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## President's Report



Welcome to our Winter Term. We may have the reality of a cocktail of COVID and influenza, but hopefully, members are successfully managing the twin threats and keeping both physically and mentally healthy. All members are reminded that our COVID vaccination policy still remains in place for Term 3.

Our fabulous newsletter team, comprising **Jillian Gange**, **Frances Langdon** and **Liew Staras**, has worked tirelessly and brilliantly for various times since 2007, to update us on our organisation's news. Unfortunately, Jillian has decided to 'hang up her pen' (see page 4) and for the rest of the year, **David Jensz** has kindly volunteered to assist the team with our Newsletters as we transition to a new newsletter format.

For Terms 3 and 4, our membership fee has been reduced to \$40 for new and returning members. Many of our classes can accommodate new members and I would request that we make this change known to the wider community.

One of the many challenges we have faced through the COVID period has been the increased demand for technology solutions to problems. We have taken up this challenge seriously and we have formed an Information Technology subcommittee to help us review, plan and coordinate our requirements for the future. We are aware that many individuals will always require personal help and that will be included as part of the process.

In conclusion, thank you for your continuing enthusiasm and participation. After two difficult years, U3A Manningham continues to provide a wonderful service to our members.

**David McNamara**  
President

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## U3A Manningham – 2022 AGM

The Mayor of Manningham, Cr Michelle Kleinert, and Cr Anna Chen attended our AGM on Thursday, 17 March. The Mayor spoke of the importance of community organisations such as U3A for what they do for our senior citizens.

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## U3A Manningham – 2022 AGM (Cont'd)

President **David McNamara** spoke of the success of U3A Manningham during the COVID pandemic and the very positive return to normal classes and activities for the first two months of 2022. He stressed that our use of technology in the last two years kept our organisation functioning for our members and he thanked all concerned for their part in keeping U3A Manningham alive and well.

David had pleasure in presenting **Bryce Normoyle** with his Life Membership. Bryce served on the Committee of Management from 2006 to 2015. He was President from 2010 to 2015 and Treasurer from 2006 to 2010 and then from 2015 to 2016.

The following were elected to the Committee of Management for 2022/2023:

President: David McNamara  
Vice President : Shirley Fung  
Treasurer: Ron Wilson  
Secretary: Lyn Davies  
Members: Robyn Buttling, Milly Ching, Ruth Foxwell, David Jensz, Terry Smith, Warwick Wright

**Shirley Fung** is a new member of the Committee and **Ruth Foxwell** has rejoined the Committee. Ruth was a Committee member from 2012 to 2016. **Jillian Gange** has retired after serving on the Committee since 2015.



Front (L to R): Ruth Foxwell, Lyn Davies, Shirley Fung, Milly Ching, Warwick Wright  
Back (L to R): David Jensz, Robyn Buttling, Terry Smith, Ron Wilson, David McNamara

# Getting to Know Our New Vice President, Shirley Fung

**Congratulations on your appointment, Shirley. Some will know you in U3AM as the tutor of Genetics but can you share with our members a bit more of your background?**

I was born in Penang, Malaysia, the third child of a family of seven children. My parents ran a small business. I am especially proud of my mum as a businesswoman when in her time, in the 1940s, it was very rare for women to have careers, especially in managing a business and working outside the domestic environment of their home. I would like to think that I try to emulate my mum who has inspired me as a role model.



**You have qualifications in both the Sciences and the Arts, what motivates you?**

As a student, I was interested in both the Sciences and the Arts. The scientific side is from my mum who always believed that facts must be supported by evidence and proof. The Arts side is from my dad, who drew and painted after business hours, and encouraged me to read widely, as well as listen to the public speeches of inspirational leaders like Lee Kuan Yew, Martin Luther King, John F Kennedy and Winston Churchill.

When I completed my Year 12 Cambridge Higher School Certificate, I was awarded a Colombo Plan Scholarship in Science at Monash University, although my greater passion was in the Arts. Why Science and not Arts, you may ask? At the time, people who graduated in the Arts could not easily find jobs, so my parents advised me to apply for a Science scholarship. I gradually learned to enjoy my Science course, and in the final years, became very interested in the field of Genetic Engineering, because it was relevant to so much that is happening in our world. The COVID vaccines would be a good example of genetic engineering at work.

After graduation, I went into teaching and taught VCE Biology for several years and later took up the position of Director of Curriculum at a college in Melbourne. When the VCE was introduced, I was commissioned by some publishers to write textbooks for Biology and Environmental Science. It was a very busy time for me, teaching during the day and writing at night. When I was writing about the Sciences, I felt that my education could be further enriched if I did further studies in the Arts to balance my professional training in the Sciences. I went to study for an Arts degree after work hours. It didn't seem like hard work because it was an exhilarating experience. This learning experience enabled me to write my first novel, *Second Chinese Daughter*, which was published in 2018.

It was at Monash University too that I met my life partner, Philip, and we are blessed with a son and twin daughters. Our children, in turn, have presented us with the joy of seven grandchildren.

**What made you join and volunteer in U3A Manningham?**

I joined U3A Manningham on retirement as I believe in the importance of physical and mental stimulation as well as social interaction in maintaining good health in mature aged people. U3A Manningham has more than met my expectations, and I am grateful that there is such an organisation that sees to the welfare of our mature aged members.

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## Getting to Know Our New Vice President, Shirley Fung (Cont'd)

As Vice President, do you have a wish list for our organisation?

Yes, I do have a wish list especially after U3AM has come out of two difficult years, having successfully navigated its way through lockdowns and interruption to our programs. During this period, tutor and course numbers have decreased. I would like to work with the Committee in encouraging new tutors with interesting courses to join us in enhancing our learning program. The COVID pandemic has resulted in dramatic changes to our lives. In order to adapt to these changes, there needs to be strategic planning to deal with our future needs as members. In order to better run our organisation and our programs, I would like strategic planning to take into consideration:

1. Evaluating and redefining key roles.
2. Finding enough people to take on positions of responsibilities.
3. Documenting roles and responsibilities to make it easier for members who step up to replace outgoing committee members.
4. Documenting procedures and organisational structures, again to make it more conducive for people to take up key roles, with a clear understanding of what is expected of them.
5. Encouraging in-person attendance of our members at U3AM because I believe social interaction is a key element in maintaining the mental and intellectual health of our members.

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### With Many Thanks, Jillian

**Jillian Gange** served on our Committee of Management from 2015 until this year. She was the Communications Manager and oversaw the production of our Newsletters and was responsible for all communications sent from our organisation, including online. Jillian kept U3A Manningham members up to date and connected during the COVID pandemic by publishing regular emails entitled *U3AM @ Home* during the lockdowns.



Jillian was honoured and **Shirley Fung** presented her with flowers at our Volunteer Luncheon in May. We thank you, Jillian, for your energy, tireless efforts and dedication. We are so fortunate to have you still as a member of our U3AM.



## New Courses 2022

In the last two years, U3A Manningham has successfully navigated its way through lockdowns and interruptions caused by the COVID pandemic. During this period, tutor numbers decreased slightly. It is heartening to see new tutors and current ones step up to fill the void, offering new and interesting courses such as:

**Booked In** - a book group for a diverse group of people who enjoy sharing their love of literature. The first novel for Term 3 is *Red Notice* by Bill Browder. It is an electrifying novel that exposes corruption, murder through Bill Browder's fight for justice, in Putin's Russia.

**Italian: Basic Conversation for Travellers** - a course aimed at enabling participants to immerse in some basic Italian grammar and knowledge of the Italian language.

**Guitar Club** - a course for the guitarist with a keen interest in learning, sharing and jamming past the absolute beginner's stage.



**Jane Austen** - about the life, times and works of the author.

**Writing: Yarning Writers** - a safe place for writers to read and discuss their work and seek helpful advice and empathetically delivered comments from fellow writers.

**Italian for Beginners** - a light-hearted approach to learning basic Italian to develop basic aural skills in Italian.

**Cartooning** - a course which, in a fun way, covers the tools, techniques and skills necessary to create your own cartoons that tell your story.

**Multi-instrumental Club** - provides opportunity for participants to play their own instruments with other musicians working together on repertoire for the group.

**History of Early Religion** - Analysing religion and spirituality in relation to topics such as the Indo-European, Semitic and Dravidian language-family backgrounds, Zoroastrianism, Christianity and impact of the Egyptian, Canaanite, Assyrian, Babylonian, Persian and Hellenic cultures.

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## New Courses 2022 (Cont'd)

**The Horti-Club** - a course to foster a deep sense of nurturing Nature through shared knowledge and experiences in common gardening endeavours using non-chemical and organic approaches.



There is opportunity for more members to become tutors. Members who would like to take up this opportunity can contact **Shirley Fung** or **Milly Ching** by leaving their details at the office.

**Shirley Fung**  
Vice President and New Courses Coordinator

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## Some Reminders

Class members are reminded that the following routines are essential for the smooth running of U3A Manningham:

1. Classes should finish on time and allow 10 minutes for changeovers.
2. Members should be allowed to leave the room before new members arrive for the next class.
3. Chairs and tables are to be returned to storage places at the end of the class unless prior arrangement has been made with the following class tutor.

**David McNamara**

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## Good News for Victorians - New \$250 Power Saving program

The Victorian Government has announced a new \$250 Power Saving Bonus program for ALL Victorian households. From 1 July 2022, you can access the program by visiting the Victorian Energy Compare website (<https://compare.energy.vic.gov.au>) for more details.

Note that concession recipients who previously took advantage of the \$250 Power Saving Bonus payment through the concession recipients program that closed on 30 June 2022 are eligible to apply for another \$250 payment in this new payment phase.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2022

## Terms 3 & 4

<u>Day &amp; date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Time</u>
<b>Term 3, 2022</b>			
Monday, 11 July	<b>TERM 3 commences</b> (10 weeks)		
Monday, 11 July	Committee of Management meeting	R8	1.30pm
Thursday, 28 July	Tutors' meeting	PFR	12.15 - 2.30pm
Monday, 8 August	Committee of Management meeting	R8	1.30pm
Thursday, 18 August	Office Volunteers' meeting	PFR	12.15 - 2.30pm
Thursday, 18 August	Migrant English Tutors' meeting	R13	3.00 - 4.20pm
Monday, 22 August	Newsletter deadline		
Monday, 5 September	Committee of Management meeting	R8	1.30pm
Wednesday, 7 September	Class Representatives meeting	PFR	12.30 - 3.00pm
Friday, 16 September	<b>TERM 3 finishes</b>		
<b>(Break – two weeks)</b>			
<b>Term 4, 2022</b>			
2 to 4 October	U3A State Conference	Bendigo	
Monday, 3 October	<b>TERM 4 commences</b> (9 weeks)		
Monday, 3 October	Committee of Management meeting	R8	1.30pm
Monday, 24 October	Newsletter deadline		
Tuesday, 1 November	<b>MELBOURNE CUP DAY</b>		
Monday, 7 November	Committee of Management meeting	R8	1.30pm
Wednesday, 16 November	<b>Artistic Showcase</b>	PFR	10.00 - 3.00pm
Thursday, 24 November	<b>uniFEST 2022</b>	PFR	12.00 - 3.30pm
Friday, 4 December	<b>TERM 4 finishes</b>		

**PFR - Pines Function Room**

### Newsletter Contributions

Contributions to our newsletter may be sent to David Jensz at [djensz@bigpond.net.au](mailto:djensz@bigpond.net.au) or put into his pigeonhole. The deadline date for the next newsletter is Monday, 22 August, 2022. Please ensure that all contributions contain your name and contact details.

### The Newsletter

Editorial: David Jensz, Liew Staras, Frances Langdon; Website Manager: Neville Cook.  
Distribution: Warren Trompf, Kathleen Caffry, Robyn Lamprecht.

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

