

Learning for life

U3A Melbourne City Inc. A University of the Third Age. ABN 84932435817

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HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE: NAN WINGFIELD; VOLUNTEERS PARTY; NEW LIFE MEMBERS; CONCERTS; LET'S DO LUNCH; TRAVEL TO TURKEY; MEET BILL CLAIBORNE; APPLYING FOR YEARLONG COURSES; PREVIEW OF NEXT SHORT COURSES.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Helena Ling

Dear Members

Nan Wingfield's passing is sad for me and many others in our U3A. I have known her since 1982 when I started at CAE, and before the U3A was even thought of. She was always a strong and active person, principled and with a very good sense of humour. All of our long-term members will have known Nan and the enormous contribution she made to the U3A over more than 20 years. She will be missed.

As this year's AGM fast approaches, there will be another loss – this time on the Committee. Helena Ling, our Secretary, and Jim Norton, Treasurer, are not standing for re-election to the 2012 Committee, and it is hard to express the impact they have had on our U3A over the time they have been there.

Jim has set up a reporting system on our finances which is both comprehensible and comprehensive. He's the one who has sorted out any financial difficulties, and as Public

Officer, kept us in line with the Rules of Association. Helena has introduced proper systems into every aspect of the organisation, and provided us with a very sound basis for operating. Not to mention her ability to conjure up money through grants year by year!

My thanks to both Helena and Jim, and to everyone on the Committee who has worked so hard during the year.

Well, the year went fast, didn't it? But it has been good. Our Annual Report will document the achievements of 2010-11. It has been a year of growing membership, an expanding range of courses, and increasing diversity of activities.

Season's Greetings, and best wishes for a very Happy New Year.

Jill Thompson, President



Jim Norton

FAREWELL NAN WINGFIELD, OUR FIRST LIFE MEMBER



Nan, at her U3A tribute lunch in 2006.

The name of Nan Wingfield, who died on Monday 24 October after years of ill health, is something of a legend in our U3A.

Nan was one of the original members and a member of the Steering Committee which guided the University of the Third Age through its first year of operation in 1985. She became the first President of U3A City of Melbourne (our original name) and was a member of the Committee throughout her membership.

Her many roles saw her organising forums and theatre parties and she also worked on publicity. As long-time Office Manager she cheerfully organised the volunteer office workers, always emphasising the importance of showing friendly courtesy to all enquirers.

Nan resigned from active membership in 2006 but continued to be a source of advice and support for her successors. The following tribute was published in *The Age* on Saturday 29 October 2011.

'Nan Wingfield will be remembered with gratitude and fondness by the hundreds of members of Melbourne City U3A who knew her. She gave generously and with humour for over 20 years, to guide and develop the organisation from its beginnings. She was recognised with a life membership in 2008. It is with great sadness that we say farewell to one of our most loyal and supportive members.'

Jill Thompson, President'

For the information of members who may wish to attend, a Memorial Service for Nan Wingfield will be held on Wednesday 14 December, starting at 2pm, at W D Rose Chapel, 339 Warrigal Road, Burwood.

COMMITTEE.COM: THIS YEAR, NEXT YEAR

THE 2011 COMMITTEE

Officers

Jill Thompson **President**
 Helena Ling **Secretary**
 Jim Norton **Treasurer**

Ordinary Members

Diana Andrews, Keith Bettles,
 George Boag, Necia Burford,
 Jack Foks, Shirley Mason, Tony
 Miles, Julie Nankervis, Fran
 Sciarretta, David Watson.

The AGM (10.30am on 17 November at the Multicultural Hub)

The principal business of our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is to elect a new Committee of Management for 2012. The committee structure comprises four officers and ten ordinary members (with the capacity to co-opt additional members subsequently, if beneficial). The next issue of *City News*, to be published mid-January, will report on the election.

Members attending the AGM will be able to pick up a copy of our *2010-11 Annual Report*, an account of developments, achievements and financial accounts for the past 12 months. Copies will then be mailed to all members in January.

The AGM will also include the presentation of Life Memberships to four long-serving and valued volunteers – see below.

The 2011 annual celebration of our volunteers

Each year, around the time of International Volunteer Day, we hold a function to thank those of our members who actively volunteered during the year. Whether in promotional activity, mail-outs, in the office or on a working party, as a tutor or a committee member . . . we hope to see you at the **Flagstaff Bowling Club on Tuesday 6 December at 12 noon** for a BBQ lunch and a vote of thanks for helping to keep our show on the road for another year.

An invitation with more details was mailed/emailed out to all known volunteers on 2 November. It is **essential** for catering purposes to contact the office **by Monday, 28 November** to let us know you are coming.



RENEW NOW!
...OR YOU MAY
GET NO MORE
NEWSLETTERS!

Repeat, you MUST renew by 4 January . . .

. . . IF you want to be considered for 2012 yearlong courses and receive the announcement of short courses starting in February. Otherwise this will be your last newsletter and your course place applications will be rejected (by the computer!)

Timetable for membership renewal and course place applications

3 October	Membership Renewal commences
16 November	December newsletter with 2012 Yearlong Course Guide and course application form mailed
5 Dec to 6 Jan	Office closed, but postal membership payments and course applications will be accepted.
4 January	Closing date for receipt of timely membership renewals and yearlong course applications.
9-11 January	Course applications processed and enrolment advice mailed out.

OUR FOUR NEW LIFE MEMBERS Reports and photos by Lyndsey Burton

Will Semler



Born in Czechoslovakia, Will's father saw war coming and sent Will to safety. The teenaged Will had a few adventurous years that included time in a German prison. After some years in England, he sailed to Australia, a friend of his father meeting him at Port Melbourne in 1940.

In Australia, Will trained as an engineer, and as a gifted analytical problem solver,

he embarked upon a long, varied and successful business career.

He was no stranger to the arts, having always been interested in sketching and painting, but upon retirement it was writing that engaged his interest so he joined a class at U3A. When the writing tutor retired in 1992, Will took over the class, which has continued to flourish.

Ann Hewett



Ann took up painting with U3A City after a long and successful career in the finance industry.

Since 1998 she has run a painting class at U3A City. She sees herself as a facilitator rather than instructor. The class comprises people who have their own established methods and technique that enable them

to inspire and encourage each other, in class, through excursions and their twice yearly lunches.

Like our other new Life Members, Ann has for many years organised her life around her responsibilities as a volunteer. This commitment to sharing skills and knowledge is what sustains our organisation.

Marguerite Grynberg



Born in Paris, Marguerite and her brother and sister were brought to Australia by their widowed mother in at the end of World War II. Marguerite left school early and completed her education and professional qualifications at night school and RMIT.

Her mother retired and resumed her own education through CAE, eventually joining

the French conversation class at the University of the Third Age.

Marguerite accompanied her frail mother to class in her later years, little realising that this was her training to become a tutor and subsequently take over the class when the teacher became ill. This was in 2000, which makes Marguerite one of our longest-serving tutors.

Margaret Ledley



Knowing absolutely nothing about Australia, Margaret, an assisted migrant like her sister and brother-in-law who accompanied her, disembarked at Station Pier in the slums of Port Melbourne in 1950. A trained cook, she took up residence in the backyard bungalow of an aunt’s house and immediately began her first job in Australia, at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Margaret’s enduring interest in history translated readily into an interest in the history of thought and ideas, so at the end of her working life she joined the Philosophy class in the 1980s. Upon the death of the tutor, Margaret stepped in and has been leading the philosophical discussions ever since.

[You can read Margaret’s personal story at www.U3Amelbcity.org.au/Volunteering_Voices]

DR ROBERT HOOKE NOMINATED FOR AWARD



This year sees the tenth anniversary of the United Nations International Year of the Volunteer. To mark this occasion and reward the many hardworking volunteers in our community, each Victorian electorate has ten awards to bestow under a number of different categories. Your Committee has nominated French tutor Robert Hooke for one of these awards in

the Melbourne electorate. As well as his volunteer work with U3A, Robert is a volunteer presenter and producer at the classical music community radio station 3MBS-FM, reads newspapers on air for Vision Australia, and runs a music appreciation group. Whew! We’ve got a lot to live up to when we’re in our eighties! Good luck Robert!

EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT



The mystery coach trip on 11 November was a visit to the Royal Botanical Australian Garden at Cranbourne – a stunning destination for the last outing of the year.

Sadly the Fashion Show planned for October this year had to be postponed due to maintenance work at The Little Shop. However, we hope to re-instate it in 2012. Your Events Committee is already swinging into action for 2012. Seats for *Yes Minister* in February have already been advertised and now a group booking for *Annie* is in the pipeline, while trips to city and country destinations are under consideration.

However, we are always interested in members’ proposals, which can be written or emailed to me via the office. One member is working on plans to start a Classical Music Club next year. And Rosemary Ryall, the very efficient organiser

of the Let’s Do Lunch club, is planning a river trip for early in the new year.

My personal thanks go to Shirley Byron (my deputy), Jean Fahey (secretary); Alice Landau, Diana Andrews, Ida Tipping and Tony Miles for all the hard work and good humour that they have contributed to our monthly meetings. Happily for me, they have all agreed to give it another go, so 2012 should be a vintage year.

Finally, on behalf of the Events Committee, I would like to thank all members who have supported us this year and to hope that our events will appeal to even more members next year.

Shirley Mason, Social Events Coordinator

YES PRIME MINISTER! – BOOK NOW FOR THE FEBRUARY SHOW

Sunday 26 Feb 2012 at 3pm
YES PRIME MINISTER!
The Comedy Theatre
Exhibition Street, Melbourne



Just a few tickets remain for this hilarious stage version of one of the best TV shows of all time!

Cost: \$82 (saving \$15)
Bookings with payment at U3A office by Wednesday 30 November.

MORE ON THE MENU FOR THE LET'S-DO-LUNCHERS



To be fully informed about forthcoming lunches, you need to register as an LDL member. Email your contact details to the U3A office with LET'S DO LUNCH in the subject line. If you have no access to email, ring the office and the staff should then email me your name and phone number.

Rosemary, LDL Coordinator

Rosemary Ryall reports

October's Ethiopian lunch at The Cutting Table in Collingwood was interesting.

It's not too late to book for our **24 November lunch at Tibas Restaurant (Lebanese cuisine), Brunswick**. LDL members have already been informed. If you want to join the club, email or phone the office and ask for your contact details to be passed on to me.

There's also time for club members to reserve a place on **Thursday, 15 December at Mr Price's Food Store, North Melbourne**. However, places are limited as the restaurant can only seat 15 or 16 people, so be quick! Average price of mains is \$24, dessert, wine/champagne are extra. I can personally recommend this restaurant.

I am also planning a **Tramboat trip to Williamstown in March**. Cost will be \$40 for those with a Seniors Card, \$45 for all others. This includes the return trip with morning tea and gourmet fish & chips for lunch, and a short stop at Williamstown to allow a little exploration. Details will be finalised in January, probably not in time to be included in the next newsletter. So if this sounds appealing, please register as an LDL member now and I will contact you by email or phone when more information becomes available.

U3A MELB CITY CHRISTMAS CONCERTS . . . EVERYONE INVITED

As usual, Margaret Shilton and Julietter Zeelander request the pleasure of your company at their respective Christmas concerts. The venue for both is the **Welsh Church Hall, 320 La Trobe St (between Elizabeth & Queen)**.

The Choir Concert

10.15am, Wednesday 7 December

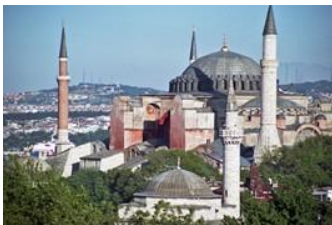
Margaret and the choir invite you to stay afterwards for a light lunch.

The Music Ensemble Concert

2pm, Monday 12 December

Juliette and her musicians hope you will stay for afternoon tea.

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY



Istanbul – Aya Sofia: first a basilica, then a mosque; now a museum.



Hot air ballooning over Cappadocia.

VISIT TURKEY – BE AMAZED!

19 April to 7 May 2012 and 19 September to 7 October 2012

Jill Thompson will be leading the above 19-day tours to Turkey in 2012. She has visited Turkey several times, and never loses her fascination with this beautiful country with its profound history, phenomenal scenery, ancient monuments and cities.

\$3930 AUD per person land costs – \$780 single supplement

Organised through accredited travel agent –
Fairy Chimneys Ltd, Riversdale Rd, Camberwell

Small group – 10-15 persons

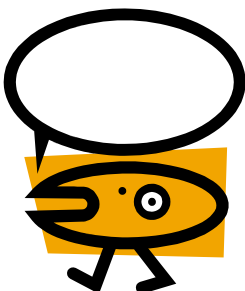
Turkish guide and driver accompany the group all the way.

Comfortable boutique accommodation

For full itinerary, and terms and conditions, contact thomjill@alphalink.com.au

Or visit the website www.fairychimneys.com.au

PLEASE HELP US FIND LANGUAGE TUTORS



Have you a few hours to spare to help us find more language tutors – especially in French, Spanish and Italian?

We are looking for several people to work with us to develop recruitment ideas and follow them through – be it with our own U3A members, other organisations or the wider language communities.

You don't need to be a language student or

a tutor; you just need the interest, initiative and communication skills to liaise with different people on behalf of U3A Melbourne City.

If you do have links with proficient or native speakers in any of the language groups, that would be an added bonus! If you can help, please contact Keith Bettles or Julie Nankervis via the office, by phone or email.

MEET A VOLUNTEER: Bill Claiborne who tutors Political Journalism

I joined U3A shortly after my wife, Alma, and I migrated to Australia in 2001 in order to live closer to our daughter and grandchildren. This was following my retirement from 43 years in journalism, the last 32 of which were as a foreign correspondent and national news staff writer with *The Washington Post*.

I've forgotten where I first heard about U3A, but it was shortly after we bought a house in Kew and I joined a current affairs year-around course held at Swinburne University of Technology in Hawthorn. As Hercule Poirot is fond of saying, I felt I needed to keep the little grey cells active. After we moved to North Carlton in 2005 (Kew wasn't urban enough to suit us) I began tutoring short courses in which I tried to make the American political system more understandable to Australians in a mature-age educational setting.

I had done a bit of guest lecturing to journalism school students but quickly discovered that as a consequence of the decline of journalism as I knew it, most of the young students were more interested in sound bites, real-time blogging and 140-character tweets than they were in substantive, serious journalism. Some struck me as just wanting to tick a box on their way to a career in public relations or marketing.

In U3A, however, I found mature-age students who soak up knowledge like sponges and truly appreciate the opportunity to learn about the complex and often confusing form of American democracy that recently has found itself in political and economic crisis – largely because of a dysfunctional legislative branch of government. The 2008 US Presidential election provided considerable fodder for courses aimed at explaining the Barack Obama phenomenon and its contrast with the eight turbulent years of George W Bush.

Covering the civil war in Somalia in 1992, Bill celebrates the return of his Somali bodyguard's AK-47 rifle after it was confiscated by US Marines during the US military intervention.



I've also become quite busy writing for the Harvard University Nieman Foundation's Policy Watchdog project, which advises young journalists on questions to pose to prevaricating politicians when they blow smoke around important domestic and foreign policy issues. (www.niemanwatchdog.org). And I try to take the same approach during the various U3A courses I conduct.

Because of writing commitments and the large amount of travel that my wife and I want to continue doing, both in Australia and abroad, I'll continue to be restricted to short courses when they can be fitted in. If I were to propose any changes in the U3A course system, I would have to say it would be a need for more flexibility for tutors to schedule short courses on much shorter notice than currently allowed. But I do understand that the necessity of reserving classrooms far in advance is an issue for administration.

MEET MORE VOLUNTEERS ON OUR WEBSITE

Who can you spot?

You may recognise one or two of these volunteers – but bet you have a problem with at least three. To solve the mystery, visit our website www.u3acitymelb.org.au and click on **Volunteering**, then **Volunteering Voices**. There you can read the personal stories of a growing group of our volunteers who want to share their enthusiasm for U3A and explain how making their special contributions to the organisation has enriched their lives as well as ours.

And what interesting lives they have had.



We'll be publishing their stories one by one in forthcoming newsletters, but why wait? Check out the website regularly – the collection of stories is growing all the time.

APPLYING FOR NEXT YEAR'S COURSES

Please read carefully so that you understand what you need to do.

Things you should know

- You MUST have renewed your membership for 2012 by Wednesday 4 January 2012 in order to be considered for enrolment.
- If you want to do a yearlong course next year you MUST complete an application form, regardless of how many years you have been in the course.
- Our membership is growing, adding to competition for places. Many popular courses, particularly some languages, may be over-subscribed. In the interests of fairness we try to ensure that everyone is accepted into at least one of their first three 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.**

Yearlong course places

Places in yearlong 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 application form asks you to nominate **up to three courses in order of preference**, and also gives you the opportunity to nominate up to three extra courses in case you miss out on any of your first three preferences.

We advise you to submit your application as soon as possible. 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 (in this order) to:

1. Members who have actively volunteered in the previous year
2. Full Members
3. Associate Members

If you miss out on any of your preferred courses, you'll be added to the waiting list and telephoned if and 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, any remaining vacancies in yearlong courses will be advertised in the first 2012 issue of *City News* (sent out in mid-January), and can be applied for by phone, email, or in person at the office.

Your 2012 Yearlong Course Guide and Course Application Form are enclosed. Choose the courses you want, and send the whole form back to us WITH A STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE by Wednesday 4 January 2012.

Short course places

Short courses beginning in February/March will also be advertised in the first 2012 issue of *City News* – AFTER you've been notified about your yearlong course enrolments, so you'll know what your commitments are.

Apply for short courses throughout the year by telephoning, emailing or visiting the office. You'll be immediately enrolled or placed on the waiting list in date order of application. A new set of short courses will be advertised in each subsequent two-monthly newsletter (except December).

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF NEXT YEAR'S SHORT COURSES (you can't book yet!)



Full details of the courses and their scheduling will be in the next newsletter, published in January. I think it is going to be an exciting year! So a big thanks to all our yearlong and short course tutors who make this program possible.

Julie Nankervis, Course Coordinator

With 50 popular yearlong courses on offer with this newsletter, you are probably diving for your pen to fill out your application form. Well there is more! Our next newsletter will advertise nineteen short courses organised for a February/March start, and more will follow in April.

Some favourite topics such as Democracy, Psychology & the Brain, Personal Computers, New Insights, Australian Poetry, and Spirituality & Religion will be repeated in February, and Conversation Francaise continues. Others, such as Renewable Energy and US Politics, come back in a new form, while Painting & Drawing is being offered at a more advanced level.

Plus there is an exciting range of new topics. Courses such as 20th Century Drama, Changes in Family & Society, and Architectural Heritage Walks explore their topics in an historical context, while others will give us insight into current social and political issues: for instance Looking Behind the News, and Issues in Infrastructure. We also introduce courses that will enhance our health and wellbeing, such as Steps to Get Healthy, Melbourne Rambles, and Making Changes in Life.

City News is published in January, March, May, July, September and November. **Newsletter team:** Anne Riddell (editing and layout); Helena Ling (course lists, email distribution, website posting); David Watson, Mike Shackleton (photocopying); Jan Miller (website posting); Jim Norton, Margaret Rees, David Williams and others (mail-out). **Copy deadline is first Wednesday of the month of publication.** Email or send items to office, for 'City News Editor'.