

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**2017 has been a year of change, challenge and achievement at U3A Melbourne City.**



Our organisation maintained its widely held reputation for excellence of courses and programs, administrative proficiency, and cohesive presentation of the message and ethos of the U3A movement. **We have now over 1600 members, and membership continues to grow.** We have many achievements to celebrate.

Co-ordinators and program leaders all confirm the continuing enjoyment and enthusiasm expressed by members with regard to their membership of U3A Melbourne City. Each report details the many superb outcomes achieved by the great dedication and hard work of these leaders and their Working Group members.

The commitment, interest and dedication of all involved have ensured a diverse and evolving program of high quality relevant courses, a well attended series of **Public Forums**, and a social program of varied opportunities, including our signature 'Let's Do' special interest groups. Our **Winter Lunch** and new **Sundowners Wine and Cheese evenings** have been well received and very much enjoyed by those many members attending. Several representative programs, including an exhibition of **Botanical Art**, were presented during Victorian Seniors' Festival. Our fourth **Exhibition of Photography**, which was opened by City of Melbourne Councillor Jackie Watts, showcased the work of our talented members and achieved unprecedented public interest. Our continuing liaison with the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health gives members access to another superb series of lectures delivered by acclaimed medical researchers. We maintain liaison with the Victorian U3A Network, and were represented at Council meetings and the U3A Conference.

**The Committee of Management has maintained focus on legal compliance, best practice in governance and financial management, reinforcement of cohesive organisational structure, and pro-active future planning.**

Our 3-year Strategic Plan defines these factors as important and necessary **strategic investments**:

- attention to presentation of clear and relevant brand identity
- achievement of a multi-functional U3A Office and Members' Centre
- development of partnerships with other organisations of like ethos
- provision of technology to facilitate communication, publicity and high-quality administrative efficiency
- on-going engagement of enthusiastic volunteers to ensure the continued viability of our organisation.

**Progress has certainly been made in working towards these aims by 2019.** Plans have begun to ensure a public relations approach to the promotion of U3A Melbourne City across the CBD and wider communities. The decision to move our office to new premises in the Greek Centre is the first step in achieving a multi-functional space. Member services and administrative operations continue now in a well-appointed contemporary environment. Committee meetings, tutor interviews and Working Group Meetings are held there. All of these required specific room bookings previously, incurring increased cost. We have access to excellent and well-equipped teaching rooms, as well as access to the associated facilities such as the auditorium in the building. Our new premises provide quality of educational environment, and meet tutors' requirements for excellent internet and technology options. The Greek Community management welcomes U3A, and holds values which endorse our own ethos. There is excellent potential to develop our partnership in context of extending our learning opportunities to include the range of courses presented there. Our secure 3-year contract gives us real potential to plan for the future needs of our members.

In fulfilling its central responsibility to ensure the safety and equality of access for our members, **the Committee closely monitored the progress toward the construction works for the Melbourne Metro Rail Tunnel, with specific reference to the planned establishment of a**

**construction zone immediately adjacent to Ross House.** With the imminent commencement of the major work, and in view of the substantial impact expected, the decision to move became an imperative.

**Change implies new challenges.** Most importantly, change provides exciting new opportunities, expanded horizons, and new relationships. We face three on-going challenges: secure provision of suitable accommodation, maintenance of a sound funding base in the face of escalating costs, and engaging the participation of members for key roles.

These challenges were of central concern to the Committee of Management throughout the year. We use 11 different venues currently. During 2017, detailed negotiation of agreements with all our venues has been ensured, including with specific reference to equality of access. We now have over 1600 members. We must all accept the reality that all our venues have increased their hire costs, and that city accommodation suitable for our needs is at a premium. It is anticipated that accommodation costs will continue to rise. Technological advances, and digital equipment become more sophisticated and often increase our costs.

In order to continue provision of all our programs in suitable accommodation, measures must be taken by Management to ensure a secure funding base. We now have confirmation from the Victorian U3A Network that Government funding for program growth support will cease at the end of 2019. We must continue to monitor possible further reduction of funding in the future.

**Sincere appreciation is offered to all our Patrons whose support for U3A is expressed so generously.**

**In fulfilling the role of President, I have been privileged to experience a magnificent personal U3A learning journey. To all the inspirational Committee members, team leaders, mentors and friends with whom I have worked, my deepest personal thanks.**

**Sincere thanks and appreciation are offered to all those members and volunteers who have contributed to the success of U3A Melbourne City in 2017. You have, quite simply, sustained our organisation. Every member makes a difference. Every membership affirms our shared value of continued learning, our acknowledgement of the many benefits volunteering, and the recognition that U3A Melbourne City makes a major and deeply valuable contribution to the enrichment of our inner-urban society.**

**Pam Davies, President**

**The greatest challenge we face is that of maintaining our key roles in the context of reduced time available from volunteers.** We rest on the very long and dedicated service of a limited number of key people. We rely on the consistent contribution of all working party members and office volunteers. We celebrate and thank our wonderful, enthusiastic tutors who are so loyal, and give so much. Many current volunteers give their time in several concurrent roles.

**We now ask our members to envisage U3A Melbourne City in 2020.** We ask our members to ensure by their participation that in 2020, U3A Melbourne City is a strong presence in the centre of our city, and is a widely acknowledged, relevant entity for promoting the richness of positive aging.

**We very strongly encourage our members to offer their skills and time,** to participate in the foundational U3A ethos of volunteering and skill sharing, but most of all, to realise that we cannot continue to exist, and to thrive, without your contribution.

An abiding benefit attributed to membership of U3A is the opportunity for connection with others. This is achieved through the U3A primary rationale of continued life-long learning. Members learn together, and in this context, share infinitely rich and varied life experiences. We meet to enjoy friendship and social functions. Volunteers contribute their skills, learn new skills and enjoy working together with others. U3A Melbourne City is a resilient organisation of indisputable value, committed to an enduring and proven ethos, and well placed to plan pro-actively for exciting future development.

## WHO WE ARE

U3A Melbourne City Inc. is part of a world-wide movement of Universities of the Third Age—self-help, voluntary organisations which promote active ageing and lifelong learning for the over-50s who are no longer in full-time employment.

**U3A Melbourne City was the first to be established in Australia.** A public meeting was held in 1984 and the first classes commenced in February 1985.

It fulfils its mission by providing courses in a broad range of disciplines, a lecture program on topical issues presented by guest speakers and opportunities to make new friends and extend social networks through its social and volunteer program.



## FINANCIAL REPORTS

### Summary of Income and Expenditure For the U3A Financial Year ended 30th September 2017

Cash Receipts	2016-2017	2015-2016
	\$	\$
Membership fees	101,675	90,045
Patrons and Donations	30,266	14,957
U3A Network	3,130	9,500
Grants	2,620	1,200
Social activities (offset) inc. Winter lunch	22,203	19,480
Forums and Seminars	1,043	936
Bank and Investments	3,482	4,220
Others	196	1,051
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<b>164,615</b>	<b>142,189</b>
<b>Cash Payments</b>		
	\$	\$
Ross House - Office rent	13,887	13,891
Ross House - Classroom hire	34,581	31,542
Greek Centre- Office rent (inc bond)	8,000	N/A
Other Venues - Classroom hire	49,239	34,119
Newsletter print & post	950	2,486
Office relocation	5,930	N/A
Office expenses	4,377	4,273
Bank & Online costs	825	853
Telecommunications	5,462	3,605
Equipment	0	402
Paypal commissions	884	651
Tutor expenses	1,010	292
Volunteer expenses	4,785	5,517
Member expenses	1,232	1,737
Committee expenses	397	3,395
U3A Network subscription	2,958	2,876
Social Activities (offset) inc. Winter lunch	20,997	16,856
Forums	643	290
30th Aniv. (prior period)	N/A	1,729
Other	96	788
AUMT devaluation	N/A	1,538
<b>Total Cash Payments</b>	<b>156,253</b>	<b>126,840</b>
<b>Cash Surplus</b>	<b>8,362</b>	<b>15,349</b>

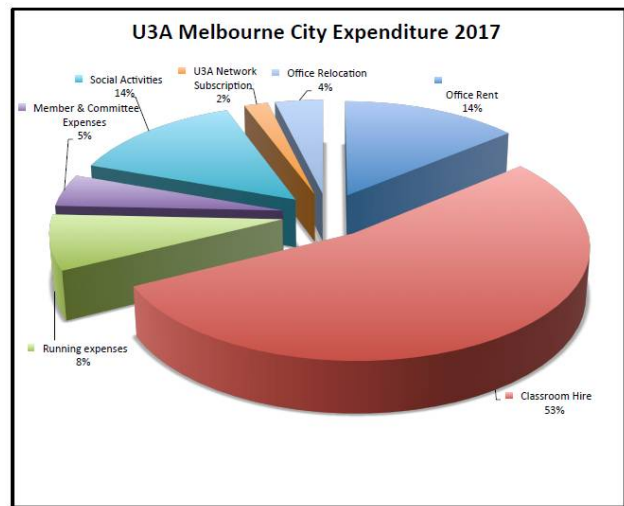
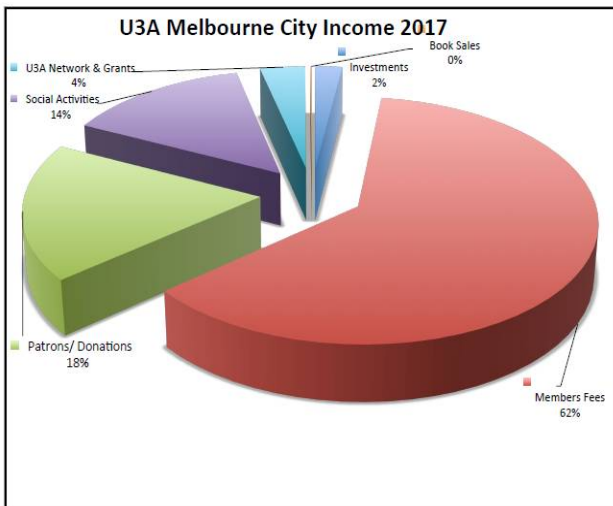
### Balance Sheet

For the year ended 30th September 2017

<b>Current Assets</b>	\$
Banks	44,410
Investments	138,250
	182,660
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	Nil
<b>Total Assets</b>	182,660
<b>Members Equity</b>	\$
Opening Equity at 1/10/16	174,298
<b>Plus surplus for year ended 30/9/17</b>	8,362
Closing Equity at 30 September 2017	182,660

### CERTIFICATION

We, Ann Johns, Treasurer, and Pam Davies, President, being members of the Committee of Management of U3A Melbourne City Inc. certify that the statement attached to this certificate gives a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of U3A Melbourne City Inc. during and at end of the financial year of the Association for the year ending on 30 September 2017.



## STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

U3A Melbourne City is a not-for-profit incorporated association, which commenced operation in 1985. It is a membership-based organisation run entirely by the effort of its volunteer members. The Committee of Management is responsible for the performance of U3A Melbourne City, guiding its strategic direction and ensuring that its operations are consistent with its mission. The Committee is supported by a number of working groups and several Specific Purpose Working Groups. Coordinators of core operational areas provide leadership and administration. Members are invited to contribute their skills to help achieve our objectives.

### Committee Members 2017

#### Executive:

- Pam Davies, President
- Jenny Holling, Vice-President
- Shirley Arbuthnott, Secretary
- Ann Johns, Treasurer

#### Members:

- Lesley Bright, Assistant Treasurer
- Anne Patterson
- Helena Ling (to August 2017)
- Margaret Smith
- Merilyn Harris
- Helga Khuse

### Volunteers in Key Leadership Roles:

- Keith Bettles — Ross House Representative
- Jeanette Bosisto — Room Booking Coordinator
- Merilyn Burt — Let's Do Groups Convenor
- Carolyn Cohn — Accommodation Working Group Coordinator; Volunteer Coordinator
- Anne Patterson — Forums, Winter Lunch
- Ruth Hawley — U3A Network representative
- Jenny Holling — Winter Lunch
- Helena Ling — Administration, Website, ebulletins
- Ian McKay — Assistant Newsletter Editor
- Elizabeth Way — Course Coordinator
- Paul O'Brien — Administration, Technology
- Graham Oliver — Newsletter Editor
- Fran Sciarretta — Administration, Coordinator: Office volunteers
- Kai Simpson — Administration, MyU3A

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

*Hilary Adair, Joan Adams, Goldie Alexander, Flora Anderson, Judi Appleby, Shirley Arbuthnott, Lyn Auditors Geraldine Barry, Elaine Batchelder, Liz Bath, Judith Bennis, Kirti Baxi, Avara Becirevic, Barbara Bell, Jo Bennett Ron Bennett, John Besley, Keith Bettles, Marlene Bevan, Rafael Bieber, Ann Blake, George Boag, Jeanette Bosisto Christina Brabet, Valerie Brander, Lesley Bright, Lynne Broughton, Alison Brown, Sue Burney, Merilyn Burt Lyndsey Burton, Betty Caldwell, Peter Caldwell, Sharon Carter, Marina Chamberlain, Barbara Charge, Lean Chew Engchong Chua, Pauline Clemens, Anne Cobham, Carmen Cohen, Carolyn Cohn, Pat Collins, Peter Crabb Barbara Cramer, Blair Cramer, Chris Dargan, Greg Davies, Pam Davies, William Devine, Chris Devlin Frances Devlin-Glass, Judy Dikstaal, Gai Dobbie, Marie Dobson, Ann Drohan, Irene Dunn, Dieu Duong Karen Dupleix, Sue Duras, Jenny Dymott, Jenny Earle, Viv Ellard, Marle Engwerda, Christine Evans, Jean Fahey Rhonda Favaloro, Mike Finn, Georgina Fitzpatrick, Jack Foks, Fortunato Forte, Christine Fraser, Nette Frost*

*Peter Gason, Dawn Gibson, Camille Gilmour, Elliot Gingold, Judith Goddard-Rowell, Fiona Graham-Murray, Joan Gravina, Mary Greene, Amalia Grimaldi, Kim Harley, Marilyn Harris, Glen Harvey, Ruth Hawley, Debbie Hay, Don Hayward, Vicki Heyward, Christina Hill, John Hill, Sue Holberton, Jenny Holling, David Hone, Robert Hooke, David Hunt, Maureen Inkster, Anne Irwin, Rom Jagielski, Felicity James, Therese James, Anna Jardon, Pat Jarram, Joan Jeffries, Brian Jensen, Graeme Johanson, Ann Johns, Sandra Joicey, Indra Jury, Don Just, Hana Kadera, Wendy Katz, John Kenny, Donald Kingsmill, Zoe Knighton, Anna Krepp, Alma Kristensen, Helga Kuhse, Nancy Lane, Gunter Lang, Marilyn Laskaris, Wendy Lea, Anna Leadston, Margaret Ledley, Martin Lee, Russell Lees, Jennifer Leslie, Christine Lever, Gordon Ley, Helena Ling, Stanley Lithco, Jan Livingston, Clare Lo, Jan Lovelock, Rhoda Lysakowski, Ian Mackay, Nene Macwhirter, Ian Marchment, Marianne Markovic, Erika Martens, Juan Martinez, Shirley Mason, Carol Mathew, Ray Matters, Maureen McBride, Helen McCulloch, Jean McCulloch, Diane McDonald, Allan McGain, Anne McGravie-Wright, Gael McPike, Nette McWhirter, Cheryl Mantello, Carol Mathew, Ben Megens, Julie Melbourne, Jonathan Melland, Vic Mercer, Monika Merkes, Tony Miles, Mimi Millar, Julie Mills, Steve Milton, Erika Mohoric, Bahram Monshat, Angela Moodie, Dee Moore, Ken Montgomery, Norman Morris, Ann Morrow, Carolyn Morwood, Liz Mullin, Angela Munro, Julie Nankervis, Max Nankervis, Peter Newbury, Diane Noel, Jan Norman, Robyn Nutbeam, Gwen Nyman, Hugh Oates, Paul O'Brien, Graham Oliver, Tony Page, Gabrielle Palmer, Robyn Parrent, Anne Patterson, Frances Patterson, Ally Pearl, Bernard Peasley, Colin Peel, Wilma Peers, Helen Pettet, Marylou Phillips, Antonio Pignatelli, Kay Pitts, Alfred Poulos, Alyssa Qian, Margaret Rees, Darrell Reid, Kate Rhodes, Bronwyn Richardson, Heather Richmond, Terry Rickard, Susie Rodgers-Wilson, Annette Rogers, Heather Ross, Vicki Rowe, Rosemary Ryall, Julie Ryan, Shinei Sakai, Peter Salmon, Elfie Schmidt, Natleah Schmidt, Fran Sciarretta, Helen Scott, Jean Shaik, Margaret Shilton, Kai Simpson, Margaret Smith, Susie Smith, Aude Sowerwine-Mareschal, Rosie Spear, Liz Stephens, Keira Stevens, John Stirling, Eric Stokes, Marea Symonds, Marella Tahiri, Jenny Tan, Irene Tanock, Uma Thakar, Jeanette Thomas, Jill Thompson, Leanne Tong-Lyon, Patricia Tooth, Carol Turner, Colleen van der Horst, Marie Wajcman, John Waldie, Mary Wark, Max Warlond, Wendy Watt, Elizabeth Way, Marcus Wearne, Gwen White, Ted White, Dale Williamson, Roger Wilson, Carol Wright, Nigel Wright, Simon Wright, Margaret Wyatt, Eva Wynn, Lan Ping Yeh, Maggie Zapadlo, Juliette Zeelander, Bruno Zielke*

## PATRONS PROGRAM

Sincere thanks and appreciation is expressed to all our patrons and supporters, who continue to make a generous and very valuable contribution to the ongoing sustainability and success of U3A Melbourne City.

In addition to these members, U3A Melbourne City thanks all the many members who have made specific donations to our organisation of between \$20.00 and \$10,000.

### Patrons and Supporters

*Alan Adair, Elaine Batchelder, Deanne Berlin, Ann Blake, David Brook, Sheena Broughton, Kate Brown, Brian Callaghan, Carolyne Cohn, Pat Collins, Wendy Cook, Barbara Cramer, Keren Dattner, Graeme Duke, Karen Dupleix, Jenny Dymott, Rita Ferguson, Rhonda Fitch, Christine Fraser, Nicholas Garnham, Angela Gill, Camille Gilmour, Janis Gishen, Jill Grant, Catherine Guli, Dora Haralambeas, Marilyn Harris, John Hill, Jane Hoyer, Michael Hoyer, Fengying Huang, Leah Jenkinson, Ann Johns, Clara Kanter, Angela Kee, Lily Kocins, Chuen Lim, Helena Ling, David Littlewood, Trisha Malone, Greg Mann, Susan Mann, Margaret McCracken, Keith McKnight, Jan McLellan, Joan Melville, Vic Mercer, Julie Mills, Erika Mohoric, Leonie Moran, Judy Morton, Patricia Morton, Liz Mullin, Julie Nankervis, Robert Newbold, Gaye Paterson, Mary Phiddian, Jeff Richardson, Anne Rickards, Susie Rodgers-Wilson, Carol Ryder, Kaye Salisbury, John Shilliday, On Fong Siew, Margaret Smith, Kiera Stevens, Eric Stokes, Janet Strachan, Yian Li Tan, Tina Thoresen, Philip Tomlinson, Johanna Verberne, Judy Walsh, John Watt, Marcus Wearne, Joan Willis*

**If your name has been omitted we apologise. Please know that your contribution is very much valued and appreciated. These lists are accurate to time of printing: October 31st 2017.**

**To all those who have contributed after this date, thank you for your generosity.**

## COURSES AND TUTORS

*"I have enjoyed all the courses I have done, plus the outside activities. U3A Melbourne City is a wonderful resource for we retirees"*

Who would have thought that my first 12 months in the job could disappear so quickly in what has been a huge learning curve? Our small team has been very busy to provide our community with new, re-offered popular and courses that have intrigued, delighted, or still left us thinking. So what have you been doing?

We were delighted to have 129 Tutors/Group Leaders volunteer their time and expertise to run 157 courses; yearlong, semester (76) and short courses (81). In addition we offered two 'Medieval' intensives by visiting English U3A tutors and continued our association with the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, which

presented exceptional daytime lectures by their leading researchers.

Our program is underpinned by the many talented and committed tutors, who ensure our vibrant yearlong and short course programs continue to offer great diversity across a variety of arts, humanities, languages and lifestyle topics for members. In particular, of the 81 short courses presented, 38 were new topic courses which included 20 new tutors. With a further three new tutors already approved for 2018 and other enquiries yet to be followed up, our program continues to thrive. Also we are exploring ways to develop and support connections with our tutors. This year we organised a Foreign Language Gathering to challenge policies, ideas and to share experiences in teaching, prior to individual language meetings. This has opened a dialogue between Tutors who would probably not normally connect. Similarly we will offer gatherings for our other genres in 2018.

With continuing strong positive feedback and valuable insights provided online from over 610 students attending our yearlong languages, arts, social science and lifestyle courses indicated that the vast majority of these 76 courses exceeded or highly met student's expectations (88%), as was also the case for the 297 members attending 2017 short courses in Terms 1-3 (84%).

*"I love the relaxed, friendly and comfortable environment of the class. All the students are there to learn and we have similar interests in the language and travelling"*

The tutors knowledge and enthusiasm was highly valued (93% and 94%), as was the friendly and supportive manner in which classes were conducted (89% and 90%). Asked what they got out of attending, students specified the knowledge (85% and 92%) or skills (63% and 24%) acquired and the motivation and inspiration provided by their course (44% and 48%). Especially for yearlong students, the companionship found through class participation was also a noted benefit (56% & 32%).

*"I gained a great deal of knowledge about the media industry and humanity in general from the discussions we had on a huge range of topics covered"*

*"The group meets outside the class (with the teacher) to view films and have coffee together.*

*This really enhances my life".*

*"There is an excellent variety on offer and it is extremely well run, thanks to the hard work of all the volunteers"*

We continue to deliver our excellent range and number of courses even when our Office moved to the Greek Cultural Centre (GCC) in August/September, With higher room charges at Ross House meant that we had to pursue other possibilities for 2018 and our Accommodation and Room Booking Coordinators have been working hard to negotiate special rates with GCC for their well-appointed, though not large rooms, conveniently located in the same building as the U3A office. We also brought GAA back on board once they addressed matters of access and safety.

This wonderful array of courses, tutors and venues are the work of a dedicated and passionate team, who volunteer their time to ensure that the programs offered are of the highest standard, rich in content and stimulating to our soul. Our thanks to this dedicated team for the tasks and challenges they have been assigned. A special mention to Jeanette Bosisto (Room Bookings Coordinator) who always kept the flame burning, we truly appreciate her undying persistence and support, who now unfortunately, has blown that candle out, and we will have big shoes to fill! Thanks also to the Committee of Management, the Admin volunteers who have assisted our course program throughout the year, and the staff and volunteers at our hire venues who enable our program to operate across the CBD.

It goes without saying '**A BIG THANK YOU**' to all our tutors who give their time so freely and generously to U3A Melbourne City, for their spirit, enthusiasm and knowledge that has touched our hearts, minds and bodies, and we look forward to their offerings in 2018.

And you the course goer - thank you for your participation in what has been an exceptional year, though our program can only survive if we have people who volunteer their time to make this happen. Put your hand up and give back to what you have been enjoying so that we can continue to do more.

**Elizabeth Way, Course Coordinator**

**U3A Melbourne City yearlong course program continues to deliver quality educational opportunities to members, who appreciate its value, and who value the knowledge and friendships it provides.**

**Its contribution to positive retirement transitions and ongoing well-being for older people is significant.**

## LET'S DO GROUPS

**Co-ordinator of Let's Do Groups: Marilyn Burt**

**Let's Do Cycling** organised by **Steve Milton and Jan Norman** offers a healthy, physical activity for U3A members. The group has 18 registrations and at least 7 to 8 regulars, meeting every Thu morning in Federation square for a ride of around 30km with a break for coffee & chat. The 2017 programme included weekend rides to Phillip Island, Warburton, and an overseas Bali cycling adventure. Steve is stepping down; Richard Lasek will join Jan in 2018.

**Let's Do Galleries and Museums** has 130 members. Co-managed by **Sharon Carter and Margaret Wyatt** they organise monthly visits to museums and galleries around Melbourne, which were each attended by an average of 25 members. The program included the Archibald Prize exhibition at the Geelong Art Gallery, tours of the MCG and National Sports Museum, Government House, a walking tour of Melbourne's street art, a visit to a JAHM - a private art house gallery, Percy Grainger Museum and ACCA.

**Let's Do Lunch** group with 40 registrations, continues to expand their gastronomic horizons at regular lunches organised by **Rosemary Ryall**. Each month Rosemary finds an interesting, affordable & easily accessible café / restaurant for a core group of about 20.

**Let's Do Music** organised by **Peter Caldwell**. Members meet regularly for coffee or a drink before attending concerts at the Melbourne Recital Centre and other venues. Members enjoy a broad cross-section of music. There are 60 registered members, 44 of whom attended 12 concerts (average of 10 per concert) through 2017.

**Let's Do Movies** has 55 very active members; about 25-30 who come along every week and enjoy pre and post film discussion and refreshments. **Mimi Millar** will be leaving the role of convenor (family concerns) at the end of 2017, after almost 7 enjoyable years in the role.

**Let's Do Theatre** organised this year by **Anne Cobham**, provided opportunities for more than 70 members to enjoy a variety of theatrical experiences. Members saw productions including Opera Australia's Carmen, the Australian Ballet's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, as well as performances of My Fair Lady, Ladies in Black, Aladdin, Kinky Boots and Macbeth. The timely Christmas Melodies will round off the year in December.

**Let's Do Walks** led in 2017 by **Margaret Wyatt**. Margaret would like to thank Jenny Finn for running the group for 6 weeks whilst she was away. There are 70 people on the list for the walking group. Regularly, 25 or more people are weekly wandering through the streets and gardens of Melbourne. Walks start from Federation Square and head in any direction. Destinations are varied and finding coffee shops to cater for up to 30 or so walkers can be challenging.

## THURSDAY FORUMS

Thank you to the 350 members who supported our Forum program this year and to the tireless Forum team of a dozen volunteers who made it all happen! You all made each of our speakers very welcome and I think they left feeling appreciated and 'heard'. Our speakers give their time freely in the spirit of exchanging information and exploring ideas.

The year started in March with the highly engaging, humorous and candid Anna Burke who took us behind the scenes of her life as Speaker of the House of Representatives in Canberra.

In April the writer Don Watson took us wandering through both our relationship with Australian Bush and his wonderful incisive mind.

In May we had the privilege of meeting Australian composer Lorraine Milne who shared both the music and the back stories of the lives of the women that inspired her Song Cycle, Maiden Voyage.

In August we had a rare treat when Sally Diserio and some members from the Victorian Calligraphy Society came

with books, stories (old and new) and demonstrations of the wonderful and creative art of writing. Many members' young grandchildren have now got beautifully inscribed bookmarks!

September brought the social researchers, Don and Patricia Edgar with their inspiring message of reinventing ourselves no matter what our age! We all left feeling 10 years younger!

We finished the year in October examining the use and misuse of drugs in Australia today (a grave, complex and often confusing issue) with Paul Morgan from the Penington Institute. Knowledge and sound research can be so useful in allaying fears and changing community attitudes.

We look forward to bringing you another year of entertaining and thought provoking Forums in 2018. See you there!

**Anne Patterson**

## SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

**Co-ordinator of Winter Lunch and Social Functions: Jenny Holling**

Our Social functions for this year have included the Annual Winter Lunch and we have trialled a new concept, in an Autumn and Spring Wine and Cheese Social Sundowner.

### Autumn Wine and Cheese Sundowner

Our first Wine and Cheese Social Sundowner was held on the 30th March from 4pm till 6pm.

We had a guest speaker, Gwynneth Ashby, who shared her adventures on "Travelling the World with Boots and Rucksack." Her story shared in an informal, social setting, was an event enjoyed by many. About 75 members and their invited guests attended and this casual occasion, provided an opportunity for members to introduce guests to our U3A and meet new people with shared interests. An enjoyable time was shared among the tables scattered with cheese platters and the Autumn leaves, an enjoyable time was shared.



### Spring Wine and Cheese Sundowner



Our second Wine and Cheese Social Sundowner was held on the 4th October from 4pm till 6pm.

About 65 members and their invited guests shared together in a fun and relaxing, social setting.

These functions provide our members with the opportunity to meet other members and enjoy a happy occasion, sharing together. The tables were set with cheese platters, the conversation and wine flowed and the Spring flowers set the scene.

### Winter Lunch

The Winter Lunch was held on Wednesday, 14th June at the William Angliss Restaurant.

It was attended by 130 people and the theme for this year was "Sailing the Mediterranean."

The Nautical Theme provided us with the chance to have some fun with the Photo Booth concept and setting the scene before calling "All Aboard" and sailing from Spain onto Italy and Greece.

Using this framework, enabled us to utilise our Italian and Spanish Tutors to enrich our fun experience on the day and showcase the amazing talents of our language tutors.

An enjoyable 3-course meal was shared and we were joined by Irene Crebbin from the Florey Institute, who shared the day with us.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are most grateful for the help generously provided by the following organisations during 2017:

**Ross House Association**

**City of Melbourne**

**Mr Adam Bandt**, Federal MP for Melbourne