



# AUSTRALIA

## U3A AUSTRALIA BULLETIN No. 39

### NOVEMBER 2023



*Not waving, not drowning, but exercising. Caught between early tinsel and late spring flowers, the U3A Lower North exercise group sends best wishes for the coming holiday season*

#### **This issue:**

##### ■ **Member reports:**

- 👤 *SA backs Get Online Week*
  - 👤 *Victoria acknowledges exceptional group leaders*
  - 👤 *WA media unit grabs attention*
  - 👤 *Queensland celebrate Seniors Month*
  - 👤 *NSW not so rusty*
  - 👤 *U3A Online bite the bullet*
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## From the Editor

Thanks to everyone who got the message and wrote a piece specifically for the Bulletin instead of rehashing material from State newsletters. The message hadn't got through to NSW so Laurene Mulcahy performed a minor miracle by producing a new article on less than 24 hours' notice. Nothing rusty about Laurene.

Special thanks to Peter Alcock who answered my short-notice plea for WA news. His topic is not surprising as he is very much part of Perth's U3A Media crew. They are a valuable asset worth emulating in other States. Do read what they have been up to.

SA U3As have been concentrated on Get Online Week events. No doubt duplicated around Australia as more than 800 events were hosted reaching more than 19,000 people. Requires some follow up paperwork but otherwise a very achievable \$1,000 of funding.

In Victoria the focus has been on acknowledging special group leaders at their AGM. All good managers reprimand in private and reward in front of as big an audience as possible.

Don't ignore the back page Officeworks notice. It is not just an advert, it gives you advice on opening a 30-day account and accessing our new buying group prices.



Wishing everyone an excellent holiday season free from the fear of floods, fires and family arguments.

Deadline for next issue of this Bulletin is Wednesday 27 March.

*Claire Eglinton*  
*U3A Lower North &*  
*U3A South Australia*

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## 2023/2024 Diary Dates

**November 23:** U3A South Australia webinar on Member Wizard.

**November 23-24:** International Association of U3As (AIUTA) general assembly, Santiago, Chile.

**2024:**

**January 19:** U3A South Australia webinar on Risk Management.

**April 8-9:** NSW Network Conference hosted by U3A Eastlakes. The Belmont 16s function centre venue is the result of a \$23 million rebuild and of course the beauty of sailing clubs is that they are absolute waterfront, in this case Lake Macquarie. Reasonably priced (\$150) at a stunning, waterfront venue. Bookings open November. Conference dinner and post event cruises.

**April 26:** U3A South Australia triannual management committee meeting.

**May 28-30:** U3A Network Queensland State Conference hosted by U3A Beaudesert. Theme: 'Lifelong Learning – a Scenic View'. Venue: The Centre, 82 Brisbane St, Beaudesert QLD 4285

**October:** WA Biennial State Conference, Bunbury. Hosted by U3A Bunbury and U3A Network WA.

# From the Chairman

In line with the editor's comments in the last issue that it is delightful to be present at the birth of an organisation, I am pleased to advise that U3A Australia has survived the birth well and its Board has overseen the implementation of initiatives that are providing member state networks and their member U3As with support and recognition to support the U3A movement's 100,000 individual Australian members. These initiatives include:

## NBN Collaboration



Piloted a six-session series of 'Live Life Connected' forums facilitated online supported by in-room mentors focusing on supporting U3A members overcome barriers they encounter to digital inclusion - with the intent to increase both broadband connectivity and digital ability. These forums and facilitator guides are being packaged for access through the U3A Digital Skills Mentoring Program in 2024.

## Officeworks Buying Group



The Officeworks U3A Australia National 'U3A Favourable Price' organisation-buying group for member U3As who wish to participate has been setup. The U3As who have joined the group are reporting they are benefiting from being a member of the group. Details of the process for U3As to join the group are included in this Bulletin.

## Commenced the process to form a Tasmanian U3A Network



In the absence of a State network, currently some U3As in Tasmania are affiliates of the U3A NSW Network. In consultation with the NSW president and representatives of the Tasmanian U3As it was agreed to commence the process of forming a Tasmanian U3A network. On formation the Tasmanian U3A network will become a member of U3A Australia.

## Continuing discussions with Government and other Peak Bodies

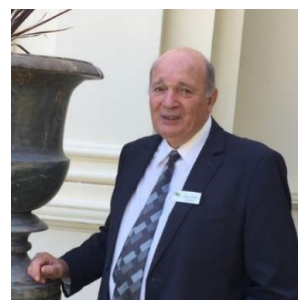
At both national and State levels there have been productive discussions with the Federal government, State governments, Council of The Ageing (COTA), universities (RMIT, La Trobe, Charles Sturt and ANU), Men's Shed Association and Telstra. These discussions are focused on strengthening existing collaborative relationships between U3A and these organisations.

I would also like to acknowledge the Member U3As who are offering selected popular classes online for members of other U3As to participate in. In particular the speakers' programs offered by U3A Canberra, U3A Melbourne and one-off sessions by U3A Network NSW. I encourage all U3As to consider sharing speakers of interest with other U3As.

Again I acknowledge the good work of our member networks, member U3As in each state and the commitment of their committees, tutors and leaders to ensuring U3A in Australian can look forward to a bright future.

Let us all look forward to the future with optimism and enthusiasm.

*Glen Wall*  
Chair,  
U3A Australia



## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

U3A South Australia went all-out to encourage participation in Get Online Week this year. Events are easily held, can cover a multitude of topics and be face-to-face, online or hybrid, not to mention that any form of funding is not to be sniffed at. U3A SA maximised benefit by holding ours as a hybrid on the same day as our AGM and management committee meeting. Thus it conveniently financed our lunch and excess went to our annual IT costs.

Our topic was improving photography for U3A publications. I don't know how well we got across the message but I did learn part of the problem: all the photos submitted by participants were of cute grandkids, OS holidays, etc. My own contribution came from my vast collection of U3A photos failures: too many people, grumpy faces or backs of heads, or just a failure to 'tell the story'. Photos are supposed to be worth a thousand words but lack of thought in how people are posed can render them speechless.

U3A Lower North's weekly computer class has just gone into recess for want of enrolments so there were some qualms about demand for such an event. They made the major topic phones, used Be Connected's own videos, and lured the Coffee and Chat group in with the offer of a free lunch. What a success. The Clare Town Hall's function room was packed with another room made available for iPhone users. It turns out many people carry a mobile phone without knowing the various adjustments which make them more user friendly. Happy participants voted for more one-day sessions but had no interest in enrolling for a weekly course which was valuable feedback for program planners.



*U3A Lower North's lead presenter Ian Stanley does some individual problem solving.*

Long-term supporters of Get Online Week, U3A Murraylands also ran a successful event for 35 members and visitors with catering from a Lions (they share premises) barbecue, a free raffle of many desirable IT items, and a wide range of topics. They doubled up by inviting U3A SA webmaster and self-confessed computer nerd John Travers to give a presentation to their committee meeting. Via Zoom, John shared advice on passwords with extensive notes plus a video clip about Passkeys (the future of signing up and logging in). U3A Yorke Peninsula started small for their first event with a paella lunch with electronic invitations, recipe dissemination, photographs, etc.

Now that Be Connected's government contract has been renewed for another 4 years, we have a few more opportunities to encourage all U3As to be active participants even if they don't normally run computer classes. Mobile phones seem to be the IT device of choice for many seniors so are an obvious entry point for any teaching.

At its recent AGM, U3A Adelaide Hills recognized almost two decades of commitment by Mark Randell. During that time many members have benefitted from his generosity and knowledge. Mark, known for his many wonderful and well-researched presentations on a broad range of topics, also served on the committee including that of filling the roles of chair and public officer. He also started the first ukulele group, acted as presenter and organizer for numerous courses, even adding 'tour guide' to his repertoire, and was often invited to present at other organizations including other U3As.

*U3A Adelaide Hills  
Chair Suzanne Arbon  
presenting Mark  
Randell with  
Certificate of  
Appreciation and gift  
basket.*



*Claire Eglinton  
Secretary  
U3A South Australia*



# VICTORIA

## **2023 Tutor Recognition Awards**

Thirteen tutors were recognised at U3A Network Victoria's annual general meeting – nominated by their U3As for their strong contributions to the U3A's syllabus of offerings and to U3A values of lifelong learning, active ageing, and friendship and support. U3As were asked to consider a number of conditions under which their tutors could qualify for recognition and to write about the experience and contribution that their nominees make.

In this second year of the award, the announcement was made at the AGM in September, certificates were presented at the U3As, and information about each winner is published in the Our Community section of Network's website. To read the winners citations go to: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d7086149b503d0001b93e93/t/6525fec082f7a247b472acb/1696988884733/2023+winners+doc.pdf> on the Network Victoria website.

Tutors and leaders contributed through a range of academic topics and social and activity interests – everything from the discipline of languages to artistic and cultural groups and on to physical activities. Among physical activities were yoga, hiking, line dancing, and exercising to music. Other activities included calligraphy, mosaics, art, and learning an instrument. Academic subjects included history, earth sciences, French and Italian.

Many of the award recipients had led their classes and activities for multiple decades, but in addition to length of service, U3As recognised their tutors' contributions to the social strength of U3A and the support and friendship U3A offers. Among the award recipients were: Andrew Parker, Bernard Catrice and John Maguire, U3A Ballarat; Julie Collins, U3A Box Hill; Helen Reid, U3A Cardinia; Anne Thompson and Steve Morris, U3A Cranbourne; Elaine Clark, U3A Creswick; Katalin Holl and Charmaine Hart, U3A Glen Eira; Nigel Liggins, U3A Goulburn Valley; Marie-Therese, U3A White Hastings; and Barbara Knowles, U3A Surf Coast.



*Barbara Knowles, U3A Surf Coast, leader of yoga classes that are tailored to the skill level and abilities of each participant.*

*Susan Webster  
Vice President  
U3A Network Victoria*



## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

U3A's golden anniversary is being celebrated around the world in many different ways. U3A Perth contributed to those celebrations by engaging the New Orleans Heritage Jazz Band for a really stimulating performance, which resulted in a sold-out afternoon concert filled with the infectious, foot-tapping rhythmic style, that clearly demonstrated the full joy of jazz.

Peter Flanigan, a long term member of the Perth group, told the audience about the beginnings of U3A in France 50 years ago. Amongst that audience was life member Maureen Smith who got the ball rolling here in WA in 1986.



Highlight memory was a conga line twisting around the room to that booming jazz rhythm. You should have been there.

The Sports Aircraft Builders' Club of WA which is also celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary invited the U3A Film Unit (promoted as U3A Media) to document its 50-year history. The U3A Film Unit, which is part of the Perth group, collated historical images and film over a period of six months, conducting interviews and filming around the airfield.

The film crew introduced many people to U3A who had not heard about it before. The resulting 93-minute video was shown at the SABC's Serpentine clubroom in September. Members were clearly impressed with the film, presenting the U3A Media crew with a certificate of appreciation for their efforts.



*Right: interview filmed with Col Morrow and Bill Day in front of Bill's Skyfox Gazelle at the Serpentine airfield.*

As awareness of U3A Media spreads throughout the wider community, it is being sought more often to undertake diverse and challenging projects for a wide range of community organisations. Amongst them are the WA Harp Society, the Wesfarmers Choir under the direction of WA Opera, the Rossmoyne Community Choir and the WA Jazz Club. The skills and professionalism of the crew is helping to spread the U3A brand in a very positive way.

*Peter Alcock*  
WA Network



# QUEENSLAND

As we head into our long summer break its timely to look back at 2023. Can we look back with satisfaction at a job well done? Yes, we can.

As mentioned in previous bulletins we have celebrated 50 years of U3A worldwide. Definitely a worthwhile achievement.

It is Seniors Month here in Queensland and many of our U3As have either organised a seniors expo or participated in one in their community. Like U3As, seniors expos take on many styles and they are excellent ways to bring U3A into focus. I was invited to attend the South East Queensland Seniors Forum, organised by COTA Queensland and funded by the Queensland government, and held at the Brisbane Exhibition Centre. A program of interesting and informative speakers covered a wide range of topics relating to seniors and ageing. There are many concessions and benefits available for seniors in Queensland. Visit the government website [www.seniors-concessions.services.qld.gov.au](http://www.seniors-concessions.services.qld.gov.au)



*Patricia Sparrow and Rhonda Western catch-up at the SEQ Seniors Forum.*

U3A Network Qld and Council on the Ageing Queensland (COTA Qld) have had a strong working relationship for many years and it was an added bonus at the Seniors Forum for me to meet and chat with Patricia Sparrow, Chief Executive, Council on the Ageing Australia. Consequently, I have introduced Patricia to Glen and they will discuss opportunities to work together on a national level.



We have introduced a Member Wizard Ambassadors Group which includes all U3As who use or are planning to use the program. Members are invited to participate in Zoom discussion sessions to share their experiences good or bad as they navigate the transition to this system. If you are unaware of Member Wizard here is the information directly from Member Wizard's website: <https://memberwizard.com.au>

Member Wizard has been developed as a social enterprise application to assist committees of not-for-profit groups manage their organisation. It is a valuable management tool for presidents, treasurers, secretaries, membership secretaries and event organisers. Members can pay their dues online, register and pay for events and access secure organisational material such as agendas and meeting minutes. Members can also install a handy member portal on their phones or other devices so they can update their personal details, renew their membership, view any activities they are attending or pay any outstanding invoices all through their phone or home computer.

On reading Marvin Formosa's paper and reflecting on the future of U3A, our vice president, John Armstrong has compiled an excellent precis of the document and it can be found on the U3A Network Qld website: <https://u3aqld.au/research-on-renewal-challenges-for-u3a>

While we sit comfortably in freedom in our country some of our U3A colleagues in other corners of the world do not. I was recently invited to represent Australia, along with colleagues from France, United Kingdom, Spain, Slovakia and Chile, to participate in a workshop organised by our colleagues in the Ukraine. The workshop was 'Management of U3A in Ukraine – Reboot. International Experience'. The aim of the workshop was to promote the professional development of managers and administrators of Universities of the Third Age that have already been created in Ukraine, as well as for those who plan to open U3As in their communities in the future. We were asked to provide information on best practice and programs that work well in our respective countries. I was greatly heartened by the optimistic and positive attitudes of the Ukraine people. Their resilience, their spirit and their vision for a better future is inspirational. It was my pleasure to share information on how we manage our U3As in Australia. As always, I continue to offer support and friendship.

The International Association of Universities of the Third Age's (AIUTA) 111th governing board meeting and general assembly will be held in Santiago, Chile 23 and 24 November. I will be attending and representing Australia at these events.

I wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and I look forward to working with you all as we continue to build a strong and relevant organisation for seniors across our nation.

*Rhonda Weston AM  
President  
U3A Network Qld Inc*

# NEW SOUTH WALES

## OBERON'S RUSTY RESTORERS

Put together a cohort of skilled, now retired men, a U3A looking for ways to engage with local men, and a museum with lots of equipment in need of restoration and you have the Oberon Heritage Machinery Restoration Group, commonly known as the Rusty Restorers.

This active group of men (it's not exclusive but there are currently no female members) meets every Wednesday at the Oberon and District Museum to work on all kinds of machinery and other items that are in need of restoration and/or repair. Among the workers are retired fitters and turners, boilermakers, mechanics and essentially some very handy individuals. However, there are no specific skills required to join the Rusty Restorers, just a willingness to do whatever needs to be done. Sometimes, this might be researching the correct colours to paint a particular exhibit or how an item actually works.

Some of the projects that have been undertaken by the group include restoring a horse-driven chaffcutter, a large, portable, one-man engine-driven two foot diameter circular saw, a Fordson tractor and a hay steamer. The tractor, now brightly painted in its original colours, is on show at the entrance to the museum.

Much of the restoration is carried out in a small workshop at the museum with a reasonable selection of tools and a great amount of elbow grease. The camaraderie, high spirits, fun and laughter amongst the workers is wonderful to see and is a major contributor to this group's success.

As far as U3A Oberon is concerned, the Rusty Restorers group is a huge positive for their organisation. It attracts local men who are looking for something constructive to do in their retirement, keeping them socially engaged, and it is of immense benefit to the Oberon and District Museum. That's a pretty successful 'triple bottom line'!

*Laurene Mulcahy*  
*Editor*  
*U3A News NSW*



## U3A ONLINE

In my last report I mentioned that our expenses are increasing while our membership is declining. Therefore, after much discussion, we have decided to increase the membership fees by \$5 in the new year. This will be formalised at our AGM in late November. This means individual membership will be \$35 per year, organisational membership will be \$20 and purchase of courses will be \$25. I understand that no one likes increased prices but I think we are all aware that sometimes it is unavoidable.

We again participated in Get Online Week with free online talks given by two of our tutors and then available at any time on our Facebook page. The topics are The Knights Templar and Lithium Batteries – a blessing or a curse. These are always popular and give people a chance to understand what U3A Online offers.

I have said this before but I will repeat it, whenever we send out emails to all members, we get a great many bounced messages returned mainly due either change of address or full inboxes. So, if you change your email address please let us know. The same applies to forwarding any changes to information in the U3A directory. Someone said to me recently that there was outdated information in the directory. When I gently pointed out that we cannot possibly know when every U3A has changed its committee members or its contact details, I received a thoughtful look and a response that she hadn't thought of that!

We have a new Armchair Travel course on Yorkshire and a new short course on Joan of Arc. Another Armchair Travel on Norfolk Island should be available soon.

*Jean Walker*  
*President*  
*U3A Online*



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## INSURANCE AND COPYRIGHT POLICIES

Future issues U3A Australia will be looking at on a national level are insurance and copyright in order to find the best possible deals for all U3As.

Music copyright and its alphabet soup is a frequent source of enquiries from member U3As. Previously all U3As have paid the same fees for music licences (AMCOS, APRA & PPCA). In 2023 this was \$276 for AMCOS & APRA and \$133 for PPCA, a total of \$409 per U3A who paid both. Quite a burden for small U3As.

This year the NSW Network negotiated with OneMusic to seek a fairer cost method with success. Consequently, in 2024, the cost for AMCOS & APRA will be 23 cents per member of each NSW Network member U3A. Even better, PPCA will be free for all.

That means: a U3A with 100 members will pay \$23 in total, 400 members \$92, and 1,000 members \$230. The cost advantage expires for the two U3As with more than 1788 members who will pay the \$276 fee for AMCOS & APRA..

This agreement is an excellent initiative and something we will be looking to extend nationally.



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