

U3A MANNINGHAM



NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2024



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We are now in the middle of winter, but I still see many cars, and few vacant spots in our U3A car park – a good indication of the still strong attendance of members despite the cold. I think there is a double attraction for them – stimulating courses and the exhilarating warmth of the company of friends with whom they communicate directly. Let me start my message by drawing attention to a few housekeeping matters.

Position of Treasurer

In response to our advertisement for treasurer, two members volunteered to be assistants to the treasurer but the position of treasurer remains unfilled. We thank Bryce Normoyle for helping us out as Acting Treasurer until we can find a volunteer or volunteers willing to step forward to fill the role.

Eligibility for Membership at U3A

In response to queries about whether people have to be a certain age before they can join U3AM, I refer to our website which describes eligibility for membership:

“Membership is open to people who are of retirement age, who are not in full time employment and who are interested in engaging with others to keep their minds active. There are no ability limits and no entry requirements...”

Calling for an Ambulance

Recently we have had incidents requiring the attention of the ambulance. In one case It took some time for the ambulance to reach us. As U3A Manningham is part of a building complex, it is important for us to give the ambulance accurate directions that will navigate them promptly to where we are. May I suggest the following procedure:

If unsure, please inform our Office and members attending at the office will know what to do.

If members dial directly for the ambulance,

- Please dial 000.
- The directions are - The Pines Learning and Activity Centre, Unit 2/520 Blackburn Road, East Doncaster. The nearest intersection is Reynolds and Blackburn Roads. Entry to our premises is via the first set of traffic lights in Blackburn Road, north of Reynolds Road.
- A member should wait outside our building to show the way to the person needing the ambulance.

Class Changeover Time

Recently some members have approached me to ask if there is a specific time allocated for one class to leave and the other to enter a room. The issue of one class delaying the entry of another class is very rare. However, I believe changeover can be a smoother experience if the tutor of the earlier class finishes on time and reminds class members to move out promptly to make way for the next class entering the room. I cannot give a specific time interval for changeover in minutes, because this is a shared time, and for years the arrangement has worked well based on the goodwill and understanding between classes.

Member Feedback and Resulting Action Plans

In my previous message I urged members to approach our Committee members directly if they have feedback and suggestions that will benefit the running of our U3A. I would like to express my appreciation to the members who have approached me with their feedback. Most of the feedback has been constructive and has given me some idea of what else our committee should be working on to add value to our learning environment and to the programs we are already running.

A few members have drawn my attention to the fact that some U3As have better buildings provided by their Council. While we cannot do much about changing that outer shell which is our building, it is worth noting the many good things that are bubbling inside.

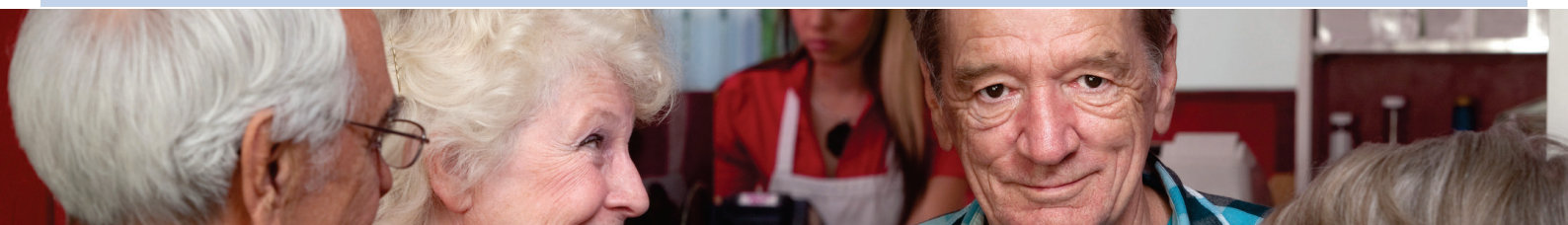
Our membership dropped considerably during COVID, but thankfully our membership is gradually increasing from the COVID figure and is now in excess of 1600. We have a broad range of courses in physical activity, dancing, sport, finance, healthy living, spirituality, academia – something for everyone. We have 143 tutors and 184 courses.

We have fantastic volunteers from office bearers in the Committee of Management, to tutors, class reps and assistants, from Catering/Events to the Office. Our organisation runs seamlessly, thanks to the hard work and diligence of our volunteers. We have been fortunate to have our current tutors and new tutors deliver very exciting courses that are relevant to our members.

We aim to provide meaningful learning experiences for our members through the courses we make available to our members, using updated technological equipment, training and learning tools. Over 50% of our members are volunteers to help run our organisation in various ways. I often marvel at the smooth day-to-day running of our U3A, thanks to our dedicated and conscientious volunteers.

In looking at what we have going for us, I am grateful to all our members for contributing to an environment that is welcoming to all, that is a centre of learning, and above all a hive of social activity among friends. May we all enjoy our meaningfully shared experiences in Term 3.

Shirley Fung
President



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

As you know, U3A is a wonderful organisation for senior members of our community that is run entirely by volunteers. The fact that we operate so well and run classes for approximately 1600 members is a testament to the fact that 'we oldies' still have a lot to offer and we are 'not done yet'.

Tess Gibbs has been able to uncover office volunteer lists that go back to 2005, and some of the members on that early list are still helping in the office today and have been on duty every year since.

I would like to recognise these dedicated office volunteers who have given 20 years of service in helping our U3A office stay relevant in today's world:

Laurine Eames, Tess Gibbs, Mitzi Hosking,
Judy McKernin, Graeme Newcombe, Billie Thorburn

Unfortunately, we are unable to have our Office Volunteers luncheon this year to celebrate, but hopefully it will return next year.

Thank you to all.

Robyn Buttlng
Office Manager



NEW SEMINARS ANNOUNCED

The following seminars have been added to the 2024 program.

You need to enrol for each of these classes and there is a charge of \$2 for each class which will be collected at the door. This fee is used to provide a gift for the presenter.

Enrolment online is the same process as enrolling for a regular class. Simply login on the website, navigate to Classes 2024, and you will find all of the Seminars listed under the "Seminars" tab. You can also enrol at the Office if you are not confident to enrol online.

For the full program go to:

<https://u3amanningham.org.au/upcoming-seminars>

Class code: 9935-01 Hearing and Brain Health

Description: Dr Jeffrey Pang will discuss how cognitive overload you're suffering from may be caused by untreated hearing loss.

Date: Thursday 10th October, 2024

Time: 12:00 to 1:20 pm

Venue: Pines Learning Centre, Room 14



Class Code: 9932-01 An Armchair Tour of Aboriginal Manningham

Description: Jim Poulter (U3A member) will take us on a virtual tour of various locations in Manningham, where there were Aboriginal camps, burial sites, historic events and travel routes etc.

Date: Friday 11th October, 2024
Time: 3:00-4:00 pm
Venue: Pines Learning Centre, Room 14

Class Code: 9933-01 Staying out of the Operating Theatre

Description: Dr Marc Frisco who is an Orthopaedic Surgeon in Hip, Foot and Ankle will give a talk on staying out of the Operating Theatre and what happens if you need surgery.

Date: Thursday 07th November, 2024
Time: 1:30-2:50 pm
Venue: Pines Learning centre, Room 13/14

Change of Dates

Please note the change of dates for this seminar:

Class Code: 9920-01 Travel Photography
Description: How to take the best photos on your holidays
Tutor: Paul Kertes
Date/Time: Thursday 05/09/2024, 12/09/2024: 12:00-1:00pm
Venue: Pines Learning Centre Room 14

THANKS TO ANOOP CHAUHAN

On behalf of our bridge community, U3A Committee and members, we extend thanks to Anoop Chauhan for his valuable contribution to U3A Manningham.

It was with much regret that we learned of Anoop's decision to resign from our bridge classes and the community at U3A. He was an integral member of our classes for over 10 years. He helped out with tutoring and introduced many important initiatives regarding set-up and technical support. Anoop was always willing to assist and he will be an enormous loss to our bridge classes and to U3A Manningham overall.

With much appreciation and best wishes, we thank Anoop for his services, support and friendship.

The Bridge Team

Tess Gibbs, Arthur Michie, Graeme Mills, Johnson Ingrassia and Nena Reid



U3A NETWORK VICTORIA 2024 STATE CONFERENCE AND AGM

This conference will be a great opportunity for participants to meet members from other U3A groups and to benefit from an excellent program. It will be held at RMIT Storey Hall, Swanston Street, Melbourne on 3-5 October 2024. Full details are available at [2024 Conference — U3A Network Victoria \(u3avictoria.org.au\)](https://www.u3avictoria.org.au).



2024 State Conference

3 - 5 October 2024

Forty and Fabulous! Now what's next

Thursday 3 October

**U3A Network Victoria – AGM
Yarra River Cruise - optional**

Friday 4 October

**Welcome and official start of the conference
Plenary speakers
Breakout rooms
City Walking Tour - optional
Conference dinner - optional
Morning and afternoon tea, lunch provided**

Saturday 5 October

**Plenary speakers
Breakout rooms
Morning tea**

Wrap up of conference and official end of the conference.

**Booking can be made through
<https://www.trybooking.com/CPDWW>**

NEW TUTOR, NEW COMPUTER COURSE — Q & A WITH DICK WONG

Congratulations, Dick, on becoming a tutor at U3AM. We know you as the tutor of Computers, Word, Excel and PowerPoint with Confidence but would you be able to tell us a bit more about yourself and your professional background?

I hold a Bachelor degree in Computer Science and a Master degree in Finance. I was an IT professional in Hong Kong for 26 years. My last job was as IT Manager of a central bank in which I had served for 22 years.

I retired from my last job four years ago and started my life's next journey in Melbourne. I'm studying a short course in 'Early Childhood Education and Care'. I am a table tennis enthusiast and am a member of a local table tennis club in Wantirna.

What motivated you to become a tutor?

My migrant English tutor encouraged me to practise my English oral skills by becoming a tutor. As a new immigrant to Melbourne, this is another way for me to connect with and contribute to the community.

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

Members are at a suitable level to join if they satisfy the following criteria. They should:

- have a personal computer with Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint installed
- be able to operate a computer mouse device (right & left mouse click, drag and drop)
- be able to operate a computer keyboard and perform basic textual entries (cut & paste text, select/de-select text)
- be able to use a personal computer to perform email communication, internet browsing and searching.

The focus of your course is on Microsoft applications. By the end of your course, what will participants be able to do with what they have learned? Please give some specific examples.

Participants will be able to:

- apply some useful features that they had not used before. For example, using tables, lists, music, video, images and icons to enrich their work
- create recipes, travel journals and formal letters using MS Word
- input their household income and expense entries and perform analysis using MS Excel
- present desired topics using MS PowerPoint.

Dick's class runs for a term from 09:00 to 10:20 am every Monday, and is repeated each term. Enrolments are now open for Term 4.

Shirley Fung

President and New Course Coordinator



A SNAPSHOT OF A MOST ECLECTIC COURSE

The 'History into Science' course, tutored by Andrew Leopold, is a fascinating leap into a diverse range of topics in history and science. Examples of possible topics from Andrew's list include the history of medicine, traces of past civilisations, art and living things, and forensic science.

A Recent Session

One recent session began by finishing off a topic about quantum computers but along the way, we somehow seamlessly moved from vitrified clay pipes to levers to pulleys and then on to Newton's Law of Gravitation, all with Andrew's talent of making them interesting. After a short break, we began a new topic: 'Are we alone in the universe?'

Andrew has the knack of explaining complex processes through digestible bites and concrete examples. He gives fascinating little stories on aspects of the topics and there's even the occasional 'dad joke'! There's plenty of interaction, with Andrew encouraging and getting interesting class discussions.

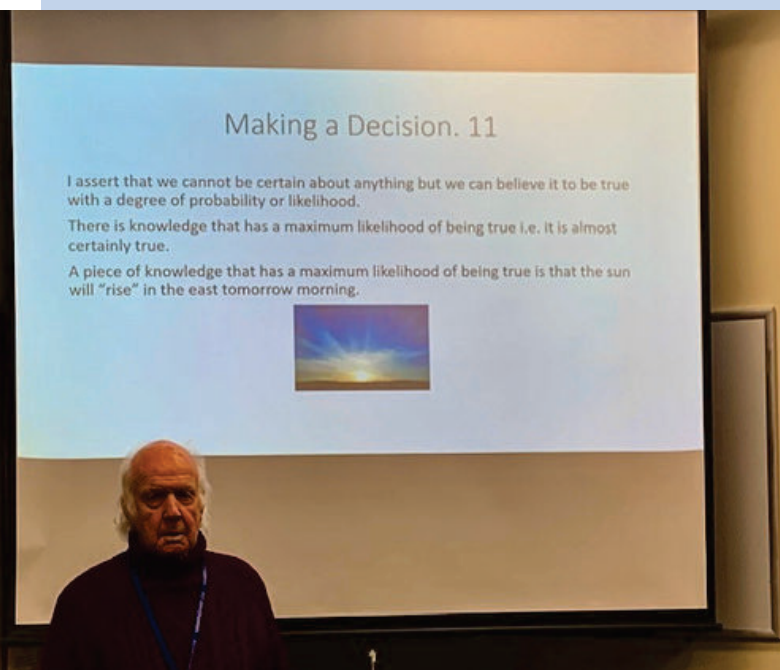
The Participants' Views

The participants' comments on the course were all positive:

- *We see things in a different light; we're learning new knowledge. Very interesting content; things that I certainly wouldn't have thought of. You take things for granted, then we can see why.*
- *Andrew invites interaction. We're free to have input if you're so inclined. I thought I wouldn't have much input, but I do.*
- *Andrew has a great mind for detail. There's so much information but he has the background for it. When we're not here, he sends all the information from the class to us.*
- *[I appreciate] the level that it's presented at, which treats us as intelligent human beings.*
- *One subject complements another; for example, it's not only history but history interacts with other subjects too.*

One participant also saw how this course complements others:

- *I also go to the Cosmology course, and this expands on that subject and complements it. This reminds me of a subject I did a while ago called history and philosophy of science.*



The Tutor's Comments

Andrew also made some comments. His aim is for participants to "gain a broader general knowledge (so they can go on a quiz program!)". When the participants don't seem to be interested in a topic, he'll change it:

What's the point if I drone on about what I know. It's got to be something you're interested in. It's like acting; when I'm in front of the class, like actors, I forget everything else; it's just what goes on here. That's important to me personally.

He has some favourite topics:

I like innovations that change the world and I also like medical discoveries and breakthroughs. I'm just finishing off a potpourri of smaller topics that includes 'Can dogs smell cancer', and 'Ant engineers; how ants build bridges'.

Into the Future

Andrew is planning to change the course name next year to 'A Smorgasbord of Topics in Science and History' to better reflect this wonderfully eclectic course. If you'd like to expand your mind in a relaxed and friendly environment, there are currently some vacancies.

Judy Maxwell

Editorial Team, U3A Manningham

THE SPRING CARNIVAL CAME TO U₃A MANNINGHAM

Thursday, 9 November 2023 was Ladies Day at Flemington Racecourse and, as is customary, was also celebrated during the tea break at U3AM Group B Bridge session. Class tutor Graeme Mills had prerecorded a witty and informed commentary of the mock Manningham Cup race in which, enigmatically, many of our members were pictured within as jockeys. Wagers had been laid and Liz Hale was the lucky one to predict the winner.





Race caller (and tutor) Graeme Mills



Liz Hale picked the winner!

In addition, an expert panel adjudicated the Best Dressed Lady and Gentleman Competition. The highlight of the occasion however was the unexpected and much appreciated arrival of none other than Australia's other honourable Head of State, Dame Edna Everage, who had graciously found time in her crowded A-list diary to pop along and present the prizes. In an outstanding line-up, **Mary Calleja** and **Joe Console** were judged worthy winners of the Best Dressed Competition and were honoured and humbled to receive their trophies from the iconic fashion diva herself.



Such was the overwhelming splendour and glamour of Dame Edna's presence that your reporter was inspired to celebrate the occasion in verse in the style of Banjo Paterson:

*Dame Edna Everage, a true Aussie gem,
With lilac hair and glasses, she's quite the femme.
Her love for gladioli, or "gladdies" as she calls,
And her greeting "Hello, Possums!" that really enthrals.
Dame Edna, with her wisteria hue,
And her cat-eye glasses, oh so new.
She's a housewife superstar, with a heart of gold,
And a personality that never gets old.
She's a true icon, with a style all her own,
And a wit that's sharper than any razor known.
So here's to Dame Edna, a true Aussie treasure,
May she live on forever, in our hearts and our pleasure.*

After all the colourful excitement and exhilaration of this most unusual tea break, the customary calm and quiet concentration of the Bridge arena descended once again as members geared up their little grey cells to tackle yet another impossible 3 No Trumps contract.

What will be in store for Ladies Day 2024!

Geoff Sheldon
Member, Bridge Group B



The Newsletter

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to our newsletter may be sent to communications@u3amanningham.org.au. The deadline for the next newsletter is Friday, 19 July 2024. Please ensure that all contributions contain your name and contact details.

- Communications Manager: Neville Cook
- Editorial: Dawn Head, Jenny Johnstone, Judy Maxwell
- Production: Bernice Charity, Helen Halliday

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.

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

