that provides an internet link and a robotic dog which related to the individual owner as a pet, a monitor and a security sensor.

A bravura performance from a team of salsa dancers, leading to a conga line of happy registrants, demonstrated the value of music and dance, to end the conference.

At the **Annual General Meeting**, Ainslie Lamb stood down as president and from the committee, and Ian Robertson (Sapphire Coast U3A) was elected president. Ainslie was presented with flowers and a commemorative plaque in appreciation of her 9 years of service on the network committee.

The community records of another two U3A members ware recognised in the 2017 Queen's Birthday Australian Honours List in June. **Jenny Dowell**, former mayor of Lismore, and a member of Northern Rivers U3A, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). Jenny has also been awarded an honorary doctorate from Southern Cross University for her service to the Lismore and Northern Rivers communities. **Janice Wilson** of U3A ACT was also awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to the community of Yass.

Bermagui U3A Presentation of Wall Hangings to Bermagui Surf Club



The Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, Member for Eden-Monaro, officiated at the presentation of handcrafted rugs made by the Bermagui U3A. After using the Surf Club's superb facility for U3A classes in 2013, Dawn Hollins saw the need for something to minimize the poor acoustics. Dawn consulted a local rug hooker and the Surf Club committee accepted her proposal to hang rugs in the clubrooms designed to form a panorama from Bermagui Harbour to Horseshoe Bay featuring the club building, flags and lifesavers.

U3A teacher and artist Rona Walker did the drawing and in June 2014 over 20 U3A women signed up to learn the old craft of rug hooking and work on this challenging community arts undertaking. In February 2015 work began on the seven 1m x 1.4m hessian panels, using recycled clothing which had to be sliced into strips, hence the group was divided into 'hookers' and 'strippers'. The remaining 11 regulars completed the last panel in September 2016. The launch party where the entire panorama was revealed was a resounding success. Many thanks go to Dawn and all the 'hookers and strippers' for their tireless endeavours.

Ainslie Lamb,
Newsletter Editor
U3A Network NSW Inc.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The main event this month was the annual U3A(UWA) seminar *Gateways to Learning*, held at the State Library in Northbridge, Perth, on Wednesday 19 July.

An excellent array of speakers was lined up by the seminar committee, led by coordinator, Jennie Cox, from South West Metropolitan U3A.

The morning session was opened by our patron, Emeritus Professor Alan Robson who spoke on the worrying decline in education in Australia in terms of equity, particularly for boys completing Year 12, regional students going on to tertiary studies and indigenous participation, especially in remote areas. This was followed by a team presentation from State Library staff on some of the newer techniques used to engage students. Of particular interest was a talk and display on *Digging Up The Past and Righting Wrongs*.

CHANGING THE RULES

One of the display boards in the Righting The Wrongs exhibition

Enjoying a buffet lunch in the foyer.

The next speaker was Rachael McIntyre from the NBN who told those of us not yet connected (most) what to expect when the NBN arrives. There were many questions for her and she offered to follow up

personally in cases where people hadn't been able to get answers. It all sounds OK.

The afternoon was led by Andrew Porter, Academic Chair in Journalism at Murdoch University whose talk was titled *The Future of Print Media*. Not a great future, it seems. He can't see many newspapers surviving much past 10 years. Audiences for traditional media, including free to air TV, are declining which means advertising revenues are also on the wane. Quality journalism has to be paid for and, if it's not, then we will be forced to get the news, as tailored to our 'special interests', by some algorithm on Facebook or the ilk. A lively question and answer session ensued.

Finally, we heard from Cassandra Lake from WASO, who talked about the outreach program of the orchestra to reach disadvantaged children, especially those in hospital or in remote areas. One interesting program they are undertaking with adults is the 'Rusty Orchestra' where amateur instrumentalists are invited to join the professional players to stage a performance. A wonderful experience for the non-professionals. The seminar concluded with a string quartet *Chromos* made up of UWA music students, who played a selection of classical and more modern pieces.



Chromos and their appreciative audience



Peter Flanigan Vice President WA Network



MAUDIE

Complimentary Film Preview Tickets

Follow this link to download complimentary tickets to your preferred cinema:

http://www.showfilmfirst.com/pin/909988

This is your chance to attend a free preview before general release from 24 August.

Limited tickets available. Act fast.



You and a guest are invited to a special advanced preview of MAUDIE at cinemas across Australia.

Check out the trailer - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aS2kgAQ3InI

ACT

Wed. 2 August Capitol Cinemas Manuka 6.30 pm

NSW

Sun. 6 August Event Cinemas George St, 11 am Tues. 1 August Ritz Cinema Randwick, 6.30 pm

QLD

Mon. 21 August Event Cinemas Indooroopilly 6.30 pm Mon. 21 August Event Cinemas Chermside 6.30 pm Mon. 21 August Dendy Portside, 6.30 pm

SA

Mon. 31 July The Regal Theatre 6.30 pm

TAS

Wed. 2 August State Cinema, Hobart, 6.15pm

VIC

Tues. 22 August The Astor Theatre, 7.30 pm Mon. 21 August Lido Cinemas, 6.45 pm Mon. 21 August Cameo Belgrave, 6.45 pm

MAUDIE, based on the true story of Canadian folk artist Maud Lewis, is an unlikely romance in which the reclusive Everett Lewis (Ethan Hawke) hires a fragile yet determined woman named Maudie (Sally Hawkins) to be his housekeeper. Maudie, bright-eyed but hunched with crippled hands, yearns to be independent, to live away from her protective family, and she also yearns, passionately, to create art. Unexpectedly, Everett finds himself falling in love.

MAUDIE charts Everett's efforts to protect himself from being hurt, Maudie's deep and abiding love for this difficult man and her surprising rise to fame as a folk painter.