



CITY NEWS

Your Melbourne City U3A

Newsletter 231

December 2010

End of a great year - now for 2011

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Applying for 2011 courses

Details p3 – Application form p6

Our membership is growing, adding to competition for places. Many popular courses, particularly some languages, may be over-subscribed.

Places in yearlong and some extended courses are allocated by a small team of administrative volunteers at the beginning of the year, on the basis of application forms submitted by members.

The 2011 Yearlong Course Guide and Course Application Form is enclosed.

Just choose the courses you want, and send the whole form back to us **WITH A STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE BY 7 JANUARY 2011.**



U3A at Seniors' Week, Federation Square



Invitations – Why not make a note of these now?

The 2010 Volunteers End of Year Party



If you have actively volunteered at U3A in any way during 2010, whether in promotional activity, mail-outs, in the office or in a working party, as a tutor or a committee member ... we hope to see you at the Multicultural Hub on Saturday 4 December at 11.30 am for a light lunch and a vote of thanks for helping to keep our show on the road for another year. Please phone the office (9639 5209) by Monday 29 November and ask for your name to be added to the guest list.

U3A Music Ensemble Christmas Concert

Juliette Zeelander invites all members to come along and enjoy the work of our very own musicians on **Monday 6 December, 2.00 - 3.00 pm** at the **Welsh Church Hall, 320 LaTrobe Street**, Melbourne.

U3A Choir in the very same hall

Margaret Shilton and her wonderful Choir will give us a Christmas concert on **Wednesday 1 December** at the **Welsh Church Hall at 10.15 am.**

President's Letter - November 2010



The end of the year, and didn't that come around fast? It's time to think about where we have travelled in the past 12 months. One of the basic blocks for giving a sense of direction to the Committee is the Strategic Plan which has been reviewed for 2011 – 2013. Apart from helping the Committee to think longer-term and monitor progress, it has revealed two outstanding weaknesses in our organisation: **funding and volunteering.**

Well, you might say, that's what every voluntary organisation says. True, but focusing on these issues is helpful. For instance, David Hunt has come forward to help us with the fundraising – and his thinking has given us new ideas. The Patrons' Program is one result. There is more about the success of this program elsewhere in the newsletter. In 2011 we will not only carry on with the Patrons' Program (which focuses on members) but also start to look for sponsorship from organisations.

Our Annual Report will show an impressive list of people who volunteer their time and expertise for the benefit of U3A – not least of course, the tutors, some of whom teach more than 40 weeks a year. The list is long, but we need to know that the loss of a key person, or anybody for that matter, is able to be dealt with. It's called 'succession planning' and it is important for the long-term viability of our wonderful organisation. Something to concentrate on in the New Year...

Happy holidays, happy learning.

Jill Thompson, President

The Social Scene

Val Pincus (pictured at right), is retiring from her role as Social Coordinator after nearly 10 years virtually single-handedly organising our social calendar, including catering for functions and organising the annual event which celebrates our volunteers. Our sincerest thanks go to Val for coordinating such an important part of our overall program, one which has brought pleasure to hundreds of members over the last ten years.



Helen Pettet reports on just one of the interesting outings which have been offered to members each month:

County Court Tour 16 September 2010

The County Court building was opened on 31 May 2002 and is equipped with state of the art technology, including audio, visual and video conferencing facilities. A dramatic figure, 'The Lady of Justice', adorns the external wall and the foyer walls display zinc etchings of aboriginal and judicial symbols. At Level One a stained glass window, 'Quality of Mercy', shows a different representation of justice with broken chains and bird images.

We were met by Anne Bulger, the Communications Manager, and started our tour by listening to the strict instructions to the day's jurors. Then Anne showed us a list of various trials taking place on Levels One and Five. After breaking into two groups we sat in on a couple of cases each, remembering to bow to the bench on entering and leaving the court rooms.

Our group's first case was part way through a rape trial where the Counsels were arguing whether the trial should be quashed and reheard because Prosecution Counsel prefaced her questions with prejudicial comments. She made quite a vigorous defence, both Counsels quoting precedent cases while the judge interrogated them. The next two cases were appeals, one for an assault conviction not to be recorded. (We weren't convinced.) Our other group attended a rape trial and a case where a worker was accused of smoking in an aircraft refuelling area.

Although we were somewhat disappointed not to see a witness interrogation or a jury, we enjoyed the drama of wigs and gowns and legalese: 'Your Honour, I submit' pleas and 'My learned friend' disputes.

The County Court hears the majority of criminal and civil cases and appeals, except for cases of murder or treason. However, the recent terrorist trial was held here because of the higher security facilities available. Forty-nine per cent of cases heard here are for rape, others being for burglary, assault and appeals. The scale of professional costs for common items in three categories start from \$7,500, \$20,000, and \$50,000, all the way to unlimited.

Helen Pettet

Found: Man's jacket – Gazman – size XXL. Grey, suede-type fabric, olive-green lining, knitted collar. Left in class several months ago. Please call at the u3a office on the second floor, Ross House.

NB Office Closure

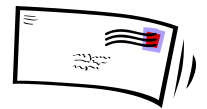
The office will close at 3pm on Friday 3 December and will re-open at 10am on Monday 10 January.



But - You can still post your course applications.

Applying for 2011 Yearlong Courses

- You **MUST** complete an application form, regardless of how many years you have been in the course.
- You **MUST** have renewed your membership for 2011 by 7 January 2011.
- You **MUST** enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.
- Submit your application early. It will be date-stamped on receipt. However, date order is just one of several factors used in allocating places. In an oversubscribed course, priority is given to: 1) Members who have actively volunteered in the previous year; 2) Full Members; 3) Associate Members.
- We try to ensure that everyone is accepted into at least one of their preferred choices.
- Many courses have devoted groups of members who wish to continue from year to year. But in fairness, no priority can be guaranteed on the basis of past attendance. However, if you mark your favourite course as 1st preference, and **return the application early**, it's likely you'll be enrolled.
- The form gives you the opportunity to nominate three extra courses in which you could be enrolled if you miss out on your first three preferences.
- If you miss out on any of your preferred courses, you'll be added to the waiting list and telephoned when a vacancy arises. You can ring the office at any time to find out where you stand on the list.
- After all the application forms are dealt with in mid January, any remaining vacancies will be announced in the first 2011 issue of *City News* and can be applied for by phone or in person at the office.



Short course places

- Short courses beginning in February/March will be advertised in the first 2011 issue of *City News*, in mid January – **AFTER** the allocation of yearlong places, so you'll know what your commitments are.
- Apply for short courses throughout the year by telephoning or visiting the office. You'll be enrolled or placed on the waiting list at once, with no paperwork required.

A new set of short courses will be advertised in each subsequent two-monthly newsletter (except December).

Forums to go public in 2011

Following a successful season this year and thanks to a grant of \$3,000 from the City of Melbourne, we will be taking our monthly forums public next year. We hope, in doing so, to promote U3A Melbourne City to a wider audience.

If you are interested in helping Necia Burford, our Forums Coordinator, with the organisation of these events, please contact the office on 9639 5209 or email citymelb@u3a.org.au.

Congratulations to Helena on securing this important grant and to Necia on having given us a fascinating program in 2010.



Some topics to explore

A website that has come to our notice is www.aboutmyage.com the Social Network for Over 50s.

It is not a dating site, nor are there any fees or charges at all to become a member. They have many thousands of members nationally and are a National Compact Partner with the Federal Government.

Another two websites that might be of interest have come to our notice: www.bornintheforties.com.au

And www.borninthefifties.com.au. Again no fees apply.

Our 25th Anniversary Lunch

The silver balloons floating above the tables in the Angliss Restaurant on 29 October were a signal that this was no ordinary celebration. As President Jill Thompson reminded the 110 guests, we were there to mark not only U3A Melbourne City's birthday, but also 25 years of U3A's contribution to Australian society – and to look forward to further expansion and success in the years ahead.



These various themes were admirably addressed by guest speaker Dr Rick Swindell AM (pictured left), distinguished academic and co-founder of U3A Online, which links U3A campuses worldwide.

Rick started by giving us an oversight of the development and current breadth of U3As in Australia – currently 214 with 67,000 members. He then revealed some staggering statistics, drawn from a comprehensive study undertaken by him and other researchers in 2008.

(You can find this at www.u3aonline.org.au.)

For instance:

- In Australia in 2008, volunteer tutors (course leaders) collectively contributed more than 667,000 hours towards their U3A courses and activities. Administrators and other volunteers contributed 192,000 hours.
- **Using a notional dollar value of \$20 an hour, the value of U3A volunteerism in Australia in 2008 is conservatively calculated to have been \$21 million.**



Not so surprising were the findings that:

- **Suitable low cost accommodation** remains the most pressing problem facing U3As.
- **Attracting new committee members** is the second most pressing problem, and **sourcing new course leaders** is third.

As Rick told us, the findings in this study clearly demonstrate the hidden value to society of a low cost, adult education model like U3A, where retired experts volunteer their skills to provide successful ageing activities for fellow retirees. The more statistics a U3A can gather (such as numbers and ages of members), the better grounds it has for claiming support from local government and other potential sponsors.

Finally, Rick stressed the need to attract new members from the new wave of baby boomers, who are likely to have the energy and workplace skills to keep the U3As going, as tutors, admin staff and committee members. This means offering courses, activities and management styles that are attractive to these younger retirees – or those preparing for retirement.



And of course our committee is already trying hard to do just that! Special thanks go to Jill Thompson, Helena Ling and Tony Miles for their work in organising this very enjoyable event, and to all the other volunteers who helped.



WHO WAS THERE? Among the 110 people attending were Life Members John Besley, Joyce Bromage, Marie Einoder, and Alan Liubinas. Representatives of 12 other U3As attended and many others sent their congratulations via email. Distinguished guests included Dr Jack McDonnell with his wife Win and Cliff Picton. (Jack and Cliff were two of the four founders of U3A in Australia, along with Anne Whyte and our own Jill Thompson.)

Also welcomed were Chris Reidy from the Office of Senior Victorians, Dr Jocelyn Angus from Victoria University and Ruth Hawley, president of U3A Network Victoria, with her husband Graham.

Report by Anne Riddell - Photography by Christina McCallum



Patrons' Program

Our thanks go to all of the members who have enthusiastically supported the U3A Patrons' Program. If our planned approach for business sponsors has the same success we will be delighted.

Of course, it's a principle of the U3A Movement that we help ourselves by helping each other. The generosity of those who have joined the Patrons' Program will enable your Committee of Management to enhance what is offered to members while still keeping membership fees affordable for everyone.

To date, 17% of renewing members have joined the Patrons' Program and a sum of over \$4,000 has already been raised. You have helped to launch a program that will benefit U3A Melbourne City and its members for years to come. You are part of a significant success.



Supporters: Anonymous, David Aspin, John Bower, Kathleen Brown, Marjorie Button, Keng Cheng, Anita Choong, Carolyne Cohn, Patricia Collins, Elma Crosbie, Karen Dupleix, Jennie Falla, Rita Ferguson, Maureen Garner, Patricia Gospo, Margaret Graham, Mary Gray, Gwenda Greenwood, Patricia Hart, Senga Hay, Joan Keane, Yvonne Lakin, Alan Larwill, Alan Liubinas, Ann Marciniak, Tony Miles, Peter Morgan, Pat Morton, Julie Nankervis, Max Noormets, Jim Norton, Ron Norton, Carmel Picone, Anne Rickards, Annette Rogers, John Salter, John Shilliday, Ceinwen Smith, Max Smith, Laine Sutton, Mary Sweeney, Jill Thompson, Tina Thoresen, Ted and Gwen White, Joan Willis.

Patrons: Anonymous, Diana Andrews, Diana Bianciardi, Pieter Biesot, Sheila Greville, Dora Haralambeas, Muriel Hatfield, John and Mary Horsfall, David Hunt, Mavis Keighery, Fen Kho, Aija Khoo, Alice Landau, Helena Ling, Shirley Mason, Robert Newbold, Peter Salmon, Keith Thomas.

Benefactors: Isabel Kroyherr.

The 2011 Committee of Management

At the time of printing, the following nominations had been received for next year's committee:

Office Bearers	Ordinary Members (10 positions)	
<i>President</i> - Jill Thompson <i>Vice President</i> - <i>Secretary</i> - Helena Ling <i>Treasurer</i> - Jim Norton	1. Diana Andrews 2. Jack Foks 3. Shirley Mason 4. Tony Miles 5. Julie Nankervis	6. Peter Salmon 7. Fran Sciarretta 8. John Waldie 9. David Watson

The election is due to take place at the Annual General Meeting on 18 November, and will be reported in the Feb-Mar 2011 issue of City News.

A big vote of thanks go to retiring members George Boag, who was also for many years our U3A Network representative, Val Pincus, our Social Coordinator, Peter Morgan, who has led our strategic planning process and Robert May, who has helped develop a public speakers program.



Are you concerned about memory loss?

Would you like to join a study investigating the effects of testosterone on brain function in women aged 55 -70 years?

This is a 6 month study using topical testosterone on healthy postmenopausal women.

For more information, please contact: 03) 9903 0820

Women's Health Program

Email: womens.health@monash.edu

Study supported by The Mason Foundation and Biosante USA.

Disclaimer: Your Committee has agreed to advertise appeals for volunteering assistance, but this should not be taken as an endorsement or recommendation to participate. Members are solely responsible for their own choices and any consequences that may result.