

President's Report

Welcome to 2018 at U3A Manningham



We currently have a membership of around 1700, of whom 137 are new members. On behalf of all our returning members, I would like to welcome them and extend our good wishes for an enriching and stimulating year ahead.

As in previous years, we have a very extensive and wide-ranging program of activities although we still encounter problems with popular classes filling beyond capacity. In some of these areas, our tutors are able to increase class sizes and run extra classes, for which we are extremely grateful, but unfortunately not in sufficient numbers to eradicate the problem.

However, it is worth remembering that probably the greatest benefit to be had from participation in organisations such as ours comes from the opportunities that they give us to be engaged in our community at a time of life when social isolation and loneliness can eat away at people's health and wellbeing. So if you are not able to get into the class of your choice, consider doing something completely new and different - surprise your family and friends! Be ready to take advantage of this marvellous opportunity to keep active alongside friendly people.

The membership fee is now \$70 and we recently introduced the opportunity for members to make donations to our considerable running costs if they were so minded. Without this, we would be facing the coming financial year with very limited means of solvency. In those areas of greatest expenditure: utilities, office costs, computer maintenance, cleaning, and especially rents for external venues, costs have increased enormously and very dramatically. I am sure you will be well aware of this from other areas of your household expenses. Consequently, we are very grateful for your forbearance here and especially grateful to those of our members who felt able to make an extra donation over and above the annual fee.

Enrolments

Your Committee of Management is aware of the problems that many members experienced enrolling online and is currently working on how to overcome this and improve the process for next year's enrolment period.

Warwick Wright and his enrolment team are probably the most hardworking arm of management and I would like to thank them all for their industry, commitment and conscientious attention to implementing what is still a new and evolving computerised membership management system. I would also like to thank the tireless, always cheerful, data entry volunteers in the back office, who have been under considerable pressure this year with enrolment issues: **Joan French, Trish Bevan, Kathy Withers, Pam Grehan and Frank Lau.**

President's Report (cont'd)

Many of the enrolment difficulties experienced by members were resolved because our ever cooperative and adaptable tutors willingly increased their class sizes to accommodate those members who, unwittingly, found themselves excluded from the classes of their choice. Our sincere thanks to you all.

Summer School 2018

I am pleased to report that our annual Summer School was enjoyed by many members. We were able to offer more activities than in previous years with some new classes appearing along with new tutors. This is a really good opportunity for members who are toying with the idea of running a class to try it out over a short four week period. A big thank you to all our participating tutors and especially to **Arthur Rance** who, as in previous years, organised twice-weekly outings to a variety of Melbourne destinations.

Many thanks to those members who volunteered their time to keep the office open during this period. **Tess Gibbs** organised the roster and timetabling of duties. Thank you, Tess. Thanks also to **David Jensz** for managing the important business of ensuring that The Pines building opened and closed at the correct times.

Celebratory Events

Perhaps a distant memory now but I would like to thank everybody who contributed to the Artistic Showcase and Unifest at the end of last term. As always, both events were interesting, inspiring and a lot of fun.

As always, the quality of the exhibits at the Artistic Showcase was of a spectacularly high standard and the range and variety of craft and artistic items on display was very impressive.

Unifest with its colour, vivacity and spectacle continues to be an end of year delight. Many thanks to **Tony Ellul** who orchestrated the performances in his usual relaxed and debonair manner. Thanks also to **Graeme Martin** and his teams of furniture movers and caterers for transforming the Pines Function Room into an exhibition hall one week and a seated performance venue the next - complete with refreshments.

Australia Day Awards

I would like to acknowledge the award of an OAM to **Elsie Mutton** who for many years has been the hardworking President of U3A Network Victoria, to which all U3As in Victoria are affiliated. She is a committed and wholehearted supporter of the U3A movement and has campaigned with vigorous resolve over the years of her presidency for our advancement and to our considerable advantage.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will take place on Wednesday, 14 March from 12.15pm to 2.30pm. Please make every effort to come along when a comprehensive picture of our current circumstances will be presented.

In conclusion, may I offer all our members my best wishes for another entertaining and rewarding year at U3A Manningham.

Geoff Sheldon, President

MANNINGHAM U3A INC

Registration No. A0026531J

Twenty-Seventh Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 14 March 2018 at 12.15pm

Notice is hereby given that the Twenty-Seventh Annual General Meeting of Manningham U3A Inc. will be held on Wednesday, 14 March 2018, 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 previous Annual General Meeting of 15 March 2017.
3. Business arising from the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
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 2017 to 31 December 2017.
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 2018.

A light luncheon will follow the meeting.

Alita Mossop, Secretary

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

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

Nominations of candidates for election as Members 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, 6 March 2018.

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

Enrolment Report

Grateful thanks to **Joan French**, the senior member of our Data Entry team, for all her hard work between the conclusion of last year and the commencement of 2018. As a result of Joan's hard work, many members who were on wait lists have now got into their classes as vacancies have become available. This happens every year when people, realising that they have over-committed themselves, withdraw from classes, thus making room for others.

Thanks also to several tutors who have allowed extra members to join their classes. However, it is unfortunate that this practice is not possible for some classes because of space, equipment or safety requirements. I am sure class members will be very grateful to those tutors who have been so accommodating.

Help us to keep in touch with you

Please ensure that your personal profile is correct, especially your email address. It is impossible for us to contact you when your email address on the MyU3A system is incorrect. This is usually caused by a misspelt email address or a member getting a new email address and forgetting to update his or her personal profile.

Emails are often rejected when the recipient's mailbox is full. There are a number of ways this can be prevented - the simplest one being to delete emails that are no longer needed. There are a number of other ways of preventing this. If you cannot work out how, contact your internet provider and ask for help - after all, you are paying for it!

To update your profile, log in with the **Member Login** button on the Courses page using your **Member ID** and **Password**. Click on the **Update Profile** button and make any changes. (Note that all fields with a red * alongside them must be completed.) When finished, click on the **Commit** button to confirm the changes you have made.

MyU3A changes that will help members:

1. Many of you will know that we have provided access to the Practise Database so that if you want to change something in your profile but are not sure what impact it will have on the system, you can try it out in the Practise Database. The downside is that it is possible that you may change your profile in the Practise Database thinking that you are working in the live database and then wonder why your profile has not been updated. To prevent this from occurring, you will now be reminded when you go into the Practise Database as a warning message will appear in large letters.
2. A small number of members had problems during the enrolment period because the new classes for 2018 on the Class Status screen appeared above the 2017 classes that they were currently attending. Even though the current classes had the year underneath the class number, not everyone noticed and they incorrectly thought they were already enrolled for the next year.

In future, it will be much easier to differentiate between the classes for the current year (highlighted with a brown background) and the classes for the next year (highlighted with a green background). This problem will arise only during the enrolment period when the classes for two years are showing.

Warwick Wright, Enrolments Manager

2018 Menzies Community Australia Day Awards

Since 1995, the Menzies Award has been presented to recognise the valued contribution of members of our community who have worked hard to make our community a better place to live.

This year, the Member for Menzies, The Hon. Kevin Andrews, MP, presented two of our members with the Menzies Award.

Alita Mossop, who has been our hardworking Secretary for eight years, was nominated by U3A Manningham. Alita ensures the integrity of our legal and institutional framework and compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements. As well, she is responsible for the organisation of the Committee of Management meetings (including agendas and minutes), the efficient administration of our organisation, particularly with regard to those matters pertaining to insurance and other claims, and all issues requiring attention on behalf of members.

Telmay Dodd, who is one of our Strength Training tutors, was nominated by the Manningham Interfaith Network where she is an enthusiastic member, as well as being Deputy Secretary and Membership Officer. Many of you will know Telmay who was also previously the tutor for The Happy Singers.

Our heartiest congratulations to both of them.



Alita Mossop



Telmay Dodd

Office Manager's Report

The office had a very busy start to 2018. We have over 200 members volunteering to help and our roster for the year is already full. Five training classes have been held so far to update our experienced workers and to initiate our new people on what tasks they need to complete whilst on duty in the office. Thank you to everyone who attended these sessions.

Thanks as always to **Tess Gibbs** and **Ruth Jensz** for the fantastic job they do with the roster and all the time-consuming tasks they take on. Thanks also to the supporting office sub-committee members who are always there with a smile when you need them.

I am proud of the way our office operates and hope we can continue helping all our members with their enquiries throughout the year.

Robyn Buttling, Office Manager

Vale Marjorie Beecham 1927-2017

Tutor: Pottery - 2007 to 2017

Born in Ivanhoe, Marjorie came from a family of leathersmiths. She grew up in Melbourne's eastern suburbs and attended Methodist Ladies College in Kew, after which she undertook an occupational therapy technician's course at RMIT.

In 1947, Marjorie began working at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital. Marjorie was one of the first civilians to work there. She loved working with the returned soldiers.

Marjorie, who thought she would be using her leatherworking skills, was horrified when told she would be in charge of the pottery studio! She had to learn everything from the ground up and became interested in using clay as a medium for the soldiers to express their feelings. She joined a pottery group in Warrandyte in 1957. Members would make trips out to the old Warrandyte quarry to dig clay for their pots.

In 1950, Marjorie married Henry (Pi) Beecham. They moved to Castle Hill in Warrandyte where she established a pottery studio and kiln in the garden of her home.



Marjorie was a life member of the Warrandyte Mechanics Institute and Arts Association, which recently celebrated its 50th Anniversary and she conducted pottery workshops in its pottery studio from 1965 until very recently.

Marjorie was also a member of Rotary and was generous with donations of her handmade pots to give to speakers each month. In 2016, she received the Paul Harris Award for her contributions to Rotary.

Marjorie joined U3A Manningham in 2007 and volunteered to be a pottery tutor. For many years, she taught a pottery hand-building course and arranged for her students' work to be exhibited at the annual U3AM Artistic Showcase.

At U3AM, Marjorie was an active participant in **Joan Sheridan's** Culture, Theory and Philosophy class. End-of-term afternoon teas at her home were happy, light-hearted occasions.

Marjorie was also a member of **Heather Ambrose's** Psychology Class from its inception. She was very open to learning and lived by the words "we do not stop playing because we are old, we grow old because we stop playing".

Marjorie was a happy person in herself. She projected a positive and dynamic attitude to life, immersing herself in her interests and projects. She loved her three daughters, Sally, Amanda and Creina, and adored her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She operated on the belief that if you started something you had to finish it! She did everything with grace, enthusiasm and generosity.

Her funeral was held at the Warrandyte Hall on 14 November 2017. The hall was full with many standing along the side walls.

Georgina O'Keefe

Curriculum Coordinator's Report



I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our members, in particular our new members, enrolling in our exciting courses. A special thank you to our new and current tutors who volunteer their time and expertise in conducting a variety of courses, from academic to creative arts, health and fitness. We have a total of 197 courses given by 135 tutors this year and there will be more new courses to be offered throughout this year.

Members will be informed of any new courses which are open to all without priority levels. A number of seminars are being held in Term 1 which will assist us to identify potential new courses that can be offered in future.

Quite a few courses still have vacancies. Check on MyU3A or on the notice board to find a course or courses that might interest you and enrol online or complete a form which is available from the office.

Milly Ching, Curriculum Coordinator

Tutor Coordinator's Report

Hi everyone.

Hope you all had an enjoyable break over Christmas and the New Year.

My name is Barbara Spagnolo and I am the new Tutor Coordinator for U3AM. I have taken over from Maureen Mitchell who held the position for 16 years. I am sure you will all join me in thanking and acknowledging Maureen for all her hard work and dedication over the years.

I am also the Tutor for Photobooks, something of which I am very passionate about and I thoroughly enjoy sharing my knowledge and skills with U3A members.

For my first participation in the newsletter, I am going to remind everyone about a small detail in our health and safety procedure. This small detail is critically important in the case of life threatening medical emergencies. If and when an ambulance is called, please ensure that you direct the driver to turn into the Pines Learning building address at the **first traffic lights on Blackburn Road, north of Reynolds Road**. Precious minutes can be lost if the ambulance ends up on the other side of the shopping centre.



Barbara Spagnolo, Tutor Coordinator

Vale David Lording

Tutor: History and Appreciation of Music - 1994 to 2012

Members of the U3AM community were saddened to hear of the passing of David on 10 December, just 12 days after he attended the Christmas class of the course he began in 1994.



It was not unusual for David to have more than 50 members in his class during the 19 years he ran it, exploring in great depth, often over 2-3 weeks, a multitude of composers. These included Brahms, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Debussy, Rachmaninoff, Chopin, and many others. His knowledge was backed up by intensive research, often over a period of months.

David stepped down from leading his class in 2012, six years after suffering a stroke. Since then, members have been continually amazed when he still contributed gems of information during sessions, adding colour and interesting memorabilia to the discussion.

David was the oldest of four boys who all attended Mont Albert Central School before going on to Melbourne Grammar. He always wanted to be a teacher and graduated from The University of Melbourne with a B.A. and Dip.Ed.

Before becoming a tutor at U3AM following his retirement in 1992, David contributed to the wider society in his work as a teacher of French, History, Maths and Geography, plus his role as Deputy Principal at Forest Hill Secondary College. He has also been an enthusiastic football player, as well as a cricket supporter and umpire.

David will be greatly missed as husband to Jenny, father to his children, Cathie, Ros and Stephen, and grandfather to his seven grandchildren.

290 people signed the Condolence Book at David's service, proof indeed that he touched so many lives and was revered and respected by many, both in and out of U3AM. We are grateful to David for enriching the lives of so many members of U3A Manningham.

Maureen Mitchell

Doncare – Volunteers Needed

Doncare is a not-for-profit community organisation that provides services across all life stages: Information and Crisis Support, Social Support for Seniors, Family Services, Counselling, Family Violence Prevention and Recovery, and Volunteering in Manningham.

Doncare's programs are supported and funded through our seven Opportunity Shops and with the help of over 300 volunteers. Whilst government funding is received, the Op Shop Program raises between 43% and 48% of funding required and is therefore a necessary source of income for Doncare.

Doncare need volunteers who would enjoy working in one of their Op Shops. Volunteers need to be reliable, friendly and enjoy working in a team.

To find out more, call 9856 1500 or visit Doncare's website www.doncare.org.au and download an application form.

"What a great picture!" U3A Manningham Photograph Competition

How often do we say that to someone when they are showing us their holiday photographs?

Here's the opportunity to share your wonderful photographs with all your friends at U3A Manningham.

A photograph competition will be held during Term 2 - 16 April to 31 May. Photographs will be displayed on the U3A office screen and the winner will be selected by a panel of judges. Yes, there will be a prize!

Just a few rules:

- The photos can be of anywhere in the world - but, please, without friends and relations.
- Only digital photos can be accepted.
- Pick your best - a maximum of three photos to be submitted by each member.
- All places must be identified.

Please email all photos with your name to **Trish Bevan** at triciaj47@gmail.com or put them on a USB stick and leave in Trish's pigeon hole in the back office. All sticks will be returned. Please ensure that you provide your name and contact details.

Welcoming in The Year of the Dog

Marg Dawdy's Group E Strength Training class, held at the Ajani Centre, celebrated Chinese New Year by all wearing something red and enjoyed a delicious morning tea supplied by class members after class.



Bridging the Gap

Bridge began as a hobby, and became my passion for many years during the time I lived abroad. After settling in Australia, I joined U3A over 15 years ago and immediately volunteered to teach bridge to beginners.

These days, even though I continue to work, I still make time for and look forward to playing bridge and especially sharing my knowledge of the game with others who may not be experienced enough to play with confidence.

I maintain membership of both the Australian Bridge Federation, and the Victorian Bridge Federation. These memberships give me access to lots of information about bridge and enables me to keep up to date with changing strategies within bridge systems, playing level of skills, etc. That, in turn, allows me to continuously enhance my teaching skills, to keep my classes relevant and interesting. The reward is evident in the growing confidence with which my students play!

I have enjoyed hearing from former pupils how thrilled they are to have learned this game because it has given them both the joy of playing and also of making new friends. This is especially helpful after retirement when other work-based social activities are no longer as frequent.

Bridge not only challenges you to think, it creates opportunities to develop new friendships and prompts social outings which assist in the ageing years, to keep minds active and stimulated! Some even say that bridge is one game known to keep Alzheimer's at bay!

For those who travel, you will always find a bridge club where you will be welcomed. Today, popular cruise liners include bridge as one of the many activities offered on board.

Finally, bear in mind it is never too late to learn bridge at any age!



Nena Reid, Bridge Tutor

U3AM Library

U3A Manningham is pleased to offer a limited number of fiction books (novels) for members to enjoy. These items are available on a 'read and return' basis. They are housed on shelving located outside **Room 15**.

Book donations - Only books (novels) in good condition will be accepted as donations to the library. We are unable to accept books which relate to topics such as cooking, computers, travel, gardening or any school or university text books. Any books such as Readers' Digest, old municipal library books or books with yellowed pages or broken binding will not be accepted.

No further magazine donations will be accepted.

If you have any suitable books to donate to the U3AM library, they can be left with the office staff.

Thank you and happy reading!

Helen Norman, Librarian

Newsletter Contributions

We are always pleased to receive your contributions to our newsletter which may be sent to our dedicated email address (u3amnews@gmail.com) or put into my pigeonhole. The deadline dates for the remaining newsletters for 2018 are 16 April, 16 July and 8 October. Please ensure that all contributions contain your name and contact details.

If you have changed your email address, be sure to update the details on your personal profile on MyU3A so you will not miss any newsletters with links to other information.

Jillian Gange

Calendar of Events

TERM 1, 2018

Monday, 5 February
Monday, 12 March
Wednesday, 14 March
Thursday, 29 March

TERM 1 commenced (8 weeks)

LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (PFR)

12.15pm - 2.30pm

TERM 1 ends

[Term Break – 2 weeks]

TERM 2, 2018

Monday, 16 April
Monday, 16 April
Wednesday, 25 April
Friday, 27 April
Wednesday, 2 May
Wednesday, 16 May
Monday, 21 May
Monday, 11 June
Monday, 18 June
Friday, 22 June

TERM 2 commences (10 weeks)

Committee of Management meeting (Rm 8)

1.30pm

ANZAC DAY HOLIDAY

Newsletter deadline

Class Representatives meeting (Rms 13-14)

9.00am - 10.00am

COM Volunteers Luncheon (PFR)

12.15pm - 2.30pm

Committee of Management meeting (Rm 8)

1.30pm

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY

Committee of Management meeting (Rm 8)

1.30pm

TERM 2 ends

[Term break – 3 weeks]

PFR- Pines Function Room

The Newsletter

Editorial team: Jillian Gange, Liew Staras, Frances Langdon; 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.

