



BANYULE
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

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U3A Banyule Inc.

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In the spirit of reconciliation, U3A Banyule acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging. The U3A movement is a welcoming place for all.



Quarterly Newsletter

June 2023

In this edition ...

Dive into this newsletter for a wealth of information about events and people in your U3A. Amongst the standout events in recent times was the celebration of our nonagenarians – how fortunate are we to have so much wisdom and life experience in our membership! Read all about it on page 7. We celebrated International Women's Day with an outstanding speaker (page 6) and The Biggest Afternoon Tea raised significant funds to combat ovarian cancer (page 8). You can also read about some of the amazing volunteers who make our U3A so vibrant and successful and find out about three long-serving volunteers who are taking well-earned retirement (pages 3 & 4). On page 5, see some outstanding work by the photography class; there is also an account of two of the much-appreciated Public Lectures (page 8).

We hope you enjoy the snapshot provided by this newsletter of our busy and productive U3A.

The newsletter team



U3A Banyule Significant Service Awards 2023

Each year we offer awards for members who made a significant contribution to building our organisation, its services and connections. The nomination closing date is Friday 16 June 2023.

The nomination form is on page 10.

President's report

The term has flown by and I am sure that I am not the only one marvelling at how time flies. This has been a huge term in ensuring that U3A Banyule is moving forward with good governance that will benefit our community of learners.

During Term 2 there have been many uplifting events. For me the Nonagenarians Morning Tea was inspiring. Our Mayor thought so much of our group that he wanted them to feature in the Banner. What a wonderful testimony!

The Special General Meeting saw all motions carried, thanks to the support of members. See page 2 for my more detailed report. Our creative knitters pooled their term's work for the Craft Market and it was great to see lots of people coming in to find a special treasure. The teapot cosies get me every time! While some were in charge of the stall, others were busy knitting behind the scenes. I wryly asked them if they were the 'just in time' group, knitting furiously to fill the gaps out front. It's so good to have a laugh and to see their beautiful products.

The Website Review Team has worked for many hours developing a far more user-friendly website. Changes have happened this term but, of course, the biggest changes are yet to come. I am thrilled to announce that the specifications have gone to the website developers and we have confirmation that they can begin work immediately. It won't be long before we launch the new and improved site. A grant from BCC has funded this project and we are grateful. I am also appreciative of the team that is spearheading this exciting project.

As President it is my privilege to get an overview of everything that's happening, so I know in this brief report I have scarcely touched the surface of who is doing what and the gratitude they deserve. Our volunteers, no matter how big or small their role, are our strength. Bravo and thank you! To everyone – enjoy the rest of term and there's lots more happening in Semester 2.

Judith Craze



Special General Meeting Tuesday 9 May

On behalf of the Committee of Management, I sincerely thank all those members who submitted proxy forms and those who attended the webinar meeting to ensure the successful outcome of the Special General Meeting. Michael Maguire and Willem Roodenburg acted as Returning Officers to tally and report on the online votes and Secretary, Margaret Jack tallied the proxy votes. Each of the five motions was carried. Although the motions were not controversial, to hold such a meeting involves a huge team effort and many hours of work behind the scenes.

The Committee of Management will now submit the results of this meeting and the revised Constitution to Consumer Affairs Victoria. We will also add the newly revised Constitution to our website for members' access. We appreciated the comments and questions received prior to the meeting, showing that our members had taken an active interest in the operation and culture of U3A Banyule. Such a groundswell of participation ensures that we operate as a democratic organisation in representing our members.

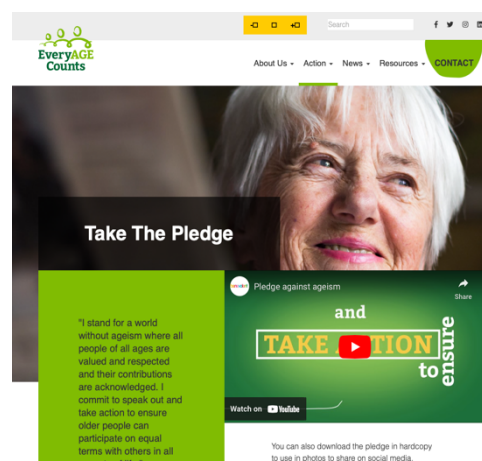
I wish to thank Michael and Willem for their technical support, which resulted in a smooth webinar. A very sincere thank you goes to members of the Governance Sub Committee, who spent countless hours reviewing the Constitution to ensure these changes were clearly conveyed to our members. The Constitution will now be updated to truly reflect U3A Banyule. *Judith Craze*

Age Friendly Council

Having the opportunity to represent our group, along with Milena, at a workshop run by the Age Friendly Council, gave us the opportunity to witness the signing of the EveryAGE Count Pledge by Mayor Peter Castaldo on behalf of the whole Banyule Council.

All present signed individual pledges, indicating the commitment to call out deeply entrenched ageism. Stereotyping, prejudice and many of the issues faced by older adults create a significant impact in the devaluing of older members of society. It starts with us!

No more references to ourselves as being too old or putting ourselves down for being older adults. WE are not invisible! The morning also involved workshoping across the Banyule LGA. We have a council that values the perspectives we bring and win-win outcomes. *Judith Craze*



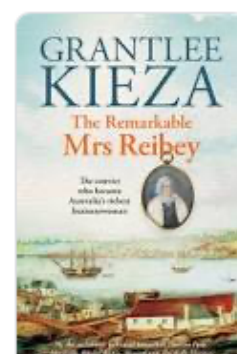
Books I have enjoyed recently by Janet Creed

This year I have come across the biographer, Grantlee Kieza. The first book of his I read was *Banks*, the story of Joseph Banks. I found it totally absorbing. I have just finished another of Kieza's books, *The Remarkable Mrs Reibey*. It is the biography of a young convict girl who became Australia's richest businesswoman. I highly recommend that as well. Kieza has written many other biographies. His most recent was on Hudson Fysh and it has been widely praised.

A novel I really enjoyed is *Cooper Not Out* by Justin Smith, who creates a story around small-town Australia and the local cricketer who has never been out. I know very little about cricket, but this is much more than a cricket story. Smith gives a wonderful picture of life in a small town, and there are some interesting characters, including a little girl who is a maths whiz.

I'm always looking for something enjoyable to read. I hope these appeal to you too.

Janet coordinates U3A Banyule's Book Group 3, which meets on Mondays at ILCH.



Thank you to our retiring volunteers

Helen Walker, retiring office volunteer

Helen joined U3A Banyule in 2006 after retiring from teaching literacy and numeracy to adults at Swinburne Uni/TAFE. She was an Office Volunteer from 2007 until the end of 2022 (that's 17 consecutive years)! Helen recalls undertaking office duty when U3A was at the Infant Welfare Centre in Burgundy St, Heidelberg. As our U3A community grew in size, relocating initially to Ivanhoe Parade, and then in 2020 to our current main venue at Ivanhoe Library and Community Hub (ILCH), Helen happily embraced the technological changes to office tasks necessary to sustain our growing membership and offerings. Over part of that time, Helen took on the additional role of Tutor Liaison Officer.

Helen was well-primed for becoming involved. With her background as a Minister's wife, she had involved herself in parish duties, reared their two children and later undertook further studies that led to her teaching at Swinburne, something she thoroughly enjoyed.

Asked what she felt about Office Volunteering for U3A Banyule, Helen says "I have enjoyed being part of the team that keeps U3A going. I have met lots of people, learned new computer skills and had the satisfaction of giving back to this wonderful organisation."



Sheila Colls, retiring office volunteer

Sheila was born (at home) in a small town of County Fermanagh, in Northern Ireland, and attended school in Belfast and university at Oxford. She then worked as a volunteer teacher in a community-run school in Oyo, and travelled to Nigeria, Ghana and Togo before moving to Edinburgh to begin training as an actuary.

Moving to Australia was quite a cultural shock. She settled in Diamond Creek, later moved to Springthorpe and is now living in Airlie apartments, which is very convenient for classes at the Library. Sheila took up a position of part-time maths aide at Preston East Tech, before working as an actuary for Colonial Mutual.

When retiring in 2009, Sheila was eager to explore what U3A had to offer. Yarra Valley (Banyule) was the obvious choice. She enrolled in French conversation, took a German class, was Treasurer for a while, did Office Duty, joined the walking group, and enjoyed Jane's History classes, Audrey's Shakespeare classes, and many of the weekly talks. Sheila offered a couple of short courses: one on aspects of Irish history and culture in the songs of Percy French and another looking at the mathematical and other inspirations in Lewis Carroll's works.

Sheila says "My current involvement with U3A Banyule now that I no longer help in the office on the first Monday, is to teach Beginners' French and then participate in French conversation. If I don't forget the date I go to the occasional trivia quiz, and I hope to return to German."



Pat Amor, retiring Wellbeing Officer

(Hey, you may know Pat from a photo on an earlier website – think ‘vibrant woman in Scottish dress, arms in a highland fling’. Congratulations if your photographic memory pulls up Pat’s photo in your mind.)

Prior to retirement with a B.A. (Hons) in Politics, Pat enjoyed the challenge of being involved in industrial relations, winding up her career as the Employee Relations Advisor for the Gas & Fuel Corporation, with scope to act in a mediating role between management and workers.

Joining U3A Banyule (then Yarra Valley U3A) in 2002, Pat remembers vividly our original ‘centre’, the Infant & Maternal Welfare Centre in Heidelberg, and how delighted members were when U3A Banyule relocated to the Hall at 14A Ivanhoe Parade with a dedicated U3A Office. Pat speaks of her joy and good fortune over the 21 years to date as a member, at having access to so many subjects, classes, and tutors (all dedicated volunteers). As you can imagine, Pat has contributed over that period of time to the richness of that volunteering, with 3 years on Committee, 3 years as editor of the bi-monthly newsletter, giving a six-session presentation, “Tall Poppies Along the Yarra” with husband Ron, based on an e-book that they published, and for the last 5 years as Wellbeing Officer for U3A Banyule.

On volunteering, within U3A Banyule, Pat says “It’s a reward within itself. The adage is right – the more you put in, the more you get out.”



Pat with great-granddaughter, Eden

Jaga Jaga Community Volunteer Awards

At an impressive ceremony held at Viewbank College on 25 March, four hard-working U3A Banyule members were recipients of Jaga Jaga Community Volunteer Awards, presented by Federal MP Hon. Kate Thwaites. To have one recipient is special but to have four is amazing – a testimony to their super efforts.

Margaret Fievez was recognised for her previous work at U3A as Course Information Manager and Venues Coordinator, and her current role as Lecture Coordinator. Her efficient work behind the scenes is invaluable.

Sharon Karasmanis was acknowledged for her huge contribution as our ongoing Course Coordinator, with praise for her attention to detail, strong sense of commitment, efficiency and good humour.

Andrew Lees, who is a member of U3A’s talk facilitation team, and himself a Tutor, was recognised for his long- time role as President of The Friends of Yarra Flats Park. His efforts help us all to benefit from beautification of the area and the increase in biodiversity.

Milena Maranville has served U3A as Secretary of the Committee of Management, then President, and now Vice President, bringing outstanding leadership qualities to all these roles. Milena has taken on many other roles at U3A Banyule and her commitment is impressive.

U3A Banyule is very grateful for their commitment and very proud of them. Bravo to our worthy recipients! If you see Marg, Sharon, Andrew or Milena please congratulate them in person.



**U3A Banyule Photography
Tutor John Jones-Parry**



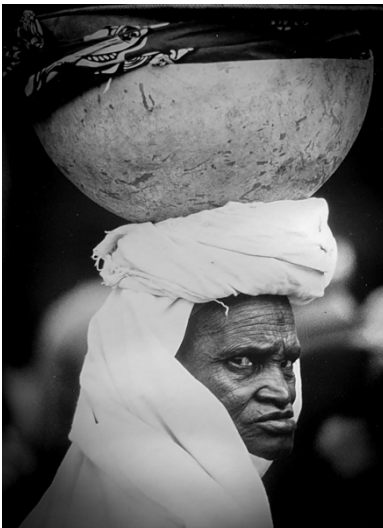
Anne Wallace – Still life 1



Paolo Serafin – Contrast



Ken Bowes – Child



Ken Bowes – Heavy



Paolo Serafin – Break time



Paolo Serafin – Graffiti with talent



Ken Bowes – Bright eyes



Hester Joyce – Impression



Hester Joyce – Steps



Anne Wallace – Still life 2

International Women's Day

On 6 March, 55 members gathered at ILCH to celebrate International Women's Day. Members wore green, purple and white, the colours of the suffrage movement. IWD is celebrated globally to raise awareness of the injustices that women around the world suffer each day and to understand the action being taken to tackle these problems.

Guest Speaker Mary Crooks, Executive Director of The Victorian Women's Trust, gave members a detailed history of the trust, since it was first established in 1985 and the many projects and campaigns the Trust has been involved in. The Trust provides support to enable women and girls, non-binary and gender-diverse people to thrive. Creating social-change projects and campaigns, mentorship opportunities and giving grants to projects that support women in need. All this has been made possible by corporate donations and individual benefactors, people who share the vision for an equal future for all.

Following the talk, a delicious afternoon tea was enjoyed by all and at this time the question raised by members was "why can't we donate the proceeds from today to the VWT?" I'm happy to announce the Creative Knitting Group added to proceeds from the event and \$1000 was paid into the Dugdale Trust for Women & Girls, a national harm prevention entity. This Trust pursues circuit-breaking solutions to reduce harm and ensure a brighter, safer and fairer future for women and girls.

Diana McCormack Photos: Coralie Leins



U3A Banyule Craft Sale

On 24 May another successful craft sale took place at ILCH. Plenty of interesting articles were on sale, all overseen by Diana McCormack and her skilful band of knitters, sewers and other craft makers. Such creativity is inspiring – just imagine coffee cup warmers, hand towel flaps, tea cosies, scarves, gloves, beanies and lots more all in a riot of colour. The items on sale were made by at least 20 members of the Creative Knitting Group, plus donations from other U3A Banyule members.

The tally for the day was \$874.40, so \$900 will be donated to Open House to assist the local community. This healthy result brings the total donated since 2013 to a multitude of charities from the sale of members' work to \$25,000; a really extraordinary effort. This group includes some nonagenarians and those of different levels of skill. It is a friendly, helpful group where members can learn from one another and enjoy the convivial atmosphere.

Congratulations to our crafty members for another successful sale and thanks to all those who came along and supported the fundraising efforts.

Another craft stall is scheduled for Wednesday 22 November and it would be great if other members could contribute their hand-crafted items as they did for the COVID Craft Stall.

Nonagenarians' Morning Tea Thursday 4 May

We had 14 members of a certain age and it was a delight to hear not once, but several times, "I am surprised to see so many. I thought I might be the only one." We have a few more who were apologies, so we are delighted that we have a strong cohort. How marvellous it is! Mayor Peter Castaldo and Deputy Mayor, Alida McKern, think so too and came to help us celebrate our champions.

The morning consisted of a PowerPoint focussing on 1933, which was the birth year of some and a year of considerable influence on those just a tad older.



Not only was it the year that the Great Depression broke and the drums of World War II were beating but it was a year of amazing creativity and innovation.

Construction for the Golden Gate Bridge began and drafts for the Underground Tube in Britain were first revealed to the public, just to name two. And there were so many more interesting facts to discover.

We asked our guests to get into pairs to tell an amusing story to each other and then they had to pick the best one to tell the whole group. There were some great stories indeed! We had quite a few laughs and everyone enjoyed a delectable morning tea. It was a privilege to celebrate our nonagenarian champions; they are inspirational.

I wish to thank all those who contributed to the sumptuous morning tea. It was a standout.

Judith Craze



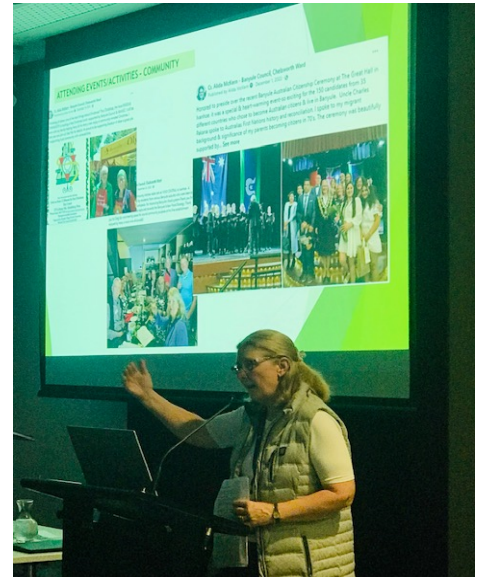
U3A Banyule Public Lectures

During the first semester Public Lecture series, U3A members and a few local residents had the opportunity to hear from two engaging presenters.

Firstly Tim Sligo, Executive Director of Heide Museum of Modern Art, informed us about the history and the present operation of this wonderful regional asset and outlined exciting plans for future development of Heide. He warmly welcomed members to visit the exhibitions and facilities of Heide.

We were also fortunate to have Banyule Deputy Mayor, Cr Alida McKern, present two lectures: one about the Banyule Urban Food Strategy and the second on the role of a Councillor. Members appreciated the initiative being taken by Council to develop a food strategy promoting good health, sustainability and effective waste management. Participants valued gaining insight about Cr McKern's experience as a Councillor and the functioning of Council Public Lectures are held at ILCH on the fourth Monday of the month.

Maria Axarlis-Coulter



High tea for ovarian cancer

On 31 May, around 50 people enjoyed the first sit-down afternoon tea organised by U3A at ILCH. The 'High Tea' was an elegant occasion, with champagne offered on arrival, delicious savouries and petits fours arranged on tiered stands, and tea and coffee served in beautiful porcelain cups. Not only was it a wonderful social occasion, it was also a very informative and highly successful fundraiser.



The indefatigable chief organiser, Joan Learmont, and her team, had decided to support the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation as this form of cancer affecting women receives less community support than other cancers. \$1300 was raised on the day, a very pleasing result.

Dr Ashleigh Poh, a Post Doctoral Researcher working at the Olivia Newton John Cancer Wellness and Research Centre, spoke about research into ovarian cancer, touching on the use of immunotherapy. Ovarian cancer is one of the most lethal and least understood cancers, with very vague symptoms. Four women are diagnosed every day, often when in advanced stages, and only 29% of these are expected to survive beyond 5 years.

Researchers have to spend valuable time applying for grants, of which only 1 in 20 will be successful. Innovative research is working on finding an early detection test, and better treatments.

Joan and her hard-working team of nine helpers are to be congratulated on staging a very successful and worthwhile event.



Dates for your diary		
12 June	Monday	King's Birthday Holiday
20 June	Monday	Enrolments open for Semester 2 courses
23 June	Friday	Classes conclude Term 2
School holidays. 26 June – 7 July inclusive (Office remains open as usual)		
10 July	Monday	Classes commence Semester 2 Term 3
13 July	Wednesday	New members morning tea and information session
16 Aug	Wednesday	Annual Lunch St Georges Restaurant
15 Sep	Friday	Classes conclude for Term 3
21 Sept	Thursday	Annual General Meeting on Zoom
29 Sept	Friday	Grand Final Holiday
2 Oct	Monday	Classes commence Semester 2 Term 4



High on Tea

Join **High on Tea** for Devonshire Tea and High Tea

Starting monthly from 4 June 10am to 3pm

East Ivanhoe Bowling Club in the Ivy tearoom

High Tea \$65 per person includes one glass of sparkling and bottomless tea.
Devonshire tea \$25 per person

Walk-ins welcome Bookings and enquiries Elizabeth 0450 188 208

Facebook.com/shire.tea Liz@highontea.net



Heidelberg Theatre Company (HTC) is a non-professional theatre company based in Melbourne Australia. It is dedicated to quality productions. In 2023 they celebrate 71 years.

MY OLD LADY

A down-on-his-luck middle-aged man inherits an apartment in Paris, which is occupied by an elderly woman with lifetime habitation rights. He has no other place to go so she invites him to stay. A spiral of friendship and romance affect all in this poignant play.

Tickets online at <https://www.htc.org.au> or call 9455 3039





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U3A Banyule Significant Service Award Nomination Form

The U3A Banyule Significant Service Award recognises the “unsung heroes” within U3A Banyule who have made a significant contribution to building the organisation, its services and connections.

The Award recognises any of the following contributions:

Service:	A member who has given sustained, excellent service for many years in any capacity.
Impact:	A member who has initiated and implemented change, based on successful troubleshooting, which has improved the efficiency and service to members.
Leadership	A member who has established, or improved, or grown our service or operations, or engaged others and built a team, or helped to build connections.
Teamwork	A group of members who have become a team to set up a project, run a service, or build the organisation.

Award Process:

- Members are invited to submit nominations for the U3A Banyule Significant Service Award, for consideration by the Awards Working Party.
- Nominations will be based on any of the contributions indicated above and should provide a brief description on why the member(s) should be considered for the Award.
- The Awards Working Party will make recommendations to the Committee of Management for a final determination.
- A limited number of this prestigious Award will be bestowed each year and will be announced and presented at AGM.
- Nominations should be submitted to the Awards Working Party by **Friday 16 June** – either by email info@u3abanyule.org.au; mail to PO Box 454, Rosanna 3084 or hand deliver to the U3A office.

Details of the nominee(s) for the U3A Banyule Significant Service Award:

Name of Nominee (or if for Teamwork, list all names in the group):		
Proposer (Print)	Proposer's Signature:	Date:

Contribution under which the nominee(s) should be considered:

Service ☐

Impact ☐

Leadership ☐

Teamwork ☐

Brief description (eg 50 words) on why the nominee should be considered for the Award:

Office use only: Approved by Committee of Management:

President's Signature:

Date of Meeting: