



BANYULE
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

PO Box 454 Rosanna 3084
Office: 14 Ivanhoe Parade Ivanhoe 3079
Email: info@u3abanyule.org.au
Website: www.u3abanyule.org.au

Reg. No. A13622D

Tel: 9499 2080

AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Semester 2 is well underway, with members enthusiastically enrolling in the 120 classes on offer in our program. There truly is something for everyone. We are delighted to welcome a record number of new members; **our membership has increased from 561 as at July 2017 to 640 in July 2018**. As our U3A grows, it is important for all of us to make sure that we retain the elements of friendship and goodwill that are an integral part of our culture.

The growth in our membership, and consequent increase in the numbers enrolling in many of the most popular classes, has brought some **challenges** for our Course Coordination team. Where possible, steps are being taken to make sure that people who are on waiting lists can be accommodated by such measures as the creation of an extra class. The commitment of our Course Coordinator, Joan Learmont, and her team, to making sure our program is as good as it can possibly be, is extraordinary.

Many members may not be aware of the amount of time and effort that goes on behind the scenes to keep U3A Banyule functioning as well as it does. I want to highlight the work of the **Committee of Management**, whose members' tasks include the roles of Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and Course Coordinator; managing the membership data base, MyU3A; coordinating communication to the membership; editing newsletters; managing the website; arranging Public Lectures; liaising with Tutors; coordinating equipment owned by the U3A; organizing social events; managing the office, and the volunteers who staff it; representing the U3A on external committees; health and safety; publicity; access to La Trobe University courses; liaising with Banyule City Council re our future accommodation in the Ivanhoe Library and Community Hub. All these voluntary roles are carried out with dedication, energy and integrity. Thank you to everyone who contributes in this way.

At the time of writing, there are some vacancies on the Committee of Management. A very pressing and urgent need is to find a Treasurer. Tom Porter has been filling this role for some months as an interim measure, but would love to hand over to another member with the requisite experience and skills. Other Committee positions needing to be filled are Volunteers Coordinator, Bi-monthly Newsletter Editor, and Social Organiser. Please consider whether you could take on one of these roles, and contact me for details. Warm thanks go to Pat Amor, who has been our Bi-monthly Newsletter Editor, and to Val Wake, who has been our Social Organiser; your contributions are greatly appreciated.

I hope that a large number of members will attend our **Annual General Meeting**, which will be held on **Thursday 16 August from 10am at the U3A Hall**. As well as hearing about the past year's achievements, receiving the financial statement, and electing the 2018 – 2019 Committee of Management, we will be voting on a Special Resolution re Life Membership. We will also be presenting donations to two organizations, Seven Women and the Hearts in Mind Project. An amazing \$3,000 has been raised over the past year by the efforts of our Creative Knitting Group, some of whose knitted items will be available for sale at the AGM. Full details of the AGM are available on the website, including a nomination form and proxy form for voting on the Special Resolution. Further information will be emailed (or mailed) to members shortly.

Warmest wishes to all who make up the U3A Banyule community.

Helen McKinnon

Editorial

In this newsletter you can read about long-time dedicated member, Janet Creed: always very active in U3A Banyule, and a former President.

In the May 2018 Newsletter we included an invitation to the over 50's, from the Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School and the Ivanhoe Library, for tuition on mobile phones and iPads. IGGS and YPRL are kindly repeating the offer and I can strongly recommend it: my tutors - the two year 9 girls - were charming, knowledgeable and fun, as they answered all my questions in a polite and clear way.

I have enjoyed editing the U3A Banyule bi-monthly newsletters for the past two years. Unfortunately the vagaries of age have taken their toll and I find I am unable to continue. I would heartily recommend volunteering in this or other capacity. It was a real privilege to be a part of such a helpful and friendly management team. So if anyone would like to take over the role please don't hesitate to contact Helen McKinnon (9499 2080, email: info@u3abanyule.org.au). I look forward to continuing the friendships I have made in some of the many available courses.

Pat Amor, Editor, Bi-Monthly Newsletter



BRONWYN PORTER CHATS WITH A LONGTIME MEMBER

There was magic in the air the day I met Janet Creed. It surfaced years ago when Janet's twin aunts entranced her with tales of dancing on TV in London and working for a magician throughout Europe. Janet was spellbound and set herself a goal to visit Europe and feel that magic for herself.

Janet's mother had to leave school early and her father was self-taught. She grew up in West Brunswick. Fascinated by Melbourne university students walking home discussing their daily activities, she resolved to attend Melbourne University and become a teacher. After graduation she taught English, History and German and was posted first to Warracknabeal, where she had a good principal who extended the children, and then when married, to Tallangatta.

School was very important to the community in the country where

she met her husband at the local dramatic society. "I couldn't sing or dance but was not a bad actress". Janet is passionate about teaching, especially Year 12 students as they are developing and learning to think for themselves with quite a lot demanded of them, she explained. Her attitude to teaching - "kids come to the class and they have to work" stood her in good stead throughout her career.

Janet has been an active, contributing member of U3A Banyule for 15 years, joining when it operated from the old baby health centre opposite Austin Hospital, with one classroom, an office and kitchenette. A past President for 3 years, she has taught German, facilitated Book Group, Movie outings and "A Book That Changed Me". She observed that U3A has changed over the years in several ways. Formerly, many members had left school early and through U3A could broaden their learning and opportunities. These days many members are highly skilled, and presenters must be prepared for differing viewpoints. There are more members, more people willing to volunteer or get involved, and a greater use of technology.

After teaching in Canada in the 1960's, Janet and family returned there in the 1970's for two years, staying at a university village. These days she helps out with her 10 grandchildren, (including twin 8 year old granddaughters), and is involved in the local church.

Also in the 1960's Janet achieved her goal to tour Europe and experience its enchantment. When in Germany her car required servicing, and after carefully rehearsing German mechanical phrases, miraculously, a smiling mechanic approached her with "g'day mate I'm from Rosanna". Were the twin aunts and the old magician weaving their spells again? Was it an illusion? A mirage perhaps? Magic happens.

News & Information

We welcome contributions and/or photos for the newsletters and/or our website, from Tutors and course participants. It could be fun and worthwhile to write a few words telling other members about your new experiences in U3A Banyule. (Photos using a mobile phone are fine).

On 13 September two members, Paul Jowett and Bryce Phillips, will share experiences of their working life pre-retirement. Perhaps some other members would be willing to conduct a session (or more) in 2019, sharing experience and knowledge gained in their previous occupations. A call to the office 9499 2080, or email info@u3abanyule.org could be a first point of contact.

Importance of Wearing Name Badges

Unfortunately emergency health incidents do occur occasionally at classes. This highlights the importance of every member wearing his/her name badge to ALL classes, with emergency contact details on the reverse side. **Please, please remember to wear your name badge!** It is in your own best interest to do so, and as well, our U3A is much friendlier if we can learn each other's names more easily. (Replacement lanyards and name badges are \$2 from the office)

Notice of Annual General Meeting, Thursday 16 August, 2018, U3A Hall

Members are cordially invited to attend the forthcoming AGM and a formal invitation and notices will be emailed/mailed to all. It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend the meeting in order to meet a quorum of 10% of members. The President's report will be presented and the 2018-19 Committee of Management will be elected. If you wish to nominate (or nominate a friend) please complete a Nomination Form and return it to the Secretary, Milena Maranville, either through the office, mail (PO Box 454, Rosanna 3084) or email to info@u3abanyule.org.au by **9 August**. (Nominations will also be called for from the floor at the AGM). Should you wish to discuss any position, please contact Helen McKinnon, President, at info@u3abanyule.org.au. She would be pleased to hear from you.

Social Media for Seniors at Ivanhoe Library, 255 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe

For over 50's, learn how to use your mobile phone, Facebook or Skype with students from **Ivanhoe Girls Grammar School**. Participants will be matched with a student for an individual session to learn more about the technology or social media of choice. **All sessions are 2.00pm – 3.00pm on any of these dates:**

- Tuesday 4 September
- Tuesday 9 October
- Tuesday 23 October
- Tuesday 20 November

Booking is essential - telephone 9497 5780 or online at www.yprl.vic.gov.au



CALL TO FACEBOOK USERS

U3A Banyule is exploring social media possibilities and will set up a Facebook Page in the near future. We need 2 - 3 members to volunteer to assist in development of the page, provision of content and administration of the page. Please email info@u3abanyule.org if you are interested in joining the Facebook Working Group/Team and MaryAnne Bennie (our Newsletter Editor), will explain what's involved.

Learning Opportunities From Home

U3A Online – a Virtual University of the Third Age

U3A Online is an independent and autonomous U3A, delivering online learning. To undertake a course with U3A Online you need to become a member of U3A Online - the cost is \$30 per year from when you join. You can then enrol in as many courses as you wish as independent study, without further cost, throughout your membership period.

To study you need only a computer, tablet or other device with an Internet connection. Some courses run with a Course Leader (additional \$5), others are self-paced for independent study. The courses are informal, there are no exams or assignments and no certificates issued. You can also participate in the social forums in the Members' Lounge and other member based online activities. For further information see www.u3aonline.org.au

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCS)

MOOCS are free university-level online courses offered by a wide range of universities around the world, including Harvard, Boston, Cambridge, Oxford, London School of Business and many Australian universities. Access to the online courses is facilitated by companies such, as Coursera and edX.

Once enrolled, you have free access to lectures, discussions and course materials. Some courses commence on a set date, some run on a regular basis, eg monthly, and others are flexible, self paced and can be commenced any time. As a non-paying student, you do not have assessments. However, you can choose to complete assessment tasks (a small fee applies) and receive a certificate of completion if they are completed satisfactorily.

There are more than 40 subject category areas and over 1700 courses starting in just one month! A list of available courses can be viewed on <https://www.mooc-list.com/> and you can register and enrol in courses, linking to this website.

AVAILABLE COURSES, EXCURSIONS AND ACTIVITIES can be found on our website www.u3abanyule.org.au under the Courses tab (then click Course Information, then 2018 Program) and/or the June 2018 Newsletter.

If you have enrolled in any course and are now unable to attend would you please take the time to let the Tutor know (through the website, via Member Log-In and follow the links to the courses you are enrolled in, or via the office) so that places can be offered to those on a waiting list. Note that "TBA" means acceptance subject to Tutor approval. This does not apply to the Public Lectures or Single Sessions held in the U3A Hall at which large numbers attend and to which all are welcome.

PUBLIC LECTURES:

4th Monday of each month 2.00pm - 4.00pm, U3A Hall, Rear 14 Ivanhoe Parade, Ivanhoe

- **Escalating Energy Costs - How to get on Top**, Katherine George, Monday 27 August
- **Indigenous Art as Storytelling**, Rev Glenn Loughrey, Monday 24 September
- **Law Reform in Victoria**, Nick Gadd, Monday 22 October

These lectures are open to the public and provide an opportunity to 'Come and Try' U3A Banyule before joining. Please feel free to bring family, friends and/or neighbours who may be interested.

More Dates for Your Diary

- Thurs 16 August** Annual General Meeting of U3A Banyule, U3A Hall (Office closed, no morning classes), 10am – 12noon
- October** Victorian and Banyule Seniors Festivals
- Mon 5 November** Membership renewal for 2019 opens
- Mon 19 November** Semester 1 2019 course information available for preview on website
- Mon 26 November** Annual Forum (no afternoon classes), U3A Hall, 2 – 4pm
- Fri 30 November** Semester 2 concludes
- Mon 3 December** Enrolment for 2019 courses begins online, and in office for non-email members
- Fri 14 December** U3A office closes for 2018
