

## President's Report



It was indeed a delight to be in the U3A Manningham rooms at The Pines in February to see the many happy members so glad to be back attending classes. I also encountered similar happy scenes at the outside venues I attended.

We had a very successful Summer School over January and I would like to thank the tutors for giving up part of their holidays to keep many of our members fit and happy.

The coronavirus is still very much in the news. The advice from the Committee of Management is still the same as stated in my email to all members on 28 January 2020: that any members returning from China or other areas of concern are asked not to attend U3A Manningham activities for two weeks after they return to Australia.

**Lula Black** and **Trish Taylor** were presented with Menzies Community Awards on Sunday, 26 January by the **Hon. Kevin Andrews, MP**, at a ceremony in the Manningham Council Function Room. Both were nominated by U3A Manningham for their role as tutors and for publishing six volumes of *The Golden Quill*. Lula and Trish used the occasion to present both Kevin Andrews and the Mayor, **Cr Paul McLeish**, with all six volumes of *The Golden Quill* - much to the delight of the 300 plus audience.

Our accommodation costs have been substantially reduced this year by moving classes away from high cost external venues. The Committee of Management greatly appreciates the efforts of the tutors who were involved in this process.

I have been in touch with some people from East Gippsland about the terrible fires. They have told me that the best thing we can do is to visit Mallacoota, stay for a while, spend some money and have some fun. The bushwalking tracks are not in good order but the beaches and water areas are fine. The local people need happy and friendly visitors who will lift their spirits.

I will not be nominating for President at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting but will be nominating for the position of Vice President. I will have pleasure in nominating **David McNamara** for President after his one year term as Vice President.

**David Jensz, President**

# MANNINGHAM U3A INC

Registration No. A0026531J

## Twenty-Ninth Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 19 March 2020 at 11.30am

Notice is hereby given that the Twenty-Ninth Annual General Meeting of Manningham U3A Inc. will be held in The Pines Function Room, The Pines Learning and Activity Centre, 520 Blackburn Road, Doncaster East.

### Order of Business

1. Welcome and acceptance of apologies.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting of 21 March 2019.
3. To confirm the Minutes of the Special General Meeting of 25 July 2019.
4. Business arising from the Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting.
5. To receive, consider and adopt the Annual Report.
6. To receive the Statement of Accounts and Auditor's Report for the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019.
7. To transact any other business which must be submitted one week prior to the Meeting.
8. Election of Committee of Management Members for 2020.

*A light luncheon will be served following the meeting.*

**Alita Mossop, Secretary**

All positions on the Committee of Management are declared vacant each year. The positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Enrolments Manager, Office Manager, Curriculum Manager, Communications Manager, and Equipment Manager.

Members interested in nominating for a position on the Committee of Management should have a commitment to the objectives of the organisation and be prepared to accept an appropriate responsibility for an aspect of its management. Current role descriptions of the Committee of Management members are available at the Office.

Nominations of candidates for election as members of the Committee of Management shall be in writing on the appropriate form. Forms must be signed by two members of the Association and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination) and must be delivered to the Secretary by 3.00pm on Wednesday, 11 March 2020.

Nomination forms for the election of Committee of Management Members are available from the Office.

# Shirley Fung – from Penang, Malaysia to Melbourne



## What is your country of origin?

I was born in Penang, a little island in what was then Malaya. I am the third of a family of seven children.

## What was life like in Penang?

I lived in Penang for the first nineteen years of my life near the business centre, George Town. We called it the business centre because it was the only place where there was some commercial activity although at a slow pace. To this day, it has not changed much - like a place trapped in a time capsule. This is a quality that has endeared me to the place, and the fact that nowhere in Penang is too far from the beach. My grandfather ran a small business importing machinery and paper. The amazing thing about him was that he was educated only up to Grade 5, barely able to speak English, but was able to do business with the British. My Mum and Dad worked with him, Mum in the office and Dad outdoors at the docks, fully exposed to the tropical sun as he waited for cargo to arrive by sea.

I attended Methodist Girls' School, a school run by American missionaries. The school taught the three Rs plus one, the fourth being Religious Instruction. I remember my religious instruction classes in Year 7. We had to memorise the books of the Bible - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, and it went on, ten books per day!

Apart from the formal subjects, the school also taught girls to be proper ladies. We learned to cook and sew at an early age. It was difficult to stay awake in class because of the heat. The doors of the classroom were kept open all the time to allow hot air to circulate with the help of one ceiling fan. School finished at half past one, and we went home for lunch. There were very few after-school activities. There was no TV and no electronic gadgets to occupy our time but somehow, we managed to keep ourselves entertained. I remember cycling with my brothers who went to the beach regularly to catch sea snakes that they could sell to the hospital to be milked for preparing antivenin.

Children were placed into streamed classes. Not by choice, I was enrolled into the Science stream. When we performed dissections on frogs, rats and rabbits, we had to find our own specimens. I remember going to the botanical gardens at night with my classmates to catch frogs. We always caught more than we needed so we could sell them to students who were better off than us. The back alleys where we lived teemed with rats which we caught to take to our Science lesson. As for the rabbits, one mating pair could produce many young in a short space of time. This was another commercial enterprise for the poorer children. There were always plenty of interesting things to do and I can't recall ever complaining about being bored. Having six siblings was a great advantage. We were never short of teams for ball games.

## Why did you decide to come to Australia?

In 1967, I was awarded a Colombo Plan scholarship to study Science at Monash University. I majored in Botany and Genetics. It was at a time when Genetic Engineering was in its rudimentary phase. The transfer of genes between living things captured my interest and motivated me to do research in the area. In fact, my thesis was about the transfer of DNA between viruses and bacteria. It was at Monash that I met Philip who was a medical student from Hong Kong. When we married and started a family, we applied to remain in Australia. It has been a privilege to be allowed to settle in Australia, now with our three children and seven grandchildren.

## Shirley Fung – from Penang, Malaysia to Melbourne (Cont'd)

### What were your first impressions of Australia?

Geography lessons in Malaysia did not cover Australia. I knew very little about Australia except from the movies. All I could picture before arriving were kangaroos, koalas, gum trees and the great outback. When I arrived in Australia, there was so much more. It took some time for me to adapt to the Australian accent and for Australians to adapt to mine, but it all worked out in the end and improved communication enhanced my ability to integrate into the Australian way of life.

### What did you do after your tertiary education?

I taught HSC Biology at Mount Scopus College and later became the Director of Curriculum there. When VCE was introduced, I was contracted by publisher Longman Cheshire (later to become Addison Wesley) to write a series of VCE Biology textbooks and an Environmental Science book. I also wrote for the *Sun Study* page of the *Herald Sun* for a number of years. At the time, it seemed that my writing was focused upon all things scientific. While still working, I decided to study for an Arts degree to strike a balance in my education between the Sciences and the Arts. My studies in the Arts were mainly in Literature and Philosophy.

When I completed my Bachelor of Arts course, I decided to try my hand at fiction writing after retiring from my job as a Science educator. My first novel, *Second Chinese Daughter*, was published in May 2018. It was a great learning experience and has encouraged me to continue in the writing of fiction.

### You volunteer as a tutor at U3A Manningham. Why did you decide to offer Genetics as a course?

In whatever other areas I have engaged in, I have always remained interested in Genetics. It is such a fascinating and ever broadening field with unlimited possibilities in the treatment and/or cure of human illnesses. I thought it would be a good idea to share what I know with other members of U3A Manningham. I have deliberately focused on the role of genetic engineering in treating the illnesses of people of mature age. The aim of the course is not to make people experts in the field, but rather to keep them informed, so that they have a better understanding of the subject when they read about it or watch it on television. It is a means of enabling participants to rise to the challenge of a complex subject (good for brain training) and to keep in touch with the advancements in gene technology that impact on our lives.

Shirley Fung, Tutor - Genetics

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## Twenty Plus Years

The following tutors have given U3A Manningham twenty or more years service as tutors:

Heather Ambrose  
Moirax Axtens  
Lesley Catt  
Linda Chin  
Angelina Chung

Ethel Frederick  
Barbara Hall  
Dawn Heffernan  
Desiree Higgins  
Patrick Khaw

Don McKelvie  
Jan Palmer  
Des Thornton  
Carmen Woodward

Thanks and congratulations to all these wonderful people who have given an enormous amount of time and effort to U3A Manningham members by taking classes for such a long time. Most of them are tutoring again this year and **Dawn Heffernan** is now in her thirtieth year of tutoring us.

David Jensz

# St John Community Transport – Helping our Community

U3A Manningham member, **Paul O'Connor**, needed to get to the Austin Hospital for a procedure but rather than using a taxi, he contacted St John Community Transport. He found the service “superb” and wanted to share his experience with other members through our newsletter.

St John is a not-for-profit organisation which has been operating in the Victorian community for over 135 years.

At the end of 2017, St John launched a new community program and through research of the current transport market, identified that there are varying levels of reliability and support for vulnerable and elderly members of our community and so St John Community Transport was born.

Staffed by volunteers, it offers customers a safe, reliable and affordable door to door transport service. It is passionate about helping people maintain their independence and assist passengers, not only to get to vital medical appointments, but also to keep them socially connected to their communities, families and friends to combat social isolation.

The service operates from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays throughout Melbourne and surrounding suburbs.

All drivers are trained in first aid and all vehicles are stocked with first aid kits and defibrillators to assist with various medical emergencies, should they arise.

Costs are based on distance travelled rather than time, and payment is taken over the phone via credit card at the time of booking. This means that customers don't have to watch the meter tick over whilst sitting in traffic and don't have to worry about being slugged with any hidden costs.

One Way Range	One Way Cost	Round Trip Range	Round Trip Cost
10 km	\$17.00	20 km	\$26.00
20 km	\$22.00	40 km	\$33.00
30 km	\$28.00	60 km	\$42.00
40 km	\$34.00	80 km	\$51.00
50 km	\$39.00	100 km	\$58.00
60 km	\$45.00	120 km	\$67.00

*Charges at February 2020*

In addition to the Community Transport Service, St John also offers the option of a Companion Service at \$35 per hour. This helps those wanting assistance with carrying shopping, medical appointments, attendance at events and other situations requiring a companion.

To find out more or to book, St John can be contacted on 1300 785 646 between 8:30am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

# St John Community Transport - Helping our Community (Cont'd)

St John is currently recruiting volunteer drivers. The role includes:

- Picking up, transporting and dropping off customers safely and timely throughout Melbourne and surrounding areas.
- Assisting customers with loading and unloading of walking aids, luggage, bags, etc.
- Navigating and timing journeys with the use of a smart phone.
- Collecting and returning the vehicle and equipment needed each day to State Office in Mount Waverley.
- Monitoring the vehicle's condition.

St John provides training and mentoring, including first aid training, to all volunteers.

To find out more about the role and apply, please visit: <https://www.stjohnvic.com.au/community/volunteer-roles-community-transport/>.

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## Curriculum Report



Welcome to a fantastic 2020. This year, we have 183 courses being offered by 147 tutors. I would like to thank those people who tutor year after year with great enthusiasm, and also welcome those who have just joined our family of tutors.

<b>Emanuel Alexiou</b>	Rock & Roll Diamond Group
<b>Lynette De Bortoli</b>	Spanish Conversation
<b>Quintin Coutinho</b>	Computer - Basic level 1
<b>Don O'Gorman</b>	Music Theory
<b>Pauline Dinatale</b>	Walking Tuesday
<b>Gina Evans</b>	Strength Training B
<b>Carole McNamara</b>	Pilates (Gentle)
<b>Gayle McCann</b>	Embroidery (Self Help)
<b>John Penwill</b>	Australian History
<b>Ken Coleman</b>	Workshop for Migrant English Tutors
<b>Kate Ellis</b>	Sketching and Drawing for Beginners

There are vacancies in a number of courses and members are encouraged to explore and enrol in these courses. For example: Badminton, Scrabble Intermediate, Computer Basics (Term 3), iPad Workshop for Beginners (Term 4), Music Lovers Group, Suzuki Violin for Beginners (Term 2), Tutor Workshop for Migrant English, and many more. Please check on MyU3A for courses with vacancies.

**Milly Ching, Curriculum Coordinator**

# The Orchestra of U3A Hawthorn

Last year, some 24 years after it was founded and 65 concerts later, *The Orchestra of U3A Hawthorn*, saw the retirement of its founder, **Ruth Muir**. It is quite something to have maintained a full symphony orchestra over the years and of course, the obvious need to replenish is a constant urgency.

The orchestra meets on Thursday mornings at Camberwell and gives three main concerts a year. Its repertoire ranges from the Baroque to the present day, including giving voice to local composers. A special spirit of camaraderie binds us together, drawing musicians from as far afield as Bendigo (our Concert Master), Gippsland, Main Ridge, Brighton, Montmorency, etc.

We have ex-professional musicians from the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and former teachers of their respective instruments, as well as members who play or have played with other community orchestras, the band movement, big bands and so on. Importantly, we have members who have taken up their instruments as adult learners so there is a wide range of abilities but all with a dedication to practise and rehearse, culminating under our Conductors, **Willem van der Vis** and **Gyula Cseszko**, in satisfying music making of the masters.

There has been a policy of giving experience to promising young musicians and showcasing our own talent. This year, we are hoping to take the orchestra further afield. We are attempting to develop chamber groups using musicians from outside, as well as within the orchestra.

We are seeking people who are competent in playing their instruments, with some ability to sight read. If you are hesitant because you have not played in an orchestra before, or been part of a chamber group, well, that's why there are rehearsals!



If you are interested in joining the orchestra or a chamber group or know someone who might be, please contact me on 0415 530 789.

**Ken Jamieson, Orchestral Manager**  
**The Orchestra of U3A Hawthorn.**

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## Volunteering at U3A Manningham

Thank you to all 1,205 members who have offered to take on a task. This level of generosity helps to keep tasks at manageable, and indeed, enjoyable levels.

If you have offered to help and have not yet found a task, you might like to let us know so that we can keep you on our list for when a position becomes vacant.

Contact us either by pigeonhole or email on [hna@iinet.net.au](mailto:hna@iinet.net.au).

**Heather Ambrose - Volunteer Co-ordinator**

# Enrolments Report

Once again, my thanks go to **Joan French**, the senior member of our Data Entry team, for the work she has done over her 'holidays'. There is a great deal of work that builds up between finishing the previous year and the start of the new year. Thanks largely to Joan, many members who were on wait lists for classes have now got in. Class vacancies were freed up by withdrawals from over-committed members, available spots that were reserved for new members but were not taken up, and when the initial restriction limit of five classes per member was lifted.

Where classes were not limited by space or equipment constraints, many tutors have allowed for increased class sizes. These tutors should have many grateful class members.

If you are interested in applying for other classes, with the increased number of vacancies released in the past month, do check. You may be fortunate enough to get into classes you were originally interested in but which were full then, but may not be now. Good luck!

## A request to all members

Please ensure that your personal profile is correct, especially your email address. It creates a lot of extra work when an email is sent out to members and is rejected because the address is not recognised. This is usually caused by a misspelt email address or by a member getting a new email address but forgetting to update their profile on MyU3A.

Another mail problem is that some members allow their mailbox to fill and so any new emails are rejected - this will not even allow a message telling you that your mailbox is full. There are a number of ways to prevent this. If you cannot work out how, contact your Internet provider and ask for help - you are paying them!

## New members please note

Places were reserved for new members in the most popular classes this year. For next year's enrolments (that is 2021), you will need to make sure that you have done sufficient volunteering in 2020 to ensure that you have a priority level which may enable you to get into your classes of choice. You may volunteer for any of the volunteer categories by logging into **MyU3A**, clicking on the **Update Profile** button which will take you to your **Application Form**. You can then tick the relevant boxes at the bottom of that page. More details of volunteering can be found on the **About Us** page on our website.

## External venue charges - Badminton

Because of the high cost of the external venue used, only Badminton attracts an external venue fee this year. Members of these Badminton classes which are held in an external venue and for which a fee applies are required to pay that external venue fee before commencing the class. If you have not paid your fee, please do so promptly. All such fees should have been paid when you were accepted into the class. Members with outstanding fees are risking being excluded from their classes.

Outstanding external venue fees may be paid by credit/debit card securely by using the **Pay by PayPal** button. This is explained in **MyU3A Help**, available via the **MyU3A Help** button on the **Courses** page. There is no need to have a PayPal account, but if you have a PayPal account, you may elect to pay that way. You will receive an email from PayPal confirming your payment. If you are unable to pay online, your payment may be made at the Office during office hours.

# Enrolments Report (Cont'd)

## Important

When you are accepted into a class, a record appears on your **Member Summary** page of all classes for which you have applied, together with the fees and your payment status. You will also receive an email from PayPal acknowledging your payment through the PayPal system, as well as a receipt for any amount paid at the Office. Please ensure that you keep copies of receipts in case there is any confusion or dispute that may arise later over whether you have enrolled in a class and whether you have paid. You can print your **Member Summary** page by displaying it. (Click on **Next** when you are in the **Membership Status** page and select **File** and **Print** on your browser.)

Warwick Wright, Enrolments Manager

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## NBN – Some Interesting Facts

I hope those members who attended my presentation on the National Broadband Network (NBN) late last year gained some understanding of the new system and what questions to ask when the installer comes to your home.

As part of the NBN rollout, existing copper internet and phone services within Australia will be switched off 18 months after an area is connected to fixed line NBN. The changeover is mandatory for Australians living in fixed line areas who want to keep using a landline phone service.

Many people are moving from having a landline to just using their mobile phones. That's fine but remember that you still need internet connection for all your computer-generated appliances: computers, Smart TVs, etc.

There are presently four telephone exchanges in our area: Doncaster, Bulleen, Templestowe and Balwyn North. The Doncaster, Bulleen and Templestowe exchanges will be turned off with their customers being connected via fibre optic cable to the equipment at the Balwyn North exchange. That exchange is known as a Point of Interconnect. There will be 30 POIs in Victoria and a total of 121 POIs for the whole of Australia.

Interesting!



Ken Hosking

Ken Hosking

(Following his career at Telstra, Ken now assists U3AM members with their mobile phones and tutors a class on Introduction to iPads. He also writes articles for this newsletter from time to time on useful hints on computers, mobile phones and apps.)

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## Thank You!

Thank you to the tutors, class reps and all class members who have taken part in evacuation drills over the last few weeks. A very simple but effective class evacuation drill is the best way to prepare us for any future emergency.

David Jensz

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# Office Report



Welcome to another year of U3A, not least to all the volunteers who will be helping in the office this year. We have over 200 names on our list and we couldn't do what we do without you.

**All members are reminded to wear their name tags to all classes.** If you haven't received one, please ask at the office. All new members are automatically printed a name tag for collection, free of charge. We have a box full of tags that need to be collected. If you have lost your name tag, please check at the office first, as we have a collection of 'found' tags, before you order a new one at a cost of \$5.

Anyone who wishes to change their details (address, phone, email etc.), please log onto the MyU3A website and make the changes yourself. If you need help, please send an email to [enrolmenthelp@u3amanningham.org.au](mailto:enrolmenthelp@u3amanningham.org.au) or ask for an **Office Messages for the Enrolment Team** form at the office. Fill it in and our data entry people will do this for you.

I look forward to seeing you all at the office.

**Robyn Buttlng, Office Manager**

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## Kaffeeklatsch 2020

Would you like to have a friendly chat in German over a cup of coffee? Your level of German doesn't matter. However, we would like you to participate in German.

Native speakers are most welcome to join this group. It gives students of German an opportunity to practise with competent German speakers, and it would also benefit you, the native speakers, with friendship, opportunity to keep your own language skills alive, and stimulating conversations.

The Kaffeeklatsch is held from 9.00am to 10.15am at the Indulgence Café, Pines Shopping Centre. However, it will be held at Stammtisch, Cherry Hill Tavern in April and June.

- 25 March
- 8 April      Stammtisch, Cherry Hill Tavern
- 13 May
- 24 June      Stammtisch, Cherry Hill Tavern
- 22 July
- 12 August
- 9 September
- 14 October
- 11 November
- Final Date TBA

**Jutta-Inge Szwed, German Tutor**

# Newsletter Contributions

We are always pleased to receive your contributions to our newsletter which may be sent to me at [jillian.gange@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jillian.gange@optusnet.com.au) or put into my pigeonhole. The deadline date for the next newsletter is Friday, 1 May, 2020. Please ensure that all contributions contain your name and contact details.

Jillian Gange

## Calendar of Events Terms 1 and 2, 2020

(The calendar is available on our website)

### TERM 1, 2020

Monday, 3 February  
Monday, 9 March  
Monday, 16 March  
Thursday, 19 March  
Friday, 27 March

**TERM 1 commenced (8 weeks)**

**LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY**

Committee of Management meeting (Rm 8) 1.30pm

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (PFR)** 11.30am

**TERM 1 finishes**

(Break - 2 weeks)

### TERM 2, 2020

Tuesday, 14 April  
Friday, 1 May  
Wednesday, 13 May  
Monday, 18 May  
Wednesday, 27 May  
Monday, 8 June  
Monday, 15 June  
Friday, 19 June

**TERM 2 commences (10 weeks)**

Newsletter deadline

Class Representatives Meeting (Rms 13/14) 3.00pm - 4.20pm

Committee of Management meeting (Rm 8) 1.30pm

COM Volunteers Luncheon (PFR) 12.15pm - 2.30pm

**QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY**

Committee of Management meeting (Rm 8) 1.30pm

**TERM 2 finishes**

(Break - 3 weeks)

**PFR - Pines Function Room**

## The Newsletter

Editorial: Jillian Gange, Liew Staras, Frances Langdon; Website Manager: Kevin Chan;  
Distribution: Warren Trompf, Kathleen Caffry, Robyn Lamprecht.

*Information contained in this newsletter was correct at the time of publication. U3A Manningham makes no guarantee that the information contained in the newsletter is always accurate.*



### MISSION STATEMENT

*Our mission is to provide accessible and affordable educational, cultural, physical and social opportunities appropriate to the needs of retired and semi-retired people.*

