

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

President's Report

2013 Highlights

- Rules of Association revised
- Strategic Plan for next triennium developed
- Discussions with officials from City of Melbourne
- 330 new members—15% growth in membership 2012-13
- Operating surplus of \$22,650
- \$5,500 of grants received
- 124 courses offered, of which 32 were new
- 18 new tutors
- Two overseas tours, to the UK and Turkey

We aspire always to be a thriving, well-resourced community whose members embrace lifelong learning and positive ageing by sharing knowledge and life skills within a culture of friendship and generosity.

As my first year as President at U3A Melbourne City comes to a close I am very impressed by the passion, dedication and sheer hard work that people put into this organisation. In spite of the absence of any financial reward, Tutors, Course Coordinators, all the Volunteers, the Management Committee and a host of others who organise and run social events, work tirelessly all year round to keep U3A Melbourne City active and alive.

Despite the occasional feeling of being overwhelmed with work, people do feel rewarded in an intrinsic way doing what they do best. I believe this is often an overlooked element in volunteering. Everyone enjoys using the skills, knowledge and experience that they have acquired over a lifetime. They enjoy the recognition and thanks of their peers and above all they feel that wonderful feeling of being USEFUL which is so important.

I thank each and every one of you who gives so much. You are a wonderful example to all that retirement is not the end of the line when it comes to living a useful and meaningful life.

This year the Management Committee has had some very heavy-duty work to do. We have revised the Strategic Plan – our road map for the next three years. We have worked through two focused workshops and spent many hours finalising this plan which we believe will keep the organisation on track and growing to meet the needs of current members and attract prospective new members.

In addition, after legislative changes we have reviewed, and will re-submit our Rules of Association after consultation with the members. The consultation and ratification comes at the AGM. This has been a monumental task and my special thanks go to Carolyn Cohn, our secretary and public officer and to Gordon Ley who supported Carolyn in putting it all together.

Our membership is now over 1100 and growing continually. We are one of 100 U3As throughout Victoria and these numbers are also increasing annually. There is a sense of vitality and excitement about the place. We have difficulties with accommodation, but we still manage to keep the costs to our members as low as we can. We believe we provide good value for money.

Many thanks to all those who contribute to the Patrons Program. Your additional donations make an enormous contribution.



Max Warland,
President



Our home—Ross House,
Flinders Lane

"As a newcomer to the country, state and city, U3A was an obvious first choice....meeting like-minded people, exploring social opportunities, getting around the city with well-informed groups who actually knew what they were talking about and tapping into those intellectual resources that everyone has."



Clr Jackie Watts, Vice-President Keith Bettles and Adam Bandt, MP at the Winter Lunch

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.

Highlights

Grants

We successfully applied for and received

\$5,500

in competitive grants during this financial year.

Patrons Program and Donations

\$7,090

Membership

We had

1,140

members as at end September.

Tutors and Courses

We had **88**

tutors teaching

volunteer

4,126

hours of classes. We offered

62

full-year/semester

courses and

62

short courses

throughout the year.

Organisational Achievements

- Revised Rules of Association to ensure legislative compliance following amendments to the Act.
- Developed a new strategic plan for the 2014-2016 triennium.
- Developed and promulgated a Code of Conduct.
- Approved a Grants and Sponsorship Policy.
- Implemented payment by credit card and online.
- Held two meetings with City of Melbourne staff and councillors.
- Received grants totaling \$5,500.
- Recruited 18 new tutors and delivered 37 new courses.
- Partnered with two travel agents to lead overseas tours.
- Promoted U3A Melbourne City through attendance at events, radio interviews and presentations.
- Expanded the social program, increased participation and provided a wider variety of activities to promote social engagement.
- Increased our teaching venues following successful negotiations with National Seniors and the Gemmological Association.

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

Max Warlond, President
Keith Bettles, Vice-President
Carolyn Cohn, Secretary
David Watson, Treasurer

Michael Baker, Member (co-opted)
 Lyndsey Burton, Member (co-opted)
 Jack Foks, Member
 Necia Burford, Member (resigned)



Helena Ling, Member
 Pam Marriott, Member (co-opted, resigned)
 Shirley Mason, Member
 Tony Miles, Member
 Anne Riddell, Member
 Fran Sciarretta, Member
 Marcus Wearne, Member (co-opted)
 Lan-Ping Yeh, Member (co-opted)



Turkey Tour—Topkapi Palace

"U3A has opened many windows on my life: it gives structure to my week, it keeps my brain active, and I meet new friends. And so my 'exclusive' problems turn out to be common difficulties! This gives me perspective—and peace."

Membership

Members by Sex	
Male	287
Female	854

Age Range	
86-95	43
76-85	230
66-75	518
56-65	294
50-55	20
Unstated	36

Members by Type	
Member	880
Associate	64
Joint	153
Life	19
Honorary	25

Registered as volunteer	237
Members with Email	935
Members from City of Melbourne postcodes	282

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



The 'Sparkling' Winter Lunch

"Those who volunteer as tutors say that they love to pass on their acquired knowledge and skills to such a receptive audience and this compensates for their loss of occupational status in their transition to retirement. Class solidarity, loyalty and participation makes it worth everybody's while."



Let's Do Books Group—inaugural meeting

"I get a huge buzz out of working with people who are passionate about learning, open, curious and switched-on."

Courses and Tutors

"The course program of U3A Melbourne City is awesome. I consider U3A to be one of the most life-enhancing offerings available to the lucky senior citizens"

Knowledge, stimulation, inspiration and lots of fun! That's what our vibrant education program provided members throughout the year. During 2013 we were fortunate to have 88 tutors volunteer their time and expertise to offer 124 yearlong, semester and short courses.

Our core yearlong program ran 60 courses- with existing tutors retaining their passion for their topic and being joined by five new tutors in the Foreign Languages program. In response to popular demand, 4 tutors who previously ran short courses offered these on a semester basis during 2013.

Many yearlong courses are fully subscribed immediately reflecting their quality and popularity with members. In a successful innovation, new guidelines were developed for Foreign Language courses and several tutors made videos about their courses to inform and help members choose the course best suited to their needs. See our U3A website to sample these.

Our short course program continued to provide great diversity and add new courses to the program, with 32 of the 63 courses being first time offerings. In particular this saw an expansion of our literature courses, including espionage and poetry, and a growth in history and creative arts courses. New courses in mind-games, socio-political issues and computers also proved popular, appealing to a different membership group.

If you have a passion for a topic you would like to share, please contact us!

Recruiting and supporting new tutors remained a high priority for the Course Coordination team, with two-thirds of our enquiries coming from outside our membership base. Overall we liaised with 45 people about running a course, 18 of whom were approved as new tutors during the

year. After discussion a number withdrew or were redirected to other U3As, while 10 others are still considering their offer.

The richness of the short course program is greatly valued by members, with exceptionally positive feedback from students recorded each year. For the new 2012 short courses, 93% participants reported that their course was enjoyable, stimulating, and encouraged student participation; was well organised (87%) with high quality content (88%). Two thirds students thought the course was the right length, with many however requesting an extension of the course they enjoyed so much. In the words of one student *"A wonderful chance to discover satisfying pursuits- short courses in particular are great tastings"*.

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

Similarly, feedback to the organisation from tutors is vital, and this year our workshop contribution on Risk Management and the future Business Plan was greatly prized by the Committee.

My thanks to all U3A volunteers who assisted in organising and supporting our course program throughout the year. Thanks also to the staff and volunteers at our hire venues who enable our program to operate across the CBD. And a special thanks to all our tutors for their outstanding contribution to U3A Melbourne City. We know that many get great enjoyment from their classes and, in the spirit of U3A, learn from their students too.

We hope to see you all again in 2014.



Julie Nankervis
Course Coordinator

Social Activities and Forums

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

- Theatre visits to War Horse, King Kong, *Driving Miss Daisy*.
- Coach trip to Ballarat.
- Tours of the NGV International, Australian Tapestry Workshop, State Theatre, Geoffrey Rush Exhibition,
- Visits to *I, Animal at the Melbourne Zoo*.
- The *Sparkling* Winter Lunch with its diamond-focused theme.

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

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

New Member Sessions provided opportunities for new members to meet each other and find out more about U3A and how we operate.

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:

- Anne Unkenstein, *How memory works*.
- Fiona Jacobs, *Can exercise slow the ageing process?*
- Phil Grano, *End of life and other big decisions*, and *Who has the power?*
- John Fisher, *Zero emissions by 2024?*

The final four seminars of the year, coordinated by Jill Thompson—on the theme of Australia's future, were supported by a grant from the RACV Club.

- Michael Valenzuela, *Changing your mind about dementia*
- Veronica Sheen, *What's happening to work?*
- Ian Lowe, *Australia, will bigger be better?*
- John Langford, *Managing our water and why it matters*

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



Seminar speaker, Prof Ian Lowe

"U3A has turned my life around—away from the black pit that threatened to swallow me whole!"

Community Consultations and Public Relations

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

- City of Melbourne functions
- Launch of the Productive Ageing Centre
- City of Melbourne Knowledge Sector Network meetings
- Open Education Week 2013, La Trobe University
- Productive Ageing Forum, National Seniors Australia
- Retirement Living Forum
- Radio interviews on Valerie Farfalla's *Breakfast* program on 3CR and Jon Faine's *Revolutions* program on the topic of lifelong learning on ABC 774FM
- Interview with Il Globo journalist
- Meeting with Jennifer Kanis MP
- Attendance at U3A Network Victoria/Asia Pacific International Conference
- Third Sector Expo
- St. Mark the Evangelist Masterplan Committee—community consultation



Puffing Billy Excursion



David Watson, Treasurer

Summary of Income and Expenditure

For the year ended 30th September 2013

		Financial Year 2012-13 \$
Income	Membership fees	56,144
	Social and Forum	20,652
	U3A Network	3,000
	Patrons, donations and commissions	10,193
	Grants	5,500
	Bank and investment income	16,219
	Miscellaneous	2,250
	Total Income	<u>113,959</u>
Expenditure	Ross House rent and classroom hire	23,283
	Other venue classroom hire	19,062
	Other accommodation costs	1,092
	Social activities	14,680
	Newsletter	1,796
	Office expenses	5,067
	Promotions and Forums	5,278
	Grants	2,677
	Volunteer/Committee expenses	5,524
	Committee Expenses	7,288
	Telecommunications	1,674
	U3A Network subscription	2,146
	Tutor supplies and equipment	1,641
	Total Expenditure	<u>91,208</u>

Balance Sheet

For the year ended 30th September 2013

<u>Current Assets</u>	\$	<u>Members Equity Liabilities</u>	\$
Bank	85,094	Opening equity 1/10/12	132,394
Investments	51,943	Plus surplus for year to 30/9/13	22,751
Sub-total	137,037	Equity at 30/9/13	155,144
<u>Fixed Assets</u>	0	Provision for unpaid debts	18,107
<u>Total Assets</u>	137,037	<u>Total Liabilities</u>	137,037

Certification

We, David Watson and Keith Bettles, being members of the Committee 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 the end of the financial year of the Association ending on 30 September 2013.

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 52 members made donations of between \$5 and \$200.

PATRONS PROGRAM

Anonymous, Diana Andrews, David Aspin, Kevin Barron, Gloria Bedson, Dianne Berlin, Diana Bianciardi, Pieter Biesot, Kate Brown, Marjorie Button, Keng Chong, Anita Choong, Ahnya Chuah, Carolyn Cohn, Pat & Lance Collins, Barbara Cramer, Elma Crosbie, Karen Dupleix, Jennifer Dynmott, Rita Ferguson, Joyce Flowers, Christine Fraser, Wendy Fraser, Carole Gordon, Patricia Gospo, Margaret Graham, Mary Gray, Gwenda Greenwood, Sheila Greville, Dora Haralambeas, Muriel Hatfield, Senga Hay, Lorna Hipkins, John & Mary Horsfall, Ann Johns, Brenda Joyce, Joan Keane, Fen Kho, Aija Khoo, Isabel Kroyherr, Yvonne Lakin, Alice Landau, Alan & Bev Larwill, Helena Ling, Alan & Ale Liubinas, Ania Marciniak, Shirley Mason, Eva Meredith, Elizabeth Moore, Peter Morgan, Pat Morton, Elizabeth Mullin, Julie Nankervis, Robert Newbold, Max Noormets, Nancy Norris, Jim Norton, Ron Norton, Mary Phiddian, Carmel Picone, Valerie Pincus, Keith Remington, Anne Rickards, Kaye Salisbury, John Shilliday, Ceinwen Smith, Margaret Smith, Max Smith, Eric Stokes, Laine Sutton, Mary Sweeney, Keith Thomas, Jill Thompson, Tina Thoresen, Ted & Gwen White, Helen White, Shirley Whiting, Joan Willis, Maggie Zapadlo.

VOLUNTEERS 2013

Hilary Adair, Goldie Alexander, Flora Anderson, Pamela Anderson, Diana Andrews, Christine Badawy, Michael Baker, Elaine Batchelder, Kirti Baxi, Avara Becirevic, Ron Bennett, Maree Bentley, John Besley, Keith Bettles, Diana Bianciardi, Sidney Bloch, Eleanor Blyth, George Boag, Beryl Bradley: Katharina Budde, Necia Burford, Marilyn Burt, Lyndsey Burton, Shirley Byron, Betty Caldwell, Peter Caldwell, Judi Camilleri, Anita Choong, Pauline Clemens, Carolyn Cohn, Pat Collins, Heather Corry, Blair Cramer, Elma Crosbie, Chris Dargan, Dorothy Davis, Frances Devlin-Glass, Bob di Napoli, Brian Doyne, Peter Dunn, Karen Dupleix, Ann Duyndam, Jenny Dymott, Jenny Earle, Kelvin Edwards, Judy Eldred, Vivien Ellard, Sigrid Erdt, Jean Fahey, Rhonda Favaloro, Christine Ferrari, Jack Foks, Fortunata Forte, Christine Fraser, Jenny Fraser-Smith, Virgil Gill, Camille Gilmour, Judith Goddard, Veronica Goodwin: Joan Gravina, Justin Halpin, Angela Hamilton-Smith, Nancy Hanson, Anne Harrap, Rod Hawken, Maud Heron-Williams, Ann Hewett, Lyndy Hickman, Christina Hill, David Hone, Barbara Hook, Robert Hooke, John Horsfall, Mary Horsfall, Maureen Inkster, Anne Irwin, Rom Jagielski, Bill Jeffries, Joan Jeffries, Sandra Joicey, Indra Jury, Maureen Kelly, Jeanne Klov Dahl, Sonja Kovacs, Anna Krepp, Alma Kristensen, Alice Landau, Nancy Lane, Marilyn Laskaris, Cecilia Lasslett, Wendy Lea, Margaret Ledley, Russell Lees, Gordon Ley, Helena Ling, Clive Lipshut, Rhoda Lysakowski, Jean Mapp, Ian Marchment, Pam Marriott, Erika Martens, Juan Martinez, Shirley Mason, Ray Matters, Helen McCulloch, Ben Megens, Jonathan Melland, Eva Meredith, Tony Miles, Mimi Millar, Jan Miller, Julie Mills, Angela Moodie, Julie Mullan, Julie Nankervis, Max Nankervis, Pat Nelson, Jennifer Ng, Diane Noel, Hugh Oates, Paul O'Brien, John O'Connor, Deb Pace, Tony Page, Ian Pearson, Marie Perillo, Bev Peterson, Helen Pettet, Marylou Phillips, Val Pincus, Aruna Prasad, Margaret Rees, Darrell Reid, Terry Rickard, Anne Riddell, Julie Ritchie, Pat Robins, Rosemary Ryall, Shinei Sakai, Peter Salmon, Elfie Schmidt, Harris Schneiderman, Fran Sciarretta, Mike Shackleton, Jean Shaik, Margaret Shilton, Margaret Smith, Di Sotiriou, Rosie Spear, Bethia Stevenson, Keith Stewart, Eric Stokes, Mary Sweeney, Jeanette Thomas, Jill Thompson, Ida Tipping, John Waldie, Max Warlond, David Watson, Marcus Wearne, Ted Weiss, Kerri West, Bernard Wheelahan, Frances White, David Williams, Fiona Wiseman, Carol Wright, Doi Wai Yau, Lan-Ping Yeh, Patricia Young, Hannah Yui, Juliette Zeelander.



*Let's Do Galleries Group—
contemplating the art of Jeffrey Smart*

"U3A has been a great benefit as it gives me an opportunity to participate and take an interest in courses ...the friendships made have been particularly valuable and interesting. I highly recommend the U3A to all retirees."



Volunteers at the Mind, Body, Soul event at Fitzroy Gardens

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



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