

**TWENTY-SEVENTH**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, 14 March 2018**

**MANNINGHAM U3A Inc**

**President's Report**

**THE MANNINGHAM U3A VISION**

To ensure that lifelong learning is a real and essential part of later life.

**THE MANNINGHAM U3A MISSION**

To promote the intellectual, psychological and physical benefits of learning in later life and to achieve this through a programme of self-help learning.

**THE MANNINGHAM U3A COMMUNITY FOCUS**

To make appropriate and health-enhancing activities available to retired people in the local community regardless of ethnic status, background, gender or educational attainment.

Manningham U3A exists to provide a wide variety of lifelong learning and social opportunities to retired members of the community over the age of 55. We are now entering upon our 27<sup>th</sup> year and have grown immensely from those early days of 1991 when a mere 35 members gathered together to offer 12 self-help activities. That we can now offer nearly 200 classes to approximately 1700 members highlights the important role that we play in the community and in people's lives. During the quarter century existence of our organisation a great deal of research has been published on the vital role that mental, physical and socially oriented activities play in the lives of retired members of the community. It is clear that we are successfully meeting this essential need and are making a major contribution to the maintenance of health and well-being in this ever-growing segment of contemporary society. We are justifiably proud of this success but recognise that it could not be done of course without the support and contribution of numerous bodies and individuals.

Firstly I would like to gratefully acknowledge the support of Manningham City Council. We are immensely fortunate to enjoy such a positive, encouraging and dynamic relationship and recognise this every time that we meet in this impressive location at The Pines which Council has provided for us.

Secondly Manningham U3A is essentially a united team of dedicated volunteers who are happy to offer the benefits of their experience, skills and expertise: the Committee of Management, the office staff, the tutors and activity leaders, the class reps, catering volunteers who will provide us with our lunch today and the many and varied sub-groups without whose selfless efforts our organisation would not function as efficiently and effectively as it has.

Thirdly I would like to acknowledge the extremely beneficial collaborative relationship that we enjoy with Pines Learning. There are many areas of common usage within the Pines building that we share with Pines Learning and we are grateful for their considerate and helpful cooperation.

# IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

## The MyU3A Membership Management System

2017 marked the third year that we have used the MyU3A computerised management system for enrolment, membership management and internal communication. The impetus for introducing these systems in U3As came from the Network of Victorian U3As Organisation and to date nearly half of the 106 U3As in Victoria have installed one of the two systems available. Our system is one that was designed initially and essentially to meet the particular requirements of U3A usage and is managed by a dedicated team of U3A members who are working continually to refine, upgrade and extend its functionality. We must remember that we are still in a pioneering period with these systems and recognise that there will be teething problems. However the system is continually proving itself to be advantageous in simplifying and improving day-by-day management tasks. We recognise that there will be inevitable glitches and are grateful for the patience and understanding of the membership. I would like to thank the Enrolment team and data entry officers who have got through an immense amount of work here behind the scenes.

## Policies

- A Special General Meeting was held just before the Tutors Lunch in July in order to change the enrolment procedure for electing the Committee of Management as stated in the Constitution. This has become necessary because of the increasing complexity of each of the management roles and positions requiring members who wish to serve on the Committee to be aware of the demands and special requirements of each post before choosing in which area they would like to serve.

Two modifications to Priority Enrolment Levels were made which came into force at the enrolment period for 2018:

1. Members aged 80-89 years are now regraded to Priority Level 3 unless they have completed higher level volunteer tasks.
  2. Priority Level 5 was removed. This level had covered those members who did not undertake any volunteer tasks in the previous year. The Committee of Management was keen to give new members as much opportunity as possible to gain admittance to our classes and therefore considered that there was insufficient justification in allowing members who perform no volunteer tasks to retain any enrolment advantage.
- With the help of a small group of members with previous nursing experience the procedure for dealing with medical emergencies was revised and refined.
  - In consultation with Pines Learning the Code of Conduct policy was updated to include restrictions on access to the Pines Learning part of the building. Because we have a shared environment where children and young people are to be found steps have been taken to ensure that a suitable child safe policy is in place and we are grateful to our members for recognising and respecting the new restrictions on movement within the Pines Building as a whole.

## **Fees**

- In the light of increasing costs and operational requirements it was decided to increase the annual fee to \$70. We also introduced a facility for members to make voluntary financial donations. These changes were considered necessary because it is proving ever more difficult to meet the costs of external venues required to successfully offer the wide range of activities that we have grown used to over the years.

## **Grants**

- \$1800 Programme Growth Support Grant enabled us to replace old strength training equipment and also to purchase material for the Migrant English program.
- \$3,300 Manningham City Council grant for setting up the electronic document management system (EDMS).
- \$3,300 Manningham City Council grant for the acquisition of 8 Acer laptops and a 24xunit mobile charging station to be used for computer classes.

## **Community Involvement**

- Members of the Manningham Local Dementia Alliance Group organised a seminar on Dementia Awareness on 18<sup>th</sup> October facilitated by Taffy Jones.
- As in previous years our members donated generously to Doncare in terms 2 and 4.
- At the beginning of Seniors Week in October we participated in Celebration Day at Federation Square. Demonstrations of a variety of craft skills and other class activities were presented together with performances from the Line Dancing classes.

## **Australia Day Awards**

Alita Mossop, who has been our secretary for 8 years, was nominated by the Committee of Management for a Menzies Award which she received from The Hon. Kevin Andrews, MP, on Australia Day.

Also Telmay Dodd, one of our Strength Training tutors, was successfully nominated by the Manningham Interfaith Network.

We extend our sincere congratulations to both of them.

## **Committee of Management**

During the course of 2017 one of the key officers of the Committee of Management, the Curriculum Manager Joan Creber, had to resign because of ill health. However it is to the great credit of the members of the COM that with goodwill and ever ready collaboration and initiative the necessary work got done. The same is true at the moment when our Vice President, Michael Howard, is temporarily out of action. There is such good team spirit and selfless commitment to the job in hand that these minor setbacks can be easily overcome and accommodated. With this in mind I would like to thank the members of the COM most sincerely for all their hard work and support. It has been a privilege for me to work with them. I am confident that together your committee has discharged its managerial duties responsibly and effectively.

## **Conclusion**

On behalf of the Committee of Management I would like to thank our numerous volunteers for their time, energy and efforts in yet another highly successful year. I am happy to report that we continue to be in a strong and healthy position to respond to the needs and expectations of the ever-increasing numbers of third-age members of our community.

Geoff Sheldon  
President