

CONTACT

VOLUME 26, No. 1 February 2022



MOONEE VALLEY NEWSLETTER
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

U3A MOONEE VALLEY INCORPORATED (A0034837K) ABN: 73 188 473 048

CORRESPONDENCE TO: THE SECRETARY, U3A MOONEE VALLEY
PO BOX 459, MOONEE PONDS VIC 3039

PHONE: 9337 7779
(office hours 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. (Monday to Friday))

WEBSITE: www.u3amooneevalley.com.au

EMAIL: info@u3amooneevalley.com.au

The authors make every effort to ensure that the information in this newsletter is correct when going to print. U3A MV does not assume and hereby disclaims any liability to any party for any loss, damage or disruption caused by errors or omissions.

STOP PRESS:



**Need a replacement Badge?
NOW IS THE TIME TO RING
9337 7779**



BADGES – NOW IS THE TIME!

New members will automatically receive a badge. If you accidentally put yours through the washing machine, or the dog has eaten it, or if it's just plain lost and you need another one now is the time. Please leave a message at the office.

Barrie Fenby.

FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Despite no election campaign or stump speech, I was elected President in December (too easy). This is a new role and responsibility for me and I thank the many members who have wished me well. I felt I owed it to MVU3A to step up after 16 years of happy membership. To my mind U3A is a precious grassroots community of volunteers and it needs all the support that we can give it.

I follow in the footsteps of Brian Smith our capable hardworking ex-president who stepped down after his allotted four years in that role. Happily, Brian remains on committee, has agreed to edit the Contact magazine, help co-ordinate zoom and assist with the website.

I have 24/7 mentoring plus an inspiring committee to work with.

What a roller coaster ride it has been since last year's AGM. In early December, we had 92% double vaccination rate, were opening up for a normal Christmas and felt optimistic. Fifty-seven courses were on offer and I'm sure all members feel grateful to our new and on-going tutors.

The new Omicron variant inevitably shook many people's confidence in how normal 2022 might be. However, as we moved into February, there were very encouraging reports about the effectiveness of the booster injections.

In order for us to meet as safely as possible, Moonee Valley Council requires that we use the QR codes and wear masks properly indoors. You might recall we wielded antiseptic wipes after completion of our classes last year. This year, we have not been asked to clean the fixtures at their venues. Moonee Valley Council will organise to have the rooms cleaned at the end of each day. Kitchens are available for use. If you have any concerns about this you can always bring your own small bottle of sanitiser. Of course, the best safety measures for us all will be to wear a mask indoors, have the booster shot and stay home if any symptoms are experienced.

Moonee Valley Council have further clarified that tutors are not required to be masked while speaking. This has been a green light for some tutors who were not keen on the idea of mumbling through a mask. However, the class must remain masked.

As you will be aware, tutors were surveyed about their 2022 resumption thoughts. The Covid situation had changed so much between when they signed on to run a course and when classes were due to begin. Tutors consulted with people on their class lists and many groups have gone ahead as planned. Others including all Ascot Vale classes are deferred until March.

Groups returning to Emerald Street will find a more user-friendly classroom. In October last year, the Committee surveyed the Emerald Street tutors and sent their list of very justified criticisms in a letter to Moonee Valley Council. The response from Council was amazing. They have laid new carpet, provided moveable tables, fitted block out blinds and provided a large portable whiteboard. The work was completed before Christmas and less than 6 weeks after our letter. MVU3A purchased a TV trolley and a new 55" smart TV which has been tuned to the WiFi. Classes will enjoy the improved facilities from the first week of the year. We owe Moonee Valley Council a letter of thanks.

Let's all keep as safe as we can while enjoying as much as we can. I wish you well with all your endeavours in 2022.

Jan Smith
President

UPDATE TO U3A MOONEE VALLEY COVID SAFE PLAN

Last week, we had our first experience of a class member notifying a tutor of a positive Covid test a day after attending class. Consequently, all other attendees at that class became social contacts. Mask and distancing procedures had been followed and no positive cases occurred. Because this is a new situation for us it is important that we expand our Covid safe plan. To bring it up to date, we need to add the procedures for dealing with notification of a positive result from a member. Many of you have no doubt already experienced this scenario in your everyday life.

Points 1 – 6 of the plans are well known to you. Point 7 is the addition to deal with notification of a positive case.

1. The double vaccination requirement.

- Double vaccination is required to maintain membership in 2022.
- A vaccination certificate needs to be sighted before admission at the beginning of the first class and a record kept (a class roll with ticks)
- Members are encouraged to have a vaccine booster.

2. **QR codes** are displayed at all venues and must be complied with

3. **Masks** that cover the nose are required to be worn in indoor settings.

- Tutors are permitted to remove their masks while speaking to the group.

4. **Sanitiser** stations are available at MVCC libraries. Members are encouraged to bring their own sanitiser to other venues.

5. **Ventilation:** Where possible doors and windows should be open.

6. Class members are reminded not to attend if they have any symptoms

7. What happens if a class member notifies their tutor that they have tested positive.

- The class member who tested positive should have already contacted the Health department.
- The tutor should notify the Venue Coordinator (Edith James) and the Tutor Coordinator (Geoff Miller).
- The tutor should notify all other class members who were in attendance that they are now social contacts and should monitor for Covid symptoms.
- The Government recommendation is that social contacts use Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) for 5 days after the notification.
- Social contacts who have negative results and no symptoms do not have to isolate. They can return to class after 5 days of negative test results.
- Social contacts who record a positive result on a RAT need to contact the health department. If the positive result was from a PCR testing centre, the result is automatically forwarded. They should notify their class tutor as well.
- A Covid case must isolate for seven days and be symptom free before they can re-join a class. No additional testing is required.

Living with Covid is going to require that we take personal responsibility to comply with regulations. The Government has provided a set of checklists for people to follow if they are a Covid case or a social contact of a Covid case. For a Covid case the checklist is found at [Checklist for COVID cases | Coronavirus Victoria](#). For a social contact of a Covid case the checklist is found at [Checklist for COVID contacts | Coronavirus Victoria](#).

REPORT OF THE 2021 AGM

For the second year in a row our AGM was conducted on Zoom. We can only hope we don't have to do this ever again. Thank you to the 54 members who logged in and provided the necessary quorum. The important business was to elect new members to the committee and to pass motions setting fees for the calendar years of 2022 and 2023. Here is a summary of the meeting.

Fees for 2022 and 2023.

Our treasurer (Michael Walsh) provided the background to these motions. Again in 2021 Moonee Valley Council waived all venue hire fees. There were other cost reductions also due to the effects of Covid on our operations. The resulting unexpected surplus will be used for the benefit of members, including a fee reduction for 2022.

Motion 1: reduced fees for 2022 passed unanimously.

Motion 2: restored fees for 2023 passed unanimously.

2022 Committee of Management:

The positions of President and Secretary, and five ordinary members were declared vacant. Seven nominations were received, and the following members were elected unopposed to the 2022 committee: Jan Smith President; Jo Bradshaw Secretary. Also elected to the committee were Helen Mather, Natalie Vernuccio, Marjorie Ridley, Edith James, Ann Watson. The members of the 2022 Committee are:

Jan Smith (President)
Bruce Findlay (Vice President)
Michael Walsh (Treasurer)
Jo Bradshaw (Secretary)
Geoff Miller (Course/Tutor Coordinator)
Barrie Fenby (Membership Database Manager)
Edith James (Venue Coordinator)
Marjorie Ridley (Office Manager)
Natalie Vernuccio (Hospitality co-ordinator)
Helen Mather (Social Events)
Ann Watson (Social events, Assistant to treasurer)

Moonee Valley U3A is indeed fortunate to have such inspiring and hard -working people on its committee.

Acknowledgement of Tutors:

Geoff Miller thanked our wonderful tutors, who, due to Covid restrictions worked under difficult conditions all year.

Office Volunteers:

Our Office Volunteers were essentially on standby while restrictions were in place but ready to step up if needed. Marjorie Ridley monitored the phone remotely and kept a wise eye on things.

Acknowledgement of Retiring Tutors:

George Widdison: Meryl Carey gave heartfelt thanks to George, who ran book club 2 for eighteen years. Members of the group remember fondly his dedication and gentle and polite manner which allowed all members to feel at ease and able to speak freely. He will be greatly missed.

Geoff Miller thanked the following retiring tutors:

Claire McCagnan, (French tutor).

Prue Hamilton, (Wednesday Patchwork tutor).

Annette Burston, (Folk Art tutor).

Val Hobbins, (Creative Writing tutor).

Pauline Lane, (Scrabble tutor).

Mary Jinkins, (Wednesday Walkers tutor).

Con Flaim, (Chess tutor).

(Editor)

COURSE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

With the continuing concern and need for caution about Covid we have had a complex start to the year. As many of you are aware, tutors were given the option of delaying the commencement of classes. They were encouraged to consult with class participants prior to making the decision. Our committee was influenced by the fact that some weeks ago Melbourne City U3A decided to suspend all their face-to-face classes until March. However, while a number of our classes also decided to delay, the majority chose to begin as scheduled.

The situation is also complicated by the fact that Ascot Vale Neighbourhood Centre continues to be unavailable to us. Its use by the council as an emergency food relief centre was to have concluded at the end of December, however it has already been extended twice, currently until the end of February. At the time of writing there is no certainty beyond then. This has meant that alternative venues have been sought for all those classes and activities normally based at AVNC – further increasing the already heavy workload of our Venue Coordinator, Edith James. In spite of the complications, hopefully most of you have commenced your classes for 2022 this week. While, for indoor classes at least, we will be stuck behind masks for the foreseeable future, I hope that you are all enjoying the experience.

There are still vacancies in a number of our courses and it is not too late to enrol. For example, there are still vacancies in two of our book clubs. Please check our website for details. One of our new courses, *The Life and Works of Thomas Mann: An Introduction*, commences at the start of Term 2.

Hopefully we can all approach 2022 with some optimism that we can enjoy a fruitful and uninterrupted year.

Geoff Miller

MEMBERSHIP REPORT.

We welcome 41 new members to 2022 and start the year with a total of 415 members.

Enrolment day can be a little bit of a stressful time for some members. Will my computer let me down at the wrong time, will I get into that course I want to do? Overall it went well and it appears we're all getting the hang of how to use the system. Special thanks to Pauline

Hennessy and Kathy Boyce for their assistance in dealing with queries and problems on enrolment day.

VALE MAURICE CORKILL

Those who knew Maurice Corkill were very sad to hear of his passing on the 23rd of January, just days after suffering a severe stroke. Maurice was our very competent treasurer for four years – the maximum term allowed – until three years ago. He also participated in a number of our classes, particularly those with a history focus.

In recent years Maurice had suffered with serious health issues, one of which led to the loss of his right arm. Undeterred by this, he regained his driver's licence with the help of an electronic device attached to the steering wheel. He remained cheerful and positive until the end. The most common response I noted to the news of his death was that he was a "True Gentleman". Maurice made many good friends through his U3A activities and I was very proud to be one of them.

Geoff Miller

NEW WEBSITE

In March we secured a grant of \$3350 from Moonee Valley Council to re-develop our Website. We wanted to make it more attractive and appealing to any visitor. We also to take over the role of posting new material and pictures to the site ourselves.

The new site went live at the start of February and I'm sure you'll agree it looks great. Special thanks to Barrie Fenby who carried the lion's share of the work in making this happen.

Are you interested in helping us keep our website up to date? We're looking to put together a small team (3 to 4 people) who would be trained in how to do updates. Updates will include things like adding new pictures, posting notes about upcoming social events, editing text which goes out of date. If you think you can help please contact me at uthreea6@gmail.com.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Helen Mather and Ann Watson have agreed to keep an eye open for social outings that members might enjoy. 2021 was a year of forced cancellations of interesting activities that had been organised. At this stage we still exploring opportunities and we are waiting until we are confident that activities can go ahead.

OFFICE NEWS.

The Committee of Management and I would like to thank all members who volunteered for Office duty for 2021.

We all hope that this year is better than last.

The Office is now open Monday to Friday from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm (excluding school holidays and public holidays until the end of February when we will the open Monday/Wednesday/Friday until the 18th June.

The voice on the phone is often the first contact someone has for our organisation. We are proud of the professional manner and dedication of our Office Volunteers and their efficiency in handling all enquires.

We are always looking for more volunteers to staff the Office especially for emergency duty. If you are able to assist or wish to find out more, please do not hesitate to contact me via email on officecomv@gmail.com or 0410 435 929.

Marjorie Ridley
Office Coordinator

MONTHLY LUNCHESES at KEILOR EAST RSL

All U3A Moonee Valley members and friends are invited to attend the monthly lunches which are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

You choose and pay for your own food and drink. As well as a wide range of dishes offered on the main Bistro menu, a Seniors menu of generous portions is available. Current prices for Seniors meals are 3 courses \$20.00, 2 courses \$18.00 and 1 course \$16.00.

2022 Lunch Dates :

17. February. 17. March. 21 April. 19 May. 16 June.

Please come and join us to socialise and enjoy each other's company.

Due to COVID-19 conditions all persons attending MUST be double vaccinated. I will need to advise the venue of the numbers attending. Please contact me on 0410 435 929 or email officecomv@gmail.com by Thursday of the week prior to the lunch date.

I look forward to catching up in the near future.

Marjorie Ridley

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Financial statements for the year ending 30th November 2021 are presented to members. These have been prepared on an accrual basis in accordance with relevant accounting standards. The accounts have been submitted for audit but as yet final sign off has not yet been received. Members will be advised when the audit process is completed.

Michael Walsh

U3A Moonee Valley Inc
Income Statement
For the year ended 30 November 2021

	Note	2021	2020
INCOME			
Revenue	7	30,511.16	32,246.90
EXPENSES			
Compensation		560.00	1,060.00
Gifts and donations		0.00	325.00
Social events		168.00	6,326.00
Tutors expenses	8	1,130.76	1,610.92
Grant projects		7,054.16	2,209.81
Venues		0.00	1,302.61
Administration expenses	9	7,551.35	7,642.40
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	10	328.98	1,405.80
Total expenditure		16,793.25	21,882.54
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year		13,717.91	10,364.36

U3A Moonee Valley Inc
Balance Sheet
As at 30 November 2021

	Note	2021	2020
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	39,696.29	35,931.40
Total current assets		39,696.29	35,931.40
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant and equipment	4	6,066.73	158.71
Total assets		45,763.02	36,090.11
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			

Trade and other payables	5	0.00	4,045.00
Total liabilities		0.00	4,045.00
Net assets		45,763.02	32,045.11
Retained surplus	6	<u>45,763.02</u>	<u>32,045.11</u>
Net worth		45,763.02	32,045.11

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

		2021	2020
		\$	\$
Note 3: Cash and cash equivalents			
Bendigo Bank Operating account		700.49	1,010.76
Bendigo Bank Interest Bearing account		38,795.80	34,920.64
Bendigo Bank Debit Card account		<u>200.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		39,696.29	35,931.40
Note 4: Plant and equipment			
Computers at cost		7,664.96	7,664.96
Office equipment at cost		6,237.00	0.00
Less accumulated depreciation		<u>(7,835.23)</u>	<u>(7,506.25)</u>
		6,066.73	158.71
Note 5: Trade and other payables			
Trade creditors		0.00	0.00
Grants in advance		0.00	4,000.00
Income received in advance		<u>0.00</u>	<u>45.00</u>
		0.00	4,045.00
Note 6: Retained surplus			
Balance as at 1 December 2020		32,045.11	21,680.75
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		<u>13,717.91</u>	<u>10,364.36</u>
		45,763.02	32,045.11
Note 7: Revenue			
Class fees		810.00	1,685.00
Grants		7,350.00	750.00
Interest		23.16	53.90
Membership fees		21,706.00	25,350.00
Social events		622.00	5,138.00

	30,511.16	32,976.90
--	-----------	-----------

Note 8: Tutors expenses

Aids	709.14	1,610.92
Gifts	421.62	0.00
	<u>1,130.76</u>	<u>1,610.92</u>

Note 9: Administration expenses

Catering	71.48	131.15
Communications	436.67	638.00
Fees and charges	333.99	650.67
Administration expenses	3,190.02	2,539.62
Photocopier rental	1,972.30	1,609.30
Postage	395.12	373.14
Stationery and photocopying	269.77	587.27
U3A network	882.00	1,113.25
Office equipment 20.00%	<u>7,551.35</u>	<u>7,642.40</u>

Note 10: Depreciation and amortisation expenses

Office equipment	170.27	0.00
Computers	158.71	1,405.80
	<u>328.98</u>	<u>1,405.80</u>

U3A Moonee Valley acknowledges invaluable support received from Moonee Valley City Council, Department for Victorian Communities, ACFE, Hon. Bill Shorten MP, Mr Danny Pearson MP and Mr Ben Carroll MP.

