

U3A MOORLEIGH MESSENGER

University of the Third Age

Inc: A0019386L

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Presidential Ponders.

Hello to all our wonderful U3A Moorleigh members.

Well its been over two months since I became president and everyone in your management committee has been working very hard. I would like to extend my enormous gratitude for the mountain of work the committee has got through so we could open up safely and meet the wishes of our U3A members. Have we got there?NO. It's a work in progress but we have accomplished much. Here's some of what we have achieved.

1. A Covid safety plan, signs and equipment. Thanks Ann and Olive.
2. New Messenger formatted and sent out. Thanks Ann and Sue.
3. Member & Tutor surveys developed, collated and analysed. Thanks Rosemary, John, Pauline, Marie, Cynthia, Sue, Olive and Ann
4. February program & enrolment developed. Thanks Rosemary, Sue, Val, Michael & Cynthia
5. A BIG de-cluttering program led by Ann, Olive and Sue ably assisted by non-committee members Corry Verroen, Angela Skelton, John Van der Wyk and Kerry Dugdale.

This is less than a quarter of the many projects we have tackled and hopefully, you will see the results of some when classes resume. Has all gone smoothly? NO. But we are making progress. Finally, I would like to thank all our members for their patience and loyalty to U3A Moorleigh, especially for those of you that experience frustration in our ability to answer phones and reply to your messages. Fingers crossed, we now have this sorted. Getting telecom assistance would try the patience of a saint.

POST SCRIPT:- Because of another Covid lockdown, the committee has decided that it's safer to delay face to face March classes until 15th March. We will roll over the February program till then .

Ciao

Erika Fleming

Important Dates.

8th March 2021
15th March 2021

Labour Day (office closed)
Regular classes commence (subject to Covid restriction)

Back to School

Regular classes will now begin on 15th March. All Summer zoom classes are unchanged. Regular classes using Zoom will continue via Zoom until 15th March, then those tutors who prefer face to face, will hold classes in the building. The outside classes of Karaoke, Table Tennis, Tai Chi/Qi Gong will keep running as restrictions permit.

Because of the difficulty in having a safe and effective enrolment, the committee has made the decision to use the individual enrolment class preferences that members of Moorleigh gave us at the beginning of 2020. This will only apply to current courses held in 2021 and to the financial members of our U3A. You will be asked to notify us if you **do NOT** wish to continue with a class in 2021 Following this 'enrolment' you will receive by post, confirmation of class, invoice & name badge.

Remember the classes are smaller & only at 10am or 1pm but we also have fewer members. When you return to class, allow 30 minutes extra time before class to be Covid checked, Always come to the Barry Neve wing first. Bring a mask & maintain your hand sanitizing, social distancing & be prepared to help sanitize your class room furniture after use (all products are supplied). The kitchen cannot be used **so..... bring your own drinks.**

February Enrolment Day.

Enrolment on the 20th of February for the Zoom & Summer programs was a great test for our new routine. With help from Glen Eira's ambassadors, the main corridor was set up the day prior with floor decals, tape, chairs & tables ready for the rush! Twenty eight members arrived over the course of the morning. Everyone wore a mask, used the hand sanitizer & complied with the Covid monitoring & all was completed swiftly. It was wonderful to see familiar faces back at Moorleigh & have a quick chat as they moved down the corridor.

The email enrolment procedure had a few hiccoughs & several people phoned in anxious that their form would not be received: some forms were sent through more than once & others sent their form in before the 20th (bottom of the plie for them!) Val English, our technology guru, worked wonders to enable members to enrol from home & most people were successful. We thought Apple products made the process problematic but I managed to enrol using an Apple phone. If you had difficulties let us know (u3amoor@yahoo.com.au) so we can iron out the gremlins.

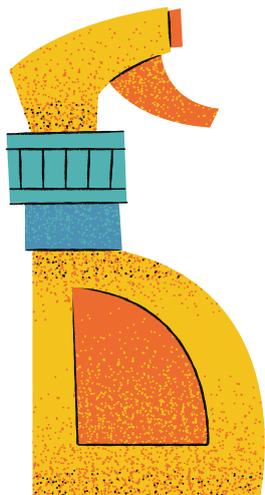


Glen Eira Ambassadors (Back row)

U3A committee Erika, Olive & Ann
(Front Row)

Note the big smiles!

IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ



Class monitors will provide a vital role in class management since this volunteer will be responsible for making sure that everyone present in class has signed or scanned in.

*Participating in class means you confirm that you have no Covid symptoms & have not knowingly been in contact or are awaiting a test result for Covid.

*At the end of the class you MUST sanitize your desk & chair & leave promptly; yet another responsibility for the class monitor to oversee.

*In the public areas any surface you touch (eg door handles, taps, flush buttons) must be sanitized.

THIS MAY SEEM EXTREME BUT WE ARE A VULNERABLE AGE GROUP

Quick response



Your smart phone will allow you to scan our QR code; I'm sure many of you will have done this at your local coffee shop. How do you do this?

*Open the camera on your phone & hover over the code (you may need to download the free Service Victoria app if this doesn't work)

*Enter your details on the form displayed in your phone.

*This generates a green acceptance permit & your visit is recorded.

*Show this green form to your class monitor.

Use of the QR code enables us to increase class size & have a complete contact list, should a health issue arise.

We will also have a pen and paper alternative for members who do not carry Smart Phones.

Capital Improvements

There had to be some good news following the pandemic! Glen Eira council are part of the government initiative 'Working for Victoria' (WfV) & as council tenants we have access to painters & carpenters with no labour charges (we pay for the equipment only). A U3A management team has checked out each classroom & requested quotes for upgrades which we hope will be completed before we return to class. More functional storage, fresh blinds & touch up painting is planned.



Since the NBN was installed we have had problems with the phone system & messages go straight to email making it difficult for front office staff to retrieve. We are also unable to leave an informative message for after hours callers. We are awaiting advice & a quote for a new business system. A roster of Volunteers will be in the office from 0930 to 1230 & sometimes in the afternoon. Until we get more volunteers and they are trained up we cannot always man an afternoon roster.



In the Picture

Last month art tutor Paul Fullager (oils, watercolour & beginners) invited several of his students to his home to view some of his art work, done over the last twenty years. Completely self taught, Paul works in all mediums & fortunately for U3A, he passes his knowledge on to us. It was great to catch up & see everyone fit & healthy & raring to get back into class. During the lockdown Renata Hubner from the drawing class has also gone the extra mile & emailed her class members with 'homework' . How lucky are we to have such dedicated volunteers?

Photos taken on the day show Paul sitting to help ease his sciatica (which has now resolved). Thanks Paul & Renata.



My painter friend has some of his work on view at the local gallery..... He painted the skirting boards.

You can't trust an artist; they're a bit shady, a little sketchy & they'll try to frame you.

When the penniless artist's car broke down he phoned his friend for help. "I need some Monet to get Degas to make the Van Gough."



More Good News



A warm welcome to Rachel Golombick our new treasurer & committee member. Rachel was born in Israel where she began practising book keeping in 1975. In 2012 she & her husband moved to Australia to join their children & grandchildren. Adapting to the Australian way of life also included a bookkeeping course to get up-to-date with Australian rules & laws & using MYOB, the system used at Moorlegh U3A. Rachel's husband joined U3A three years ago & Rachel followed in 2020, so some of you will be familiar with them both. Rachel will keep the committee updated with our financial status as we negotiate 2021 & beyond. Good to have your expertise.

We also welcome Michael Bonacci to the committee who many of you will already know. Michael has helped several classes during 2020, to migrate to using Zoom & he will continue to help with that task throughout 2021. Michael currently works as an IT consultant & is happy to help any member having difficulty using Zoom & will turn it into a happy experience. He is also pleased to help with questions relating to computers, tablets & phones such as software & security, upgrades & safety online. Michael is currently doing the intermediate Italian course in preparation for that trip to Italy which may never happen! When not IT-ing, he relaxes with a book & a strong cappuccino.



Carol Cheng has taken over the role of front office co-ordinator from Neville Curtis, who worked in this position for many years. Neville is also helping & supporting Carol with the management of volunteers.

We still need people to work in the front and back offices so if you have some computer skills or are willing to learn please let us know. 3 hours a week (am or pm) would relieve the pressure particularly on the back office staff who beaver away mostly unrecognised.



East Bentleigh Gardens

If you want to catch up with friends when you come to U3A why not enjoy the community garden next door? Because of the virus restrictions we cannot allow you to congregate inside the building but there is a bench & even a table in the shade. The flowers are a riot of colour & the area is peaceful. Don't forget your hat & sun block.

What is membership & enrolment?

MEMBERSHIP

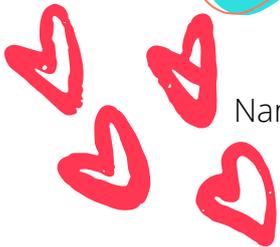
To become a member of any U3A you pay an annual fee (now \$60-00 at Moorleigh). This entitles you to have a say in U3A administration (as a committee member), to vote at the AGM & to receive regular news updates & enrol in classes.. Membership lasts a calendar year & is paid every year that you want to continue being a member. We are a non-profit organisation.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS - Are members of more than one U3A.. Moorleigh gives a concession to other U3A members (not all U3A's do this). The annual cost to these people is \$35 but we must see proof of your other current membership. You can belong to as many U3A's as you want.

ENROLMENT

As a financial member, you can apply to attend a class of your choice. You cannot enrol in a class until you are a member. Popular classes may be waitlisted & if a class member withdraws you will move up the list. You can attend as many classes as you want. If you have been in the same class for several years it does not mean you will automatically get into that class again. Placement in a class is decided on a "first come, first in" basis which explains the rush on enrolment day! You can enrol in a class at any time through the year.

Valentine



Named after the Roman martyr Valentine who refused to stop marrying Christian couples .He was executed on February 14th in the third century AD.

"The best & most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even heard, but must be felt with the heart" ----- Helen Keller

"All you need is love. But a little chocolate now & then doesn't hurt"----Charles Schultz.

"When I saw you I fell in love, and you smiled because you knew it."-----

William Shakespeare



"What greater gift than the love of a cat?"

Charles Dickens

