



Sale U3A members visit the Sale Signal Box in Reeve St. U3A vice president Eric Thorne is pictured operating equipment in the centre of the photo, bringing back memories for him of his time with the British Army 65 years ago.

Photo: Contributed

U3A visiting far and wide

SALE U3A has an extensive program of lectures, study courses, language study, walks and visits far and wide.

Last month members visited Puffing Billy and this month includes a visit to Fulham Correctional Centre and a tour of the Gippsland Water factory.

A highlight of the year will be a visit to Parliament House in Melbourne in August under the guidance of Eastern Victoria MLC Philip Davis.

U3A members recently toured a number of historical sites, including the Sale Signal Box and the Powder Magazine in Sale, ending with lunch at the Sale Museum in Foster St.

U3A vice president Eric Thorne was among those testing the signalling system during the tour of the Signal Box which, for him, presented some *deja vu*.

The last time he signalled the "down

line" was in Palestine with the British Army on United Nations mandate duties 65 years ago at Ramle Station.

He was with an armoured car rail unit which patrolled the line from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv every morning, hoping it would not explode over mines planted overnight.

The bombs were intended for the first morning train.

Mr Thorne said the non-operational experience at the Signal Box in Sale had made "an old man happy to be around 60 years later".

More information about U3A's programs are available from secretary Lesley Hocken, phone 5144 1580 or Eric Thorne on 5143 3004.

People are welcome to attend meetings which are held at Community College Gippsland in Desailly St, Sale.

Regular gatherings are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.30am.

Mr Thorne said new members will be welcomed by this lively group and coffee is available.