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President's Report



As this is my final report for 2016, I would like to use the occasion to acknowledge and thank the numerous people who have generously contributed their time, energy and enthusiasm to our U3A throughout the year.

25th Anniversary

As you know, we celebrated our 25th Anniversary in October this year. On 14 October 1991, the first classes at

our U3A began. In the week leading up to Friday, 14 October 2016, we commemorated this milestone in our history in a variety of ways. You will have noticed the beautiful commemorative patchwork quilt now hanging in the corridor. This splendid piece of work was executed by **Pat Wright** and her Thursday Patchwork Class. Further along the corridor, we now have a fourth panel added to the existing 'road theme' panels depicting our



journey over the last twenty-five years. This wonderful group of decorative and illustrative panels is the work of our Drawing and Pastels Tutor, **Lynne Deans**. The four panels have an impressive new headpiece, done in elegant scroll work, commemorating our 25th Anniversary, made by Sculpture Tutor, **Sandra Dean**. Outside the North entrance, we have installed a fine teak bench, now adorned with an elegant silver plaque by **Graeme Mills**, to commemorate our anniversary. I would like to thank all these artists and members for their generous contribution to our celebrations.

Artistic Showcase

On Friday, 14 October, our annual Artistic Showcase was held with a magnificent display of handmade work. The many and varied skills and talents of our members were in evidence and I would like to thank them for their continuing participation in our artistic and craft activities and their contribution to this superb exhibition. **Kevin Andrews**, MP, made a brief visit and I had great

delight in showing him around the many dazzling displays. He was most impressed and made many complimentary and appreciative observations on the work on show.

President's Report (Cont'd)

The commemorative celebrations were organised by a small group of enthusiastic members who gave up huge amounts of time to plan and prepare for the special date. They were: **Wendy Donovan**, **Carol Griffiths**, **Lyn Colenso**, **Lyn Heyes** and **Ron McQuade**. Without their inspired suggestions, boundless energy and commitment, meticulous planning and selfless readiness to take on any task, this commemorative week would not have been as memorable as it was. My sincere thanks to them all.



I also would like to acknowledge the generous loan of the special hanging frames from Waverley Patchworkers. These essential items enabled the patchwork group to display their magnificent creations in the most impressive way at the Artistic Showcase. I especially would like to thank **Graeme Martin** and his team for the incredibly effective way in which they were able to transform the Pines Function Room (PFR) into an exhibition hall in such an amazingly short space of time. This same level of fantastic efficiency was equalled by his team of caterers who provided the delicious refreshments. My thanks to you all.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Graeme and his teams because they had to set up the PFR the day before, on Thursday, 13 October, for the Office Workers' lunch. This occasion was marked by the presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to **Ruth Jensz** for her many years of service with the Office Management team in a variety of different roles. We are grateful for her considerable input into the important work that the Office is responsible for and I would like to extend that gratitude to all the Office staff for their contribution to the smooth and efficient running of our organisation.

Celebration Day

We participated in Celebration Day at Federation Square at the beginning of October. The format this year was very different and, unfortunately, we were not able to display the range of creative products of our members as in previous years. The emphasis this year was on active demonstrations of Arts and Crafts and I would like to extend my thanks to those members who were there to engage with the public and to give a demonstration of their particular expertise: **Laurie Bicknell** (Calligraphy), **Pam Stewart** (Handcrafts), **Lyn Colenso** (Mandalas), **Sue Vane-Tempest** (Card Making) and **Lindsay Roberts** (Marquetry). **Graeme Hollis** gave an audio-visual presentation on Astrology/Cosmology and the line dancers, under the direction of **Julie Ong**, performed with their customary colour and verve.

Thank You

I'm sure we all recognise that U3A Manningham operates smoothly, efficiently and effectively. This is, of course, entirely due to the enormous number of hours put in by innumerable members behind the scenes. I do not have sufficient space to thank them all here personally, but I would especially like to mention the Data Entry Team who continually update our membership details: **Joan French**, **Kathy Withers** and **Trish Bevan**. Without their contribution, our organisation would come to a stand-still.

My thanks also to the Editorial Team who do such a great job of putting together this newsletter. A special thank you to our Editor, **Diane Baird**, for whom this newsletter will be her last. After many years of successfully ensuring that the newsletter is informative, entertaining and on time, Diane has decided to vacate the Editor's chair. I thank her warmly for her skilful direction and enthusiastic commitment in this post and hope that she doesn't miss too much the thrill of working to deadlines to ensure the timely appearance and publication of the newsletter.

Sincere thanks to all the Tutors for offering such a vast range of interesting activities. The perennial problem of oversubscription to classes is testimony to their appeal and attractiveness. Your fantastic contribution is much appreciated. Finally, I would like to thank my hard-working and enthusiastic colleagues on the Committee of Management, together with the members of their numerous sub-committees, without whose labours U3A Manningham would cease to exist.

President's Report (Cont'd)

More Celebrations

Finally, remember that our 25th Anniversary celebrations are not over yet. On Thursday, 10 November, there will be a lunchtime concert given by members of the U3A Hawthorn Orchestra. The programme will be held in the PFR and will last for about one hour and refreshments will be available.

Doncare

Please note that we are collecting food for Doncare again this term. They do a superb job supporting families where just being able to put food on the table may impose major pressure on their household resources. Our members have always been willing to support Doncare's efforts and this has been greatly appreciated. Please bring your donations of non-perishable food and household necessities to the office for delivery to Doncare.

On behalf of the members of the Committee of Management, may I wish you all an enjoyable summer break and a happy, joyful, festive season. We look forward to seeing you in 2017.

Geoff Sheldon, President

Office Manager's Report

The Office Volunteers' luncheon on Thursday, 13 October, was well attended by our great team of volunteers. We had the opportunity to thank everyone for their efforts throughout 2016. My sincere thanks to all the 230+ Office Volunteers. A special mention goes to **Tess Gibbs** who, together with **Ruth Jensz**, spends countless hours arranging and fine-tuning the roster so that the office is staffed without any hitches over four terms plus Summer School.

Thanks also go to our Office Sub-committee, headed by **Tess Gibbs** and **Ruth Jensz**, who do important work behind the scenes. Members of this sub-committee are **Vicky Curtis**, **Laurine Eames**, **Maretta Frolley**, **Audrey Killey**, **Jan McAuliffe**, **Mike Perry** and **Elizabeth Voce**. I would like to make special mention of Elizabeth Voce who is resigning from the committee after many years of service.

During the luncheon, **Geoff Sheldon** presented **Ruth Jensz** with a Certificate of Appreciation for the many years in which she has had a major role in organising the office. After much discussion about how long Ruth had been involved with U3A Manningham, it was concluded that she first became involved in 1997!

A reminder to everyone that we are collecting non-perishable food items for Doncare during Term 4. Please leave your donations at the office. Thank you for your ongoing generosity so that Doncare can continue to assist the many vulnerable individuals and families in our community.

Jeanette Shaw, Office Manager

Monthly Talks

Please note that there will be no Monthly Talk in November. In 2017, the first Monthly Talk will be advised on notice boards and in classes.

Enrolment in 2017 Classes

Questions and Answers about Enrolment

Here are a few commonly asked questions about our MyU3A enrolment system, along with answers:

1. What do I need to do to enrol online?

- a. First, in your browser, go to the [Courses page](#) of U3A Manningham's website. If you do not have this saved as a 'Favourite' or 'Bookmark', go to Google and search for **U3A Manningham Courses**. One of the results offered by Google will be **Manningham U3A Course Information**. Click on that to get to the Courses page.
- b. On that page, click on the **Members Login** button.
- c. Click on the **Member ID** box and enter the Member ID you have been given.
- d. In the **Password** box, enter your Password. (If you have forgotten your Member ID or Password, click on the **Forgot Password/ID** button. Then enter the email address held on file. Also, enter your **Member ID** if you have it. Click on the **Send Password** button. You will see 'Email Sent' in green, confirming that an email has been sent to your email address containing your **Member ID** and **Password**. Click on the **Exit** button and await the receipt of your email, before trying again.)
- e. Click on the **Log in 2017** button.
- f. Click on the **Renew 2017** button.
- g. Click on the small square box next to 'I hereby apply...', a tick should appear in the box. (In most cases, you will not need to change the membership grade. If you are a Life Member, you will not be charged the fee.)
- h. Click on the **Proceed** button. You will then get the opportunity to make any changes to your details. Do so, if necessary, then click on the **Commit** button. You will then see your details. Click on the **Classes 2017** button to enrol in classes, only if the date for enrolments at your priority level has been reached. When you have enrolled in the classes you desire, click on the **Next** button.
- i. You will then be able to print the page for your records if you wish to by clicking on the **Print** button.
- j. If you wish to pay by credit card or using your PayPal account, click on the **Pay by PayPal** button and follow the instructions. You do not need to have a PayPal account to pay by credit card using this system. When you have paid via your credit card or through your PayPal account, make sure you click on the button that says to return to U3A Manningham.
- k. If you wish to pay by cheque or cash at the office, click on the **Pay Office** button. Any classes you enrol in will be confirmed if your payment is processed within 3 days of enrolling.

2. That looks pretty daunting! Is there any way I can try the system out without risking damage?

Yes, at the bottom of the Course Information page there is a link to the Practice Page. This enables you to do whatever you can do on the live database, but without making any permanent changes to the database. Each night, just before 11pm, the practise database is restored from the live database. You can therefore try enrolling on the Practice Database and see the effects without worrying whether you have done something wrong.

Enrolment in 2017 Classes (Cont'd)

3. That's a bit scary. What if I accidentally get into the Live Database?

- a. Until enrolments are open on 9 November, you will not see the **Login 2017** button on the Live Database.
- b. When you log in, have a look at the first page displayed. The third line should show (in green) a welcome, including the words '**Practice Database**'. Whenever you go to the Live Database, those words will show on the screen so you know that database is the live one.
- c. Note that if you exit from the practice MyU3a system, you will be back at the normal Course Information page. You will need to follow step 2 above to get into the Practice Database again.

4. Do I need to pay online?

No, but it is much more convenient to do so if you have a credit card or PayPal account. It is also much safer as your payment is guaranteed by PayPal and your bank. It also avoids the possibility of your payment being lost or stolen while on the way to pay, or having your cheque intercepted in the mail.

5. Can I rejoin and pay before my enrolment date to save wasting time when my enrolment date arrives?

Yes, if you do so online. We do not provide any facility for paying early at the Office. You may do so from 7 November 2016.

6. Must I pay before enrolling?

No, you can re-join as a member and enrol in classes at the same time. If you are not paying online, you will have three days in which to have your payment processed. Do not assume that your payment will be processed the moment you hand over your cash. Depending on the workload of the volunteers concerned, it may take up to one day for your payment to be processed after it arrives.

7. Am I able to enrol at the office at The Pines?

Yes, but there are several disadvantages compared to enrolling online:

- You need to book an appointment by ringing the office and turn up and pay at the assigned time. The allocated time may not be convenient to you.
- You can only enrol on the allotted day. Members who have enrolled online may have already filled the class. If you desire to enrol in a very popular class, your allocated time will be after the start of enrolments for your priority level.
- You will be guided through the online enrolment process by the volunteer assigned to help you. The volunteer will not do the enrolment for you.
- You will have to attend at The Pines to enrol.

8. When may I enrol?

This depends on your priority level:

Level 1:	Wednesday, 16 November
Level 2:	Wednesday, 23 November
Level 3:	Thursday, 24 November
Level 4:	Monday, 28 November
Level 5:	Wednesday, 30 November
Level 6:	(for new members) Thursday, 1 December

9. If I enrol in a class after my priority date, will I have priority over people with a lower priority level?

All the priority level does is enable you to enrol from a certain date. If you leave enrolment to a later date, then you have no priority over anyone else who is permitted to enrol on that date.

Warwick Wright, Enrolments

Over a Hundred Thanks!

Coral Vercoe has co-ordinated the Monthly Talks program for the past fourteen years but will step down from this task at the end of this year. This dedicated work has meant she has had to find a huge number of speakers - and not just any speakers. They needed to be entertaining, enriching and enlightening ones.

How did she do it? Coral scoured the local papers for relevant topics and "kept her ear to the ground". If she found someone who had an interesting story or topic, she approached them to speak. She said she also called on her family for ideas over the years with the result that we enjoyed a number of their creative, artistic and talented performances. Coral said it was quite a challenge to source speakers who had fresh and original ideas. Some of the topics she included were: Espionage, Kokoda Trail, Holocaust Survivor, Leather Sculpture and Urological Health. The speakers have included authors, artists, musicians, journalists, scientists and many U3A members. Coral also found it a personal challenge each month, as she would not know how many people would attend to make up the audience until the day of the talk!



Coral certainly hopes the Monthly Talks will continue. At this stage, we are looking for a volunteer. Coral will gladly mentor the generous individual who offers to be responsible for this task in 2017. If you are interested, leave your name in the Monthly Talks mailbox or with someone at the office desk.

Monthly Talks add another dimension to our organisation and we sincerely thank Coral for her outstanding contribution over the past fourteen years. We have enjoyed these talks and benefitted in many ways from Coral's dedicated work.

Wendy Donovan

Coral Vercoe was the subject of our 5Q section in the [August, 2014 newsletter](#). Please note there will not be a Monthly Talk in November.



Age Discrimination

A study by the Human Rights Commission showed that seventy-one per cent of people over sixty-five have been insulted or mistreated on the basis of their age. CEO of COTA Victoria, **Ronda Held** said: "Existing discrimination laws are failing to protect older Australians against age discrimination. We need legislative change to make sure these laws are enforced."

In order to bring attention to this discrimination, COTA Victoria has launched a special paper that provides an overview of ageism in Australia, along with advice on how to combat this discrimination. The paper, *Challenging Ageism*, can be [downloaded here](#). We all have a role to play in identifying and challenging ageist attitudes and in supporting the laws against age discrimination.

Annual Priorities Survey

COTA is currently undertaking a survey to determine priorities for 2017. Share your ideas by completing the online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017Priorities>.

Artistic Showcase

On the anniversary of the founding of U3A Manningham twenty-five years ago, a special Artistic Showcase was held. Seventeen craft groups displayed their range of talents during the afternoon.

President **Geoff Sheldon** welcomed the crowd consisting of participants, volunteer helpers, members and guests. A huge chocolate cake, with the words '*U3A Manningham 25th Anniversary*', was shared with those present. During the afternoon, **Kevin Andrews**, MP, arrived and Geoff showed him around the exhibition.



An appreciative crowd inspected the large range of artwork. Painting included drawing and pastels, oil, acrylics, and beginners' watercolour painting. The display of Chinese brush painting included the lovely sentiment: '*The spirits of the collective efforts of the class paintings exhibition will endure forever as evergreen pine and cypress trees*'.

The diverse pottery display included a pair of Japanese gods, a birdbath, tiles, a devil's mask and a Japanese garden lamp, as well as an invitation to join the class! Card-making and calligraphy, colourful mandalas and zentangles, exquisite needlecraft and handcrafts all inspired us with their detail and perfection. Intricate details of animals and



landscape scenes, produced by the marquetry group, attracted attention and admiration, as did the display from the sculpture class.

The patchwork and quilting display was a knock-out. The patchwork tree, commemorating U3A Manningham's 25th Anniversary, was displayed in the hallway and will provide a wonderful keepsake for this occasion. 'Fruit' on the tree was embroidered with the names of our U3A classes. A William Morris-

inspired quilt was lovely. A baby's quilt, decorated with cheeky animals, and a wonderful bedspread in a mix of blues completed the patchwork exhibit. We certainly have some very talented quilters in our midst.

The Catering Group provided a generous supply of sandwiches and cakes, as well as tea and coffee throughout the afternoon. Many thanks to this group for all the food preparation, dishwashing and cleaning up required. Finally, a huge vote of thanks to **Graeme Martin** and his trusty helpers who were responsible for the arrangements and for setting up and removing tables and equipment.



Georgina O'Keefe

An Editorial Change

Four times a year, a special treat arrives in all our email inboxes - the U3A Manningham Newsletter. What an entertaining and informative snapshot of our members' interests and activities! Most of us - if we thought about it - would realise the huge effort that it takes to produce our newsletter by the dedicated and talented team who work so hard to bring it to us. **Diane Baird**, our newsletter Editor since 2012 when she took over from **Margot Roth**, has decided that this newsletter will be her final edition.

The editorship of the newsletter has not been Diane's only contribution to our U3A. As a member of the Committee of Management from 2011 to 2014, with responsibility for Communications and Technology (previously called Publicity and Publications), Diane was very involved in the leadership of our U3A. Among many other contributions, Diane initiated changing the newsletter from a printed to an electronic publication. This change provided many options: the newsletter was not restricted by page length; it could contain more images in colour; it could include links to a range of other material; and the money saved in printing costs could be used for other things. So began the move to digital technology which has continued with our online enrolment system.



We have been extremely fortunate to have someone as well qualified as Diane as our Editor. She has a very clear vision of what our newsletter should contain: articles of specific interest to our membership that cannot be found elsewhere. Diane has ensured that we are informed about current and future activities, stories celebrating members' lives and achievements, as well as many issues in the wider world of importance to our members.

Her writing and editorial skills are without par, but the characteristic that Diane brings to everything she undertakes is the delightful Virginian courtesy which she has in spades! Thank you, Diane, for your wonderful contribution as Editor of our newsletter. We look forward to your continuing involvement in our U3A.

Next year, **Len Rose** will assume the role of Editor and we wish him well.

Jillian Gange, Communications Coordinator

2017 Newsletters

Thank you to all those who have contributed to our newsletters this year. We also appreciate your feedback to help make our newsletters even better. We encourage you to continue to share information and ideas with our members next year by sending your contributions to u3amnews@gmail.com. The newsletter deadline for the March issue is Friday, 17 February 2017.

Creating the newsletter from first piece to final PDF is a team effort with each member contributing in different ways. Many thanks to everyone involved in the preparation and distribution of our newsletter: **Liew Staras, Frances Langdon, Jillian Gange, Kevin Chan, Lewis Badge, Warren Tromp and Angela Burns**. Thank you also to **Lindsay Roberts** who takes most of the photographs of our events to share with members.

This newsletter is the last for this year and my last as Editor. From 2017, **Len Rose** will take over the role of Editor. On behalf of the newsletter team, we hope you enjoy the holidays!

Diane Baird, Editor

VICTORIAN SENIORS FESTIVAL Celebration Day

Seniors Festival Launch

Victorian Seniors Week was launched in great style on Sunday, 2 October when Celebration Day was held at Federation Square.



If you have never attended Celebration Day, mark it on your calendar for next year. On this day, Melbourne is really seen at its best. Federation Square buzzes with people enjoying the day-long entertainment; many marquees offer information for people 'of a certain age', and demonstrations of arts, crafts and other activities abound, often with the opportunity to have a go. In addition, the sun always shines!

The U3A marquees were organised differently this year, focussing more on encouraging passers-by to participate in our activities rather than just admiring them. Our President, **Geoff Sheldon**, and the ever-reliable **Ron McQuade** were to be found spruiking outside U3A Manningham's marquee for passers-by to join in.

As always, our star performance of the day was our line dancers under the auspices of the wonderful **Julie Ong**. As in other years, our dancers spent part of the term break practising to ensure they were step-perfect for the occasion. We certainly knew it was the day after the Grand Final when an enthusiastic Dogs' supporter joined in with the dancers!

Laurie Bicknell (Calligraphy), **Pam Stewart** (Handcrafts), **Lyn Colenso** (Mandalas), **Sue Vane-Tempest** (Card-making) and **Lindsay Roberts** (Marquetry) were all there demonstrating their crafts. **Graeme Hollis** gave an interesting and entertaining presentation on Cosmology/Astrology.

As always, many thanks to all those who helped in the organisation and who participated in showcasing U3A Manningham on Celebration Day.



Jillian Gange

Catering for Great Events

As the U3A 2016 year ends, over 450 of our members have volunteered in the Catering Group, giving their time and effort to our U3A.

In 2016, they have supported the Monthly Talks and eleven other major functions. Most of these functions were principally designed to thank other members for their personal efforts and support of the organization in pursuit of our U3A goals. It is very apparent that great teamwork and great participation make great events.



In the Catering Group, there are a range of different contributions. Some members organize and supply food, others supervise in the kitchen and carry out serving activities while others help with the set-up and clean-up on the day.

Thank you to each and every U3A member who has volunteered in Catering Group activities throughout 2016. Your participation is very much appreciated and our events would not be the same without you!

Elaine Campbell, Lorraine Smith, John Caine, Graeme Martin



Network News

Email Scams

The concern about email scams was discussed at a meeting of U3A Network Victoria Council in October. Some members had been affected by email scams when legitimate U3A email addresses of U3A officers (President, Treasurer, Secretary, etc) were hacked. In some cases, these emails were requests for urgent payment by clicking on a link. Most of us have become familiar with email scams, but it is easy to be confused when the emails seem legitimate. In all situations where you are puzzled by the content of an email, you are advised to delete those emails without clicking on any links. Network advises all members of all U3As to be very careful of emails requesting money. Never click on a link and always ring the authentic business asking for any payment to clarify its legitimacy.

Online Security

Treasurer from U3A Network, **Tom Wong**, encourages members who use electronic banking to adopt the use of bank-issued security tokens. These tokens generate a new passcode every 30 seconds or less to ensure that electronic transactions are protected. Another scam that has occurred in some neighbourhoods is 'free' USB sticks distributed in letterboxes. When inserted in your computer, malicious software is downloaded onto your computer's hard-drive. As a result, serious issues, as well as fraudulent offers, appear on your web browser. Never trust these electronic freebies; the cost of repairing the damage they cause will not be free.

The online message is simple: beware of scams by email or by phone, never click on email links if you suspect anything unusual, never give out personal information to unknown sources and use all available protection when doing electronic banking.

We've Come a Long Way – and We're Still Growing!

U3A Manningham celebrated its 25th Anniversary on 14 October 2016. Many things have been accomplished over these years and we should all be very pleased with the progress during this period. In the article below, our past Presidents look back and reflect on the changes at our U3A. As we look back, we also need to look forward. Various members of our U3A have contributed ideas about the future. Taken together, we have both a history of accomplishment and a blueprint for the future.

A Look at Past Achievements

Our past Presidents have reflected on progress at U3A Manningham during their terms of office. Below are excerpts from speeches about our history given at our 20th Anniversary in 2011. The complete talks given by our first four Presidents are available on our [website](#). Our two recent Presidents also share their perspectives on progress since we have been located at The Pines.



Neville Heffernan, President 1992-1998

Our trip down memory lane starts in June, 1991. An announcement in the local newspaper...invited the public to a meeting aimed at establishing a local U3A...I attended that meeting and commenced a deep commitment that has endured for two decades...Having been elected President I...continued in that role for four more years. Those years were a time of enormous expansion in membership, and subsequent complexity in organisation.

While the retirement village campus had coped well with our initial forty students, increasing numbers and classroom requirements were an obvious threat to the quality of village life...Let's always acknowledge our debt to the Templestowe Orchards Retirement Village as the initiators of our organisation...This period was certainly a time of great stress for our organisation...too many classes in disparate locations. Our...re-location to the Templestowe Leisure Centre was a compromise in that...accommodation...was still inadequate [but we had] the use of a large meeting room and a small office...The positive aspect of this expansion was the emergence of a whole new pool of talent...the efforts of so many in so many facets of organisation, administration and instruction have been deeply appreciated...

I'm so grateful to have been afforded the opportunity to play my part in the establishment and consolidation of our U3A.



Heather Ambrose, President 1998-2002

I'm going to talk about some of the innovations from that time that were particularly productive and lasting. **Les Dale** foresaw a need for alternative accommodation so he worked persistently...to address these projected needs...**Bridget Halge** implemented the class representative system to improve communication between the CoM and members...Bridget also devised the Volunteer System to promote the sharing of necessary tasks among members. We linked this system with the priority incentives offered at enrolment, to good effect...**Moirax Axtens'** organisational skills were very apparent as she and her committee worked to improve the efficiency of the Enrolment system, year by year...**Barbara Hall** began producing computer-generated class lists prior to classes beginning each year and **Leong Kwok**

developed a purpose-specific database to cater for every aspect of our increasingly complex operation. **Norm** and **Elaine Dodds** and **Lyn Torrens** made full use of the database as they streamlined the enrolment system...involving a large team of trained helpers.

We've Come a Long Way – and We're Still Growing! (Cont'd)

Don Gay headed a committee to rewrite [our] constitution to reflect current practice...Don also wrote our first Tutors' Manual, now updated annually. Secretary **Judith Downie** led the writing of all our policies and the CoM employed a consultant to guide them...in writing a five-year strategic plan...**Betty Ellis**, assisted by Secretary **Audrey Killey** and their team produced *A Decade of Achievement* to record the U3A's history...

U3A world-wide is an outstanding example of successful self-help in education, promoting well-being among its members with its simple formula of shared learning among volunteers...I am privileged to have been part of the development of this U3A.



Bridget Halge, President 2002-2006

During the middle years, U3A Manningham saw the introduction of several firsts for a U3A in Victoria. Two programs were designed to assist seniors living with a disability: one, to promote physical strength; and two, to reduce social isolation.

The ones to assist those with a disability were the Disability Support Group, organised by **Pearl Lubansky** and **Peter Nash**, and the other is the very successful Migrant English program, headed first by **Pat Smith** and now coordinated by **Joan Creber**. The one to promote physical strength is, of course, our thriving Strength Training Program led by **Moira Axtens**.

The projects to reduce social isolation have been the Learn Computing CD created by **Les Dale**...and the development of a Directory of Activities for seniors...**Graeme Martin** continues to work with Council officers on regular upgrades for this directory...

Despite the persistent efforts of our pioneers **Neville Heffernan**, **Les Dale** and **Heather Ambrose**, progress with finding appropriate accommodation, suitable for the long term, was very, very, slow...An exciting and significant shift ...occurred at a meeting with the then CEO **John Bennie**... We argued that we work in collaboration with Council to provide essential services to the growing population of seniors in the community, thus prolonging the health and well-being of seniors and achieving large savings on the public purse...It was challenging, thrilling and a privilege to have been part of the Site Committee working with the architect and the planning department on every aspect of the design of the building and to witness our dream becoming a reality...we are the first U3A in Victoria to have our own purpose-built building.



David Jenz, President 2006-2010

Our last day at Templestowe on Friday, 30 November 2007, was indeed memorable. Our final concert was held in the Memorial Hall and our End-of-Year Luncheon was held in the Templestowe Leisure Centre. The Memorial Hall was built in 1922 and has all the charm and atmosphere that was considered essential for a meeting hall at that time...The Pines Learning and Activity Centre had been officially opened on 21 November 2007 and it was ready for us to start our classes early in 2008.

It was obvious to all who attended the Tutors' meeting on Thursday, 31 January 2008, that Manningham U3A had moved into the twenty-first century. This was our first event at The Pines where we had air-conditioning, comfortable chairs and other quality furnishings, a well-appointed office and reception area, automatic double doors, classrooms of flexible sizes, excellent equipment storage close to the classrooms and a wide hallway where members could meet and socialise between classes...

We've Come a Long Way – and We're Still Growing! (Cont'd)

Manningham U3A reached a gross membership of over 1600 this year and is the largest U3A in Victoria...We are offering over 160 courses [in 2012]. U3A offers much more than a wide variety of classes for seniors - it provides social interaction, support in times of need, it provides stimulation and meaningful goals for older citizens and, above all, it provides a happy and friendly environment...We have had a great twenty years and we look forward with confidence to the future.



Bryce Normoyle, President 2010-2015

The 2009 Member Survey Results were approved by the CoM in 2010. This report emphasised continued membership growth; curriculum growth and diversity; accommodation expansion and increased volunteer opportunities. It also strongly supported an upgrade/update of existing technology, together with increased use in classes and in administration support.

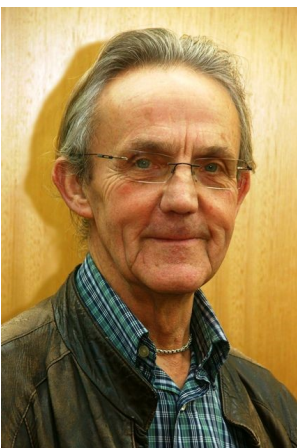
Membership growth continued to expand to 1750 members during this period. Our curriculum grew to 190 classes and activities, including technology classes to assist our members with the uptake of mobile phones and tablets. Demand rapidly exceeded supply for these classes. Several new venues were hired to assist with the curriculum growth and to accommodate the demand in

expanding existing courses, for example, Strength Training.

Extensive negotiations were required between Manningham City Council, The Pines Living and Learning and ourselves to enable the purchase and installation of modern data projectors, including speakers and screens in Rooms 13,14,16 and 18, as well as an upgrade of Room 1 desktop computers and software. In addition, new laptops and desktops were purchased for use by our members, mainly in the office and sometimes in classes and for special events.

A sub-committee was established to research future directions for our organisation. It analysed demographics, the potential for a second U3A (mainly to relieve administration concerns) and possible accommodation venues. In 2014, U3A Network Victoria researched the market place for suitable membership management software. Following additional research by U3A Manningham, a sub-committee recommended a suitable online software package that was successfully implemented in 2015. Many new volunteer opportunities evolved from the above changes and our members have readily accepted them.

During this period, many new policy and regulatory documents were issued by the State government that required our compliance, documentation and implementation. The sustained growth of U3A Manningham during this period is the result of enthusiastic members who strongly supported the various committees and accepted change willingly.



Geoff Sheldon, President 2015-present

The U3A movement is an idea whose time has come. The traditional role of third-agers as guardians of knowledge has been eroded by the rapid development of technology. Similarly, the advances in modern medicine are keeping us alive for longer. So what is our role now? As I see it, we can continue to contribute to the wider community and take responsibility for our own well-being. By sharing our experiences and skills with our fellow third-agers, we can ensure that they, too, continue to be as independent and active as possible. This is a role that U3A Manningham has always embraced and, looking further into the future, I would hope to see it more firmly enshrined as its principal aim.

We've Come a Long Way – and We're Still Growing! (Cont'd)

The unfortunate label of 'university' in our name, in my opinion, may serve to intimidate and deter some potential members. It is all too easy to see an organisation such as ours as a quasi-educational one. We are not. True, we are committed to life-long learning but that is a fundamental trait of being human and goes far beyond the narrow idea of formal education. U3A Manningham is, and should continue to be, an organised group ready to welcome anyone into its community. We have been lucky during our first twenty-five years to have had some excellent Tutors offering outstanding educational courses, but that has been in addition to a range of other diverse courses. Looking ahead, I would hope to reinforce our role in terms of providing a wider service to the community, to offer a resource to the older generation looking to maintain their physical and mental well-being in finding their place in society and to maintain essential links with that society.

A Look to Future Possibilities

We asked members in a variety of classes to share their ideas about initiatives for the future. Some of the ideas and comments are below. The nature of the responses would seem to indicate that, on the whole, our members are content with the overall progress of our U3A. The Committee of Management welcomes ideas from members at any time. You can leave a message in the office if you have other ideas to contribute.

We need more yoga classes! (A comment from several people.)

We should be more mindful of the many people who work so hard behind the scenes to make our U3A a success. These people should receive more recognition in some way.

Would it be possible to discreetly keep some list in the office that would record recent deaths of members? It would help to update our membership list and provide info for Class Reps.

I think there is a great demand for Strength Training classes at the beginner level. More of these classes would be most welcome for those new to Strength Training. In future, maybe more chair-based classes for Strength Training would be good too.

I believe that members should be reminded quite vigorously that the success of the U3A organisation depends on volunteering, not just for a few times a year but also to volunteer for positions of more responsibility.

Could the Film Group (and perhaps some others) be held at The Pines rather than at Applewood? Parking is much better here and easier to get to.

I think we should keep numbers at our U3A to a limit. Perhaps membership should be restricted to Manningham residents only?

Would it be possible to extend our hours, both starting earlier in the day and finishing later in the afternoon? This might help with classroom scheduling and would appeal to the early birds as well as others.

Is it time to do a review of equipment? Some things may need to be replaced (eg, Strength Training leg weights) and maybe other things could be updated.

Could a more basic line-dancing class be created? The beginner's class gets a bit fast by Term 3 and beyond the beginner's level.

I would like a course in basic first-aid. A whole course would be better than a workshop.

Summer School

If you have not enrolled for classes in Summer School yet, don't miss out! Classes will be held in January, 2017 from Tuesday, 3 January until Wednesday, 25 January. So far, only two classes are full, but enrolments are continuing.

To enrol in any of the open classes, go to the Courses page of our website and scroll down to the 'Courses for 2016'. Click on 'Summer School' to find a list of all of the classes on offer. (You may have to do this twice.) You will see that two have 'Wait List' on the right and the remainder have 'Open'. The 'Wait List' classes are full, but the 'Open' classes are not.

Warwick Wright, Enrolments

Code Red Fire Danger Rating – Cancellation of all U3A Manningham Classes

The Pines Learning and Activity Centre is now a designated Manningham Emergency Relief Centre. As such, Manningham Council has priority use of the building during a declared emergency. Following declaration by the Victorian CFA of a Code Red Fire Danger Rating in the Central district (Melbourne, Geelong and surrounding areas), **all U3A Manningham classes will be cancelled automatically, without notice, in all locations until the emergency has ceased.** The U3A car park at The Pines will be closed to the public during this time.



Updated information regarding emergency situations is available on the CFA website (cfa.vic.gov.au), on local ABC 774 and commercial radio stations, on Sky News TV, and on the Victorian Bushfire Information Line (1800 240 667). **Members should stay informed, follow the advice given and not make unnecessary trips.**

And finally...

Laughter is the best medicine - but you have to write your own prescription.

Anon

The Newsletter

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



25th Anniversary of U3A Manningham 1991-2016

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TERM 4, 2016

Thursday, 10 November	U3A Hawthorn Ensemble (PFR)	12 noon
Monday, 21 November	Committee of Management Meeting (Rm 8)	1.30pm
Thursday, 24 November	uniFEST 2016	12 noon - 3.30pm
Friday, 25 November	TERM 4 finishes	

ENROLMENT DATES FOR 2017

Wednesday, 16 November	Level 1 Enrolment
Wednesday, 23 November	Level 2 Enrolment
Thursday, 24 November	Level 3 Enrolment
Monday, 28 November	Level 4 Enrolment
Wednesday, 30 November	Level 5 Enrolment
Thursday, 1 December	Level 6 Enrolment for new members

SUMMER SCHOOL— JANUARY

Tuesday 3, 10, 17, 24
Wednesday 4, 11, 18, 25
Thursday 5, 12, 19

TERM 1, 2017

Wednesday, 1 February	Office opens	9.00am
Wednesday, 1 February	Office Training (experienced) (Rms 13-14)	10.00am - 11.00am
Wednesday, 1 February	Office Training (new) (Rms 13-14)	11.30am - 12.30pm
Thursday, 2 February	Migrant English Tutors (Rm 14)	11.30am - 12.30pm
Thursday, 2 February	Tutors Meeting (PFR)	12.00 noon - 3.00pm
Friday, 3 February	Orientation Day (Rms 13-14)	9.30am - 11.30am
Friday, 3 February	Office Training (experienced) (Rms 13-14)	12.00 noon - 1.00pm
Friday, 3 February	Office Training (new) (Rms 13-14)	1.30pm - 2.30pm

Monday, 6 February **TERM 1 Classes commence (8 weeks)**

Friday, 17 February	Newsletter Deadline	
Monday, 20 February	Committee of Management Meeting (Rm 8)	1.30pm
Wednesday, 22 February	Office Training (experienced) (Rms 13)	3.00pm - 4.00pm
Wednesday, 22 February	Office Training (new) (Rms 13)	4.15pm - 5.15pm
Thursday, 2 March	Class Representatives Meeting (PFR)	1.30pm - 2.30pm
Monday, 13 March	LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY	
Thursday, 16 March	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	12.15pm - 2.30pm
Monday, 20 March	Committee of Management Meeting (Rm 8)	1.30pm

Friday, 31 March **TERM 1 finishes**

[break – 2 weeks]

PFR- Pines Function Room