



Online-edition



# DANDENONG

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

U3A Dandenong Inc. ABN 86 401 693 866

**May/June 2020**

## Coming Events

### AGM / Arts & Crafts

Jan Wilson Centre

Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>

Arts Exhibition opens at 11am

AGM starts at 2:00pm

*If Covid 19 Lockdown still applies the Arts Exhibition will be deferred & updated arrangements for the AGM will be advised.*

### Second Semester

**Class re-start is not yet known.**

*View our web site for announcements*

### Online Classes

**Computer**

**Current Affairs**

**Gardening**

**French Song & Culture**

*For details, email the Secretary  
secretary@dandenongu3a.org.au*

**Tutors Meeting**  
*Using Zoom*



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## Key Information & Contacts

**Address** - Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18 Buckley Street, Noble Park. 3174

**Telephone** - 03 9546 2997

### Office Hours

**CURRENTLY CLOSED**

Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri – **10am to 3:30pm**

*Note: Not open on Wednesdays or Public Holidays*

**due to Covid19 restrictions**

### Email

**Office** - [enquiry@dandenongu3a.org.au](mailto:enquiry@dandenongu3a.org.au)

**NEWS Contributions** - [news@dandenongu3a.org.au](mailto:news@dandenongu3a.org.au)

**Web** - <http://www.dandenongu3a.org/>

**Facebook** - Facebook.com/u3adandenonginc/

We are currently making changes to our web site and email addresses.

If you use an old address your email will automatically be redirected to the new one. Changes to email etc will be advised on the new site, when it is implemented.

### Meeting Venues

- Uniting Church Hall, Birch Ave, Dandenong
- Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18 Buckley St, Noble Park, Dandenong North
- Senior Citizens' Club, Latham Cresc, Dandenong North
- Dandenong Memorial Hall, 10 Langhorne St, Dandenong
- Endeavour Hills Leisure Centre, R. McMahon Blvd, Endeavour Hills
- Keysborough Leisure Centre, 352 Chertemham Rd, Keysborough
- Tirhatuan Park - (Enter Kriegel Way) off Outlook Drive, Dandenong North
- Lexington Gardens, 114 Westall Road, Springvale
- Noble Park Football Club, 46/56 Moodemere St, Noble Park

## Contacts

| Name               | Position         | Phone        |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Vivienne Fernandes | President        | 03 9798 1312 |
| Jim Archibald      | Vice-President   | 03 9700 1965 |
| David Purdon       | Secretary        | 0425 732 333 |
| Claudia Cespedes   | Treasurer        | 0415 108 196 |
| Heather Seymour    | Office/Enquiries | 03 9546 2997 |

### Standardised Email addresses:

[president](mailto:president@dandenongu3a.org.au)

[vicepresident](mailto:vicepresident@dandenongu3a.org.au)

[secretary](mailto:secretary@dandenongu3a.org.au)

[treasurer](mailto:treasurer@dandenongu3a.org.au)

[enquiry](mailto:enquiry@dandenongu3a.org.au)

[@dandenongu3a.org.au](mailto:@dandenongu3a.org.au)

## U3A DANDENONG Inc.

proudly supported by:



Noble Park Football Club

## President's Report

We have been living with COVID-19 and social distancing restrictions for some time now. There is much in the media about it on a daily basis. We are not quite sure when these restrictions will be lifted and are reliant on Victorian and Federal laws. In the meantime, we have to manage as best as we can. We will let you know, as soon as we can, when change occurs and we can resume classes. It is also a good time to consider long distance activities/classes.

I consider this period a good opportunity for us to have a break, reflect, catch up on pending items and spend time with family. Life after COVID-19 may well change our lifestyle and have an impact on how much importance/time we give our personal and social relationships.

The Committee had its regular monthly meeting on 14 April 2020, using Zoom.

A sub-committee was formed to review costs and there have been discussions on what cost savings can be made and maintained. There has also been a great deal of time and effort in sourcing reliable and cost-effective alternate venues for some of our classes. While some will continue at current venues, others have been reorganised with consultation.

The Committee discussed members missing out on classes in the current climate, and intends to provide a part credit to existing members towards fees for the next financial year. The amount has not yet been determined as we still need to determine the actual cost savings for venue hire.

We also held a Tutors' briefing/meeting on 21 April 2020 via Zoom. Not all tutors were able to attend. Those present were offered the opportunity to run classes, with assistance, using various platforms such as Zoom, YouTube and WhatsApp. Four classes are running using Zoom. I attended a Current Affairs Class and watched a video of the French music class. Others are happy to stay in contact with their class using email, phone and text.

This is a good way to ensure our members are connected and not feeling isolated. Many have indicated to me that they are missing their classes and the socialising. Our Council and Library have also contacted me offering their services to our members.

David Purdon and I attended the opening of the Drum Theatre season on 20 February 2020. I was happy to see Ann Thomson-Buhler, Muriel Carr and another member singing in the Foyer. We met with Cr Matthew Kirwan and discussed U3A activities and purpose. We have also contacted all the remaining Councillors to promote U3A.

In early February, I attended a two-day Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Course and am now a qualified MHFA. For those of you who remember former member Barbara Blatchford - Barbara's estate has donated \$1,000 to our U3A.

Another item for consideration is our Annual Fund-raising raffle. Last year, I approached the local dine-out places for vouchers. I am not sure that this will be appropriate this year. If any of you have any ideas on prizes for the raffle or contributions let me know. We have organised a date and venue for our AGM, but it is possible that we will either postpone or have it using virtual reality.

Margaret Watts, Genealogy Tutor has announced her retirement at the end of this semester.

Margaret offered to become the assistant tutor initially and ended up taking the class. Margaret has held this position for the past 5 years. I have attended a couple of classes under Margaret and I can say they were excellent. I would like to say, thank you Margaret for your years of dedicated service to U3A, we have all benefitted from your knowledge and genealogy class.

**Vivienne Fernandes**



## Secretary's Update



We have been asked many times to provide photos of the Committee. These can be found on the photo pages at the end of this newsletter.

|                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| President                      | Vivienne Fernandes  |
| Vice-President                 | Jim Archibald       |
| Secretary/Newsletter           | David Purdon        |
| Treasurer                      | Claudia Cespedes    |
| Health & Safety/ Regional Rep. | Rikki Davies        |
| Membership                     | Jeanette Keane      |
| Webmaster                      | David Nassau        |
| Program Coordinator            | Raelene Curtis      |
| Publicity                      | Alan Stevenson      |
| Social                         | Beryl Potter        |
| Life Member                    | Shirley Constantine |
| Office Manager                 | Heather Seymour     |
| Committee                      | Audrey Goldberg     |
| Committee                      | Yvonne Toomey       |
| Grants & Sponsorship           | Vacant              |
| Social Media                   | Vacant              |

## From the office:

### Our new website

A fresh new website is under development and moving along steadily. It should be ready for all members to use when we are allowed to start classes again. The new website looks and works in a similar way to many other U3A websites, so if you are a member of another U3A it may appear familiar. By having this style of website, we can tap into the U3A network experts if any assistance is required e.g. if there is an issue and our committee member expert is unavailable.



From the new website you can see lots of information about Dandy U3A activities. You will be able to join, have your on log on and password so you can securely check and edit your membership details, pay your subs and enrol in classes. We are doing this to:

- refresh our web page
- reduce the manual admin tasks required
- keep track of and have up-to-date details of memberships and course enrolments
- improve the security of your membership details.

This system also enables our Tutors to easily send emails to class members as required, without having to maintain separate email address lists. By reducing the manual admin tasks the committee will have more time to attend classes themselves and more time to work on development of new activities for Dandy U3A members.

Don't worry if you don't have internet access or are not very computer savvy, the committee members and office volunteers will be trained in how the new website works, so you will still be able to come into the office and sit with an office volunteer, who will be able to assist you in checking your membership details, paying fees, enrolling in classes and learning how to find information about Dandy U3A.

(You may hear a reference to UMAS but don't be perturbed by that. It's just the name of the software that we will be using to manage member

data, course scheduling and lots of other stuff behind the scenes.)

**Jeanette Keane**  
Membership officer

## New Members

Welcome to all the new members who have joined us in 2020. We are delighted that you have chosen to join Dandenong U3A.



| First Name | Surname    |
|------------|------------|
| Mary       | Arulappah  |
| Lorraine   | Blackford  |
| Pauline    | Bonaddio   |
| Sylvia     | Brohier    |
| Sylvie     | Brohler    |
| Ronald     | Brooks     |
| Evelyn     | Buttfield  |
| Fernanda   | Camillo    |
| John       | Commerford |
| David      | Cook       |
| Marie      | Cramer     |
| Helen      | Crocker    |
| Lien       | Dang       |
| Harold     | Darcy      |
| Trish      | Denyer     |
| Anthea     | Donen      |
| Romaine    | Forster    |
| Rudolf     | Frieling   |
| Pauline    | Hunter     |
| Len        | Joseph     |
| Shirley    | Joseph     |
| Gosia      | Krawczyk   |
| Gracieza   | Kuzu       |
| Bruce      | Latham     |

| First Name | Surname     |
|------------|-------------|
| Lina       | Liu         |
| Ann        | Lonegan     |
| Anne       | Lord        |
| Derek      | Marshall    |
| Gillian    | Mayers      |
| Ian        | McMaster    |
| Jenny      | Nagel       |
| Thi        | Nguyen      |
| Natasha    | Noronha     |
| Wendy      | Presta      |
| Grahame    | Rowland     |
| Wendy      | Scott       |
| Patricia   | Stefanovic  |
| Robert     | Stickland   |
| Loreen     | Syed        |
| Marlene    | Thompson    |
| Gwen       | Thompson    |
| Marie      | Versteeg    |
| Danny      | Versteeg    |
| Harry      | VronDou     |
| Valerie    | Walker      |
| Antonette  | Weerasinghe |
| David      | Wilson      |

## Class Updates

Some **big changes** are on their way, by the start of Semester two (subject to Covid19 restrictions being relaxed).

We have an urgent need to cut our expenditure and the fact that the council have increased the cost of hall hire at Paddy O'Donoghue Centre (POD) and Latham Crescent (LLC), so we have restricted use to just 15 hours per week at each venue, which is given in kind by the council.

Before the lock down I was busy trying to locate cheaper accommodation so that our fees can remain as low as possible. I have managed to secure the use of the Keysborough Scout Hall, located on Cheltenham Rd, between the Senior Citizens Club/Bowling Club and Park Glen Retirement Village. It does look a bit tatty from the outside but I am confident that once we do a working bee the inside will be quite comfortable for us to use. This hall comes at a weekly rate so we can use at any time of the daytime on any week day. It includes a large carpark and a bus stop nearby on Cheltenham Rd near Corrigan Rd. Also taken into consideration, there is a ramp entry for our people with wheelies, a "disabled" toilet and two reverse cycle air conditioners. Two classes will also move to the Noble Park Girl Guide Hall on Ross Reserve at Corrigan Rd end.

I do understand that people are resistant to changes, but if we don't do this then cost will go up, so change it must be. I have been in contact with Tutors and listened to them to adjust where possible. It is never going to suit everyone. These changes will have an impact on 14 classes and where they meet. The day and time of classes remain the same (apart from Tai Chi see below). A new timetable will be issued as soon as it is completed.

There has been an offer for a **Power Point Class**. Please send to the office any expressions of interest in attending this. Not sure of a time at the moment. It will depend on interest and vacancy at venue. When expressing interest please state a preferred day and time, but no guarantees.

**Genealogy** – as Margaret Watts has decided to cease her role as Tutor for this class, we are in need of a person to take over this role, for the start of Semester 2. This is a matter of urgency, otherwise the class will not be running. I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of the committee to thank Margaret for all the hours of dedication she has given to U3A.

**Tai Chi** class will be from 10:30- 11:30 as of Semester 2 to follow on from the Exercise class with less waiting around for those who do both. But still time for a chat and a cuppa in between.

**Raelene Curtis**, Program Coordinator.

## Sport & Exercise

### New Hike Group

Our group has so far enjoyed two hikes since we began, the latest was at Lysterfield Lake Park, heading North from the lake to a little-known site within Lysterfield Lake Park, called Boys Farm, an old site from post-world war two where boys were trained in the skills to farm. The old dairy site and homestead ruins remain. Morning tea was enjoyed there. Along a different track back to the lake trail, lunch was had sitting on a jetty on the southern side of the lake in the sun, watching a windsurfer and the ducks.

It was planned that two weeks after this we would venture to Cranbourne Botanic Gardens, but unfortunately due to the COVID19 restrictions it didn't go ahead. We hope to do this one when restrictions are lifted, followed by:

Birdsland Reserve, in Belgrave Heights to Granite Outcrop at Lysterfield/Wellington Rd corner.

We really are looking forward to getting back out in our great outdoors to enjoy our environment and the exercise - gradually taking our hikes further afield.

**Raelene Curtis**

### Cycling



‘When the spirits are low,  
when the day appears dark,  
when work becomes monotonous,  
when hope seems worth having,  
just mount a bicycle  
and go out for a spin down the road,  
without thought on anything but the ride you are  
taking ‘

**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

‘Life is like riding a bicycle.  
In order to keep your balance,  
you must keep moving’  
**Albert Einstein, from a 1930 letter to his son.**

### Easy Rider – Wednesday Cyclers

We are fortunate in that we can still keep up our exercise but miss our cycling companions due to COVID 19 restrictions. We are hoping that restrictions will be eased soon and we can at least

ride with several people and be able to stop at one of our favourite coffee shops.

Amongst other things, it's an eerie site seeing almost empty car parks at the railway stations. There is a portable 24-hour CCTV unit stationed at Merinda Park station now. We assume it's there to deter hoon drivers from doing burnouts in the car park.

Lately I have had many reports of flooding over the paths due to all the rain. It appears we are going to have a wet winter. Some forward planning will be needed to get around the wet and muddy areas. Our cyclists have conveyed other information relevant to us, when out and about. Thank you.



Otherwise most members seem to be keeping busy catching up on odd jobs around the home and avoiding going into hibernation.

Best wishes to all U3A members. Try to make the most of lots of online material and videos being made available to us. This pandemic is certainly going to make changes to the way we interact in the future.

**Marge Angelucci**

## Friday Cyclers

I have been doing quite a few solo rides and in particular checking which of the cafes are attempting to survive with takeaways during the lockdown. Some of our favourite coffee stops are still in action, particularly our popular Ferntree Gully and Oakleigh venues. One thing that is noticeable is how busy the bike paths have become, especially on the more scenic trails such as the Dandenong Creek trail in the Bayswater area. At

weekends in particular there are a lot of family groups with some shiny new bikes evident. On narrower paths, maintaining the required social distancing is difficult, although the time spent passing other cyclists is very short.

As restrictions are lifted, the coffee stop will be a challenge. Maybe we will have to resort to texting each other at the prescribed distance! In the meantime, enjoy your solo rides!

**Craig Gliddon**

**Editor's Note:** Supplementary to cyclists' report.

There was a very funny occurrence on one of the rides prior to C19. Dandy Creek was running high but this was unknown to one of our cyclists (known as D2) who headed towards the creek taking a shortcut that he loves to use to cut off a hairpin bend. Unfortunately for him, the shortcut hid the creek from view and he turned the corner to be faced with water everywhere. Too late to stop, he hit the water with a splash! Physically uninjured he decided to walk through the flood.

Being a good sport, he emerged to laugh with the rest of the group.



**Shout out**

A big shout out to D2 for his sportsmanship.

**Editor**



## Lifestyle

### Lifestyle Impacts of Covid19



#### Zoom

We may be behind closed doors for much of the time but we can use technology to see each other.

Before the *storm* I hadn't heard of Zoom. Skype or WhatsApp and Messenger were better known. All of a sudden everyone wants to use Zoom. We tried it with our family and it works. It is perhaps not the easiest application to use. Everyone seems to end up with a slightly different screen which makes it difficult to give others guidance in its use but after a while it all becomes easier.

We tried Zoom for the U3A Committee meeting and nearly everyone joined in. It was slightly harder to control than our normal meetings. As meeting host, I was a real novice, so need to implement a few improvements next time around - things like muting everyone who is not speaking and asking participants to raise their hand when they want to speak.

After the preliminary success with the Committee, I thought I would try to reinstate the Current Affairs Class via Zoom. The first week just one person joined me but for week 2 there were 10 of us and we had a great time. We have agreed to keep this Zoom class going every week.

We also had a Zoom tutors' meeting with 18 people.

I fear that it may well be next year before physical classes can return. With the benefit of hindsight, we could have worked with our members before the crisis to lift their

understanding of technology. If we truly are a "University of the third Age" then perhaps this should be a priority when we move to the new normal. *(I do not think that we will ever return to the old one).*

#### What's Next

There will be a new normal. Possibilities include:

- Reduced use of cash – replaced by contactless cards
- Reduced travel to work as people stay at home most days. That may mean that our traffic infrastructure is no longer bursting at the seams and we can handle the reduced traffic levels of cars and trains.
- Reduced carbon emissions/cleaner air
- Continued Zoom Meetings – whilst getting together remains essential, it is convenient to hold some (perhaps additional) meetings without the need for travel
- Online shopping will stay. The glut of shopping centres will reduce.
- Border controls will be increased and temperature checks will stay
- Government readiness for a global virus will increase
- The move to globalisation has faltered. It is likely that we will return to do more of our manufacturing such as cars, trains and fuel processing. Australia could easily be self-sufficient. If the value of our dollar becomes very low then this will only increase the viability of moving to self-sufficiency.
- Maybe we will continue to exercise more. It turns out one of the biggest spikes in sales has come from bikes, which is no doubt one of the fastest ways to burn calories. So much so, department stores can't keep up! Big W reported that they've had a whopping 88% increase on March sales compared to the same time last year. Kmart also sold out of

bikes online and have limited stock in their stores.

Oh, and one thing should return - U3A Classes.



**David Purdon**

## A message from the Victorian Seniors Festival

2020 Victorian Seniors Festival reimagined broadcasts

This year we are bringing the Festival direct to your home through online performances, zoom interviews and story-telling, with three new broadcasts a week from 30 April.

2020 is the Festival's 38th year. We invite you to get *in the groove* - with performances from many of your favourites and some new performers for you to enjoy.

Working to social distancing rules, Tristan and Bec meet and host our performers from the comfort of their own homes using technology in ways we never knew were possible.

We've had a lot of fun creating and reimagining the Festival for you, and we hope you enjoy it - and sing along!

And get *in the groove*!

Here is the link to watch the broadcasts: <https://www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/festivalsandawards>

Reimagined radio to come too!

In June we will commence with radio broadcasts of plays, serials and music features. We will keep you informed about this and how to tune in.

## Recommended TV Programs

Channel 44 (C31 Melbourne Community TV) have a 'Move it or lose it' gentle exercise program on television from 8:30 am each weekday morning.

Channel 94 (9 Life) have 'Daily Move' exercise and wellbeing sessions from 9:30 am daily.

The programmes are especially useful for community members who don't have access to the internet such as some of our older populations, so it would be good to promote amongst these communities.

Kind regards,

**James Ayling**

Positive Ageing Support Officer

Phone: 8571 5544

## The Great Realisation

Click [here](#) to listen to a super story by Tom Foolery. It makes you think!

*(Turn up the volume and expand the picture)*

## Languages



## Italian

### Intermediate/Advanced Italian language class 2019

Greetings everyone. I hope you are all well.

2020 school year started with greeting back all last year's students plus we welcomed a new student. We also discussed if we should continue with advanced grammar, given some students had found it a little difficult. It was decided to purchase a new book that provides the learner with a lower level of Grammar and exercises, and gradually steps up the lessons to advanced.

Our first social gathering was the celebration of Carnevale, in February at 'La Baracca Club' in Heatherton. We enjoyed a lovely Italian lunch while we listened to a live band playing and singing Italian songs. The environment was very festive, but what made the day special were the costume characters.

Some of our students and the tutor were dressed up in costumes and won all the prizes. The costumes were as follows:

- Mary Antoniette Queen of France, (first prize)
- Japanese Lady in traditional Kimono (second prize)
- Dorothy the Dinosaurs (third prize)
- German beer Maid (fourth prize)
- Gypsy lady (fifth prize)

The winning price for each winner was a free entry for the next lunch/dance. We were all very grateful to 'La Baracca Club' for awarding us such generous price, and thanked the President and Committee members. Almost all students and partners attended the March lunch, just on time before restrictions started.

Carnevale is a very important tradition in Italy, and it is regarded as a big final party before Ash Wednesday, the restrictions of Lent. Italy celebrates Carnevale with a huge festival marked by parades, masqueraded balls, entertainment, music and parties in all main cities and small town. However, the most popular Carnevale is in Venice, which started there in 1094. The Venetians have continued the tradition relentlessly working throughout

the year to organised it, with main events centred around Piazza San Marco.



The festivity features gondolas and boats parades along the Grand Canal, a mask parade in Piazza San Marco, and a special Carnevale for children event in the Canareggio district. Most high-end hotels hold masqueraded Balls during Carnevale, and can provide rental costumes for visiting guests. Tickets may be expensive for these Balls, and most require reservation. A fireworks show in Piazza San Marco can be seen all over Venice and marks the end of the events. All in all Carnevale is a feast for the eyes and soul with its magnificent and coloured costumes, and parades featuring music; dances; confetti, etc. Mischief and pranks are common during Carnevale in Italy, hence the saying "*a Carnevale ogni scherzo vale*" which means "anything goes at Carnevale."

Following Carnevale, we were on the way to explore the new book. We were also in discussions to plan an excursion to the city, possibly visiting "*Brunetti Café*" in Lygon Street for an all-Italian experience. Unfortunately, this wasn't possible due to Coronavirus restrictions. Since restrictions started, I have been in contact

with all my students, and they have contacted me. Luckily everyone is well. We are all missing each other, and hope to return to class soon.

### ***A personal message to my students***

If you feel isolation is getting at you try to structure your day, for example dedicate the time you were spending in class on Monday to study Italian. Please continue the exercises from the new book and if you feel confident, also from last year's book. Once restrictions are over, I will correct all your exercises. I also hope you have consulted the website I have provided you with during isolation, which is: [www.duolingo.com.italian](http://www.duolingo.com.italian). The website offers languages' students the opportunity to do exercises electronically at their chosen level, ranging from beginners to advanced. The exercises include audio to help with pronunciation. Best of all its free!

My other suggestions to keep physically and mentally healthy are: maintain social contacts; exercise; find time to pause, pray and appreciate all you got. Have faith.... we will come out of this! I miss you all and hope to see you soon.

I take the opportunity to thank all committee members, office volunteers and tutors who are working from their home in order to keep u3a Dandenong alive.

Cheers

**Rita Romano**

Tutor Intermediate-Advance Italian Language

*PS: I hope you all like the Carnevale photos (see Photo pages).*

## **Spanish**

To all U3A Members

In these critical and uncertain times, I wish that you are all well and taking care of yourselves.

I hope that you are all being careful and are following the health experts advice regarding avoiding catching and transmitting the virus.

We must take it day by day through this pandemic, and

have faith and hope that this will pass and that we will regain our lives.

In time, we will catch up over a nice coffee and look back fondly on the wonderful moments we have shared together.

We will move forward together, stronger, patience and filled with love more than ever before.

Enjoy every day with your loved ones and never lose your ability to smile.

Better days will come.

Please look after yourselves,

**Gloria Skalicka**, Spanish Teacher

*I would like to share with all some photos of wonderful moments that we enjoyed in our Spanish Class.*



*Jerzy y Lolita wearing Peruvian ponchos*





*John, Verissimo, Loretta y Jerzy drinking Yerba Mate*



*John's Birthday*

**Gloria Skalicka**

## Hobbies

### Computers

The computer group are holding their classes during this difficult time by connecting with their class members over "Zoom meetings" on the Internet. So far they have held 4 of these classes, currently holding lessons on a Monday afternoon at 1:15pm. These lessons cover some interesting things we can do with Microsoft Word. Any member who would like to join those classes should contact Clive directly at [cagould@sky.com](mailto:cagould@sky.com)

Other classes can be held if Dandenong U3A members would like them. These could include iPad and iPhone workshop, PowerPoint, or a general Microsoft Word / Windows 10 workshop. These would be open to all Dandenong U3A members. So, if you would like to join them, contact:

For iPhone & iPad - Yvonne by email at [ydt28@icloud.com](mailto:ydt28@icloud.com)

For Windows 10 / Microsoft Word - Clive at [cagould@sky.com](mailto:cagould@sky.com)

For Powerpoint – Alan at [tecumceh@hotmail.com](mailto:tecumceh@hotmail.com)

**Yvonne, Alan & Clive**

### Gardening Group

The gardeners have been zooming the past few weeks with numbers attending the meeting increasing as members become competent in using zoom. It has been quite entertaining as members are using the video facility on their iPhone or laptop to take the meeting for a walk around their gardens.

These meetings have been shorter than our usual meetings but long enough for all to discuss what's up in their gardens.

We have also been emailing photos from our gardens.

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> - Jeanette Keane's garden
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Vivian Tang's garden
- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> - Diana Thurbon's garden.



③



④



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**Jeanette Keane**



**What a bloody rippa!**

*Hi I didn't write it and I don't know who did, so apologies to the author, but I don't know your name.*

*I think many of our Newsletter writers might like it  
- Certainly brings back memories for me.*

**Diana Thurbon U3A Garden Class**

They were funny looking buildings, that were  
once a way of life,  
If you couldn't sprint the distance, then you  
really were in strife.  
They were nailed, they were wired, but were  
mostly falling down,  
There was one in every yard, in every house, in  
every town.

They were given many names, some were even  
funny,  
But to most of us, we knew them as the  
outhouse or the dunny.  
I've seen some of them all gussied up, with  
painted doors and all,  
But it really made no difference, they were just a  
port of call.

Now my old man would take a bet, he'd lay an  
even pound,  
That you wouldn't make the dunny with them  
turkeys hangin' round.  
They had so many uses, these buildings out the  
back,"  
You could even hide from mother, so you  
wouldn't get the strap.

That's why we had good cricketers, never mind  
the bumps,  
We used the pathway for the wicket and the  
dunny door for stumps.  
Now my old man would sit for hours, the smell  
would rot your socks,  
He read the daily back to front in that good old  
thunderbox.

And if by chance that nature called sometime

through the night,  
You always sent the dog in first, for there was no  
flamin' light.  
And the dunny seemed to be the place where  
crawlies liked to hide,  
But never ever showed themselves until you sat  
inside.

There was no such thing as Sorbent, no tissues  
there at all,  
Just squares of well-read newspaper, a hangin'  
on the wall.  
If you had some friendly neighbours, as  
neighbours sometimes are,  
You could sit and chat to them, if you left the  
door ajar..

When suddenly you got the urge, and down the  
track you fled,  
Then of course the magpies were there to peck  
you on your head.  
Then the time there was a wet, the rain it never  
stopped,  
If you had an urgent call, you ran between the  
drops.

The dunny man came once a week, to these  
buildings out the back,  
And he would leave an extra can, if you left for  
him a zac.  
For those of you who've no idea what I mean by  
a zac,  
Then you're too young to have ever had, a dunny  
out the back.

## Knitting & Crochet

Doing anything interesting? This was met with silence. So  
I asked them what exactly they were doing at the  
moment. These are their answers.

- trying to remember what I did last week

- I've just finished crocheting a tartan shawl. It  
got First prize at Berwick' Show recently. I  
worked out the Cameron tartan myself. It's  
for a special friend.
- crocheting a blanket in fluorescent colours
- learning the chain stitch
- challenging myself to crochet with the  
opposite hand
- making a peephole chevron blanket
- learning to read patterns by making sample  
squares which will go together to make a  
cushion cover
- using up my scraps
- knitting a green jumper
- making numerous tension swatches before  
making a vest for my husband
- seashore blanket
- up to No. 11 of 49 squares to be a pram cover
- knitting fine cotton socks for a doll
- making 10" (25cm) squares for Audrey  
Goldberg who takes them to another group  
every two months where they are assembled  
as blankets for the homeless

Such variety and yes they are all interesting  
projects and have a purpose. Come and join us. It  
is a teaching' class for beginners AND for those  
who already know how, it is inspirational and very  
social.

**Loraine Bishop / Margaret Sheffield**



## Members Voice

### In Memory of Bill Cooney

*We recently learned that Bill Cooney had sadly died. He left behind many wonderful memories and a lot of grateful students.*

*The article below is repeated from the November 2018 newsletter.*

***I will never forget this remarkable man who has devoted so much time and knowledge to helping so many other people along the way.***

For me, it all began in 2002 when I retired from work; I was looking for something to fill in my time and Photography sprang to mind. I joined the class that was tutored by Bill Cooney. I was a novice and didn't even have a camera. Wow, Bill showed us things that I did not think were possible - how did he change the sky in that photo?? It all just flew over my head at first, but after a few weeks, it all started to make sense and what he was telling me just fell into place.

But not only did Bill know all about Photography, he knew all about computers as well and this lovely man was only too happy to share with me. An example:

*"Bill, I'm having a problem with my computer, it won't do this or that." A couple of days later there was a knock on my door and there was Bill with his case, "Gary let's have a look at your computer" and 15 minutes later we would be at the table drinking coffee with the computer problem fixed.*

That is the kind of man that is Bill Cooney.

As time went by, a group of us would go for a day's drive somewhere and take photo's - then at class we would look at them and Bill gave us advice on how to improve that photo; eg. "Gary if you had taken 3 steps to your left you wouldn't have that bush in the photo" and he was always correct.

One of the things that I have admired about Bill is his recall and memory, whatever subject comes up, Bill knows the answer and for me I will never forget this

remarkable man who has devoted so much time and knowledge to helping so many other people along the way. Just think about the number of photos this man has taken for U3A. The displays he has put on and organized for the AGM etc. the list goes on and on.

It was with regret that I heard Bill tell his class that this will be his last year---- but it is now Bill's turn, and time for himself----but he won't be forgotten and we will keep in touch with him.

Thank you, Bill,

- not just from me,
- not just from your class,
- not just from the hundreds of former class members,

From everyone in the U3A Dandenong, thank you Bill from a very thankful.

**Gary Chirgwin**

**RIP BILL**

### Priceless!

*After reading this you may wish to develop your own response to organizations where their procedures irk you.*

*Below, is an actual letter that was sent to a bank by an 86-year-old woman. The bank manager thought it amusing enough to have it published in the New York Times.*

~

Dear Sir:

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my cheque with which I endeavored to pay my plumber last month.

By my calculations, three nanoseconds must have elapsed between his presenting the cheque and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honor it.



I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my entire pension, an arrangement which, I admit, has been in place for only eight years.

You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account \$30 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank.

My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways. I noticed that whereas I personally answer your telephone calls and letters, --- when I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, pre-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has become. From now on I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person.

My mortgage and loan repayments will therefore and hereafter no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank, by cheque, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank whom you must nominate. Be aware that it is an OFFENCE under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope.

Please find attached an Application Contact which I require your chosen employee to complete.

I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative.

Please note that all copies of his or her medical history must be countersigned by a Notary Public, and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof.

In due course, at MY convenience, I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me.

I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have modelled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your phone bank service.

As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Let me level the playing field even further.

When you call me, press buttons as follows:

IMMEDIATELY AFTER DIALING, PRESS THE STAR (\*) BUTTON FOR ENGLISH

- #1. To make an appointment to see me
- #2. To query a missing payment.
- #3. To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.
- #4 To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.
- #5. To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.
- #6. To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home.
- #7. To leave a message on my computer, a password to access my computer is required. Password will be communicated to you at a later date to that Authorized Contact mentioned earlier.
- #8. To return to the main menu and to listen to options 1 through 10
- #9. To make a general complaint or inquiry. The contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service.
- #10. This is a second reminder to press\* for English.

While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call.

Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement.

May I wish you a happy, if ever so slightly less prosperous New Year?

Your Humble Client

And remember:

Don't make old people mad. We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to piss us off.

**Diana Thurbon**

## Calendar & Timetable

|                       |  |  |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| <b>Mid-year Break</b> |  | Saturday, 27th June 2020 -<br>Sunday, 26th July 2020 |
|-----------------------|--|--|

|                                |                              |   |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Semester</b> |                              | Monday, 27th July 2020 - Friday,<br>27th November 2020                        |
| Mon                            | 27th July                    | Commencement of 2nd Semester  |
| Tues                           | 11 <sup>th</sup><br>August   | Committee Meeting   |
| Tues                           | 8 <sup>th</sup><br>September | Committee Meeting   |
| Mon                            | Oct.<br>(Seniors<br>Week)    | AGM & <u>1 day</u> Art & Craft Show - Date,<br>time & location to be advised. |
| Tues                           | 13 <sup>th</sup><br>October  | Committee Meeting   |

|      |                              |  |
|------|------------------------------|--|
| Wed  | 14th<br>October              | U3A Picnic, 12 noon start, Venue: To<br>be confirmed |
| Mon  | 2nd<br>November              | Newsletter - Submissions deadline                    |
| Tues | 10 <sup>th</sup><br>November | Committee Meeting                                    |
| Fri  | 27th<br>November             | End of Second Semester                               |

|                        |                             |   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Christmas Break</b> |                             |   |
| Mon                    | 27th<br>November            | U3A Xmas Lunch –<br>venue to be confirmed |
| Tues                   | 8 <sup>th</sup><br>December | Committee Meeting                         |

Given the current uncertainty as to when we will be able to return to classes, the planned timetable will not be published yet. Below are details of the online classes that are currently running.

| <b>TEMPORARY TIMETABLE - 2020</b> |               |                               |                |                            |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Day                               | Time          | Subject                       | Zoom Host      | Tutor                      |
| <b>Monday</b>                     | 10:00 - 12:00 | Current Affairs               | David Purdon   | Richard Ryan               |
|                                   | 1:15 - 3:15   | Computers - Win 10 Workshop   | Clive Gould    | Clive Gould                |
| <b>Tuesday</b>                    | 10:00 - 12:00 | Management Committee Meetings | David Purdon   | Vivienne Fernandes (Chair) |
| <b>Wednesday</b>                  |               |                               |                |                            |
| <b>Thursday</b>                   | 9:30 - 11:30  | Gardening                     | Jeanette Keane | Dick Raymond               |
| <b>Friday</b>                     | 12:30 - 1:30  | French Song & Culture         | Lap Lam (Lily) | Lap Lam (Lily)             |

The rules of the Association require that half (7) of the Management Committee stand down at the Annual General Meeting but are eligible for re-election. This rule applies only to those members elected at the Annual General Meeting and not those appointed by the Management Committee to replace members who have resigned. Those members appointed to replace elected members automatically stand down. This rotates from year to year so that all elected Committee Members would serve a maximum period of two years before seeking re-election.

Committee members elected at the last (25<sup>th</sup>) AGM will continue for a further year (2021):

**Ulrike Davies, Vivienne Fernandes, Henri Nicolas, Beryl Potter, Heather Seymour, Alan Stevenson and Barbara Walker.**

This year, members who have completed their two-year term and will be standing down are:

**Jim Archibald, Vera Bennett, Shirley Constantine, Audrey Goldberg, Michael Griffiths, David Nassau, Yvonne Toomey.**

In addition, **David Purdon** is standing down.

**There are seven (7) vacancies to be filled.**

If you wish to propose a member for the Management, please email [secretary@dandenongu3a.org.au](mailto:secretary@dandenongu3a.org.au) and provide:

- your name
- your seconder
- name of the person you are proposing (this can be yourself).
- confirmation that you have received their agreement to the proposal
- if applicable, preferred position on the committee

#### Notes

Proxies are *not* permitted.

- Persons nominating, seconding and standing for election must be financial members of the association for the year 2019/2020.
- You may nominate and/or second more than one candidate.

- Elections will only be held if the number of nominated candidates exceeds the number of vacancies on the Committee.
- If insufficient nominations are received to fill the vacancies, nominations will be received from the floor on the day of the Annual General Meeting and nominees will be elected on a “first come, first served” basis.

Nominations must be returned to the Secretary at least seven (7) days before the Annual General Meeting is to take place

The email proposal must be received by the Secretary at least seven (7) days prior to the Annual General Meeting i.e. 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

If **more than** the required number of Committee Members are submitted, a ballot will be held at the AGM.

If **exactly** the required number is submitted, then those members will be deemed to have been elected and no ballot will be held.

If **less than** the required numbers are submitted, the proposed members will be deemed to have been elected and further nominations will be taken from the floor. These nominations will be deemed to be elected on a “first come, first served” basis.

In the event that the required numbers are still not reached at the AGM, the remaining vacancies may be filled by appointment of the elected Management Committee. Committee positions are decided at the first meeting of the newly elected Management Committee.

Election of the Auditor will be carried out at the meeting where nominations may be made and seconded. If more than one person is nominated, a ballot will be held.

**ONLY CURRENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS WILL  
BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN ELECTIONS.**

*It is the intention of the Management Committee to hold the AGM in September and this notice is published accordingly. However, given the COVID19 restrictions, there may be last minute changes to the arrangements. Please check the Dandenong U3A web site for details.*

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Members are invited to attend the twenty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the Association on

**Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup> 2020 - 2.00 p.m.**

**at**

**Jan Wilson Centre**

**Halton Road, North Dandenong 3175**

***If Covid 19 Lockdown still applies the Arts Exhibition will be deferred & updated arrangements for the AGM will be advised.***

## AGENDA

- Item 1 Welcome by Chairperson
- Item 2 Apologies
- Item 3 Minutes of twenty-fourth Annual General Meeting
- Item 4 Matters arising
- Item 5 Annual Report – President
- Item 6 Financial Report – Treasurer
- Item 7 Election of Auditor\*
- Item 8 Election of Management Committee members \*
- Item 9 General Business

Close of meeting followed by

**Guest Speaker: Councillor Matthew Kirwin**

Light refreshments will be provided.

***Please support YOUR University of the Third Age by attending this important meeting.***

Please retain this agenda for use at the AGM

\* See "Notes on Election of management Committee"



Gabrielle Williams MP  
1/8-10 Halpin Way, Dandenong VIC 3175  
☎ 03 9793 2000  
✉ [gabrielle.williams@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:gabrielle.williams@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Gabrielle Williams is the Member of Parliament for the Dandenong electorate in the Victorian Parliament.

U3A Dandenong thanks Gabrielle Williams for the valuable assistance provided in the preparation of printed copies of this newsletter.



**U3A DANDENONG Inc.**

proudly supported by:



**Noble Park Football Club**





## Photo Page(s)



Our new group of Hikers (before the lockdown)



**Heather's Birthday  
and welcome smile!**



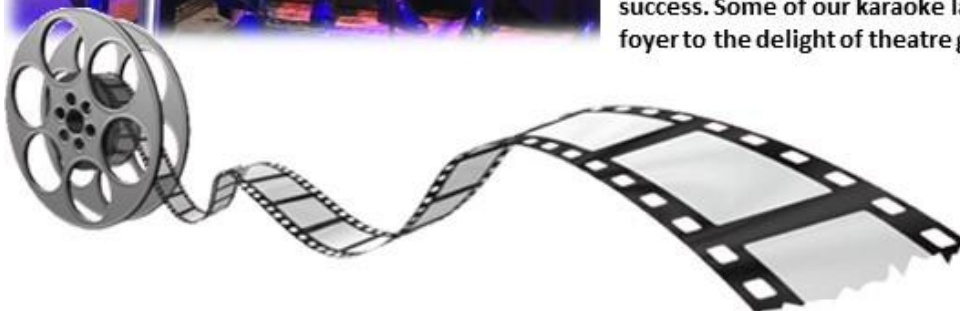
**Cyclists?  
or  
Coffee Drinkers?**

**Karaoke Singers**



**Current Affairs  
virtual Class**

The season launch for the Drum Theatre was a big success. Some of our karaoke ladies sang in the foyer to the delight of theatre goers.







Italian Class  
participate in the  
celebration of  
Carnevale.  
~  
February  
~  
'La Baracca Club'  
Heatherton





|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <br><b>Vivienne Fernandes</b><br><b>President</b>       | <br><b>Jim Archibald</b><br><b>Vice-President</b> | <br><b>David Purdon</b><br><b>Secretary &amp; Newsletter</b> | <br><b>Claudia Cespedes</b><br><b>Treasurer</b> |
| <br><b>Shirley Constantine</b><br><b>Life Member</b>    | <br><b>Jeanette Keane</b><br><b>Membership</b>    | <br><b>Raelene Curtis</b><br><b>Programme</b>                | <br><b>Beryl Potter</b><br><b>Social</b>        |
| <br><b>Rikki Davies</b><br><b>Health &amp; Safety</b> | <br><b>David Nassau</b><br><b>Web</b>           | <br><b>Alan Stevenson</b><br><b>Publicity</b>              | <br><b>Yvonne Toomey</b><br><b>Committee</b>  |
| <br><b>Heather Seymour</b><br><b>Committee</b>        | <p>Photo not available</p>   | <br><b>Management Committee</b><br><b>2019/2020</b>        |  |
|  | <b>Audrey Goldberg</b><br><b>Committee</b>   |  |  |