

CONTACT

VOLUME 29, No. 1 February 2025



MOONEE VALLEY NEWSLETTER
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

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Key Dates in this Issue

<i>Feb 20th</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Committee Meeting 10:00 am.</i>
<i>Feb 20th</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Monthly lunch Keilor East RSL noon.</i>
<i>Feb 22nd</i>	<i>Sat</i>	<i>Moonee Valley Festival, Queens Park, 10:00 on</i>
<i>Feb 27th</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Vera Lynn Concert, AVNC, 1:00 pm</i>
<i>March 14th</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Tram Boat, 10:15 am pick up.</i>
<i>March 20th</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Committee Meeting 10:00 am.</i>
<i>March 20th</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Monthly lunch Keilor East RSL noon.</i>
<i>April 4th</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Term 1 ends</i>
<i>April 15th</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Forum 11:00 am, Windy Hill</i>
<i>April 17th</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Monthly lunch Keilor East RSL noon.</i>
<i>April 22nd</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Term 2 commences</i>
<i>May 15th</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Committee Meeting 10:00 am.</i>
<i>May 15th</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Monthly lunch Keilor East RSL noon.</i>

Presidents Report

The flurry of enrolment day is over. Barrie Fenby and his team of Jennie, Kathy, Michael, and Marjorie set us up for the happy U3A year that I think we all deserve.

As usual, to all those who succeeded in enrolling in their much loved courseswell done!

To those who missed out.....commiserations. Is there something else you could try and enjoy? Check out the website to see where the vacancies are.

How about volunteering to run a class in an area of interest to you?

Would anyone be interested in running a group for people who love to play cards and games?

There are a lot of difficult things going on overseas in the world today. Many people have lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods. There are so many things we can do nothing about.

I see our U3A as a source for joy fun and laughter in our lives. Let us make the most of the happy times we can have meeting together and becoming friends with new people each week.

I am happy to report that we are able to welcome two new committee people this year. Both Peter Baker and Christine Forbes have agreed to join & attend our monthly meetings. We are lucky at MVU3A.....people have always realised the need to help and join the CoM. We will need to be recruiting for new committee members later this year and I hope you will think how you could be helpful to our MVU3A. This is not onerous.....just like a small part time job working with very pleasant people.

MVCC issues

Moonee valley Council have revived their Moonee Valley festival. It will happen in Queens park on Saturday 22nd February from 9am till dark. We will have a stall from 10am to 4 pm and hopefully hand out lots of brochures. We live in hope that we can even find some new tutors. There is a program of entertainment and more detail can be found at <https://mvcc.vic.gov.au/my-week/moonee-valley-festival/>

Sincerely Yours Concert

You will find a poster advertisement for a Vera Lyn tribute concert called “Sincerely Yours.” It is designed for seniors and is to be held at Ascot Vale Neighbourhood Centre on Thursday 27th February at 1:00 pm. The performer is Victoria Mantynen (from Little Pine Tree Productions)

Last year Victoria Mantynen partnered with Hume Council. This year her performance is in partnership with Moonee Valley City Council. (She received a council grant). The President of Moonee Valley Life Activities (Robert Peters) recommends it as a very enjoyable afternoon. This concert is one of four that will be held at different venues during the year for seniors in Moonee Valley. The idea is for seniors to connect in their neighbourhood.

The cost is \$15 and includes the performance and some afternoon tea.

I will inform you of the other concerts closer to their dates.

Lastly, please remember to wear your badge to class. In the unlikely event that you should suffer a health collapse there, your support details on the back of your badge will save an anxious tutor from trying to locate them in the midst of an emergency.

Jan Smith

2024 AGM REPORT

The AGM was held at Ascot Vale Neighbourhood Centre on Tuesday December 3. Thankyou to the 73 members who attended and ensured that we had a quorum.

The main business of the meeting was to set the fees for next year, elect members to the committee, approve an amendment our constitution and to thank all those whose work contributed to the success of U3A Moonee Valley.

Fees for 2026:

Our treasurer (Michael Walsh) provided the background to this motion. Our financial position is sound with a healthy contingency to cover any unexpected expenditures which may arise. Our financial plan was to breakeven for the year with income from membership fees balancing budgeted expenditure. We met the plan and succeeded in reducing expenditure and generating a surplus. Consequently, fees for 2026 will be maintained at the same level as in 2025. We expect to maintain membership fees at this level for the foreseeable future.

Motion: fees for 2026 remain unchanged from 2025. *Passed unanimously.*

2025 Committee of Management:

The positions of Vice President and Treasurer, and four ordinary members were declared vacant. Six nominations were received, and the following members were elected unopposed to the 2025 committee: Brian Smith - Vice President; Michael Walsh - Treasurer. Also elected to the committee were Ann Watson, Barrie Fenby, Helen Mather and Peter Baker. The members of the 2025 Committee are:

Jan Smith (President)
Brian Smith (Vice President)
Michael Walsh (Treasurer)
Jo Bradshaw (Secretary)
Ann Watson (Course/Tutor Coordinator)
Barrie Fenby (Membership Database Manager)
Edith James (Venue Coordinator)
Marjorie Ridley (Office Manager)
Helen Mather (Hospitality co-ordinator, assisting with social activities)
Bruce Findlay
Deborah D’Cruz (Assisting with social activities)
Peter Baker

Amendment to the Constitution:

From time to time Community Affairs Victoria revises the “model rules” which apply to incorporated bodies such as ourselves. These changes are deemed to apply automatically whether formally adopted by us or not. The most recent changes (November 2023), provided the trigger for us to review our constitution for its relevance. Since the last amendment in 2014, we have changed the way we operate. We have moved many previously paper based systems online via our website and database.

Motion: to amend the rules to conform with CAV requirements and to update Rules 9, 10 and 11 to reflect current practice. *Passed unanimously.*

Acknowledgement of Tutors:

Geoff Miller thanked our wonderful tutors for their work making our U3A so enjoyable and meaningful for members.

Retiring Tutors:

Di Phillips thanked Michelle Cairns for her wonderful and outstanding work as a tutor for Current Affairs, a Book Group and Chair Yoga.

Kathy Boyce thanked Rebecca Luxford for being our wonderful Fun and Fitness tutor over so many years.

Pat Davidson thanked Sue Curwood for leading a very enjoyable book group for many years. All received a Certificate of Appreciation

Acknowledgement of Retiring Course Coordinator

Brian Smith thanked Geoff Miller for his twelve years of service to Moonee Valley U3A as our Tutor Coordinator. Geoff volunteered his services at a critical time for our U3A in 2013. Geoff was thanked for looking after the tutors so capably and for his work encouraging new tutors. He was presented with a gift and a Certificate of Appreciation for a job well done.

Office Volunteers:

Marjorie Ridley thanked the office volunteers for their assistance throughout 2024. She outlined the proposal to transition to a “remote office” in 2025.

Post Meeting Entertainment:

A 2024 retrospective Photo Quiz was held. 6 eagle eyed members received Gusto Bakery chocolate plum pudding prizes.

(Brian Smith - Editor)

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR’S REPORT

As usual most of the fifty-five classes have been well subscribed to. There are only a few vacancies in about a dozen classes: Advance French (1), Circle Dance (4), Fingerstyle Guitar (2), Introduction to Croquet (1), Makers & Menders (7), Patchwork & Quilting (7), Patchwork (4), Pétanque (1), Science in the Service of Mankind (3), Seniors Cinema (2), Strum Ukulele and Sing (1), They died around a hundred years ago (14). Social bridge has 11 vacancies but there are 8 people undertaking Bridge Lessons for Beginners.

Never forget that Fine Films, Opera and Wednesday Walkers are open and welcoming throughout the year.

If there is something of interest, better to act sooner or later to secure one of the remaining places.

The Tutors Meeting on 4th February was well attended. We went through the basics with extra hints from Marjorie, Barrie and Michael.

We did some brainstorming on topics for future forums and or new classes. If you have thought of a course that would interest you or even contemplate leading a class, please let me know. I am here to help you build on that idea. Do you know anyone who could help with Beginner’s French? We are also still seeking a volunteer who might be interested to lead an exercise class. Are there any ideas out there among you about how we could run a gardening group!

Classes do not have to run weekly. Could be a monthly gardening group? Could be a short course “Selling on Social Media.” Maybe two people could work together. It is about volunteering at a level you are comfortable with and being appreciated for the effort.

While U3A Moonee Valley is your home base do not forget to consider some online U3A courses. www.u3aonline.org.au/courses. There is an extensive range of courses which are particularly good for special interests or people that have limited time.

Looking forward to hearing about your inspiring ideas!

Ann Watson
ann@mindsetcoaching.com.au

OFFICE NEWS 2025

The number of queries and requests for assistance to the office has steadily declined over the past few years. So much so in fact, that often volunteers do not receive a single query during their time in the office.

The important news for 2025 is that the office is now unattended and we have moved to the “working from home” model. All calls to the office are now answered by me (Marjorie Ridley), working from home.

I will try to help with any queries. If I don’t have the answers I will find them. If I am not available please clearly leave your name and phone number and I will return your call as soon as possible.

Thank you for your assistance as we move to a new process for assisting members and the general public.

Marjorie Ridley
Office Coordinator.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT.

Badges

Lost a badge? Dog ate it? Request a replacement by emailing Barrie at fenby@bigpond.com.

New members automatically receive a badge.

Database Security – Please login

Security for member details has recently been upgraded on our database.

Unfortunately, this has had some unintended consequences (of course).

The records of some members happily accepted in the past have simply been deleted.

Similarly, some members passwords have summarily been reset to simply a dot.

NOW IS A GOOD TIME to login and check all is well with your record.

Of course, you could wait until the end of the year, when all this is forgotten, and you try to re-join and not be able login. Best check it now.

Please let Barrie Fenby know if you have any difficulty on fenby@bigpond.com

WAITLISTS

If you are on a waitlist, the COURSES link on the website will show how many members are on the list. The number on the list is given at the far right of the course description. It may help with you year's planning to know where you are on the list. If so, please call the office or email info@u3amooneevalley.com.au

MEMBER NUMBERS

At the time of publication, we have 575 members, 461 female and 114 male.

TRAM BOAT EXCURSION – FRIDAY 14TH MARCH, 2025

The Tram Boat excursion is on again! The voyage to Williamstown is always interesting, fun and the fish and chips lunch always welcome.

This year the pickup will be at the landing under the Maribyrnong Bridge just a short walk from the Angler's Hotel car park.

The cost will be \$65.00 per person which includes morning tea, lunch and the Essendon pick up.

We will meet at the Hotel car park at 10.00am for boarding at 10.15am. We will arrive back at approximately 2.00pm.

Please register your interest on – info@u3amooneevalley.com.au

Banking details –

Reference –	Surname/Tram Boat
BSB -	633000
A/C –	154051213

Payment will be required by 10th March to finalise numbers

Should you have any questions or concerns please contact me on 0407 582656.

I look forward to seeing you all on the day.

Helen Mather

DANCE FOR SENIORS WITH THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET

And now for something completely different at the Clocktower Centre:

Channel the grace and beauty of ballet in a dance class for seniors, inspired by the movements and music of The Australian Ballet's productions.

The program's inclusive design ensures there are options for everyone aged 60+, regardless of ability or experience, including options for sitting, standing, or dancing with support. The class will be taught by a member of The Australian Ballet's Education and Outreach team.

Single Session Cost \$28, All Sessions 9.30am-11.00am,

Tuesday 4 March 2025

Tuesday 6 May 2025

Tuesday 10 June 2025

Tuesday 2 September 2025

Tuesday 28 October 2025

Everything you need to know and how to book can be found at:

<https://clocktowercentre.com.au/dance-for-seniors-2025/>

FORUM – APRIL 15TH, WINDY HILL

We are hoping to have in place a presentation from Ambulance Victoria about CPR, defibrillators and how to help people in an emergency. You will be advised by email of the specific details when they are confirmed.

All being well it will be held on Tuesday 15th of April at Windy Hill Venue at the corner of Napier and Brewster Street Essendon. It will commence at 11.00 in the Premiers Room, the venue we normally use for our forums. We encourage those attending to stay for lunch at the Venue's bistro, where reasonably priced meals, including those on a seniors' menu, are available.

Monthly Lunches 2025 - East Keilor 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 at the East Keilor RSL.

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.

Dates for 2025:

20th February. 20th March. 17th April. 15th May. 19th June

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

I will need to advise the venue of the numbers attending. Please contact me on email officecomv@gmail.com by Monday prior to the lunch date.

I look forward to catching up in the near future.

Marjorie Ridley



Sincerely Yours:

Last year Victoria Mantynen partnered with Hume Council. This year her performance is in partnership with Moonee Valley City Council. (She received a council grant). The President of Moonee Valley Life Activities (Robert Peters) recommends it as a very enjoyable afternoon.

This concert is one of four that will be held at different venues during the year for seniors in Moonee Valley. The idea is for seniors to connect in their neighbourhood.

Sincerely Yours event program has been designed for Senior members of Moonee Valley to access a world class musical performance followed by a social afternoon tea where they can connect with locally set up stalls by council and social/community groups and services, etc. Our aim is to connect the neighbourhood and improve social and mental wellbeing.

Cost per session for seniors: \$15

Event details:

Thursday 27th February (Vera Lynn Show) at Ascot Vale Neighbourhood Centre - 1pm

Book: <https://www.trybooking.com/CXYRT>

Congratulations Bernadette on your "Unique Wonder" game at Mahjong.



TREASURER'S REPORT:

**U3A Moonee Valley Inc
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 30 November 2024**

	2024	2023
Opening balance	34,712.86	34,910.17
Class fees	1,284.00	1,180.00
Social events	2,300.00	2,380.00
Trivia day	420.00	445.00
Member subscriptions	26,325.00	25,175.00
Grants	1,500.00	0.00
Interest	678.09	538.51
Total income	32,507.09	29,718.51
EXPENSES		
Fees and charges	451.42	428.29
AGM Expenses	97.85	296.07
Catering	575.72	416.18
Donations	0.00	200.00
Equipment	120.00	2,246.00
Gifts	109.00	0.00
Administration expenses	1,055.78	1,785.66
Photocopier lease	2,151.60	2,151.60
Photocopying and stationery	715.64	607.78
Trivia Day	761.29	1,183.08
Grants Projects	1,465.57	639.16
Postage	546.38	458.60
Social events	2,220.00	2,263.60
Tutor aids	2,474.59	3,311.58
Tutor gifts	2,010.98	2,284.30
Venue hire	9,111.42	8,648.27
Volunteers	1,075.00	1,025.00
U3A conference	450.00	0.00
U3A Network	1,030.00	960.00
MyU3A website data fees	168.30	371.40
Website hosting fees and maintenance	305.55	149.25
Internet	275.00	300.00
Refund - subscriptions	125.00	190.00
Total expenditure	27,296.09	29,915.82
Surplus/ (deficit) for the period	5,211.00	-197.31
Closing balance	39,923.86	34,712.86

Financial statement for the year ending 30th November 2024 is presented above for members. Accounts have been sent to our auditor (Bruce Warlow Registered Company Auditor 8975) and we are awaiting his report.

Michael Walsh

Photos Wanted

I'd like to include more photos of our members enjoying themselves. Now is your chance, send them to me at uthreea6@gmail.com for inclusion in the May Contact.

(Brian Smith - Editor)

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.

