



2019 Program Guide



**For enquiries please ring or message:
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**If no response Phil may be on holiday
so please ring our general number on
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TUTORS/CONVENORS

At U3A Hobsons Bay/Williamstown, we refer to the people who run our programs and activities as 'Convenors' – which means a person who brings people together. Rather a good name for it! If you have a skill or interest that you think others would enjoy please talk to the Course Coordinator about becoming a convenor for a new activity.

Convenors are the make or break of a U3A, as without them you have no programs. It isn't necessary to be a former teacher or trainer. To be a Convenor, you just need an interest in helping to make the program or activity happen.

The role of the Convenor of a program is to:

- arrive earlier at the venue and get everything ready
- make everyone welcome, especially those who are new to the program/activity
- distribute any materials required for the activity
- Pass around an attendance sheet to record who is in attendance
- keep things moving along
- pack up at the end of the session .

Convenors are supported by the Class Coordinator to get started and provided with ongoing support. As a Convenor you will also get help from others involved in the program/activity, so you are not alone!

We also encourage members to organise one-off activities if they feel able to do so such as our visit to Government House, our social get together at the Royal Victorian Yacht Club and our tour of Flemington Race Track this year. Perhaps you know a good speaker who would come and talk to a group of our members or a person who could demonstrate a new skill. The Class Coordinator or a Committee Member could work with you to put together an activity- social, recreational, educational or just plain entertaining!

PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES

Our programs and activities vary and change from time to time in line with whatever members suggest and the availability of a Convenor. We occasionally invite speakers, both to strengthen our classes and to provide variety in our program. Our classes are based on either acquiring knowledge, furthering an interest, creative expression or of a recreational nature, such as walking, which we feel provides an overall balance.

Classes are held at the Cottage, 83 Bayview Street, Williamstown – the old caretaker's cottage at Bayside Secondary College. Other programs/activities are held in community venues including the Royal Victorian Yacht Club and Platform 177, a café near Williamstown North Railway Station. Our thanks go to the school for the use of the Cottage and to the yacht club and the café for the use of their venues. For more details about our current programs and activities see our recent Newsletter and the information that follows.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS IN 2019

ACTIVITY	WHEN	WHERE	CONVENOR
Art	Every Friday 10.00-12.00	Cottage (83 Bayview St, Williamstown)	Ken Gratton
Book Club	Tuesday late afternoon (dates available from convenor)	Cottage	Liz Holland
Bridge	Every Monday 1.00-4.00	Cottage	Tony Heath
Computer/IPad (two sessions)	Every Thursday 1.00-3 00 (Apple) & 3.00-5 00 (Android)	Cottage	Barb Sloan
Conversational French	Every Tuesday 3.30-5.00	Royal Yacht Club of Vic., 120 Nelson Place, Williamstown	Carol Neumann & Francoise Muller-Robbie
Creative Writing	Every Friday 1.00-3.00	Cottage	Helene Richards
Creative Writing – Exploring Writing	Every Tuesday 1.30-3.00	Cottage	Annette Signorini
Current Affairs	1 st & 3 rd Thursday 10.00-12.00	Royal Yacht Club of Vic.	Joan Thompson
Cryptic Crosswords - Advanced	2 nd & 4 th Friday 11.30-12.30	Café near Willi. Nth Station-Platform177	Tony McCosker
Cryptic Crosswords - Moderate	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday 10.00-12.00	Cottage	Phil Quinn
Film Group	Last Thursday of month (unless falling in holidays). Meet between 10 & 12 to fit session times	Sun Theatre, Yarraville	Sandy Guest Kerry Lewis
Italian	Every Thursday 9.30-12.00	Cottage	Ralph Humphries
Jigsaw Exchange	Accessible when cottage open	Cottage	Self directed activity
Mah Jong	Every Wednesday 1.00-4.00	Cottage	Ena Holt
Memoir Writing Group	Every Wednesday 10.00-12.00	Cottage	Clara Brack
Scrapbooking & Jewellery	Every Wednesday 10.00-12.00	Cottage	Ena Holt
Social Walking Group	1 st Friday month 9.15- mid afternoon	Generally meet at Willi Nth station (9.21 to City) or meet along line	Phil Quinn

Programs in summary

Art

This activity is one of the most popular and populous for our U3A and has an age range from 55 to 100! This group of happy people enjoy the social atmosphere while producing some excellent examples of their talent each week. Beginners are provided with advice, support and encouragement from their classmates. Some members have led the class in demonstrating a special skill or technique that others may have difficulty with. Members receive a course guide each year that provides them with multiple choices of topics each week. We also undertake local excursions for outdoor painting, trips to galleries, etc.

A free lending library of DVDs is available for those interested in the history of art, art for beginners, techniques and applications, the Great Masters and their works, et al.

Convenor: Ken Gratton.

Bridge

Bridge is a card game that's a challenge and helps to keep the mind active. Four players play the game in two competing teams with a standard 52-card pack. Players bid or auction, specifying how many tricks the partnership receiving the contract (the declaring side) needs to take to receive points for the deal. During the auction partners communicate information about their hand, including its overall strength and the length of its suits, although conventions for use during play also exist. The cards are then played, the declaring side trying to fulfil the contract, and the defenders trying to stop the declaring side from achieving its goal. The deal is scored based on the number of tricks taken and the contract.

The game is one of the world's most popular, particularly with 'mature age' players. While this is a popular activity, new members are welcome and guidance and tuition will be offered.

Convenor: Tony Heath.

Computer (iPad)

We have two sessions on Thursdays devoted to Apple iPads and iPhones from 1-3.00pm and Android tablets and Smartphones from 3-5.00pm. The Apple session is currently full, with 7 participants but there are places available in the other group. The emphasis is on practical applications, troubleshooting problems and useful features of the technology.

In addition we have available PC (Windows based) laptops.

Convenor: Barbara Sloan

Creative Writing

Our U3A offers two sessions of Creative Writing. Friday's group, convened by Helen Richards, has been meeting for some years now and produces a book of stories each year, written by group members. Tuesday's group, convened by Annette Signorini, call themselves 'Explore Writing' and began meeting at the start of 2019.

Convenors: Helen Richards and Annette Signorini

Cryptic Crossword Solving

The Tuesday activity shows how a cryptic crossword is set in order to learn strategies and tricks for solving these puzzles. A guide is provided to remember key words and the meaning of the hidden or cryptic clues. The session works through the Tuesday Age cryptic crossword, one of the easier ones for the week. The activity is run as an exercise in cooperative puzzle solving and is lots of fun! Beginners including those who have never solved a cryptic crossword are most welcome in this group convened by Phil and which operates at The Cottage.

A second, advanced group has been set up and convened by Tony to solve Friday's Age cryptic crossword. The meeting place is Platform 177, the café near Williamstown North Railway Station. The crossword, produced by David Astle, is renowned as the most difficult of the week.

Convenors: Phil Quinn and Tony McCosker

Current Affairs

'Chew the fat', 'argue the toss', whatever - but come along to discuss what's in the news and topical. Share thoughts and ideas with other U3A folk and keep the brain actively engaged! The activity is run at the Royal Victorian Yacht Club, who have generously allowed us to use their excellent venue.

Convenor: Joan Thompson

Film Group

The Film Group meets monthly at the Sun Theatre, Yarraville, to watch a film and afterwards share a meal or a coffee and discuss the film. Usual date is last Thursday in the month unless this is a holiday and the convenors reschedule.

Convenors: Sandy Guest and Kerry Lewis

Italian

Ah, what a beautiful language to learn! The class is made up about ten students with a variety of experience and skill. There is a wide range of material presented from basic grammar to the comprehension of authentic language. At 90 minutes a week, progress is not rapid and requires some home study. New members are welcome but it is advisable to "test the water" before committing oneself. Experience in learning a second language is helpful.

Convenor: Ralph Humphries

Jigsaw Exchange

A collection of jigsaw puzzles is housed at the Cottage and the idea is to bring along a jigsaw and exchange it with one from the collection. About 25 puzzles are available. Donations of puzzles are also welcomed to expand the collection.

Convenor: Self directed activity

Jewellery

Join this activity and make new friends while making jewellery for personal use, for friends or for gifts.

Convenor: Ena Holt

Mah Jong

Mah Jong is a Chinese game played with "tiles" usually in a group of four players. There are three suits of tiles numbered 1-9, 4 x 4 winds, 4 x 3 types of dragons and 8 "flowers". The object is to build a combination of runs and two, three or four of a kind from your 13 tiles plus one from the 'walls' (stack of unseen tiles) or a discard that is a recognised combination.

While you will find that it takes many games to become expert, learning to play is not too difficult.

Convenor: Ena Holt

Memoir Writing Group

The Memoir Writing Group is an established group that has joined our U3A. Group members are writing their memoirs in a supportive group activity.

Convenor: Clara Brack

Scrapbooking

Scrapbooking offers an opportunity to create albums over a range of subjects including family history, grandchildren, holidays, gardens and whatever your heart desires. The activity offers cheery company and new members are welcome.

Convenor: Ena Holt

Social Walking Group

This activity kicked off in late 2017. Walks completed to date include: The Convent at Abbotsford and Dight's Falls, Botanic Gardens, under the Westgate to Port Melbourne and back to Southbank, the 100 Steps at Altona. All walks start from Williamstown North station (or meet on the train by arrangement along the line to the City) and include travelling by train, bus, tram and ferry and of course, by foot. The pace is fairly easy and the distance covered is 6-10 kilometres. The day out often includes coffee and lunch stops along the way. Generally the walk starts around 9.30 and returns by 4.00pm.

Convenor: Phil Quinn