

## A MYSTERIOUS EVENT

A basket appears at the U3A Office door.

When the cover is lifted, the following objects are discovered;

Copies of books by Yuval Noah Harari, Richard Dawkins, Jean-Paul Sartre.

A scruffy sketch-book, well used, with examples of cylinders, perspective, cubism, Australian Impressionism – a myriad of styles and interpretations of art through the ages

A life of T.S. Eliot and a copy of *The Wasteland*

Rough drafts of poems and stories with a limping keyboard

A selection of gum-nuts, eucalyptus leaves, faded blossoms, hand-drawn profiles of trees, pieces of bark

Several inscribed pieces of linoleum, printer's ink, cutting tools, some cards almost ready for sending

Tea-bags, coffee, biscuits in a tin.

Newsletters, photographs, jokes, events, time-tables; some creased and crumbled over the years

What are the meanings of these assorted items?

In the centre, nestling happily, is a terra-cotta group of figures of indeterminate type, holding hands, as if to venture into a dance of friendly comfort and companionship.

*AHA*, says a Wise Committee Person. *I understand the riddle. This is the meaning of U3A to our members– or one of them.*

*WAIT*, says Another: *what is this tiny piece of paper beneath the dancing friendly figures?*

It says *HAPPY TENTH BIRTHDAY, U3A UPPER YARRA !*

Helen Clancy

February 2021