



The Pines Learning & Activity Centre, 2/520 Blackburn Road, Doncaster East 3109; PO Box 3288, The Pines, Doncaster East 3109; Tel: 9894 5955; manunipines@u3amanningham.org.au; www.u3amanningham.org.au

President's Message

The opportunity to converse with many members during recent times gave me reason to question how we have managed the post-COVID reality better than most volunteer organisations. I now believe there are 2 reasons for this.

The first is our philosophy of encouraging our members to remain healthy in mind, spirit and body, and the second, the establishment of structures to provide the opportunities for this to occur. My respect for our original members in forming these structures is now beyond measure.

Some quick research shows that these people had very little precedence to follow so their forward thinking and ability to form sound structures must be admired. No one could have predicted the rapid changes that society would have to handle and yet, our U3AM is still vibrant and active in providing so many activities and socialisation opportunities.

To indicate how our forebears had to work with a clean sheet, I use an incomplete summary of the rapid initial development of U3A.

- 1971: Toulouse University, France, introduced a summer school fee to service classes for retirees. In the mid 1970s, other European Universities followed suit but many dropped their fees.
- 1984: Cambridge University, UK, used community facilities so classes could be year long. Lecturers were expected to volunteer time for classes and members to assist with administrative tasks.
- 1986: Concept was brought to Melbourne and expanded to include recreational and hobby activities. It quickly spread to other parts of Australia.
- 1991: U3A Manningham commenced. We encouraged lay people rather than academics to lead classes and break from any university influence and it has established what is still our basic structure today.

Let us continue to have courage to emulate our 'pioneer' members and take the risks in developing new activities to further enhance our philosophy. Let us also acknowledge and acclaim that many of these original members are still contributors and active participants with us.

The article in our previous newsletter regarding our activities with Aveo at its Roseville Retirement Village may have created some misconceptions. We have **not** entered into any specific relationship with this organisation nor do we endorse them over any other. Over the years, we have run classes or performed in virtually all retirement villages in Manningham and currently operate in 3 of them. The arrangements are always mutually beneficial as we cater for similar interests and age groups. It should be noted that U3A Manningham had its beginnings in a retirement village.

Continued...

President's Message (Cont'd)

All members are reminded that we will be operating Summer School in January. No enrolment fee applies but a 'gold coin (\$2) donation' applies to each class held at The Pines. The activity classes may attract extra cost depending on the activity or venue.

Please remember that the COVID pandemic is not over. Do not attend classes if you are feeling unwell and please wear a mask, particularly if you can't socially distance.

In conclusion, here's wishing all our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you everyone for a wonderful year at U3AM.

David McNamara

Summer School 2023 is coming

Keep up your exercise. Meet up with friends. Try a new short course. Have some fun!!!

- Summer School will run for four weeks at The Pines from 10 - 31 January, 2023. Courses on offer are set out below.
- Online enrolment via MyU3A is now OPEN! Please note that so far as enrolment using MyU3A is concerned, this is regarded as 'Term 5' of 2022, even though Summer School is in January 2023.
- Pay with a \$2 gold coin on the day for each class attended at **The Pines**.

Classes on offer at The Pines are:

Strength Training	9.00 - 10.20am	10/1, 17/1, 24/1 & 31/1
Chair Based Exercise	10.30 - 11.50am	10/1, 17/1, 24/1 & 31/1
Trivia Quiz (fun)	11.00 - 12.45pm	10/1, 17/1, 24/1 & 31/1
Bridge	12.30 - 3.00pm	10/1, 17/1, 24/1 & 31/1
Ancient Egyptian History	1.00 - 3.00pm	10/1 & 17/1
The Naturalists Explorers	1.00 - 3.00pm	24/1 & 31/1
Current Affairs	1.30 - 3.00pm	10/1, 17/1, 24/1 & 31/1

Local Outings:

Explore local history walk - Finns Reserve	9:30am, 12/1
Explore local history walk - Pound Bend Reserve	9:30am, 19/1
Explore local history walk - Mont de Lancey, Wandin North	9:30am, 27/1

Please note that some activities may attract extra costs depending on the individual activity concerned.

For further course details, visit: <http://u3amanningham.org.au/courses.html>. Under **Classes by Category**, click on **Summer School**.

Ruth Foxwell,
Enrolment Manager

Membership Renewals and Class Enrolments for 2023

Payment of 2023 membership fees

The membership fee for 2023 is **\$70**. Payment of fees for new or existing members can be made either online or in person:

1. Online, as from now

Paying online is easy. When you click on the **PayPal** button, you are transferred to the PayPal system where you can pay your fees either through your PayPal account (if you have one) or by using your credit or debit card.

Within a few seconds of completing the transaction, you will be automatically returned to MyU3A. The whole process takes place in a secure environment where all the data transmitted over the Internet is encrypted (not being able to be read by anyone intercepting the message).

2. In-person, only on the following days:

- Tuesday, 8 to Friday, 11 November, in Room 1 (open from 9am - 3pm)
- Monday, 14 and Tuesday, 15 November, in Room 1 (open from 9am - 3pm)

Course enrolment dates for 2023

16 and 17 November:	Priority Level 1 for in-person* or online. (Online from 6:30am)
From 18 November:	Priority Level 2 for in-person* or online. (Online from 6:30am)
From 21 November:	Priority Level 3 for in-person* or online. (Online from 6:30am)
From 23 November:	Priority Level 4 for in-person* or online. (Online from 6:30am)
From 24 November:	All other levels including new members in-person* or online (Online from 6:30am)

* In-person enrolments will be in Room 1, open from 9am - 3pm.

What is your priority level?

If you have a priority level, and this will depend on the extent of your volunteering throughout the year, it will appear on your MyU3A profile. When you login online, you will see a line about half-way down showing your priority score. If you do not see that line, you do not have a priority score recorded which means that you can only enrol from Thursday, 24 November.

There are five different priority levels and if you do have a priority score, you can determine your enrolment level by subtracting the score shown from 5.

For example, if your priority score shows 3, your priority level is 2 (5 minus 3 = 2).

As in the past, members' priority levels will be on display in the outer foyer prior to enrolments commencing.

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Membership Renewals and Class Enrolments for 2023 (Cont'd)

Enrolment limits

Again this year, in an attempt to ensure that all our members are able to enrol in the classes they desire, the maximum number of classes in which a member may enrol initially has been restricted to **three**. This restriction will be lifted on 15 January, 2023, thus opening up any classes with vacancies to all members. The restriction to three classes does not change the restrictions on individual classes; for example, one strength training class only per member.

Please send any questions regarding enrolments to: enrolmenthelp@u3amanningham.org.au.

Ruth Foxwell,
Enrolment Manager

Celebrating the End of the U3A Manningham Year

At U3A Manningham, the year ends with the presentation of class work and other activities by class members.



Artistic Showcase
Wednesday, 16 November
10.00am - 3.00pm
The Pines Function Room

Come and be inspired by the wonderful creations of our members.

U3A members and their friends are welcome.
Light refreshments available.



uniFEST2022 (The University Festival)
Thursday, 24 November
11.30am - 4.00pm
The Pines Function Room

Come and be entertained by the music and the talents of our members.

U3A members and their friends are welcome.
Light refreshments available from 11.00am.

Ursula Wilks Shares Her Tutoring Experience

Ursula has been one of our longest serving Migrant English tutors. Here, she shares her tutoring journey:-



I commenced tutoring in the Migrant English Program in October 2015.

One particular quote rings true in my experience in teaching migrant English:

“Though a sea of difference may divide us, an entire world of commonality lies beneath” - James Rozoff.

I have had the same learner for the last six years and the experience has been hugely enjoyable and rewarding. Whilst we come from vastly different and diverse cultures, and have led very different lives, we have formed a mutually respectful relationship and a strong friendship which, I am sure, will endure.

As I grew up in an area with a high density of migrants, I saw first-hand the importance of learning English as a pathway to assimilation in the Australian way of life.

Through the Program, I have become increasingly aware that there may be many learners who have undertaken many hours of tuition on grammar, but yet have spent little time in speaking English outside the class. This is certainly the case with my learner. Early in our relationship, she read a passage out loud, without a single mistake. I was very impressed and praised her, to which she replied, “But I do not know what I have read”. That was a wake-up call for me.

So, from the moment I arrive at her door, to be greeted with a beautiful, welcoming smile, the talk begins, and we barely draw breath for one and a half hours. She interrupts for clarification of expressions, words or sentences she doesn't understand, and I correct her when appropriate. She records everything that is new to her and more often than not, remembers it. Wow!

My learner expresses her gratitude to me every week without realising the pleasure I get from our encounters, the knowledge I have gained about her country and culture, and the satisfaction of witnessing her achievements and growing confidence.

The arrival of COVID with its subsequent lockdowns, presented a challenge since my learner did not feel confident to participate in classes via Zoom. Many months of conversation time were lost during this period, when she spoke only her native tongue. Finally, when the restrictions eased a little, I suggested we meet for a ‘Walk and Talk’, and so began our next adventure. I was amazed at the many things in our immediate, natural environment, which were unfamiliar to my learner and as always, she devoured this new information and vocabulary with great enthusiasm.

On one of our excursions, she repeatedly asked where we were and looked puzzled when I explained that we were still beside the Diamond Creek. All was revealed when we came to the spot where the Diamond Creek joins the Yarra River. It turned out that she had no idea what the word Creek meant and wondered why I insisted we were still in the township of Diamond Creek, when we had been walking for nearly an hour.

We had many laughs along the way, notably the day we spied two alpacas at Edendale Farm and my learner asked if they were wombats. I am eternally grateful to the parrot which flew into the hollow of an ancient gum tree, just as I was explaining why we do not cut down these majestic relics of the past. I know my learner has enjoyed our outings and found them very beneficial and I have rather enjoyed my role as a tour guide.

Continued...

Ursula Wilks Shares Her Tutoring Experience (Cont'd)

Thank you my interesting, conscientious, intelligent, compassionate, enthusiastic, caring, hospitable and funny learner. Now that's a few new words for you to learn.

If you would like to join the **U3A Manningham Migrant English Program** as a tutor, you will need to enrol in the training course, *Workshop for Migrant English Tutor Training*, listed under Special Project in the course brochure. The course runs over the first six Thursdays in Term 3, from July to August 2023. Enquiries can be emailed to the Program's mailbox at manunipines@gmail.com.

A Word from Our Catering and Functions Team

2020 and 2021 have not been the best of years for U3AM due to COVID. But 2022 has seen our team members finally return to their roles in Catering and Functions activities as Thank You lunches were held for tutors, office volunteers, volunteers who have assisted with the Committee of Management and class and deputy class reps.

We will also be busy with the Artistic Showcase and uniFEST2022 functions planned for November.

To the 432 members who have been involved through the year, we appreciate and thank you for your generosity and effort on behalf of the Catering and Functions team of **Lyn Welsh, John Caine, Elaine Campbell, Lorraine Smith, Leaw Cheng, Sok Cheng, Irene Mun, Ai Joo Yau, Lee O'Keefe and Graeme Martin.**

2022 Photo Competition - Winners!

The entrants for our U3AM 2022 photo competition are available for your perusal on [this PDF document](#).

Thomas Harbottle has won this year's competition with the photo at right titled "Gullible Turtle" - a picture of a baby turtle hatchling taken by a seagull on Heron Island. (p59)

Thomas also came equal second with "Wherever the Dragon Flies" (p57).

Tying for second was **Shaw Tan's** "Sunrise at Point Nepean" (p41)



Congratulation to the winners and to all entrants for an outstanding effort. Thanks also to **Trish Gilbert** for all of her great work organising the competition.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Term 4, 2022 and Term 1, 2023

<u>Day & date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Time</u>
TERM 4, 2022			
Wed, 16 November	Artistic Showcase	PFR	10.00 - 3.00pm
Wed, 16 November			
Thurs, 24 November	uniFEST 2022	PFR	11.30 - 4.00pm
Fri, 2 December	TERM 4 finishes		
SUMMER SCHOOL & TERM 1, 2023			
Tues 10, 17, 24, January	Summer School & Office open - refer to article on page 2 of this Newsletter		
Mon, 30 January	Committee of Management Meeting	R13	1.30 - 3.00pm
Wed, 1 February	Office Reopens		9.00 - 3.00pm
Wed, 1 February	Office Update Training	R13 & 14	10.00 - 11.00am
Wed, 1 February	Migrant English Tutors' Meeting	R16,17 &18	10.00 - 12.00noon
Thurs, 2 February	Tutors' Meeting	PFR	12.00 - 3.00pm
Fri, 3 February	Orientation Meeting	R13 & 14	9.30 - 11.30am
Fri, 3 February	Office Update Training	R13 & 14	12.00 - 1.00pm
Mon, 6 February	TERM 1 commences (9 weeks)		
Fri, 17 February	Newsletter deadline		
Wed, 22 February	Class Representatives' Meeting	PFR	1.30 - 2.30pm
Mon, 6 March	Committee of Management Meeting	R8	1.30 - 3.00pm
Mon, 13 March	LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY		
Wed, 15 March	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	PFR	12.30 - 2.30pm
Mon, 3 April	Committee of Management Meeting	R8	1.30 - 3.00pm
Thurs, 6 April	TERM 1 finishes		
(Break – two weeks)			
PFR - Pines Function Room			

Newsletter Contributions

Contributions to our newsletter may be sent to David Jensz at djensz@bigpond.net.au or put into his pigeonhole. The deadline date for the next newsletter is Friday, 17 February, 2023. 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: **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 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.

