



From Our President

New Committee

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, 9 May 2018. Forty eight members attended and elected the Committee for 2018 – 2019, vis:

President: Daryl James

Vice President: Alastair McCracken

Secretary: Jeanette Cain

Treasurer: Alex Robertson

Committee: Kathie Bishop; Lynn Blackbell; Heather McCracken; Richard Prior; Peter Wakeham and Ruth Wilson

We acknowledge the contribution made by Antje Bauer, Trevor Shepard, Dierdre Penhale and Lily Ouw who were previously hard working members of the Committee, but due to changed circumstances, did not seek re-election. We also welcome Richard Prior as a new member of the Committee and trust that he will find being a committee member both interesting and rewarding.

Finances

As you are aware, for some time our operating expenditure has exceeded our revenue and we have been gradually running-down our financial reserves.

The Committee has decided that we have reached the point where it would not be prudent to reduce our reserves any further.

Our reserves are necessary to meet unexpected expenses and to enable us to take advantage of opportunities that may become available in the future, e.g. as we did when Parkwood became available.

To try and address this, we have been concentrating our efforts on increasing membership, but although we have recruited more new members in the last 12 months than ever before, we have also lost a number of older members due to ill-health, age, death or changed circumstances.

Although we intend to continue to concentrate our efforts on recruiting new members, this is unlikely to solve our financial problem in the near future.

What does the Committee pro-

pose to do?

Well firstly, the Committee has examined our costs and has decided that we will no longer post out Notices of our AGM or our Annual Re-enrolment forms. The cost of postage for these 2 events is around \$750 pa even when using "bulk post".

We will of course ensure that all members receive their Notice of AGM, either by email or by hand (our rules do not require us to post notices of our AGM).

It is also intended to distribute our Notice of Re-enrolment forms for 2019 in this way.

Irrespective of these changes, copies of the Notice of AGM and Re-enrolment will be available from the office.

Of course if a member advises that they will be absent from classes due to holidays or illness etc., during the time of the AGM or when re-enrolments take place, and they have no email address, the documents can be posted to them on request.

All this will help, but not solve our problem, so during Term 3 and prior



U3A Ringwood Incorporated,
Parkwood Community Hub,
35-39 Tortice Drive, Ringwood North, Vic 3134.
A.B.N. 14 419 221 576 Reg Nbr A0008300C
Phone: 9876 2925
Office: 9.00am – 12 Noon (Monday-Friday)
Web: www.u3aringwood.org.au
Email: u3arwood@gmail.com

to the preparations for enrolments for 2019, the Committee intends to review our annual membership fee, but be assured that any increase would be small.

We have raised this with members now, so that you have the opportunity to tell us what you think we can do in addition to that which is proposed, to best address our present financial problem.

You are invited to speak to or email any Committee member with your ideas, observations and suggestions. Committee contact details are posted on our Notice Boards

A Snapshot of our Income and Expenditure

Estimated Annual Operating Income		
1. Membership Fees	Number	\$
Single Members @ \$50.00 each	175	\$ 8,750.00
Couple Members @ \$80.00 per couple/ \$40 each	46	\$ 1,840.00
Associate Members @ \$35.00 each	13	\$ 455.00
Tutors (Honorary Members)	26	\$ 0
Joining fee for New Members @ \$5.00 each	40	\$ 200.00
2. Interest		<u>\$ 300.00</u>
Estimated Total Annual Income**		\$11,545.00
Estimated Annual Operating Expenses		
Lease - Norwood Sporting Club		\$ 1,650.00
Lease - Parkwood		\$ 1,650.00
Hire – 7th Ringwood Scout Group Hall		\$ 600.00
Electricity - Parkwood		\$ 1,700.00
Electricity – Norwood Sporting Club		\$ 3,300.00
Water - Parkwood		\$ 400.00
Toilet Paper and Soap – Parkwood (shared)		\$ 60.00
Cleaning of Shared Areas - Parkwood		\$ -
Printing & Paper Costs		\$ 580.00
Insurance		\$ 650.00
Telephone and internet		\$ 1,150.00
U3A Network fees		\$ 520.00
Office /Class materials		\$ 400.00
Tutors' Lunch		<u>\$ 1,100.00</u>
Estimated Annual Operating Expenditure		<u>\$ 13,760.00</u>
Shortfall		\$ 2,215.00
NB: Grants may be applied for and awarded from time to time but are usually for one-off specified purposes - not for operating expenses		

Next Term Dates

Term 3 – Monday 16 July to Friday 21 September

Term 4 – Monday 8 October to Friday 7 December

Lost and Found

Lost – A Pair of Ladies Glasses
 Found – At Kevin Pratt Pavilion,
 Norwood Sporting Club
 When – Sometime Ago
 Where Located Now – U3A Park-
 wood Office

If they are yours, please rescue them from the office and “you will be able to see again”.

Parkwood Air Conditioners

The classroom and office air conditioners are reverse cycle. They heat and cool the rooms.

When you turn them on they take about 5 minutes before any warm air is provided. During this time nothing appears to be happening. Be patient and don't press any of the buttons under the cover. If you do you may change the unit to cool down the room which is not good in winter!

Getting to Know Your Class Leaders

In this issue we features articles on the following leaders –
 Mary Semple - French
 Jeannie Buckland – Line Dancing
 Alex Robertson – Computers
 Bep Wolfers – Shi-ba-shi

Mary Semple

Languages have always been a vital part of this leader's life.

Tintern Grammar was the start of Mary's education to Year 12 and then on to Melbourne University doing an Arts Degree in French, English and Fine Art. Upon completion of her degree, her former principal, Miss Wood, invited Mary back to her old school to teach, where she did her teacher training at an Institution for Independent

schools, being given the relevant leave to achieve this study. Mary taught at Tintern for four years, then caused drama by going into labour with her first child during Speech Day.

When her son was thirteen months old Mary taught part time French classes at Maroondah High School, later moving to War-randyte High School for a period of eleven years teaching English and French, until French was replaced by Japanese. After her second marriage she sought a transfer to Croydon Secondary College, where she taught French, English and was “dobbed in” to teach additional classes for Year 7 students on Creative Writing and Computers, as well as Year 9 Sex Education also involving discussions on alcohol and drugs.

Mary now resides at Cherry Tree Retirement Village where her involvement in the village activities over the last nine years knows no bounds. She belongs to the Choir, Play Reading Group, Walking Group, two different Fitness Classes (one of which is led by a former Ballet Teacher), the Garden Club, and is organizing their Variety Night which encourages all members of the Village to participate in some form or other. Mary is also creating a 2019 calendar for residents, with photos of the Village.

Eleven years ago Mary’s former language co-ordinator at Croydon High School was contacted by U3A Ringwood who were trying to find a leader for their French class; suggested Mary might take this class “just to the end of the year, Mary” and the rest is “history” as they say. When Mary is away Angela Thomas is the lifeline who will step in and take the class for her.

As Mary’s class is Advanced French she believes her members need to

have completed at least Year 12 French studies in order to cope with the expected standard of grammar, conversation and listening comprehension. They are currently studying the novel “Bonjour Tristesse” by Françoise Sagan and the textbook “Vite et Bien 2” forms the basis of the study together with Schaum’s French Grammar. The class is keen on French cinema and is viewing “Un Village Français”, a series based on the German occupation of France during World War 2. Like so many tutors/leaders, the dedicated Mary spends a minimum of two hours on preparation for her lessons each week.

Mary is planning to write a book for Parkinson’s Victoria. Her late husband experienced fifteen years of intensive medical investigation before a tentative diagnosis was offered and was only confirmed after the donation of his brain to Melbourne University. She hopes it may help other sufferers and their families to understand the progress of the disease and cope accordingly.

Mary loves classical music, singing, gardening, photography, cryptic crosswords and reading, especially historical fiction and biographies.

Jeannie Buckland

The story of this leader’s early life in Australia will make you appreciate everything you had when you were young.

Jeannie was born in Scotland to an Irish father and a Scottish mother, both of whom were in the Air Force. After her father was “demobbed” to Melbourne and subsequently transferred to McMahons Creek which is about 6 km’s from the Upper Yarra Dam, he worked for the Country Roads Board and then the Board of Works on the Upper Yarra Dam.

When Jeannie and her mother arrived in Australia, she was 18 months old, and this became the

first meeting with her father. There followed three more sisters into the family. They were all self-sufficient, growing their own vegetables, fruit, chickens and ducks and at one time even had their own cow. There was no running water, electricity or gas. The fridge and lanterns were kerosene, the stove and oven wood fired. It was the “good life”, with a trip into Warburton once a month to pick up the staple supplies. They were real “bushies” and it was a wonderful environment for young children. School at East Warburton Primary was a 3 hour round trip each day.

When Jeannie was 14 years old the family relocated to Ferntree Gully, as it was felt that, with four girls, working opportunities would be better closer to Melbourne. “Oh, it was heaven” says Jeannie – “electricity, running water, a shower and the best of all – an indoor toilet – that was all magic”.

Jeannie really detested her secondary education at Boronia High School and couldn’t wait to leave as she wanted to earn money, so after completing Form 4 her parents said that if she could find a job, she could leave school. As she had excelled in typing, shorthand and book keeping, that was the field she decided to follow. She had four interviews in Melbourne, got all four jobs and decided to take the one that offered the most money – an Insurance Broker. Jeannie continued working in Australia in Bookkeeping in various industries and the last 25 years before retiring worked for a local Accounting Firm, as a Payroll Officer/Bookkeeper.

When Jeannie was 21, she and her friend took off on the “big adventure”. They went on a working holiday to the UK. Back then it was cheaper to spend 6 weeks on a cruise to the UK than an airfare. Due to her British heritage, she wasn’t restricted with visas, work per-

mits etc so stayed in the UK for 4 years. They bought a Morris 1000 station wagon and toured Europe and the British Isles. They lived and worked in London for 2 years and then 2 years in Nottingham where she and her friend both met young English gentlemen, who they subsequently married. Their mothers were not too happy as they said "why couldn't these Aussie girls leave our boys alone and find someone in their own country".

Jeannie has always loved dancing. As a child she went to Scottish Country Dancing with her parents, then as a teenager she was into Rock'n'Roll and even did a stint at "Go-Go Dancing". In her late teens she took up ballroom dancing with a love for "old time" dances, however, when line dancing came into vogue, she was there in a flash. After 6 years with a Line Dancing Club that folded, a group of them formed the Mooroolbark Line Dancers, where Jeannie taught beginner line dancing incorporating the basic steps, which then in turn fed their intermediate and advanced classes. This Club disbanded after 10 years due to rising costs and not enough participation during the winter months to cover costs.

Apart from line dancing which Jeannie does on a weekly basis whenever she can, her other interest is Amateur Theatre and she has been a season member of the Athenaeum Theatre in Lilydale for 40 years and also a volunteer front of house. She also does Sudoku each day, having been told that this keeps dementia at bay and gardening is another love when the weather is right.

Although Jeannie had not taught for 7 years, her friend Jeanette Cain recently coaxed her out of retirement to lead our Line Dancing Class. Jeannie says she looks

upon it as an exercise class to a routine and music, but the most important thing is to enjoy it and have fun.

Alex Robertson

What this leader doesn't know about IT isn't worth knowing!

Alex came to Australia, from Scotland, as a young boy in 1956. His family stayed at the old Rooks Road Hostel in Nunawading where he remembers attending kindergarten but little else. His father built the family home near the hostel and he had a short walk to Nunawading South Primary School but a much longer walk to Nunawading High School.

In high school Alex decided he wanted to be an engineer but the first year at Monash University put paid to that idea. He quickly worked out that it wasn't for him and started looking for other options.

Alex applied for a job at Nunawading Council but they seemed to want a good cricket player and he was hopeless at sports. A banking job seemed to be a good way to earn money while he worked on his strategic goals. He asked one of his brothers for advice as he worked at the ANZ Bank and rather than join him at the ANZ, Alex tried the National Bank of Australasia (now NAB). He worked at the NAB for the next 40 odd years. Alex started at the old Nunawading branch but fortunately his time in branches was short-lived. He was soon in head office in the International Division where he was exposed to about twenty different jobs including being a foreign exchange dealer.

In 1980 Alex transferred to the NAB's Information Technology Department. This was the early days of computers in Banks. He remembers coding on punch cards and using some of the first corporate PCs including the IBM XT, IBM AT, IBM PC

Jr and a MacIntosh Classic computer. Alex's time in the business side was not wasted as he worked in the team looking after the Bank's domestic and offshore international systems. The Bank had branches with mid range computer systems around the world and he visited these branches quite a few times to install and upgrade software. Alex met his wife, Linda, in this role as she worked at NAB Singapore and he was first there to provide post implementation support.

Alex's final roles at NAB were contracting for them on several IT projects. During this time his mind was also on post retirement roles. He was already volunteering in Scouts and had his hobby of fixing computers for himself and his extended family. However, he wanted to do more in retirement.

Alex tried to offer his IT skills to U3A Croydon but they seemed disinterested. He then tried U3A Ringwood and got a different response. When he joined in 2011 there were two other computer tutors but within a year or two there was just Alex. The courses he led were 4-6 weeks covering a structured topic much like that offered by most U3As. He decided that it would be more beneficial if computer class content was driven by the member's needs as there are many frustrations using today's technologies.

In 2015 the computer classes were restructured to be of up to six members at a time and allowed for each member's issue to be discussed. The issue can be about any hardware, any software or any technology service such as NBN, WiFi, etc. They generally find solutions amongst ourselves or on the Internet. A common theme though is transferring photos to a computer, editing them and organising them. Members can bring their own devices and often need only one or two classes to resolve their issue.

Bep Wolfers

This leader has so many memories from growing up in Europe during the war that we have included a couple of them.

Bep was born in 1930 in Amsterdam, Holland on the outskirts of the city surrounded by lovely parklands, and when she was young they used bikes to get around everywhere. She remembers often seeing Queen Wilhelmina being delivered to the area by her driver so she could paint the landscape and Bep says there were various times when the Queen waved to us while working on her painting.

During the war there were often times of very little school due to the German Navy occupying the buildings. She witnessed the horrors of seeing Jewish families dragged out of their homes and taken away by the Nazi. Growing up during those war years Bep found herself having outgrown her shoes and there were no “hand-me-downs” that fitted, so the first thing she acquired after the war ended was a pair of shoes to fit – something most of us just took for granted.

Bep met her husband Hans at the local Yacht Club, however, they were sick of the climate – summer just never seemed to come. As Bep had a brother living in Australia, they decided to come “down under” with their 3 year old son, arriving by ship in 1961 during our summertime and wondered what had struck them with the heat they were not used to. The family lived with Bep’s brother in Prahran for a while and having sold their house back in Holland, had enough to buy land in Olinda and built one of the first houses in their estate in 1962. They had just moved in and not yet got around to even hanging the curtains when bushfires started around them, so they fled Olinda and then mercifully the rain

came and their house was saved which was a double blessing given that Bep’s parents were on the boat to Australia to come and live with them.

Bep & Hans stayed at Olinda for 10 years and then moved to Croydon. Bep had worked as a Secretary and had learnt English, French and German at school, including English shorthand and typing. Via night school and correspondence Bep did her Adult Matriculation and was then able to start an Arts Degree full time at Monash University and then transferred to Melbourne University where she also worked between lectures as secretary to one of the Professors. She completed her degree and joined the Education Department where, due to a shortage of teachers, was sent to Croydon High School to replace the Maths Teacher, even though she was not maths qualified, but had to teach Forms 1 and 2 as well as English and Ancient History. Later she finished her teacher training and received her Dip Ed. qualification. Bep stayed at Croydon High School for 10 years and then retired and, as she says, the good life began.

Bep heard about U3A from the Council and the first classes were actually held at the Council buildings and when the Senior Citizens building was completed, U3A moved there to share the premises. As Bep and friend Hazel Kempton were attending the Tai Chi Academy they used to practice in the Senior Citizens hall there and other members viewing them through the glass door asked her to teach her art and the Tai Chi classes began. This later became Shi-ba-shi which was developed in Singapore to help people with breathing. It is a Chinese art with 18 movements done 6 times over each session, says Bep.

Bep likes to have 30 minutes of warming up exercise and then 30 minutes of actually doing each

movement and changed movements from 6 to 8 times to fit in the hour time frame. It is over 30 years since Bep first started teaching Tai Chi and Shi-ba-shi in separate sessions- a tremendous achievement.

Bep was also a member of the combined Ringwood and Croydon U3A Walking Group with the late Dot Ward. Once a month they combined with members from Frankston and Mornington U3A and walked in the Peninsula or the Dandenongs and once a year they would have a weekly camp together.

For a short while Bep helped with a German class. She also started the Italian class, even though she did not speak Italian but coaxed her good friend Maria to lead the class. Bep learned Line Dancing with Dot Ward and then started teaching it at Ringwood. For the shortest time of 3 weeks she also did an Arabic Class at Parkwood and then the leader left. Bep remembers back in the early days of U3A Ringwood there was a class on Fly Fishing which, of course, was taught outside of campus. Another leader taught Hydroponics at his home. A further memory from years ago was a class called Secret Societies – now that’s an interesting one!

Finally, other volunteer work Bep did was to help set up the Croydon District Neighbourhood Watch becoming a Zone Leader.

LET'S TALK AND PLAN: YOUR LIFE, YOUR CHOICES

Advanced talking and planning makes things easier for all the people you care about

Speakers:

- Box Hill Hospital Advanced Care Planning
- Palliative Care South East
- Le Pine Funerals
- Springvale Botanical Gardens



Come along with your family to our Information Seminar and Expo to learn more about your options.

12:45–4pm on Tuesday 10 July

Senior Hall, Silver Grove, Nunawading

Speakers begin at 1pm – please arrive by 12:45pm

Please register by 22 June

**at the front counter of the U3A Nunawading office
or phone 9878 3898 or email admin@u3anunawading.org.au**

Registration is essential as numbers are strictly limited



NUNAWADING
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Expo Stands

- Palliative Care South East
- Le Pine Funerals
- Springvale Botanical Cemetery
- Centrelink
- Lifelink Response (Feros Care)
- Margaret Barwell (funeral celebrant)
- Bolton Clarke (formerly RDNS)
- DonateLife (organ donation)
- Tabulam and Templar Homes for the Aged (Home Care Packages)
- Dying with Dignity Victoria
- Mahons Lawyers, Blackburn (wills and estate planning)
- City of Whitehorse Library (relevant books and dvds)
- City of Whitehorse

Brochure Stand

- *Your voice - Trust your choice* (Office of the Public Advocate)
- *Take Control* (Office of the Public Advocate)
- *My aged care*
- *Elder abuse prevention & support*
- *Your Will*