

President's Report

This is my first report as your new President and I am honoured to be leading (with much help from others) such a unique, vibrant and essential community organisation. At the same time, I am apprehensive in following eight past presidents, each of whom has successfully developed and extended the range and diversity of U3A Manningham. They have kept us as a premier and respected seniors' organisation. Indeed, they are very large footprints to follow.



There are a number of people I wish to publicly thank. First and foremost is **David Jensz** for his leadership throughout the tumultuous COVID period. Fortunately for all of us, his knowledge and guidance are still available within the Committee of Management.

While David has been our guiding light, there are many people behind the scenes who have strongly supported us. The COM has my respect and gratitude for the amount of time, energy and expertise they have provided. They have gone far beyond the call of duty in the last 18 months. **Alita Mossop**, who served as Secretary for over 10 years, must be thanked for a magnificent, sustained effort. **Ian Gorman**, our Treasurer, whose rearrangement of our financial controls and procedures enabled us to survive and thrive during the lockdown and even to roll over our enrolments into 2021. **Quintin Coutinho** very ably stepped in to help us restart this year. I know that **Colleen Danaher** and **Joady Barnes** have been thanked elsewhere but they started us on our Zooming journey. Thank you, guys.

I am delighted to welcome two new members to the COM: **Ron Wilson** (Treasurer) and **Lyn Davies** (Secretary).

For those who don't know me, I should introduce myself. My wife, **Carole**, joined U3AM in 2011 and encouraged me to join in 2013. I am currently a tutor, have served on the Curriculum and Future Planning Committees, and been Vice President since 2019 where my main role was liaison for external venues. I am also a representative on the Manningham Council's Positive Ageing Alliance Committee. My working background included over 40 years in TAFE as a teacher, divisional manager and associate director. My greatest claim to fame has been as the first male equal education officer in Victorian education. I have always been actively engaged in the community. My interests include travel (when allowed), competition tennis, current affairs and reading. I also have a very serious interest in wine, not just in drinking it. My highlight is definitely grandpa duties to two very active boys.

The new COM will have many challenges as we enter into a 'new normal'. Not the least, our increasing reliance on technology, and our volunteer system which has been placed under such pressure. However, I am extremely confident that our tutors and members are such a resilient group that we will overcome these possible roadblocks.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know all of you. Please introduce yourself to me and take the opportunity to pass on your ideas and thoughts.

David McNamara

Highlights of U3AM's 2021 Annual General Meeting

The 2021 Annual General Meeting was held in the Pines Function Room on 28 April 2021 and chaired by the President, **David Jenz**.

David Jenz welcomed U3AM members as well as the following guests:

Cr Andrew Conlon, Mayor of Manningham
Cr Anna Chen, Deputy Mayor of Manningham
Cr Stephen Mayne, Manningham Councillor
Susan Webster, President of U3A Network
Valerie Bourke, President of U3A Box Hill
Vanessa Bove, Venues Coordinator, Manningham City Council

2020 Annual Report

David Jenz tabled the 2020 Annual Report which may be accessed by clicking on the following link: <http://u3amanningham.org.au/docs/2020AnnualReport.pdf>.

Awards

The following awards were presented:

Life Membership: This was conferred on **Graeme Martin** at the 2020 AGM but was not able to be presented at that time.



Susan Webster (who presented the awards), Barbara Spagnolo, Colleen Danaher, Joady Barnes and Heather Price



Graeme Martin with David Jenz

Certificates of Appreciation - Zoom: Colleen Danaher, Joady Barnes, Heather Price and Barbara Spagnolo were awarded Certificates of Appreciation for organising and training tutors and members on the Zoom system which enabled so many of our classes to be held.

Certificates of Appreciation - QR System Monitors: A team of monitors were trained to assist members to log onto the QR System. Many fewer members would have been able to attend classes had we not been able to use this system. Certificates were awarded to Moira Axtens, Joady Barnes, Ann Bruce, John Caine, Elaine Campbell, Leaw Cheng, Sok Cheng, Quintin Coutinho, Colleen Danaher, Lily Erle, John Foong, Barbara Hall, Ken Hosking, Mitzi Hosking, Andrew Lee, Imee Lee, Annamaria Marchese, John Millard, Paul Pezzin, Chris Roff, Terry Smith, Lucy Tay, Warren Trompf, Rocky Valente, Dawn Walker, Lyn Welsh, Pam Whitfield, Ron Wilson, Marion Winchester, Ronnie Winchester and Liz Wood.

Continued/....

Highlights of U3AM's 2021 Annual General Meeting (Cont'd)

As well, David Jensz acknowledged the wonderful contributions of **Heather Ambrose** and **Moira Axtens** who have just retired as tutors. Flowers were presented to them by **Milly Ching** and **Margaret Dawdy**.



Moira Axtens, Margaret Dawdy, Heather Ambrose and Milly Ching

New Constitution

Prior to the meeting, David Jensz circulated the proposed updated U3A Manningham Constitution to the Committee of Management and advised all U3AM members of the suggested changes. The new Constitution is based on the Model Rules which apply to incorporated associations, with some 20 additions and changes to bring it into line with the requirements of U3A Manningham. The updated Constitution was approved and accepted by the meeting.

Financial Report 2020/21

As the Financial Report for 2020/21 has not yet been approved by the auditors, it was moved and agreed that the Financial Report will be tabled at a Special General Meeting to be held within the next few weeks.

2021/22 Committee of Management

The Committee of Management for 2021/22 was elected as follows:

President	David McNamara
Vice President	David Jensz
Treasurer	Ron Wilson
Secretary	Lyn Davies
Communications Manager	Jillian Gange
Curriculum Manager	Milly Ching
Enrolment Manager	Warwick Wright
Equipment Manager	Terry Smith
Office Manager	Robyn Buttlng

Alita Mossop, **Ian Gorman** and **Quintin Coutinho** were all thanked for their wonderful service to our U3A.

The new President, David McNamara, acknowledged David Jensz's leadership over the last two years and thanked all U3AM members for their participation.

Introducing Our New COM Members

Ron Wilson - Treasurer

Ron has been a member of U3A since 2017. As a civil engineer with an MBA, he has had wide experience working in Australia and overseas with a range of stakeholders in government, the private sector and not-for-profit organisations.

He has significant experience in economic governance relating to public and private sector efficiency, including the coordination of infrastructure development in Victoria.



Ron has led delegations for the Singapore Trade Commission to the USA, India, United Arab Emirates and other Asian nations. He is experienced in the management of aid development projects funded by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and AusAid.

After retiring as the Managing Director - Australia and SE Asia of a Swedish global transport engineering company, Ron now has plenty of time to spend with family, swimming, walking, travelling, gardening and reading.

Lyn Davies - Secretary

Lyn joined U3AM in 2013 following her retirement from Ivanhoe Grammar School after 31 years in various roles including Director of Admissions and Director of Ivanhoe International, the latter role's primary activity being the recruitment of international students. Prior to that, she taught in Queensland, Victoria and London, and worked as a psychologist in education and community health settings.

Lyn has a BA from the University of Melbourne and a B.Ed (Counselling) from La Trobe University.



Her interests in 'retirement' include helping to run the family business, travel, U3A classes, family, trying to keep the body moving and, of course, lunches with friends.

Curriculum Report

Term 1 started with excitement and members were delighted to return to The Pines and other venues to start the year's courses. Most of our courses were able to commence in Term 1, with some others starting in Term 2. However, still more classes need to wait until we get approval from the Manningham City Council before they can start, which we hope will happen soon.

Courses are being offered in Term 1 in different modes: face-to-face and online via Zoom to ensure a maximum number of members can participate. Seminars and workshops will be available from Term 2. I am hoping that new courses will be developed and offered to members later this year.

We have 167 courses on offer in 2021, with a total of 145 tutors offering their time, expertise and effort to run the courses. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all tutors, past and present, for their contribution to U3A Manningham.

Enrolment & Technology Report

Enrolments

The huge workload that has been carried out behind the scenes by our dedicated Enrolment Team (**Joan French, Frank Lau, Trish Gilbert, Kathy Withers, Pam Grehan and Ruth Foxwell**) has enabled the smooth running of our enrolments this year.

A Change to Wi-Fi Internet Access at The Pines

As any member who has used U3AM's Wi-Fi connection at The Pines can testify, it has been slow and unreliable.

Connection to NBN is expected in the next month or so but in the meantime, we have arranged for a higher speed Wi-Fi connection. We have also purchased a Wi-Fi expander to ensure that we have much more reliable access in all classrooms, including the PFR.

The Wi-Fi network name has been changed with the name starting with Kogan_Mesh. This Wi-Fi is available to any member who needs to use it on U3A Manningham business, such as tutors accessing the Internet as part of a class, a hybrid Zoom class, or a tutor or class rep marking the roll. Any authorised member may get the password for the Kogan Mesh Wi-Fi extender from the Office.

Warwick Wright,
Enrolments Manager

Strength Training Workshop

On 17 March, **Marg Dawdy**, Strength Training Coordinator, was able to hold the first Tutors' and Associate Class Tutors' Workshop in over 18 months.



The Workshop was attended by 35 of our 40 trainers - a wonderful testament to our iconic retiring Strength Training founder, **Moira Axtens**, who was being honoured.

These workshops are held three times a year and enable our tutors to keep up-to-date with current trends in training older adults, including presenting new research that has become available. As well, the various exercises are reviewed to ensure that they are being done so as to provide maximum benefit.

Marg presented Moira with a token of gratitude for the many years of patient guidance in building such a valuable and successful program which continues to help hundreds of our members stay active and strong.

Moira's legacy has been passed to the very dedicated and knowledgeable hands of Marg Dawdy who will ensure that we will continue to provide a quality program to our members.

Sandra Marshall
Associate Tutor - Strength Training
Tutor - Chair Based Exercise

Genealogy / Family History

With COVID-19 restricting our movements, instead of planning for holidays overseas which may not happen for a while, perhaps you could plan an adventure of a different kind. Rather than thinking about where you are going to, you might consider finding out where you have come from!

Effective use of the web to start your family research on a budget

It's very hard to research your family history without going onto the web for assistance. There are a huge number of websites available but while staying close to home, surfing the web to explore your family's history can be a rewarding way to spend a number of hours doing something interesting.

However, there is no need to sort through the many sites on offer and, most importantly, spend big money in the process. Below are four starting points that can prove very helpful in your search.

Starting out:

The local library is one of the best places to start. Melbourne is lucky with the quality of its libraries that provide genealogy services. Sometimes they will have a specialist genealogist who can help. But the majority of libraries will have dedicated workstations that will allow you access to major research sites at no charge. Manningham Library at MC Square has possibly one of the best genealogy set-ups. Check out their eLibrary. Other libraries worth checking out by either visiting or on-line are State Library Victoria, National Library, and the Mitchell Library in Sydney. All these libraries have excellent websites with links to family history research.

For purely Australian based research, check out the National Archives on naa.gov.au.

If your research takes you overseas, then it may be worthwhile going to a major library in the area of your research and see what they offer. Many provide degrees of on-line access to their family history sites.

Freebies - these are websites that don't have an initial fee. There are many and by just typing 'free family history' into Google, some good ones will pop up that are worth exploring.

The best site I can recommend is <https://www.familysearch.org/en/>. This site is a non-commercial provider run by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, with most information being freely available.

One other worthwhile site is info@wikitree.com. This is a site for active researchers and you may be asked to contribute information. But it is worth checking out.

Toe in the water - Explore one month offer sites before committing to an annual subscription that can range from \$100 to \$500. There are a couple of good sites that I have used, and you can take out a month's subscription to start your research:

- info@hello.findmypast.com - Begin with a 14-day free trial or take out a month's subscription for \$29.95. Provides an exhaustive source of data for those researching their UK roots. Also helps in setting up a starter family tree.

Continued/...

Genealogy / Family History (Cont'd)

- notifications-au-archives@archives.com - good starting point for researching Australian family history. This site consolidates a lot of the records and data accumulated by other sites with a monthly subscription of \$14.95.

The big players - Ancestry and MyHeritage are the two big players in the market but, subject to the type of subscription you take out, they can prove expensive. MyHeritage does offer a basic free service but this will only take you so far. Ancestry will occasionally offer 14 day free access to certain parts of their database. Use these offers to dip your toe into family research. But be warned, once you have indulged they will follow you up frequently to join up. If one of these sites appeals to you, wait for the special offer to come to you, or sign up for a shorter period.

Before signing up to any site, ensure that the amount quoted is in Australian dollars!

If you are looking for a site that categorises the many sites available, then go to <https://www.cyndislist.com> - but put aside a few hours to explore.

Or - Join the U3A Family History Group

We meet on the first and third Mondays of each month during term at 12.00pm in Room 13. The objective of the class and why members attend is to resolve their research challenges or brick walls in their family research. We outline the issues we have, which allows fellow class members to share solutions to similar problems.

Class members can also talk about their research successes and how they came about achieving a breakthrough. Opportunity for a show and tell exists when members can display photos, family trees and stories they have written about their families.

During the year, we invite external family research specialists to present to the class their area of expertise and answer questions related to an individual's research. A monthly newsletter is published providing helpful hints and links.

Overall, the class provides a forum for members to discuss their undertakings and gain inspiration from others.

Scratch the surface of your family research and you may be surprised by what you come up with. With my own family research, the scene frequently keeps changing. Ten years ago, I had a 53% English heritage; today the English heritage is down to 13%, the balance is a combination of Scottish, Southern European, Scandinavian, Welsh, and Polynesian. And the percentages keep shifting. Into this heritage come farmers, whalers, convicts, miners, and explorers.

It is a never-ending history lesson.

If I can be of any help in assisting with your family research, I can be contacted on tonyrobinson6@me.com.

Tony Robinson
Tutor- Genealogy / Family History

U3AM's Migrant English Program

Our fully trained tutors assist migrants who wish to improve speaking in, listening to, and understanding the English language.

How can you become a Migrant English Tutor?

Any U3AM member can enrol in the Workshop for Migrant English Tutor Training which runs over six weeks in Term 3 - from 15 July to 19 August.

How can our program help you and/or your community?

You may be a member of a community group besides U3AM. If you believe the group or someone you know may be interested in the services provided by the Migrant English Program, please tell them about us and provide them with a copy of the attached leaflet which outlines what the program offers and how to access it.

Foong Sim Chin (Ms)
Coordinator, Migrant English Program

U3AM 2021 Photography Competition: Our World is Still Wonderful

Planning holidays doesn't seem to be on our agendas at the moment, so how about spending some time thinking about all those wonderful trips you have taken - around your area, throughout Australia and all over the world. Search through your photos and choose the best for the U3A Manningham 2021 Photography Competition.

Submit up to 3 photographs to manuphotocomp@gmail.com. The photographs can be of anything: scenery, buildings, local people (but not you or your travelling companions). Please name the location.

All photos are to be in jpeg format, no names to be put on the actual photos and, please, no photoshopping.

All photographs will be put onto the U3A Manningham website. If you would prefer that your name not appear, please let me know.

The competition commences on 24 May and photos need to be received by 30 June. The photos will then be loaded onto the website and members will be able to vote from 7 to 30 July (only one vote per person). The winners will be announced in the August newsletter.

If you have any questions, please contact me on manuphotocomp@gmail.com.

Good luck!

Trish Gilbert

Office Report

Thank you to all our office volunteers who have had a challenging time handling the extra COVID rules, cleaning tubs, and helping members with the QR code entry, along with their normal duties. We all appreciate your efforts.

Another training session will be held on Friday, 11 June at 3pm in Rooms 13/14. This will be for our Term 3 and 4 volunteers to bring them up-to-date with changing office procedures. Please lock this into your diaries!



Don't forget that we will continue to accept non-perishable food for Doncare in Term 2. Please leave your donation of tinned and packaged food at the office. These items will be delivered to Doncare for distribution to families in need.

Robyn Butting

THE LANDLORD'S STORY



"The Landlord's Story" by Frank Moss Bennett

THE WRITTEN WORD would like to invite or challenge, if you like, everyone who checks the display cabinet to put their mind to writing as few or as many words as you'd care to use.

[No more than 1000 words]

WHAT YOU THINK THE LANDLORD IS TELLING HIS LISTENERS?

Maybe you only use the landlord's voice?

Maybe you have some interjectors? Maybe questioners?

What else in the painting by Frank Moss Bennett stimulates ideas?

We, **The Written Word** class, would love you to join with us in this exercise. Leave your contributions in The Written Word pigeon hole or email to **Trish** or **Lula** writing **The Landlord's Story** in SubjectArea.

We see this as a TERM 2 challenge so take your time.

TRISH - coltrish@optusnet.com.au
LULA - lula@ithaca.org.au

U3A Manningham

2021 Calendar of Events

Terms 2 to 4

Term 2

Monday, 19 April
Friday, 11 June

TERM 2 commenced (9 weeks)
Term 3 & 4 Office Volunteers Training Session
(Rooms 13/14) 3,00 pm

Monday, 14 June
Friday, 18 June

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY
TERM 2 finishes

[BREAK - 3 weeks]

Term 3

Monday, 12 July
Thursday, 29 July
Friday, 30 July
Friday, 17 September

TERM 3 commences (10 weeks)
Tutors Meeting (PFR) 1.00 pm
Newsletter copy deadline
TERM 3 finishes

[BREAK - 2 weeks]

Term 4

Monday, 4 October
Friday, 15 October
Tuesday, 2 November
Wednesday, 17 November
Thursday, 25 November
Friday, 3 December

Term 4 commences (9 weeks)
Newsletter copy deadline
MELBOURNE CUP HOLIDAY
Artistic Showcase
uniFEST
Term 4 finishes

Please Note: Those events where food and drink are provided are not able to be held under the COVID Safe Regulations.

PFR - Pines Function Room

The Newsletter

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

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



MISSION STATEMENT

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

