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President's Report



Welcome to 2016 at U3A Manningham. We are fortunate to be able to offer another year of wide-ranging activities, thanks to the enthusiasm of our members in sharing their skills, experience and expertise in 196 classes. At the time of writing, there are over 1700 members enrolled. Although this participation confirms the important role of our U3A in the community, it brings with it the consequence of nearly half our classes having members placed on waitlists. We are exploring a number of strategies to alleviate this problem and would welcome offers from tutors to increase the size of their classes or to run additional classes.

Enrolments

Last year was a landmark for our organisation when we introduced the new interactive membership management system, MyU3A, offering online enrolment and payment services. A large proportion of our members took advantage of this opportunity and I received many reports and comments regarding the ease with which the system operated. This major project required a whole year's planning and preparation and I would like to express our sincere thanks to the project team, **Warwick Wright**, **Mariana Goldenfarb**, **Leong Kwok** and **Kevin Chan**, led by **Bryce Normoyle**, who successfully guided the project from concept to completion.

The CoM Enrolments Officer, **Warwick Wright**, worked exceptionally long hours over many weeks to ensure that the system was properly installed. We then relied on the skills of the enrolment staff, under the excellent leadership of **Doug Wallace** and our office staff to make it work, which they did admirably. **Tess Gibbs** played a pivotal role, often having to improvise solutions to unforeseen complications that arose during the enrolment process in November. **Lyn Torrens**, long-serving and valued member of the enrolment team, played an invaluable role in ensuring that the whole operation ran smoothly. She was assisted by **Joan French**, **Trish Bevan** and **Kathy Withers**. Congratulations to everybody involved and a very big thank you also to those who staffed the Office and Catering rosters.

Our Website

I would like to thank **Kevin Chan** for spending a good part of the holiday revising the U3A Manningham website (www.u3amanningham.org.au). Please take some time to explore it. I'm sure you will agree that it now offers a more colourful and dynamic presentation of our activities, along with many images. Our Constitution and policies, including the rights and obligations of members, can be found there. Important information and notices are posted on the website and we plan to use it more frequently to communicate with members.

U3A Images

I hope you have all noticed the display screen on the back wall of the office. We show a continuously changing series of photos illustrating the work and activities of our U3A, as well as important notices. If you have any images of U3A activities you would like to have included in the projection, please leave a message at the office for CoM member **Jillian Gange**.

President's Report (Cont'd)

End of Year Events

The Artistic Showcase and uniFEST celebrated the end of the 2015 year. A large number of our members participated in these activities, demonstrating their many talents. Those who attended from Manningham Council and other U3As in our region were very complimentary about the high quality of the work on display. Congratulations and thank you to everybody who contributed and attended, particularly **Margaret Salomon**. Marg has organised these events over many years and this event was her last one at our U3A as she has moved away from our area. **Linda Steele**, President of Waverley Patchworkers Inc, provided the specialist supports for displaying the superb quilts produced by the Patchwork class. Many thanks also to **Graeme Martin** and his function set-up team and also the catering team who provided refreshments during the proceedings.



Margaret Salomon

Summer School 2016

Our annual Summer School took place in January and was well attended by over 300 members. We offered twenty-three different activities over the four-week period, a slight increase on the previous year. Once again, we thank our tutors for giving their time so generously during the holiday season to enable this much-appreciated programme to take place.

Our 25th Anniversary

U3A Manningham celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2016. In those 25 momentous years, the organisation has grown from 35 members and 12 classes to more than 1700 members and 196 classes. This achievement is well worth commemorating and already a small number of celebratory projects are underway. At the end of last year, I asked for volunteers to discuss ideas to celebrate our 25th birthday. The response was limited, so I invite you once again to put forward any suggestions you have. We have a budget for this event so we can plan a memorable occasion. Members of this sub-group would count as CoM appointments and would be given the appropriate level of priority for enrolments for 2017. Please leave a message for me at the office if you would like to participate.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, 16 March 2016. We will use this occasion to hold a Future Directions Forum where members will have an opportunity to put forward suggestions regarding how our U3A may evolve. If you would like to contribute to this discussion, please leave a message for me at the office no later than 9 March. Please provide your contact details and a brief outline of the points that you would like to make at the Forum.

Community Donations

Your contributions to Doncare last year were truly generous. We collected more donations than ever and I would like to thank everybody who contributed to this worthy and much needed organisation. A special thank you to **Ruth Foxwell** who has organised the collection and transport for all our U3A donations. This term we shall be collecting unwanted spectacles on behalf of the Lions Club. The dates for donation at the office are 1-8 March and all types of glasses are accepted.

Best wishes to you all for a healthy, exciting and fulfilling 25th anniversary year at U3A Manningham.

Geoff Sheldon, President

The President's AGM Report will be available on our website (www.u3amanningham.org.au) following the AGM.

Curriculum Coordinator's Report

Welcome back to another exciting year at U3A Manningham. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new tutors and to thank them for sharing their interests, experience and passion for the courses they offer to our members. We have a total of 196 courses offered by 143 tutors. Many of these tutors have been teaching for many years, offering their services to meet the needs of members. Popular courses always attract a high enrolment and, as a result, it is not uncommon to have a waiting list. A number of tutors have kindly increased the maximum number of enrolments in their courses or started new ones to help reduce the waiting list. Among these will be another French beginners' course - thank you, Monique.

There will be seven new courses commencing in Term 2. Information about these will be posted on the notice board and on our website.

Milly Ching, Curriculum Coordinator

MANNINGHAM U3A INC

Registration No. A0026531J

Twenty-Fifth Annual General Meeting Wednesday, 16 March 2016, at 12.15 pm

Notice is hereby given that the Twenty-Fifth 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 19 March 2015
3. Business arising from the Minutes
4. To receive, consider and adopt the Annual Report
5. To receive the Statement of Accounts and Auditor's Report for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015
6. Presentation of Awards
7. Transact any other business as submitted one week prior to the Meeting
8. Election of Committee of Management Members for 2016
9. Future Directions Forum

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, and five (5) Ordinary Members.

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 in the Resource Folder in the Office.

Nominations of candidates for election as officers of the Committee of Management must 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 nomination form) and must be delivered to the Secretary by 3.00pm on Tuesday, 8 March 2016.

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

25th Anniversary of U3A Manningham 1991-2016

Office Manager's Report

This is the time of year to welcome back our office volunteers and also to say hello to the many new recruits commencing in March. I do wish you all a wonderful 2016 and may you continue to enjoy this very important, yet often challenging, role.

Around 170 office workers attended our update and training sessions held in January/February. If you were unable to attend, please notify Roster Coordinators, **Tess Gibbs** or **Ruth Jenz**, of your willingness to participate.

As this will be my last report as Office Manager, I take this opportunity to wish all members of our Office Sub-committee, **Tess Gibbs**, **Ruth Jenz**, **Vicky Curtis**, **Laurine Eames**, **Maretta Frolley**, **Audrey Killey**, **Jan McAuliffe**, **Mike Perry** and **Elizabeth Voce**, a wonderful year of rewarding volunteering during 2016.

Welcome to **Jeanette Shaw** who will take on the role of Office Manager after the AGM in March. I know you all will give her the same level of support you gave me during my three-year term. Keep up the good work, everybody.

Ruth Foxwell, Office Manager

Monthly Talks

Monthly Talks are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 3.00-4.30pm in Room 13. All are welcome - bring a friend. Entry by \$2 donation; refreshments are provided.

16 March: The Great Game of Espionage Elizabeth Pittman, self-described 'obsessional researcher', will share her work on espionage during World War II. Her presentation will include a description of the amazing secret Flying Army Corps.

20 April: The Kokoda Track In 2010, Denis Davis took up the challenge with a group from Queensland to walk the Kokoda Track. He will share some of his experiences from this demanding walk.

18 May: Mercy Ships Australia Margot and Tom Hartley are among the amazing volunteers who staff 'surgery ships'. Their work brings both healing and hope to the world's forgotten poor.

15 June: Holocaust Survivor Celina Rose's parents were on Schindler's List and her talk tells the sad story of a Holocaust survivor, but with a happy ending.

Please Note: In 2016, all Monthly Talks will begin promptly at 3.10pm. To respect our speakers and the audience, *no entry* will be allowed after 3.10pm.

Coral Vercoe

Thank You, Lyn



Lyn Torrens has given seventeen years of dedicated service to our U3A. Sadly, Lyn has retired and she will be missed in many ways. Those who know Lyn and have worked with her are indebted to her for her many contributions. At a lunch on 28 January this year, many people paid tribute to Lyn and to the work she has done. This article is based on the tributes Lyn received at that lunch.

Lyn was exceptional in understanding the ethos, the policies and the practices of our U3A. She joined the team of volunteers soon after our U3A opened our first office at Templestowe in 1999. Lyn undertook to help develop the systems for managing enrolments. Her experience with computer systems was exceptional for the time and her insistence on detail was invaluable.

All the work Lyn did was always of a very high standard. Her meticulous work, in collaboration with the Curriculum Team, contributed to the high quality of the yearly Courses brochure. The task of managing enrolments was a very demanding responsibility. Lyn accepted these tasks and worked enthusiastically and professionally for our U3A. People who worked closely with Lyn admired her professionalism and her meticulous work ethic and found her patient and generous with her knowledge.

The incentive system for re-enrolment was in the early stages of development when Lyn began her work as Enrolment Officer. She was concerned about the welfare of members and acted accordingly, negotiating the transition to this system with extraordinary attention to fairness. The flow-on effect meant members who had concerns, or who challenged their enrolment status, were given thorough explanations of how the new rules were being applied and how this system made it fairer for all members.

In personal conversations with Lyn, it was clear she is an advocate for social justice, fair play and due process. She is passionate about many things, including animal welfare and a sustainable environment. Those who worked with Lyn found it a joy to work with such a dedicated, organised and intelligent person.

Lyn's years of hard work have been inspirational. She kept the challenging area of enrolments running smoothly with her regular presence in the back office, her ability to organise and consult with those around her, her approachable manner and the fairness with which she mediated many difficult enrolment problems. Lyn is respected as a person of honesty and integrity. Her capacity for organisation and her ability to achieve outcomes has been appreciated by those who worked with her. Lyn gave a great deal of her time and worked tirelessly for our U3A - we are all the richer for her efforts.

Bridget Halge, with contributions from **Heather Ambrose**, **David Jenz**, **Maureen Mitchell**, **Tanya Gogorosis**, **Heather Bione**, **John Driver**, **Barbara Angus**, **Kay Hawkins**, **Leong Kwok**, **Tess Gibbs**, **Trish Bevan**, **Kathy Withers**, **Maureen Jones** and **Joan French**

Newsletters for 2016

The deadline dates for the remaining newsletters for 2016 are: 22 April, 22 July and 14 October. We encourage you to share class information and your ideas with our members. If you have any content for the newsletter, please send details to Diane Baird (dianeбайд@yahoo.com) by the deadline.

If you have changed your email address, be sure to inform the Office or update your details online so you will not miss any newsletters with links to other information.

Diane Baird, Editor

Thank you, Marg, and 'Bye for Now'

Marg Salomon has made a tremendous contribution to our U3A over the years. She moved out of this area last year so 2015 was her last year with our U3A. We want to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank her and acknowledge her lasting input to our organisation. Her involvement over the years has included many roles. Among these were service on the CoM as Curriculum Co-ordinator and Vice President, and as Events Co-ordinator for the last several years. Marg brought her remarkable organisational skills to every role she held. Not only did she lead competently, but she would delegate jobs within her committees and show generous appreciation for the members.



Marg's professionalism was evident in the development of the Artistic Showcase and our end-of-year concert, renamed uniFEST. She brought to this occasion a fresh, re-vitalised program and developed the outstanding Artistic Showcase. This exhibition will continue because Marg has passed on her innovative ideas, leaving all of her planning records and contacts for others to follow. Marg also substantially increased our participation in the Carnival of Learning at Federation Square during the annual Seniors Festival. Thankfully, with her written records, we can continue our involvement in these programmes in the future.

One of Marg's many positive characteristics was her attention to detail, both large and small. In addition to the overall planning for the concert and other events, she was the one who provided tablecloths for displays and smocks for the Carnival of Learning. It was also Marg who initiated the use of lanyards for our members' name tags.

Outside our U3A, Marg liaised with Manningham Council, helping to cement an excellent relationship between our two organisations. She also was involved with a committee for Special Needs members, working with Manningham Council to implement ways to meet these needs. Marg's participation in all the roles she undertook was always based on experience, commitment and dedication. Everyone who worked with Marg, or who knew her, was touched by her personal warmth, concern and support.

We wish Marg continued good health and happiness in her new home and community. She always signs her emails 'Bye for now' and we hope she will visit our U3A from time to time. For now, we thank her for leaving a lasting legacy at our U3A.

Wendy Donovan

Classical Guitar Performances

The *Classical Guitar* group had a busy end-of-year with a number of performances. In December, the Intermediate Class performed for the Lebanese Men's Club at Centenary House in Doncaster. It was well received and they even asked for an encore. A week after the performance at our U3A concert, the class performed at the Christmas luncheon of the Doncaster Lutheran Church Ladies' Group. Right after that, we went to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Box Hill and performed for the Senior Fellowship Christmas luncheon. Both events went well. Most of the audience were aged and frail seniors. They were very pleased we could visit and they enjoyed our concert.



As performers, we are very happy and proud that we have achieved our performance goals and brought some Christmas cheer to the respected senior citizens.

Yoke Lan Machen, Tutor

5Q

Five Questions for...

Alita Mossop



You have been Secretary of the Committee of Management for six years. How did you get involved with our U3A?

Prior to taking early retirement from working life, I looked around for activities that would keep me occupied with all the 'free time' I anticipated. Being a firm believer in lifelong learning and in volunteering for the community, U3A was the organisation that impressed me the most.

U3A Manningham has continued to change and grow over the years. What have been some of the biggest challenges for you?

Initiating the debate on a minimum entry age of 55 years for membership of our U3A. Even with the assistance of a team of like-minded members, it took hours of research to ensure that we complied with relevant legislation. The proposal was overwhelmingly supported by our members. Another challenge is keeping abreast of the changing legislation relating to Incorporated Associations.

You learned to play guitar and piano for the first time at our U3A. It is very brave to take up these demanding activities at this time of life! Would you recommend that everyone give music a try, no matter what age they are?

I had wanted to learn guitar and piano since my younger days but did not have the time nor the opportunity. I was excited when U3AM offered these courses and had no hesitation in joining. The fantastic tutors we have and the non-threatening environment in which we participate has made learning all the more fun. I do not believe that age should be a barrier to learning music, but we should remember that putting time aside for 'homework' is absolutely essential with music lessons.

How do you relax?

I find doing cryptic crosswords, bushwalking, gardening, cooking and spending time with family very relaxing.

What is on your Wish List for our U3A?

I wish that more people will be able to avail themselves of the wonderful opportunities afforded by U3A - the ability to use one's creative talents, mental stimulation, friendship and social support.

Kaffeeklatsch 2016

Do you wish to have a friendly chat in German over a cup of coffee? Come and join us each month:

Time: 9.00 - 10.15 am

Place: Indulgence Café, Pines Shopping Centre, opposite U3A

Cost: A cup of coffee or ?

Your level of German doesn't matter. We would just like you to participate in speaking German.

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

Dates for Kaffeeklatsch are:

- 11 April
- 9 May
- 23 May (instead of 13 June, Queen's Birthday)
- 11 July
- 8 August
- 12 September
- 10 October
- 14 November
- 28 November (followed by German Students' End-of-Year Luncheon)

Just join up at the front office of our U3A. If you have any enquiries, leave a message for **Jutta Szwed** at the front office.

Sie sind herzlichst willkommen!

Farewell Barbara Haye

Barbara Haye was one of ten volunteers to offer a class at the inaugural meeting of Manningham U3A (then Doncaster and Templestowe U3A). Recently retired from teaching at Methodist Ladies' College, Barbara was keen to share her interest in literature and history with U3A members. Her first class, in October 1991, was Literature Appreciation; her last class, in 2012, was American Literature. Over the intervening years, Barbara offered Indian History, English Literature, Ancient, Shakespearian and Modern Drama and Australian Literature.

In addition to teaching, Barbara was Course Co-ordinator and Timetabler (1996 - 98) and represented U3A Manningham at U3A Network for several years. Barbara's contribution to the U3A movement in Victoria was acknowledged with an Australia Day Award (2002) and a Life Membership of U3A Manningham.

Barbara's students remember her classes with appreciation of her thorough preparation and her depth of knowledge. Thanks to Barbara and the other nine volunteers who started tutoring in October 1991, U3A Manningham began very strongly, inspiring others to build on this foundation.



Barbara (Centre)

Barbara was born in India in 1926, married in England and taught in Melbourne for most of her adult life. She died at Portarlinton on 8 December 2015, where she had moved to be near her daughters.

Heather Ambrose

A Song That Never Ends

Beryl Nicholls, tutor of 'Singing for Pleasure' since 2002, died recently. She was not only a well-respected tutor, but a personal friend to many. Several people who knew Beryl contributed to this tribute to her.

One of the great passions of Beryl's life was singing and its benefits. She emphasised the importance of breathing, vowels and posture as a part of singing. Classes always began with breathing exercises and warm-ups and a 'Beryl story' that inevitably made us laugh. Beryl's energy (we called her a 'pocket dynamo') was carried throughout the class and, at the end, our spirits were uplifted. The musical knowledge and sense of happiness Beryl shared stayed with us long after the class finished.

Beryl had a very large musical repertoire that she shared with us. Not only were we instructed on the fine points of the musical pieces, we were also instructed to smile, especially when performing. As we enjoyed mints together, we shared a sense of happy accomplishment, even when we needed improvement. Beryl's cheery chatter helped us to continue to work hard. 'Singing for Pleasure' was a perfect description of Beryl's classes.



Beryl was full of energy and enthusiasm for music and was kind and compassionate in her personal interactions. Despite her own health limitations in later years, Beryl always had a positive outlook on life. Over the years, with the changes that age brings, the one thing that never weakened was Beryl's voice. Her vocal strength swept us along, instructing by example the pieces we were working on.

Beryl brought joy to her singing and happiness to her listeners. She enriched our lives and taught us to raise our voices in joy. Our memories of Beryl are happy ones and thoughts of her will continue to bring a smile to our faces.

Coral Vercoe, Wendy Donovan, John Martin, Wilma Pontefract, Dorothy Dickey, Hock Tan, Kim Tan, Kevin Wong, Mavis Blake, Carole McNamara and Marjory Christian

Vale George Fiedler

George Fiedler died on 13 November 2015 and U3A Manningham was well-represented at his funeral on 19 November. George was born in Poland in 1922 and the Soviet invasion of Poland in 1939 tragically changed his life. His father and two cousins were murdered on the orders of Joseph Stalin in the Katyn episode in the spring of 1940. It is not surprising that George joined the Polish Resistance. He took an active part in the Warsaw Uprising in August, 1944, and ended up in a German prisoner of war camp.

After the war, George moved to France where he married Mira, a fellow Polish resistance worker. He trained as a textile engineer, then they migrated to Australia. George was an honoured member of the Polish Community in Australia and he worked tirelessly to support his fellow countrymen who also forged a new life in Australia.

Both Mira and George were foundation members of Doncaster and Templestowe U3A, the forerunner of U3A Manningham. George was a member of the Current Affairs class from 1991 to 2015 and was the class tutor for many years. He received Life Membership of U3A Manningham in 2011.

David Jensz

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TERMS 1 & 2, 2016

TERM 1

Thursday, 3 March	Class Representatives Meeting (PFR)	1.30 –2.30pm
Monday, 14 March	LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY	
Wednesday, 16 March	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	12.15–2.30pm
Wednesday, 16 March	Monthly Talk (Rm 13)	3.00pm
Monday, 21 March	Committee of Management Meeting (Rm 8)	1.30pm
Thursday, 24 March	TERM 1 finishes	
Friday, 25 March	GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY	

[Term break – 2 weeks]

Monday, 11 April	TERM 2 commences (10 weeks)	
Monday, 18 April	Committee of Management Meeting (Rm 8)	1.30pm
Wednesday, 20 April	Monthly Talk (Rm 13)	3.00pm
Friday, 22 April	Newsletter Deadline	
Monday, 25 April	ANZAC DAY HOLIDAY	
Wednesday, 4 May	Class Representatives Meeting (Rms 13/14)	9.00-10.00am
Monday, 16 May	Committee of Management Meeting (Rm 8)	1.30pm
Wednesday, 18 May	Monthly Talk (Rm 13)	3.00pm
Thursday, 19 May	COM Volunteers Luncheon (PFR)	12.15 - 2.30pm
Monday, 13 June	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY	
Wednesday, 15 June	Monthly Talk (Rm 13)	3.00pm
Friday, 17 June	TERM 2 finishes	

[Term break – 3 weeks]

PFR- Pines Function Room

And finally...

"You should light a candle rather than complain about the darkness."

Chinese proverb

The Newsletter

Editorial team: Diane Baird, Frances Langdon, Liew Staras; CoM Advisor: Jillian Gange;
Website Manager: Kevin Chan; Distribution: Leong Kwok, Angela Burns, Lewis Badge and Warren Trompf.

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.

