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We acknowledge the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of these lands and waterways, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

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Back to enjoying life ...

It's hard to believe we are half way through the year. It has been terrific to return to face-to-face activities and the numbers are up in every activity, so we know you appreciate the camaraderie. It also means members are travelling and out and about enjoying life as we should.

At the Willi Lit Festival many of our existing members called into our info stand and the chat was mostly about the different activities they are doing. It is no surprise they are inspiring friends and family and that our new members are often referrals from them. We had some informal chats with festival attendees and it looks like we will get some new members and even some new convenors judging from the conversations.

A special thanks to Carol Neumann who organised the information table which we happily shared with U3A Altona. Also to our volunteers who staffed the table and Ann Banham for her terrific slide show of our U3A events. I really enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with old friends as well as our members who volunteer for other community groups or attended sessions. We are such a dynamic and engaged group!

Our new Committee have settled in well and have begun the tasks in their area of interest. For more detail of *Who you gonna contact* see article on page two.

There is always something happening and new activities coming online but it has been an excellent first half of the year. Continue to enjoy yourselves and stay safe and warm

Joan Thompson President

Who you gonna contact?

In order to provide a better service for all our members, including convenors, the position of Course Coordinator has been separated into different functions. Each area is led by a Committee member, with assistance (mostly) from a team made up of club members.

If you have a query you will most often find an answer to it in the [FAQs](#) on our website:

However, there may be a time when you need to contact someone with a more specific query. Here are functions led by Committee members with assistance from members of our club.



Convenor Support

Deals with all matters and queries concerning convenors

Led by **Joan Thompson** with support from Mary Barron, Cheryl Neenan

Activities Management

Contact for all matters regarding current, new and proposed activities

Led by **Sue Dawkins**, with support from Phil Quinn.



Member Support

Deals with all existing and new member queries and concerns

Led by **Carol Neumann**, with support from Sherril Milligan, Sue Sturup.

Venue Management

main contact for all issues and queries related to venues.

Ian Barclay.

All queries on any of the above functions can be sent to info@u3ahbwilli.org.au and will be forwarded to the relevant committee members.



Convenor Support Update

June 21st marked the official midpoint of the year, known as the winter solstice. So the good news is while the weather may not necessarily be getting warmer, the days are going to last longer and we are officially half way through the year and heading towards Spring. This is very comforting as it has been particularly cold and early classes in The Cottage have felt it. Ian Barclay, our Venue Manager, has some plans to improve the situation in the short term.

In my first three months as Convenor Support Team leader, to my relief all the classes have been progressing along well – thanks to our brilliant Convenors.

The new beginners Mah-jong class is complete and most of the members have progressed to social play and have fitted in really well. We are hoping that we can run a Beginners Class at the beginning of next year for this popular activity. The class has been so successful because of the good work of Cecilia Lasslett, Phil Quinn and Barbara Maher.

We have new Convenors like Robyn Powell who will be



Melbourne Cup Day at Mah-jong

running *Let's get into Jazz*. Some of the new convenors are existing members who have decided to offer one-off classes or continuous activities so the good work continues.

Don't forget to enrol for the Convenor Workshop on Wednesday August 3rd through UMAS.

Joan Thompson

Activities Report

We now have around 80 activities running throughout the year with a good mixture of categories including arts/craft/film, languages, discussion, exercise, games and interesting one-off activities and excursions.

Term Two one-off activities included a trip to Bendigo to see the exhibition *Elvis, Direct from Graceland*, a first aid and CPR training session, sourdough making course, bike maintenance, a bird photo show presented by local bird and wetlands expert Andrew Thornton, a talk by Kerry Fowler on home grown authors, a rose pruning demonstration and visit to the State Rose Garden (VSRG), at Werribee Park.

[Continued/...](#)



Wine appreciation

We had a great social occasion at the Yacht Club and tasted some excellent wines. The session was led by Darby Higgs, whose choices included a sparkling Montepulciano and, everyone's favourite, a Negroamaro.

Current Affairs had a lively term discussing topical issues and Explore Melbourne group lived up to its name exploring many interesting areas of Melbourne. The Birdwatching group had a trip to the Serendip Sanctuary seeing over 42 different bird types. Cards, Mah-jong, Trivia, and social bridge continue to be very popular, with Cribbage starting up this term. Footy Tipping has grown to 19 lively tipsters, with lots of humour and rivalry at the Custom House dinners.



Footy tipping

More photos of activities on Page 8

Next term we are looking forward to more new activities including Let's get into Jazz, a Seniors Swimming Program, Pickleball and a repeat of Kerry Lewis' popular Sourdough Making course.

John Webb will offer a three-session series on India, developing further from last year's *India On being a novice diplomat 2005-08*

The Club is experiencing rapid growth with over 50 new members since classes started. This has resulted now in many of our activities being full, with new members having to join wait lists. The Committee is actively working with convenors to review class maximum numbers, but there are often practical constraints which limit numbers.

We need new convenors and co-convenors to help offer activities and one-off excursions. Running an activity can be fun and a great way to make friends and socialise. There is help and assistance through Joan Thompson's convenor support team. Come along to the convenor workshop in August to learn more (and to have fun).

GRANTS

Thanks to Hobsons Bay Council we have received a grant of \$2,500 to support our art activities.



The project encourages seniors to re-engage post-pandemic through social interaction and

learning new skills, culminating in an art and photographic exhibition of their work in December. The exhibition will include over 30 exhibits covering drawing, painting in multiple mediums and photos. The theme is Never too old to start. The Williamstown Library Exhibition space has been made available for two weeks, with gala opening inviting Councillors, local dignitaries, and organisations like Hobsons Bay Art Society.

Sue Dawkins

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs for members

- Who do I contact if I can't find an answer in the FAQs?
- I have forgotten my membership number/password/all log-in details.
- I need to reset my password.
- How do I enrol in an activity?



If you have a question concerning anything to do with your membership, the first place to check is the FAQs (frequently asked questions) page on our [website](#).

Can't find what you're looking for? Please send your query to info@u3ahbwilli.org.au

FAQs for convenors

- Who do I contact if I can't find an answer in the FAQs?
- How do I email all participants in my activity?
- How do I personalise my emails
- How do I send emails to individuals in my activity?
- How do I send a test email to myself?



There is a FAQ page for Convenors which cover queries about UMAS, sending emails, printing attendance lists ... and a whole lot more. Check the [website](#) to find out more.

If you have a query that is not covered, contact info@u3ahbwilli.org.au

Update on Venues



Digman Reserve

The recent cold weather has been a test on how well our venues cope with the elements. By all accounts our new temporary home at Digman Reserve is very warm and cosy and the Senior Citizens Centre is good, provided the heater is turned on early enough.

We are currently looking at various options to make the Cottage a bit more comfortable. There are two reliable heaters there, but they need to be turned on early to get the rooms warm.

An update on the redevelopment of the Williamstown Senior Citizens Centre: the start date has been extended due to sourcing building materials and suitable trades people. The council is now looking at work starting at the end of September, and the build will take approximately 18 months.

If you are having any U3A venue issues or need to discuss venue suitability for an activity, please call or text me to help accommodate your needs, 0412 002 841.

This also includes the use of IT equipment at The Cottage.

Ian Barclay

Evaluation Working Group



We have set up an evaluation working group, led by Committee member **Sandy Guest** (who has a lot of experience in evaluation and audit processes), assisted by members Sandi Fallshaw, Kerry Lewis, Phil Quinn and Michael Wagner.

Why do we need an evaluation process.

Our mission states:

U3A Hobsons Bay/Williamstown Inc. supports positive ageing by meeting the needs of the retired and semi-retired members of its community for social interaction and learning opportunities.

The evaluation process will measure whether we are fulfilling our mission. Are we on track? Are there things we can do better?

How will we do this?

All members will have the opportunity to participate in the process. A range of tools will be used including: surveys, a SWOT analysis (strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) to be conducted with Convenors at their upcoming workshop, and the completion of a number of Success Stories (personal interviews) with members.

All information collected will be based on the stated goals in the [Action Plan](#), which can be viewed on our website.

How will the evaluation be used?

It will be used to communicate to our members and key external partners the positive changes/benefits U3A Hobson's Bay /Williamstown offers to its members.

As well we will embed the process of continuous improvement as a key part of the management of the organisation

Information about timelines and specific evaluation activities will be communicated to all members via the regular Communication Channels.

Sandi Guest

Willi Literary Festival



This year the Williamstown Literary Festival was themed around engaging with the local community. This was reflected in the sessions presented and in how the event was organised. It included an initiative to invite community groups, such as our U3A, to hold an Information Stand providing information to those attending the many sessions across the weekend.

The Information Stands were in the main hall of the building where attendees could relax before or after sessions, enjoy a coffee, a comfortable chair and talk with any of the stall holders about their particular group, membership, activities etc.



Our stand was staffed across the two days by committee members and volunteers from within our membership. Many thanks

to the great members who spent two hours of their weekend helping out – Irene Tannock, Michael Collins, Claudia de Quadros, Mary O’Donoghue and Kerry O’Brien.

The enquiries came in waves as sessions ended. We had enquiries about our activities, the meaning of U3A, enquiries from retirees looking for extra activities or seeking particular areas of interest and there were a few looking towards retirement and are starting to check out what is available once they have more leisure time.



We are very grateful to Jane Finemore, Director of the Literary Festival this year, for giving us this opportunity to engage with our local community, let people know who we are and what we have on offer for our local community.

Carol Newmann

The Rooster of Williamstown



Our very own Kerry Fowler was part of a group of local authors featured at the Willi Lit Fest.

Her book *The Rooster of Williamstown* traces her family heritage over the past five generations in Williamstown, giving insight into a Williamstown full of opportunities and dreams.

Playing with Words

The U3A Hobsons Bay/Williamstown Cryptic Crossword group’s presentation at the Williamstown Literary Festival was a great success.

The interactive workshop was led by Tony McCosker and Darby Higgs with the assistance of Marianne Lessels.

Fourteen people enrolled in the workshop, and we were delighted that they were all enthusiastic about crosswords. Some had tackled cryptic clues in the past; others were very new to the game.

To begin with, I outlined a bit of “crossword theory” and some fundamentals in approaching crosswords. We then moved onto the fun bit – how to unravel clues.



To assist people with unravelling a clue, I proposed a three-stage process with each clue:

1. identifying the word at the *beginning* or *the end of the clue* that could provide us with the “answer”;
2. identifying the word/or words in the clue that direct us too how to solve the clue – that, is identifying the *type of clue*;
3. pulling the clue apart and reassembling the bits to arrive at the solution.

We then did a practice run through each of the types of clues – anagrams, embedded clues, double definitions, combination (pancake) clues, equivalent expressions, etc.

It was great to hear an “ah” as the penny dropped – a moment of enlightenment and excitement when the solution to the clue seemed to magically appear! Ah, there it is – it was there looking at me all the time!

Darby Higgs then took over the facilitation of the activity as we jointly attacked a medium degree of difficulty crossword. Working in pairs, the various types of clues were identified, and it was not long before solutions to clues were jumping off the page.

To conclude the workshop, participants (neophyte cruciverbalists) were each presented with a copy of Phil Quinn's publication Solving Cryptic Crosswords, which provides further clues on how to solve the riddles that are cryptic crossword clues. (Available on our website under "Resources").



We played with words – we enjoyed the game.

Tony McCosker

Circle of Friends

The **Craft Circle**, which meets at the Cottage each Wednesday morning, is a wonderful, supportive group, according to those ladies who attend. Apart from creating some wonderful craftwork, they receive encouragement, friendship, advice and (according to one) the chance to speak English.



Marilyn Homewood fashions beautiful jewellery. Her friends are often the lucky recipients of her work, although most of it is donated to the Childrens Hospital and Cancer Council to raise much-needed funds.



Chris Foord, a recent member, came along for company and is busy knitting a "granny rug". She said: "This is a lovely group of women. They are supportive and helpful and non-judgmental."



Milka Nikolic has been coming for eight years. Apart from crocheting beautiful and delicate pieces, she enjoys the company and the chance to talk English (she mainly speaks Croatian to her husband at home).

Annette Matthews is busy on a labour of love for her family. She is creating an album which will feature her family milestones, overseas adventures and other important events.



"I started from scratch and had no idea what I was doing", she said. But with encouragement and advice she is crafting a treasured family heirloom.



Ena Holt is the convenor and linchpin of the group. A Life Member of U3A Hobsons Bay/ Williamstown, she joined in 2007 to play Mah-jong. Ena joined the Committee in 2013 and was our long-term Treasurer.



She makes beautiful jewellery, which she mainly gives to the Salvos. "We're here to help each other," she said. "We give our opinion but are never critical."

Rina Michetti has been in U3A HBW for four years, but has been making blankets and toys for the Royal Flying Doctor Service for 12 years (prompted by living in the outback for some time). She raised \$1,000 in one year making dish cloths for the RFDS.



Her output also includes trauma teddies for the Red Cross, hand puppets (to entertain sick children in the air) and fund-raising koalas for the RFDS.



Ena with some craftwork by Pat Klemm, Cecilia Leslett and Rosemary Eyles.

Other members of the Craft Circle are:
Cheryl Neenan, Linda Goodwin, Lyn Kontos, Mary Kean, Sandy Daly.

Ann Banham

The mystery quilt

Hobsons Bay Council recently returned a quilt to us that they had tucked away somewhere for over 20 years. It was a work of complexity, skill and love completed by the "Craft Ladies" of Third Age Learning in 2000.



The photos do not do it justice as it is a 3D piece of art - the glasses are *real* on the Book Group panel and the keys on the computer keyboard are tiny white buttons.

(From the story of the quilt attached to the reverse):

The 'Aims and Objectives' of the project were to encourage the craft members, all of whom are retired and from many different walks of life and backgrounds, to work on a joint venture to create an everlasting memento of group work for the International Year of the Older Person.

Our hope for the quilt was to have images highlighting some topics offered by Third Age Learning Hobsons Bay Inc. intermingled with local scenes showing points of interest throughout the municipality. There is a combination of as many craft stitches as was possible throughout the quilt.

Each craft lady has sewn her name inside her 'hand and heart' signifying her participation in the making of the quilt with her hands and with love in her heart. The craft ladies who participated are as follows:



Joan Allen Jean Bassett, Rita Beaton, Edna Caldwell, Grace Christie, Joyce Cox, Pat Daragh, Margaret Eustace, Mavis Frost, Margaret Hick, Lyla Kellam, Colleen Littleton, Maria Medovarski, June McDonald Muriel Morton, Margaret Plichta, June Pocock, Suzanne Rosini, Natalina Rabe, Dorothy Shaw, Jan Spilsbury, Lurna Stephens, Betty Wilshire, Jean Wright

We now have to find a suitable place to display it.

... back to enjoying life

A few highlights of Term Two:

Fun Dining undertook a world tour of cuisine: Croatian, Thai, Italian, Japanese and Modern Australian.

Bird Watchers saw birds in the wild and on the screen.

We learnt how to *Maintain our Bikes* and perform *CPR*.

The *Sourdough bread making workshop* was so popular, it is being repeated next term.

There was a whole lot of burning love in Bendigo at the *Elvis: Direct from Graceland* exhibition

We walked around *Williamstown* and *Explored Melbourne*.



If you enjoy seeing photos and hearing news from your fellow members, join our private [Facebook](#) group.

There are new posts every day and we would love to hear what you are getting up to.

It's a private group so only members can see posts and photos.

At the time of publication we have ~~97~~ 98 members: let's score a century and get it up to 100!

