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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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Where do we fit in to the bigger picture?

A lot is happening in the next couple of months so I want to take the opportunity to look at the bigger picture and where we fit in the scheme of things as part of the U3A Network.



The Victorian Network is the peak body that covers all 104 Victorian U3As and their 330,000 members. It provides support and assistance and has been invaluable to us to establish UMAS, corporate governance advice, COVID information, establishment of our website and its ongoing maintenance, education and marketing workshops.

Your membership fee includes a \$2 Capitation fee to the Network and this pays for our public liability insurance and contributes to the costs of the Network.

The Network has increasingly widened its services in recent years and they have big plans to:

- build stronger U3As
- advocate and provide more services to seniors
- encourage working, learning and being together
- promote stronger advocacy with State Government and other agencies
- support the establishment of new U3As.

We are a small to medium sized U3A and we have achieved a great deal in the past three years with invaluable help from the Network and the relationships we have built with the Regional Network and Victorian Network. Tony McCosker represents us at the Regional Network and I represent us at the State Network. It is comforting to be part of a bigger, growing and progressive organisation.

I look forward to catching up with you at some of our activities planned in Term four.

Joan Thompson
President

Looking forward to Term Four

Hard to believe we are about to start Term Four. This is one of the busiest times of the year for Convenors and the Committee.

2023 Program

We are putting together the program for 2023 which includes Convenors reviewing their activities and deciding on any changes, establishing new activities, finding new Convenors and new venues and managing the enrolment process.

STAR Convenors Workshop

We have the Convenors workshop on October 11th to which all Convenors and members wanting to know more about running activities are invited. (Details on Page 4)

Enrolments

Enrolments should be available online on November, 31st November. There will also be enrolments in person at the Cottage on Monday 5th December (further details to be circulated later)

Art & Photography Exhibition

Thanks to a grant from Hobsons Bay Council, we are delighted to be holding an exhibition of some of the extraordinary work from our art classes, plus our photography experts, from 5th to 17th December (more details on page 6)

Christmas Party

Our eagerly anticipated Christmas Party is provisionally scheduled for 29th November. Our hardworking elves (aka the Christmas Party working group) are organising the venue and catering and putting program together. More details to come soon.

Joan Thompson President

Enrolment Fee Increase

We have managed to keep our membership fees at the same level for several years, but changing circumstances now mean our fees need to be increased for the 2023 calendar year. Our only regular source of income is your membership fees and as costs rise (as they have in 2022) we need to adjust fees to cover our expenses moving forward.

Power charges have increased, cleaning costs of the Cottage have increased to comply with COVID regulations, as have other expenses, plus we face a Council Review of charges for hiring Council facilities.

After a review by Committee members and other members, we have decided to recommend to our membership an increase in fees for full members from \$40 per annum to \$55 and for Associates from \$20 per annum to \$40 per annum.

The proposal will be put to a Special General Meeting to be held immediately prior to the Committee Meeting at 9.30 am on Tuesday 8th November at the Cottage. (Full details to be circulated separately).

Going forward we will try to keep fee increases to a minimum but we need to ensure we maintain a healthy buffer to cover unexpected costs. We strive to continue to provide a wide variety of activities and events which we are sure you all appreciate very much. I am sure you will all support this necessary increase. The same group of Committee members and other members will evaluate the situation again towards the end of 2023.

Thank you for your understanding and most importantly your continued support for all the activities and events we run.

John Morris Treasurer



U3A photographers wanted

U3A Network Victoria has put a call out for photographers, videographers and photo groups to capture real U3A people doing real U3A things in October.

This is in conjunction and celebration with the Victorian Seniors Festival which focuses on providing fun and good times with opportunities to participate in events and activities for free or low cost during the month of November (more details about this on Page 7).

The items will be used in marketing the U3A movement to support public awareness of the movement and to grow the membership and participation by Victorian seniors in U3As.

Please contact Tracey Swadling for more information.
naom@u3avictoria.org.au

Are you missing out on exciting new activities?



Every two weeks (more or less) we send out a News Flash to all our members. This is to alert everyone that there are new activities scheduled or other important news.

Every one of our members in the UMAS database receives our News Flashes in their In Box. If you don't receive them regularly check your Spam/Junk Mail folder or make sure your email details are up-to-date in UMAS.

Checking the stats, we have a very good open rate, however there are a few left unopened. Our last News Flash had an 85% open rate, that leaves 15% unopened which means members may be missing out on activities they would enjoy.

You may be a very busy person and (a) can't get round to all your incoming emails or (b) are happy with the amount of activities you are currently enrolled in. That is fine. By the way, if you do not want to receive News Flashes from us there is an "unsubscribe" option at the bottom.

Williamstown Senior Citizen Centre (Dennis Reserve)

Starting from Term Four the users of the Williamstown Senior Citizen Centre (WSSC) are being relocated. The only remaining groups over the past six months have been *Basic Drawing*, *Art Time* and the *Monday Book Group*.



Basic Drawing and *Art Time* will be moving to Bayview Street Football Pavilion (next to Bayside Secondary College) and the *Book Group* will be enjoying a coffee at Café Cirino while reviewing their latest book.

The WSSC site/building will be rebuilt and become a multi-purpose centre for initially eight local community groups, including U3A HBW, Senior Citizens, Loom Room, Badminton, CWA, and of course the Tennis Club. The build is expected to take about 18 months to complete. It will be a new modern facility with a lot more flexibility to cater for multiple groups simultaneously.

The Thursday art groups will miss the WSSC and its lovely light for doing what we do best, but I believe this will be further enhanced in the new building.

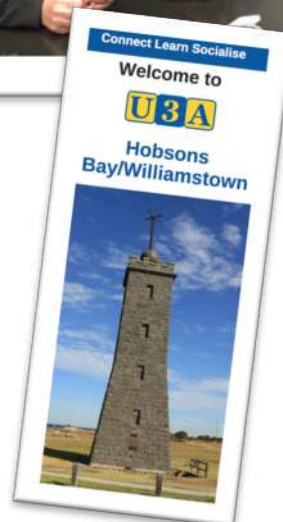
Ian Barclay

How to attract more men to U3A?

Our membership is currently predominantly female (approximately only 20% male). How do we attract more men. What about offering cards, the pub and beer?

So we have recently updated our tri-fold brochure to include some of our lovely card-playing group enjoying a beer in the pub.

Copies of the brochure are available at the Cottage and we'll have them available at the Williamstown and Newport Libraries during the Seniors Festival.



Evaluation Project

U3A Hobson Bay Williamstown (U3AHBW) is conducting a comprehensive evaluation process to check on how well the organization is delivering on its stated:

Vision: *to promote and celebrate positive aging*

Mission: *supporting positive aging by meeting the needs of the retired and semi-retired members of its community for social interaction and learning opportunities.*

The project will also capture information, ideas and opinions that will assist our U3A to be even better at meeting members' needs.

Tools used to collect feedback

Both quantitative and qualitative data will be collected from members and key external partners using a range of tools which include:

- **On-line questionnaire** sent to all members. The questionnaire will be sent to all members by the end of September and a \$50 gift voucher to be given to one lucky participant upon completion and submission of the survey.
- **A SWOT** (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities for Improvement and Threats) will be conducted with Convenors at the October 11th Convenor Workshop.
- **Committee Questionnaire** All members of the Committee will complete a questionnaire about their experiences as a member of the Committee and their suggestions for continued improvement.
- **Success Story Interviews** Twenty five members have been randomly selected to be personally interviewed by a member from the Evaluation Working Group about their experiences with our U3A and any suggested improvements. Information from the Success stories will provide additional insight into the impact the U3A has had on our members and provide opportunities for improvement.
- **Interviews with key external stakeholders** Six key external stakeholders have been selected to be interviewed in relation to their interaction with U3A Hobson Bay Williamstown, their perceptions and future opportunities.

Final Report

A Social Impact Report will be completed and shared with all members and key external stakeholders.

The report will enable U3A Hobson Bay Williamstown to communicate the difference it has made to its members in relation to the stated vision and mission, provide input into future planning and identify opportunities for improvement. A final report will be made available to all members in February 2023. All information collected will be anonymous, summarized and included in the final report .

Report from Evaluation Working Group:
Sandi Fallshaw, Mikael Wagner, Kerry Lewis, Sandy Guest and Phil Quinn

Be a STAR!

Have you a passion, hobby or interest you would like to share with your fellow U3A Hobsons Bay/Williamstown members? Or an idea that you think might make a new activity?



Come along to the **STAR (Share, Reflect, Talk, Agree) Convenors Session** and find out what being a convenor or a co-convenor involves.

No pressure to commit to anything - just to experience the support we give our convenors (we do love them to bits) and to socialise with other convenors and members in an informal fun session.

You will also learn some new skills through an interactive session *Handling Challenging Conversations* (always handy to know in all sorts of everyday situations).

Venue: Royal Yacht Club of Victoria (120 Nelson Place, next to Police Station)

Date: Tuesday, 11th October

Time: 9.15 am – 12.30 pm

Full details and program in UMAS.

Welcome morning tea

A morning tea at The Cottage on Tuesday 6th September welcomed new members who have joined our U3A since the beginning of the year.

This was an opportunity to ensure our new members get to know each other as well as those convenors and committee members who came along to meet and greet. For many new members, who are attending activities in other venues, it was also the first visit to The Cottage.

It continues to amaze what a vibrant and interesting community of members we have and what energy they bring to our U3A. We had a great response to the invitation to come and the morning tea was full of lively chat over coffee, sandwiches and delicious cakes.

Thanks to all those who contributed to the success of the morning and to the new members who came along.

Carol Neumann



Sign up for some exciting new activities in Term Four

On being a novice diplomat in India

John Webb is offering three weekly sessions, starting on 4th October concerning aspects of living and working as a diplomat in India.



Weekend camping at Sheepland Flat Howqua

7th – 9th October

Archibald Prize

A trip to see the only Victorian exhibition of the 2022 Archibald Prize on 12th October.



Westgate Bridge Disaster



An inspection of the actual site of the disaster, followed by a talk and lunch at the Yarraville Club on 14th October



Sketching and painting outdoors

A monthly informal session starting on 19th October at various locations throughout Williamstown and Newport

Bush and beach day walks

27th October –
Werribee Gorge
24th November –
Gunnamatta



Resuscitate a mate

Learn resuscitation and CPR skills at the Williamstown Swim & Life Saving Club on 4th November.



Full details on these activities and more are available on UMAS.

U3A Hobsons Bay/Williamstown Art & Photography Exhibition December 2022

Since U3A were successful in receiving a grant from the Hobsons Bay City Council for us to put on an Art Exhibition at the Williamstown Library, we have been working hard to have it up and ready for the opening on 5th December and closing on the 17th December.

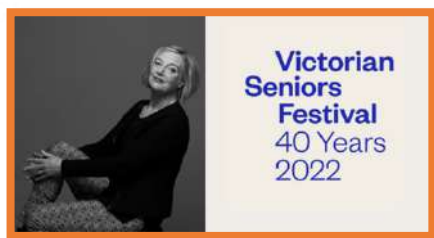
There will be four U3A groups displaying their art, which includes the Thursday drawing and painting groups, Friday's (Ken Gratton) art group and several photographers (Fiona Williams) linked to U3A. We are expecting about 50 hangings, some of the works will be for sale and we will have a 'People's Choice' winner.

To give you an idea of the high quality of work that will be on display I have included a small sample of our recent work. When the Exhibition is up and running, please come and support our talented artist, it is a great community event.

Ian Barclay



Victorian Seniors Festival



The annual Seniors Festival is on again with events at state and local levels Victoria. Starting on 2nd October and lasting throughout the month, it is a time to celebrate older adults in the community and for older adults to have fun and participate in the variety of activities on offer.

Travel

Half price ferry



[Port Phillip Ferries](#) is celebrating Victorian Senior's Festival by offering all seniors and concession card holders 50% off all ferry travel when pre-

booked online or phoning Port Phillip Ferries with discount promo code Seniors2022. Available between 3rd – 7th October.

- Docklands to/from Portarlington One Way. Using Discount Code: Seniors2022 A\$8.00
- Docklands to/from Geelong One Way Using Discount Code: Seniors2022 A\$8.50

Free travel

Explore Melbourne and regional Victoria: from 2nd to 9th October take advantage of free public transport with your Seniors myki and Victorian Seniors card.



- You'll be able to travel for free on all public transport in Victoria, including:
- Melbourne trains, trams and buses
- Regional trains coaches and buses (including regional town bus services).

[Plan your journey](#)

U3A Hobsons Bay/Williamstown

We are making our own contribution to the Festival and taking some activities into the community at our local libraries so that local older adults can see what we do and maybe join in and try their hand at some of our activities:

Speed Scrabble

Williamstown Library

Monday, 3rd October, 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm

Phil Quin will lead some experts in play-off quick rounds of Scrabble.

Beginner Spanish

Williamstown Library

Tuesday, 4th October, 10.00 am – 11.30 am

Carmen Cohen and her class will demonstrate how much fun learning a new language is.

Craft

Newport Library

Wednesday, 5th October, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Ena Holt and her talented group members will be working on their assorted projects.

Drawing

Newport Library

Thursday, 6th October, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Ian Barclay and his class will be showcasing their artistic skills.

Cryptic Crosswords

Newport Library

Friday, 7th October, 11.00 am – 12.30 pm

Tony McCosker and his group will be working together to solve the latest Crossword in the *Age*.

Around Hobsons Bay

There is a host of other activities happening locally, from walks around the back lanes and streets of Williamstown, visits to the Williamstown Botanic Gardens, tours of the Cemetery and even a tea dance.



Full details are available in the *Hobsons Bay Senior Festival booklet* – pick up from the library or download [here](#).

And see what is happening in other part of the state at:

<https://www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/seniors-festival-events-listing>

Some memories from Term Three:

1. Fun Dining continued its culinary adventures – including VenU, the restaurant at Victoria University run by hospitality students.

2. Fun Dining also had Christmas dinner in July at the Customs House

3. The Local Walking Group explored Williamstown and surrounds.

4 & 5. We travelled to the Geelong Art Gallery to see the Contemporary Art Prize.

6. Some of us had some fun coming back to Melbourne from Geelong on the ferry.

7. The Bird Watching group studying birds intently.

8. Another successful sourdough bread making workshop.

9. Current Affairs hosted a session on the results of the Census.

10. Our colourful bike riding group.



Join our Facebook group to see regular updates on what our members are doing.

We have 108 members now.

If you want to join under a pseudonym, make sure you include your membership number with your application.

