



HOBSONS BAY/WILLIAMSTOWN INC



**NEWSLETTER
March 2024**

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

Editorial Panel
Lynn Murray
Sandy Guest
Sandi Fallshaw

Contact us:

P.O.Box 140
Williamstown Vic 3016
www.u3ahbwilli.org.au
info@u3ahbwilli.org.au

Welcome to 2024.

Well, it’s hard to believe we are into March already and nearly at the end of term one. How time flies.

It has been a busy start to the year, new and exciting activities, the Annual General Meeting, meetings of the subcommittees and an update to the web site

For those of you who have been with us since 2022, you’ll know in term four we moved from the Senior Citizens building located in Ferguson St to enable a rebuild by Hobsons Bay Council. If you’ve walked that way recently, you’ll notice it is making remarkable progress. When complete later in the year it will be a valuable modern multi-functional facility for many community groups such as U3A.

In this edition there is a message from the new President, information from the AGM, things of interest that are coming up and administrative information that may be useful for those who have just joined us.

For new Convenors thank you for volunteering your time to the 2024 activities program and new members welcome to U3A Hobsons Bay.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Feedback and contributions are always welcome. We love hearing from you.

Communication Subcommittee



Greetings from your very new President.



I have been a member since 2016 and an active Committee member. As I said at the AGM, I am glad I have size 46 feet as I will have big shoes to fill. Sandy Guest has done a great job developing subcommittees, liaising with key stakeholders, and stepping in to lead our U3A early last year.

My background is in education across the community sector, secondary schools, university, private providers, and TAFE. As an interested community member, I have been a member, contributor, and committee member of various groups in our area. I have lived in Hobsons Bay since 1986 and do not intend to ever move from my hometown.

I hope to continue working with the Committee and members to grow our subcommittees as they are critical to meeting our key function of providing interesting activities for members. I want to see our activities grow while ensuring that we do not duplicate activities offered in other parts of our community.

There are opportunities to join Subcommittees and to convene activities. The Newsletter has more details on this and the new Committee.

I am always happy to chat with members so stop and say hello whenever you see me or contact me via info@hbwilli.org.au

Phil Quinn



SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

In my report to the AGM, I asked for assistance on the Activities subcommittee. The subcommittee takes ideas for new activities and develops these to the point of running the activity.

The role involves talking to prospective convenors and assisting them to get their good ideas turned into actual activities. Support is available to learn the role. The experience of others joining Subcommittees is positive and engenders a feeling of having contributed positively to our organisation.



SUPPLY OFFICER

I am trying to trim my jobs in U3A and one of these is a simple job to replenish consumables at the Cottage.

There is a sheet of A4 paper on the wall at the western end of the Cottage (closest to the school) to which anyone can add requests for supplies like toilet paper, printer paper, kitchen paper and other related consumables.

The job involves monitoring this list, buying what is required and then submitting a receipt to our Treasurer for reimbursement. A rough guide is that something might be required to be purchased about every 6-8 weeks. The role requires being in the Cottage on a regular basis.

For further information or to volunteer for this task, contact me please (Phil).

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The 2023 Christmas lunch was held at the Altona Sports club who provided us with not only a lovely lunch but also a beautiful view. Thank you to Judy Frawley and Kerri O'Brien for their warm welcome on the day.

The Ukulele group did a wonderful memory lane singalong and set the festive tone for the afternoon. Jenni Tremewen & the Trivia group provided a challenging Christmas quiz that kept us alert after a few wines.

Many thanks to Tony McCosker for being our MC and getting everyone in the Xmas spirit. The lovely photos of the afternoon are from Sue Dawkins and Ann Banham

Thank you to Carol Newman and everyone who contributed to make this a great Christmas lunch.

Vinny Fitzgerald



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2024 AGM was held on 5th March. 10am to 12pm at the Pavilion.

The meeting began with an interesting welcome to country by Tony McCosker who spoke to the importance of “being in place and on country” for indigenous peoples.

Annual reports were given by:

Acting president Sandy Guest
Vice President Ian Barclay
Secretary Fiona Williams
Treasurer Sue Sturup

Full reports and the auditors’ letter can be found on the U3A web site. Below are the key points from the reports.

Acting President

- Development of sub committees, this has spread the load and tapped into the skills and experience of members.
- Increase in membership numbers, convenors, and activities.
- Future challenges will be to ensure sufficient venues to support a range of activities, and the growth in numbers of members and their suggestions.

Vice President

- Regional meetings have provided a connection to the Vic network office and further resources.
- U3A Williamstown is considered a leader in the region.
- Repairs, maintenance, and updates continue in all venues.

Secretary

2023 AGM minutes accepted. 2023 Monthly committee meetings held x 11 with 9 committee members.

- Membership has continued to grow with a 10% increase and now stands at 346 as of March 2024
- Full 240, Associate 25, life 4.
- Convenors now number 56

Treasurer

- No fee increases for this year.
- Budget set for 2024 includes increase for cleaning and internet.

Subcommittees.

Activities & Member support

- Program continues to grow with another 12 activities added to the 50 offered in 2023.
- Frequency and duration of activities will continue to vary from one-off to whole year and all things in between.
- Will continue to look out for new suggestions.
- Encouragement of members who have a skill or interest not currently convening to put themselves forward.
- December through to February activity is higher.
- Currently seeking another member to join this committee.
- Major activity is around enrolment and how to join activities.

Convenor Support

- Acknowledgement of the generosity of all those who offered to be convenors and co convenors which has enabled us to meet demand.
- There are 11 new convenors and 13 convenors who are covering multiple activities.
- Convenors Workshops in June and November were very successful, and feedback would indicate that similar events be held regularly.

Management System

- Thank you to Kevin Whelan who has generously helped us navigate UMAS.
- Lars has taken over the management of the web and has done an excellent job of updating and refining the items for members to view.
- This small group is now part of the newly established Communication subcommittee.

Communication

- Currently being established to work on all aspects of communication.
- Strategies for formal communication
- Management of website

Grants Subcommittee

This will be established in the next few weeks and be chaired by Sandy guest.

Grants report

Greater Western Water \$2580

- Used to support Art Exhibition

Viva Energy \$4000

- Cottage improvements including blinds and replacement of the air conditioning unit.

Hobson Bay Make It Happen. \$2560

- Funds allocated to conduct Convenors workshops in November 2023.
- Two scamming workshops
- Two workshops to be delivered later in 2024 by COTA on My Age Care and Positive Ageing.

By clicking on the "About us" tab on the web site you'll find detailed information regarding Terms of reference, roles and responsibilities and key outcomes for each subcommittee.

Thank you to all those leaving the committee for their contribution in 2023 especially Fiona Williams as secretary. This role has entailed a large volume of work, and thanks to Sue Sturup for bravely stepping in as treasurer. This is never an easy roll to fill so thank you to Bronwyn for stepping up and sharing your accounting skills for 2024.

Below is a table of your new committee.

NEW COMMITTEE		
POSITION	NAME	TERM
PRESIDENT	Phil Quinn	Re-elected in a New Role
VICE PRESIDENT	Ian Barclay	Re- elected
SECRETARY	Sandi Falshaw	Re - elected in a New Role
TREASURER	Bronwyn Mills	
GENERAL COMMITTEE	Sandy Guest	Re- elected
	Ruth Patching,	Re -elected
	Yvonne Davidson	
	Clara Brack	
	Lars Jonasson	
NEXT AGM:	MARCH 2025	



The Committee is seeking expressions of interest for members who are willing to be part of a new Sub-Committee

Grant's Subcommittee.

The draft terms of reference can be found on the website. Once we have a new Sub-Committee established these terms of reference can be reviewed and submitted to the Committee for final approval.

During the year there are many opportunities to apply for grants, but the Committee feels it is crucial that we take a very strategic approach to reviewing and applying for grants that areas are aligned with our Vision and Mission and priority actions for the current year.

If you think you have an interest, please let Sandy Guest know via email address:

info@hbwilli.org.au



NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members. Below is some information for new members and a refresher for all regarding how to get the most out of what's on offer.

- On the web site under the membership tab there is a welcome to new members letter with some very detailed information, which may be useful to print and keep handy.
- We have three main methods of communication. **Newsflashes** - go out the 2nd and 4th Wed of each month which is a short update. **Newsletter** - goes out at the end of each term this is a roundup of activities, celebrations, and special successes. **Facebook** – which is a closed group a way of staying in touch and sharing comments and photos.
- On the web site under the activities tab is the calendar for the year. This can be viewed in calendar or list view. Clicking on an activity will display detailed information regarding the activity including availability and wait list status. Filters can be applied to find information quickly i.e. specific month, day, ongoing, new etc.

Gentle Reminder for all members.

Life happens, circumstances change and the unexpected comes to us all. Should this happen to you, there are several ways to cancel your enrolled activity. Contact the **convener or co convener**, use the web site and **contact us tab** or use your **member log in and use my absence tab**. We have a wait list for many activities so there may be somebody willing to take the spot at short notice.



Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

SCAMMING WORKSHOP



This workshop ran on Tuesday 12th March and will be repeated in April. It filled quickly and demonstrated just what interest and concern there is in this topic. As many were unable to join this activity here is a summary of the two-hour session.

Presented by the **Australian Consumer and Competitive Commission (ACCC)**.

The workshop covered topics such as.

- Scam statistics.
- What a scam is
- Common scam terminology
- Types of scams
- Ways to spot a scam.
- Help and support should you be a victim of a scam.

In July 2023 the government launched the National Anti-Scam Centre **SCAMWATCH** to bring together experts to make Australia a harder target.

The aim of the service is to

1. Help people spot a scam and give advice.
2. Collect and share information across government and industries.
3. Coordinate action to combat scams.

SCAM - when someone deceives you **to steal money or personal information**. It is **not** computer hacking, unfair contracts, or harassing marketing approaches.



Top Scams you should know about

1. Impersonation scams (think bank, government)
2. Investment scams
3. Romance Scams
4. Jobs and employment
5. Product and services (think fake web sites fake ads, stolen logos)- Hard to spot.

The statistics are truly startling.

In 2023

- 301.791 reports of scams to scam watch.
- Over 65's hold the top spot and have lost the most.
- Victoria has the highest loss in the country at \$110 million.

Last week an Australian Financial Review article reported that 3500 websites had been shut done in a week.

The over 55's accounted for

- \$221.7 million in losses
- 38% of all reports to scamwatch
- 46% of all losses
- \$18million to romance scams.
- \$151 million to investment scams
- An increase in number of people losing money via social media.



So, what can you do? The next page outlines some things to think about and where to get help if necessary.

WHAT CAN I DO?

STAYING SAFE



Stay safe by:

- Not sharing personal information or passwords
- It sounds too good to be true it probably is.
- Do not answer unknown numbers let them go to message bank.
- Check your bank account daily.
- Do not click on links go to the web site from your browser.

(I nearly got caught with this from a courier company it wasn't until I went to the company web site via google and put in the tracking number, I realised it was a scam as the number didn't exist and the message was from a fake site.)

- Use the number on the back of your Card to contact the bank.



THREE RULES

STOP. Don't rush to act or agree to anything.

THINK. Do you really know who you are speaking to. If you're not sure hang up.

PROTECT. Act quickly to report it.

Being a scam victim can be overwhelming, but it can happen to anyone, and support is available.

- Contact your bank immediately.
- Contact IDCARE 1800 595 160 or visit www.idcare.org.au identity theft. National identity and cyber support. They can help you to plan and limit the damage.
- AFP cyber unit
- www.scamwatch.gov.au
- How to stay safe on social media platforms. www.esafety.gov.au
- If you're overwhelmed and need somebody to talk to Lifeline 13 11 14

The anti-scam centre has a useful booklet called The Little Black Book of Scams. This is available free to download from their web site or you can listen to an audio version.

Lynn Murray

ACTIVITIES

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?



An Expression of Interest for Tennis resulted in a positive response, so this activity is proceeding. Places have been reserved for those who expressed interest. Although this activity has commenced there are vacancies available if you are still interested. Enrol via UMAS if you would like to take part.

Weekly: Wed 20th March to 15th May
10am to 12md or 1.30pm to 3pm
Williamstown central tennis Club
Fergusson St / Melbourne Road Williamstown

GEELONG ART SHOW



There are still vacancies for the trip to Geelong to see the Cutting Through Time exhibition at the **Geelong Art Gallery on 12 July.**

The exhibition will examine the influence of Japanese woodblock prints on the famed contemporary Australian painter and printmaker, Cressida Campbell and modernist painter and printmaker, Margaret Preston.

The outing will include lunch.

The website for the Geelong Gallery is www.geelonggallery.org.au. Use the website to buy yourself a ticket for **11.00am entry**. 9 places left at last count!

Want to Try something New in The warmth of the cooling weather

BEGINNERS UKULELE

Always wanted to play a musical instrument. Vacancies still exist for Beginners Ukulele which will start on 12 April. Enrol through UMAS.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



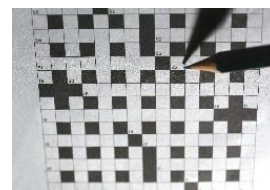
SOLO

We have an offer to run a Solo (cards) activity. It is a game related to 500 but without jokers or bowers, so simpler. Trumps are determined as per 500. Check out the game via Google or similar. At this stage we are gauging interest. We don't have a venue, date, etc. So, if interested please get back to Phil Quinn indicating interest and preferred day of the week, on the following email: kerryandphil1952@gmail.com

BEGINNERS CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS

Cryptic Crosswords are popular in our U3A. Is anyone interested in an absolute beginner Cryptic Crosswords activity?

We are trying to assess interest before putting energy into developing this activity. Darby Higgs and Phil Quinn have offered to contribute expertise and Deb McDonald will do the admin. Respond to Phil Quinn on kerryandphil1952@gmail.com if interested in being in the activity or offering expertise.



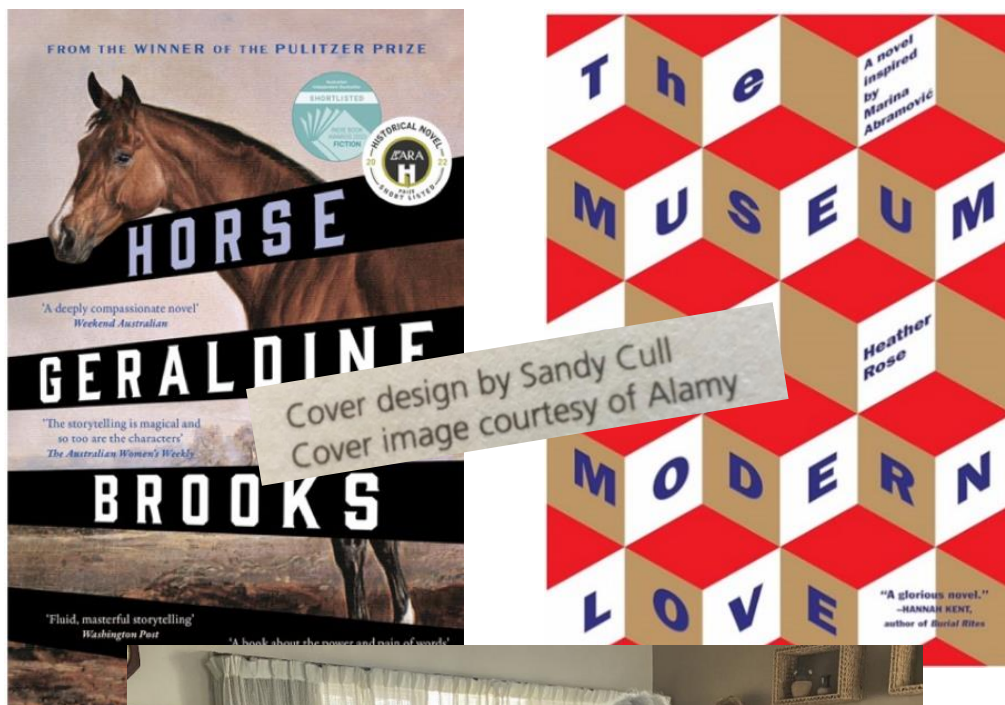
Book Group #1

We were very fortunate to welcome Sandy Cull to our March meeting where we were discussing the book 'Horse' by Geraldine Brooks. Sandy designed the cover of the Australian book and happily shared her experiences in creating the cover and the overall process of cover design - from preliminary sketches to the finished product.

It was interesting to learn that reviewers and book sellers receive a different version also designed by Sandy before the book is printed for wider circulation. Sandy might be working on 3 books at one time and might only have 3 weeks to complete the task. We discovered that she has designed many of the books we have read and that she has won awards for her design work. The 'Museum of Modern Love' by Heather Rose being one prize.

It was by chance that two of our group Liz Goga and Merrin McTaggart discovered her talents when chatting at the Life Saving Club. Thanks to Liz for organizing Sandy's attendance. It was a terrific insight that we will value a lot more with our future books.

Liz Holland and Jan Norman – Co-coordinators.





Desert Island Discs

We seem to be a cultural lot with activities in books, music, and theatre. There are currently sixteen activities related to these topics many of them run on a weekly basis.

Here's a fun new feature to get to know fellow members. Desert Island Discs will feature a U3A member and their three music tracks and a book they would take to amuse themselves while stranded. Our first Robinson Crusoe is Sandi Fallshaw.

Sandi is a long time Williamstown resident and joined U3A Williamstown some time ago. Last year she took over managing UMAS and this year has stepped up to the secretary role on the committee. She takes part in several U3A activities such as current affairs, nonfiction book club, the jazz group and what are you watching. Also a keen bridge player, she even finds time to enjoy the Fit and Fabulous exercise classes at Bay Fit gym.

With an eclectic interest in music and literature she had to think long and hard about her selection. The music was particularly hard as apart from dirge country songs about dying dogs she listens to pretty much most music. Here is her selection.



Track 1 Lark Ascending by Rafe Vaughn Williams.

I love this piece because the violin is a favourite instrument. I also love the slow development of the harmony. It is peaceful, happy and I never tire of it.

Track 2 Visi D'Arte an aria from Puccini's opera Tosca

It is about a woman whose heart is breaking because she thinks her lover is betraying her. Haunting

Track 3 Raintree County sung by Nat King Cole.

Such a complex melody and amazing lyrics. And that voice! I could listen to it all day.

Books

Book. Again, so hard, so I have chosen two.

1. Eleanor of Aquitaine by Alison Weir

I love history bit it can sometimes be very dry. Alisons books are engaging and easy to read and it switched me into Women's history. I have read every one of her books.

2. Jane Austin Collection.

I love her observations of characters and the life of the times. I find myself regularly returning to her world and never get sick of her. She is the one I would need to have if I was marooned on an island.

When asked which of these she would save from the waves it would probably be Lark ascending and Jane Austen collection.

Lynn Murray & Sandi Fallshaw



That's a wrap for Term 1. Term 2 begins on Monday 15th April 2024

If you would like to contribute to the Term 2 newsletter or become one of our "Robinson Crusoe's" let us know via the communication subcommittee.

Enjoy the Term break. Happy reading.

Communication Subcommittee

