

U3A Hobsons Bay/Williamstown Newsflash Feb 12th 2025

U3A Hobsons Bay Williamstown State of the Nation - March 2025

Many of you will remember, if not, here is a refresher. Pre Covid U3A Hobsons Bay was sinking fast. The membership was only 59 and a very limited number of activities were available. Without great effort it would have faded away completely.

A number of hard working and inspirational people worked to change that. The leadership shown by Joan Thompson and Phil Quinn was the key to its revival.

Since that low point in our history, we have grown exponentially and now number 375 members and over 60 activities.

As we have grown it has become obvious that our administration needs have become more complex. It has required more people to become involved to avoid the committee members burning out.

As part of the changing complexity of U3A, we are implementing a change to the structure of our email system to fine tune it and in the near future we will have to move to

the new administration system as the old one (UMAS) will be decommissioned.

As a result of the increasing administration workload, it was the decision of the committee to develop a strategic plan for the future, and as part of that plan to develop some sub committees to assist us. These sub committees, to manage all operational activities and future planning, are done in accordance with agreed priorities, protocols and timelines. Details about each of the sub-committees can be found on the website.

Many of our wonderful members are delighted to be involved in a small way with the running of our U3A, but are not necessarily in a position to take on a committee responsibility. In this way we are harnessing the many exceptional skills of our members to improve the infrastructure and our ability to grow and thrive into the future. This will ensure that we always remain relevant and interesting and can continue to grow and offer many and varied activities.

Obviously, we want this trend to continue into the future. To this end we urge all members to either attend our AGM or to appoint a proxy to represent them. Without your support we cannot continue to improve our services to you.

Not all members of the current committee will be re-nominating for positions on the Committee for the 2025-26 term of office. So, there are vacancies to be filled on the committee - please consider!

Committee, U3A HBW

WELCOME TO 2025

Welcome to all members, both new and re-enrolled, for 2025. Activities are starting and convenors are touching base with members to confirm detail of when, where and how activities will start. If you have any questions about your chosen activities, contact your convenor or contact the committee (via info@u3ahbwilli.org.au) or on the 'hot-line' to Deb McDonald on 0437 622 602.

New and returning members, you have all visited our website to subscribe and to enrol in activities this year. But did you know that it also contains a wealth of other information.? It's your one-stop shop for everything you might want to know about our U3A.

Without logging in you can find the email addresses and phone number for extra help, the dates, times and availability of all activities, and information about the latest news. Go to the Header to find extremely useful FAQs for both members and convenors, check out our Policies and Procedures or Mission Statement, see crafts, writing and Power Points produced by some activity members, and even download a guide to solving cryptic crosswords! Confused about UMAS? Go to Resources in the Header to find the handy guide.

Any why not join our closed (therefore private) Facebook Page?

AGM

In line with our constitution, all positions will be made vacant at the AGM. Nomination forms are available on our U3A website. Go to '**About us**' then click on '**Annual Meetings**' then **AGM 2024/5, 11th March 2025**. In order to plan for the AGM and brief the Returning Officer, please forward nominations to the committee before the AGM, through members@u3ahbwilli.org.au

You are encouraged to have your say by attending the AGM and participating in the governance and direction of our U3A. You can indicate your attendance by enrolling via UMAS.

Indications are that most of the committee are re-nominating for the 2025/6 period. The health of our organisation is enhanced by having new blood with new ideas, energy and enthusiasm. So, we look forward to seeing new members joining the committee.

The AGM will include a Special General Meeting to consider a motion to be put by a member. A separate email has been forwarded to all members explaining this proposed motion, as required by the constitution. It concerns waiving the limits on being on our committee in the event that there are insufficient nominees to fill all positions. Any other motions from members should be forwarded ASAP to the committee.

A motion will also be put to the AGM to decrease the Full Member annual fee from \$55 to \$50. As our U3A is healthy financially we can offer this option to members, even though it is not a large decrease but recognises cost of living pressures.

UNENROLLED MEMBERS

Be a mate and help a mate! If you know of members who have not re-enrolled, please have a word with them and offer assistance or direct them to the hot-line to access assistance.

LIMITS ON ACTIVITIES

Previously members were asked to limit their enrolments to three activities of longer duration. The committee thanks you for holding back and now advises that you can enrol in further activities if you so desire. Note that some activities have pre-requisites (mainly languages) and require a

conversation with the convenor before being accepted into the activity. Activities are filling up so please consider offering an activity even if it is a one-off visit/event. Assistance is available to help bring good ideas to fruition as activities.

Phil Quinn for committee and members of our U3A.
