



Moorleigh Community Village, 92 Bignell Rd, Bentleigh East, Vic 3165

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Presidential Ponders



Hello everybody,

Merry Christmas to you all and I hope to see you all healthy and happy in the corridors of U3A Bentleigh in 2023.

Firstly, we were unsuccessful with our application to the Bendigo bank, for a grant to replace our tables in the art room and board games room. Avril (vice president) spent a lot of time putting in a great application and I was convinced it would be approved. I guess that's another lesson in not counting your chickens before they hatch. We will try again in 2023.

We will also apply for a grant to hire and install a coin operated coffee machine in the kitchen area to make it more welcoming. It all relies on a successful application.

One thing you will see early next year is a **fully automated defibrillator**, thanks to a benevolent and anonymous donor 'EG'. We thank you so much for your generosity. These machines are so smart, they tell you exactly what to do and unless all is correctly placed, will not discharge. Hopefully we will never need to use it but it's reassuring that we can respond optimally should the need arise. A training session is offered on **Tuesday 17th January at 10.00am**

I mentioned in my AGM address that we are exploring the possibility of making our 2023 badges act as a swipe card. Members' visits would be registered, a great upgrade in our ability to respond to a 'fire and safety' evacuation. **Val English**, who writes our IT programs, is investigating the possibility and we will let you know how it goes. Thanks Val for all the innovations and fixes of the office systems that make our U3A run smoother.

Thank you to all those members who attended the AGM or put in a proxy vote. I truly enjoyed seeing so many people and having the chance to chat over tea and biscuits. I am looking forward to a great 2023 and hope that we can welcome a steady stream of new members to join our loyal current members especially when we can offer more course activities.

I hope to see many of you at our Christmas event on Friday 2nd December.

Ciao from Erika Fleming

Important Dates

Friday 2nd December U3A Bentleigh **Christmas Party** on the deck + lounge area starting 10.30am

Tuesday 6th December ENROLLMENT for 2023 begins.

Thursday 26th January Australia Day NO CLASSES

Monday January 16th 2023 two weeks Summer School classes begin

Monday 6th February Semester one 2023 classes begin



Orientation Day

There will be an orientation day for members in early February so watch out for emails.

If you are new to U3A Benteigh please come and find out more, meet fellow members and ask questions. Refreshment provided.

Avril Lochhead (vice president) will be available for coffee and a chat on Tuesday mornings 11am in the kitchen area, when semester one begins, so you can find out more about how things work. Bring an old friend along and make new friends.

Annual General Meeting

62 members attended the AGM on 25th November plus 63 proxy votes, easily making the required quorum for approval of the membership fee for 2023 (\$50 membership and no associate membership). New committee members were duly elected (see below).

Erika Fleming (president) informed the attendees of the challenges, the highlights and changes made in 2022 and the hopes we hold for growth in 2023. Central to those changes was Janet Lee, secretary, who will remain on the committee. Janet worked tirelessly and met the challenges of a name change, renewal of music license, sourcing of equipment etc. A perfectionist, she has produced an office 'Bible' to make life much easier for all future secretaries. If you want something sorted, she's your girl!

Thanks Rosemary



After twenty years as our course coordinator, Rosemary Browning is retiring from that position and the committee. Rosemary joined U3A in 1995 and shortly after, began helping out in the back office and hasn't stopped since.

Fellow workers have commented on her service saying:

A valuable friend, always willing to help. (Liz)

The 'Go to' lady who can be depended on for help. (Erika)

She has all the knowledge and experience to deal with and solve any problem. (Olive)

...calm and unfazed. (Neville)

The 'boss' of the back office because of her knowledge. (Val)

I was in awe of her general knowledge.....a great source of information and help. (Pauline)

Rosemary has been cautious of changes but when those changes have been made, she can adapt and change. (John)

From all of us a big **"Thank You"** for your dedication, efficiency and loyalty to U3A Benteigh. It has been the good fortune of all who have worked with you over the years and know you. We hope to see you pounding the corridors and gracing the class rooms in the years to come. Rosemary was presented with a silk scarf and silver brooch and of course CAKE.

2023 Committee

President Erika Fleming
Vice PresidentAvril Lochhead
SecretaryLinda Osborne
Treasurer Rachael Golombick
CoursesAnne Nguyen
Webmaster Michael Bonacci
Publicity Ann Watts
Events Manager..... Jan Sapir
Wellfare.....Olive Collingwood
OH&S Officer.....Nick Ancorra

also

Cynthia Paciocco, Janet Lee,
Dorothy Andrew,

Music Makers



Gary Lusk (far right in yellow shirt) has held another popular year of music with his **'Opera to Broadway Music'** sessions and will be returning in 2023. Join him on Mondays at 0930am **M23-101** room 41.

We also have new music participation classes for those who want to learn ukulele, drums, recorder or jam with The Band! Choir and Karaoke for all you vocal specialists.

See the course guide.

The Business Page



A new Covid Omega variant is doing the rounds so keep safe. We all know what we need to do & there are still some RAT kits available in reception if you have run out. **If you are unwell at all, do not risk the health of others** and please look after yourselves.

Tutors are the heart of any U3A. If you want to hold a short or long course or a single talk, we would love to hear from you. 'Thank you' to all our tutors whose dedication and commitment make U3A Bentleigh what it is today.

**ENROLLMENT DAY 6th DECEMBER onwards
FROM 10.00AM ON LINE AND IN PERSON FOR 2023 see page 4**



New classes can be viewed on the web site now.

UMAS will be **unavailable for a short time on Monday 5th December** preparing for active enrollment from 6th December.

Congratulations to **Corry Veroen** our catering specialist who had her many years of service acknowledged at the AGM with a certificate and honorary membership. Another organized woman.

Tuesday 17th January 10am book in for defibrillator training



Improve your drawing skills

Art classes at U3A have always been popular and there is usually a mad scramble to enrol at the start of any new year. We have been very fortunate this year that Con Pothoulakis responded to a request for tutors and began a drawing course this year, on Wednesday mornings. Constantine studied Commercial **Art and Illustration** over a 3 year distance course, then established his own business working for a diverse range of clients including music and record companies, wine producers, book publishers and creating menu boards for hospitality. After retiring in 2010, Con now paints for pleasure and is a dab hand at portraiture. Next year Con will hold two classes; beginners on **Friday M23-515 at 1pm** and a class for the more advanced student on **Wednesday M23-312 at 10am** both in room 67.

Con says his beginners class gives students the basic skill to become "Art Mechanics".



Reminder about Photocopying

Con has been overly generous by supplying his students with printed material but next year photocopies will be available from reception at 10 cents per copy. This applies to all classes and most students contribute to a kitty and use this. It will assist the office if you request copies ahead of time.



Individual support in class

Warragul Trip

Late in October a small group of U3A members and friends enjoyed a short get away in Warragul, courtesy of arrangements by the **U3A Victoria Travel Group**. Following our recent downpours, they were very lucky that rain fell mostly over night. The countryside and parks were lush and green and full of spring colour. Highlights were Broughton Gardens in Jindivick, the township of Loch with it's quaint gift shops and of course tea rooms. The holiday was self drive and people could take their time and set their own itinerary making for a happy bunch of travelers. Much wining and dining in the evening was followed by board games, sing along's (thanks to Larry and his guitar) and general hilarity. The travel group will continue **M23-528 2nd Friday of month 1pm room 67**. Trips are available to U3A members, their family and friends (subject to numbers) and also benefit from a group discount and good company.



Food, drinks, fun and good company



U3A have investigated the possibility of hiring a Glen Eira **community bus**, so we can offer low cost day trips. We have a couple of members with heavy vehicle drivers licenses, so keep a watch for new adventures. **It is important to visit the web site regularly to keep informed of the latest news.**

The Cruising Club

Do you enjoy sea cruising? Never been but wonder what it's like?
This could be the group for you.

Don Robbie explains that due to the multiple preferences, budgets and destinations, the group do not arrange cruises, however with several experienced cruisers in the group, they will discuss pitfalls, tips, insurance, special deals and Covid protocols. Group members have posed some challenging questions and ideas and stimulated some great conversations. The group also has a U3A Cruising Facebook page to keep you in touch. If you want to travel and avoid frequent packing/unpacking, have all your food, accommodation and entertainment prepaid then cruising may be the right holiday for you.

M23- 423 Cruising Group 2nd Friday of the month 1200 in room 54



Enrolling at U3A Bentleigh 2023

The first rule is 'Don't Panic'. There will be someone to help you and you don't have to apply on the 6th December, that's the just the earliest date to enrol or join.

If you are enrolling on line, there are instructions on our web page. Helpful hints are;

Log in with your membership number or family name and your password. Try a couple of days prior so you know you are all set to go on the 6th. If you've forgotten your password instructions are on the web page.

Check that all your personal details are still correct, particularly email address and phone numbers which can change, edit as necessary (don't forget to save any changes!)

If you're looking for activities on a certain day you will find it easier to search the **calendar view**. If you want a particular subject, perhaps 'History', then **list view** is the better choice.

If you get stuck phone **9570 3929** (it may be busy in the first few days) or come in (10am - 3pm) or better still, ask the grand children. Remember you don't have to be at home, just have access to a computer.

For those who like the personal touch, visit us at Moorleigh Village and we can enrol you. The 2023 courses are displayed in the building so it's a good idea to write your **course code** down ahead of time, so we can make the process as streamlined as possible.

Paying your Membership

Before we changed to the UMAS system, you had to your membership first then enrol. Now you **enrol then pay** (I agree it's daft but that's how the system is set up!) If you are happy to pay on line, once you have chosen your classes, please remember to add your **membership number** and/or **name** to identify yourself.

Lots of headaches for the office when we can't track down who's made a particular payment!

If you prefer you can come to reception and pay by card or in cash (even as late as the first day of term 2023)

YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER UNTIL YOU HAVE PAID

and non payment risks a loss of position if the class is wait listed.

Volunteers will be in the office on the **6th December**

After this date it's best to phone prior to visiting to ensure someone is there to help

SUMMER SCHOOL 16th - 27th January morning sessions

The **Summer School** program is hard to spot when you're scrolling through the course list. In previous years the courses were together in a block and easy to identify. Now classes are on the weekday they are held. **All summer school class codes begin with S (look in the left hand column) and are a single session only. All begin at 10am**

The films offered are;

Friday January 20th 'About Schmidt' a 2002 comedy /drama about a recently retired man.

Friday 27th January 'The Great Escape' 1963 classic. A group of imprisoned allied soldiers are sent to an escape proof prison camp.



Night Market at **Bunnings Links** Shopping Centre

We have had terrific support from **Rose**, the **Bunnings** activities coordinator, at the shopping centre on the corner of **Centre and Warrigal** roads. She has donated vouchers for door prizes and raffles, arranged a community table so we can promote U3A and has recently donated two large tables for the art room.

Now there is a **Christmas Night Market** for local volunteer groups to get together, fund raise and inform members of the public about the variety of community activities available in our area. It should be a fun evening **6pm-8pm Thursday 8th December**. Come and see what's happening.



Come to Our Christmas Party

FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER AT 10.30AM - 12.00PM

Festive songs, hampers to win, cake and ice cream.

Christmas Trivia Quiz

- 1 What famous Christmas carol was the first song ever broadcast from space?
 - 2 If Elvis isn't having a white Christmas, what colour did he have?
 - 3 Which country came up with the 'White Christmas' dessert made of coconut oil and dried fruit?
 - 4 Which fairy tale inspired the gingerbread house?
 - 5 Which alcohol is the base of Christmas trifle?
 - 6 Which drink manufacturer promoted the red Santa suit?
 - 7 Name the UK Christmas drink made from cider, cloves, nutmeg & oranges.
 - 8 What should you do under the mistletoe?
 - 9 What is the name of Rudolph's son?
 - 10 When was the real Santa (St Nicholas) born?
 - 11 How many times does Santa check his list?
 - 12 Where did the Holy family flee to, from Bethlehem?
- answers below (no peeking)

Food for thought

How fortunate we are that we need to think about what to do with left over food. Prices may have gone up but we still have food in the supermarket and a roof over our heads. I was looking for inspiration and came across the following recipe.

Surprise Pie

- 375 gms Frozen Puff pastry (thawed)
30gm butter 1/4 cup plain flour
1 cup liquid (gravy/stock)
Chopped & left over meat & veg
1 egg herbs of choice
Extra fluid (cream/milk/wine)
Oven 220C cook 30 mins till pastry browns

What is Hannukah ?

Hannukah is a Jewish celebration which marks the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem after Maccabean troops regained the site from Syria in around 200BC

Known as "The Festival of Lights" ; there was only enough lamp oil for one night but miraculously the lamp remained alight for 8 nights.



Families celebrate by lighting one candle on the Menorah each night for 8 nights, exchanging gifts and eating food fried in oil to remember the miracle.

The festival occurs around Christmas time on the 25th of the ninth month of the Jewish calendar.



Holiday Reading

Exiles by Jane Harper sees the return of detective Aaron Falk and an unsolved mystery in country South Australia.

The Modigliani Scandal by Ken Follett An up and coming artist gets involved in a breath taking art scam.

Melt butter in saucepan, add flour and stir to form a paste (roux) then slowly add stock/gravy continuously stirring till you have a smooth thick sauce (add milk, cream or wine if needed.) Add chopped left over meat and veg, any herb or seasoning Fold all together and **allow to cool**
Unroll pastry, & brush edges with beaten egg.
Place cooled mixture on half the pastry & fold over the other half. Crimp edges to seal and brush with remaining egg.

Answers: 1- Jingle Bells 2- Blue Christmas 3- Australia 4- Hansel & Gretel 5- Sherry 6- Coca Cola 7- Wassail 8- Kiss 9- Robbie the Reindeer 10- 270 AD 11- Twice 12- Egypt.