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## NEWSLETTER

November 2023, Vol. 32 No.4

### President's Message

I had just picked up our new U3AM brochure and was admiring the range of our offerings for 2024 when it struck me that there is not one paid person behind what is a medium sized organisation. We have over 900 formal volunteers but every one of our 1600 members assists in some fashion. I continue to be amazed at how efficiently the organisation operates - long may this continue.



There are two volunteers I wish to specifically mention by name: they are **Liew Staras** and **Frances Langdon**. Liew and Frances have each served on the Newsletter Editorial Committee for more than 14 years and are stepping down to have some of their own time. I pass on sincere thanks and best wishes to both for a superb job.

Thinking of the brochure, we need to remember that classes are still three months away and we can expect changes and modifications. These changes will appear on our website and take precedence over the brochure, so please log on regularly for updates.

Manningham Council is undergoing some structural changes which may affect some of our members. Council is withdrawing from their hands-on role in aged care and passing on that function to external providers. However, as Manningham has the oldest average age of residents in Victoria, it has committed to spending the same amount on this cohort.

To enable community input, they have restructured their Advisory Committees, one of which is Healthy Aging, and I have submitted a personal expression of interest to serve on this body to keep U3AM at the forefront. I will keep you informed.

Another Council statistic which should have a positive impact on us in the future, is that Manningham now has the largest number of Farsi language speakers in Victoria. Farsi is spoken in many ethnic communities through the sub-continent, Persia, and East Asia. We hope to continue to have opportunities to include this group in our organisation.

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## President's Message (Continued)

We are just about to enter our enrolment period which can be a stressful time for members and volunteers alike. Please be mindful of others during this period. Remember that we each choose only three courses initially. There are no restrictions on numbers of courses from mid-January. This proved very successful for 2023 as it enabled a much broader range of members to join at least one of their favourite subjects.

I hope to have the opportunity to talk with many of you at our upcoming Unifest and Artistic Showcase events. See you there.

David McNamara  
President

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## Enrolments for 2024

### Membership Fee Payment for 2024

Full membership fee for 2024 is \$70.

You must pay your 2024 membership fees before you can enrol in any course for next year.

Honorary members do not pay any membership fee and they cannot enrol in any classes. All Tutors and Migrant English Tutors must either be a Full or Honorary member.

- **Online payment for 2024 membership fees:** Start from 23 October.
- **In-person payment for 2024 membership fees:** 13 - 21 November (Room 1)  
You must book an appointment for in-person payment. Bookings can be made at the office from 1 - 10 Nov (excluding Cup Day, 7 November).

### Course Enrolment

Course details for 2024 are listed in brochures which are now available at the office and are also available online.

Full details for enrolments can be found on this website:

- Dates for payment of fees and enrolments are listed at [Courses|Enrolment Dates](#).
- A copy of the Course Brochure is available at [Courses|Course Brochure](#).
- Course details and enrolment procedures are at [Courses|Course Information](#).
- Frequently Asked Questions are answered at [Courses|Enrolment FAQ](#).

When you renew your membership, please check that your contact details are up-to-date.

Priority levels for members will be posted on the noticeboard from early November.

### Enrolments Dates

Enrolments open from 22 November, starting with Level 1. (Refer to Calendar of Events at the end of this Newsletter for further details.)

## New Courses for 2024

The following five courses will be available for the first time in 2024. For full details, consult the 2024 Course Brochure (available at the office) or on this website at Courses\Course Information.

- Greek - A Traveller's Guide to Greece for Beginners
- Slow Walks with Friends
- Painting - Watercolour Intermediate
- Politics - Controversies in 20th Century Australian Politics
- Computers - Organise, Plan and Budget with Word, Excel
- Chess for Fun\*

(\* The Chess for Fun course is not detailed in the Course Brochure, but full details can be found on the U3A website at Courses/Course Information. Look for ID: 9908-01, Wednesday 1.30-3.30pm.)

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## Artistic Showcase 2023

**Artistic  
Showcase**

**Thursday, 23 November, 10am to 3pm**



**Our Art and Craft classes exhibit their talents**

U3A members and their friends are welcome.

Light refreshments available.

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## uniFEST 2023

**Wednesday, 29 November, 12.30pm to 4pm**



**Come along and be entertained!**

Make a note to attend this activity and enjoy the Class Demonstrations of our members' musical, dancing and exercise talents.

Light refreshments available from 11.30am.

U3A members and their friends are welcome.

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## Migrant English Tutors' Meeting in August

The second meeting of Migrant English Tutors was held on 17 August 2023, which coincided with the final session of the training program for new tutors.

The meeting was well attended and provided an excellent opportunity for existing and newly trained tutors to join in the discussion of general matters relevant to Migrant English Tutors. In particular, consideration was given to a proposal to allow Migrant English Tutors to share some of the administrative workload that is needed to make the Program run smoothly. (*More details of 'sharing the workload' are available at [u3amanningham.org.au](http://u3amanningham.org.au) under Class Posts / Migrant English.*)

### Presentation of Certificates of Participation to New Tutors by David McNamara, President U3A Manningham

David presented Certificates of Participation to the eleven new tutors who had undertaken the training during Term 3. He congratulated all those involved in the Migrant English Program for the important and excellent work they do in providing a valuable outreach service to those members of the community who wish to improve their English language skills. David and the Committee of Management are very supportive of the Migrant English Program, especially in funding the cost of the resource manual used in the training program, and providing an annual 'Thank You Lunch' for the tutors.

#### *New Tutors 2023*



Standing (L to R): Foong Sim Chin (Coordinator), Chris Andrews, Liliana Erle, Michael Sloan, Guy Ward, Ken Coleman (Assistant Coordinator)  
Seated (L to R): Catherine Bullard, Norma Alexander, Pamela Bores, Wendy Donovan  
Not in photo: Carolyn Francis, Mai Roff, Shuzhen Xu

**Ken Coleman**  
Assistant Coordinator, Migrant English Program

# Take a Well Deserved Bow for a Great Performance!

On Tuesday, 15 August, our Multi-instrumental Group performed at St. Vincent's Nursing Home in Eltham.

We put on an amazing concert featuring Australian rock standards and vocal music from all over the world. The culmination was when all the residents and carers sang an Australian medley together.

Members involved included **Michelle Leong** (vocals, ukulele), **John Liew** (guitar, vocals), **Don Lam** (guitar), **Frank Foley** (vocals, kazoo, ukulele), **Wilma Pontefract** (keyboard), **Jim (The Bassman) Maunder**, **Genevieve Richardson** (ukulele) and me.



*Our performers in action - from left to right: Genevieve, Frank, John, Don, Wilma, Michelle, Peter (guitar), Jim*



*St. Vincent's residents enjoying our musical contribution*

Thanks to all our great performers, well done!

**Peter Simondson**  
Tutor - Multi-instrumental Group

## 2023: Another Wonderful Year at U3AM!

In 2023, more than 300 members combined their talents and hard work to thank all those members whose volunteer efforts ensured another successful year at our U3A.

They supplied food, worked in the kitchen, and assisted with the setting up and cleaning up of the functions and activities organised to say "Thank You" at the various luncheons and activities for tutors and class reps, office personnel, Migrant English tutors, and our management volunteers who assist the Committee of Management administer the U3AM year.

Their hard work is much appreciated by the catering organisers as well as attendees at all events.

On behalf of the Catering Group - Thank You!

Rita Williams, Lyn Welsh, John Caine, Irene Mun, Lee O'Keefe, Leaw and Sok Cheng, Ian and Sue Anderson, Lorraine Smith, Elaine Campbell, Graeme Martin.

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### Q & A with Spanish Course Tutor, Lucy Carrasco



Lucy, thank you for volunteering to be the tutor of the *Spanish Conversation Advanced* class. Please tell us a bit about yourself and your professional background.

I emigrated to Australia with my family (husband and three children) from Chile in 1986. Back in Chile, I had a background in banking, and here in Australia, I worked in a freight-forwarding company until my retirement.

#### What motivated you to become a tutor?

Shirley Fung suggested and convinced me to run an advanced level Spanish class. I realised then that there was a need for people like me who want to maintain our language skills and for others to improve and practise what they already know.

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## Q & A with Spanish Course Tutor, Lucy Carrasco (Cont'd)

Could you describe your course to help our members decide whether they are at a suitable level of Spanish to join the class?

This course is for people with a good level of Spanish. It provides them with the opportunity to continue to immerse in the language and its applications and to understand the language and the Spanish culture.

What do you focus on in Spanish conversation?

Essentially, it is a conversation class. Therefore, for each session, we select articles on a subject that we read and discuss, using digital media as support.

Shirley Fung,  
New Course Coordinator

## Presenting New Tutor - Michael Chan



Michael is the tutor of a new and popular course, *Creative Picture Framing*. Michael's past professional experiences range from being a registered psychiatric nurse manager to heading a department of art therapy in the UK.

Being a professional member of the Picture Framers Guild of Australia well qualifies him to offer his *Creative Picture Framing* course at U3A Manningham.

When asked why he wanted to offer such a course, Michael said that he always wanted to be a teacher, to share his knowledge and skills in picture framing with like-minded people.

Apart from learning the skill of picture framing, participants also learn some basic theory in Art History. Michael believes that the course gives participants both enjoyment and the satisfaction of a project which they can display as a reminder of their achievement.

Additionally, after completion of their course, those participants who are interested in undertaking other framing projects can still avail themselves of the picture framing facilities by arrangement with Michael.

This is what class participants have to say:

"Michael is warm, friendly, approachable and fun. I absolutely enjoyed all his three weekly sessions."

"Michael is very methodical in introducing the basics of picture framing and taught us the design and tools to make awesome picture frames."

"Michael really helps me to realise there is so much creative potential in picture framing, and how it can bring joy and a wonderful feeling in making and presenting our finished works to the people we care about."



Michael with Janice Palmen  
(U3AM art tutor) & her student,  
Vivienne Teah

Shirley Fung  
New Course Coordinator

# Calendar of Events

## Term 4, 2023, Summer School and Term 1, 2024

### Term 4, 2023

Mon, 2 October	<b>TERM 4 commenced</b> (9 weeks)		
From Wed, 9 October	Summer School Enrolments - online		
From Mon, 23 October	Payment of 2024 membership fees online		
From Wed, 1 Nov to Fri, 10 Nov	Appointment bookings for 2024 membership fees pre-payment in person at office (excluding Cup Day, 7 Nov)		
Tues, 7 Nov	<b>MELBOURNE CUP DAY HOLIDAY</b>		
Mon, 13 Nov	Committee of Management Meeting	Rm 17	1.15 - 2.50pm
Mon, 13 Nov to Tues, 21 Nov	2024 membership fees pre-payment in person		
From Wed, 22 Nov	Level 1 Enrolments - online		
Wed, 22 Nov and Thurs, 23 Nov, then until Thurs, 30 Nov	Level 1 Enrolments - in person		
Thurs, 23 Nov	<b>Artistic Showcase</b>	PFR	10.00 - 3.00pm
From Fri, 24 Nov	Level 2 Enrolments - online		
Fri, 24 Nov, then until Thurs, 30 Nov	Level 2 Enrolments - in person		
From Mon, 27 Nov	Level 3 Enrolments - online		
Mon, 27 Nov, then until Thurs, 30 Nov	Level 3 Enrolments - in person		
From Wed, 29 Nov	Level 4 Enrolments - online		
Wed, 29 Nov, then until Thurs, 30 Nov	Level 4 Enrolments - in person		
Wed, 29 Nov	<b>uniFEST2023</b>	PFR	12.30 - 4.00pm
Thurs, 30 Nov	All other enrolments - online		
Thurs, 30 Nov	All other enrolments - in person		
Fri, 1 Dec	<b>TERM 4 finishes</b>		
Mon, 4 Dec	Committee of Management Meeting	Rm 17	11.30am (to be confirmed)

### Summer School

Classes at The Pines: Tuesdays, 16, 23 and 30 January only  
(Office open 9am to 2pm on these days)

External Activities: Fridays, 5, 12 and 19 January  
Tuesday, 9 January and Wednesday, 17 January  
(Friday 26 is a public holiday - Australia Day)

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# Calendar of Events (Cont'd)

## Pre-Term U3AM Activities

Mon, 15 Jan	Limit of enrolment to only 3 classes lifted		
Mon, 29 Jan	Committee of Management Meeting	Rm 17	1.30 - 3.00pm
Wed, 31 Jan	Office opens		9.00am
Wed, 31 Jan	Office Update Training	Rm 13,14	10.00 - 11.00am
Wed, 31 Jan	Migrant English Tutors' Meeting	Rms 16,17,18	10.00 - 11.00am
Thurs, 1 Feb	Tutors' Meeting and Afternoon Tea	Rms 13,14,17,18	2.00pm
Fri, 2 Feb	New Members' Orientation Day	Rms 13,14	9.30 - 11.30am
Fri, 2 Feb	Office Update Training	Rms 13,14	12.00 - 1.00pm
Fri, 2 Feb	Office Training for new volunteers	Rm 13	1.30 - 2.30pm

## Term 1, 2024

Mon, 5 Feb	<b>TERM 1 commences (8 weeks)</b>		
Fri, 10 Feb	Newsletter deadline		
Wed, 21 Feb	Class Representatives Meeting	PFR	1.30 - 2.30pm
Mon, 4 Mar	Committee of Management Meeting	Rm 17	1.30 - 2.50pm
Mon, 11 Mar	<b>LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY</b>		
Thurs, 21 Mar	<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b>	PFR	12.30 - 2.30pm
Thurs, 28 Mar	<b>TERM 1 finishes</b>		

**(Break - 2 weeks)**

**PFR - Pines Function Room**

## Newsletter Contributions

Contributions to our newsletter may be sent to [communications@u3amanningham.org.au](mailto:communications@u3amanningham.org.au). The deadline for the next newsletter is Friday, 10 February 2024. Please ensure that all contributions contain your name and contact details.

### The Newsletter

Editorial: **Liew Staras, Jillian Gange, 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.*

