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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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Vice-President's welcome

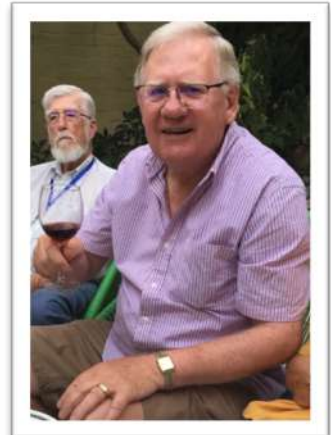
In the absence of Joan Thompson, our very dedicated President, I take this opportunity to thank her for her leadership in what has been a very successful year for U3A Hobsons Bay/Williamstown.

The growth in enrolments, activities and courses has not happened magically: it is the result of the hard work and foresight of our volunteer Committee members who have earned our respect and gratitude. It is a very positive sign that members are stepping forward to become Convenors or co-convenors. A huge thank you to our convenors for their generosity throughout the year.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter, you will see some photos of our end-of-year function at the Royals Yacht Club, a sell-out event. In future, we will need to look for a larger venue and perhaps a different format. It is pleasing to see that many individual groups are having smaller break-up come Christmas celebrations.

Enrolments for next year are well under way. We look forward to many and varying activities in the new year. I wish you all a safe and healthy holiday season and, as a current advertisement says – "Spread the Merry"!

Tony McCosker
Vice- President



Committee at the December meeting, minus Joan, our President, who is away on a well-earned holiday

A busy time for the Treasurer



This is such a busy time of year for the treasurer as I have to “activate” every member who has paid their membership fee so they can be an official member and attend the activities they have enrolled in next year.

At the time of publication I have activated 200 members for 2023. I have contacted several others to get them to select activities so I can activate them in UMAS. I have also had to try to find out who some payees were as there was no name or member number on the Bendigo Bank deposits. But on the whole, the process has gone very smoothly.

To date we have received about \$11K (November to 8th December) in prepayments for 2023 memberships and wine appreciation course plus \$500 in our newly established donations fund.

Thank you to everyone who has paid so promptly and identified themselves on their payment. You have made my life so much easier!

John Morris - Treasurer

Online Enrolments a hit

What an incredible response to the 2023 offerings. Members have been busy enrolling online with over 200 members enrolling in just over a week. By 10.30 on the first day of enrolments Philosophy was full and now over one third of activities are full. On average members have enrolled in four activities per person.



Members have mastered online enrolments with around 95% of members selecting their activities from the web portal. Assistance was available for members at the Cottage on Tuesday 6th December and Carol Neuman has assisted others by phone and email.

Next year we will have the Cottage enrolment session on the same day that enrolments open online.

A big thank you to the team that have handled 2023 activities and enrolments- Cheryl Neenan, Sandi Fallshaw, Carol Neuman, Sue Sturup, Sherril Milligan, John Morris, Ann Banham and Sue Dawkins.

Sue Dawkins

Grants

We continue to be successful in receiving grants to help run the club. These funds help us to do special projects and take pressure off our membership funding.

The current Art and Photo exhibition has been supported by a grant from Hobsons Bay Council HBCC 2022 MIH2048 Never Too Old to Start \$2500.



Two new grants are Viva Energy Grant \$4000 for

improvement works to the U3A Cottage and HBCC 2023SG32 Small Grant \$500 which helps with operating costs.

Sue Dawkins

Evaluation Working Group Update

The working team has completed all of the data collection and would like to thank the members who took the time to participate in the member survey, the SWOT exercise at the Convenor workshop and the members who agreed to be personally interviewed about their experiences with our U3A.

The team is currently analysing and summarising the data as input into the final report. A draft will be provided to the Committee at the February meeting with a final report completed by the end of February.

The final report will be made available to all members. The feedback both from our members and External Stakeholders has been overwhelmingly positive and a number of suggestions have been made for future consideration.

Sandi Fallshaw, Mikael Wagner, Kerry Lewis, Sandy Guest and Phil Quinn.



Sue Duff was the lucky recipient of the \$50 voucher prize for filling in the survey.

Activities Report

Term 4 highlights



Our Explore Melbourne excursions were very popular. The last outing of the year to Werribee included a walk along the foreshore to

Wyndham Harbour and a visit to the State Rose Garden with an informative talk by Sue Myers.

Three candidates (Melissa Horne, Suzette Rodoreda, and Patricia Mackevicius) for the local electorate of Williamstown in the recent State



Election addressed the Current Affairs class with a lively discussion answering questions and staying for morning tea.

We also had some new activities this year, including a discussion of the Origins of Jazz led by Robyn Powell and International Relations led by Peter Dawkins. Many of the activities finished the year with happy Christmas parties with great photos posted on Facebook .

2023 Activities

We kicked off 2023 enrolments with a fantastic range of



activities and members were quick to enrol. Old favourites are continuing including Bridge, Mah-Jong, Current Affairs, languages, art classes, and writing options. We have great outdoor options including Local walking, Bush Walking, Explore Melbourne, Cycling and Bird Watching.



Indoor activities such as Footy Tipping and Cards remain very popular.

New activities next year include non-fiction book group, philosophy, travel talks, Our First Nations, political ideas and morning coffee. Members can pick one-off offerings including sour dough, wine appreciation, croquet, Jawbone marine sanctuary.

From time to time, Ann Banham will organise one off excursions to regional art galleries and exhibitions



and Vinny Fitzgerald will organise cultural excursions within Melbourne.

Thanks to all the wonderful convenors who have generously offered their time to run this amazing range of activities. As a relatively small U3A we are incredibly lucky to have a pool of talented people with so much experience and willingness to contribute to 'our U3A'

Two further excursions are being organised: John Adams is organising another talk from Richard Olive on the topic *Johnston Dam Failure*. Richard presented the fascinating talk on the Westgate Bridge disaster. Ann Banham is organising an excursion to the Art Gallery of Ballarat to see the *Beating about the Bush Australian Impressionist* exhibition in February.

At the time of writing there are 200 members activated. Look out for your welcome letter which has lots of information and website links. If you need help or want to discuss any activities email info@u3ahbwilli.org.au

Sue Dawkins
Activities Coordinator

Inaugural Art & Photography Exhibition 5 December 2022 – Williamstown Library Gallery

WOW what a fantastic Gala event the U3A Hobsons Bay/Wiliamstown Art Groups and Photographers put on at the Library Gallery on the 5th December 2022 to open



Melissa Horne and Joan Thompson

our Inaugural Art Exhibition. The small space in the gallery meant attendance was by invitation only, but we ended up with over 70 guests, including Williamstown local State Member of Parliament, Melissa Horne, and senior council executives.

The Art Groups and Photographers were able to show off their hard work done over the past 12 months with an array of fine art and photos. The standard was spectacular, with lots of very positive feedback and the sale of many works – well done all artists and photographers.

Paula O’Shea did an amazing job organising and putting together the exhibition. She had over 30 exhibitors to manage and assist with their final preparation for hanging their works. Jess Thomas took charge of the catering arrangements, no one went hungry or thirsty on the night, it was compliments to the chef.



Paula O’Shea and Ian Barclay



Deb McDonald



Sue Elliot, Paula O’Shea, Mary Baron & Vinnie Fitzgerald

Vinny Fitzgerald made sure that all attendees were invited and looked after. Thank you all for your assistance you were all amazing.

This event would not have been possible if it were not for the support from the Hobsons Bay City Councils grants program *Making it Happen*. The grant money helped many of the artists with materials and we were able to hire space in the library over a two-week period and provide catering on the opening night.

The Art Exhibition is open to the public for two weeks (6th till 17th December) with an artist-in-residence to assist with any questions. There is also a People’s Choice prize for the winning artist, to be drawn once the exhibition closes.



Guest Speaker local artist Steven Gevers



Fiona Williams & Peter Harris



Sue Dawkins & Regina Goetz

Ian Barclay
Convenor for the Thursday Art Group

Christine Crofton – a proud maker of quilts for Aussie Heroes



Aussie Hero Quilts is an organisation started by Australian, Jan Maree Ball, after she heard about an injured Australian defence member who was transferred to a hospital in Germany. He was given a quilt by an American group and she said she felt ashamed there was

not an Aussie quilt for him.

Ten years of sewing by volunteers has seen 15,000 quilts and 34,000 laundry bags sent off to military personnel deployed overseas in many roles including combat, peace keeping, coastal surveillance, as well as those on various duties at home in Australia.



I became involved five years ago when I nervously made my first quilt. Since then, I have made about 30 quilts of various designs to fit in with requests, plus I have made quilts of valour (fallen hero quilt) which are special quilts with poppy designs in red, green and black, made for families of military personnel who have been killed or died.

This year I went to Canberra for the 10th anniversary dinner to commemorate Aussie Hero Quilts. Those AHQ volunteers who were able to attend plus military personnel, veterans, partners and friends all mixed and shared stories at the dinner. The quilters shared tips and tricks with each other, chatting about the different requests and the anxiety to do “the perfect job”

We all realised an item finished as best we can and made with love and pride is better than not finished at all!

The constant theme was one of gratitude and thanks for making quilts for the troops. Recipients are always emotional as they find it hard to believe that people who do not know them care.

The stories we heard were heart wrenching. One dad spoke about receiving a fallen hero's quilt and how that special quilt helps the family through difficult times. Today they still wrap themselves in it and reflect on their son's life and the sacrifice given to enable freedom in our country.

Another was a retired Major who is now an artist and suffers from PTSD (a late diagnosis) and how receiving a quilt one day changed his life. He had planned to take his life the evening of the day the quilt arrived. He opened it and realised people cared and it changed the direction of his life. He was accompanied by his assistance dog Squish a British bulldog.

We attended a presentation to those who had recently had quilts made for them and were stationed in Canberra. I had the pleasure of presenting the last two quilts I had made. The first was to Kevin who is in the Army in the Armoured Corp. He was very shy and overcome but so grateful, especially when he realised I had used the unit colours on the back of the quilt.



Red, brown and green symbolising blood, mud and green fields after the battle.

The other quilt was for Melissa who is in the

Navy. Her request was pink and bright with her initials. She raced up and hugged me and was delighted with the quilt. Her commanding officer said it matched her bubbly bright personality.



Christine Crofton

Jan Norman accepts award for husband Peter Norman



My late husband Peter Norman has been chosen as this year's Sport Australia Hall of Fame's recipient of the Dawn Award. This is an award named after Dawn Fraser recognising courage and bravery, demonstrating achievement against the odds and challenging the status quo in sport.

Peter has received this posthumous award for his legacy as an athlete and his support of Tommy Smith and John Carlos at the Mexico Olympics in their stand against racism.



Jan Norman being interviewed on TV

The photo on the dais has become an important symbol for human rights around the world.

Peter's family and I will very proudly receive this award from Dawn at a cocktail evening later this month.

Jan Norman (U3A HBW member)

Margaret Dugdale and her book *Hamish and the Double Bass*

The writing of *Hamish and the Double Bass*, which I started four years ago has been an absolute joy. The story takes the listener and the reader on an adventure. A small boy, Hamish, who loves going to concerts with his Grandma, by chance meets the lonely Double Bass, a big instrument that Hamish is way too small to play. With a little bit of magical encouragement from the

Double Bass Hamish goes off with his friends to learn to play the smaller instruments of the orchestra. All the children have fun practising their instruments, and not wanting to miss out of being part of the story, have made up whimsical rhymes about themselves. One day,



on realising how tall he has grown Hamish races back to the city to find the Double Bass. Together, with great excitement they head off to play with all their friends in the biggest orchestra of all.

Most children's first experience of learning to play is through the instruments of the orchestra. The book provides these children, and others who may simply enjoy listening and watching with a positive contemporary story about the orchestra: the excitement and the adventure of going to a concert, the moment of anticipation before the music begins, the imagined places music can take them to and the possibility of growing up to play in an orchestra and the joy of making music with friends.

With its beautiful illustrations by **Becky Stout of Rock Sheep Studio** the book is full of energy, warmth and movement and will delight children between the ages of 3 to 8 years. It

gives a new and contemporary perspective on the orchestra and perhaps more importantly, of making music together. With its appropriate culturally diverse characters the book will appeal to young children of the modern world.



Margaret Dugdale

I have just had confirmed that the MSO will be selling *Hamish and the Double Bass* on their on-line shop! It's also available at www.storytellingbooks.com.

Margaret Dugdale (U3A HBW member)

Member Support Group



Deb McDonald will be joining our Membership support working group. She will start helping in January when we have work to do in getting the member badges and welcome letters out for our new year. A great time to come on board and

get some exposure to some of the back end work that keeps U3A Hobsons Bay/Williamstown going. We are really looking forward to bringing Deb into our little team.

Deb is replacing Sherril Milligan who will not be rejoining our U3A next year as her life in Werribee has become increasingly busy.

Our thanks to Sherril who has been an enormous help across the years in her role as Treasurer and last year in taking on much of the administrative work involved in bringing on board new members, as well as being a back up to John in his role as Treasurer.

We are very lucky to have such great members who are willing to get involved and support the ongoing work in keeping our U3A vibrant and in good working order.

Carol Newman
Member Support

Ken Gratton

The Friday Art class celebrated Ken's role in inspiring and encouraging them to develop their art skills over many years on 9th December. Ken was presented with a beautiful hamper and a painting of the Cottage by Vivien Owens. Using his background as a teacher, Ken has nurtured skills and confidence encouraging artists not to be bounded by art conventions or rules, instead to have a go.



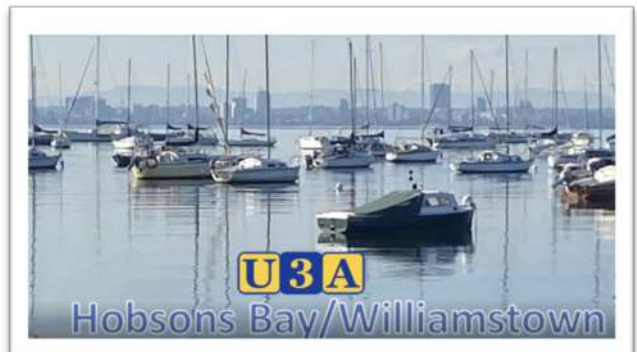
Keep up-to-date with Network news



Do you want to know all the latest news for Victorian U3As? U3A Network Victoria puts out a regular monthly e-news bulletin which covers policy updates, news of U3As around the state, offers of courses, marketing updates, and much more.

For instance, in this month's bulletin U3A Darebin are offering a free course where members read a classic book (starting next month with *Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck) with observations being made via a Facebook page. You can download a copy of the latest [Network News](#) from the website.

Facebook



The U3A Hobsons Bay/Williamstown Facebook page is a friendly community, with usually at least one post a day. At the time of publication we have 111 members. Please join if you would like to see what is going on with your fellow members and to contribute posts about U3A or interesting things you have been up to.

The Facebook is a private group so your posts and photos are not shared. I check every application to join and if they are not a member I politely decline their application. If you would like to join under a pseudonym, please include your membership number. I can then send you an email to make sure it is a bona fide application.

Ann Banham

Christmas lunch at the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria

1. It wouldn't be Christmas, without a few carols and other fun songs from our very own ukulele group.
2. Phil Quinn set us some challenging questions
3. Made us think hard ...
4. ... but we (well one table) rose to the challenge and came out a winner
5. Getting into the spirit of Christmas
6. A chance to catch up with old friends
7. And make new friends



Wishing all our U3A Hobsons Bay/Williamstown members a merry and happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you again in 2023.