



BANYULE
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

U3A Banyule Inc A0013622D

ABN 76 751 606 570

Office: Upper Ground Floor, 275 Upper Heidelberg Rd, Ivanhoe
Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub (ILCH)

Mail: PO Box 454, Rosanna, Victoria, 3084

Website: u3abanyule.org.au

Phone: 0418 749 228

Email: info@u3abanyule.org.au

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 2024

In this edition ...

Dip into this edition to see a selection of the social activities, riveting lectures, fundraising activities, musical events, and active outings undertaken by U3A Banyule members this semester.

It is great to see so many U3A Banyule members acknowledged at the recent Jagajaga awards.

As Semester 1 classes come to a close, keep in mind that Tuesday 18 June is the opening date for enrolment in the Semester 2 program.

The newsletter team



President's report

This has been a busy period leading up to the AGM on Tuesday 21 May, as there is much preparation behind the scenes before the actual event. I want to thank all of those involved and, in particular, Michael Maguire and Willem Roodenburg for their technical expertise, and VP Janet Ringrose, Treasurer Steve Dennis and Governance Convenor Milena Maranville for their involvement in the webinar presentation.

To Joan Learmont, Valerie McPhee and Secretary Margaret Jack, thank you for scrutineering and collating the proxy votes. I am very pleased that a significant number of members lodged proxy votes. It was a happy task to announce that members unanimously supported freezing fees until 2025! It was also a happy task to report all the positives since the last AGM; especially the fact that we have exceeded the expectations of our Strategic Plan set in 2022.

I am grateful to all those who help to make U3A Banyule a dynamic organisation. The 268 members who responded to the recent satisfaction survey told us that 95% are either satisfied or very satisfied. Just think, everything we do is built on volunteering as volunteers are vital to the existence of U3A Banyule. Interestingly 58% have not volunteered in any way. Volunteering does not necessarily involve high-level commitment. Often it means being in a team to set up refreshments or helping by bringing something for afternoon tea.

The Office is another area for valued volunteering. This year we have updated manuals and training to support this vital work. After all the Office is our front of house. On another level, there are a range of support roles where those involved take on an area of responsibility towards good management. And of course, there is Committee of Management, which is not an onerous commitment when everybody does their share. While not everyone wants to volunteer at that level, I ask you how could you contribute?

The Survey wasn't all about volunteering. It has provided us with a valuable 'snapshot' and I thank the 268 respondents as your 'voice' gives us valuable feedback, which we will use to help inform the Strategic Plan 2024–27. We thank all our members for their positivity and with your help, we will continue to provide wonderful classes, lectures, excursions and of course all those much-needed opportunities to socialise.

Judith Craze



Jagajaga Awards

There's a saying "Ask a busy person to do something and miraculously they find time to do it."

Recently, we had five members who were recognised as active contributors to our community in the Jagajaga Awards. They are to be heartily congratulated for the recognition they so richly deserved. U3A Banyule nominated Joan Learmont, Heather Stephens and Dianne Williamson in recognition of their considerable contributions to our organisation and beyond, and excitingly, at the ceremony, we learned that Karlene Lang and Peter Gurney were given awards for their involvement in other spheres of the community. It is so wonderful that five of our members have received these awards from Kate Thwaites.



Joan Learmont Is an outstanding contributor to lifelong learning for older adults. For 3 years, she was Course Coordinator and member of CoM. She became President for 2 action-packed years. Joan oversaw the move from the old rooms into ILCH. When the Covid pandemic hit, Joan was concerned about our members being isolated and disengaged. She worked with a small team to navigate the subsequent implementation of online classes. Joan has been a tireless initiator of social events that bring people together. Joan has initiated Lingered Lunches, International Evenings, Charity events and has created afternoon teas after lectures.

Heather Stephens As a Member of the Committee of Management, Heather has made a huge contribution in terms of time, energy and expertise to the U3A community. Significantly, in her role as MYU3A Coordinator, she oversees our network and she actively problem solves for members. Heather has initiated and managed the review and rewriting of all office manuals and materials as well as creating training sessions to support our Office Volunteers. She helped initiate the introduction of Trybooking. Heather also contributes to a range of other charities through the Bluegum Quilting Group and Zonta's Breast Care Cushion Program. Heather is a creative, problem-solver and U3A is indeed the richer for her efforts.

Dianne Williamson At U3A Banyule, Dianne is an invaluable member of the Committee of Management and is a vital contributor to the Governance Sub Committee. Dianne's knowledge and expertise in terms of process and policy makes her such a dynamic contributor. She is also our liaison with U3A Network Victoria. Dianne is a member of the Banyule Age Friendly Advisory Committee and has been recognised as an Age Friendly Banyule City Champion. She is a member of the Friends of Banyule and Warringal Conservation Society, having contributed in the past as Secretary and to regeneration projects. Dianne has also created and donated numerous quilts to people experiencing disadvantage.

Peter Gurney is Vice President of the Lower Plenty Dance Group, which organises weekly dances for people with physical or intellectual disabilities. Peter is also President of the Banyule Bicycle and Users Group, which encourages fitness and social connections.

Karlene Lang is a volunteer leader and motivator committed to supporting elderly, vulnerable and others in need. She has a genuine interest and passion towards improving the lives of older adults, carers and younger people. She has actively contributed ideas, experiences, opportunities through a range of events, celebrations and committees. Karlene has held volunteer roles with Banyule Council, recently giving input to the 'Ageing Well in Banyule' document. She has been involved with Breast Cancer Network Australia; Royal Botanic Gardens and ACMI or Australia National Museum of Screen Culture. *Judith Craze*



New Office team

First of all, a big thank you to all the wonderful Office Volunteers for giving their time and effort, and for welcoming everyone with a smile. It is thanks to them that the office runs so smoothly.

We endeavour to respond to our members as quickly as possible. If you call the office and no one answers, please leave a message. It is important to help us follow up and get the necessary information back to you in a timely manner.

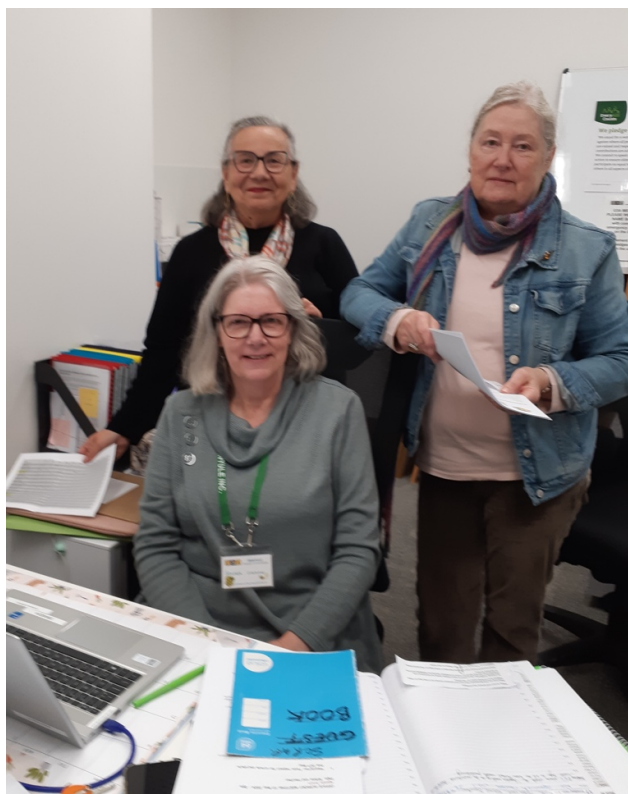
We have trialled opening one afternoon (Thursday 1–3pm) this term. It has been lovely to see people take advantage of the extended hours. Thursday afternoons will continue in Term 3.

There will be another training session in Term 3 on Tuesday 16 July in CMR 2 at 3.30 pm. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet each other, put names and faces together and to share experiences. It is available for all office volunteers and for anyone interested in joining the team.

Keep an eye out for Semester 2 Programs and enrolment date. Enrolment forms will be available at the office for non-online members.

Our friendly and welcoming Office Volunteers are there to be of assistance. They all love a chat (when there is not a queue). We ask you to remember we are all volunteers – please take care!

Heather, Inge and Milena



Spotlight on ...

Golf for fun

Tutor: Bryce Normoyle

A few intrepid golfers braved the chilly weather on the morning of Wednesday 15 May at Ivanhoe Golf Club. Three of us played, and the remaining golfers remained at home.

As the weather will be a bit winterish for the next couple of months, I have rearranged the start time to be 8am. The mornings have been mostly dry and allowed our individual golf skills to be at their best.

Fun is the essence of the play and generally everyone enjoys the game.

Bryce Normoyle

Interested in playing some extra golf in a friendly environment? Come and spend some time with Bryce! Members require their own set of golf clubs, some experience and fitness. No competition rules apply, friendly play essential. Green fees apply.



'Let there be light' – and then Aurora Australis appeared!

The appearance of Aurora Australis during the weekend of 10-12 May was perfectly timed to follow the talk by Dr Tim Davis about light on Wednesday 1 May.

Tim Davis is a popular visiting scientist to U3A Banyule and generously shares his expertise as an international physicist with the scientific and non-scientific. Tim is a fantastic science communicator and manages to allow those of us frozen by the idea of physics to relax and understand, while giving the physics fans up-to-date information and research findings.

Tim took us through the history of light research from the ancient Greeks in approximately 300 BC, the Islamic philosophers, and Europeans from 1500 AD.

We learnt about the properties of light and an explanation of electric and magnetic fields, electromagnetic waves, and their properties. This all came in handy to be able to understand what was happening when the Aurora Australia appeared – caused by the interaction between charged particles and the Earth's magnetic field – causing us to see these beautiful lights.

Further we learnt how lenses work – useful to the photographer, glasses wearers, astronomers and those who work with eyes. We learnt about refraction, reflection, how light waves move and what happens when light waves strike interferences. We learnt about mirages and rainbows.

Tim finished with the Spectre of the Broken – eerie pictures of a figure moving through fog! And then explained that it was created by light scattering (diffraction) from small rain drops (fog).

After the talk members asked if Tim could repeat his 2023 talk about Quantum physics, as several people wanted it again, or had not been able to attend. So Tim will be back on Wednesday 6 November to repeat the Quantum physics talk. He is thrilled that his audience at U3A is always so engaged.

A transcript of Tim's talk is here: (no sound)

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/2ubi8cp7932jfte94zyea/Th e-Physics-of-Light.m4v?rlkey=w07o8c4qf usqh5ugaxfcxta4n&st=aqbw 60oe&dl=0>

Aurora Australis as seen at Williamstown – a light phenomenon

Sue Lees – Wednesday afternoon talks



U3A Banyule raises over \$1500 for the Banyule Community Fund!

What a treat!

On 6 May, 55 members arrived for an afternoon of great entertainment and scrumptious food. We were welcomed by the organisers, headed by Joan Learmont, and encouraged to get a plate and a cuppa. Paule Cartwright then introduced a string quartet of Year 8 girls from Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar who performed for us. And weren't they talented? After a break for more food and chat, two violinists, Jean McMullan and Mary Muirhead, played some pieces to a very appreciative audience. Considerable chatting and eating then ensued followed by a sensational performance of Colombian music by Edilson Arenas on guitar and vocals and Omaira Gonzalez, vocalist. The audience begged them for an encore and they kindly obliged.



Catherine Corbett from Banyule City Council gave us information about the program that we were raising money for, the Banyule Community Fund. U3A Banyule had decided that any money raised would go to the Food Security part of the program.

Including \$200 given by the Committee of Management, a total of \$1,575 was raised.

It was a really entertaining afternoon thanks to the organisational and culinary skills of the event team led by Joan Learmont. Thanks also to Paule Cartwright who organised the entertainment.

Barb Sekules



Out and about with U3A Banyule

Beleura House Excursion 17 April 2024

Our U3A Excursions group took the opportunity to visit Beleura House in Mornington. On our arrival we were served tea and biscuits from silver teapots and then given a brief history of the property and the residents who had occupied it over the past 160 years.

The property today occupies only a fraction of the original acreage, however its gardens are extensive and host a range of themed areas, which surround the Joseph Reed-designed home. We are fortunate that the property was bequeathed to the people of Victoria by the most recent owner of the property, John Tallis. His desire was that the house be a museum, reflecting a way of life as he left it in 1966.



In order to see the entire property, we toured the garden before our delightfully prepared lunch and then viewed the house interior after lunch.

The volunteer guides were able to relate a range of stories about the history of the house and its residents

John Tallis was the son of George Tallis, an Irishman who had come to Australia as a 17-year-old and gained employment at J.C. Williamsons.

In years to come he was to take over the helm and make the company one of the biggest theatre companies in the world. Hoyts pictures and radio stations plus the Comedy and Regent theatres were later acquired.

A visit to this beautiful house is a most worthwhile venture and was thoroughly enjoyed by our U3A members who attended.

Photos: Jan Connor



Thank you to Elaine Rees

Elaine Rees is stepping down as our Excursion Coordinator after diligently managing this role for 6 years. Members have been treated to an excellent array of excursion opportunities, from galleries, historical sites and museums, which Elaine has managed efficiently and effectively. Elaine has also arranged transport solutions for members who needed assistance or simply wanted to carpool. Sincere thanks and appreciation to Elaine for the work and enthusiasm you have brought to this role! *Sharon Karasmanis*

Creative knitting for charity

Our Creative Knitting Group put on another stellar craft sale on 22 May at ILCH. The range and quality of the sale items was extraordinary. A happy crowd of shoppers took full advantage of the occasion and a total of \$645 was raised for the Food Security part of the Banyule Community Fund.

The group has around 25 members who meet twice a month to be creative together and to help one another with patterns, stitches and other speed bumps on the way to their customary perfection.

At the sale was Nanette Atherton, one of the foundation members of the group. Another long-time member was Lauris Hope who was knitting from a pattern she had used for her children when they were babies.



As Diana McCormack was unfortunately not able to attend the sale, Toni Tyers made sure everything ran smoothly. The scarf she is holding up in the photo caused the group some headaches as nobody could figure out how to do it. After a group think, it was resolved and there were a number of these scarves on sale in various colours.



Once again, the Creative Knitting Group has done a great job, congratulations to all involved. *Barb Sekules*



Photos: Barb Sekules and Milena Maranville

Wine tasting

This semester we offered some wine tasting experiences for members to enjoy at Dan Murphy's in Alphington. On 22 February a small group enjoyed the presentation by Josh, Dan Murphy's wine tasting expert. Part of the cost of the session is being donated to Dan Murphy's charity *Givvit*. Keep an eye out for more wine tastings in Semester 2.



Photos: Milena Maranville

Dates for your diary	
Monday 10 June	King's Birthday Holiday – Office closed
Tuesday 18 June	Enrolments open for Semester 2 program
Wednesday 26 June	Annual Lunch St Georges Restaurant
Friday 28 June	Semester 1 Classes conclude
Monday 15 July	Semester 2 Classes commence
Friday 27 September	Grand Final Holiday – Office Closed
Monday 7 October	Semester 2 Term 4 Classes commence
Wednesday 20 October	Membership Renewals Open 2025
Tuesday 5 November	Melbourne Cup Day – Office Closed
Tuesday 19 November	Annual Forum
Friday 22 November	Semester 2 Classes conclude