

AGM 2014



Norm Fary hands over the presidency to Meg Adams

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2014

Position	Name
<i>President</i>	Meg Adams
<i>Vice-President</i>	vacant
<i>Secretary</i>	Bruce Lancashire
<i>Treasurer</i>	Frank Egan
<i>Campus Mgr & Tutors' Rep.</i>	John Howell
<i>Music/Orchestra Manager</i>	Ruth Muir
<i>Members:</i>	Linda Baynham
	David Bennett
	Norm Fary [immediate past President]
	Terry Hastings
	Irving Miller
	Stefanie Sowerby





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President's Annual Report 2014

U3A Hawthorn is one of the oldest U3As in Melbourne. In the past year we have passed 30 years of providing an opportunity for many in our community to continue learning in a great range of fields from art to languages to sciences to dance.

We are part of a network of U3As in Victoria, which is, in turn, part of an Australia-wide network, and beyond that, a world network. Melbourne hosted a world conference of U3As last year in the Melbourne Town Hall at which we were well represented. 2013 was the 25th anniversary of the Victorian U3A Network, a group which provides an opportunity for the sharing of concerns and ideas through discussion and visiting.

Essentially all U3As are associations of volunteers committed to providing learning opportunities for the members of their local community. There are three key words "association", "volunteers" and "learning".

The City of Boroondara places a strong emphasis on being "age friendly" and, of course, this refers to meeting the needs of all age groups in the community. We believe that we contribute significantly to the community's desire to assist older citizens.

Membership

Currently we have a membership of over 1300. We have this number without advertising for members and we have many members who have been with U3A Hawthorn for many years. The Committee of Management is aware that there is little point in increasing the membership numbers if we are not able to offer members a reasonable chance of obtaining a place in at least some of the courses they request. The Committee believes that if we had the space, we could enrol many more if we chose to take that path. It goes without saying that "big" is not necessarily better.

We rely on our members to be volunteers for the many positions which exist in an active U3A. There has been an emphasis on the expectation that members will take a turn to assist with management, reception, tutoring and a host of

other tasks. The task of coordinating volunteers is quite challenging.

Facilities

We are indebted to the City of Boroondara for providing the facility which we use at Sinclair Avenue. In keeping with its goals, the City has recently commissioned a survey of the needs of Senior Citizens' Clubs, U3As and other facilities for older citizens in the area. The recommendations have been considered by the Council. We made a representation at a special meeting of the Council when we were able to argue a case for additional space at Sinclair Avenue for both classes and social purposes. In particular, we pressed our desire to have spaces for "socialising" over coffee as well as additional space for teaching and administration.

We are hopeful that the Council will move in this direction and increase the available space. We also know that any modifications to the Sinclair Avenue site will not occur overnight. Quite apart from anything else, Melbourne Water has to undertake drainage works which will ensure that another flood does not damage any buildings on this site. Council architects have some quite imaginative ideas as to ways that the site could be developed and we will keep encouraging them to ensure that funds are set aside in the budget estimates.

In the meantime, our classes are conducted in a great variety of venues throughout Boroondara including church halls, private homes, sports facilities, and libraries.

Major Committees

U3A Hawthorn is largely managed by three committees:

1. *The Management Committee* has the responsibility of formulating policy with regard to the direction of the U3A in many matters including membership, facilities, courses, fees and venues. The Management Committee meets monthly and is chaired by the President. An Executive Committee comprises the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. It meets monthly as needed.
2. *The Program Planning Committee* has responsibility for the overall program. It seeks to ensure that the program offered to members is balanced and reflects the requests and interests of the members. It aims to find appropriate tutors. The committee has been chaired by Meg Adams and I thank her for the work that

she and the committee members have done to provide such a comprehensive program.

3. *The Excursions Committee* plans and organises a range of activities during the year and includes visits to various community projects, special exhibits, and an occasional country town. Joan Harding has led this committee and I thank her and the committee members for their imaginative program.

Administration

An organisation with a membership of over 1300 active members and with two major class intakes each year requires considerable organisation to answer queries, answer enrolment enquiries, enrol new members, develop a timetable, secure suitable venues, take course enrolments, prepare class lists for class secretaries and tutors, and much more. The Committee of Management has decided to follow the pattern of most other U3As in Victoria and move to fully computerise the administration. This will lead to greater efficiency and some reduction in the number of volunteers required in the office. The changeover process has begun with the training of office volunteers.

Effective communication with all members continues to be a challenge. I am pleased to be able to say that more members are now using the internet which allows us to send the Newsletter via the internet rather than the slower, more expensive mailed way of the past. It is not unreasonable to anticipate that it is only a matter of time before everyone has a computer or an iPad (compare the move to colour television!) In addition to the newsletter, Gateway News provides an efficient and quick contact with the members.

In Appreciation: Boroondara Council

I would like to record my appreciation of the way in which the Mayor, Cr Coral Ross, together with council officers have supported us and have assisted us in our search for suitable venues for our activities.

Thanks

I would like to thank everyone who helps to make U3A Hawthorn what it is today. I should name everyone, but I shall simply mention some groups and then one or two very significant contributors.

The tutors: Tutors are volunteers, like everyone else in our U3A. Some tutors have taken year-long classes year after year at different levels. I

particularly acknowledge a number of tutors who take classes year by year and often at different levels such as Language 1, 2 and 3.

The administration: Enrolment clerks, computer assistants, receptionists.

The maintenance team: Running repairers, gardeners, and others who make the facilities workable.

The catering group: It is surprising how many functions are held during the year to welcome tutors, to thank tutors and volunteers, to welcome new members and to thank receptionists.

The members of the Committee of Management, the Program Planning Committee, and the Excursions Committees.

Anyone close to the workings of our U3A would consider that I had not done my job if I did not mention several members for their special contributions:

Joan Donlon For just on 20 years, Joan has spent 3 days every week in the office as the Class Coordinator dealing with tutors, the timetable, class venues and much more. Thank you Joan for what you have done and for what you are continuing to do. It has been an enormously generous contribution.

Meg Adams who has been Vice President and also the Chairman of the Program Planning Committee.

Joan Harding who has led the Excursions Committee in the planning of a series of interesting activities.

Frank Egan who has been the Treasurer and dealt with the financial issues almost on a daily basis.

Carol Lancashire for arranging and supervising a magnificent Summer School again this January. The attendance of over 450 speaks for itself.

Bruce Lancashire, not just for his work as Secretary, but for much else with his technical AV and computer knowledge and skills, and his knowledge of people and traditions of this U3A. As President I thank him for his advice and wisdom and for his commitment.

Concluding Comment

I believe that the concept and practice of a U3A suits contemporary Australian society with a growing percentage of the population looking for an active, mentally stimulating, and challenging lifestyle in their over 50 years. U3A Hawthorn has a key role to play in making Boroondara an age friendly community.

Norm Fary
President

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The amendments to the Constitution and the recommended name change were all adopted unanimously by those present at the Annual General meeting.

We are now officially U3A Hawthorn. Third Age Learning our official first name has been archived after 30 years of usage. We hope that this change will help people to find us more easily in directories - both print and electronic. U3A Hawthorn is after all the name that was used by most people.

Michael Gawenda was a very stimulating speaker. Not only did he bring us up to date with key issues concerning the news media world he raised a number of points for us to ponder. I wonder if we are ready to make the change to the electronic delivery of our daily news other than through television?

We were delighted to have our Mayor and Ward Councillor Coral Ross at the meeting. We appreciate her support and continuing interest in U3A Hawthorn during a very busy year. Coral was able to announce two very exciting line items in the proposed Boroondara Council Budget. We were very pleased to hear that U3A Hawthorn will be in consideration in the 2015-16 Budget for monies which will allow for substantial up-grading of the Sinclair Ave facilities. When this occurs, it will make a huge difference to many aspects of our operation. We hope that the changes will include extra classroom accommodation, an area for members to socialise before and after classes and a reception area with seating for those awaiting transport. This should make our facilities more user-friendly and allow for greater social interaction than is currently the case. Great news in our 30th year of operation. We also understand that the carpark which can be so treacherous in the winter will be surfaced before too long.

We look forward to working collaboratively with the Boroondara Council to achieve these long desired outcomes.

Meg Adams
Incoming President 2014

AGM Luncheon

After the Annual General Meeting we serve a light lunch. This year, on April 30, we had TWICE as many stay for lunch as had replied. As you can imagine, this makes catering for these events very difficult. All that is required is a phone-call to the office to let us count you in. There were complaints that there was not enough food! Could you please bear this in mind for future events?

Julie McNaughton
Catering Officer



MUSIC NOTES

As you will see from the Choir news below, for both Choir and Orchestra, our heads are currently buzzing with plans and arrangements for future engagements. At the time of writing, final rehearsal is looming for the Orchestra's first concert on May 10. With venue restrictions the schedule for the orchestral year has become rather cramped, and in no time we will be back rehearsing for Program #2 with Willem van der Vis, to be held on July 27. This will be followed a few days later by a visit to beautiful Healesville, where we will repeat part of the program in their wonderfully rejuvenated Memorial Hall, now affectionately known as the "Mem". This country visit is a first for us and is an exciting prospect. The Healesville community is making us feel most welcome and it should be a most enjoyable day.

The Hawthorn U3A Choir welcomed several new members this year, and we have also branched out: on May 13 several members entertained the residents of the Eva Tilley Memorial Home/Aged Care Facility in North Balwyn, with some songs from our current and recent repertoire and perennial favourites. We hope to do more such presentations in future.

Our mid-year concert will take place on Sunday, June 22 at 2.30, in The Parkview Room, at the western end of the Camberwell Civic Centre Complex in Camberwell Rd. The choir will present a program of traditional music, sacred songs, popular hits and old favourites. Talented young violinist, Bronte Potter will be our guest artist. The cost is \$5.00 (adults only) payable at the door, and includes refreshments after the

concert. But please phone the U3A office (98210282) by Wednesday June 19 to indicate numbers attending for our catering needs.

Now, put this date in your diary. On **Monday, October 6**, in Seniors' Week, dozens of U3A choirs from across Victoria - including ours - will join to present a free afternoon concert in the **Melbourne Town Hall**. Any who attended the last such concert in 2012 can tell you how stirring and spectacular this is likely to be.

Here are all the dates:

Sunday June 22, 2.30 - Choir Concert:-
Parkview Room, Camberwell Civic Centre,
Camberwell Rd.

Sunday July 27, 2.30 – Orchestra Concert:-
James Tatoulis Auditorium, MLC, Barkers Rd,
Kew.

Thursday July 31, 1.30 – Orchestra Concert in
the “Mem”, Main St, Healesville.

Monday October 6, 2pm – Massed U3A Choirs,
Melbourne Town Hall (further details to follow).

Sunday October 19, 2.30 - Orchestra Concert:
Camberwell Grammar School, Mont Albert Rd,
Canterbury.

Ruth Muir and Bev Rangott

VICTORIAN SENIORS' FESTIVAL 2014



Sunday October 5 Federation Square.

U3A Hawthorn will once again participate in this festival, where we are given the opportunity to display our many and varied courses to the public.

We have decided to double our exposure this year and consequently will require more things to display.

We are asking tutors, at this stage, to make suggestions. For example the language classes may have some material relating to their particular course. We know the patchwork and embroidery classes will give us some of their beautiful work but we do many other things, so please let me know within the next month or two if you can think of something that may add to the display.

The Festival was a big success last year and we hope with our enlarged space to add to the

festivities and encourage more people to attend classes in 2015.

Please call me on 9819 9459 or 0400250740.

Stefanie Sowerby



SUMMER SCHOOL 2015

Planning for the next Summer School in January 2015 has commenced and it is hoped to complete the program of speakers by September. I would welcome offers from members to present sessions, or suggestions for topics and speakers that would interest you. Please leave a message at the office or email: clancashire@bigpond.com.

Carol Lancashire



CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

Everybody loves the garden at U3A. There is a happy band of volunteers who try their best to keep it looking nice. You don't need to be an expert but if you can wield a trowel, secateurs, weeder or watering can, then your garden needs you! We meet once a month on the 3rd Wednesday from about 9.30 or 10.00am for a couple of hours. Any help from any gardeners would be greatly appreciated. The more helpers we have, the easier it will be and the more lovely the garden will look. Please contact the office who will put you in contact with me. Thank you in anticipation!

Clare Carlson
Gardening Co-ordinator

COPY DEADLINE

Copy deadline for the September Newsletter is, Wednesday, August 6 2014. Please send all copy to the Office

OFFICE HOURS

9.30 am to 4.00 pm

Telephone: 9821 0282 Facsimile: 9822 7668

Email: mail@u3ahawthorn.org.au

Website: <http://www.u3ahawthorn.org.au>

A REMINDER

If you want to borrow any equipment for use away from the Campus please ask at the office. We have a process for borrowing and return of our equipment.

FEES FOR 2014

Annual membership fees for 2014 are:

Membership of U3A Hawthorn:

\$45 single

\$70 couple/two at same address

Member enrolling from another campus:

\$30 (to cover administration)

Members are reminded that membership fees for 2014 must be paid before enrolments or re-enrolments in courses can be processed.

IMPORTANT IMPORTANT

PARKING IN SINCLAIR AVE AND ENVIRONS

Boroondara Council is currently in discussion with residents from streets surrounding our Sinclair Ave Campus. Their topic is **PARKING**. As most street parking is by members of our U3A this is of concern to the Management Committee.

Residents have requested Council to implement parking restrictions to alleviate problems they have accessing their homes and the inconvenience garbage trucks experience in clearing their bins. This is due to cars parking too close to gateways and on rubbish days, against the bins placed on the nature strips. In addition trucks have difficulty moving through the streets because cars are parked on both sides of the road and on the bends in positions where they narrow the space available for traffic to pass through.

The Management Committee has previously requested members to take care where they park so that the inconvenience is minimised and we maintain good neighbourly relations with residents.

We now face a situation where parking restrictions could make it difficult to access our classes.

We again request that you park in the carpark and only use the street when it is fully occupied. Then when you do have to park in the street **ONLY PARK ON THE SIDE OF THE STREET OPPOSITE THE HOUSES** so that residents can access their houses and their bins can be emptied unimpeded by our cars.

We ask that you observe this request **EVERY** day not just garbage clearance days.

Remember it is our policy to be good neighbours.



For bookings please telephone the U3A office

For further queries please contact:
Joan Harding on 98133974 or 0408366987
Or
Colette Flynn on 98826097

BOOKING POLICY

All tours payable at the time of placing reservation.
Bookings close two weeks prior to the event.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations 14 days or less prior to the scheduled
departure time = no refund due

**Monday July 14 2014
VICTORIAN POLICE MUSEUM
AND
THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS**

Part 1 – Victorian Police Museum

Time: 11.00am(sharp)

Cost: No cost

Meet: World Trade Centre

637 Flinders St, City

Melway reference 2E K8

(enter via Siddley Street, proceed to 1st floor ...
there is no signage until you are inside the building)

Limit: No limit

Forget 'Underbelly'. This famous museum gives you a firsthand account of Melbourne's underworld coming face to face with the law. See fascinating accounts of our police force at work, solving difficult cases. This is a brilliant display which will capture your imagination.

We then cross the Spencer Street Bridge to lunch or coffee on the southern side of the Yarra River (refreshments own cost).

Then

Part 2 – The Mission to Seafarers

Time: 1.00pm (sharp)

Cost: \$5.00 at the door

Meet: 717 Flinders Street, Docklands
(short walk west from the Police Museum)

Limit: No limit

Built in 1917, this heritage-listed building (see the dome) has been a safe and secure haven, and is still in operation, where seafarers from around the world can call home.

Friday August 8 2014 PRIVATE COOKING CLASS WITH TWO-COURSE LUNCH INCLUDED AT THE TASSAL SALMON SHOP

Time: 11.00am(sharp)

Duration: 2 hours

Cost: \$35 for class and two-course lunch (drinks extra)

Venue: 344 High Street, Kew

Limit: 20 participants

The Tassal Salmon shop in Kew is a must visit destination celebrating a passion for all things salmon. The chef will demonstrate the art of cooking salmon to perfection, from simple meal ideas to entertaining delights. Later relax and enjoy the fruits of his labour with a two-course lunch.

In 2010 Tassal was Australia's largest Atlantic salmon producer and marketer, harvesting over 12,000 tonnes of salmon every year - the equivalent to nearly a quarter of the weight of Sydney's Harbour Bridge, and 70% of Australia's entire Atlantic salmon production.

In 2012 Tassal was benchmarked as a 'Top Three Global Fish Farming Company' by seafoodintelligence.com

Tuesday September 16 2014 TOUR OF KEW CEMETERY

Time: 2.00pm

Cost: \$15

Meet: Main Gate, High Street Kew
Melway reference 45 F5

Boroondara General Cemetery, often referred to as the Kew Cemetery is one of the oldest in Victoria. Established in 1859, with an area of 12.5 hectares (3 ½ acres) it contains, remarkably, 75 000 graves. Amongst these are the graves of many prominent persons and a few rogues also! Our guide will impart many fascinating stories of the lives of those who now rest there.

Thursday October 9 2014 DISCOVER DAYLESFORD WALK (Led by Norm Fary – fellow U3A member)

Further information in the September next U3A newsletter...

Daylesford has long been a holiday town famous for its spa and its botanical gardens. The main street, Vincent Street, is quaint, Victorian, and elegant with interesting shops and eateries. The old convent is now an art gallery and well worth a visit just to see the beautiful building.