

U3A Upper Yarra Newsletter



Learn Share Enjoy December 2019

President's Message

2019 has been a great year for our U3A. This year we broke the 200 members barrier ending up with 208 members. It is very pleasing that we are reaching many older people in our community and that we are enriching their lives. There are many isolated older people in our region and we can all promote the benefits of the U3A movement and invite such people to come along and join us.

Next year we will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of our U3A and we will be marking that anniversary during the course of the year, so keep your eyes open for what develops. If anyone has any ideas of ways of celebrating this significant milestone, please let us know.

I would like to thank all who served on our committee this year as well as all our volunteers and class leaders for their contributions to our success. I would especially like to thank the two retiring committee members, Denise Race and David Borton. We really thank you both for your contribution.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a really great New Year.

Bob Lillie



2020 Early Bird Subscription

The discounted annual subscription of \$40.00 applies for anyone enrolling for 2020 by **Friday 13th December.**

After that date, the normal annual subscription of \$50.00 will apply.

Office hours & contact details are shown on the last page of this newsletter
Class information is given in the following pages and also the enclosed timetable.

Congratulations to our Lawn Bowls Champions

A team representing the small but talented and enthusiastic



Upper Yarra U3A lawn bowls group were the eventual winners of the inaugural Yarra Junction Bowling Club Community Cup. They finished in the top four after the round robin rounds and defeated Little Yarra Egg Farm in the semi-final, and Yarra Valley

Soccer Club in the final. U3A will hold the trophy for twelve months.

New players will be very welcome to join the lawn bowls sessions which are held on Friday mornings."

Please consider -

Class leaders spend a lot of their time and effort preparing for their classes. The time and effort is generously given but, it is very disappointing when after all the work, class participants simply do not turn up. We all have days when we can't make a class for various reasons. However, a quick message to the leader, office or another class member about the absence makes all the difference to the class leader and leaves them feeling that the effort they put in is still worthwhile. Likewise, if you decide to discontinue a class then the office should be notified, there may be others wanting to attend that class.

Please keep this in mind when you commit to attending any of our classes or one-off events.

Here is some information about new and continuing classes being offered in 2020 but don't forget to check the timetable and website for details about the full range of what is available.

Myths, Folklore and History - with Derry Talvainn

An academic approach examining the historical context and cross-cultural influences within Indo-European Mythologies and Folklore and externally from the Middle East and Egypt,

Derry has a life-long interest in Ancient History and Languages, Mythology and Folklore and has more recently graduated from Melbourne with a BA in History (with subjects predominantly selected from Ancient World Studies) and Classics and has also continued attending Alumni classes in translating ancient texts.

We anticipate this class being offered at 2pm but the day and venue are still to be determined. Please contact the office if you are interested in joining this class.

2020 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon. 27th Jan. Aust. Day (TBC)
Tues 28th Jan. **U3A office Reopens**
Mon. 3rd Feb. **Term 1 starts**
Mon. 9th Mar, Labour Day
Fri. 27th Mar. **Term 1 ends**
Fri. 10th – Mon. 13th Apr. Easter
Tues. 14th Apr. **Term 2 starts**
Mon. 27th Apr. ANZAC Day
Mon. 8th Jun. Queen's Birthday
Thur. 18th Jun. U3A Exhibition opens, Warburton Water Wheel
Fri. 26th Jun. **Term 2 ends**
Wed. 8th Jul. U3A Exhibition closes
Mon. 13th Jul. **Term 3 starts**
Fri. 18th Sep. **Term 3 ends**
All Oct. Victorian Seniors Festival
Mon. 5th Oct. **Term 4 starts**
Thur. 8th Oct. U3A UY Film Day
Fri. 16th Oct. U3A UY AGM
Tue. 3rd Nov. Melb. Cup
Sun. 6th Dec. End of Year Function
Mon. 7th – Fri. 11th Dec. 2021 Enrolment Week
Fri. 11th Dec. **Term 4 ends, Office closes**

Information Technology (IT) – with Michael Fahey

IT classes will be offered next year once the format has been decided. More details will be sent out in the New Year.

Monthly Talks

We will be organising regular monthly talks for interested members during 2020. These talks may be about travel adventures as part of the Armchair Travel class or other subjects involving guest speakers. Keep a look out for information which will be sent out to you as each event is organised.

Adventures in History - with Bob Lillie

This term, we looked at the rich history of the African Continent starting with the beginnings of civilization in Egypt and the Sudan. We were especially intrigued with the black Pharaohs who were from the Sudan. We went on to discover the story of the Abyssinian Empire whose emperors claimed descent from Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Our look at the people of Southern Africa, who built the ruined city of Great Zimbabwe in Southern Zimbabwe which dates back to the 11th century, was also very interesting. Their links with the great trading ports of North and East Africa gave us an indication of how wealth and influence created by the people of this ruined city impacted on the subsequent history of Southern Africa.

In the last two weeks we looked at the history of West Africa and the story of the great empires of Mali and Zonghai. More recently we looked at the story of the Ugandan kingdoms of Buganda and Bunyoro and how the later incursions of European Explorers and the European Nations created the modern country of Uganda.



We are not sure of where we will be going in the New Year, but we have had a very stimulating 2019 and we are looking to top that next year.

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For those of you with a tortuous mind and a love of puzzles, join this class and learn how to solve cryptic crosswords. For beginners or those who want to hone up their skills.



Astronomy – with Alfred Klink

Join Alfred and take an amazing journey exploring the night sky; follow the evolution of astronomy, the technology of telescopes and the physics of cosmology. You will find that the science of astronomy these days covers literally everything under the Sun. On occasions we have even been accused of dabbling in philosophy. Computer presentations are sometimes used to help visualize the night sky and space missions.

A True UFO

Members of the UFO (unfinished objects) class have brought their incomplete projects to the group for several years now. In a relaxed and friendly environment, they have chatted and shared a cuppa whilst getting the job done and many fine pieces of sewing, embroidery and knitting have been the result. The bedspread in the photograph is the ultimate example of this class's aim. Jan started on the bedspread while in Queensland in the 80's but then it ended up unfinished in storage for 20 years during which time it was forgotten. Since moving to Victoria and finally unpacking, the bedspread was found and Jan joined the UFO class. The rest is history and the bedspread is finished although there is still an edge to be added so Jan can't rest on her laurels just yet.

Alex joined the class with thirty-five unfinished projects and has narrowed that number down to seven.

However, you don't have to have an "unfinished object" to join the class. Members start new projects as well so feel free to join them.



And Some other news

U-MAS for Members

Whenever the internet is used to look at information about U3A Upper Yarra, such as what classes are available or to enrol, you are linked to our UMAS database. Currently this system is best used from a laptop /desktop and is not user friendly on smart phones or tablets. The U3A gurus have been working on this problem and are currently trialing a version known as "U-MAS for Members" developed to make it easier for anyone using their phone or tablet.

Testing of the new program is currently being undertaken with a small group of U3As and will be widened to others during January to March 2020. Once testing and any modifications needed are addressed, the program should be up and running in April.

"U-MAS for Members" will allow more members of U3A and the public to easily access the information that they are looking for. We will keep you advised of progress as we find out more.

Seniors Newspaper

Each month we receive copies of "The Senior" newspaper. The paper is a good way to stay informed on issues specific to retirees as well as having other interesting articles. They are available from the Yarra Ranges Family Centre for anyone to take so pop in and grab your copy when you are in the area.

Our Seniors Festival Film Day

This year we had "Downton Abbey" as our chosen film. For a little while we weren't sure what was showing on the screen due to a misnamed film cover causing a mix up. But, after some really smart work on the part of the cinema staff and a couple of our members we were soon thankfully away from the battle field and immersed in the doings of Downton Abbey. The film was a great success followed by tea, coffee and more than enough scones and cake to last us 'till next time.

Thanks to Anne and her team for organising this event and of course to the very patient staff at the Warburton Arts Centre. The date for our 2020 film day is already set, so see the "dates for your diary" in this newsletter, and come and join us for another enjoyable afternoon.

Class Leaders & Volunteers Lunch

As a "Thank You" to our leaders and other volunteers for all their time and effort given to U3A Upper Yarra we arranged a lunch at Killara Winery. It gave everyone the chance to catch up and have a chat which is always enjoyable. I'm sure that they are all looking forward to a well-earned rest but we hope to see them all back in 2020 ready for another rewarding year.



FINALLY, WITH THESE PHOTOS OF OUR END OF YEAR DINNER WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR – SEE YOU IN 2020



U3A OFFICE, YARRA JUNCTION

Normal Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs. Fri. 9am – 1pm – during term times

Our office will be open at normal office hours up to & including Friday 13th December.

The office will be closed from Monday 16th Dec. to Friday 24th January inclusive.

During this time emails and phone calls will be monitored and responded to as soon as possible.

Normal office hours will resume from Tuesday 28th January, 2020.

For term and other dates – refer to information in this newsletter

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