TWENTY YEARS OF ENDEAVOUR

THE STORY OF

U3A DANDENONG Inc.

This work is dedicated to two people, Max Oldmeadow and Bernard Condict. Max was the navigator, who showed the way, Bernard was the man in the trenches who made everything possible.

Max Oldmeadow
Bernard Condict

It is also dedicated to all those loyal members, too numerous to mention, who have made an enormous contribution over the years, committee members, tutors and office helpers.

Our thanks are due to the City of Greater Dandenong

and

U3A Network (Victoria)
U3A Dandenong Inc. has an interesting history – and this is mainly because of its interesting members. This booklet incorporates the formal history of the organization as well as personal reminiscences. It is hoped that the work conveys the personalities of those involved in an organization which has always relied on the generosity of volunteers. The title of the following poem ‘Cooking up a Storm’ by Louise Wood, to a large degree encapsulates the experience and attitudes of our members. Louise is also our cookery tutor.

There’s no time to sit wondering in your rocking chair,
    Of days gone by and your grey streaked hair.
Of how life was or what could have been,
    Or of what you wanted, or haven’t seen.
You’ve worked so hard most of your life,
    Been a good husband or a wonderful wife.
Had ups and downs and happiness and frowns,
    Then retirement came along bringing a brand new phase.
Until you read about the University of The Third Age.
    So many activities, new people to meet,
No time to just sit on your seat.
    Go and learn computer, or sing with others like you,
Or cook up a storm with the cooking class too.
    Learn how to knit or crochet too,
So join the activities of U3A,
    there is always something for you.
TWENTY YEARS OF ENDEAVOUR
THE HISTORY OF U3A DANDENONG

CHAPTER ONE

FOUNDATION AND THE ACCOMMODATION SAGAS

Members and past-members of U3A Dandenong have good reason to feel a great deal of pride in our progress and achievements. The organization was built on a firm foundation, and led by people of integrity, determination, and a good deal of old-fashioned know-how and common sense. At the time when U3A Dandenong began, the concept was fairly new in Australia. And there was something else going on which facilitated our beginnings. Twenty years ago people were taking early retirement in droves. They were in their fifties and sixties, still physically and mentally able, and they were looking for new challenges and ways in which to occupy their time. U3A filled that need, and still does today. It is very affordable, and offers activities and classes five days a week. And what is more important, it is a great opportunity to make new friends, and to ‘find yourself’ in the post-retirement period by seeking a fresh social identity.

U3A came to Victoria in 1984 from the United Kingdom. There, it had been imported from the European continent where it had begun in France in 1972. The original French U3As were the result of older adults asking the Universities for courses or classes where they could study various subjects without having to possess any pre-requisites or qualifications. Equally, they were hoping to study purely for the sake of learning, without the stress of having to earn any degrees or diplomas. So at this stage, U3As were aligned with the Universities, who organized the courses and classes for the older adults. The name ‘University of the Third Age’ was derived from this alignment with the Universities, the fact that the students were in their ‘Third Age’, the age of ‘Active Retirement’; the ‘First Age’ being from birth to development into maturity, whilst the ‘Second Age’ is the age of career and family development. When the concept of U3A was taken up in the United Kingdom, a different model emerged, whereby the Universities were not directly involved, and it became a ‘Self-Help’ organization. Under this philosophy, Tutors or Group Leaders were members of U3A who were willing and able to pass on their knowledge, interests and hobbies to others. It was also firmly stated that there should be no distinction between those members who were Tutors or Group Leaders, and other members. This was the model adopted by Victoria when the U3A movement was introduced into the State. This introduction was largely due to the efforts of the late Jack McDonnell, an ex University Professor who was very interested in the development of educational and social opportunities for older adults in Australia. The U3A movement gradually expanded throughout Victoria from the first of these at Melbourne University and Frankston. The result of
this expansion was the development of a ‘Network’ to assist in setting up the various U3As and to disseminate information – information regarding funding possibilities, types of courses that might be viable, how to find tutors, and the establishment of suitable premises. This Network has gradually evolved into the present day U3A Network in Melbourne that has taken on many other roles, not least of which is that of advocate to the Governments and the relevant Government bodies such as ACFE (Adult, Community and Further Education) Board and Regional Councils. Again the development of Network owed a great deal to Jack McDonnell and other equally dedicated individuals. U3A Network Victoria adopts an advisory role – each U3A is autonomous.

In 1993 a few people thought that there was scope and a demand for a U3A in the City of Dandenong. Here are the words of Marie Whelan, one of the people indirectly responsible for its genesis.

I was sitting at my desk one day in 1992 while I was working in the Aged Care Department at Dandenong Council when I was asked if I knew anyone who could be interested in becoming involved in organising the setting up of a group to facilitate educational opportunities in a social atmosphere for people who were retired and had the time and motivation to learn or to teach new skills to others. In other words – U3A Dandenong was in its pregnancy, awaiting the opportunity to be born. Having recently graduated from Monash University under the mature student admittance program following access to TAFE college specifically for mature students, I knew from the experience the benefits of learning in a supportive atmosphere. Although for me it was hard work it was a lot of fun, but it was also a confidence builder discovering that we all have the ability to learn by sharing together under tutelage. Naturally I was very pleased to help promote this opportunity of learning through sharing and socialising to people in retirement who could become isolated and aged before their time.

At this time I became aware that Shirley Constantine, with whom I shared my foray back into mature age education at TAFE had been forced to retire from her research work at Monash University due to health problems. Shirley was always ready for a new challenge and it was providential for Dandenong U3A that she was available at this time. As it happened, it was also around this time that Peter Renkin retired from teaching at Lyndale High School in Dandenong. Naturally these were the first two people who came to my mind when I was asked. Peter became a tutor and remained an active member until he retired to Anglesea to live. We all know the guidance Shirley has given to Dandenong U3A as President and tutor over these twenty
years. Thanks Shirley. I only mention these two people because this was the end of my involvement at that time and I moved on to another Council.

The crux of the matter was that the Wallara building in Potter Street, Dandenong West was being under-utilised at the time. Gillian Pisanı and Lisa Clark, both Council employees, had the brainwave that the establishment of a U3A would fill two needs: it would utilise a vacant building, and it would fill a growing need for a more stimulating form of activity suitable for the increasing number of comparatively young retirees in the community. And so it was that a meeting was called of various individuals in the local community who might conceivably be interested in assisting with the formation of a Dandenong U3A. The meeting was to take place in the ‘Wallara’ building in Potter Street, West Dandenong just before Christmas. The meeting took place on December 17th 1993, and it included members of the public as well as representatives of Dandenong Council. Those who attended the meeting were Norma Brown, Lisa Clark (Dandenong Council), Bernard Condict, Shirley Constantine, Joy Dent, Ron Pellow, Gillian Pisanı (Dandenong Council), Stacia Redfern, Peter Renkin, Ricki Talents and Cr. Eric Wilson (Dandenong Council). Note, these events took place before the days of municipal amalgamation.

Shirley Constantine recalls her first impressions.

My first exposure to U3A as a concept was while I was studying at Monash University. Some of my fellow students were also members of U3A Waverly. At that point, U3A Waverly met in the Halls of Residence at Monash, and their members enjoyed full library privileges at the university. Subsequently, they were turfed out and had to find other accommodation, also losing their library privileges.

At the first meeting of the Steering Committee of U3A Dandenong, I was puzzled about how prospective students would obtain access to a suitable library. But veteran Joy Dent soon informed me that U3A members do not tend to study, or need to borrow books, they just come along to hear the lectures. Being accustomed to the seminar/tutorial system at Monash University, where students did their reading and discussed the issues raised, I realized that becoming a U3A tutor represented a tremendous responsibility. The prospective tutor had to fully research his/her topic and prepare classes for a two-hour time slot each week. As I had worked at Monash in a research capacity, and not teaching, I did not have any prepared lessons. So in my first three years teaching at U3A Dandenong my printer would be churning out that day’s lesson just before I departed to give my weekly lesson. That, my friends, was pressure! But I thrived on it!
The meeting discussed the possibility of setting up a U3A in Dandenong, and to investigate the possible demand for an organization of this type in the Dandenong area and its surrounds. Although there were already U3As in adjacent districts, it was considered that there would be a definite demand locally because the existing U3As were too far away to be conveniently reached. The greying of the population of Dandenong, Berwick and Springvale was also an important factor. The end result of these discussions was that it was agreed that a Steering Committee be set up to work towards forming a U3A in Dandenong with the support of the then City of Dandenong Council. Council representatives Lisa Clark and Gillian Pisani then convened a meeting of all interested parties on 8th February 1994. U3A Network sent their representative Alison Carson to explain the nuts and bolts of setting up the organization, and Joy Dent from Waverley U3A came to relate their experiences. When all tasks necessary had been evaluated another meeting took place on 22nd February, also at Wallara. The purpose of this meeting was to consider the organisation of a Public Meeting to ensure that there was sufficient community support for the formation of U3A Dandenong. It was generally agreed that the most convenient venue for the meeting would be the Latham Crescent Centre in Latham Crescent, Dandenong. Planning meetings continued during February, March and April of 1994, and as planned the public meeting took place on Thursday 21st March at 3.00 p.m. Alison Carlson and Jack McDonnell spoke to an audience of over 100 people. This was an excellent result and reflected the efforts made by the Steering Committee. At this meeting just over 30 memberships were accepted with the promise of a large number more. Joy Dent from Waverley U3A also offered to join the Steering Committee in order to share the benefits of her experience. Ten days after this public meeting U3A Dandenong was up and running – classes were being held and tutors had been found somehow.

Mundane matters had to be discussed, such as the format of application forms for membership and the brochures for advertising. Bernard Condict and his skill with computers was of invaluable assistance at this crucial time. (It must also be said that the membership forms and brochures have been amended and improved many times over the period of twenty years, as experience and new legislation bring extra issues to bear.) Policy matters also had to be discussed. One of the more important matters was the question of an age qualification. Some of the existing U3As had a hard and fast rule about age. U3A Dandenong has never had this rule.

The following excerpt gives the explanation in Robin Ridgeway’s words.

In April 1994 I noticed an ad in the Dandenong Journal that sounded like it could help in my rehabilitation after suffering a serious road accident that left me with a brain injury and some paralysis. After 19 weeks in hospital and a year and a half of rehab, and not being able to return to work I was attracted to the idea of attending classes for
the benefit of stimulation that I needed to get my life back. I wasn’t at retirement age, I was 44 at the time, but the ad invited disabled people as well. Before long I was attending 5 classes per week and helping out in the office. A couple of years later I became Office Manager then a Management Committee member. Being an outpatient at the Rehab Hospital taught me how to walk, talk and write again, but U3A helped me to recover my office and communication skills and helped get my life back so perhaps it was The Best Rehab.

Robin was Bernard Condici’s neighbour and he was very much aware of her predicament and drew her plight to the attention of the Management Committee. Ever since that time every application for membership has been treated on its merits. Because of this, the organization has frequently benefited by gaining younger members who at times brought a breath of fresh air with them.

One of the more urgent and demanding tasks was producing the skeleton of the first programme to be offered with the assistance of Tutors and Group Leaders. The term Group Leaders was used to describe those members who were very willing to organize a ‘self-help’ group, but who did not wish to hold the status of tutors. It was an enormous task to assemble the first programme and also to obtain the services of appropriate Tutors/Leaders. Joy Dent volunteered to become the first Program Officer, while Shirley Constantine became Assistant Program Officer. Joy knew some tutors who were prepared to visit various U3As and share their skills. Shirley was a long-time Dandenong resident and was able to network with friends in order to find other leaders. One example was the late Croft Stocks, a former Primary School Inspector with the Education Department. After retirement, Croft had returned to study at Monash University majoring in Italian. As a ‘friend of a friend’ Croft was soon roped in and was delighted to become part of the programme. One of Shirley’s friends from Sandown Probus Club, John Thode, was ‘persuaded’ to become the Current Affairs Group Leader. Joy Dent’s guidance in these early days was invaluable.

Another important asset for the group was our foundation President, the late Max Oldmeadow. Max was a man of many parts. He was a retired High School Principal, a former Councillor with the City of Dandenong, a retired State politician, and therefore eminently well equipped to smooth the path for the fledgling organization. Most importantly, Max had contacts who were to be extremely valuable.

There were also some very keen oil painters who were anxious to form a group, which in the event was led by the late Norma Brown and Ron Pellow. The main hallmark of this key group was its enthusiasm and desire for success. U3A Dandenong has
consequently always had a strong arts and crafts program. This is reflected on the ongoing success of talented members of the organization when competing in the annual Dandenong Agricultural Society Show. Once again, in 2013, the Grand Champion Art Prize went to a U3A Dandenong member.

Of course, any group has to be properly constituted and managed. The first Management Committee was formed at a meeting on Thursday 28 April 1994. The Executive were as follows.

Chairperson: Max Oldmeadow,
Vice Chairperson: Cr. Eric Wilson,
2nd Vice Chairperson: Ron Pellow,
Treasurer: Peter Renkin,
Secretary: Bernard Condect.

Over the next few months the Association gradually grew as people began to hear about the organization. Logistics problems were dealt with as they arose. Dandenong Council made a telephone line available and negotiated payment of the bill. Negotiations also continued with respect to the accommodation, as U3A Dandenong was the primary occupier of the building in question. The result of these negotiations was that the Association would pay for the accommodation but the cost would be offset by a grant from Dandenong Council, thereby making the accommodation virtually ‘free’. Badges were developed by Bernard Condect and it was agreed the badge insert colour would be changed at the end of each financial year to clearly demonstrate which members were financial. Michael Duffy (M.P. for the Holt Constituency) had agreed to allow photocopying in his office in Dandenong, providing the Association supplied the paper. In June 1994 Bernard Condect (Secretary) produced the first copy of the U3A Dandenong Newsletter and it was agreed that it would be published quarterly and distributed to all financial members. Copies would also be distributed to surrounding U3As on an exchange basis. Bernard Condect was delighted when Network commented on the professional presentation of the Newsletter.

By now the sub-committee for Incorporation had met several times and had finalised a proposal for the Constitution and Rules. A general meeting, which included members of the public, was called for 29th June 1994 at which the proposed Constitution and Rules would be considered. The Chairman (Max Oldmeadow) asked the Vice President, Cr. Eric Wilson to speak on the premise “Why Incorporation?” and the key words of his talk were “Incorporation is a Safeguard” and he explained this at length. At this meeting a motion was passed that U3A Dandenong should apply for Incorporation and that Cr. Eric Wilson would act as Public Officer. The papers were duly submitted to the Office of Fair Trading responsible for administering the Incorporation Act. After a minor amendment regarding the signatories of cheques, the
submission was accepted and U3A Dandenong was incorporated in October 1994. U3A Dandenong would forthwith be known as U3A Dandenong Incorporated. This was reflected in all documentation produced for the group. It was now necessary for Insurance to be taken out, particularly for Public Liability and the willing secretary had this completed by early December. Initial membership costs were $25.00 per head for the full year.

At this point it might be of interest to see the Programme of Activities as displayed in the first Newsletter.

The new term will start on July 18 1994 and, depending on enrolments, the following programme will be available.

Monday 10.30am-12 noon – Creative Writing with Lesley Brown
An introduction to writing imaginative works and to help linguistic abilities.

Monday 10.30am-12.20 - Science and Technology with Patrick Lawler
An introduction to Radio and Basic Electronics

Monday 12.00 noon -2.00 pm – French Conversation with Floryse Jasmin
A chance to learn to speak the language of LOVE!

Monday 2.00pm- 4.00pm – Cooking with a Difference with Minnie Jackson
Fortnightly beginning 25th July. An International taste and aroma experience through cooking.

Tuesday 10.00 am – 12 noon. Religions of the World with Edward Mann
A fortnightly group looking at various aspects of belief – definitely not dogma.

Tuesday 9am – 10am – German with John Thode
If there is enough interest the time can be expanded!

Tuesday 10am -12.00 noon – Current Affairs with John Thode
A discussion group on any present-day activity.

Tuesday 2.00pm – 4.00pm – Australian History with Shirley Constantine
An overview of the many and varied aspects from then to now. There will also be interesting and knowledgeable speakers as well as Shirley.

Tuesday 2.00pm – 4.p.m – Sketching Still Life with Judith Markel
Materials required list sketch book and pencils, obtain in the office, where examples of Judith’s work are displayed.

Tuesday 2.00pm – 4.p.m – An Introduction to Public Speaking with Jim Bryan
A great way to develop confidence in a small, friendly group.

Wednesday 10.00am – 12 noon – German with Hans Gohnert
A fortnightly group concentrating on German conversation.

Wednesday 10.00 am – 12.00 noon – Italian for Beginners with Croft Stocks
Learn the language of Romance (not a thing of the past!)

Wednesday 2.00pm – 4.00pm – Behavioural Science with Ethel Wyhoun
Why You Act the Way You Do!

Thursday 10.00am – 12.00 noon – Writing Your Life Story with Helen Jackson
Bring some memorabilia (photos or other) + pen and paper. Your grandchildren will thank you.

Thursday 2.00pm – 4.00pm – Reading for Pleasure with Laurie Coles
A really enjoyable experience with a generous visitor from Waverley U3A. Anyone who would like to carry on as group leader will be very welcome. Please apply!

**Thursday 2.00pm – 4.00pm – Save! Save! Save! With Brian Graham**
Save money, save energy and save the environment. Brian has worked with Government bodies for many years on conservation issues so is well qualified to show simple, practical and effective ways to reduce your bills without reducing your ‘lifestyle’.

**Friday 10.00am - 12.00 noon – Water Colour Painting with Clarrie Cantrell**
A totally different experience to painting in oils!

**Friday 2.00pm – 4.00pm – Calligraphy with Clarrie Cantrell**
Combined with painting (water colour or oils) you can really make some beautiful and unusual cards for friends (or perhaps, enemies if you have them!!!). Hand made they are better than anything that can be done on the computer.

**Friday 12.30 – 3.30pm – Painting in Oils**
A lively, enthusiastic group who would be happy to see a ‘tutor’ or ‘helper’ assisting them.

This was an extremely varied and comprehensive program for the fledgling organization. The variety provided was partly responsible for the rapid growth in membership. By November 1994 the membership had increased to 108 and the class groups were running very satisfactorily. In order to celebrate the successful new venture a Christmas Lunch was organised for the 14th December 1994 at the Italian Club on Frankston-Dandenong Road. Some 30+ members attended and thoroughly enjoyed the social activity. This was a precedent for Christmases to come!

The tradition of Christmas and mid-year luncheons has played an important role in our development, as it is possibly the only time that students from various classes have the opportunity to get together. These days our numbers are usually in excess of 100. Another tradition was begun by the late Norma Brown, who had been designated
as Social Secretary. Norma decided that the organization should have a barbecue. It was held on Wednesday 4th May 1994. In the absence of a suitable venue, it was at the front of Wallara, almost on the footpath in Potter Street. Somehow or other she organized a griller to cook sausages, made salads, and worked like a Trojan. From that original event, the group now holds two barbecues for members a year.

These events were organized by the Walking Group until recently, and are now run by the Committee of Management. Norma Brown took her responsibilities as Social Secretary quite seriously and worked hard to arrange a series of purely social events, many of which failed to attract significant support.

By August of 1994, enquiries were being made about the possibility of mounting computer classes. Computers were still quite a novelty, particularly to many of the older generation, and solve their mysteries. Also, were willing to act as tutors. Doveton Secondary College cost had been quoted at two hours, which was expensive. Peter Renkin alternative at Lyndale High School. late in the afternoon, after normal school usage had concluded for the day. In fact, for many years computer classes were the biggest drawcard in attracting new members.

All throughout this first year office equipment was being purchased and installed. A desk-top photocopier had been donated to the group, but the high cost of maintenance and repair meant that it was better economics to buy a new copier, the first of many such purchases over the years. Today’s office photocopier is a vastly superior machine compared with the original version.
In June 1996, Pauline Collins joined the committee with the brief of organizing Educational Visits and Outings. During the year, outings enjoyed by the group included a coach trip to Mont de Lancey homestead, a tour of Block Arcade, a Puffing Billy trip and a tour of Victorian Parliament House.

Unfortunately, just as things were running smoothly, the association was made aware that the accommodation in Wallara which was leased to Dandenong Council had a lease which would expire at the end of 1996. Wallara had informed Dandenong Council that the lease would not be renewed. They had planned extensive renovations to the premises. These renovations were very necessary, partly because the building was freezing and draughty in the winter and hot in the summer, and partly because of increased needs for care for the disabled that the organization is responsible for. So it was with mixed feelings that the committee received this news! On the one hand, the building was convenient, the clients were settled, and not anxious to relocate, but on the other hand, perhaps there was something better available. The reality was that finding alternative accommodation was no easy task. A small sub-committee was set up comprising the President (Max Oldmeadow), the Secretary (Bernard Condict) and the Programme Coordinator (Shirley Constantine) to investigate alternatives.

During the following year (1996) the sub-committee viewed possible accommodation across the City of Dandenong and virtually none of the premises inspected came anywhere near being suitable. The sub-committee looked at a number of different places, some of which were really shocking. Some of the premises would have required so much work to bring them anywhere near U3A requirements that the task was near impossible, given the financial restrictions of the fledgling organization. Fortunately, Max Oldmeadow was a good friend of Charles Wilkins, then the Director of Dandenong TAFE. Bernard suggested that he approach him to see if TAFE would be able to accommodate U3A Dandenong and a meeting was arranged. At this meeting it became clear that Charles was extremely interested in the concept of U3A and suggested that there may be some accommodation in S Block that had recently been vacated. He was also keen to foster community relations with TAFE and arranged a second meeting when it was possible for committee members to view the available accommodation in S Block.

The eventual outcome of negotiations was that U3A Dandenong would be allocated S9 for a classroom and S8 as a permanent office. Telephone facilities were also negotiated and copying tasks could be carried out through ‘Print Media’ at cost. This was really the saviour of the association and the move was made in just a few days. U3A Dandenong began the year in 1997 comfortably ensconced in our new accommodation, and the group began to explore the possibilities.

Our first Tai Chi class was run by Graham Marshall, who currently runs the Gardening group. Graham and his late wife were in the habit of going to Queensland every
winter, so Tai Chi was taken over by Lesley Menon and this was be to run in T Block. The Lecture Theatre in A Block could be used for Annual General Meetings and the conference rooms in A Block were able to be used for the monthly meetings of the Management Committee and the meetings of the Tutors and Group Leaders. This was luxury indeed, after the limited accommodation we had previously enjoyed. We were also permitted to use the Robin Mackay Hall on Cleland Street each year for our Art Shows, all this free of charge! (Our first annual Art Show was held from 31st August to 2nd September, 1998.)

Max Oldmeadow was a member of the Dandenong Historical Society and had a tremendous interest in local history. Max devised a course which took the form of asking various local residents to tell their individual stories. This was extremely popular, attracting a large audience of 40+ members. The stories were tape recorded and are now available at Heritage Hill, Dandenong. Other courses Max devised were lessons in Government, and also a course which was titled Many Faiths. This last course involved a speaker from each of the religious groups in the Dandenong Community, culminating in a visit to their appropriate place of worship. This experience worked very well in dispelling prejudice and misconceptions in the general community.

International Circle Dancing with Conny Brandt was one of the very earliest groups. This group is no longer in existence, because Conny finally had to retire because of advancing age. But during its life, the group performed in various venues. Stella Schutze, who was a member of the Creative Writing group, was moved to verse at this time.
THE BALLAD OF U3A

There was movement in the office for the phone was running hot
With requests to have their names put on the list.
They'd read the local paper and discovered quite a lot
Of interest, a chance not to be missed.
There were walking groups and talking groups and those who even danced.
While the tendency to keep the brain alive
Was encouraged by computing... both beginner and advanced.
As for writers... their imaginations thrive.
Those who feel the need escape a while in meditation mode,
Others study what makes human folk respond.
As for painters of artistic type, their minds will never close
To the myriad inspirations from beyond.
As they conjure up impressions using water-colour, oil,
And discover they can do it after all
Inspired by monkish forebears with their daily round of toil
Calligraphers put writing on the wall
Folk talk a lot about the things that bear upon our fate
As together they discuss the world’s affairs.
Some current and quite hot right now, which makes for sound debate.
Yet others find in history interest flares.
It is possible to gain a place and learn the lilting tongue
Which many singing opera tend to speak.
And believe me, there are some who feel at ease when being flung
Around the floor in circles week by week.
So the weeks fly by at Chisholm, where new hobbies are a breeze
And the U3A of Dandenong will prove,
By the growing lists and interest of people that they please,
The massive power of brain cells on the move.
Monica Allen started the first of the Craft groups with her Embroidery group. An early claim to fame for this group was the completion of the U3A Dandenong Display banner which was to be used in various ways at local festivals. Audrey Lennon was our representative on the local Australia Day Council, and through her involvement, the Walking group formed part of the annual Australia Day procession in Dandenong, with the banner proudly borne at its head. The group had a stall in the Dandenong Park, where advertising material was distributed. This event took place each year, hail rain or shine, and frequently it was rain, but the walking group soldiered on regardless. A change in the Australia Day policy on the part of the City of Greater Dandenong has meant that our group no longer has the opportunity to participate in this important festival. This is a great shame, because it was a great opportunity to advertise the group, and to hand out brochures to the general public.

It had become necessary to discontinue our computer classes at Lyndale High School. As computer classes were so popular at that time, something had to be done, as they were one of the organization’s main drawcards. Negotiations with Chisholm College had succeeded
in enabling the group to use the college computer laboratories for tuition purposes, which meant that our classes were all on campus. We were also able to install office computers which was a great advantage.

Perhaps this newsletter item from Office Manager Robyn Ridgeway will best illustrate the problems encountered in the move, and the problems of being housed on a large tertiary institute campus.

BEDLAM! THE OFFICE

Whew! The move was really traumatic with the loss of some volunteers. Fortunately, with the addition of so many new members others came along to fill the gaps. But, oh boy! They needed training. I had to find out first, didn’t I? Where is ‘H’ block?, who did I have to see? What do we do about mail?, where do the volunteers get the keys?, oh! This new telephone system... What the hell is this ‘AUDI’X’. Talk about head spinning.

Yes, the toilets are over in ‘T’ block but ladies and gents are in different places!! Can I get a sandwich somewhere? Yes, it’s over in ‘V’ block, just behind the student’s bookshop. Is there a place where I can have lunch? Yes, the cafeteria is down in ‘A’ block. Can I join the Library? Yes, it is on the first floor in ‘A’ block, why don’t you follow this map? I could do with the Melway’s reference. Does this give you some idea? Oh no! Not another call from the other side of the City — what do I tell them? But really, the new office is smashing. It has loads of room and with the tables and notice boards it has everything for the members. Don’t be shy, come into the office to see us. There is the problem of the tea/coffee. We just cannot have a sink. Do bring your own cup! My dishwasher is working overtime???? All these problems are sent to try us, but the change over has been good for us, perhaps it has shaken out some of the cobwebs? If you have problems please come and see us, we will help if we can.

Pat Bradley took up the position of Publicity Officer during this year as well. Pat proved herself to be a dedicated, untiring and able publicist for the group. Bernard Condect paid tribute to Pat Bradley in the March 1997 Newsletter, when he said ‘Pat has had more publicity in a few months than in over a year before.....Pat really is a dynamo, exuding energy all the time.’ Publicity was, and still is, a problem which required an innovative approach in order to get positive results.
In the year 2000 we lost our computer access at Chisholm College. Bernard Condick undertook to purchase new computers and networked them in our office area. Accommodation was cramped, but we were at least able to continue our classes.

Yes, once again accommodation was being a problem! We had expanded to the extent that we desperately needed extra space. After lengthy negotiations with the City of Greater Dandenong, we were fortunate enough to be offered the opportunity to share the Noble Park Senior Citizens Clubrooms in Leonard St, Noble Park. The first group to move were the computer classes. There was a disused storeroom at the Clubrooms, which we were permitted to transform into a computer room. The late Kevin MacIntyre painted the room before the move. It was a tight fit, and wheelchairs could not be accommodated, but we managed! With the availability of new premises, we could now expand our program. But there was quite a bit of work to do before we could fully occupy the premises. For one thing, the annexe to the clubrooms, while spacious and ideally suited to our purposes, was very shabby, dirty and rundown. Doors had to be repaired, floors cleaned, and the window drapes were in a disgusting condition. Dandenong office manager at the time, June Murphy, together with Pat Bradley, who was secretary, put their heads together and measured and obtained quotes for new vertical blinds for the building, which we installed at our own expense. Kevin MacIntyre used his formidable range of home handyman skills to good effect, and eventually the premises became quite habitable. On the other hand, because the building had previously fallen into disuse, there were a few local drunks who liked to use the locality at weekends and it was quite common to have to clear up beer cans and rubbish from the vicinity on Monday mornings.

There was a piano in the clubrooms at Noble Park, and Shirley Constantine decided that a choir/singing group would be a wonderful idea. This was partly in response to the fact that Joyce Ede and Bernard Condick were often to be heard singing duets in the office, as both had experience in performing with other groups. The group had its first class on 5th April, 2002. June Crowley gives us her recollections on the subject.

About twelve years ago, a member from the Dandenong U3A asked if I would help set up a group. We originally started with around 20 members meeting at the Noble Park Senior Citizens’ Hall, every Friday morning. This
was rather a challenge for me - to become a tutor running classes. It was quite different to what I was used to. There was just a piano and I was the only one to play it. This group was showing great promise and shaping up pretty well for future events. It wasn't long before we were out performing. One Friday in particular we all arrived at the hall to find there was no piano (it had been sold). There was nothing at the time to continue on. Shirley Constantine, who was president at that time, came to the rescue. With the help of one or two other members, off we went to buy a keyboard and public address speakers at the Cranbourne Music Centre. Poor Shirley struggled to find space in her car to fit the keyboards, stools, stands, amongst everything else. (Shirley had to remove the keyboard from its box to fit it in.) When the Paddy O'Donohue Centre was officially opened we transferred to the Buckley Street Hall for our classes. Someone outside the system told me of an unused grand piano which was in storage. Shirley approached the Council Officers and it was agreed that it should go to a community group. So we were very fortunate to have a 'new' piano after all our ups and downs. There is a saying 'All good things come to those who wait with patience'. (Editors' note: There is also a saying that the Lord helps those who help themselves.)

It was great to hear that some musicians were eager to join this U3A singing group. George was the first on his guitar, followed by Lester on bass. Louise joined the singing group as well as playing percussion instruments. Rob brought his guitar, and later changed to be our drummer. Bernard was introduced on his guitar. All are great musicians and have certainly built up our music department. Six regulars make a good team. Occasionally we have a saxophone player and sometimes Chris on vocals and guitar. We are all very grateful, and very fortunate to now own a synthesizer as well. Our sincere thanks go to the Dandenong U3A Committee for making this possible. I congratulate each and every member of our singing group and all the band members for their efforts, practice and hard work. We have been rather busy over the years with still more engagements to come. My experience with Dandenong U3A has been very interesting over the years, a good learning exercise with many challenges I can tell you, but certainly well worth while. Hopefully we will continue to grow together for as long as we can be together.

By this time another office had been set up at the Noble Park Senior Citizens’ Clubrooms to deal with the classes now meeting in that area. Betty Rigden became Office Manager at Noble Park, opening the office on limited hours only.

In late 2005 another accommodation and funding crisis had to be confronted. We were obliged to quit our accommodation at Chisholm Institute by the end of the year because of their rebuilding program. While we left the campus with many happy memories and feelings of gratitude, there was also a feeling of ‘not again’. At the beginning of 2006, classes which had been currently in operation at the Noble Park Senior Citizens’ Clubrooms were to be housed in the new Paddy O’Donoghue Community Centre. So
much for all the hard work installing new blinds and refurbishing the premises we were occupying. They had to be vacated! As for the classes which had been conducted at Chisholm, with the co-operation of the City of Greater Dandenong, arrangements were made to accommodate them at the Dandenong North Senior Citizens’ Clubrooms, The Latham Crescent Centre, and some at Dandenong Central Seniors’ Clubrooms in Langhorne Street, Dandenong. All of these facilities are occupied strictly under a Licence Agreement with the City of Greater Dandenong under a definite timetable. Adherence to the timetable is necessary because we share these premises with other user groups. These changes were, and continue to be a challenge. For the first time in our existence, we faced losing touch with our various members. Instead of having a central office in Dandenong, we were now to be served only by the office in Noble Park. The disadvantage of this lies in the fact that many of our members no longer drive, or have limited licences, so very seldom would get to Noble Park. This fact has affected membership growth overwhelmingly – more than any other factor. Organization of special events and group outings is much harder, as we seldom have large numbers of members under the same roof at the same time. In spite of these disadvantages, we continue to do our best under the circumstances.
Hilarity in the History Class

Advanced Photography Class - Early days

U3A A.G.M. and Art & Craft Show ~ 2010
CHAPTER TWO

U3A

I now belong to the Third Age -
Do you know what that means?
Did I pass through the Second Age
Or was it just a dream?
But now, whatever age I’m at
I belong to a University.
I can participate in activities
With plenty of diversity.
I can work on a computer
And let my fingers do the walking.
Or join the class of Current Affairs
and take part in lots of talking.
I can give my brain a workout
Reviving knowledge of the past,
With Social Studies and History,
‘Cos time - it moves so fast!
I can exercise feet and fingers
With dancing, craft, or art,
Though not as agile as I was
I can certainly take part.
There’s also Scrabble and X-word puzzles
And if I don’t solve all of them
I’ll keep trying just the same.
I mix with friends and socialize,
It gives life meaning without a doubt,
The world that was - the world that is,
It’s all worth knowing about.

Audrey Lennon

2004 was a big year for U3A Dandenong. This was partly because we were planning to celebrate our tenth anniversary, and partly because it was a year absolutely filled with important activities. Over the Christmas break there was ‘no rest for the wicked’ as we were heavily involved in organizing the U3A Regional Concert that was held on Sunday 21st March at Springvale Town Hall, as part of the Victoria Seniors’ Festival. Musical director June Crowley did a magnificent job of training our choir and co-ordinating and organising the other participating groups. Terry Norris agreed to
compere the show, which included the participation of U3A Casey and U3A Frankston Choirs. The concert itself was a great success and was enjoyed by about 700 people.

On Monday 28th June we held a celebratory luncheon at the Noble Park Football Clubrooms with Brendan Scott providing the entertainment. The function was well patronised and a great success. Max Oldmeadow was guest of honour, and U3A Network representatives were in attendance. Clare O’Neill (in 2013 elected to parliament) was the incumbent Mayor of Dandenong and also attended. Patrons at the luncheon were provided with souvenir place mats, and Bernard Condect gave his reminiscences of our early days. We also organized a U3A Dandenong calendar as a special tenth anniversary souvenir, and sold them for the cost of production.

By year’s end we were also preparing to participate in the “Not Strictly Ballroom” concert organised by U3A Network Victoria on 16th March, 2005 at the Melbourne Town Hall. Conny Brandt represented us on the planning committee and our Circle Dancing Group and Line Dancers were performing. While it was very gratifying to see our own dancers perform, some U3As had ballroom dancing, which was all the inspiration I needed to start a campaign to get a ballroom dancing group started at Dandenong. After a few months the late Peter Yates was co-opted to lead the group and it was very successful for quite a while. Couples who joined became firm friends and began attending regular dances at weekends. Unfortunately Peter’s health became a problem and with nobody prepared to lead the group it fell into disuse and became part of our
history. All this was taking place as we prepared to move into our new office at Noble Park.

BALLROOM DANCING

We started New Vogue Dancing
‘Cause we thought it would be neat,
To trip the light fantastic,
(Sometimes with two left feet).
Now we know several dances,
And we go to ‘Country Hops’
But wake up Sunday morning
Almost too pooped to pop.
Our exciting transformation
Is thanks to Peter and Lorraine
Whose teaching skills and knowledge
Lift Monday out of the mundane.

Elizabeth Gurney.

Unfortunately, the new building was running behind schedule and because of a degree of uncertainty regarding availability for occupation, Chisholm Institute kindly agreed to allow our office to remain open until March. But in the March 2006 issue of the U3A Dandenong Informer carried the following paragraph:

This month U3A Dandenong began a new chapter in its existence, as we moved out of Chisholm College, our home for so long. Our office is now at the Paddy O’Donoghue Centre in Buckley Street, Noble Park. The changeover has not come without problems, but these problems have been addressed and solved by the most wonderful band of helpers one could ever wish to find. Large, fragrant bouquets go to our Office Managers, June Murphy and Betty Rigden, together with a whole army of willing workers. These people have spent many hours over the Christmas break packing, sorting, discarding, organizing and moving our equipment, archival material, and assorted necessary items. The best part about it is that it has all been accomplished with a minimum of fuss, zero displays of temperament, willingly and cheerfully. Family members helped by transferring the large photocopier to its new home at Noble Park. Storage of some of our equipment has presented a problem, but various people have volunteered to warehouse items until a better solution can be found.
Storage was, and is, a huge issue at the Paddy O’Donogue Centre. Cupboard space is strictly limited and must be shared between the various community organizations which also use the centre. As our music and karaoke groups have now accumulated a variety of equipment, sometimes it is a tight fit indeed. We have learned to be completely ruthless when it comes to disposing of unwanted bric-a-brac.

During 2007 we had the opportunity of participating in an occasion of cultural exchange. One of our passionate supporters, Roz Blades was visiting Dandenong’s sister city in China and we took the opportunity to send with her an Australian themed quilt made by our handcrafts people. In return we received a silk scroll painting which is on display in the office in Noble Park.

One huge advantage has been the provision of a dedicated computer laboratory. Originally it was planned that the computers would be shared with other community groups. Timetables were constructed accordingly. At the moment, Dandenong U3A are the sole user group, but this is subject to change. Nevertheless, having a purpose-built computer room, well-lit, spacious, air-conditioned, and equipped with computers for our use was a great boon after the cramped conditions previously endured rather than enjoyed. When Bernard Condect retired from the computer group, leadership was assumed by Bill Cooney assisted by Helga Grothe and other tutors. When U3A Dandenong was first formed, computer classes were a huge drawcard. Twenty years ago computers were, for the older generation, mostly a huge mystery which many were eager to explore, if only to keep pace with their children and grandchildren. Consequently, there were long waiting lists for most of the classes. But as time has gone on, more and more people are already familiar with computing when they retire from employment, so the demand for classes has lessened. As the council had not modernized their computers, we found that part of the fall in demand was due to the new computers with much later
programs installed, the differences in equipment was too great. Consequently, we purchased some laptops so that we could teach Windows 7 and now later programs under the leadership of Jan Weiner. Jan is busily overhauling our computer classes to bring them into the modern era, and to help people come to grips with their various electronic devices.

In 2008 we were finally faced with the fact that, owing to proposed re-development of the site, Robin Mackay Hall at Chisholm Institute was no longer available for our five day Art Show and AGM. After searching for suitable alternatives, we were fortunate to be able to hold the show and meeting at Noble Park Secondary College, free of charge. But unfortunately, the venue proved to be quite difficult for people to find and attendance was very poor. Volunteers had to attend daily because of security considerations, but their efforts seemed to be all in vain. We were now faced with reality – we had to pay for a venue – so the best alternative was the Public Hall at Paddy O’Donoghue Centre. It had the advantage of being central, but the disadvantage was the cost, so the decision was made to limit the Art Show to one day only. This decision was not altogether popular with our artists and craftspeople, who felt that the work of mounting the exhibition for only one day was not justified. But economic reality has to prevail. The best part is that attendance is much better, and the venue is very convenient.

Sometime previously, Vice-President Kevin McIntyre had suggested that each year there should be some recognition of an individual who might have gone beyond the bounds of duty and been especially helpful, with the award to be called the President’s Backbone Award. When Kevin died in 2009, it was decided to re-name the award in his honour. Jim Archibald received the first Kevin McIntyre award at the AGM of that year. It continues to be awarded to a carefully chosen individual each year.

In 2009 the Dandenong Agricultural Society agreed to the establishment of a U3A Section at the Dandenong Show. This was a great opportunity to showcase our Arts and Crafts to a wider audience. The Dandenong Show is quite a significant two day event which draws quite a lot of interest. Over the years since the inception of U3A in Dandenong our art community have regularly won prizes and over the previous three years, 2011 to 2013 inclusive, one can only say that we wiped the floor with the rest of the local art community. Barbara Walker and her small band of helpers man the stall and conduct demonstrations, while also handing out colour brochures advertising our organization. John de Blauw, our most talented and prolific artist of long-standing,
undertook to show the public how an oil painting is created and drew quite a lot of interest. John has regularly donated one of his beautiful paintings to be raffled at the annual AGM — the winners are all most appreciative of the quality of his work. Also in 2009 Noble Park held its Centenary Celebrations. Shirley Constantine represented the group on the steering committee, and the group participated in the street procession, and several attended the Anniversary Ball. We also currently run a very active and popular Karaoke group on Friday afternoons. This is open to a public audience, if they are interested. Rob Wood, who convenes the group with his wife Louise, was nominated this year for a Noble Park Citizen Award. Altogether, we have made every effort to make our presence felt in the community and to prove that age is no deterrent to both mental and physical activity.

In some ways, 2010 was the end of an era. Jim Archibald, who had joined the committee in 2008, and had metaphorically cut his teeth on the intricacies of being a Risk Management Officer, became President, while long-standing president of fifteen years Shirley Constantine stood down, in the belief that fresh ideas and energy would only be beneficial to U3A Dandenong. This has been proven to be the right move. Every organization needs a succession plan if it is to be able to continue into the future.

This book is intended to be very much ‘a people’s history’ — it is not intended to be a formal document. It is hoped that this tactic will succeed best in conveying the warmth, human nature and the interests of the members of U3A Dandenong.
CHAPTER THREE

A SELECTION OF NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
In this section, a selection of first-hand experiences, as presented in the quarterly newsletter, will illustrate better than anything the flavour of some our U3A experiences. It also serves as a ‘through the looking-glass’ peep at the past. Some of the contributors have now passed on and we remember them with affection.

‘OUT AND ABOUT’ – September 1996
On Tuesday the 3rd September, we went on a ‘Heritage Tour’ of Melbourne ‘Block Arcade’, conducted by National Trust Volunteer, Beth Jackson. Undaunted by the miserable wet weather, most of us went by rail and travelled cheaply. The $2.00, 60+ ticket is really good value! The cost of the Tour, including Devonshire Tea at the Hopetown Tea Rooms, was only $5.00, so we all enjoyed a very interesting afternoon at bargain basement prices. Block Arcade, we were to discover, has a fascinating history, almost as old as the City of Melbourne. And of course, its other distinguishing feature is the beautiful and enduring architecture, lovingly restored during the last 10 years. The lovely banister rails on the stair case were hand crafted and the work in making the bends and twists was unbelievable. We were amazed at the scope of the information Beth was able to impart to us, and enjoyed the collection of historic photographs and newspapers in the auditorium which has been set up for the use of tour groups. The building seemed to be a warren of passage-ways, rooms and offices, all timberwork ornately carved and embellished, and the original stained glass windows carefully restored. But this important part of our building heritage is, unlike many historic buildings, in full and productive use. The shops in the arcade are elegant and interesting and the offices are occupied. Altogether a really worthwhile outing, suggested and organised by Pauline Collins, which also allowed us to have a little fun.

HAPPY RETIREMENT – Renee Hudson – December 1996
When all you’re looking forward to
Is arthritis and new dentures,
Life doesn’t have to be like that
It’s full of new adventures.
For now at last you have the time
To do the things you like
To go for walks and smell the flowers
Or even ride a bike!
With things to learn and books to read
The mind is always active
New groups to join and friends to make
The future looks attractive.
Those recipes you’ve put aside
Can now claim your attention
Unfinished projects gathering dust
Or perhaps some new invention
There’s always something new learn,
So put aside your fears
Don’t think you reached your ‘use-by date’,
You could have many years.

THE DAY U3A DANDENONG WENT TO AIR - Pat Bradley – September 1997

The building had a huge sign ‘Southern FM 88.3’ above the door so we knew we were in the right place, but where was the red carpet? Shirley even had to open the door herself and we entered a rather untidy foyer with a few empty boxes lying around, a young couple smoking, and a door leading to a housing department, definitely not FM radio. There was nowhere to go but up, and as we ascended the stairs we found ourselves in another foyer, and yes, here was a reception desk, but the chair was empty. It was a minute to one, no time to lose, so we followed the distant sound of music that wafted along the dingy corridor, passed the toilets and a cluttered kitchen, and eventually found a waiting room that definitely had more class than the rest of the building. The studios were glassed off from this area so we could see the announcer and people being interviewed. We sank down into the vinyl armchairs and waited for our turn to go on air at 1.40 p.m. The Mayor of Dandenong was doing his bit at the microphone, his voice being broadcast out to the surrounding areas – he sounded quite at ease, well, he should be, he does this sort of thing all the time, but this was our first. Shirley was calm and at ease (not so, she is just better at hiding her nerves), whilst I wasn’t too nervous as I wasn’t going to say anything – Shirley was to do all the talking. I was only the organizer coming along for company, to act as chauffeur and to see how a radio studio is run.

Suddenly it was 1.39 p.m, the preceding performers were coming out and we were invited in to the studio. I made sure Shirley sat at the mike. I sat on a spare chair but the announcer pushed another microphone along with instructions to speak close to it. I don’t know why they gave me one, I wasn’t going to speak, remember.
The interview commenced straight away with Beige Pureau from Dandenong Community Services Department asking the pre-arranged questions and Shirley speaking so clearly and concisely, she knew her subject – How U3A started, What we did, Where we met, Who supported us. Then she threw the spanner in the works. “Tell them what you enjoy most about U3A Pat”. My brain went into reverse, my throat constricted – they were waiting.... I blurted out something about the subjects I attended, but it didn’t sound like me – my brain had sort of come dismembered from my voice. Then I was saved from further embarrassment as Beige directed another question at Shirley. I sank back into my chair, trying to hide behind the monstrous little mike so they wouldn’t notice me again. But Shirley, not wanting to appear selfish and hog all the limelight, pointed out to the listeners that I was Publicity Officer for Dandenong U3A and asked me what I did in that capacity. This time my brain completely went into space, thoughts and words would not synchronise and some incoherent mutterings emerged. The elderly announcer grasped his head and looked at me with abject despair. How could a person who could previously speak quite intelligently, be struck dumb when confronted by a little fuzzy microphone, a harmless piece of metal, a few wires with a foam rubber cover. Once again, Shirley took control of the situation and continued on with such self-assurance that everyone listening would have gained a very clear idea of what Dandenong U3A was all about. Thanks Shirley, you did us proud. Now I’m working on my next idea – a video promotion – and I’m definitely not going to be in it!

VISIT TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE – Bernard Condect – November 1997
As usual we were with Vicky and Herbie (Lamble Tours) and again a problem with one member not arriving! Waiting until 9 o’clock, well we tried! Now we’re off. Vicky was taking bets on whether we would encounter another breakdown at the lights at the bottom of Cleeland Street – was it to be third time unlucky? The simple answer was no, and the journey was to continue uneventfully until we reached Government House, albeit that Herbie did have some problems negotiating some of the corners. The ride through Chapel Street was interesting with Vicky doing a wonderful commentary on some of the ‘designer emporiums’, especially as we moved into South Yarra! Now we were here! Out came the tea and coffee with the obligatory fruit cake and look, the weather was just about to become perfect, just as Pauline had said. She has connections with the bureau don’t you know. Here we were having this lovely drink with cake in the sunshine with the original Governor’s residence, imported from England by La Trobe himself when he arrived, in the background. I must say it looked a little like my ‘dunny in the back yard’ where I live! We are so near to the lovely
botanic gardens and the so-called ‘Garden Shop’. Suitably refreshed we were now ready to take the tour through the Government House that replaced the old La Trobe cottage.... A warning! We were not allowed to walk on the lovely turf of the fountain lawn beside the ballroom. We could see the tower above glistening in the sunshine. We were told all about the designer architect in the style of Italian Renaissance. ....At last we were in the ante-room having learned that there were in fact three entrances, one of which was private where they ‘snuck in’ when no one was looking. A sort of Princess Diana entrance....

By this time we are ready for the picnic lunch on the lawn outside the old Governor’s Residence. Now we are in for a real treat! Vicky had started dishing out the lunch boxes. Well, they were so full of goodies it was unbelievable ... I’m off for a walk through the gardens. Last time I was there my daughter was so interested in the flying foxes I thought I would like to see them myself again. What luck, they had been disturbed by a chain saw and were flying all over ... Down to the lake to watch the black swans and the eels ... Back on the coach for the trip around Albert Park. Tried to get Herbie to emulate the Grand Prix, vroom, vroom, but the coach would not go. Many of the members were quite warm by now and Shirley had this brilliant idea. Why not talk to Herbie, we could go through the drive-in at Macdonald’s for ice cream ... Well, we could not get the coach through the drive-in, but Herbie still had a way, we could stop right outside while someone ran in and ordered the 30 ice creams. Out came the calculator but with the money collected we could only get 29 2/3 ice creams, funny that? At last back to the Oasis after a really wonderful day out which was really educating.

AMBUSH AT CARDINIA – Pat Bradley – June 1998

A dozen uniformed police, fully armed, crouched low behind the bushes. Voices came statically over the walkie talkies. “Keep down”, warned the sergeant. “Be careful, he has a gun”. A policeman, binoculars focused on an area across the clearing, penetrating into the distant bush, reported in a whisper, “I see him – over at the base of the wall – skirt around the clearing – he’ll shoot at anything that moves.”

As the police stealthily crept forward, they were flabbergasted when our boisterous group of U3A walkers burst out of the thick scrub. Our walking track had petered out and we had been following a zigzag line of orange streamers which we thought somebody had kindly tied to the trees just for us.

What a shock both groups got when they saw each other! The police sergeant held
his head in disbelief (and probably said “Oh bother”) as one after the other of the Wednesday Walkers emerged from the bush right into the line of fire between the police and the fugitive. Yes! Trust us to walk slap bang into the middle of a police training exercise.

The sergeant asked us to be quiet and keep behind them. He then motioned to us to scramble up a steep bank at the side of them to get out of the way. On seeing these big, handsome, young policeman, some of our very fit “golden oldie ladies” suddenly became weak and frail so one of the young Blue Heelers came over to give us a helping hand. Oh! There’s never a dull moment with the Wednesday Walkers.

(Fact, with a liberal lacing of literary licentiousness.)

**DROMKEEN AND CLARKEFIELD HOTEL** – Kevin MacIntyre – November 1998

The much lauded and internationally recognised Dromkeen Museum of Children’s Literature was established some 25 years ago at Riddells Creek, to celebrate, collect and encourage the work of writers and artists illustrating children’s books. The building itself, over a century old, and typically for the period, is of timber, was originally the home, in spacious grounds, of a Judge who was a contemporary of fellow Judge Redmond Barry. In line with common practice of the times, the grounds were cleared and replanted with exotic trees. Those native trees in the grounds today appear to be quite recent plantings. Could it be that the appearance of native trees roughly coincided with the demise of Fox and Hounds events in the area?

No doubt peacocks would have been introduced to enhance the newly created grounds, and fittingly, still complement the exotic flora today. Immediately apparent is that children’s books today reflect life and issues as seen and experienced by many of their readers today. Winnie the Pooh, Wind in the Willows and improbably beautiful people have not been displaced altogether, but have had to move over to make room so that single parenting, homelessness, senility and so on can be dealt with. Today the Dromkeen Dragons Club encourages kids in further reading and also in writing their own work. The Dragons reminds me very much of the literary encouragement proved by the ABC radio programme the Argonauts in the Forties. All of it good stuff!

Lunch at the nearby ‘Coach and Horses’ historic hotel was anticipated as the minor part of this coach trip. This was not to be. The hotel building and its stables are of bluestone, and are a monument to the skills of quarrymen, masons and building tradesmen of gold rush times. We can only wonder at the column of money obviously
available in the colony—and the confidence to invest it in such elegant, impressive and enduring buildings. Some of us knew vaguely that the hotel had a resident ghost. The publican enthralled us with his account of past murders, appearance of the ghost in the 'Murder Room' and stairway, sounds of a girl crying coming from the well and the tale of two crooked policemen killing and robbing a guest of his gold. A stirring and intriguing story that could not fail to get you in. I liked the comment of fellow coach tripper, Gene, from Kansas. "You find yourself listening and want to believe it all." He's right isn't he? In no way was this hotel a minor experience. We were further entertained by the sight of a TV film crew setting up to film an episode of the 'Blue Heelers' series. No doubt many of this will watch this show to see if we can recognise the location. A first class and well filled day out!

**Potatoes – Paddock to Plate – November 1999 – Marjory Holt**

On Wednesday 29th September, some forty U3A folk boarded Herbie and Vicki Lamble's coach for a trip to Gippsland. The first stop was at the Robert Gordon Pottery in Pakenham. As the information posted on the walls indicated, the establishment has grown rapidly in the few years since its opening by Robert Gordon, a fact that is not surprising when one sees the beautiful work that has been produced. Hundreds of expertly crafted and beautifully coloured ornaments and household crockery items of all varieties lined metres of shelves. A shop was available for the purchase of pristine articles or seconds at reduced prices. We were divided into two groups and taken on a tour of the factory, to see the work of crafting and colouring the items in its various stages. Customers could buy plain articles and paint them for themselves. A group of children on school holidays were doing this.

After morning tea, provided by Vicki, we went on to Trafalgar. At the Trafalgar Hotel we were met by our hostess – Mrs Val 'Spud' Murphy, and treated to a luncheon of filled, baked potatoes and salad. Mrs Murphy demonstrated the preparation of our sweets – chocolate balls, made of potatoes and coconut. Recipe books were available for sale.

Back in the coach we went, sometimes along unmade country roads, through the hills above Trafalgar where, in the cultivated rich red-brown soil, acres and acres of potato crops will emerge when the season comes round. In the grassy areas were sheep, their wool pinkish from the colour of the soil. At one stage we reached the top of a hill from where there was a widespread view of Gippsland, including the Latrobe Valley, with its power stations and pondages. We then went down to the Murphy farm and
stopped at their residence. Here we were introduced to the pet emu, the singing dog, and the sheep that eats potatoes. There were potatoes for sale, and we were treated to home-made potato ice cream. As we lined up on the veranda to have our photo taken, it started to rain. This had been promised for the day, but we had been fortunate to miss it. Our final stop was in Thorpdale, where delicious potato bread was on sale at the bakery, and souvenirs, such as fridge magnets, at a corner shop. Thorpdale is a neat, well-kept township, with the upkeep of some of its facilities, such as the community centre, being partly enhanced from the proceeds from ‘Potatoes – Paddock to Plate’ visits.

PUBLICITY WITH PAT – June 2000 – Trip to Tidal River
What a wonderful three days of glorious weather we had down at Tidal River in the 24 bunk group lodge. Nancy and Cyril got there first and put the urn on so it was lovely to have a cuppa as we arrived. Everybody helped unload and unpack and we had plenty of time to do the boardwalk and also a beach walk before it got dark. After dinner, Audrey (Goldburg) had us all out looking at the star constellations as she had attended Astronomy that morning and had the up-to-date star charts. We also had a lot of fun and brain tickling doing word puzzles and cryptic crosswords. And so to bed, and I didn’t hear of anyone falling out of the top bunks. (They’d probably tied themselves in!)

Tuesday we set off across Normal Bay beach walking along the track to Oberon Bay, and turning back when we had reached our limit. Only 7 of us went the whole way, and I should have had more sense and my knee started playing up when we reached our destination. I wished I could have got a lift back on the ranger’s motorbike. Ethel and Ann were much more sensible. While strolling along the river, they saw some school children in canoes and cheekily asked the teacher if they could have a go. ‘Help yourself’ was the reply, so imagine the surprise when Dorothy and Betty saw our two elegant ladies paddling up the river, though I was told their technique was quite unusual. We had a lovely BBQ and afternoon thanks to Pierre and Lindy and all their helpers. Then as I stood looking at the greasy grill plate contemplating how best to tackle cleaning it, Ethel came to the rescue with detergent in a pot of hot water and a bit of elbow grease. If anyone would like their ovens cleaned, just give Ethel a ring. Some people have never had enough, and at 4 o’clock a small group of our members set off for the steep walk up to Mount Oberon. They were rewarded with a memorable sunset and then had to scamper down before it got dark. We couldn’t eat much tea and in the evening we were entertained by Gloria with some of her poems. It was just
fantastic that 24 members of U3A could live in such close proximity to each other and get on so well. Everyone did the dishes, wiped the tables, emptied the rubbish, hung up the towels and did all the little chores that needed doing. It was just one big happy family. Wednesday came too soon and it was time to pack up, but not before 18 of us trooped over to Squeaky Beach and jumped in the sand. Ethel and Ann offered to clean up whilst we were gone and did such a superb job there was no trouble getting the bond back. We adjourned to the day carpark for a final picnic lunch and even then people did not want to go home so many of us sidetracked to Waratah Bay for one last beach walk. Tidal River is such a beautiful place, once you have been there, you feel it calling you back, so maybe we'll do it all again next year.

**TRIP TO RUPERTSWOOD – 27/4/2000 – Dorothy Hall**

What a great start of a very enjoyable day! – the weather was fine and sunny (as specially ordered by our revered President, Shirley) – we had a full coach of happy U3A members who were all punctual for the 8.45 a.m. departure with our incomparable tour hosts, Vickie and Herbie Lamble. Extra excitement this morning as we were heading for the newly-opened Domain tunnel for the first time for most of us. We were duly impressed by this engineering marvel under the Yarra, which ensured a dream run on the ‘City Link’ and in fact we found ourselves adjacent to the airport 40 minutes after leaving Dandenong! The morning tea stop was at the Sunbury historic courthouse, now the visitors’ centre, where colourful murals and the old bluestone jail provided good photo opportunities. As our lunch at Sunbury Bowling Club wouldn’t be available until after 1 p.m., Vickie urged us to fill up with her scrumptious cakes and quiche to keep away the hunger pangs. Needless to say, full justice was done to her culinary efforts. And so on to the mansion of Rupertswood where we were welcomed by our tour guide Tony, on behalf of the Rupertswood Restoration Society. He proved to be a most articulate guide and really made all the history come to life for us. Tony explained that Rupertswood was built in 1874, in the Italianate style, by Sir William Clarke, but the original huge tract of land was bought by Sir William’s father, William John (Big) Clarke. The reason for his nickname we can only speculate on in view of his reputation as a ladies’ man, whose amorous exploits were legendary. In complete contrast however, his son – Sir William – was a model of rectitude, a devoted husband and family man, highly respected by all. In fact Queen Victoria was so impressed by this colonial gentleman that he was created Baronet of Rupertswood, a hereditary title, the first ever bestowed on an Australian. Although Rupertswood has been a school since 1929 and many of the fine marble fireplaces were sold because of hard economic times, some of the main rooms and
furnishings have been preserved and others are being refurbished. It was very interesting to see all the Clarke family memorabilia, including photographs of Rupertswood’s Horse Artillery Battery which featured in ceremonial occasions both here and in England and Ireland. The tradition is still being kept up today by students from the Salesian College, Rupertswood. The beautiful stained glass windows were much admired and photographed by our many camera enthusiasts.

Rupertswood holds a place in the great sporting rivalry between Australia and England, as it was on the cricket field of Rupertswood that the ‘ashes’ were created. Over the Christmas of 1882 eight amateur members of the English touring side were house guests of the Clarkes, and Sir William organized a social hit-out between the English team and his guests, with the English team proving victorious. Janet, Lady Clarke, burnt a bail, the ashes of which she placed in a small urn and presented the English captain. The urn was eventually given to the Marylebone Cricket Club in London, where it stays, whoever wins the Ashes. History makes you hungry folks, so we all tucked into a good feed at the Sunbury Bowling Club, where some of us played the pokies before our departure. We had a good trip home despite having no tunnel available to avoid the city traffic.

**Barunah Plains Sheep Station Tour** – December 2000 - Patricia Webster

With the forecast being for cold and rainy weather 40 members boarded the coach at 8.30 a.m. with warm coats and brollies. Herbie, our coach driver and his wife Vickie, as hostess, welcomed us aboard as we travelled to Werribee, stopping there for a welcome cup of tea, homemade quiche, cake and biscuits and a stretch of the legs. No rain so far, Shirley explaining “Rain doesn’t fall further than the ground anyway”. A slight mis-direction leaving Werribee found Herbie turning the coach around, back to the bridge, and onto Geelong road. On reaching Geelong (my childhood home) we joined Aberdeen Street, passing my old home and primary school, then down
Deviation Road with a wonderful view of Queen’s Park in the valley where the Moorabool river joins the Barwon. At this point Edith’s platypus seemed to be the topic of conversation. Travelling along the Hamilton Highway we passed through the township of Inverleigh and 15 km later we arrived at Barunah Plains sheep station, where we were welcomed by Graham Mills. On retirement in 1978 he thought farm life would be a good idea for him and his three sons so bought the property with a 150 square, 33 room broken down homestead set in the bend of the Warrumbine (Long Water Home) Creek. The land was originally owned by the Austins in the 1840s, who sold to the Russell family, then came the Mills in 1978. The 150 year old estate was once the largest sheep station in the state with 54,000 acres grazing 50,000 of Victoria’s most prized merino sheep. Since the decline in wool sales, Graham and one son now graze 10,000 sheep on 3500 acres and have 600 acres in crop. Many of the buildings, including the homestead, are built of blue stone blocks. Stonemasons took one day to shape one block from the rocks quarried from the property. Ten miles of dry walls were also built from the rocks, being four feet wide at the base narrowing to one rock width at the top with no spaces between the rocks. After a tour of the wool shed and shearers’ quarters we were treated to a great barbecue lunch by Vickie and Herbie. With full tummies we rejoined Graham at the homestead for a guided tour around the three hectare garden which is officially recognised as one of Victoria’s significant historic gardens. The garden with all its beautiful old trees was great to see, as when the property was first settled by the Russell family there were no trees at all in the area. At the bottom of the garden was a pond in which there are 30-40 platypuses. I didn’t see any although Edith was sure she did. The homestead itself has been painstakingly restored over the past 22 years to the magnificent old country house it once was. Where the tradesmen were unable to restore they rebuilt, reproducing from old photographs and remnants the beautiful wall panelling, ceiling rosettes and cedar wood carvings. Graham and his wife, Joan, live in the homestead. The many buildings, eg shearer’s quarters, implement shed, store manager’s residence and the ram shed, have been updated with modern equipment, and are mostly constructed of blue stone. Three of the buildings are available for holiday rental and on-site entertainment is provided, such as a 10-hole golf course, billiards, table tennis, bird and platypus watching and plenty of walks. We travelled back through Geelong to Queenscliff where we boarded the ferry for a smooth crossing of the bay to Sorrento for the journey home.

GOLDFIELDS TOUR – 1st to 3rd October 2002 -  R. Campbell – U3A Dandenong
On day one our coach arrived on time for pickups at the various places nominated. Our only problem was the traffic buildup inwards to Melbourne. We took Dandenong
Road, but time was going faster than our rate of progress. Herbie was diverted to Monash Freeway at Warrigal Road, but the Freeway (ex ‘South Eastern Parkway’) was living up to its famous past at peak hour traffic time. We finally cleared the Burnley Tunnel, ending up about an hour late for Castlemaine. There was a quick stop at Pennyweight Flats Cemetery where we were able to see some of the graves of over 200 children buried there during the goldrush days of Castlemaine, bringing to mind the terribly primitive conditions the early settlers must have endured. After a morning cuppa at the Castlemaine Market Garden Park we carried on to have a look at the historic home and garden of Buda. Back to the park for lunch (an excellent BBQ provided by Vickie and Herbie) then on to Castlemaine Historic Prison for a tour of the old Gaol. It has been converted to cater for conventions, weddings and social events, with accommodation as required. On to Maryborough for our first of two nights’ accommodation. Lovely evening meal at the Park Hotel where some of us met up with some folks from the local U3A. Day one was an excellent, interesting day. The tour guides were very good, and Vickie and Herbie wonderful.

Day two, and we were off to Ararat, the rural city founded by the Chinese gold miners on their walk from Robe in South Australia, to avoid the poll tax applied by the then Victorian Government in those gold rush days. (Hey, they now tax us to leave the country. Nothing new, is there?) We took a little deviation at Elmhurst to visit a craft shop that our tour guide (Bob Osborne, Shirley’s brother and President of Probus) knew of. There were many beautiful items, well laid out and presented with excellent service by staff. We had to drag people out for the morning tea break prior to departing for Ararat. On arrival we proceeded directly to the Sun Gum San Chinese Historic Centre. Here one can see an excellent display of goldrush memorabilia, including a section for panning for gold (you were allowed to keep the gold if you found any) and a Chinese calligraphy display. For those interested – their tourist shop has all the necessaries for brush calligraphy. From there to a tour of J Ward Old Gaol (used for the criminally insane in its latter years) and midday meal of ‘prison fare’ before the tour of Ararat, finally returning to Maryborough for the evening meal at the Maryborough Highland Society building.

We commenced day three with a town tour of Maryborough. First we visited the old Railway Station, reported to have the longest platform in Australia, and is now a large ‘permanent flea market’. This is another excellent example of upgrading and change of business for the tourist industry. From there to Bovalino Pine Furniture and Timbers, situated in what was the old Maryborough Flour Mill, another good example
of change of business. Their products are very good, using the best of Australian timbers for high quality items. This big kid at heart did not get to the Honey Bear Shed at the next stop, as there is another shed there that has old gramophones, phonographs, radios, records, model trains and track layouts. A fabulous place to visit if you are interested in the hobbies and antiques mentioned. (And Wilma said the Honey Bear Shed was also fabulous.) Our day three tour ended with lunch at the Tipperary Hill Estate Winery, where the production of red wines is the purpose. As I do not like the reds, I will make no comment. It was a very good lunch, finished with a history talk of the estate. A reasonably tired, but happy tour group climbed back on to the bus to return to Melbourne ...

To all the people on the tour – What an excellent group to undertake a trip with. When is the next one?
CHAPTER FOUR

This section details the personal experiences of many of our members, who willingly responded to my request for stories. It also contains some testaments which may be a few years old, but the sentiments are still as relevant as when they were written. Doreen Lawson, for example, is now sight impaired and a carer. There is no doubt that the stories easily demonstrate the social and physical benefits of U3A – and its role in Positive Ageing.

WHY DID I JOIN U3A? - Doreen Lawson

When U3A started it sounded like a great idea to fill in a few hours a week, so I was one of the early starters in the old Potter Street rooms. I decided to do subjects that I was totally useless at, so that meant Calligraphy to start with. Now I spent two years trying to master this skill, with poor to miserable results, but Clarrie never gave up on me. Although I was never the class star, Clarrie encouraged and tempted me with the urge to be creative and 'go for it', and from then on I was hooked. Since then I have been in many classes, and would be in all of them if time permitted. All my tutors have helped my path through U3A and given me terrific help and guidance and I can’t thank them enough – especially Pat Stone. With varying degrees of success I have learnt Calligraphy, Drawing, Australian History, American History, Ancient History, Meditation, Many Faiths, Computer Studies, Painting with Pat, Interesting People, and now Italian.

What does U3A mean to me? A secure and safe place to explore all the things I never seemed to have time for in my working life, and also a place to make strong and lasting friendships. The bonding I experience is something unique to U3A, and everyone cares for and helps fellow members. My few hours have grown to many spent happily at U3A and I never have to wonder how I will fill my days with my busy schedule. Every day is another door opening and I love it all. And that I why I’m still here and can’t wait for my next class.

THE CALLIGRAPHy CLASS - Ron Gurney

Members of Dandenong U3A were first able to try their hand at Calligraphy, when Clarrie Cantrell introduced a teaching method in 1994. Clarrie delved into the history of writing and produced a series of alphabet styles, going back to Roman times. Being a member of the Calligraphy Society of Victoria aided his quest for accuracy. He produced 14 styles of lettering for members to try, also instructions on page layout, borders and line endings. He gave instructions on his first layout page on how to use
the broad nib pen. If held correctly, the broad nib pen could produce wide and narrow lines. He was insistent that the individual letters should be formed correctly before moving on to the next letter or style, as anyone who attended one of his classes will testify.

He ran the Calligraphy classes, and yearly exhibition of the work being produced, for over 7 years. He moved away to Queensland where today he is helping out with a Seniors’ group. The calligraphy class continued from 2001 with Ron Gurney as tutor, also a member of the Calligraphy Society of Victoria. Before he could take over, he had a few months in which to produce, to Clarrie’s standard, a freehand pen written copy of all Clarrie’s alphabet styles, with the broad nib pen. On completing the task to his satisfaction, he was allowed to use Clarrie’s teaching method. He undertook Clarrie’s work of updating Art Show boards and produced large notices as required. He added 4 new alphabet styles, and filled in names on various certificates. The class numbers grew to a high of 24 over the 12 years Ron ran the class, before he too, laid down his pen.

**PAT STONE’S STORY – 2013**

My own story for Dandenong U3A starts off like this; when our Shirley Constantine visited Casey U3A many years ago, she came to look at my Art class. Then she asked me if I would consider teaching U3A at Wallara as they needed a painting group. I said “I am not a real teacher. I would have a cheek to try and tell anyone what to do!” But I said I would give a six week block of lessons, until I would find
someone from the Dandenong Art Club who would be able to arrange to teach painting. Yes, that is how it started off! So Wallara progressed to the TAFE, and now to our present location at Endeavour Hills. Quite a long six weeks. I have had great pleasure meeting new friends, have been really proud of the beautiful paintings produced by my class, and I have been inspired by the way in which U3A members all become friends who understand each other, and form caring and strong relationships. Long Live U3A!

**PORTRAIT OF A VOLUNTEER** — Stella Schütze - 2001 – 2013

U3A is an organization run entirely by volunteers. It is one of those rare non-profit organizations which is there for everyone, retired or semi-retired, who needs stimulating company, education in the widest sense and entertainment in a variety of forms. It is a lifesaver for many, especially in times of changing or disintegrating communities. I think all our volunteer tutors deserve recognition and a special vote of thanks in this Year of The Volunteer. I shall, however, reserve special praise for a very quiet, self-effacing, reliable and enthusiastic lady who has been a tutor to aspiring oil painters for at least six years. Pat Stone’s group of hopefuuls meets to enjoy each other’s company, practise their skills, acquire new ones, and gain knowledge through enthusiasm from Pat. The entertainment goes without saying. The results of our combined efforts for this year will be on display at our Annual Art Show. When Pat is not inspiring us at Dandenong she is busy with another painting group in Berwick. Her energy seems boundless. As I also attend the Creative Writing group at U3A I can best express my appreciation of Pat in verse.

**PORTRAIT**

All the levels and wheels of society
Are oiled by the good volunteer.
Without their continual assistance
We’d be stuck with our lives out of gear.
It matters not what kind you think of
They’re as staunch as proverbial rock;
If tomorrow they all took vacations
The country would rebound with shock.
In city and country and suburb
Whenever a need arose
There were many to pitch in and sort it
With gusto and schemes to propose
The givers all felt they enjoyed it
And gained quite as much as they gave.
Community spirit just blossomed
While hope rode on top of a wave.
As the sick and the old and the lonely
Welcome that knock on the door,
Those just starting on life’s adventure
Have the chance of enjoying much more
In our schools, kindergartens and sport clubs
Cutting lunches and manning the stalls
There are armies of keen organizers
Giving daily and answering calls
Now when we reach sixty or over
With different calls on our time
Some wish to prolong their life’s learning
With painting or dancing or rhyme.
All headed by volunteer tutors
Many thousands are starting again
Enjoying new skills or refinements,
All learnt without pressure or pain.
One tutor who gives without fanfare
Has shown all her love for the art.
Imparting her knowledge of painting
To groups living some way apart
Our Pat never does self-promotion,
She greets each in class as her friend,
With her cheery expression, “No worries!”
Encouragement wins in the end.
We find our two hours on a Thursday
Fly faster than ever each week.
Every year at the Art Exhibition
Results of our efforts just speak
Volumes for Pat and her Painters,
The group who enjoy all they do
In the U3A Dandenong oil group
Meeting Thursdays from midday to two.
Each week as she drives in from Berwick
To greet us at Chisholm once more
Our Pat must reflect on our efforts
But never a negative score
Is given to any amongst us
As we pain with a hope to acquire
Satisfaction with what we’ve accomplished,
Pat supplies inspirational fire.
So, “Thank you, dear Pat, for your patience.”
I know all the group will agree.
As we slowly improve with our painting
Enjoyment is obvious to see.
We find we can do things with pleasure,
Have fun while we concentrate still;
Life results are so easy to measure
When the therapy fits the bill.

**Stella’s Background Story:**
Some months after I had retired in 1995 a friend rang and asked how I was coping. “What are you doing with all your time?” I didn’t have to think very hard before telling her I spent most of my time paper-shuffling. “Oh dear! What you need is U3A”, she said without hesitation. I had to ask what she meant as I had never heard of U3A. She was a mine of information on the fairly new organization which had come to Australia from U.K. It took very little time finding a branch of U3A fairly close to where I lived in Springvale. Just half an hour saw me comfortably drive to Chisholm in Dandenong and find myself chatting to a very helpful and pleasant lady about the U3A timetable. In no time I had joined the painting groups and Creative Writing. The venue was great and the groups very pleasant and welcoming. For the first few years I drove happily to Chisholm to join in with Ruth Hartnett’s watercolour group, Pat Stone’s oil painting and Lesleye Brown’s Creative Writing. Three days each week socializing and producing art was really fulfilling. Many new friendships were formed and time certainly didn’t need to be filled, it had to be managed. A few years later Lesleye retired and I offered to take over the Creative Writing. The other members didn’t object and we continued to enjoy meeting at Chisholm. Eventually we had to move to another venue where we spent a few years. This venue was not as good physically for a group which needed constant communication and I eventually retired. I did miss meeting all those friendly writers. We had produced a booklet of writing for U3A which was printed at Chisholm in
2006. Following this, at the request of a friend, I took a small group at Paddy O’Donogue Centre who wanted to learn, or brush up on, reading music. I really enjoyed this one term programme. It was much closer to home too. The loss of Chisholm coincided with health problems and unfortunately I was no longer able to continue oil painting, which had moved too far away. I really missed Pat Stone and her group, also Ruth Hartnett’s watercolours. Eventually I found that Paddy O’Donoghue had a group who painted on Fridays and another group who listened to music on Mondays. How convenient! I can start and end my week at U3A. My weekends, of course, are set aside for listening to MSO and visiting NGV.

Two of the creative writers went on to write books – Lisa Cook and Jim Dow, who also won a few short story competitions. I wrote a book of poetry which was also printed at Chisholm (not a professional release).

Stella Schutze

MY U3A EXPERIENCE – Anne Daly – 25-4-2013
I worked for many years in school administration and was aware that when I retired I would need to seek mental and social stimulation and determined I would join U3A, which I did in the year 2000. It didn’t occur to me that such an enterprise would require a committee of management, but before long I found myself in the position of secretary on the committee, a position I held for about 8 years.

I was launched on to the stage through U3A!! I joined an English Literature class during which we read a play called Milo’s Wake. Our enthusiastic tutor arranged for the class to attend a matinee performance of the play at the Malthouse Theatre in Melbourne. The audience were seated at tables and chairs around a small stage, audience participation was expected. I was the unfortunate selected. I was instructed to behave as though I was enjoying myself at the wake while the dearly departed lay in his coffin. I think my performance more closely resembled that of a gospel singer than an Irish jig but it was good fun. Sadly, the tutor left due to family reasons. My acting career was over.

I have also attended classes on Australian history, medieval history and this year I am enjoying South African history and Roman history. The tutors research well and surely spend a lot of time doing so. If I wish clarification or further information I resort to the internet. I have found the topics stimulating and met a
lot of interesting people along the way. I hope to continue to do so with U3A Dandenong.

**Monday Music - Yvonne Smith - 2013.**
Having been a member of U3A since 2005 I have enjoyed a few classes. Shirley’s Australian History, 3 of Bill Edmond’s history classes, which I always enjoyed so much, but unfortunately I had to discontinue them because they clashed with other things I had to do. However Monday music has made up for it. I have been in that class since joining, and I love it. There is so much beautiful music out there, I still hear pieces that are new to me. Bill Curtis and Kevin McIntyre were our tutors then, but sadly, they have both passed on. However Peter Morton knows his stuff too, and with Maurice Michal, second in command it makes for a lovely afternoon.

Two hours of perfect calm. A time to relax and forget everything. The world is okay on Mondays. Why don’t you give it a try, you will be amazed how happy you feel. So I thank Peter for Mondays and hope they can continue.

**My U3A Experience, by Audrey Lennon**
My friend and I joined U3A after we heard about it from others already involved and went along to the venue at Chisholm Institute. We decided to join both the Behavioural Science class as well as the Calligraphy class. This was in 2000. The Behavioural Science tutor – Ethel Wyhoon – asked me if I would like to tutor a class after she found out I had previously been a teacher. In 2001, I commenced tutoring Natural Science for two years, then English for two years. Since then I have been tutoring Social Studies. I have been fortunate also to spend time as a member of the U3A committee and attend the monthly meetings before my health forced me to resign.

However I am happily back tutoring my class and it is such a pleasure to be involved with people who attend because they want to. Many of them have literally been in my class for years! I always say the main aim is to enjoy each other’s company, stimulate our minds and try not to let getting older interfere.

What a wonderful organization U3A is for the opportunity it provides for people to enrich their lives. Well done to those who gave us this chance! Long may it continue!
WHAT U3A MEANS TO ME – Peter Morton – May 2013

In late 1996 I retired from the Bureau of Meteorology where I had worked for 27 years. I had decided that 27 years of shift work was enough for me and I was looking forward to a regular bedtime. I was only 59 and had no intention of ‘putting my feet up’ but wanted something to do that would stimulate the brain. I had entertained the idea that a second language might be interesting so I went into the City where I did a 2-day course in basic Italian that cost me $162.00. It looked as though becoming proficient was going to be a costly exercise.

At the same time, I went to an introductory talk for potential volunteer tutors at ELLA (English Language and Literacy Access) at Dandenong Library. The role would involve assisting adults who’d been illiterate since childhood but were determined to change that, or to help migrants to learn English as ESL (English Second Language) students. I happened to mention to the co-ordinator, Philipa Evers, that I was interested in learning Italian and she told me that she believed that U3A ran a class. “U3A. What’s that?” She explained its purpose and I went along to investigate; that was April 1997 and I’m still “going along”.

I joined Italian for Beginners when Ann Rapinett was the tutor. She was originally from Malta and spoke Italian as well as English and her native Maltese. However, after 2 years, Ann moved to Warragul to be near her daughter and some of the newer class members asked if I would take over. My response was, “Only for as long as I know more than the rest of you.” I ended up doing it for 5 years until we found a native Italian speaker who was willing to take over.

During this period I also joined Leslye Brown’s Creative Writing class. Leslye was in her late seventies, diminutive and had a sharp intellect. (I called her my slave driver because she gave homework every week.) I would end up in a sweat every Sunday afternoon wondering what I would write this week for her Monday morning class. I don’t know how, but something always turned up at the last minute. After 3 years she retired from tutoring and I left Creative Writing too. This was not the end of my association with Leslye: we both joined Bill Curtis’s Composers and Their Music class and I used to give her a lift from Dandenong to Noble Park as she’d given up driving. We had many a conversation in those short journeys and quite often she talked of her late husband, whom she always referred to as Brownie (I never knew his first name). On February 6th 2013 her daughter rang me to say that her mother had died – four days after her 92nd birthday.

Perhaps I should mention Current Affairs now, as it has been a constant in my U3A
life. I’ve always had an interest in the subject – at all levels of society – and it hasn’t diminished. There’ve been periods when I’ve chaired C.A. but it’s good for others to have the opportunity too, so now I’m simply one of the class again.

About a dozen years ago, Audrey Lennon began a Social Studies class and as I had Thursday afternoons free I decided to investigate it. I still attend and am amazed at the amount of research Audrey does for her subjects. She is truly an example to all of us that age is no barrier to learning and a fulfilling retirement.

Of course there is some sadness to an organization like U3A. Because we’re all getting on in life, inevitably we do lose companions who’ve become dear friends over the years. Bill Curtis, who took the Composers class, became very ill with cancer but he asked me if I would keep his class going. I confessed that I lacked his breadth of knowledge but would try to honour his request. It’s a bit different now. I call it Monday Music and ask members of the class to bring in their musical selections each week. Hopefully, if Bill’s looking down he’ll be happy with the change.

Near the end of 2011, one of the Computer tutors had to have a serious operation and I volunteered to act as stopgap tutor till the end of the year. Almost two years later, I’m still teaching computers but I’ve moved up from Basic to Intermediate, which I find more satisfying. It’s been a learning curve for me as I’m a Mac person at home, so I bought a laptop PC in order to give the appropriate tuition. So I’m wearing two hats simultaneously, tutor and student. I’m still fulfilling my retirement ambition: never stop learning. And I can think of no better place than U3A to achieve that. Apart from being a student or a tutor, depending on the subject, I was nominated to the committee in 2011 and accepted the job of program co-ordinator for a two-year stint. I can honestly say that life has never been dull since I joined U3A. I’m no longer involved in teaching English Conversation for migrants. I gave it up in the middle 2012. I enjoyed it for 14 years but decided that perhaps fresher minds and ideas would like to give it a try. There’s no lack of need for volunteers but, by and large, Australia has many who are willing to give it a go. As an ex-Pom, I love it!!!

WHY U3A? – Ulrike Davies – 2013
Work as a prison officer was wonderful and fulfilling but the physical and emotional toll it had taken over seventeen years was horrendous. I did not realize this until I broke down with serious depression and bi-polar disorder, due to stress. I got psychological help and things improved but at age 61 - I once again started down that slippery slope to depression despite the medication so I decided to retire.
I had enough sense to realize that I would need to make some goals in order to get better. For the first 6 months I wallowed in depression but then I accompanied my mother to U3A Current Affairs. It was a life saver. For the first several weeks I just listened. Then when Pro-Liberal rhetoric became too much I finally joined in the discussion. Speaking up in a large group was difficult but gradually my confidence returned and I was able to put my point of view succinctly. The discussions are terrific and the atmosphere is supportive even if points of view differ and I’ve met some really wonderful people. I now go to 2 sessions a week and I love it. When you are down in the dumps, feeling alone and blue, make the effort and come to a session of interest to you. You will not regret it. I highly recommend U3A to all.

**U3A DANDENONG EXPERIENCE** – Gary France – 2013

From my observations we all come to retirement in different ways, be they planned or unplanned, prepared or unprepared. Depending on that path some will know exactly what they intend doing in retirement whereas others may need some time to come to grips with the concept and the new life style. For me it was the latter.

Retirement offered me freedom of choice to do what I wanted, or what the family wanted, without the significant time, emotional and energy constraints of a work commitment. Coming from an essentially office based work environment, constantly dealing with people, retirement allowed me to expand my physical exercise options to swimming, bike riding and going to the gymnasium, all undertaken as solitary activities. It was not long before it was ‘suggested’ to me, by wise counsel (my wife), that I might like to consider some group activities to socialise with people and meet new friends. To reconnect with society and my local community.

**U3A ITALIAN**

My mother-in-law had passed away several years earlier and as a consequence my wife was finding she was not having an opportunity to practice her Italian language so she joined Alexandra Trovo’s Italian Class on a Monday. It was soon suggested I might like to join. My knowledge of the language was limited. I had attended classes in Carlton for a short time some years earlier while working, so I decided to try again. At the U3A class I found a diverse cultural mix of enthusiastic people from a range of ages, backgrounds and capabilities. The class has been very welcoming and accommodating given my level of understanding of the language. The group also embraces the Italian culture of socialising, on occasions we meet as a group with
partners. All one big happy caring Italian family. These social functions give an opportunity to better get to know one’s class mates. I am fortunate to have travelled to Italy a number of times to spend time with my wife’s family and on our latest trip I noticed my understanding of the conversation is improving since joining the U3A Italian class. U3A Dandenong Italian meets at the Paddy O’Donoghue Centre on a Monday from midday to 3.45. Over my time in the group, Alessandra Trovo was the tutor but has reduced her involvement for health reasons and Milena France (my wife) has taken up the challenge from being a learning class member to injecting some knowledge and Italian language skills into the group. During the class there is a planned break, to refresh the brain and also gives a brief opportunity to socialise and develop a deeper friendship with one’s fellow class mates. For me the class has provided a learning experience when developing a new skill, with a group of new found friends.

**FRIDAY CYCLE GROUP**

Being a keen cyclist and in keeping with my desire to be physically active and to meet my socialising requirement, the Friday Cycle Group looked interesting, so I joined. This group undertakes rides of approximately 50 kms on a Friday morning, primarily on cycle paths with occasional connecting legs on the road. Bob Lee leads the group, and I understand he was the initiator of the group. The starting point is Tirhatuan Park which allows a number of cycle path options to be taken depending on the wind direction. The number of participants varies at different times of the year depending when people are travelling, sailing, caravanning etc, and as a consequence there is always much to talk about when riding and when having the essential coffee stop. A photo of half of the Friday Group has made it on to the ‘About Us’ U3A Dandenong web site! For me the cycle group has provided a friendly environment in which to obtain some exercise, stimulating discussion and fresh air with a group of new found friends. My participation in U3A Dandenong has introduced me to new friends, experiences and skills.
RICHARD RYAN – 2013

As a tutor of U3A I have been asked by individuals in my class to give an account of why I joined U3A and what it has meant to me.

It is now a few years since I first took the steps in Bill Edmonds class when he was discussing Ireland and as my great grandmother and great grandfather came from Ireland I was interested in that history; and that became my introduction to U3A. From that initial class and with encouragement from people in that class I joined three other classes. One run by Peter Morton who was running ‘current affairs’ and Audrey Lennon who was taking ‘social studies’, I was interested in this subject for I had done it as a mature student when I was improving my education to reach what was then HSC. At that time it was pure politics. The other class was ‘creative writing’ run by Ellen Roberts who encouraged me to continue writing ‘short stories’ that I had been doing for the Ron Hubbard competitions in America and that I am still doing.

My next step was to consider the introduction for new classes and as I had a lot of notes on the ancient world, especially dealing with Egypt I said that if anybody would like to run such a class they could have my notes from my university studies. It was readily accepted, but with one catch. “You do it”. I was a bit taken aback for I didn’t expect that my suggestion would fall so close to home, but on the other hand I had already been handed the baton to take over the ‘current affairs’ class. I never did ask Peter why he chose me when there were others who were more ready to ask questions and could possibly do a better job. However, it is a position that I’m still active in and enjoy.

My love, of course, is the ancient world and having been given the task I have taken my class through the now Middle East and I thank Shirley Constantine for her suggestion to open the subject to what is now called ‘ancient civilizations’. Before that I was dealing with just one particular agenda, either Egypt or Imperial Rome and was wondering where to go from there. By opening up the agenda we have explored right back to the city of Ur, the birthplace of the Biblical Abraham and have travelled through his adventures, taking the class into the days of Cyrus the Great and to Darius III and Alexander the Great.

After joining an archaeological dig on Hadrian’s Wall in 2011, I then opened the subject on the Roman Invasion of Britain under Claudius and the impact of Rome on British society for the next 400 years. Because the subjects started a bit on the erratic side, jumping from Egypt to Imperial Rome, I have tried to put history back in its
place, and put the subjects in order as each chapter closed, those that followed took over. However, in the start I had gone into Imperial Rome without looking at the two previous chapters in the history of Rome; the Regal period under the Kings and then the Republic up to the time of Sully and Caesar.

In this study it is not only about the formation of the Republic but also a look at the men and women that were its foundations and the ways it was governed and the conquests it made.

U3A has been an opportunity for me to open again the study books, dust off an ageing brain, and the opportunity to meet a lot of people who have become good colleagues and very good friends. It has also enabled me to again get out the old bike by joining the Wednesday and Friday ‘bikies’ under the guidance of Gerry McKellar and Bob Lee and venturing along tracks I never knew existed. I get amazed how those two leaders can remember all the twists and turns of the various bike tracks in the Dandenong area.

**Retirement, U3A and Me – Anon – 2013**

My retirement began in December 2002 and my working life began in 1951, just 2 months before my 14th birthday, 51 years of a working life. But now that I am retired, how do I fill in the long day, the long week, month and years?? I was 65 years and 3 months and tired, more tired than I can remember and I hardly did anything for three months. The tiredness abated and I became more active, walking the dog, swimming and continuing with my weekly golf game, however I needed something more, something to keep my mind active and alert. I had bought a computer and struggled with the technology when somebody mentioned the acronym U3A, an acronym that would change my retired life and more importantly assist me in my knowledge of computers – so I joined U3A and the computer class, ‘the beginners’ and slowly that big rectangular box at my feet began to make sense. So I continued with the ‘advanced’ class, followed by ‘Power Point’, ‘Excel’, ‘Publisher’ and ‘Microsoft Office’ (not necessarily in that order). Now I was getting a lot more enjoyment out of the strange contraption that had mystified me.

It was suggested to me that I might enjoy ‘Photography’, well I didn’t even have a camera and had no interest in photography at all at this time in my life, my wife had always taken the photos in our family – but I went along anyway and John Collingwood made it interesting for me, but it was hard to grasp this fascinating class; it just blew my mind away at this wonderful experience. I just loved the technology but most of it went over my head. Then John started the ‘beginners class’ and Bill
Cooney took over the ‘advanced class’ and the wonders of digital photography began to make sense with John. It didn’t take long before I was promoted to the ‘advanced class’ where my interest, knowledge and competence grew.

It took another year or so when I noticed that a class on the ‘Vikings’ was beginning. I have always had a strong interest in Vikings, so I enrolled in the course with Bill Edmonds; after several years in the course and the information of many interesting famous people such as Napoleon Bonaparte and Kings of Scotland and Ireland we are now pursuing the Kings and Queens of England. I still have time to do my household chores and pursue my exercises to keep me fit and healthy as I attend my two courses per week, photography and Kings of England. Then I heard people in my class talking about a class that is run by Audrey Lennon about all kinds of interesting topics, so I signed up for the course and interestingly enough one of the first topics was Iceland, an unusual island that I was lucky enough to visit in the mid-2000’s and that captured me. Audrey runs a very enjoyable class as she is an ex-schoolteacher but I think this class is her biggest challenge. Lastly, I have recently enrolled in Richard Ryan’s ‘Current Affairs’ program where plenty, but friendly, debate takes place. So now I participate in 4 X 2 hour courses per week and I wonder “If it wasn’t for U3A and the friends I have made … what would I have done for the last ten years?” In 10 years, imagine the knowledge and confidence I have gained from the invaluable University of the Third Age.

FAY KIRKLEY – 2013
I joined U3A when it was at TAFE Dandenong. When Paddy O’Donoghue Centre opened I went there to do computers, I learned a lot. They run very good computer classes. I have been going to Genealogy classes since it started. I attend Water Colours at Latham Crescent since it started, it is an excellent class. I also did calligraphy for about 2 years also Fabric Painting 12 months. Thank you for running a good U3A, we are very lucky.

MARGE ANGELOCCI – Cycling Groups – 2013
This is my first year with U3A, I noticed the cycling group mentioned in the community section of a local paper last year. The cycling group led on Wednesday by Gerry McKellar is a great success with those who like riding off road at a rather leisurely pace. My partner and I retired not long ago and were desperate to find like minded people. This group is very friendly and we look out for each other along the way. Some have improved their fitness level and also go along to the Friday cycling group which does more challenging rides. Gerry has a wealth of knowledge of the
Dandenong Creek paths and adjoining paths. To top it off she manages to find a coffee shop for our ‘caffeine fix’ and chat. Some indulge in cakes, milk shakes etc – with the risk of much humour being made at their expense. Plenty of laughter along the way and we all go home with smiles on our faces.

One member has turned 80 this year with another soon to celebrate their 80th. It all reinforces the statement ‘use it or lose it’. U3A provides a good variety of classes which cost very little. A great organization built mainly by volunteers.

MY U3A, MY LIFE – June Murphy – May 2013
What happens to you when you retire from the workforce? “When to retire?” was the first question. The next question was “What do I do to keep busy?” I had met some ladies at the Oasis swimming pool who suggested I join U3A. So I walked up to the office which was housed in the TAFE College and joined up. The best thing I ever did! I thought the office lady was very friendly and she made me feel very welcome. There were only two rooms at this time, people were coming and going but they all stopped to have a chat. So before I had even started a class I already knew a few members. I had entered my name in as many classes as I could fit into one week not knowing what they’d be like. Cryptic Crosswords (a real learning curve) and I’m still doing them; History (I never liked it at school but this was with a difference); Circle Dancing (What a wonderful teacher!) . I also offered my time to help in the office and I loved the walking group. The walking group was where I made deep friendships. You talked as you walked. Sometimes in depth conversations, sometimes just having a good laugh, sometimes shedding a few tears. Something I have never forgotten. In my next year I was asked to be the office manager. Me! I think the committee had more confidence in me than I did. It was a wonderful experience and I enjoyed every minute that I was there. I can highly recommend to those who are thinking of volunteering in some way. It was good to give something back because U3A has given me a wonderful life and so many good friends.

MY EXPERIENCE WITH UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE – Linda Price – 2013
I first heard about U3A on the radio in 1988. I was 55 at the time and working full time but decided to join this marvellous organization. I used to ‘flex’ off on Thursday mornings to attend a psychology class which I found to be intensely interesting. Sadly it soon became too difficult to have Thursday mornings off work and I had to drop out. I did not forget about U3A and as soon as I retired in 2000 became a member of the Sunshine Coast Branch. In a short time I was attending 5 classes a fortnight. These included: Science and the Humanities, Current Affairs, A History of the English
Language, Aspects of Religion and one other, the name of which I have forgotten. I began with one class and found that I learned so much, some of the information I gained was never taught in the schools I attended. I left school when I was 14 and began work. I completed primary school and learned typing and shorthand.

So in 2000 began my quest for further education and I added class after class until I did not have time to fit in any more. I regretted that I had to leave school so early but U3A has filled the gap for me. In Nambour I volunteered to fill in for the class captain for a couple of weeks at Science and the Humanities and remained as deputy class captain for ten years. I was a member of U3A for 10 years on the Sunshine Coast and joined this marvellous organization again as soon as I arrived in Melbourne. Since arriving here in 2000 I have been a member of Melbourne City, Frankston and finally Dandenong. I have enjoyed every class I have attended and have nothing but praise for the generous men and women who so willingly give their time to tutor and keep the wheels turning in the offices. During the years I have been a member, I have met many fantastic people who became friends. I keep in touch with Queensland friends after 3 years in this state and visit them whenever I return to Nambour. I have tried to interest people who live in my retirement village without success. I will continue my efforts at every general meeting.

**BERYL AND RAY MARTIN – Genealogists - 2014**

Ray and I enjoy University of 3rd Age immensely. We attend Genealogy class together and as well as that Ray attends the history class and I attend the water colour painting. The most exciting find in Genie class was to discover that several members are related or connected in some way. The friendship and support has been invaluable in all our classes. We have received some very good help from our tutors and other members. The barbeques and luncheons have been fun and enlightening as have the other outings to various places such as the State Library and Public Records Office.

University of the 3rd Age gives us reason to get up and keep going, to improve our social, mental and physical well being and most of all to share with others and offer support when we are able.

**CONNY BRANDT AND INTERNATIONAL CIRCLE DANCING - 2013**

In 1998 Norma Brown approached me, as she knew that I was a circle dancer, and asked me if I would like to teach a class at U3A. I agreed and we started at the TAFE College with about seven participants. Although they all thought that they had two left
feet, it did not take long for them to realize that the music from all different parts of the
world was very attractive and with a bit of practice they were soon about to follow the
steps and then the group grew. Men and women were welcome, but for some reason
or other we mainly had a group of women. We danced once a week. After a couple
of years we moved from the College to a church hall in Heatherton Road, which
became too small and we then found a hall in Birth Avenue.

A highlight was a performance at the Melbourne Town Hall on St Patrick’s Day. It
was a U3A Network event of many groups in Victoria. We even were dressed up in
some international costumes.

After 12 years I decided that the time had come to stop teaching. By then we had 30
members on the list, all addicted to Circle Dancing. I was able to pass my dancing on
to my friend in Foster and she leads a very enthusiastic U3A group there, also with
about 30 dancers. Of course, being U3A friendships were made. Now I attend Current
Affairs and did a great calligraphy course. Congratulations with 20 years Dandenong
U3A.

TRIBUTE FOR 20TH ANNIVERSARY – 2013 - Gail Caughey
Hi fellow U3A Dandenong members. My name is Gail Caughey and I’ve been a
member for 8 years and loving it. When I first saw U3A advertised in the Journal I
was looking for a part-time working position without success. What a great alternative
U3A has become. My interests and life have broadened and I haven’t looked back.
We have such a great range of classes and I’ve done Beginner’s Italian, Music,
Computers and Philosophy. Currently I do Line Dancing, Karaoke and Singing which
are all good for the soul and for lifting your spirits.
I also volunteer in the Office for 3 hours once a fortnight. Hopefully, to give back
some of the joy I experience participating in our classes and meeting and making new
friends along the way. I hope this wonderful organisation continues for a very long
time.

MYRA ARCHIBALD – 2013
When Jim retired in 1997 he was like a lost soul, he would sit for hours in front of the
television but I wasn’t always sure if he was really watching it. I am quite sure if a
bomb had fallen on top of him, he would still just have sat there. He had spent his
working life as a sales representative calling on the same pharmacies every month and
I suppose they had become his friends, and he was lost without it.
We had a few holidays which we both really enjoyed but when we came home it was back to the TV. However, I did a six week course at Dandenong Library on teaching English to migrants and learned about the U3A. I joined the Ancient History class and persuaded Jim to come along, then I talked him into joining the Current Affairs class. Then we joined Shirley’s Australian History class, and the rest is history. (He is dedicated.)

(Editor’s note: Jim Archibald appeared to me to be a likely character, so I soon had him on the U3A committee. He became Risk Management Officer, a role which he virtually created and served with distinction, and he also became Vice President. I had been desperately seeking somebody who looked like he/she had the required people skills to fill the role of President after my planned retirement from that position, which took place in 2012. Jim Archibald is a popular president, partly because he has attended many classes, and so knows many of the members, and partly because of the people skills he has developed over his years as a salesman.)

J. KEDDIE – 2013
I have been a member of U3A for a few years now, long before Paddy O’Donoghue Centre was opened. My husband and I first started to learn the computer in the computer room before the centre was built. Then I enrolled in the Italian class which was in Latham Crescent Dandenong, and I am still attending now at Noble Park. I also learnt crochet for a couple of years. I am very happy to be part of U3A and have enjoyed the company of many nice people along the way.

MARIA DECARLI – 2013
My association with U3A starts with the loss of my husband almost ten years ago. He was a very sick man for the last few years of his life. U3A has given to me a lot of brand new friendships (unfortunately I have lost a few friends along the way) and of course the help to use the grey stuff in my head! Thanks so much to the tutors that help everybody along the way, especially my Social Studies tutor, Audrey Lennon. She is so enthusiastic and knowledgeable and communicates so well that makes every subject interesting and enjoyable. Thanks, U3A.

ALICE ROGERS – 2013
My introduction into U3A Dandenong came from a male friend. My husband suddenly became unemployable because he was ‘too old’ - 61. He was home 24-7 in my space. “Where are you going?” “What are you doing?” “When’s lunch?” etc. So David came one day and gave me the information on U3A. I rang and spoke to Betty
Rigden then Monica Allen rang (Embroidery) which I’m still doing. I’ve done calligraphy, Parchment classes and now doing Patchwork which I love. I have been a member for 8 years and have done office duty since I joined. I have enjoyed all these years, made some great friends, met lots of lovely people and God Willing will continue for a long time.

**YOU CAN RIDE THE WIND. EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE – Bill McMennemin – 2013**

U3A Dandenong has made available many different courses. The diversity is simply amazing, and upon payment of a small fee you can join and partake in the expectations based on your beliefs. I am now into my fourth year, having chosen the creative writing course, which is held on a Monday morning at North Dandenong. This course is tutored by an astute, professional and pleasant teacher. The beginning and up to the end of each semester, could be likened to revisiting the past as many years have gone by since I was last in a classroom.

Teachings come to the class in many guises, such as the usage of nouns, verbs, adjectives, text connectives, the correct way of writing a short story, recount, retell and numerous others, including different forms of poetry. Homework is optional and may consist of writing short stories and poetry. Corrections are pointed out in a professional manner. Participation in the classroom is enjoyed by all; it is like rediscovering our destiny and waiting without reservation for the oncoming terms. To quote an old saying, we may ask ourselves ‘At the end of the day, every day, did we seize it,’? Deep down I feel the answer would be Yes ...

Congratulations U3A Dandenong and may your future continue along the path of strength.

**JUDITH CARTLEDGE – 2013**

I enrolled in U3A last year to ensure my brain remained on active duty following retirement. The choice of the Windows course was easy to make, as the programs I’d used for years at work were of no use outside the company and my home laptop was capable of more than I was then aware. After a year of weekly classes, things I took for granted and blindly ‘just did’ at work now make perfect sense. My knowledge of the computers applications for home projects and entertainment has been vastly broadened (as has my backside) learning fun stuff there was no time for at work. Jan’s informal, unstructured tutorials are invaluable, allowing the class members to learn
new skills at their own pace. Other class members often ask a question the rest of us hadn’t thought of, and so ensues a session where we all learn something we previously knew nothing about.

Having written many garrulous diaries on all my travels, the allure of the Creative Writing course was irresistible as I’d only ever written of personal experiences. Convinced I didn’t have a creative bone in my body, I had no idea how I’d go at this but soon found it possible to write pieces I never knew I could attempt, some of them utter nonsense, others quite deep and meaningful. After a year I’m still no J. K. Rowling in the creative stakes, but am now better able to construct a story in a more grammatically correct manner. Both of these classes are fun, informative and certainly keep the members thinking, whilst meeting a variety of interesting new people. Thank you, U3A.

**JOHN DE BLAUW – 2013**

There was a time not so long ago when the expectancy of life was 65 years. Life Insurance Companies had it all worked out using statistics: people work until they are 65, retire, stagger around for a few years and then they die. They died possibly out of pure boredom, lack of exercise and purpose.

Advances in medicine have saved many of us from an early demise; we are now living a lot longer, so what to do with all that extra time? No problem for some retirees, they throw themselves headlong into a new direction, especially if they were self employed. They learn new skills, take in new studies and are prepared to share their accumulated knowledge and experiences with others and continue to be useful citizens. Others, often unprepared for retirement, flounder. And this is where U3A comes in! U3A takes them in hand, disciplines, organizes. And the beauty of it all is that doing things together is so much more fun, even so that the socializing is more important than the
exercise or study. Also people showing the wish to join an organization like U3A have, to a certain degree, already sorted themselves out; they are older, more stoic, more philosophic, more tolerant and friendly.

So why did I join U3A? It just happened. It was after a Monday morning Probus meeting that two of my friends, Patricia Webster and Tony Felsbourg were heard to say: “Are you going to History classes this afternoon? “ And I just tagged along. Does anyone here today still remember Patricia and Tony?

It is unfortunate any club or organization that in the past relied on English speaking members, is in decline as the population of Australia is undergoing major changes. Mediterranians always had their own clubs; new arrivals from Asia, Africa and South America do not yet have a large ageing population, or if they do they do not join. So the ranks are thinning, but we must soldier on.

A NOTE OF THANKS – Jan Sutton – 2013
I became a member of U3A some 7 years ago, first doing a couple of computer courses and then I discovered U3A had Art classes. I enrolled in Pat Stone’s Thursday class. It has been the best thing I have done personally. The teaching, encouragement, understanding and friendship we have been given as a group and personally has been overwhelming, especially when life takes us on a bit of a rocky road. Pat and U3A are always there, giving us the opportunity to make many good friends and to learn to use our abilities which we probably didn’t realize we had, but thanks to U3A I have found a whole new world of art and friendship which I wouldn’t miss for anything. Pat has taught us well!! Thanks Pat & U3A.

U3A AND (WHAT IT MEANS TO) ME – John Collingwood
Having landed in Melbourne as a ‘returning migrant’ after thirty years, previously having lived in Perth, W. A., I realized two things:
1. Australia wasn’t going to beat a path to my doorstep, rather I would have to make the effort to go out and meet people, and
2. The best way to understand how a country, and its people, thinks and does things, is to learn its history (and I realized that Perth and Melbourne are actually in ‘two different countries’ and that what we were used to in Perth, way back when, would not be the same in Melbourne).
While settling down and adjusting to our ‘new’ country we joined the local Neighbourhood Watch (Dandenong) and got involved. One of the people with whom we got involved was the late Max Oldmeadow. (For newer members who have never heard of Max – he was a member of the Dandenong Historical Society and, along with Shirley Constantine and a few others, was a founding member of U3A Dandenong Inc.)

Max was, at the time, running a course of the ‘History of Dandenong’ at U3A, which was just what I felt I needed to ‘broaden my education’. Pat and I enrolled for Max’s course and then discovered that Shirley was doing a course on Australian History – even better! History was my worst subject at school – I hated it and failed it in my final year, managing to score an ‘E’ (which was NOT for Effort!).

Shirley and Max changed my attitude – both of them made the subject interesting, alive and relevant. Not only was I enjoying a subject I formerly hated, but Pat and I started making many friends of the people we were meeting at U3A – friends we still have today. We even joined the Walking Group, but find that we can no longer participate these days.

Some years back I invested in a digital camera. I have been a keen photographer since the age of six, not very good, but always keen and the new technology interested me. Once I started using my new equipment I realized how easy it was to use – and how inexpensive (once the equipment is paid for, running costs are virtually nil). I mentioned this to Shirley one day, and she suggested that we ‘test the water’ and see if people would be interested in finding out about this new technology. Eleven years ago we put up a list for ‘Expressions of Interest’ and about ten names went onto that list. So the Class began – and I expected it to run for about two to three years at most. It grew, and in the third year I suggested that two groups be formed – Beginners and Advanced, and the advanced group has taken off ‘like a rocket’. I still run the Beginners group, but always encourage folk, once they feel comfortable with their camera, to join the advanced group. They can achieve so much more. I only teach and de-mystify the equipment, not techniques. Having thought that I would only be running the course for a short while, I’m surprised that it is still going, but we do have fun. Some members actually attend both courses, which I find interesting. For me, U3A has been, and still is, a great experience and has certainly enriched my life more than I ever anticipated.
1994 – Such an inspirational year!
When a group of visionaries saw their way clear,
   To set in motion and to give the ‘OK’,
For the implementation of a ‘Dandy’ U3A
It’s now twenty years since that momentous event,
And today’s U3A shows those years were well spent,
   With forty fine courses for those who are keen,
It’s thanks to our founders, from whom we now glean.
‘Fortune Favours the Bold’ – is a proverb so true,
   And aptly applies to our U3A crew;
From our comfort zone we bravely stepped out,
Even when some may have experienced doubt.
I’m now in my fifth year at this organization.
   Working as Tutor to share information;
Creative Writing is where my strengths lie,
   For a responsive group that aims very high.
Twenty great years is a milestone, worthwhile,
And deserves to be celebrated in appropriate style;
So let’s raise our glasses for a congratulatory toast,
   To, ‘U3A Dandenong – The club with the most.’

MARIE WHELAN – 2013
I watched students attending U3A at the old TAFE college at the end of my street,
thinking the day I retired I would join them. Well I did join U3A four years ago but
I need to travel to the various locations in the City of Dandenong. But it has been well
worth the effort for the interaction, learning and socialisation with so many dedicated
people. We have much to be thankful for to the people who set up Dandenong U3A
and we sincerely hope that you younger retirees will be prepared to continue to offer
your skills to tutor and/or volunteer to join the committee in steering our U3A
successfully for many years to come. And yes I did become a committee member at
the AGM on my retirement – Shirley saw to that.

My first reaction when I saw the timetable was that I wanted to do everything but of
course I quickly learned that was not practical. So I ventured into developing my
computer skills and as I had just been given a new camera it was logical to join
beginners photography so that I could get the best out of my camera – a big step from the old ‘brownie box camera’. But then I needed exercise and joined the walking group and the Tai Chi class – I still wish I was up to the line dancing, it seems so much fun and great exercise. I have ventured into history classes, current affairs and its extra health/safety sessions, gardening, social studies and so much admire the painting and craft work which members produce. There is so much more on offer I know I will never stop learning something new. But the best part of these classes is the sharing of information, making new friends and socialising and of course the coffee break. Although I have lived in Dandenong for over fifty years – I could go shopping and not meet a soul I knew – that does not happen now – I know to allow extra time for meeting up with friends.

Two other commitments I made when I joined U3A was to become a volunteer in the office and I joined the committee. My induction to the office allowed me to get to know how our organization worked. It is always such a pleasure to greet people and to introduce them to the fun and benefits of membership in U3A. The challenges of the ongoing development of our organization to make sure it continues to meet the needs of our multicultural community is the responsibility of all members. Its future is dependent on continual good management. Part of our current committee has guided it over the past twenty years, the future is in the hands of our more recent retirees. But I know for sure, that as long as I am able I will continue to learn, share and socialize at U3A Dandenong.

**JOYCE EDE – 2013**

It’s hard to believe it’s 20 years since the inception of ‘our’ U3A. I remember well the gathering at the Menzies Ave Hall and choosing the first committee – from memory including Max, Peter (Renkin), Shirley, Robyn, Bernard and even me, surprise! surprise! From this small beginning to a wonderful organization. We started in a very small office in the school for intellectually disabled people in Potter Street with one classroom to use. From there we went to the Dandenong Technical College. Absolute luxury – big office and two rooms for our classes. The volunteers (including me) manned the office on a regular basis and I made lots of friends. We had one or two computers and Bernard would come to work on a project till I hummed a tune. So no more work got done when Bernard joined in. Shirley tells me this is what gave her the idea of starting a singing group and June was coerced into offering her brilliant talents to our singing group. We have performed at many nursing homes and events. We are lucky now to have our present meeting place at the Paddy O’Donoghue Centr
where we can accommodate most of our many classes. I am now living in a Village in Pakenham, 30 kms away so cannot take part in the array of classes the U3A has to offer but have to get here on Fridays for my singing and karaoke fix. No-one needs to be lonely while there is a U3A and I spread the news whenever I can.

**HOW JOINING A U3A GROUP CHANGED MY LIFE - Margaret E. 2013**

I joined the U3A Cycling group in November, three years ago. At the time I was working 4 days a week, in Dandenong, and fortunately my free day was Friday, the Cycling Day. On the first day I met Bob our leader and just a few other men, at Tirhatuan Park, North Dandenong and we set off for a ride along the Dandenong Creek toward Ferntree Gully. It was most enjoyable, and all the guys were very friendly and welcoming. The next ride was to the city which involved taking our bikes on the train to Flinders St and riding on the Capital City trail. Our coffee stop that day was at the Abbotsford Convent. There was a new chap riding that day and we enjoyed some good conversation and laughter. It was another very enjoyable day with U3A. I was unable to return to the group until early January and on that day the ‘new chap’, previously mentioned, invited me out to dinner after the ride. This was rather a surprise for a girl who had been single for some years and wasn’t into ‘dating’.

So, the dinner event happened within the week and was most enjoyable. I reciprocated with an invitation to a Sunday ride together on the Warburton Rail Trail. Again, another great day!

Before long, it seemed we were ‘an item’ as they say and before too much longer, living together. Since then, we have enjoyed riding weekly, when possible, with U3A and undertaken rides on many of the Victorian Rail Trails, including Ballarat – Skipton, Bairnsdale - Bruthen and Wangaratta - Bright. Last year we headed to Europe and cycled across Austria following the easy and scenic Danube River route, one of Europe’s most popular cycling paths. Next year we plan to ride in Vietnam and Cambodia.

I decided to retire early so that I could really make the most of the time I have with my wonderful partner and we have spent many months caravanning throughout Australia, travelling in NZ and Europe and sailing the Whitsundays. Meeting someone while engaging in an activity such as cycling is great. It provides an immediate common interest, and we are lucky that there are many other activities that we also enjoy such as travelling, reading and cooking.
I have since enjoyed other U3A activities with another group closer to home and have always found that the people involved are friendly, interesting and interactive. They have so much to share.

So, from my fortunate decision to join Dandenong U3A cycling group, I am now a happily retired active woman sharing my life with a wonderful partner. Our U3A riding group members have enjoyed regular social get togethers, celebrating Christmas, retirement and special birthdays. There are always lots of laughs on our rides, interesting discussions and most importantly, a good coffee stop. I return home feeling energised, relaxed and with a nice tinge of weariness to remind myself I have done some physical work. I think U3A is a marvellous organization, and I wish to extend my congratulations to the Dandenong Branch on their 20th anniversary.

**CONGRATULATIONS – U3A DANDENONG – 20 WONDERFUL YEARS**  
**PAT BRADLEY**

After rearing 3 children and then enjoying a 28 year busy secretarial job, at 63 years of age I thought my life was ending when hospitals amalgamated in 1995 and many of us were made redundant – I wasn’t wanted. My self esteem hit rock bottom, then I noticed in the local paper a little paragraph about U3A Dandenong, rang up and were advised we could join any time, didn’t have to wait for the beginning of next semester so my husband, Ken, and I decided to give it a try. Walking into a class of ‘strangers’ on our first day at Wallara Special School was pretty intimidating, but we were quickly made welcome. Our first Australia History tutorial was about the Melbourne sewerage system, (or lack of it) and apart from the serious facts, many were the stories of backyard dummies, accidents with the night cart and so forth, we hadn’t laughed so much in years. A little later we had a trip to Spotswood to see the old system for ourselves. We learned all that history, and with so much humour, we were immediately hooked on U3A.

We bought our first computers installed with Windows 95 and attended the many U3A computer classes held after school at Lyndale High School. The following year, our U3A was allocated a large classroom and office at Chisholm TAFE which we made our ‘home’ for the following 8 years. During this time I joined the Wednesday Walkers, Calligraphy, Drawing, Water Colour painting and Genealogy. Short courses on Multicultural Faiths and Religions with visits to the various places of worship helped us understand other people’s beliefs. One of my most memorable evenings
was, after an 8 week Astronomy course, we visited the Victorian Astronomy Society’s microscope to look at the moon, stars and planets. Wow!

I hadn’t been in U3A Dandenong long before I was on the Committee and took on the job of Publicity Officer visiting Libraries and Retirement Villages in the area to distribute our pamphlets while our President, Shirley Constantine (History Tutor and by this time a great friend) gave a talk to the residents. The Walkers marched in the Australia Day Parade and we had a stall in the park to show what U3A was all about. In this way we increased our membership from 147 to over 400 and put on an Annual Art Show at Chisholm to publicise our handiwork. Our Walking Group had increased to about 30 and wanted to go further afield so we organised a 3 day holiday staying at the group lodge at Tidal River (3 years in a row) then 3 consecutive years at Smith’s Beach, Phillip Island. What wonderful memories we all have of pitching in together, everyone helping out with the cooking and cleaning, going on long walks, playing Bocce in the afternoon and games in the evenings.

With many of us buying digital cameras, John taught us the basics and Bill the magic of PhotoShop. We chased ‘Puffing Billy’ up to Lakeside to get that ‘special’ shot, and the Art Groups combined to visit the many galleries on the Mornington Peninsula and others.

When Chisholm TAFE needed their space back, the Council allowed us to share premises with the Noble Park Seniors for a few years until we were again moved to the Paddy O’Donoghue Centre. Now with over 500 members and many classes, we meet at various venues throughout the city.

With our 20th Anniversary coming up soon, I would like to sincerely thank all those wonderful tutors, committee members and office staff who have put in so much time and effort so that we can all enjoy our U3A. I can heartily recommend joining this band of helpers. It is so rewarding for your self esteem to put back in some effort to repay the previous committees for what they have done to make U3A so pleasurable for you.

My Time at U3A – Margaret Azzopardi - 2013

I had not heard of U3A before, and I was passing the Paddy O’Donoghue Centre in Noble Park one day and saw a sign for U3A. I went in and asked what they did there. I was told about all the different courses they did. I joined and started in the
Genealogy class and the Photography class. I also volunteered in the office. I have made lots of friends in the classes that I attend. The Photography class is very interesting and I have learnt a lot about how to take photos, and also how to improve the photos on the computer using Photoshop. We have a lot of fun and the tutor Bill Cooney is very good. I had done a fair bit of Genealogy myself at home so I learnt a bit more in the class. The people are all very nice and friendly and I get on well with everybody.

When I started volunteering in the office, they were looking for a new Office Manager and as I had always worked in an office they asked if I would like to do that job. I thought about it and agreed. I have enjoyed doing this, I do the data base and the class sheets on the computer and anything else that needs doing. E.g. The roster of volunteers, printing the timetable etc. There is always a lot to do so I keep busy. I usually work all day Monday and Friday morning in the office. Also if any volunteers are not able to do their shift I live pretty close so can come and cover for them. The ladies in the office on a Monday are really fun to work with and we have lots of laughs, but we keep pretty busy. I think that U3A is a very good organization and you meet a fair cross section of people. It helps a lot of people who may have been widowed or are alone to get out and meet others. I have enjoyed my time at U3A very much.
The following is a record of the Committees through the years. It is well to remember that all these office holders were and today, are volunteers (as are all our Tutors and group Leaders.)

**U3A DANDENONG COMMITTEE 1994**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>Max Oldmeadow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Chairperson</td>
<td>Cr. Eric Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Vice Chairperson</td>
<td>Ron Pellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Peter Renkin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Bernard Condict</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Co-Ordinator</td>
<td>Joy Dent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Secretary</td>
<td>Norma Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Program Co-Ordinator</td>
<td>Shirley Constantine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Manager</td>
<td>Patsy Lyons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee Member</td>
<td>Joyce Ede</td>
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**U3A DANDENONG COMMITTEE 1995/1996**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
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<td>Shirley Constantine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Secretary</td>
<td>Norma Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee Members:</td>
<td>Les Collins, Nicole Fabien, Kathryn Pugh, Joyce Ede</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Robyn Ridgeway, Phyllis Lyonham</td>
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**U3A DANDENONG COMMITTEE 1996/1997**

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<tr>
<td>Program co-ordinator</td>
<td>Shirley Constantine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Managers</td>
<td>Robin Ridgeway, Josephine Wright</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Secretary</td>
<td>Norma Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational Visits/Outings</td>
<td>Pauline Collins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publicity Officer</td>
<td>Pat Bradley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
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<td>Tours &amp; Outings</td>
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**U3A DANDENONG COMMITTEE 1997/1998**

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<td>President</td>
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<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>Bernard Condict</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Robin Ridgeway, Josephine Wright</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Office Manager</td>
<td>Josephine Wright</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Co-Ordinator</td>
<td>Ethel Wyhoun</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newsletter Editor</td>
<td>Eileen Saunderson</td>
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U3A DANDENONG COMMITTEE 1998/1999
President .................... Shirley Constantine
Vice Presidents ............... Max Oldmeadow, Kevin Mc'Intyre
Treasurer ...................... Peter Renkin
Secretary ..................... Bernard Condict
Social Secretary .............. Norma Brown
Publicity Officer ............ Pat Bradley
Newsletter .................... Bernard Condict
Office Manager ............... Josephine Wright
Program Co-Ordinator ........ Ethel Wyhoon

U3A DANDENONG COMMITTEE 1999/2000
President .................... Shirley Constantine
Vice Presidents ............... Max Oldmeadow, Kevin Mc'Intyre
Treasurer ...................... Peter Renkin
Secretary ..................... Bernard Condict
Social Secretary .............. Norma Brown
Publicity Officer ............ Pat Bradley
Newsletter .................... John Collingwood
Office Managers ............. Josephine Wright, Yvonne O'Sullivan
Program Co-Ordinator ........ Ethel Wyhoon

U3A DANDENONG COMMITTEE 2000/2001
President .................... Shirley Constantine
Vice President ............... Kevin Mc'Intyre
Treasurer ...................... Josephine Wright
Secretary & Publicity ....... Pat Bradley
Social Secretary .............. Eileen Sauderson
Newsletter .................... John Collingwood
Office Manager ............... Jean Clark (Resigned Nov)/June Murphy
Program Co-Ordinator ........ Ethel Wyhoon

U3A DANDENONG COMMITTEE 2001/2002
President .................... Shirley Constantine
Vice President ............... Kevin Mc'Intyre
Treasurer ...................... Josephine Wright
Secretary ...................... Pat Bradley
Social Secretary .............. Eileen Sauderson
Publicity Officer ............ Joan Wilson
Newsletter .................... John Collingwood
Office Managers ............. June Murphy, Betty Rigden
Program Co-Ordinator ........ Ethel Wyhoon

U3A DANDENONG COMMITTEE 2002/2003
President .................... Shirley Constantine
Vice President ............... Kevin Mc'Intyre
Treasurer ...................... Elizabeth Gurney
Secretary ...................... Anne Daly
Social Secretary .............. Eileen Sauderson
Publicity Officer ............ Joan Wilson
Newsletter .................... John Collingwood
Office Managers ............. June Murphy, Betty Rigden
Program Co-Ordinator ........ Ethel Wyhoon
U3A DANDENONG COMMITTEE 2003/2004
President. ..................... Shirley Constantine
Vice President. ............... Kevin M'Intyre
Treasurer. ..................... Elizabeth Gurney
Secretary. .................... Anne Daly
Social Secretary. ............. Hilary Hale
Program Co-Ordinator. ...... Ethel Wyhoon
Office Manager. .............. June Murphy, Betty Rigden
Newsletter. .................. John Collingwood

U3A DANDENONG COMMITTEE 2004/2005
President. ..................... Shirley Constantine
Vice President. ............... Kevin M'Intyre
Treasurer. ..................... Elizabeth Gurney
Secretary. .................... Anne Daly
Social Secretary. ............. Loretta Austin
Program Co-Ordinator. ...... Ethel Wyhoon
Office Managers. ............. June Murphy, Betty Rigden
Newsletter. .................. John Collingwood

U3A DANDENONG COMMITTEE 2005/2006
President. ..................... Shirley Constantine
Vice President. ............... Kevin M'Intyre
Treasurer. ..................... Elizabeth Gurney
Secretary. .................... Anne Daly
Social Secretary. ............. Loretta Austin
Program Co-Ordinator. ...... Ethel Wyhoon
Office Managers. ............. June Murphy, Betty Rigden
Newsletter. .................. John Collingwood

U3A DANDENONG COMMITTEE 2006/2007
President. ..................... Shirley Constantine
Vice President. ............... Kevin M'Intyre
Treasurer. ..................... Elizabeth Gurney
Secretary. .................... Anne Daly
Social Secretary. ............. Loretta Austin
Program Co-Ordinator. ...... Jock Finkelde
Office Managers. ............. Betty Rigden, Yvonne Smith
Newsletter. .................. John Collingwood

U3A DANDENONG COMMITTEE 2007/2008
President. ..................... Shirley Constantine
Vice President. ............... Kevin M'Intyre
Treasurer. ..................... Elizabeth Gurney
Secretary. .................... Anne Daly
Social Secretary. ............. Loretta Austin
Program Co-Ordinator. ...... Jock Finkelde
Office Managers. ............. Betty Rigden, Yvonne Smith
Newsletter. .................. John Collingwood
U3A DANDENONG COMMITTEE 2008/2009
President. .................... Shirley Constantine
Vice President. ............... Jim Archibald
Treasurer. ..................... Elizabeth Gurney
Secretary. .................... Anne Daly
Minutes Secretary. ............ Lorice Lellyett
Social Secretary. .............. Loretta Austin
Program Co-Ordinator. ....... Jock Finkelde
Office Manager. .............. Yvonne Smith
Network Delegate. ............. Audrey Goldburg
Risk Management. ............. Jim Archibald
Publicity. .................... Marie Whelan
Computer co-ordinator. ....... Bill Cooney
Art Co-ordinator. .............. Barbara Walker
Newsletter. ................... Jan Weiner
Class Notices................ John Collingwood

U3A DANDENONG COMMITTEE 2009/2010
President. .................... Shirley Constantine
Vice President. ............... Jim Archibald
Treasurer. ..................... Elizabeth Gurney
Secretary. .................... Anne Daly
Minutes Secretary. ............ Lorice Lellyett
Social Secretary. .............. Loretta Austin
Program Co-Ordinator. ....... Jock Finkelde
Office Manager. .............. Yvonne Smith
Network Delegate. ............. Audrey Goldburg
Risk Management. ............. Jim Archibald
Publicity. .................... Marie Whelan
Art Co-ordinator. .............. Barbara Walker
Newsletter. ................... Jan Weiner
Class Notices................ John Collingwood

U3A DANDENONG COMMITTEE 2010/2011
President. .................... Shirley Constantine
Vice President. ............... Jim Archibald
Treasurer. ..................... Barry Irons
Secretary. .................... Lorice Lellyett
Social Secretary. .............. Vera Bennett
Program Co-Ordinator. ....... Jock Finkelde
Office Manager. .............. Margaret Azzopardi
Network Delegate. ............. Audrey Goldburg
Risk Management. ............. Jim Archibald
Publicity. .................... Marie Whelan
Art Co-ordinator. .............. Barbara Walker
Newsletter. ................... Jan Weiner
Class Notices................ John Collingwood
Every year half of the Committee members step down - and are eligible for re-election.
It is always hoped that other members of U3A Dandenong will volunteer and nominate for a turn of duty on the Committee.
Members are elected for a two year term, so - with half stepping down every year and half remaining for another year - there is always a number of “old hands” to help and guide anyone who is newly elected.
DANDENONG
U3A
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Live Learn Enjoy

U3A DANDENONG
Paddy O'Donoghue Centre
NOBLE PARK
(03) 9546 2997
u3adandy@froggy.com.au
http://www.dandenongu3a.com.au