



U3A Dandenong Inc., Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18 Buckley Street, Noble Park, Vic. 3174.
 ☎ 03 9546 2997 ✉ enquiry@dandenongu3a.org.au 🌐 www.dandenongu3a.org.au ⓘ U3A Dandenong Inc.

U3A DANDENONG
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
ABN: 86 401 693 866

**Live
Learn
Enjoy**

Share your skills with others

Spend only the time you want to

Connecting with others

Staying Active

Fun without the cost

Feel Important

No educational necessities

Meet People

Like-minded citizens

Leave when it suits

Learn

Join when it suits

No exams

JOIN NOW!

👤 Visit group

Dandy Members are invited to visit our Private Members Chat Group

Membership Days

Probably early January
View our web site for
announcements

**Second Semester
Classes re-start
1st February 2021**

We are updating the look of our
Facebook Page





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Key Information & Contacts

Corporate Contact Information

 Telephone		03 9546 2997		
<div>note revised opening hours.</div>	Office Hours	Mon & Tues	1pm to 3pm	When classes are going
		Wed	CLOSED	
		Thurs	9:30am to 3pm	
		Fri	1pm to 3pm	
		<i>Not open on Wednesdays or Public Holidays</i>		
 Email				
Office		enquiry@dandenongu3a.org.au		
NEWS Contributions		news@dandenongu3a.org.au		
Web		http://www.dandenongu3a.org.au		
Facebook		Facebook.com/u3adandenonginc/		

Please note the revised opening hours.

Key Committee Contacts

Name	Position	email	Phone
Jeanette Keane	President	president@dandenongu3a.org.au	0438 799 411
	Membership	membership@dandenongu3a.org.au	
Janet Sephton	Secretary	secretary@dandenongu3a.org.au	0404 032 247
Claudia Cespedes	Treasurer	treasurer@dandenongu3a.org.au	0415 108 196
Raelene Curtis	Program	program@dandenongu3a.org.au	0409 850 119
Yvonne Toomey	Health&Safety	healthandsafety@dandenongu3a.org.au	0419 582 708
Alan Stevenson	Publicity	publicity@dandenongu3a.org.au	0431 527 077
David Nassau	Webmaster	webmaster@dandenongu3a.org.au	0423 778 753
Alan Beale	Office Manager	enquiry@dandenongu3a.org.au	0408 517 504

Meeting Venues

DMH	Dandenong Memorial Hall, 10 Langhorne St, Dandenong
EH Lib	Endeavour Hills Library, McMahon Blvd, Endeavour Hills
GPNS	Gloria Pyke Netball Centre, Bennet St, Dandenong
KSC	Keysborough Senior Citizens, 352 Cheltenham Rd, Keysborough
LEX	Lexington Gardens, 114 Westall Road, Springvale
OLN	Online Class
NBFC	Noble Park Football Club, 46/56 Moodemere St, Noble Park
POD	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18 Buckley St, Noble Park, Dandenong North
ROSS	Ross Reserve, 9 Memorial Dr, Noble Park
TIR	Tirhatuan Park - (Enter Kriegel Way) off Outlook Drive, Dandenong North
UCH	Uniting Church Hall, Birch Ave, Dandenong



President's Report



We had expected to open with President Heather's report. However, shortly after assuming the new office at the AGM, Heather has taken ill and so she has reluctantly stood down from all Committee duties. We look forward to seeing her again once she has had a chance to rest, recuperate and become fit and well again.

We wish Heather all the best and look forward to seeing the smiling face to which we have become accustomed. 😊😊😊

We are fortunate that Jeanette Keane has agreed to step into the role of President. The editor held a Q&A session with Jeanette which follows.



Jeanette Keane, President

1 When and why did you join U3A?

To have some companionship when cycling – had previously been a member for a short time in 2016 when working part time and enjoyed being part of the Friday cycling group. I re-joined at the start of my retirement in August 2019.

2 What do you like about U3A and which classes do you attend?

The people at U3A are all very friendly and the classes provide wonderful forums for spirited conversation on wide ranging topics

3 What is your background:

- ***Family?***
- ***Work? /Education?***
- ***Social?***

I have recently been researching my family tree and found a distinct lack of diversity, with them all from the UK arriving sometime around

the 1850's Even though that seems rather dull, there were a few interesting newspaper articles, documents and photos to make it worthwhile.

Like most I have worked for a few different companies, mainly in manufacturing companies with most of my career at BHP Steel at Westernport which become BlueScope Steel and most of the time in a Quality Assurance related role.

4 What U3A activities have you been involved in since the AGM?

I have been busy attending UMAS meetings, Dandenong U3A committee and project meetings, and participating in some of our U3A classes via zoom. Thank goodness for zoom. Some of my Network meetings were on the subject of Data Privacy and Security, an issue your U3A takes very seriously. You may not be aware, but our new data base and website are held in a cloud-based data server, now held in Australia. Dandenong U3A is required to comply with The Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) (PDP Act) and the associated Information Privacy Principles (IPPs). So, by using the UMAS which is embedded in our website, your personal information is safe. However, we can still improve some of the practices we use as individuals. For this reason, we are now looking at all our data privacy policies and procedures including office procedures and how data is stored and used by the committee, members and tutors. Be assured, Dandenong U3A is doing all it can to keep your personal information safe, however you too can do your bit by making sure your own computer is as safe as possible by having up-to-date virus protection software installed. It is also important that you allow your computer and phone to update

when prompted. We all need to be vigilant as scams are on the rise as more and more people use the internet.

5 What other challenges does U3AD face and what do you expect as President?

The main challenge we currently face is getting the finances under control. We have made significant changes with sourcing alternate venues which should result in sufficient cost savings. We also have the COVID-19 challenges:

- Ever changing requirements for cleaning and social distancing
- Members need to learn zoom in order to keep in contact.

6 What support do you seek from members?

1. We really need a member to assist us in sourcing grants and donations and to co-ordinate fundraising activities. We can use the funds raised to provide more computer equipment and enable combined zoom and face to face classes so that members who can no longer get to classes can still participate online.
2. We still need more members to volunteer to man the office. It is a great opportunity to meet and greet new members and have a chat to existing members as they go to and from classes.

7 What goals do you have for U3A Dandenong?

1. Get Dandenong U3A back to face to face classes and introduce combined face to face and zoom classes.
2. Help members to overcome computer challenges by:
 - a. Providing training/guidance in the use of computers and specific applications such as zoom

- b. Enable all members to have the choice of attending classes remotely (generally, at home) or in person – enabling those members to interact socially even when unable to travel.
3. U3A Dandenong participating in the in the network project to set up network-wide zoom classes – providing members with a wider range of classes in which to participate.

8 What are your priorities?

1. Get members accustomed to the new UMAS system so that members can update their own details and enrol and pay memberships.
2. Be connected / social seniors' programs to assist members in learning more about computers and their possibilities for connecting with others
3. Improving communications to members. COVID-19 has highlighted difficulties in communicating to those without an email address.
4. Encouraging others to participate in the running of DU3A. A small commitment from many members will reduce the workload that currently falls on our few volunteers.

AGM



This was our first ever zoom AGM and we did it pretty well!

We sent emails to our members to inform them of the meeting. With close to 400 members on our list, some 25% did not have valid email addresses. We encouraged those with email addresses to contact others that did not have them. Our President (last year's) Vivienne phoned around 100 numbers. She got through to lots but there were some who must have had out-of-date phone numbers. (This serves as a reminder to our members – when you renew your membership early next year check with us that your information details are correct). Our Membership Coordinator, Jeanette Keane got on her bike and delivered to many people who lived near her.

We ended up with 59 people nominating proxies and 44 attending. This meant 103 members were represented and this was very similar to the previous year.

Over a third of our members responded to the AGM notice and that was a good result.

Instead of a crowded hall, we could scroll through more than one screen to view all the participants. All had been asked to mute their microphone so it was a quiet affair but they could send messages/questions to the hosts via the zoom chat facility.

When it came to voting we used the zoom polling facility and so it was easy for the participants to select YES or NO and for the hosts to view the results. It would have taken a little bit more work if we had some close results as the proxy votes would then need to be added. However, we only had a single NO vote on any issue for the day so that challenge did not present itself.



At most AGM's we have spent a lot of time reporting on the previous year's affairs. This year, Vivienne had requested that we put together an Annual Report and publish it on the website. This meant that everyone had plenty of time to check our updates before the day.

Hopefully you have already read the Annual Report but if not please check out via this [LINK](#) (if you are reading this newsletter online).

We have implemented many administrative efficiencies and we have achieved a balanced budget. Next year the focus must be on expanding membership and increasing income through grants and sponsorship.

Our guest speaker, Councillor Matthew Kirwan spoke on the subject of ***leadership in the community***.



He encourages participation in the community. His early days in the scouting movement left an imprint for life – value of citizenship, community service and a sense of place.

The traditional hierarchical view of leadership holds our communities back. The model adopted by Matthew sprung from a course:

- “Opening Doors – A Community Leadership Program for Social Inclusion”. This course focussed on a model known as Servant Leadership which is about the opportunity to serve others. This model:
 - Sees leadership as an opportunity to serve others
 - Shares power and control to drive engagement
 - Measures success through growth and development
 - Listens
 - Understands it’s not about them

Matthew is a big advocate for U3A and states that it is essential to Greater Dandenong:

- Provides learning opportunities
- Reduces social isolation
- Builds a cohesive community

As such, all members are encouraged to think about becoming a leader in U3A whether on the Committee or in a support role.

Clive Gould, was announced as the winner the of Kevin McIntyre Award for his hard work and dedication to Dandenong U3A.



The ‘elections’ were the final event of the AGM. As seems to be the norm, there were no votes as no position attracted more than one candidate. We welcome one new member to the Committee with Janet Sephton now taking on the role of secretary. The new committee:

President	Heather Seymour
Secretary	Janet Sephton
Treasurer	Claudia Cespedes
Membership	Jeanette Keane
Program	Raelene Curtis
Health & Safety	Yvonne Toomey
Publicity	Alan Stevenson
Webmaster	David Nassau

As advised elsewhere in this newsletter, Heather has stepped down and **Jeanette Keane** has accepted the role.

In addition, we also welcome to those members who volunteered to provide support:

- Social – Dorothea Kassell
- Newsletter & Facebook – David Purdon
- Network – Marge Angelucci
- Office
 - Alan Beale (Office Manager)
 - Janet Nichols
 - Evelyn Beaucasin
 - Vivienne Fernandes
 - Jeanette Keane
 - Yvonne Toomey

The AGM closed with a short video of the Australian landscape to the accompaniment of the song “I am Australian” by the Seekers.

From the office:

New Dandenong U3A website

The new Dandenong U3A website was launched prior to the AGM. From the new website you can see lots of information about Dandy U3A activities. You will be able to join, have your own log on and password so that you can securely check and edit your membership

details, pay your subs and enrol in classes. Further details below in Membership Renewal and Course Enrolment.

You can also find:

- Details on the courses/activities available
- Lots of resources for Dandenong U3A members, tutors and volunteers – and more are being added as they are developed,
- Copies of newsletters and member announcements

Our new Facebook Page

We are currently making some changes to our Facebook page.

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**Live
Learn
Enjoy**

Share your skills with others
 Fun without the cost
 Feel Important
 Like-minded citizens
 Spend only the time you want to
 No educational necessities
 Leave when it suits
 Connecting with others
 Meet People
 Stay Active
 Learn
 Join when it suits
 No exams

JOIN NOW!

Visit group Dandy Members are invited to visit our Private Members Chat Group

As we would like the focus of the page to attract new members the page photo is now a copy of membership flyer – see above. There are

links to our service offerings (courses) and to the website. We have also added tags that should result in more random searches landing on our page.

The intention is that we will feature posts that are focussed on attracting new members.

Our new Facebook Private Members Group



We have also created a new Facebook group which can only be seen by U3A Dandenong Members. You are invited to join this group. Click on the Visit Group button or send an email to socialmedia@dandenongu3a.org.au to request membership or assistance.

Note: You must have a personal Facebook account to be able to join the Dandy Members Private Facebook Group.

Once a member of this group you can enjoy discussion knowing that it can only be seen by U3A Members of the group. Use this channel to promote ideas for U3A 😊.

David Purdon/ Social Media Co-ordinator

Membership Renewal & Course Enrolment

You are all probably wondering how and when you renew your membership. As we previously advised the membership for all was extended without additional charge until classes could start again.

Our new Member Administration System enables members to renew online and guidance is provided below.

Alternatively, you can attend an enrolment session at the Gloria Pyke Netball Centre (date and timing to be advised). Additional information follows.

Online Membership Renewal

On our website we have a login menu (found at far right of the menu bar). When you select “Existing Member Login” you can login, and when enabled, be able to enrol in courses and pay membership fees.

Note 1 - On your first attempt to login you need to use the *forgot password* option to enable you to set up your password. Your member number is shown in the first line of the email announcing the availability of this newsletter.

Note 2 – Enrolments / membership payments have not been enabled yet as course timetable is still being finalised. An email will be sent when enrolments and membership fee payment system has been enabled. Our new computer system requires that the membership fee is paid before enrolment for any courses/activities is accepted.

Note 3 – Due to COVID-19 room number restrictions, you may, when enrolling, be “wait listed” for some courses/ activities. If adjustments to the frequency of courses or if numbers of people allowed in each room

is increased, then those on the wait list will receive priority in being added to the course/activity.

We are expecting to have to run some weekly courses in two halves on alternating weeks. For courses where we anticipate that may happen, the course will be scheduled to run the 1st and 3rd week of the month. When the course is full, new enrolments will be wait-listed. Depending on the number wait listed I may add a course for the 2nd and 4th weeks. If this happens, members who have enrolled or wait listed will be asked for preference as to which week they want to attend and enrolments adjusted if required. If the course is not oversubscribed, the 2nd and 4th weeks will be added to the schedule so that members can attend each week.

Enrolment Sessions

Since this is a new online system, some members will prefer to receive assistance and others will require assistance as they do not have internet access so there will be scheduled membership / enrolment days at the Gloria Pyke Netball Centre (details will be advised nearer the time). We will show members how we use our new computer system to process the membership fee payment. It is also a great opportunity to ensure that we are holding correct details for you. Notification will be sent out when the dates for enrolment have been scheduled.

At this stage we fully expect to return for the next semester commencing Monday 1st February, 2021.

Jeanette Keane

Two Exciting New Programs

Be Connected

U3A Dandenong became part of the Be Connected Partner Network when we received a grant of \$2,200 earlier this year. It is an Australian Government initiative to empower us to thrive in the digital world. We are offered support and resources to enable us to develop our digital skills with confidence. As part of the grant we are required to train our members to use digital technology. This has been relevant in our current social distancing environment.

U3A has purchased four iPads with the grant. These will be a welcome addition to the PCs we currently have. We are offering our members a course of four weeks from February 2021 at Paddy O'Donoghue Centre (in the belief that the centre will be open for classes). The course can be run from absolute basics for those not familiar with computers or other devices to more advanced material. The class will be run on Tuesdays, from 1.15 – 3.15 pm. Participants will be shown how to use available information. Following the short course, we intend to move to online support for those who need assistance. A quick assessment will be made prior to the start of the course to ascertain what topics are covered for individuals, so that they are aimed for maximum benefit.

For further information or to register, please contact Vivienne Fernandes at vivfernandes3@gmail.com or 0457 096 566.

Social Seniors Network

This is another short new 6-week program we are offering our members over Summer. The aim is to enable you to make the most of your digital devices and build your confidence. What would you like to use it for? Network will provide a facilitator for us to work with. This program is supported by the Department of Health & Human Services, Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria, Public Libraries of Victoria and Telstra. (Please refer to the flyer, attached)

Following the short course and evaluation, our intention is to take it to the wider community through the local Library in 2021. Discussions are ongoing

For registration and more information, please contact Vivienne Fernandes at vivfernandes3@gmail.com or 0457 096 566.

What is the social seniors program?

While our members are socially distanced, they can participate in the Social Seniors program which will provide us with an opportunity to extend our digital skills, broaden social networks, share stories creatively, and connect with people on social media.

Social Seniors program comprises of three (3) workshops over six (6) sessions delivered over six (6) weeks.

It will introduce members to a range of simple tools that can be used to produce short films on mobile devices and share stories with people who have similar interests.

As well as sharing 'digital stories' and discovering social opportunities, the program will help members address any concerns they may have around online privacy, safety and security.



Members do not need to have extensive online experience – just a willingness to learn!

INTEREST GROUPS WHO HAVE SHOWN MOST INTEREST IN THE SOCIAL SENIORS PROGRAM

Network experience is that members with the following interests have been more interested in participating in the Social Seniors program:

- Using social media to connect with each other (family and friends)
- Genealogy / family history
- Local history
- Creative writing
- Photography
- Walking groups
- Preparing "this is your life" presentation for milestone family events and eulogies

Whittlesea U3A has agreed to lead the facilitation of the social senior's program and in conjunction with other Member U3As participating in the 2020 BCE program have assembled a panel of facilitator / mentors that can deliver a Social Seniors program in our U3A.

SOCIAL SENIORS PROGRAM TOPICS
(commencing December 2020 – January 2021)

Workshop 1 Introduction to social media and digital storytelling
 Session 1 (Week 1 of Program)

- Introduction to the program and the basic social media tools for communications and participation (including use of the ZOOM app)

Session 2 (Week 2 of Program)

- Process of developing a short video or “digital story”

Workshop 2 Engaging with social media groups and digital storytelling

Session 1 (Week 3 of Program)

- How to find and connect with Facebook groups with similar interests and introduction to basic digital video editing

Session 2 (Week 4 of Program)

- Edit mobile footage into a proper short film using FilmoraGo

Workshop 3 Finalising digital stories and sharing online

Session 1 (Week 5 of Program)

- Complete the editing of your digital story in FilmoraGo incorporating text and voiceover into videos

Session 2 (Week 6 of Program)

- Review your digital story and complete upload to Facebook group and Living History Collections

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE SOCIAL SENIORS PROGRAM
FUNDING CONTRIBUTION

For each group of members from our U3A who participate in the Social Seniors program an amount of \$200 per group is available to offset any expenses incurred through promoting the social senior’s program. The amount will be payable after confirmation of receipt of a completed online evaluation by the participants in the program.

We are encouraging our U3A members to consider joining and improving their digital skills.

For more information and registration, please contact Vivienne Fernandes at vivfernandes3@gmail.com

Program report.

Hello all, I hope you have all been surviving well over lockdown and looking forward to getting back to face to face classes. I have been kept busy developing the time table and speaking with or emailing all our tutors. We have had a few who have had some medical problems and hope to be able to return by next year. We send out a get well soon to Rita Romano, Judith Talanoa and Heather Seymour.

Zoom has been active during lock down and some classes will continue to use this method of delivery next year, especially French and Chinese. Watch out for some exciting new computer classes during the coming

year to extend yourself, especially those who have not used computers previously

Raelene Curtis

SEEKING A PERSON TO LEAD UP OUR TAI CHI CLASS

If you have previous experience in Tai Chi this may be just for you.

Classes will be at the Gloria Pyke Netball Stadium on Thursdays between 10:30 and 11:30, provided we can secure a tutor.

The above is negotiable if it doesn't suit.

If you are willing to run this class please contact Raelene, at program@dandenongu3a.org.au or phone 0409 850 119

no actual class attendance, participants are given detailed, self-paced course notes, and take part in a one-hour, virtual tutorial by ZOOM. During lockdown, some twenty U3A members have attended, or are attending, this class.

Alan Stevenson

Exercise

Cycling



We have articles from two of our regular riders:

- Marg Edwards - Cycling through the constraints of the COVID crisis
- Steve Morris – The *Virtual* Ride

Marg Edwards has written this first article and published in both Dandenong and Casey U3A newsletters. These two articles are a great representation of our cycle activity during lockdown.

Class Updates

Computer

Using PowerPoint ZOOM Class

U3A members in this class learn to create multimedia presentations using Microsoft PowerPoint. At the end of this ten-week course, participants will be able to create and show slides to support a presentation. They can combine text, graphics, and photos to create presentations of, for instance, their travels or even life stories. There is



Cycling through the constraints of the COVID crisis

July 2020

Having ridden a *pushbike* for many decades, I was delighted to receive a surprise gift of an *e-bike* for a significant birthday last September.

Little did I then realise, how important a part it would come to play in my ability to navigate through the challenges that the 2020 pandemic has thrown at us all.

In the past 4 months I have *sailed* my way on "The White Cloud" enjoying well over a thousand kilometres of local exploration.

Berwick still has some lovely pockets of land that haven't been lost to development. Just north of the village is a road which resembles an English country lane, if not quite the Devon I remember!

It was glorious in autumn and I look forward to enjoying what it offers in spring, but now in the dead of winter the stark branches of huge old oaks and elms silhouette the intense green of the rolling paddocks. On a clear day there are views across to Western Port Bay.

I love to ride to Upper Beaconsfield via Payne or O'Neil Roads and down Li Road (what a strange name!) to Brown's Road Officer. The Russo's Orchard, just along a bit, has a welcoming store with fresh produce and of course the delicious Apple Cider that they produce.

There is an excellent wood fired pizza for take - away from D'Angelo's Estate nearby. You won't find anything better this side of Napoli!

A trip up Hessel Road in Narre Warren leads to the old Harkaway

Cemetery which still has an ancient wooden bell tower (though it may have been a fire bell, I don't know the history). From this vantage point under the power lines there is a view all the way to the city. Harkaway too, is a lovely place to ride with long dirt roads and some large properties with imposing entrances which I'm tempted to enter.

Over these past months I have explored in all directions of the compass from central Berwick and discovered many lovely areas for cycling. I am impressed by the planning of new estates that has ensured many walking/cycling paths and links between cul-de-sacs. There is a feature in many of these housing estates of waterways, ponding and retarding basins, and a system of paths and bridges which add a wonderful place for passive and active recreation, as well as birdlife and native vegetation.

In the words of Mulga Bill, (AB Paterson) "riding is my special gift, my chiefest soul delight ". It is something I look forward to almost every day, weather permitting, and has helped me through these Covid times.

It gives me the freedom to travel where I wish, unimpeded by the latest Government lockdown rules, provides exercise, fresh air, an opportunity to marvel at the beauty around and rejuvenates me when I feel down about the current state of our world,

What a life- saver that surprise birthday present has been!

Margaret Edwards



The Virtual Ride

Following the suspension of the U3A Dandy Riders activities owing to COVID-19 restrictions, I was looking for some motivational ideas to keep me riding throughout winter. It came in the form of a challenge from my Canadian grandchildren to undertake a Virtual Camino Trail challenge which they as a family had recently commenced.

The actual Camino Trail is an ancient pilgrimage of 774 km beginning in France to the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in north western Spain.

Challenge accepted.

In this virtual challenge, your progress can be walking, running, cycling, rowing, skiing, swimming etc. You record your distances onto a website which tracks your progress and then forwards 'postcards' of villages and towns on the route with a photo and some local history, geography and industry etc.

I completed the Camino challenge and quickly moved on to the Virtual Lands End to John O'Groats challenge of 1744km. About this time, the 5km/1-hour exercise limit was introduced which severely limited the daily distance possibility but I overcame this by riding at least 6 days a week. I have to say it's a bit monotonous riding the same loop every day. Eventually I made it to the top of Scotland. When the time limit was increased to 2 hours, I signed up for the Virtual Route 66 - from Chicago to Los Angeles. Only 3670km. I estimate it will take me until February next year to complete.

NOVEMBER 2020 V1

If anyone is interested, plenty of shorter options to choose from, you can even do a Virtual Great Ocean Road challenge.

Steve Morris

Tai-Chi and Exercise class

The few weeks before the lockdown due to the pandemic both classes were fulfilling and fun. We managed to hang on until the last day although some members started feeling the anxiety of this unwelcome event that affects our health.

So, before we parted for the uncertainty, I was able to share with them one of the quotes from Martin Luther King. It goes like this:

If You Can't Fly Then Run,

If You Can't Run Then Walk,

If You Can't Walk Then Crawl,

but Whatever You Do You Have to Keep Moving Forward.

I'm hoping this will give them motivation to remain active. With my classes there is plenty of access thru the internet to continue doing what we were doing. I'm very positive that somehow everyone is helping themselves to be active and healthy. Looking forward to meet you all again when it is safe for us to do so.

Lolita Briones

History

Decisive Battles of History Class

(Mondays at 12:00 – 1:30PM)

Presenters: Richard Ryan and David Nassau

The main objectives of our classes are:

- To understand the circumstances which led to the battles
- The major characters involved
- The economic, political as well as social conditions which led to these conflicts.

We provided PowerPoint presentations with graphics outlining the course of battles and sometimes brought in dioramas which were models representing a scene with three-dimensional figures in miniature to show the battles terrain and strategies. The outcomes were discussed in a fun and friendly atmosphere.

This class reminds us of these turning points in history which have, in many ways, made our present what it is today. We reviewed the Persian - Greek conflicts of around 460 BC and were starting on the new focus of the Napoleonic Wars and the American Civil Wars.

An attempt to continue the course on-line was made in April by asking the class members:

“How many of you are familiar with the computer application “Zoom”?”

If enough of you are familiar with such technology, do you think it is worthwhile starting to have our classes resume on line?

It would be a challenge that I am willing to try as I could share my computer screen with you and projecting the images I would normally project on the overhead screen.

Could you get back to me so that we can get an indication?”

After receiving several responses, I had to reply:

“Although the responses were positive, it does not seem enough of the class can manage the technology.”

I am attempting to progress this on-line offering of video courses with the U3A network representative Chris Charalambous and have approached Microsoft, Google Cloud Team, Zoom, VentralP, Squarespace and Canadian Learning Code for help. Perhaps we can try again next year?

David Nassau

Hobbies

Gardening

This has been a very difficult year for the Gardening Group, as I am sure it has been for all groups, as we rely on personal contact with members bringing cuttings, seedlings and seeds etc. for discussion and sharing between members.

As many of our members do not have internet access or are loathe to join Zoom meetings for whatever reasons, we have tried to keep in

touch during this time and passed on messages and news to and from others who have been unable to join in.

We have had four new members join during this lockdown period, using Zoom, who have provided us with new and valuable ideas and enthusiasm. Welcome and thanks to Trish, Lina, Charmaine and Vera T.

We must thank Jeanette for her wonderful assistance in setting up the Zoom meetings and her tolerance in dealing with those of us with less computer skills. Several of us double up in Clive's Windows 10 class which has been of great assistance when accessing garden photos from our phones, tablets and computers to share and discuss with other members during our meetings.

As most are aware, we normally hold a plant sale at the AGM, which of course was not possible this year, but it should ensure that plants prepared for sale this year will be so much more developed by next year, along with new cuttings propagated once we get back to normal, should provide a bumper sale next year.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their support and assistance, and as I said at the start it has been a difficult year all round and hopefully, we can look forward to catching up and a return to normal in the new year.

Dick Raymond

Language

Spanish

Greetings to all U3A Dandenong members. I hope you are all keeping well.

Our Spanish class have been working very hard on a variety of tasks, including grammar, spelling, reading comprehension and pronunciation.

I have remained in contact with each student using WhatsApp, Face Time, phone calls, emails and Zoom. I would like to thank everybody for their continuous assistance and enthusiasm.

Vivienne Fernandes has created a Zoom and a WhatsApp Social Spanish Group and we have had delightful conversations on topics, such as "My Favourite Dish" and "My Favourite flowers" and "Christmas in our Countries". Thanks, Vivienne, for your assistance in maintaining our group together.

On the 20th April, 2020 the Spanish Class met at Latham Crescent Park. We followed the health department's instructions and we all kept our social distance. It was lovely to once again see each other and be able to share our experiences during this difficult time.

Before lockdown commenced, John Brassachio created a walking group at Tirhatuan Park, where a few of us met on Thursdays. We also enjoyed a cup of coffee, followed by a great conversation. Thank you, John, it was a brilliant idea and we will resume this activity as soon as we can.

Unfortunately, also due to COVID-19, we have also had to cancel our trip to South America.

Thanks to all my fantastic students of the Spanish Class, they have never lost interest nor enthusiasm in learning this beautiful language. I am sure when we be able to continue our classes will be with the

same commitment and enjoyment. I wish everybody good health.

Gloria Skalicka

Life

Current Affairs

Our classes have been on zoom for the Winter Semester.

I have named it Winter semester as I get very confused with the semester numbering. We normally pay our annual membership fee and then start with semester two. I would love to see this change as my OCD tendencies make it hard for me to handle this apparent lack of logic 🤪

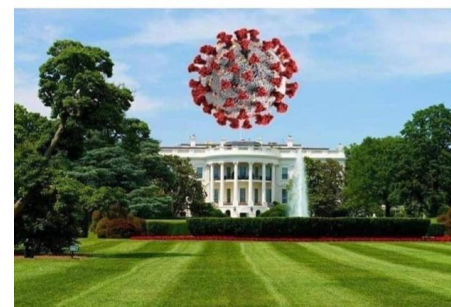
We meet and greet much as we would in the classroom with a series of informal chats before we get started. First up, we watch a funny video just to get us all in the right frame of mind. After that it is straight into the serious stuff. We have a broad range of discussion subjects including:

- Refugees
- Trumps' Tax Payments
- Trump's Rules of Debate
- Google & Microsoft vs our local newspapers
- Confidentiality of the Confession
- How America Compares

- Are the Chinese leaving us in the dust?
- China rejects push to strip Beijing of Winter Olympics over human rights concerns
- The ABC – Funding – Political Bias
- A new era in Australian manufacturing
- Future Fuels
- Trade Unions
- Climate Change
- Fire Shield
- Mandatory Vaccines

..... and many, many more 🙈🙈🙈

One Flu Over the Cuckoo's Nest



There is always something to say about Donald Trump (though he clearly lacks support from Australians). When he loses office (fingers crossed) we will need to find a new subject.

Of course, COVID-19 needs to be discussed. Most of our participants recognised that drastic action was required and praised the leadership of our State Premier though frustration has been growing as the days became week and then months. The covidiot's have been slammed for their self-indulgent, self-righteous attitudes. These people claim that they are entitled to their individual freedom but do not recognise that community needs override the expectations of the individual. Sad 😞

When you talk a lot your get a dry mouth so half way through our 2-hour session we take a 10-minute coffee-break before returning to the serious discussion,



Most participants are back within a couple of minutes to share another informal chat before discussion restarts.

When it is time to close, a music video is played – frequently based on zoom get togethers of the musicians. Those who attended the AGM would have seen one of the videos we have played featuring the ABC version of “I am Australian” merging into the original Seekers song presented alongside Australian landscape scenes.

This class is informative, social and fun. It meets the U3A expectation:

LIVE~LEARN~ENJOY

David Purdon

Online Courses



Why bother with online?

We have spent months looking forward to the day that we could be with each other again and how wonderful it was when the restrictions were finally lifted in late October.

Nice as it is to see my family on a screen it cannot replace being with them. However, the time apart would have been so much worse but for modern technology.

Those who have embraced the technology have reaped benefits. I have been pleased to host the Current Affairs class. There have been fewer participants than usual but still around 10 each week. We do see each other face to face and chat just like normal, but different. Some of our members who live alone have emphasized how important it is for them. One member told me that she had difficulty switching on a light bulb but she coped very quickly with clicking the link and joining the zoom meeting.

Loneliness increases the risk of a variety of health issues, from depression to heart disease and dementia. This makes it all the more important to use social connections. The ability to foster them digitally is a saving grace. U3A Dandenong is currently looking at the best options to ensure that more of our membership are given basic training that enables them to make use of the digital world.

It isn't the same as seeing people in person, but it is a clever way to use technology to your advantage in this situation.

David Purdon

U3A Online

As so many of us have become used to working online you may wish to check out the offering from U3A online

(This content is extracted from <https://www.u3aonline.org.au/>)

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The U3A Online project is the initiative of a group of U3A enthusiasts. It was originally funded for one year by the Australian Government as a project for the United Nations International Year of Older Persons in 1999.

U3A Online provides short courses for older people who enjoy learning but prefer the freedom to study where and when they choose.

Courses are open to all older people, or younger disabled people, anywhere in the world. They are especially suited to older members of the community who are isolated either geographically, or through physical or social circumstances.

U3A Online provides other services too. They support U3As from anywhere in exchanging ideas, resources and information through their website, and encourage older people to harness the internet's seemingly unlimited educational potential. Courses are available to U3As and other related organisations for face-to-face teaching via a site licence agreement. Retirement villages and Aged Care facilities are also able to access the courses under site licence after taking out an organisation membership.

Individual membership of U3A Online costs \$30 per year from the date you join and once a member you are able to enrol in as many courses as you wish, as Independent study, without further cost, throughout your membership period. If you want to do a course with a Course Leader (when they are available) then you need to pay an additional \$5 for that course.

You can also participate in the social forums in the Members' Lounge and other member based online activities.

World Affairs and History

[Australian History 1: Prior to Federation](#)

[Australian History 2: Post Federation](#)

[British Society in the Early 18th Century](#)

[China in Transition: From Mao to Now \(2011\)](#)

[Domestic History](#)

[Droving and Herding around the World](#)

[History of Castles](#)

[History of Espionage 2](#)

[History of Espionage 1](#)

[Kings and Queens of England](#)

[Left, Right or Centre: A very brief Introduction to Political Ideologies](#)

[Property to Partner - A history of women's struggle for equality](#)

[Religions of the World](#)

[Renaissance Italy](#)

[The Battle for Australia 1942-43](#)

[The Great Transformation](#)

World Affairs and History

[History of Espionage 3](#)

[The Romans](#)

[History of Espionage 4](#)

[The Shakespearean Canon Mystery](#)

LifeStyle

[The Story of Science 1 - The Emergence of Natural Philosophy](#)

LifeStyle

[Ageing and Retirement](#)

[Play Ukulele by Ear](#)

[Design in Your Life](#)

[Practical Psychology for Relationships](#)

[Food for Thought](#)

[The Shaping of the Modern Mind](#)

[Introduction to IT Skills](#)

[Thoreau Emerson and the Conduct of Life](#)

[Introduction to Western Philosophy](#)

[Towards Utopia](#)

[Maintaining Independence](#)

[Train Your Brain](#)

[Myths and Legends](#)

[What is Wisdom?](#)

[Photography - Improving Your Camera Skills](#)

Nature

[Antarctica](#)

[Continents on the Move](#)

[Australian Flora](#)

[Saving the Soil](#)

[Botany: The Study of Plants for Enjoyment](#)

Writing and Creativity

[A B \(Banjo\) Paterson - A study of his works, life and times](#)

[Shakespeare: Rediscovering the Bard](#)

[Autobiography and Journaling](#)

[Skills for Using the Media](#)

[Basic English Grammar](#)

[Storytelling with Pictures](#)

[English Poetry from Chaucer to Ted Hughes](#)

[The History and Spread of the English Language](#)

[Genealogy Online](#)

[The History of Mystery](#)

[Henry Lawson - A study of his Work, Life and Times](#)

[Unleashing your Creative Spirit](#)

[My Life Story](#)

[Writing Family History](#)

[Shakespeare's Histories](#)

[Writing for Pleasure](#)

Science

[Astronomy](#)

[The Story of Science 2 - The Science Disciplines](#)

[Climate Change](#)

[Resources for the Future - Renewable and Non-Polluting](#)

[Human Biology](#)

[The Dinosaurs](#)

[Maths - Number Theory](#)

[The Evolution of life on Planet Earth](#)

[The Night Sky](#)

[The Story of Science 3 - The Physical Sciences since 1800](#)

[The Northern Sky](#)

[The Story of Science 4 - Astronomy and the Behavioural Sciences since 1800](#)

Zoom French & Zoom Singing

I can't remember the exact date - probably March, I received an email from David Purdon, about introducing a zoom meeting. Together with a group of friends we have embarked on a *no return zoom* boat.

We are doing very well with 3 classes:

- Beginner French (Includes members from Casey U3A)
- French Singing
- Chinese Singing

In order to be successful in zoom, we have to feel that we are having a *cup of coffee* together. In our classes, the participants have many laughs. On one occasion when I got hiccups everyone else enjoyed great laughter.

My presentations are evolving, as I use more and more features of zoom:

- PowerPoint
- Various views – Gallery, Individual view
- Chat function
- Changing host
- Video recording
- YouTube presentations

Prior to the confinement, the French singing was done at Lexington Gardens with 5 to 6 people. Using zoom, we have grown to 12. In fact, I

prefer the zoom mode for lessons sharing French songs – no need to travel - no need to wait for others to finish their lessons.

Zoom is my territory.

As a group, we have taken advantage of the confinement to have fun with new friendships and new learning.

Lily Lam



Lily and her group have decided that zoom is a more practical way to hold these classes and so they will NOT return to the physical classroom but be stay on zoom.

Members Voice

We will all be back together in the New Year

I am very pleased that the Zoom meetings have been successful but I think about the many lovely friends that I have met through U3A, and I think about how important it is for those people, e.g. for those without the knowledge or computer, who rely on going to the meetings and chatting to other people--in other words, the importance of U3a to meet and enjoy other people face to face and enjoy a coffee and a biscuit - that's what U3A is about.

Myself, I have kept myself busy, first by walking my dog every day and waving to other people walking about (but keeping a safe distance as well). Next, I have been working on my photos with the skill I have learnt over the years in Bill Cooney's photography class, and also renewing and upgrading of some of my Proshows (the showing of my

venture productions with photos and music) such as England and Scandinavia.

These things have kept body and mind active over the last 6 months--- and the thing that keeps me going is the positive knowledge that we will all be back together in the New Year. 📍🌸🌻🎉

Gary Chirgwin

This bug has ripped the heart out of most activities

There is real a vacant page for the history, especially the ancient part that has come to an end for this year at least. The only activity I am engaged in regards U3A is the zoom class created by David Purdon who has arranged some interaction with members of the current affairs class. This bug has ripped the heart out of most activities.

Cycling, I am riding alone in the limited range and time available. 😞

Richard Ryan

Week 7 Covid 19 Pandemic Lockdown

[26th September 2020 - Lorraine Bishop]

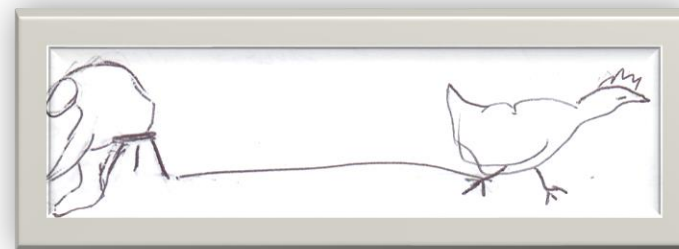
I am like a husband to my three chooks (*animal husbandry takes care of them and does what is best for them*).

- They free range in my whole backyard with no restrictions.
- They have continual access to water, feed and shelter with an occasional treat.
- They take naps, sunbake, enjoy dust baths and take refuge from the heat in the shade of the lemon tree.

- As there is no grass left, they pick fennel through the wire protective guard.
- They give me an egg every 26 hours to say, *thank you*.

When I weed the front yard, I take each one in turn with me. As it is too dangerous to let them free range, I restrict them using a leg-rope (cord) which is two metres long and attached to the leg of my 3-legged stool on which I sit when weeding.

The reactions by different chooks, makes me think of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020 the people of Victoria have been deprived of their freedom and are restricted by what they normally do, for a short period of time, for their long-term benefit.



Bert didn't like being taken to the front yard and tied up. For 45 minutes she continually pulled away and pecked at the knot on her leg-rope. Freckles did the same, but after a few days gave up pulling and has become used to it but still protests for half the time.



Top Deck on the other hand, didn't like the leg-rope either, but soon accepted the situation and made the most of her circumstances. She discovered new things to do such as search and find worms, insects, fresh green pickings with lots of exercise by scratching. When she became alarmed or frightened, (by passing dogs or noisy delivery vans) she ran back close to me or between my legs for protection. Once she accidentally slipped her leg-rope and didn't realise it but she still stayed close to me. Extra blessings such as people stop to talk to her and take her photo. One child called out, "Look Mummy, there's a farm." She's a star attraction. who needs Facebook!

We have a choice. We can protest like my chooks before being allowed to return to our freedom or adapt. Whenever we are afraid, we can always run to God for comfort and protection. Part of Psalm 91 says "He who dwells in the shelter of the *Most High* will rest in the shadow of the Almighty." Read, know and trust His Word - the Holy Bible.

Lorraine Bishop

Hello Everyone at U3A Greater Dandenong

I have been attending U3A classes for several years now and really enjoy the involvement and all the people I've met.

I have attended Philosophy, French, Singing and lately the Hiking group. I could not attend all of these on zoom but I was able to catch up with a couple of group members by walking with them. I am a keen gardener and my garden has never looked so good with all that attention.

I enjoy reading and am part of a small local reading group. We were able to exchange books by dropping off and picking up on doorsteps or some other outside spot.

My husband and I spent much time playing board and other games such as Rummy Cub, Cards, Scrabble etc. We also enjoy walking regularly.

Even writing to my grandchildren became a regular – they saw it as a novelty and obediently wrote back as part of their schooling from home.

The little ones got excited with a letter in the mail box that usually included a 'special' of some sort.

So, in one way or another we all tried to keep busy, I guess. Perhaps people who are more introverted found it easier than those of us who enjoy socialising.

Perhaps we all learned something about ourselves. I was quite disgusted with myself for not being motivated to work on my French. Really looking forward to getting back to classes next year hopefully.

Dorothea Kassell

DIFFERENT

We all had a different 2020. Pages of history for future generations.

The Zoom meetings were a possibility we never dreamed of. I did

Current Affairs and French on Zoom.

The first class was conducted (hosted) by David Purdon in a very interesting manner. We appeared on the screen at 10 a.m., had a little conversation first and when we were all present David would introduce the subject and by raising your hand, we took it in turn to express our point of view, which could raise a serious discussion at times. David would put the next subject on the screen, sometimes with a joke and we also had our usual coffee break. It was an interesting class and the time suited many people.

The French class was very helpful also. Unfortunately, the beginners' class did not have a Zoom meeting. I was able to participate in the advanced class and Tony Haydon is our teacher. What he missed most was a blackboard. But how lucky we are that U3A does everything possible to keep members occupied.

Thank you, committee, volunteers and members!

Conny Brandt

Wanted – New Classes

It is interesting to check what other U3As are doing in their classes. Here are some of the ideas that we might pick up on. If you like one of them, why not consider being the class lead to start a new class.

- Coffee and Conversation
- Talking about secrets
- Wine appreciation
- Ballroom dancing
- Bird Watching
- Creative Writing
- Cryptic Crosswords
- Comedy and Humour
- Treasure Hunt
- Golf
- Story Telling
- Theatre
- Health & Well-Being
- Lunch Club
- Architecture
- Exploring YouTube
- U3A Marketplace
- Personal Development
- Interesting buildings

Course Timetable

We had hoped to publish the detailed course schedule for next semester but due to emerging expectations from the Greater Dandenong Council regarding their expectations in the “COVID -Normal” scenario we lack definitive information on which to make course scheduling decisions. It is clear that room limitations will require us to change timing and to set limits in attendance numbers. We are expecting a Hiring Agreement from the Dandenong Council early December to clarify what Dandenong council will provide and what they expect from us. For your information, the council has indicated the following:

U3A Dandenong

- Submit a COVID-19 safe plan
- Provide hand sanitizer for each of the rooms we use
- Provide cleaning products
- Clean at the end of each class. Volunteers will be required to:
 - be Covid marshals
 - do the cleaning
 - make sure the sign-in sheets are completed and the social distancing is maintained.

As soon as we are able to provide a course schedule it will be published on the website and you will be alerted by email.

U3A DANDENONG Inc.

proudly supported by:



Noble Park Football Club



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1/8-10 Halpin Way, Dandenong VIC 3175
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✉ 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.

Photo Page(s)

AGM via Zoom - A mixture of smiles, concentration and camera shy!

