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## President's Report

The Committee of Management is planning for a return to classes in 2021 and this newsletter is focusing on the resumption of classes next year in an appropriate and orderly manner.

The Committee is working on the assumption that we will be starting classes from the first week of February 2021 in a manner that is strictly in accordance with the Government regulations and with the agreement of the relevant tutors. It is very likely that quite a few classes will not commence in the first week of February.

Summer School will not be held in January 2021, as the Committee feels that, because of the COVID-19 restrictions, it would be too problematic to organise.



The article entitled 'Membership Renewals and Class Enrolments for 2021' which follows this report summarises all you will need to know about the renewal of your membership and enrolment in classes for 2021. The main issues are as follows:

- U3A Manningham members will not be required to enrol for 2021 or to pay a membership fee for 2021. All enrolments for 2020 will be rolled over into 2021.
- Classes for 2020 will roll over to 2021 classes. It is quite obvious that we couldn't manage the usual enrolment process and the above procedure will be simple, fair and keep all U3A Manningham members 'in the fold'. There will be an opportunity for members to make changes to their 2020 course selections if they wish to do so.

In recognition that members were only able to physically attend classes for a short time in 2020 and also because we have not had to pay full rental costs this year, the Committee of Management has decided that 2020 members will not be charged a membership fee for 2021.

However, our ongoing costs will continue in 2021 and although there will not be a membership fee levied on 2020 members, it would be much appreciated if members would consider making a donation. Details of how to do so will be advised later.

2021 classes can be viewed on MyU3A and the class brochure will be available for collection from the counter outside the office at the end of November. You will be advised when the brochure is available for collection.

On behalf of the Committee of Management, I sincerely thank everyone for keeping U3A Manningham relevant and functioning so well in difficult circumstances. Our tutors have stepped up to the challenge and have contacted their class members in all sorts of ways: by telephone, by email and by Zoom. It hasn't been easy and many have had to learn new techniques very quickly. Class reps have helped their tutors manage the new methods of conducting classes and our class members have had to adapt quickly to attending classes at home.

## President's Report (Cont'd)

We have managed to include many additional members in some of the Zoom classes and we thank those tutors who have taken on extra members. Seeing familiar faces again has been very important during lockdown.

Our May, August and November Newsletters have kept us all in touch, and the regular *U3AM at Home* articles have given us a variety of issues to read and think about.

Special notices will be emailed to members as necessary over the next few months. When our classes do recommence, there will obviously need to be arrangements around physical distancing, wearing of facemasks, etc. The special notices will keep members informed about all issues relevant to classes and the functioning of our organisation. We will endeavour to keep those members who do not have email fully informed.

In summary, as I expect that next year will have its own challenges, I ask that everyone be patient as we work together to ensure that 2021 is an enjoyable year at U3AM.

I look forward to seeing you all in The Pines corridor next year.

David Jensz, OAM - President

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## Membership Renewals and Class Enrolments for 2021

Please see below a summary of the membership renewal and class enrolment arrangements for 2021.

As advised by **David Jensz** in his President's Report, you will receive special bulletins, as appropriate, updating you on changes to classes and the ongoing functioning of our U3A.

### Membership Renewals and Fees

- Current (2020) U3A Manningham members will not be required to renew their membership for 2021. All memberships will be automatically renewed through our MyU3A system.
- 2021 membership fees will be waived for 2020 members.
- New members for 2021 or others who were not members in 2020 will be required to enrol as in the past and will be required to pay the \$70 membership fee.

### Enrolment in 2021 classes

Although online class enrolments would be possible, because of the COVID-19 restrictions, members will not be able to enrol in person. Therefore, to ensure fairness to all, members will be automatically re-enrolled for 2021 into those classes for which they were enrolled in 2020.

However, there will be instances where this cannot occur, such as:

- Some classes have been cancelled. Please see a list of those classes in the Curriculum Report or by clicking on the link below:  
<http://u3amanningham.org.au/docs/CoursesNotOffered2021.pdf>
- Ongoing COVID-19 restrictions regarding the conduct of some classes.

## Membership Renewals and Class Enrolments for 2021 (Cont'd)

All members will therefore need to check their MyU3A record to see what classes they are enrolled in. Members will be advised when their records have been updated. Please refer any queries about class enrolments to Curriculum Manager, Milly Ching, on [milly.ching@gmail.com](mailto:milly.ching@gmail.com).

There will, of course, be members who wish to change their class enrolments. This will need to be done through the MyU3A system as and when advised by the Enrolments Manager.

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### Curriculum Report



2020 has been an eventful year for all of us. We have taken up challenges on all fronts to ensure that we remain healthy, both physically and mentally.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our tutors who have embraced the new technology, Zoom, to conduct their classes since Term 2 this year; and also those tutors who are keeping in touch with members utilising phone calls, emails, WhatsApp, Skype, etc, to share information with members of their classes. A special thanks to **Colleen Danaher** and her team for assisting and supporting tutors and members to become familiar with the new technology and troubleshooting when needed.

Some courses offered in 2020 will not be offered in 2021 due to retirement of tutors, and we are lucky to have new tutors enabling us to continue offering some of those courses.

Courses which will not be offered in 2021 are:

- Psychology A
- Psychology B
- History, Life Changing Events
- Celebrating Ageing for Women
- French for Raw Beginners
- French Conversation, Level 4
- Android Tablets for Beginners
- Computers and Internet Security
- Scrabble for Beginners
- Scrabble Intermediate
- iPad Workshop for Beginners
- Rummikub
- Creative iPad
- Card Making
- Cycling for Fun
- Suzuki Violin for Beginners
- Integrative Medicine (this new course never started in 2020).

Special thanks to all the retiring tutors for their hard work, dedication and contribution to U3A Manningham.

Keep well and stay safe till we are able to meet in person again at U3A.

Milly Ching, Curriculum Manager

## Attention All Office Volunteers

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we cannot register office volunteers in person but will base the 2021 roster on the dates you registered for in 2020. Please keep your personal record of dates and times for this year and we will arrange equivalent times for 2021. It is important that you accept these equivalent times if at all possible. If you have misplaced your times, don't worry, we have all the details for you. Our priority is to finalise the Term 1 roster before the end of this year.



### What to do next

1. **ASAP:** Any office volunteer who registered for office duty during 2020, but no longer wishes to volunteer for office duty during 2021, please advise via email to **Tess Gibbs** NOW! You will be removed from the 2021 roster but may re-apply later in the year if you change your mind. **Tess's email address is [tessroster@yahoo.com](mailto:tessroster@yahoo.com).**
2. **Before 18 November:** Volunteers who registered for office work in **Term 1, 2020**, please contact Tess Gibbs via the email above, confirming availability on equivalent dates for Term 1, 2021. If any sessions are no longer possible for you, please advise of available alternative times.

Those who were on duty during **Summer School 2020** should also contact Tess with preferred days of the week and session times AM or PM. We will try to arrange some sessions on the Term 1 roster.

At the same time, Term 1 volunteers also need to register with Tess for one of the January training sessions listed below. Numbers will be limited for each session due to social distancing.

3. **After 18 November:** All other 2020 registered office volunteers, please email Tess your 2020 dates and times and advise if the 2021 equivalent is acceptable. If any particular session is not possible, please include some suitable alternatives and any other comments. We will get back to you early next year.
4. Prospective new office volunteers may register their interest via email (see Tess's email address above) with details of experience relevant to reception work and computer literacy. Please advise your contact details including phone number and you will be contacted next year.
5. Attending training classes next year will be more important than ever as you will need to be aware of all our changes and COVID-19 safety measures. More training sessions may be added later.

### Training for experienced volunteers will be held as follows:

- Wednesday, 27 January at 10am and 11:30am in Rooms 13/14
- Friday, 29 January at 12pm and 1:30pm in Rooms 13/14
- Thursday, 18 February at 3pm in Room 13

Please email Tess ([tessroster@yahoo.com](mailto:tessroster@yahoo.com)) to book into your preferred session. Priority in January sessions will be given to Term 1 volunteers.

Prospective new volunteers may attend for orientation on 18 February at 4pm. If necessary, more sessions will be added later.

**Robyn Buttlng, Office Manager**

## U3AM Catering in 2020 or To Be And Then Not to Be!

Early in 2020, over 400 members enthusiastically volunteered for Catering and Function duties: to assist in the kitchen; to supply food; and in setting-up and cleaning-up at the various functions.

Functions are held throughout the year for various reasons, such as our Annual General Meeting and to thank members who volunteer to present classes and to administer our U3A.

As usual, members filled out almost all the rosters at the start of the 2020 year. However, all planning came to a halt in early March when the virus took over our lives and personal activities. Now we are planning for the same activities in 2021 and look forward to working with our members when function activities can commence.

Early in 2021, class notices will be distributed providing members with an opportunity to volunteer in catering and functions. Following that, our Catering and Functions Team members will contact those members who have indicated that they would like to volunteer in this area. We look forward to again listing members who will assist in catering and function activities.

**From the Catering and Functions Team:**

**Lorraine Smith, Elaine Campbell, John Caine, Lyn Welsh, Warren Trompf, Hong Yong Yau, Ai Joo Yau, Leaw Cheng, Sok Cheng, Graeme Martin.**

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## Gentlemen, Where Are You?

Through the ravages of lockdown and the developing magic of Zoom, I have found where those gentlemen are not, but perhaps should be.

For some inexplicable reason, I signed on to one of our classes held via Zoom. That class is *Dance to the Beat* run by the irrepressible **Barbara Spagnolo**. The time just happened to coincide with what was my regular 'tennis time' in the good old pre-Covid days.

I have loved it. But why are there so few men? Are they embarrassed? Or too shy? Don't be. Via Zoom you can literally "dance as though no one is watching" because they aren't. You can do it all without embarrassing a partner or young children or even other men. The only prerequisite is that you like to have some fun. You don't have to be athletic or a budding Fred Astaire to enjoy the class.

The benefits are enormous. You combine both a mental and physical workout alongside the enjoyment from some good old-fashioned music with a Latin-American beat.

I have found that my balance has improved, my memory challenged, with an increase in flexibility and, who knows, I may eventually be able to do the same steps as Barbie!! I know that I'll be known as 'twinkle toes' when I'm eventually back on the tennis court.

If this all sounds too physical, it's not, as you are the one who determines how much effort you expend. Thanks Barbara and ladies for welcoming a mere male into what is definitely NOT a secret society and men are certainly made very welcome.



*David & Barbara  
via Zoom*

**David McNamara**

# Margaret Scott-Pross

We say goodbye to one of the original members of U3AM, **Margaret Scott-Pross**.

At our inaugural meeting in 1991, Margaret offered to take on the role of Publicity Officer which she held until 2006. She also led a Current Affairs class from 1993 to 1997, worked in the office, and assisted with the production of *Our Odyssey Continues* in 2008.

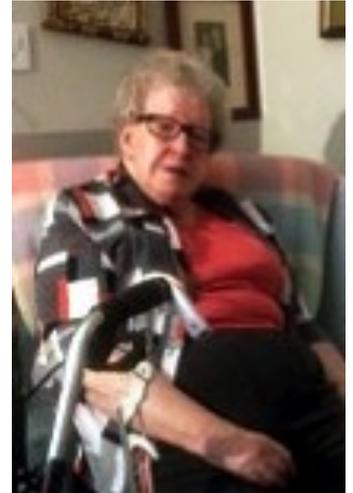
In appreciation of her contribution to U3AM, Margaret received a Menzies Australia Day Award in 1999 and Life Membership of U3A Manningham in 2012.

Margaret participated in many classes over the years, and in 2008 wrote, "After a varied and interesting forty-year career on newspapers, in public relations, and industry and export promoting, I retired to the virtual silence of four-walled suburban isolation. The advent of our U3A was, for me, a beacon light to pleasurable learning, shared experiences, extended mental horizons and supportive friendships. I am eternally grateful."

Earlier, in 2001, she put it this way: "No longer is isolation part of my experience ... U3A has helped my emergence from this state and provided me with friendships and useful and fulfilling activity." U3A became so important to Margaret that when she could no longer use her car, she was courageous enough to drive from her village to The Pines classrooms on her motorised buggy. Regrettably, her access to U3A ended when she was involved in an accident as she crossed Reynolds Road, after which she was no longer able to use the buggy.

Margaret felt the loss of her involvement in U3AM very deeply but was grateful for the contacts she had made there and for the care she received from the Baptistcare Orchards Community facility where she died peacefully on 31 July 2020.

Heather Ambrose



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## Walk Like An Egyptian!



*Joan Kelleher*

I grew up in a large working-class family in a small country town in western Victoria. We lived with my paternal grandmother in a three-generation household. I was child number five of seven.

My mother had wanted to be a nurse, but she had to leave school at Form 2. She was determined that her daughters would have access to the education she was denied. Mum fought hard for us to attend the local ladies college, not the tech school. Her perseverance paid off - three of her five daughters have University degrees, a fourth a TAFE Certificate and one of the boys a PhD.

The sister closest in age to me was the first in our family to attend university. This was an inspiration to me. It showed me that marriage and family were not the only options open to girls.

I did not go straight to university from secondary school but worked in a school library for a while. I did not know what I wanted to study at university but working in the library introduced me to the wonderful world of librarianship. I set myself a goal - to be a school librarian. All I needed was a University degree, a librarianship diploma and a teaching diploma!

## **Walk Like An Egyptian! (Cont'd)**

My sister and I travelled in Europe for nine months. We travelled by train and stayed in Youth Hostels. Eurail tickets were a bargain then - we travelled everywhere first class. Not bad for a couple of working-class girls from rural Victoria!

Thanks to Mum, Gough Whitlam and free university courses, I attended La Trobe University and graduated with an Arts Degree in English Literature and History. I was on my way to my dream job. I also met my husband, Martin, at this time.

In 1986, Martin and I travelled to Egypt. We wanted to get the most of our trip so read as many books on Ancient Egypt as we could find in the library. We had a fantastic time in Egypt and were so glad we had done so much research before we went. But there was still so much we did not know.

When we got back home, we discovered, to our delight and edification, that there were many documentaries on TV about Ancient Egypt. I also started to subscribe to archaeological journals as well as reading everything I could find in libraries.

Twenty years later, Martin and I and our (then 11-year-old) child travelled to Egypt. It was another wonderful trip and it was magical being able to share it with our child.

I completed my teacher and library qualifications and began work in government departmental libraries. However, I have never worked as a school librarian!

Nearly twenty years ago, I discovered the Egyptian Society of Victoria which offers lectures by local, interstate and international Egyptologists on all aspects of Ancient Egypt.

When I retired, I was looking for something to keep me busy, so I approached U3A Nunawading and offered a course on Ancient Egyptian History. It was very well received so I approached U3A Manningham and have been facilitating classes at both venues ever since. Each year, we cover a different person or event. When/If I ever get to the end, I will start again - the classes have been running for six years.

I have large classes at both venues and use a variety of teaching techniques - lecture, Q&A, small group discussions, videos and activity sheets. This keeps the classes fresh and the students on their toes. I love the activity sheets but some of the students moan about having to do a 'test'! However, they all fill them in and there is lots of conversation around the class (not always about the activity). I think the most important aspect of U3A is its social side, so I am happy for the students to chat about anything they like.

Mid-year, we have a Show & Tell session. This is an opportunity for the students to talk about anything Egyptian related. This session covers everything from stories of people's travels in Egypt to books or artefacts they may have purchased here or in Egypt. The best part (other than me not having to talk for an hour) is seeing people who do not usually say anything in class feeling confident enough to get up and talk to the class with enthusiasm. This is always a fantastic day and I usually learn something new. Not just about the students but also about Ancient Egyptian History.

My time at U3A is life affirming. I have fantastic students, many of whom have been with me from the beginning and we make a great team. There are lots of questions, interaction and laughter in the classes. U3A Rocks!!

**Joan Kelleher, Tutor - Ancient Egyptian History**

## ‘Second Chinese Daughter’ - a novel by Shirley Fung

Shirley Fung’s first novel, *Second Chinese Daughter*, was longlisted for the 2020 Dublin Literary Award. The book can be purchased in-store or online from Dymocks in Camberwell and The Avenue Bookstore in Elsternwick.



**Q** This being your first novel, what compelled you to write this story about three women from different generations - each dealing with their own set of issues that are related to their background, social status and gender?

**A** I hail from a family of storytellers. We were a relatively large family living in a small house - parents, grandmother and seven children. We ate at a small dinner table where most stories were exchanged. The children of the house exchanged funny stories about their experiences after each school day. There were so many stories to tell that my Dad, between grunts of annoyance and verbal threats, impatiently hurried us along so that the other family members could have their dinner in the second sitting.

I made sure that I ate my dinner slowly so that I could also be present at the second sitting to listen to my mother’s and grandmother’s stories. Theirs were mostly sad stories about women in the neighbourhood who were downtrodden by their own family, their partners and generally by their community for the simple fact that they were women. I noticed the common thread that ran through their recounts - of hostile treatment and violence towards women.

I believe these stories should be told because they are issues also faced by the women of today. I chose the title *Second Chinese Daughter*, because ‘second’ describes the position of the main character, Feng, who is the second daughter in her family and also to depict the lowly status of women as second-class citizens in their society.

I was moved by the injustice against women. The same troubling issues exist today. We read and hear so much about the harassment and violence inflicted upon women in their homes and in their workplace. This seems to be an age-old problem that needs to be resolved. I strongly believe that the telling and retelling of these stories can raise greater awareness and, perhaps, make society take note and endeavour to undo these injustices.

**Q** How did you decide on your main characters?

**A** I chose to depict the lives of a grandmother, a mother and a daughter in a Chinese family in Penang, Malaysia, where I lived for the first twenty years of my life. Although much of my narrative is based on the lives of my grandmother, my mother and me, it is also based on real events in the lives of many other women during my grandmother’s, my mother’s and my time. It would have been too complicated to retell so many women’s stories in one narrative. So I decided to put them into the lives of three women from three generations of the same family. I compiled the stories of the women in my grandmother’s generation into the character of the grandmother in the story. Similarly for the mother’s character and the daughter’s. In a sense, I wanted to create composite characters, each one a representative of the women of her time.

**Q** How long did it take you to write this book? When did you start and when did you finish?

**A** I started writing in 2012, diligently setting aside a minimum of two hours in the early hours of the morning to do it. There were days when I wrote for hours and hours and on others, I only managed a couple of sentences in two hours, but the days of minimal writing were few. The best ideas seemed to come in the wee hours of the morning between two and three o’clock. I often crawled out of bed (and this was difficult in winter) to write down these ideas, worried that they would slip away from me if I didn’t.

## ‘Second Chinese Daughter’ - a novel by Shirley Fung (Cont.)

Having disciplined myself to write every day, I completed my manuscript in eight months. When I re-read it, I felt there was something not quite right. I wrote as a first person narrator, and was uncomfortable to see the pages peppered with 'I' and 'me'. Since some of the stories were about my own life experiences, I felt too publicly exposed. I shelved my manuscript until four years later in 2016 when I decided to look at it again. It was then that I decided to rewrite it, this time narrating as an all-knowing omniscient storyteller. I felt more comfortable narrating from a third person viewpoint. The second draft took me a few months and when it was completed, I held on to it until my sister in Kuala Lumpur phoned me one day to ask what I had done with it. I said, “Nothing”.

It was then that she decided to find me the email address of a publisher. I sent away my manuscript to Malaysia Publishing House in Kuala Lumpur and received a reply in five days with an offer of a contract to publish. I think it was appropriate to publish and release my book in Malaysia because of the themes about Chinese culture and the related historical events in what was then Malaya from the 1930s to the 1960s. My hope is that Asian readers can significantly identify with the subject matter. At the same time, I would like so much to share my stories with readers who are not as familiar with Asian culture, but would be interested and intrigued to read about cultural practices so different from their own.

- Q** You have previously written and published books on biology and environmental science. Was writing your first novel dauntingly different in any way?
- A** Writing a novel is very different from, and more challenging than, writing textbooks. When I write textbooks, my main focus is on the accuracy of the information, and the rigidly repeating format of chapters and paragraphs. There is much more to consider in a novel - the messages I want to get across, deciding on the characters and when they should appear in the narrative, the interaction and tension between the characters. I had a storyboard planned, but somehow my story had a life of its own and took me to different directions I had not planned for.
- Q** Which was easier, writing fiction or non-fiction?
- A** From what I have described in comparing the writing of fiction with non-fiction, fiction is certainly much more difficult to write. Non-fiction is based on facts. Fiction is something one conjures up in one's imagination but at the same time, it must be based on some facts and realities that make the stories believable so that the reader can relate to it in real life.
- Q** Things are changing with the newer generation of parents. Did you ever face problems growing up, of being a daughter and not a son?
- A** All the underlying messages in my narrative are about the lower status of a daughter compared to a son. I was motivated to write this novel about gender inequality in families, as well as in our societies based on my own and other women's experiences.
- Q** What do you hope that people take away with them when they read *Second Chinese Daughter*?
- A** The book is about the hardships faced by women of their time in searching for love, identity and belonging in a society that devalued their contributions, and above all, in surviving ill-treatment in their society. Although this narrative is about the injustices towards women, I hope that it will motivate people to play an active part in setting right the injustices, not only towards women, but also towards the marginalised minority groups that may not have a voice to speak up for themselves.

Shirley Fung, Tutor - Introduction to Genetics

# U3A Manningham Migrant English Tutors Program

In 1998, the groundwork for U3A Manningham's Migrant English Group commenced at the initiative of **Bridget Halge** and **Heather Ambrose**. In 2001, Bridget organised the first workshops which were facilitated by AMES Australia through their Community Volunteer Tutor Training Program as part of their Adult Migrant English Program. AMES Australia provides a comprehensive range of settlement services for refugees and migrants including English language and literacy training.

**Pat Smith** took over the coordinator role followed by **Joan Creber**, with AMES conducting the training course and workshops to enable our members to be trained to teach migrants English. This relationship continued until 2017 when, as a result of funding cuts, AMES was unable to continue mentoring and conducting workshops to voluntary organisations.

In order to maintain continuity of our Migrant English Tutors Program, in 2017/18, a group of U3A member tutors compiled a new course, based on the AMES program, and this course has been offered to members of our U3A for the past two years.

Today, the Migrant English Group has approximately 70 members, of whom 50 are currently working with learners. This year, another 14 U3AM members enrolled in the Tutor Training Workshop scheduled for Term 3, but as with all onsite U3AM class activities, it was cancelled due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

Areas covered in our workshops include:

- Individual learning styles and learning as an adult;
- The ability of adults to learn a new language;
- Tutoring strategies and session planning;
- Identifying and understanding the needs of the learner, recognising cultural differences, and how these impact on communication.

People requesting help with their English come from many countries including China, Korea, India and Middle Eastern countries. Those participating in the U3AM Migrant English Tutor Program cover a wide range of ability in managing English as their second language which is influenced by many factors including age, educational experience, length of time in Australia, motivation, employment opportunities, migration/settlement issues, and family priorities.

Whilst our Migrant English Tutor Training Workshops include a training manual that provides content ideas and suggested strategies to use in tutoring sessions, the content is not prescribed and varies considerably. As a general rule, tutors will plan to include activities that involve aspects of listening, speaking, reading and writing with a particular focus on helping learners improve their spoken English and level of conversation.

Tutors meet with their learner at a mutually convenient time and generally at local libraries, cafes or in their home. With the suspension of U3AM activities this year, many tutors are keeping in contact with their learner via phone, WhatsApp, etc., to continue assisting them.

Quite often, the learners' interests and desired outcomes will determine session content and sessions might be based on particular themes such as gardening, cooking, family, etc. For some learners, the goal might be improving their English for the workplace, access to employment and integrating into the wider community. In tutoring sessions, flexibility in content is encouraged so that when topics, or things of interest arise they can be included.

Several tutors have indicated that they enjoy an ongoing friendship with a former learner that still continues today, well after the time when their organised tutoring sessions have ceased. The relationship between the tutor and the learner can be quite a special one.

## U3A Manningham Migrant English Tutors Program (Cont'd)

During the 12 months from November 2018 to November 2019, approximately 1,020 tutoring sessions were conducted by our tutors, amounting to a total of 1,470 hours. Amongst our team of tutors, quite a few were able to take on more than one learner and each dedicated more than 50 hours helping them, including three who contributed an amazing 107, 99 and 89 hours respectively. Collectively, all our U3AM Migrant English Tutors provide an extremely valuable service.

The Migrant English Tutor Program is a free service to adults of all ages. Enquiries can be made through the U3A Manningham Office.

Many issues face refugees and migrants settling in Australia. The following websites might be of interest:

*Refugee Council of Australia - settling in Australia - the challenges*  
[www.refugeecouncil.org.au/settlement-challenges](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/settlement-challenges) *In particular, the link to Learning*

*Business and Investor Visas - liveinmelbourne.vic.gov.au/migrate business and investor visas*

*Australian Government- Department of Home Affairs- immigration and citizenship*

**Jeanette Badge & Ken Coleman, Migrant English Tutor Coordinators**



U3A Online is the world's only virtual U3A. It was established in Australia in 1999 by a group of dedicated U3A members (including U3A Manningham's own Les Dale) who were strongly committed to providing online learning for those unable to physically attend a U3A group due to physical, geographical or social isolation.

While the organisers of U3A Online believe that face-to-face U3As are the ideal organisations for most seniors seeking life-long learning opportunities and companionship, it is not always possible for everyone to attend one.

U3A Online has around 1200 members, most from Australia and New Zealand, but also from South Africa, UK, Canada and Europe. As with other U3As, there is a Committee of Management. However, the members are spread throughout Australia and New Zealand and meetings are, of course, held online, although there is one face-to-face meeting held each year.

U3A Online offers over 60 courses which can be undertaken either independently or, in some cases, with a leader. They are generally 6 to 8 weeks in length and can be accessed online at any time with only basic IT skills being required. There is a Discussion Forum attached to every course so that members can interact with others studying the same course.

Courses cover areas such as history, world affairs, science, literature, lifestyle, writing and more, with other courses being regularly added.

An individual yearly membership of \$30 allows access to any number of these courses during the year. Independent study means the members study at their own pace at no cost other than the membership fee. Courses with a leader attract an extra fee of \$5 to cover the costs incurred by the course leader.

U3A Online also offers the purchase of a site licence for any U3A to enable the online course materials (either downloaded and printed, or online) to be used by that U3A for their classes. This is particularly useful for newer or more isolated U3As which may have difficulty finding sufficient tutors.

## U3A Online (Cont'd)

Please take a few minutes to look at our website to find out more about our organisation:

<https://www.u3aonline.org.au/home>

U3A Online also maintains a Directory of all U3As in Australia on our website which is particularly useful for people seeking to join a local U3A.

If you have any queries about U3A Online, please use the Contact email facility on the website.

Jean Walker, President, U3A Online.

### U3A Manningham 2021 Calendar of Events

The Calendar will be populated as COVID-19 restrictions become clearer.

Monday, 1 February	TERM 1 commences (9 weeks)
Monday, 8 March	LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY
Thursday, 1 April	TERM 1 finishes
	[BREAK – 2 weeks]
Monday, 19 April	TERM 2 commences (9 weeks)
Monday, 14 June	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY
Friday, 18 June	TERM 2 finishes
	[BREAK – 3 weeks]
Monday, 12 July	TERM 3 commences (10 weeks)
Friday, 17 September	TERM 3 finishes
	[BREAK – 2 weeks]
Monday, 4 October	TERM 4 commences (9 weeks)
Tuesday, 2 November	MELBOURNE CUP DAY HOLIDAY
Friday, 3 December	TERM 4 finishes

### 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.*

