

President's Message

Congratulations to all who took part in senior's week celebrations. I hope some of you were able to take advantage of the free travel and entertainment.

Congratulation to U3A Whittlesea on hosting the 'World Walking Football tournament' I look forward to hearing about the next instalment of this initiative.

In the holidays the UMAS support group held a user group meeting. Sixty members attended and information on upgrades was given. This was a great opportunity for the users, both the technical and administrators to share ideas and put forward suggestions for any modifications. Well done to the organisers.

Since I have taken over the role of Acting President I have not had time to attend your AGM or general celebrations. Fortunately I did have the opportunity to catch up with a number of you at the Network State conference in September.

As we near the end of the U3A year I take this opportunity to congratulate you on continuing to support the retired and semi retired members of the community. If you are a part of that community I am sure you enjoy the opportunity to be involved in U3A activities organised by your committee. Be assured you are all well respected by the U3A Network Committee and members of the government.

Enjoy the festive break and return in good health in 2018

Elsie Mutton

News from our U3As



U3A Nunawading

Federation Square and Deakin Edge, 8 October, 2017.

It was, yet again, a vibrant and exciting official start to Seniors Festival. U3A Network Victoria liaised with members of the public seeking a U3A near their homes and also took the opportunity to make links with other agencies present.

U3A Banyule, U3A Hawthorn, U3A Manningham and U3A Nunawading had many of their activities on display in their marquees.

Deakin Edge hosted choirs from U3A Banyule, U3A Kingston, U3A Melbourne City and U3A Nunawading plus U3A Hawthorn's Wind octet and quintet.

Dotted throughout spaces in Fed Square were displays from U3A Dandenong (Line Dancing); U3A Manningham (Line Dancing); U3A Nunawading (Line Dancing, Phillipine Dancing).



U3A Kingston, Vivace Voices

News from our UBAs

UBA BANYULE

Creative Fundraising by Diana McCormack

As a long time member of U3A Banyule I have for the past five years led a Creative Knitting Group and hosted a fundraising International Women's Day Lunch.

At the recent U3A Banyule AGM I had the pleasurable task of presenting a \$2000 cheque to Ryder Cheshire Victorian Homes, Ivanhoe. The home provides affordable accommodation to those needing specialist medical treatment.

To date the Creative Knitting Group has raised \$8950 (\$450 at Fed Square Seniors Festival opening), which has been distributed to the Olivia Newton John Centre, Cancer Council Australia, Melbourne City Mission, a local Women's Refuge and the Leukaemia Foundation.

All this had been achieved through Banyule members and the local community supporting IWD and the achievements of Creative Knitting.

The aims of Creative Knitting are to knit with purpose to raise funds for local not for profit organisations and to engage in knitting for many community projects. Some of the projects the group supported include knitting Poppies displayed in Federation Square, Beanies for premature babies, toys, beanies, scarves for Cottage by the Sea and Berry Street, creating fun Tea Cosies for the Biannual Exhibition at Bundoora Homestead. Knitting Fiddle Muffs used for people with dementia and special needs students, who have problems concentrating, and lastly the intergenerational program teaching primary school students to knit.

In 2016 Victorian Aboriginal Housing requested we support them with knitted beanies, scarves, mitts for NAIDOC Week and toys for Christmas. The group became involved in the International Million Stars Campaign, holding Star Weaving Workshops encouraging members and those in the wider community to become involved.

There is no doubt being able to show we care to those who are less fortunate is heart warming and I am truly thankful to have had ongoing support and encouragement from all at U3A Banyule.



U3A Banyule, Creative Knitting Group

UBA NETWORK VICTORIA CONFERENCE REPORTS

The Network Committee was pleased with the numbers of our members who attended the biennial Conference on September 4 and 5. The Committee greatly appreciated the feedback from our Members both at the end of the Conference and through the survey sent after the Conference. This feedback forms part of the review process to meet the needs of our members when planning future conferences.



Seaside Six performing at the Network Conference

UBA BAW BAW CONFERENCE REPORT

U3A Network Victoria Conference Report from Secretary, Lorraine Benn (edited)

It was also a wonderful opportunity to mix with people from other U3A's across Victoria. The organisation behind the Conference was excellent, with interesting speakers, a lovely venue, and great catering. I would like to recommend other members of U3A to attend the next Conference. It is not only for Committee members, but for anyone who would like to attend. The speakers were excellent, and some had information which will be exciting for Victoria.

Sara Slade told us about the planned State Library Redevelopment program. More information on this redevelopment project can be found on vision2020.slv.vic.gov.au

There was a talk about building fame – and U3A can build fame in the community.

There are some secrets to fame:

1. Know what you are good at. Shift away from didactic messages, and connect and engage with people. We should focus on the people who U3A would suit.
2. Deliver consistently.
3. Focus on the experience.
4. Telling ain't selling.
5. Open your mind to partnerships in odd places.
6. Know how to tell stories.
7. Get on with it. Start now. Think about it.

Another speaker, Chris Kotour from Leadership Victoria, said that U3A has a positive reputation and respect. We are not associated with any scandals, we have a broad

News from our U3As



Members at the Conference

network, and membership is growing. There is a hard-working committee behind every U3A, and we have an appetite for the organisation to expand.

One thing we should think about is our vantage point in the community – our intellectual property.

A good organisation will put the clients and customers first and work backwards. We might think that we know everything that people need, but there are people who don't see the world as we do.

Retaining members is a challenge for many organisations. Other organisations offer competition for time and interest. Loyalty cannot be depended on if rivals offer better opportunities.

How can we help people to make the most of their opportunities? Sharing, fellowship, social cohesion.

U3A ARARAT CONFERENCE REPORT

Network Victoria Conference report from President Pat McAloon

September 4 and 5 was spent in Melbourne for the U3A Victoria State Conference. Ararat was represented by Lee, Pam and myself.

Lee was the official photographer for the conference and did a wonderful job.

The theme of the conference was "Communities Learning Together" and the organising committee put an interesting program together with some excellent speakers.

Today in Victoria there are 100 plus U3As representing around 36,000 members and there was a good representation from most parts of Victoria.

Some of the topics at the conference included Demography, Community Partnerships, Marketing and Leadership. It was also pleasing that Gerard Mansour, Commissioner for Senior Victorians, addressed the conference.

I found the address on demography very interesting. Some information provided displayed that we "are all living longer."

However, one of the downsides is that many of our seniors in some cases are "living alone and socially isolated." This

is an opportunity for U3As to spread the word of the many and various program/activities that Ararat U3A offers.

At the conference, we heard that many U3As are under stress paying rent for premises and others having difficulty in finding suitable premises. We are fortunate to have such great premises rent free.



Pat McAloon at the conference

U3A GLEN EIRA

Document Management

Back in March, Glen Eira U3A decided not to continue managing its official documents on paper. Instead we moved to maintaining all official documents in electronic form, and storing them in the cloud. After assessing free cloud storage solutions, we chose Google Drive, both for cloud storage, and also for a number of its other features.

We now store our official documents either in a Governance folder available to members of the management committee, or in the Administration folder available to our committee members and also to our office volunteers.

Committee members can access current and past documents at any time from any pc, tablet or smart phone. Many choose to view the documents on their tablet or laptop during committee meetings.

A copy of our document management policy is available at www.gleneirau3a.org.au under policies. We also developed instructions for our committee members about how to get onto google drive and access the official documents. (A copy can be provided to anyone interested.)

We still have filing cabinets and folders of old documents, but in time we will image the critical documents into the Governance folder.

Recently we have used Google forms to create two surveys: Tutor Satisfaction, and Member Satisfaction. This worked well for our membership of over 1100. Google forms automatically tabulates and graphs all the responses, or responses can be downloaded as an excel spreadsheet. Once the surveys are complete, the results are stored in the Governance folder on Google drive. In the office, we also use the Google calendar to allow

News from our U3As

our office volunteers to share a calendar and keep across upcoming events and plan future work.

U3A Whittlesea Visit to Government House

Members: Meg Brown and Mary Renshaw

On the 14th August 2017, 21 members of the Whittlesea U3A took up the invitation to visit Government House. We were then met by Erin who escorted us up the magnificent driveway to a breathtaking view of this historic building, the official residence of the Governor of Victoria. Her Excellency the Governor was in a meeting so Mr Anthony Howard (her husband) was our host.

Mr Howard explained the history of the portrait and also elaborated on the history of the building, along with the various roles of the Governor. The present Governor is the 29th Governor of Victoria and has been in office since 1st July 2015.

There are roughly 249 rooms in Government House complex and we toured several of them including a room devoted to the portraits of all Victorian Governors - commencing with Sir Charles Hotham 1855 to the present day.

It was with wonder that we entered into the Grand Ballroom it was such a beautiful room all painted in blue and gold. Mr Howard again regaled us with stories of the different ceremonies and balls that have been held in this magnificent room.

Lastly we were ushered into the State Dining Room for afternoon tea, where we were seated at the table made of Spanish Mahogany that can seat 54 guests, it also comes in 3 pieces. We were able to participate in some afternoon

tea before being escorted out of the Governor's House and back to the front gate.

We thoroughly recommend that other U3As take up the opportunity of a visit.



U3A Knox held their annual Art show above is Robert Diss who won the Best in show

U3a Hawthorn Orchestra Concert 3, 18th November, 2017 2:30pm

St. John's Anglican Church, Burke Road, Camberwell

"The Romantic Violin" for more information go to U3a Hawthorn website.



U3A

Orchestra of U3A Hawthorn



Members at U3A Geelong keeping fit



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