

U3A MANNINGHAM – 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

All U3A Manningham members should be proud of how we navigated our way through 2020. No in-person classes were held after Friday, 13 March and by the start of Term 2, we were ‘zooming along’. In a very short time, over 60 classes were on Zoom. *U3AM at Home* articles commenced early in Term 2, with a wide variety of material being contributed which was of interest to our members. Zoom classes and *U3AM at Home* continued until the end of Term 4 during what seemed like a very long period when we couldn’t meet in person.

By September 2020, it was clear that U3A Manningham would not be returning to in-person classes before February 2021. The conduct of the January 2021 Summer School was considered too problematic and the Committee of Management started planning for classes to commence on Monday, 1 February 2021.

Some important policy decisions were made in planning for 2021. Firstly, classes would only commence when the Victorian Government regulations and the requirements of the Manningham Council could be readily accommodated. Secondly, the tutor of the class had to feel comfortable with the arrangements before a class could recommence. Thirdly, it was decided that 2020 members would be rolled over into 2021 without paying a membership fee for 2021.

It was clear that not all members would return to classes at the commencement of Term 1 2021 and not all classes would be permitted to operate under any proposed Safe COVID Plan. The Committee of Management met every two weeks on Zoom in late 2020 to carefully plan for a very different start to a new U3A year.

Some classes had to modify their programs to meet the requirements of our Safe COVID Plan. For a few classes, this meant continuing with Zoom sessions and for others, it meant changes in class structures and presentations. Our tutors are to be congratulated on the way they adapted to the new and sometimes challenging requirements.

U3A Manningham Thirtieth Birthday

The first classes of the Doncaster and Templestowe U3A were held on 14 October 1991. We started with eleven classes and our original tutors were **Joyce Berdey, Rosa Combes, George Fiedler, Barbara Haye, Dawn Heffernan, Neville Heffernan, Pearl Labansky, Ulrich Mosse and Ray Verrills**. The name of our U3A was changed immediately after the name of the municipality was changed to Manningham. We will be celebrating our 30th birthday in October this year.

Manningham City Council

U3A Manningham continues to receive outstanding support from the Councillors and Officers of the Manningham City Council. This support was much appreciated during 2020 when many issues had to be worked through. The inclusion of the Pines Function Room in our new lease for three days a week has been greatly appreciated.

U3A Network Victoria and the U3A Eastern Metropolitan Region

U3A Manningham is one of 106 U3As in Victoria which make up U3A Network Victoria as constituent members. In-person quarterly meetings were not possible in 2020 and meetings were held by Zoom. These meetings and the information sent out by U3A Network Victoria

proved extremely helpful and necessary during 2020. Sharing with other U3As is always very important but was even more so in 2020.

U3A Manningham is a member of the U3A Eastern Metropolitan Region. This is a group of local U3As who are very similar in many ways. Meetings are usually held at the end of each term and for some time now meetings have been held by Zoom. Cooperation between local U3As is important and it is always very useful so know how our neighbours are getting on.

The Future

Every organisation that delivers a fine product, like U3A Manningham, needs to have all the constituent parts that make up the institution in good order and performing efficiently. The adoption of an updated Constitution later in this meeting will be part of the process of keeping the institution we know as U3A Manningham relevant and up to date. The Committee of Management will soon be looking at other matters, including a new strategic plan.

Thanks

Our members stepped up to assist classes to continue to function and to keep us connected in 2020 when the COVID lockdown was imposed. A special thanks to the Committee of Management for attending many meetings and for being available at short notice so often during 2020. My sincere thanks to all members for their support and assistance during these very challenging times.

David Jenz OAM
President