



FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have just had our AGM and besides the business of the AGM, it was an enjoyable opportunity to get together for conversation and lunch – this time at the Dandenong RSL.

We invited Christine Ware as our guest speaker who spoke about her mother, Gloria Pyke, for whom the Netball Stadium has been named. Gloria was a great athlete who played cricket, AFL, and Netball. Facilities for women's sport were almost non-existent in Gloria's younger years. Gloria worked tirelessly to improve this situation and this culminated in the complex that now bears her name. The stadium is now one of the key venues that Dandenong U3A utilizes to hold its activities and classes.

The Effective Communication class presented a thoroughly enjoyable entertainment based on characters from nursery rhymes. This was very well received with enthusiastic audience participation

Thank you to all the committee who worked hard to organize this event and to all the members who attended. We welcomed a new member, Vikki Collier, to the committee. The other changes were that Raelene stepped away from the Program Coordinator role in which she has been instrumental in introducing us to the Gloria Pyke Netball Complex as a venue for many of our activities. Raelene will now take on the role of Vice President. Alan will continue to be our Office manager and will now also be our Secretary.

For October, we have advertised some of our courses in the Seniors Festival website and on the Greater Dandenong council website as we found this was a good way to offer a "come and try" opportunity and last year resulted in some new members. So, I am sure you will make any visitors to your classes feel welcome.

Thank you to the committee, Tutors and Course coordinators and all the other members who provided additional assistance to keep U3A Dandenong activities happening for all your hard work – It is much appreciated.

Jeanette Keane
President U3A Dandenong

FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Hello all, hopefully this will be my final report as the Program Coordinator, but if no-one steps up and fills the gap then I will keep us going, but to a much lesser extent. I feel that with my health issues this year I have not achieved as much as other years, for this I apologise.

Unfortunately, we will possibly need to pause one class. One maybe just for some of the year, again we need people to step up and fill the gaps. The class (that I know of) is David Nassau's Historical Battles class. David and his wife are planning a lot of trips for 2024. We wish them safe and happy travels. Another class is Thelma Paul's Behavioural Science class, a hard act to follow, but we thank Thelma for many, many years of service to us and all she has done. A replacement tutor will be Nellie Roberts but will take on a new look. Historical Battles will begin again when David has tired of traveling (if ever!).

We do have some space to move with suggested new classes, but obviously we will need tutors/coordinators for them. One suggestion, which I rather like the sound of, is more games in the afternoon or morning and maybe more than 2 hours. Consisting of different board games and rotations of games through the time. If someone would like to coordinate that it would be wonderful. We could even combine some of what we already have into this eg. Scrabble and Rummi Kub but not necessarily. Chess, Dominos and Qwirkle are a couple suggested to me. I am sure that U3A can afford to purchase a game or two to kick it off. Others could bring along a game from home to try and see if it's a good one or not. All that will be up to the group and coordinator. It will surely keep the brain active. Also, another computer course will be offered in some form or other.

Seniors Month – we have had a reasonable response to some of our classes advertised for October, but I feel not as good as last year. I think maybe due to only being advertised online and no printed program book. Nevertheless, hopefully we will gain a few new members from it. Thank you everyone for your support over the last four years in this job.

Raelene Curtis

Program Coordinator (0409 850 119)

FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

Visiting the Office

The Dandenong U3A office is located at the Paddy O'Donoghue Centre (POD), 18 Buckley St, Noble Park. There is a free public car park behind the Centre at 3 Frank Street, Noble Park.

The Paddy O'Donoghue Centre (POD) is operated by the City of Greater Dandenong Council and is closed to the general public. This means that if you wish to visit us at the Dandenong U3A office you need to call us when you arrive at the front door to gain access. The office telephone number is : 9546-2997.

During each semester, office opening hours are as follows :

Monday : 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Thursday : 9:30am – 12:00pm

Friday : 9:30am – 12:00pm

The Office – Services

At the Dandenong U3A Office we provide the following services :

Responding to Enquiries regarding U3A activities and operations

Updating Membership Details
Processing Payments
Creating Membership Badges
Photocopying of Course Material
Processing of Class Attendance Documents
Receiving Class Absence Notifications
Making Available Hard Copies of Promotional Material and Course Timetables

Office Volunteers - A Vote of Thanks

Once again, I would like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of our hard-working office volunteers: Evelyn Beaucasin and Babes Sevilla. Both are very conscientious, reliable, efficient and effective.

Name Tags

Please ensure you have the current Name Tag. You can identify the latest format Nametag by the absence of a date. In the office we are holding quite a few Nametags which have not been distributed to members. You can call us to make arrangements to pick up your Nametag.

Emergency Contact Details

We don't hold Emergency Contact details for some of our members. We encourage members to log in and ensure these details are correct and up-to-date. It is very important that this information be readily available to the tutor or office in case of emergency. Please contact the office if you need assistance with this.

Absences

A reminder that it is courteous to advise of absences from classes. We have several ways this can be done. If you know in advance that you will be away you can tell the person responsible for the class roll (usually your tutor) that you will be away for the next class and then they can mark it on the roll. You can log into UMAS, select the "My Absences" menu option and send a notification to the tutor. If your tutor has given you their contact details you can notify them directly. Alternatively, you can phone your absence into the office or email it to admin@dandenongu3a.org.au. The office will then notify the tutor.

Class Withdrawals

If you decide that you no longer wish to participate in a class, please contact us so we can arrange for the system to be updated to reflect this.

Alan Beale
Office Manager

The categories for **June** Newsletter were
History and Language



Monday 9.30 - 11.15

Hi everyone. As some of you already know, I will be going to the UK for a genealogical tour of England. I will be leaving the class in the very capable hands of Jim Archibald, who informs me that he is going to concentrate on the Trove website which features old newspapers. Did your ancestor do something heroic, something bad, something to be proud of, that made the papers. Did someone care enough to write an obituary on his death or say when his funeral will be. All these things can be found on the Trove website.

If you are interested in coming to the class it is held on Monday mornings from 9.30am to 11.15am. All members are welcome.

Gladys Williams



Historical Battles
Monday 10.15-12.00

Added during the rest of semester one:

- Stuart's Ride Around McClellan
- Battle of Oak Grove
- Battle of Beaver Dam Creek
- Battle of Gaines' Mill
- Battle of Garnett's & Golding's Farms
- Battle of Savage's Station
- Battles of Glendale & White Oak Swamp
- Battle of Malvern Hill part 1
- Battle of Malvern Hill part 2
- Battle of Malvern Hill combined
- Vicksburg Naval Actions - "Mississippi Gunrunner"
- Battle of Baton Rouge
- Advance to Gordonsville

Battle of Cedar Mountain

We investigated the battles which constituted the Seven Days Battles which saved Richmond and thus continued the American Civil War for another three years ending with McClellan's withdrawal from the Peninsular campaign in the east. Our attention then turned to the west where Grant is taking control of the Mississippi and cutting the Confederacy in two.

The contest for the Western Theatre in 1862 was monumental in scope and importance. Containing an area of about 230,000 square miles—roughly the size of France—the Western Theatre extended from the Appalachian Mountains in the east to the Mississippi River in the west, and from the Ohio River in the north to the Gulf of Mexico in the south. Seven states— Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, eastern Louisiana, and western Florida—lay within its boundaries. The region was vital to the Confederacy. Not only was it rich in human and agricultural resources, but it also contained the Confederacy's largest city (New Orleans, Louisiana), important ports (New Orleans and Mobile, Alabama), and critical industrial and railroad centers (Nashville and Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Atlanta, Georgia). Home to the mighty Mississippi River, towns such as Memphis, Tennessee; Vicksburg, Mississippi; and Port Hudson and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, controlled a water transportation system that was the lifeblood of both the South and the Midwest. Last but not least, the region served as the geographical bridge that linked the eastern Confederate states with the Trans-Mississippi West, home to the Confederate states of Arkansas, Texas, and western Louisiana, and to Missouri, which Southerners still hoped to seize. In short, the Confederacy could not survive unless it controlled the Western Theatre. Conversely, the Federal government could not prevail unless it conquered the region.

David Nassau



Ancient Worlds Monday 12.15 - 2.00

Tutoring the ancient world is not only my passion but it does seem to be interesting to the class, for I welcome questions and even those on the iPad thing for archaeology is bringing up new discoveries all the time and there may be discoveries that I don't know, so interpretation from any of the class I encourage.

Because there is such an agenda that I have collected in the years I have tutored. I am taking the class around the ancient world. We have looked at some good and bad Roman Emperors, I have examined the oracles of Delphi and the one in Siwa in Egypt where Alexander the Great went to justify his reign as Pharaoh. At the minute I am looking at the one major defeat suffered by the Roman Legions, the one where they lost 3 legions, the 17, 18 and 19, three legions that were never replaced although the lost eagles were recovered, the last in the reign of Claudius. That battle was called "Disaster of Teutoburg Forest". It occurred during the reign of Augustus in AD 9.

Here the centuries of achievements are examined, at present we are removing the bandages of time to reveal the history and customs of this great civilization. Recently there has been a program on ancient history, dealing with Egypt and I am happy to say what I have tutored is correct and I repeatedly invite the class to contribute. I want them to be involved. Archaeology is an ongoing science, new discoveries are being discovered almost daily and I have no objection to a class member using his iPad to look up a statement that I have made, to check. The recent program on Egypt shows the advances especially in their belief in the after-life by the use of modern technology that can point out how that individual lived and even to what he could have looked like. Ancient history is my passion and I hope that it

instills in those who attend the class a real interest in the history of these ancient civilizations and their achievements. - Richard

The class is open to all who fancy the ancient world and i do try to make it interesting.

Richard Ryan



Spanish Language Tuesday 10.00 - 11.45

This Semester we started with the same enthusiasm and dedication, and we continued to explore the Spanish language more intensely, focusing on grammar, reading, comprehension, pronunciation, and conversation.

At the commencement of each class, we practice a selection of exercises to stimulate our minds and bodies. A couple of classes have been canceled throughout the semester for various reasons, such as health concerns and well-deserved vacations. Our warm welcome to Henri Palles for rejoining our class with the same good humor and friendship as always. It is a pleasure to have him with us again.

Thank you to Gill Sladen, our new Monitor, for her support and dedication.

Thanks to our members for taking care of our venue, organizing our venue before and after the classes, and ensuring everything went well.

Cultural and Social Activities

Thanks to our Social Coordinator Loretta Cappellari for organizing interesting cultural events. We attended The Van Gogh exhibition at the Gallery Of Arts, where we admired his artwork, such as Starry Night and Almond Blossom. We were fortunate to visit again to see the Picasso Century exhibition, where we saw his ceramics, sculptures and the famous Guernica and Weeping Women paintings.

At the State Theatre, we enjoyed the Australian Ballet performing Don Quixote. The choreography, story, music, and the performance were extraordinary.

We all enjoyed these wonderful events.

We also celebrated the birthday of our dear Greta with a lovely morning tea.

As part of our program, we further explored Mediterranean cuisine and prepared delicious 'Chilean completos', which we all enjoyed.



To our members who are going on vacation, we wish them a safe trip and an unforgettable time with their families.

I hope all members enjoy the July holidays and wish you all the best of health.

Gloria Skalicka

The categories for **September** Newsletter are **Music and Hobbies**



Painting/Drawing **Wednesday 10.00 - 12.00**

Our class has been going along quite well this year, with members kept busy doing their own thing, whether it be drawing, painting in various mediums, or even very therapeutic coloring-in! Help and/or advice can be asked for and is freely given, and being a friendly group, we also talk quite a lot.

We were very saddened during the year by the passing of Ron Gurney, our much-loved and respected facilitator and member of our class for many, many years. Ron was also the tutor of the Calligraphy class when it operated. Along with other art & craft U3A members, he always entered his work in the Dandenong Show each year with quite some success. We all miss him. We were also sorry to hear of the passing of our class member Jim Wilkinson's wife, Norma, some months ago, and we are so pleased that Jim is still able to come to our Wednesday class, with Gerard Pelicier very kindly giving him a lift. Thanks Gerard!

Our class numbers fluctuate around 8 – 12 each week, but we are happy to welcome more. You don't have to have any experience to join our group, so if you've always had a yen to draw or paint, come along and join us, and we'll help you get started.

Lorice Lellyett & Raelene Curtis



Photography/Photoshop **Thursday 10.00 - 12.00**

This year the class has been building our knowledge and skills on many aspects of photography, including lots of camera techniques, editing (or post processing) our images at a basic and intermediate level, getting familiar with the many genres of photography as well as doing some study of established composition "rules".

We have also been having some fun exercises in learning to see, where we just go outside the building and do a "treasure hunt" by taking pictures of particular items such as numbers, autumn colors, shadows and reflections.

This term we will be continuing with this journey as well as attending a photography print exhibition, and hope to have a few more outings away from the classroom.

Tim Keane



Book Club **Third Monday**

Our Book Group meets regularly on the third Monday of each month. We meet in person at the Endeavour Hills library. At these meetings we return the book we have read over the previous month, share our opinions about it and borrow the book we will discuss at the next meeting.

U3A Dandenong is a member of the Endeavour Hills library's book club program. The program arranges for the supply of a set of up to 10 copies of various popular books. In addition to supplying the books, the Library also provides Discussion Notes for each book. The notes provide additional background material including interviews with the author. Also included in the Notes is a list of discussion points and questions. From time to time the library arranges literary events including In-person presentations by popular authors. The library has an extensive list of "book club" books featuring both fiction and non-fiction from Australian and International authors.

Our discussions are often in-depth and quite wide ranging. As a group, we work together to develop a better understanding of the intention of the author. We share a common love of reading and a willingness to express our opinions on the books and their authors. We aim to expand our literary horizons by reading a variety of genres.

So far this year we have read and discussed the following books :

“The Champagne War” by Fiona McIntosh

“Bodies of Light” by Jennifer Down

“The Warsaw Orphan” by Kelly Rimmer,

“Between a Wolf and a Dog” by Georgina Blain,

“Girl, Woman, Other” by Bernadine Evaristo,

“Becoming” by Michelle Obama,

“The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane” by Lisa See,

“This House of Grief” by Helen Garner

New members are very welcome. At the time of writing there are spare spots available. If you wish to join the group, please feel free to call me on 0407 097 347.

Alan Beale



Knitting and crochet Thursday 12.30-2.30

Knitting Natters and Happy Hookers meet at the Gloria Pyke Netball Complex in the Dream room.

We've ten on the roll but there's
always one away.

The tradies and the doctors
keep claiming our Thursday.

A few are old pros
and finish UFOs (Unfinished Objects)
others who are learning,
make cushions, scarves and throws.

We're adapting to our limits
as we age,
and do what we can do,
or learn something new.

Lorraine's seventy-seven
and Margaret's eighty-seven,
They'll pass on their knowledge
until they go to heaven.

We love to teach beginners, so come along with 8ply (sportweight) light colored plain yarn and either, a 4mm pair of needles for knitting or a 4mm hook which has a flattened grip area (not completely round) for crochet.

We are currently making kids animal shaped face washers.

Your patient tutors are

Lorraine Bishop and Margaret Sheffield



Singing group
Friday 10.00 - 12.00

The group is enjoying our Friday morning singing, it is very joyful and uplifting.

We've had a good semester with about 10 people attending the group regularly. The sound has been greatly improved with the addition of 2 small speakers to amplify the sound, thanks to a visit from our president.

Come and join in to check us out sometime, new members are always welcome. We feel with singing the more voices, especially both male and female, the better the sound.

Dorothea Kassell



Photo page and Special Report



CYCLING LEGEND TURNS 90 !

Vic Whitewood who is one of the inaugural members of the U3A Cycling group has just turned 90! And... he is still cycling with U3A Dandenong, sometimes twice a week. Vic has been a consistent member since 2010 when Bob Lee started a Friday cycling group.

We are both members of the U3A cycling group these 13 years later. I met Vic in November 2010 when I joined the group, and he and I have been together since then. Our mutual love of cycling has taken us to The Canal du Midi ,and the Alsace regions of France, and also along the Danube from Passau to Vienna on self-guided tours. In Cambodia and Vietnam we resorted to a guided tour and the young guide, after seeing proof of age in his passport, gave Vic one of the cycling shirts he was trying to sell to us all! He was 81 at the time and rode in the heat and humidity long distances every day for a week. It was I who sought refuge in the van on one occasion, not Vic! We have also explored many of the wonderful Rails Trails in Victoria and regularly use our bikes to commute to appointments, for shopping and for enjoyment locally. We found the bikes especially helpful for our physical and mental wellbeing during Covid and were out most days exploring our neighborhood as far as we were permitted, or going for picnic lunches, or evening drinks by the local lake.

Vic's positive outlook on life and attention to his health and fitness has helped him stay young and fit to this glorious age.

He has always been a much-valued member of the groups over the years. It wasn't until he reached 86 that he embraced the "e-bike", later buying me one for my 70th birthday. The fashion caught on quickly in the group and now I think maybe half of us are e-bikers. Some say it's just "steering" but that's a bit unkind!

Happy Birthday Vic, from all of your fellow cyclists and congratulations on being the oldest and only original member of Dandenong U3A Cycling. You set a great example to us all.

Marg Edwards - May 2023

Christmas in July

Jim Archibald kindly provided some photos from U3A Christmas in July. Enjoy!







Semester dates

Semester 2 – 24/07/2023 – 24/11/2023

Contact Information

Telephone: 03 9546 2997

If you wish to talk to someone outside office hours you can call Alan Beale on 0407 097 347.

Web: <http://www.dandenongu3a.org.au>

Facebook: Facebook.com/u3adandenonginc/

Membership (UMAS and communications): umas@dandenongu3a.org.au

Committee Contacts (with dandenongu3a.org.au email):

Name	Position	email
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Raelene Curtis	Vice President/Program	program@dandenongu3a.org.au
Alan Beale	Office Manager/Secretary	admin@dandenongu3a.org.au
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