



Reg No. A0026531J

## **Newsletter November 1999**

### **ANNUAL REPORT: - PRESIDENT**

The year has been notable for the widespread interest taken in older people our age because of initiatives to mark the International Year of Older Persons (IYOP). In March we were encouraged by the interest shown in our organisation by Hon. Phil Honeywood. In August and September we were represented at the Immigration Museum by two of our tutors, Irina Pupedis and Bernadine Williams. Grants were offered to organisations to celebrate the IYOP. We were successful with one application (\$1000), but unsuccessful with the second.

Another grant application was made to the Federal Government for a project to celebrate the Centenary of Federation. Once again, our application was unsuccessful.

We continue to have frequent contact with the Manningham Council, who have shown increasing support for our need for improved accommodation facilities. One of the difficulties in our negotiating position with the council has been our uncertain income base. We cannot rely on grants from our funding source, ACFE, even though we have received substantial grants from them for the past few years. To enable the association to establish a more predictable income, therefore, the fees will be raised to \$40 per full member, and \$20 for associate members.

Manningham U3A continues to grow in membership and variety of courses.

Currently we have 640 members and 70 courses, with new tutors offering courses for next year. We amassed an impressive 41,000 hours attendance at classes in 1998 and it is evident that this number will be higher this year. If it was assessed at a meagre \$5 per hour, this is equivalent to a \$205,000 contribution to the community. The tutors are to be congratulated and thanked for such

a valuable donation, but more importantly, we appreciate the opportunity they have given us to share their enthusiasm in a subject.

Another very encouraging aspect of this U3A has been the response this year to requests for volunteers. Almost everyone who was able has offered some form of help. To those who have kept the office staffed, the furniture mended, the supplies and lunch tables well stocked, the classes represented, the rooms tidy, and the computer work up-to-date, we express appreciation.

Particular thanks are extended to those who have held positions of responsibility: Evelyne Perks, Bev Reid, Moira Axtens, Janet Pelzer and Barbara Burford.

To the Committee of Management members who have worked so well in each of their areas of responsibility, a very special thanks: Don Gay, Dermott Kearney, Bridget Halge, Ron Kitchingham and Robyn McIver, and in particular, Hazel Ferguson who generously filled the Secretary's position when Teresa Terenyi Returned to work.

We look forward to maintaining the stability this organisation enjoys, and to develop initiatives for the new millennium in our quest to provide continuing interest for you, the members.

Heather Ambrose  
President

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*Words of wisdom: - The nice part about being a pessimist is that you are constantly being either proven right or pleasantly surprised.*