

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

President's Report

2012 Highlights

- 252 new members—8% growth in membership 2011-12
- Operating surplus of \$21,616
- \$11,400 of grants received
- 120 courses offered, of which 43 were new
- 24 new tutors
- 13% increase in course hours delivered
- Room hire agreement with National Seniors
- Four *Baby Boomer* focus groups held
- Two overseas tours, to the UK and Turkey
- Grant of \$2000 made to Ross House Building Appeal
- Promotional video produced
- Botanical Art exhibition

“Our mission is to foster positive, active ageing through lifelong learning, social interaction and volunteering.”

Well, all good things come to an end, and this is my last ‘President’s Report’. I promised three years and now it is time to pass the baton on. I believe that all organisations need to introduce new people, new ideas and new skills from time to time, and I am sure the new President will bring new inspiration and sense of purpose to our organisation.

It’s been a great three years. Membership has increased to almost 1000, the number of tutors is growing rapidly and there is a sense of energy, purpose and fun permeating the organisation. Word of mouth is the most effective promotional tool we have (the advertising budget being approximately zero) and I am delighted at the number of people who are acting as ambassadors for us, just by talking to friends.

None of this, however, happens by accident. There is a team working all the time coordinating different aspects of the organisation, and it is these people who hold it all together. The Management Committee of course, especially Treasurer David Watson and Secretary Carolyne Cohn. Many others also have big functional roles: Julie Nankervis as Course Coordinator; Anne Riddell who so professionally produces the newsletter; Shirley Mason who is responsible for the rapid growth of the social program; Necia Burford who organizes the monthly forums and ‘new member’ sessions; Tony Miles who gives everything we do in the promotional area a professional ‘look’; Helena Ling, keeping us organized in so many ways to help us function professionally. We have volunteer

office ‘staff’ of some 30 people, on a regular roster. I would personally like to thank you all!

Then, of course, the Tutors (approximately 80 of you in 2012!) need special mention, because you are the foundation upon which everything is built. Your time, patience and the pleasure you bring is very much appreciated by all members.

The present is good, but I believe we have to look forward. Why? Well, we started out 28 years ago, in the 1980s. People coming into the office now are beginning to say ‘My parents were members of the U3A in earlier years...’ Just think about it. A new generation – your children will have different aspirations, different values, different preferences and different opinions. With so many people entering retirement we should be growing stronger. And we will, if we can adapt to the needs of a new generation. Max Warlond and I are conducting focus groups with both members and non-members who are in that age-range. And already we are finding out some interesting facts. This work will continue next year, until we have a sense of what is needed over the next 5 to 10 years – **all without sacrificing the basic principles that govern our organisation** – to remain accessible to as many as possible with low fees and to remain within the international movement of Universities of the Third Age.

We want to promote the idea that retirement is not the end of the road. It is your skills, your wisdom, and your drive to teach and learn that keeps this U3A going day by day and year by year.

Best wishes and see you around!



Jill Thompson, President



Our home—Ross House,
Flinders Lane

"U3A affords me the freedom, opportunity and resources to meet together with other like-minded people in a friendly environment."

(Volunteer)



Volunteers Lunch 2011

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 following a public meeting in 1984.

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.

Highlights

Grants

We successfully applied for and received

\$11,400

in competitive grants during this financial year.

Patrons Program and Donations

\$6,885

Membership

We had

991

members as at end September.

Tutors and Courses

We had **83**

volunteer tutors teaching

4,284

hours of classes. We offered

51

full-year courses and

69

short courses throughout the year.

Organisational Achievements

- Received grants from the RACV, DPCD and City of Melbourne.
- Recruited 26 new tutors and delivered 43 new courses.
- Negotiated a room hire agreement with National Seniors for 2013.
- Established Facebook page and YouTube channel.
- Partnered with two travel agents to lead overseas tours in 2013.
- Developed communication and coordination between tutors within each language stream.
- Promoted U3A Melbourne City with a number of events during Seniors Week including an all day presence at the U3A Festival of Learning.
- Expanded the social program, increased participation and provided a wider variety of activities to promote social engagement.
- Most Committee members participated in a "Speaking with Confidence" course.
- Received recognition from the City of Melbourne for our volunteer contribution to the community.

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. Minutes of meetings are posted on our website and available for perusal in the office by members.

The Committee is supported by a number of working groups which are aligned to the objectives of the Strategic Plan. There is an open invitation to members to contribute their skills to help achieve our objectives.

The Committee, which met seven times, comprised four office bearers – President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary – and ten ordinary members. Committee membership during the year comprised:

Jill Thompson, President
Keith Bettles, Vice-President
Carolyn Cohn, Secretary
David Watson, Treasurer

Michael Baker, Member
 George Boag, Member
 Jack Foks, Member

Necia Burford, Member
 Shirley Mason, Member
 Tony Miles, Member
 Julie Nankervis, Member
 Terry Rickards (co-opted)
 Anne Riddell, Member
 Fran Sciarretta, Member
 Max Warlond, Member



*"Great course, great ideas
 and good presenters.
 Keep on doing what you
 are doing - very
 worthwhile."
 (Member)*



Going for Gold Lunch
 "Best Bling" Winners

Membership

Members by Sex	
Male	241
Female	749

Age Range	
86-95	46
76-85	215
66-75	422
56-65	247
50-55	22
Unstated	38

Members by Type	
Member	774
Associate	58
Joint	123
Life	11
Honorary	24

Registered as volunteer	217
Members with Email	763
Members from City of Melbourne postcodes	228

Life Members

- John Besley
- George Boag
- Joyce Bromage
- Blair Cramer
- John Cramp
- Marguerite Grynberg
- Marie Einoder
- Judy Eldred
- Lillian Emmanuel
- Ann Hewett
- Christina Hill
- Margaret Ledley
- Alan Liubinas
- Eva Meredith
- Ailsa Miles
- Val Pincus
- Will Semler
- Margaret Shilton
- Nan Wingfield

*"My students, together
 with like-minded people I
 have met..have given so
 much back in knowledge
 and wisdom they have
 inadvertently boosted me
 psychologically...."*

(Tutor)

"The course program overall provides a wonderful chance to discover satisfying pursuits. Short courses in particular are great tastings and this course [Advanced Painting & Drawing] has been a particular boost for me."

(Member)



RMIT film crew at the Winter Lunch

"Tutoring a U3A class means I keep up and develop my Italian language. This has it all over studying at university."

(Tutor)

Courses and Tutors

Knowledge, stimulation, challenge and lots of fun! That's what our vibrant program provided members throughout the year. This year we were fortunate to have 83 tutors volunteer their time and expertise to offer over 120 yearlong and short courses. Yearlong tutors retained their passion for their courses and have many devoted followers as most courses quickly filled their quota. Few students dropped out during the year for reasons other than health or personal matters.

Our short course program continued to grow with 42 of the 70 courses being new to the program. We saw a growth in our health related courses (including various exercise approaches, health information, relaxation and personal development topics) and literature and arts/architecture related courses.

New courses in the sciences, political issues and history also proved popular, appealing to a different membership group. The richness of the short course program is greatly valued by members, with many eager for an extension of the course they enjoyed so much. However, finding affordable CBD accommodation for our thriving program continues to be a great challenge.

Recruiting new tutors was again a high priority throughout the year, with an increase in the public response to our general promotion and to specific attempts to find new foreign language tutors. Overall we liaised with 55 people enquiring about

running a course, 65% of these being non-members. After discussion a number withdrew or were redirected to other U3As, but happily 24 people have so far been approved as tutors to join our program, bringing new ideas, knowledge and energies. Some have already run a course in 2012 while others will begin in February next year.

Matching our recruitment focus on foreign languages has been team building within each language group and across the languages program. This has created much good will, and enabled new tutors to be better supported, courses more coordinated and language resources shared among tutors.

Our program continues to be supported by Tutor Meetings, workshops and liaison by the Course Coordination team. The opportunity to share experiences and teaching approaches, to learn new technologies, to ask questions and to meet each other is valued by many tutors, especially those new to the program.

My thanks to all who assisted in organising and supporting our course program throughout the year. And a special thanks to all our tutors for their wonderful commitment and outstanding contribution to U3A Melbourne City. We know that many get great enjoyment and stimulation from their classes and, in the spirit of U3A, learn from their students too. We hope they will join us again next year to make our program so diverse and rewarding.

Julie Nankervis , Course Coordinator

Projects

- The Archives and History Project team recorded and transcribed ten oral histories, augmenting our historical archives with a valuable resource.
- Four focus groups were conducted with baby boomers, providing valuable insights into retirement expectations.
- The digital story-telling project, funded by a City of Melbourne grant, provided training for ten members to produce digital stories illustrating the theme of *Seniors in the City*, which can be viewed on our YouTube channel.
- The Botanical Art groups mounted an exhibition and sale of their work at the Docklands Hub during October.
- The Monday Writers Group produced an anthology of their work, *A Good Write and a Good Read*.

Social Activities and Forums

The **Events Team**, coordinated by Shirley Mason, organised a varied program which provided opportunities for members to meet each other and form new friendships and networks. Activities included:

- Theatre visits to *Yes Prime Minister* and *Annie, the Musical*
- Coach trips to the Yarra Valley, Grace Kelly exhibition and Australian Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne
- Tours of the ABC Studios, Australian Ballet School and MCG Sports Museum
- Two visits to *Question Time* in Parliament
- Two champagne evenings at fashion retailer *Maggi T*
- The *Going for Gold* Winter Lunch with guest speaker Perry Hannah talking about Melbourne's gold heritage

The thriving *Let's Do Lunch* and *Let's Do Music* groups were joined by *Let's Do Movies* and *Let's Do Galleries*.

In December we celebrated the contribution and hard work of our volunteers at a BBQ at the Bowling Club in Flagstaff Gardens.

This year, our monthly public forums were supported by a U3A Program Growth Support Grant from the Department of Planning and Community Development. The **Forums Team**, coordinated by Necia Burford, ensured that topics catered for a broad range of interests. Our program included:

- Karen Curnow, *The flipside of adversity*
- Nicole Jenkins, *Everything old is new again: the history of vintage clothing*
- David Ames, *Alzheimer's: what's ahead*
- John Murnane, *The Internet: your lifeline*
- Kristina Link, *Have you heard? Hearing loss affects everyone!*
- Charlotte Smith, *A load of old rubbish*
- Beth Wilson, *Is our health system healthy?*
- Robert Hillman & Najaf Mazari, *Tales of an asylum seeker*
- Jenny Davies, *Flinders Street Station past and future*

We thank all of our guest speakers for contributing their time and knowledge so generously.

"Compared to 2011 when I hardly knew any U3A members, I can join any activity and catch up with people whom I've met through the lunches, so I personally have got a lot out of organising them."

(Volunteer)

Community Consultations and Public Relations

The Promotions Working Party, Committee members and other volunteers represented and promoted U3A at a number of community events including:

- U3A Festival of Learning, Seniors Week
- Mind, Body, Soul Festival, Seniors Week
- Ross House Association strategic planning meeting
- Boyd Community Centre Opening
- Docklands Hub 5th Anniversary
- Rotary Club of Southbank
- Knowledge Melbourne Launch

In addition, Jill Thompson, President, was

interviewed on the 3CR *Wednesday Hometime* program.

Press coverage included two articles about members in the *Southbank Local News*, and three articles on the Botanical Art Group and its exhibition appeared in the *Docklands Local News*.

Flyers for the popular Thursday Forum series - our outreach to the general public - were circulated to newspapers and other relevant organisations.

Promotional resources were augmented by

- a promotional video, produced by RMIT students, and available on our YouTube channel
- a promotional postcard



Members Pat and Lance Collins featured in the Southbank Local News.

"The variety, width and breadth of courses is incredible - the energy of this U3A attracts people"

(Tutor)



David Watson, Treasurer

"I am a member and volunteer of U3A because it is a dynamic intentional community dedicated to exploring the idea that life is for learning."

(Tutor)

Summary of Income and Expenditure

For the year ended 30th September 2012

		Financial Year 2011-12 \$
Income		
	Membership fees	43,906.00
	Social and Forum	16,746.50
	U3A Network	5,500.00
	Patrons and donations	6,885.25
	Grants	10,000.00
	Bank and investment income	4,016.78
	Travel agency commissions	1,125.00
	Miscellaneous	5,065.00
	Total Income	93,244.53
Expenditure		
	Ross House rent and classroom hire	22,997.66
	Other venue classroom hire	8,141.99
	Social and forum programs	17,452.33
	Newsletter	1,962.73
	Office expenses	4,370.45
	Promotions	75.00
	Grants	4,042.38
	Volunteer/Committee expenses	4,303.20
	Telecommunications	1,465.17
	U3A Network subscription	1,419.00
	Tutor supplies and equipment	601.49
	Prior year debts	4,796.88
	Total Expenditure	71,628.28



Members enjoying the tram-boat trip to Williamstown

Balance Sheet

For the year ended 30th September 2012

<u>Current Assets</u>	\$	<u>Members Equity Liabilities</u>	\$
Bank	68,379	Opening equity 1/10/11	99,469
Investments	64,095	Plus surplus for year to 30/9/12	21,616
Sub-total	132,474	Equity at 30/9/12	121,085
<u>Fixed Assets</u>	0	Provision for unpaid debts	11,389
<u>Total Assets</u>	132,474	<u>Total Liabilities</u>	132,474

Recognition

It gives us great pleasure to recognise members, either as volunteers or patrons, who have made a contribution to the ongoing sustainability and success of U3A Melbourne City. If your name has been omitted we apologise, but please know that your contribution was valued and appreciated. In addition to those members mentioned below, a further 76 members made donations of between \$5 and \$200.

PATRONS PROGRAM

Andrews, Diana; Aspin, David; Berlin, Dianne; Bianciardi, Diana; Biesot, Pieter; Bower, John; Brown, Kathleen; Button, Marjorie; Chong, Keng; Choong, Anita; Cohn, Carolyn; Collins, Pat & Lance; Crosbie, Elma; Dupleix, Karen; Dymott, Jennifer; Falla, Jennie; Ferguson, Rita; Fraser, Wendy; Graham, Margaret; Gray, Mary; Greenwood, Gwenda; Greville, Sheila; Haralambeas, Dora; Hatfield, Muriel; Hay, Senga; Hipkins, Lorna; Horsfall, John & Mary; Joyce, Brenda; Keane, Joan; Kho, Fen; Khoo, Aija; Kroyherr, Isabel; Lakin, Yvonne; Landau, Alice; Larwill, Alan & Bev; Ling, Helena; Liubinas, Alan & Ale; Marciniak, Ania; Marshall, Tom; Marshall, Robin; Mason, Shirley; Meredith, Eva; Miles, Tony; Moore, Elizabeth; Morgan, Peter; Morton, Pat; Nankervis, Julie; Newbold, Robert; Noormets, Max; Norris, Nancy; Norton, Jim; Norton, Ron; O'Shea, Margaret; Picone, Carmel; Pincus, Valerie; Remington, Keith; Rickards, Anne; Robertson, Louise; Salter, John; Scott, Don; Shilliday, John; Smith, Ceinwen; Smith, Margaret; Smith, Max; Stokes, Eric; Sutton, Laine; Sweeney, Mary; Thomas, Keith; Thompson, Jill; Thoresen, Tina; White, Helen; Willis, Joan.

VOLUNTEERS

Hilary Adair; Ina Agius; Flora Anderson; Diana Andrews; Michael Baker; Kirti Baxi; Avara Becirevic; Ron Bennett; John Besley; Keith Bettles; Diana Bianciardi; Rafael Bieber; Eleanor Blyth; George Boag; Jeanette Bosisto; Joyce Bromage; Lynne Broughton; Katharina Budde; Necia Burford; Marilyn Burt; Lyndsey Burton; Shirley Byron; Betty Caldwell; Peter Caldwell; Judi Camilleri; Helen Chan; Bill Claiborne; Pauline Clements; Carolyn Cohn; Pat Collins; Mia Costin; Blair Cramer; Elma Crosbie; Connie Cummaudo; Marge Danaher; Chris Dargan; Pam Davies; Dorothy Davis; Frances Devlin-Glass; Bob di Napoli; Brian Doynes; Peter Dunn; Karen Dupleix; Inez Dussuyer; Ann Duyndam; Jenny Dymott; Kelvin Edwards; Judy Eldred; Sigrd Erdt; Chris Evans; Jean Fahey; Rhonda Favaloro; Barry Fenton; Christine Ferrari; Mary Fogarty; Jack Foks; Michael Fox; Jenny Fraser-Smith; Anna Fridkin; Virgil Gill; Christine Gillespie (dec'd); Camille Gilmour; Judith Goddard; Veronica Goodwin; Joan Gravina; Jim Grealish; Marguerite Grynberg; Violet Gunther; Herbert Hahn; Angela Hamilton-Smith; Peter Hannaford; Nancy Hanson; Anne Harrap; Rod Hawken; Maud Heron-Williams; Ann Hewett; Christina Hill; David Hone; Barbara Hook; Robert Hooke; John Horsfall; Mary Horsfall; Anne Irwin; Rom Jagielski; Bill Jeffries; Joan Jeffries; Sandra Joicey; Mavis Keighery; Maureen Kelly; Jeanne Klov Dahl; Anna Krepp; Alma Kristensen; Alice Landau; Nancy Lane; Cecila Lasslett; Margaret Ledley; Russell Lees; Helena Ling; Rhoda Lysakowski; Charlotte Maclatchy; Jean Mapp; Ian Marchment; Erika Martens; Sadako Martin; Juan Martinez; Shirley Mason; Maureen McDermott; Ben Megens; Jonathan Melland; Eva Meredith; Tony Miles; Mimi Millar; David Miller; Jan Miller; Haroon Mohamed; Erika Mohoric; Angela Moodie; Peter Morgan; Julie Nankervis; Max Nankervis; Robert Newbold; Diane Noel; Jim Norton; Hugh Oates; Anthony O'Brien; John O'Connor; Andrea O'Donoghue; Tony Page; Vicki Passmore; Eleanor Paterson; Ian Pearson; Bev Peterson; Helen Pettet; Marylou Phillips; Val Pincus; Margaret Rees; Darrell Reid; Terry Rickard; Anne Rickards; Anne Riddell; Conchi Ruiz Guerrero; Rosemary Ryall; Shinei Sakai; Peter Salmon; Elfie Schmidt; Fran Sciarretta; Mike Shackleton; Jean Shaik; Brenda Shek; John Shilliday; Margaret Shilton; Margaret Smith; Diane Sotiriou; Rosie Spear; Keith Stewart; Eric Stokes; Mary Sweeney; Jill Thompson; Ida Tipping; Shirley Tuckwell; John Waldie; Marianne Wallace-Crabbe; Max Warlond; David Watson; Ted Weiss; Kerri West; Betty Westerland; Bernard Wheelahan; Frances White; David Williams; Tim Wilson; Fiona Wiseman; Carol Wright; Doi Wai Yau; Juliette Zeelander; Ilse Zipfel.

"I get so much pleasure from my involvement with U3A. Joining the Patrons Program is one way I can show my thanks."

(Member)



Guest speaker Perry Hannah with Jill Thompson at the Going for Gold Winter Lunch

"Volunteering at U3A Melbourne City has brought me friendships, work satisfaction and a sense of relevance."

(Volunteer)

Next steps.....

Looking ahead to the future....our challenges are

- Continuing to expand the proportion of our membership from the City of Melbourne
- Increasing the diversity of our membership and courses
- Diversifying our offerings
- Finding affordable teaching space in the City of Melbourne
- Attracting more new tutors
- Diversifying our funding base
- Building up our volunteer base

Supporters



Anne Riddell talks to Sue O'Brien and Cr Jackie Watts (right) at the opening of the Boyd Centre



Launch of the Botanical Art exhibition

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