



Paddy O'Donoghue Centre

Buckley St, Noble Park

Phone: 9546 2997

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## **The categories for this Newsletter are History and Language**

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

It has only been a short time since the last newsletter, but I do have some important points I'd like to share with you. We recently held a successful sausage sizzle at Springvale Bunnings. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped to prepare and/or helped on the day. This event served as a significant fundraiser for our organization, and your support was greatly appreciated.

If you or someone you know needs assistance with electronic technology such as smartphones or computers, the Dandenong and Springvale Libraries have help available - Please contact the library for further information on 1300 630 920.

A reminder that our Expo is scheduled for October 18th. It is being held to commemorate 30 years of U3A Dandenong Inc. The EXPO will highlight the diverse array of activities, hobbies, and educational classes on offer through our organization. It will also showcase the creative endeavors and handiwork of individual U3A Dandenong members. Scheduled during Seniors Month, it will serve as an invitation for other seniors to explore and appreciate our work. I know many Tutors/Course Coordinators are working with their course members on their displays/stalls/demonstrations and I am looking forward to seeing the results of their efforts. If you're available to provide additional assistance in other ways to run the event, please let us know. Your participation makes a difference!

Thank you for being part of our community, and let's continue to support each other.

**Jeanette Keane**  
**President U3A Dandenong**

### **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. There is also a small car park in Buckley St directly opposite the Paddy O'Donoghue Centre.

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 – Services**

At the Dandenong U3A Office we provide the following services :

- Responding to Enquiries regarding DU3A activities and operations
- Updating Membership Details
- Processing Payments (Cash and Credit Card)
- 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**

Once again, I would like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of our hard-working office volunteers:

- Evelyn Beaucasin
- Babes Sevilla

Both are very conscientious, reliable, efficient and effective.

### **Nametags**

Please ensure you have the current Nametag. 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**

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.
- For those who have not yet explored the web site option you can log into the [dandenongu3a.org.au](http://dandenongu3a.org.au) web site and in the menu on the left side click on "My Absences", enter the details of your absence, then when you click on submit an email will automatically be sent to your Tutor/Course Coordinator. If you can't remember your password, you can refer to the instructions in the first few slides of the Membership-renewal-Presentation which can be found on the [dandenongu3a.org.au](http://dandenongu3a.org.au) web site under "memberships".
- 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](mailto:admin@dandenongu3a.org.au). The office will then notify the tutor.

## Class Withdrawals

If you decide that you no longer wish participate in a class,

- you can log into the web site go to “My Enrolments” then you will see all your enrolments and you will see a “Request Removal” option and you can click on that which will automatically send an email to the UMAS administrator who will then remove you from the course. When this is done you will automatically receive an email confirming this.
- Alternatively, please contact us via email ([umas@dandenongu3a.org.au](mailto:umas@dandenongu3a.org.au)) or through an office volunteer so we can arrange for the system to be updated to reflect this.

**Alan Beale**  
**Office Manager**

<p><b><u>Contact Information</u></b> <b>Phone:</b> 9546 2997 (office hours) or 0494 018 356 (outside office hours) <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:enquiry@dandenongu3a.org.au">enquiry@dandenongu3a.org.au</a> <b>Email for course enquiries:</b> <a href="mailto:umas@dandenongu3a.org.au">umas@dandenongu3a.org.au</a> <b>Email for membership enquiries:</b> <a href="mailto:umas@dandenongu3a.org.au">umas@dandenongu3a.org.au</a> <b>Facebook:</b> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/u3adandenonginc/">Facebook.com/u3adandenonginc/</a></p>	<p><b><u>Office Hours:</u></b> <b>Monday</b> 12:00pm – 2:00pm <b>Tuesday</b> CLOSED <b>Wednesday</b> CLOSED <b>Thursday</b> 9:30am – 12:00pm <b>Friday</b> 10:00am – 12:00pm <b>The office is closed on public holidays.</b> <b><u>Semester dates</u></b> <b>Semester 1 - 05/02/2024 – 28/06/2024</b> <b>Semester 2 – 29/07/2024 – 29/11/2024</b></p>
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Genealogy is the study of Family History. We are looking at different ways to find information about ancestors, such as

- Trove ( a newspaper website),
- The government website [prov.vic.gov.au](http://prov.vic.gov.au),
- information from Rootstech which is a Family Search conference and
- the sites such as Ancestry, My Heritage and Find my Past which require a subscription.
- We also look at local historical societies and Webcasts to find information about the lives of our forebears.

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

**Monday 9.30 - 11.15**

**Gloria Pyke Netball  
Complex**



## **Ancient Worlds Monday 12.15 - 2.00**

**Latham Crescent Center**

In this class various topics of the ancient world are looked at, all either with the kingdoms of Mesopotamia or the Roman Empire. We have looked at the early history of Gaza and its destruction by Alexander the Great, the rebuilding of Gaza by the Romans and the Roman interest that lasted till the fall of the Empire. We looked at the Oracles of Delphi and the oracle of Amon Re that Alexander the Great visited to legitimize his reign as Pharaoh when Egypt was governed by the Ptolemies.

At the minute we are looking at the Persian Rule and of Cambyses, the son of Cyrus the Great who sent an army to destroy the oracle of Amon Re because the oracle had not given Cambyses the news he wanted to hear, the army vanished and despite many attempts to find it, none really have succeeded, even a belief by some that the army was just a legend. We have now started on the history of Darius the Great, the third king of the Persian Empire.

In this class I appreciate input from the class and generally I receive that and in many cases because of that, a chapter on a subject is never completed.

Richard Ryan



## **Australian History Monday 2.15 - 4.15**

**Latham Crescent Center**

'During this semester, I engaged the class in 3 subject matters –

- 1) The XVI Olympiad - Melbourne Olympics
- 2) Antarctica- The Lost continent and a DVD series - The Frozen Planet by David Attenborough
- 3) The Rum Rebellion in NSW colony.

There were many lively discussions during the classroom presentations. Promise of more to come for the year. Our discussions do sometimes detract from the main topic, but it is all in the pursuit of furthering our knowledge and wisdom about Australian History.

Jeff Woods



## **Italian Language Monday 12.00 - 2.00**

### **Gloria Pyke Netball Complex**

The Italian course is designed for complete beginners.

Basic grammar and vocabulary are covered and the students will aim to hold simple conversation on everyday topics and colloquial Italian used when traveling to Italy.

Lilia Mulazzani



## **Spanish Language Tuesday 10.00 - 11.45**

### **Latham Crescent Center**

During this semester, our exploration of the Spanish language has continued, digging deeper into grammar and verb conjugation. We've also focused on reading comprehension and expanding our vocabulary.

In addition, we've delved into the history and geography of the Americas, studying significant landmarks such as the Pan-American Highway and the Snow Society. Utilising maps and globes, we've enhanced our understanding of important locations across the continent.

Our class members have diligently completed their homework assignments to solidify their understanding of the material covered in class. Conversation practice has been essential for fostering an environment where students feel comfortable expressing their opinions and engaging in dialogue.

We bid farewell to Alicja and Jerzy Voekel, valued members of our class who have relocated to Brisbane, and extend a warm welcome to Peter Denison, our newest addition.

Social activities have continued to be a source of enjoyment for our group, with highlights including indulging in Chilean empanadas and sweets, as well as celebrating birthdays with delightful morning teas.

In March, I had the opportunity to participate in a seminar led by Nelly Collins for language tutors at U3A in Victoria, conducted via Zoom. It was an enriching experience discussing our teaching and learning strategies in language education.

As we look forward, I hope that good health continues to accompany us all, allowing us to approach our Spanish classes with the same enthusiasm and dedication. Wishing everyone a well-deserved holiday break.

Gloria Skalicka



