



Who runs U3A Hawthorn?

A volunteer Committee of Management is elected from members at the Annual General Meeting held in April/May. This committee is responsible for both the management of daily operations and future planning for the organisation.

Many other volunteers undertake leadership roles such as Excursion Coordinator, Campus Manager, Curriculum Coordinator and Summer School Convenor.

It is expected that every member will make a voluntary contribution of their services in the capacity which best suits their skills, available time and interests.

Who are the tutors?

In U3A Hawthorn there is no distinction between those who learn and those who teach. All tutors and convenors are volunteers.

Are there social activities?

U3A Hawthorn encourages social interaction between members. Some social occasions are arranged for the whole membership each year such as the Annual General Meeting, Readman Lectures, orchestral and choir concerts. Classes may also arrange social functions. An excursion program is offered throughout the year.

PRINCIPLES OF U3A HAWTHORN

- Affordable learning opportunities for older people will be provided, using the skills and abilities of the members themselves.
- Those who learn shall teach and those who teach shall learn, and there shall be no distinction between the two.
- There shall be no educational qualifications for membership, and no awards, degrees or diplomas shall be given.
- The emphasis shall be on learning for the love of it and on the value of improving and sharing skills.
- Learning shall take place in a friendly, supportive, social environment.
- The members of U3A Hawthorn shall pay for the major part of the organisation's upkeep. Sponsorships which place commercial obligations on U3A Hawthorn to promote organisations, endorse products or services, or provide access to membership lists, will not be undertaken.
- There shall be no payment to any person (member or non-member) for teaching or providing a service to members, except in the case of reimbursement for such expenses as photocopying, telephone calls, etc.
- The success of our organisation is dependent on the goodwill and generosity of individual members to volunteer their time and skills to cover all organisational and administrative work. It is a condition of membership that members be willing to volunteer their assistance.
- The curriculum shall be determined taking into consideration the references of members and according to the resources available to U3A Hawthorn.
- U3A Hawthorn is non-sectarian and non-political, and will not countenance any activity which impedes the equal opportunity rights of people. This includes racial, religious and sexual vilification and bias. U3A Hawthorn will respect members' privacy and will implement the requirements of the Privacy Act.

Incorporated as U3A Hawthorn Inc.
Reg No A0010798X ABN 41360939238

*Patron: Professor Linda Kristjanson AO
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ABOUT U3A HAWTHORN

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The University of the Third Age

The University of the Third Age (U3A) exists for retired and semi-retired people aged from approximately 55 years. U3A is a world-wide non-profit organisation which began in France in 1968 and spread rapidly through Europe and across the Atlantic to Quebec and California.

The U3A model which emerged in Great Britain (in Cambridge), is different to that developed in France. It is based on the principle that there is no distinction between the teacher and the taught – members would, as far as possible, be teachers as well as learners. This self-help approach is based on the knowledge that “experts” of every kind in every field retire, so there should be no need to depend on paid tutors of either the second or third ages.

The word university is used in its earliest sense: a community of scholars who get together to help each other in an educational and social experience. The principles of self-help and mutual support are the cornerstone of the U3A movement.

U3As are voluntary, non-profit organisations which aim to offer older people low-cost educational opportunities which operate in a pleasant, supportive social setting.

There are some 100 U3As in Victoria. Each operates independently.

U3A Hawthorn

U3A Hawthorn was established in 1984, one of the first in Victoria. The Sinclair Avenue Campus in Glen Iris has been newly refurbished and extended. It consists of an office and reception, a large hall and five smaller classrooms. Free parking is available and the campus is close to train and tram services. Currently there are approximately 1400 members and year-long and short courses are offered from February to November. Members enrol for courses of their choice. A Summer School operates in January when the on-going programmes have an annual break.

What courses are offered at U3A Hawthorn?

The scope of courses offered is very wide. Each year there are about 90 courses offered including art, classics, information technology, current affairs, history, languages, literature, philosophy, science, bridge, outdoor activities such as cycling and walking as well as indoor dance and tai chi classes. Many are year-long courses, but short courses ranging from one session to more than 12 sessions are also offered. A full list of courses and activities is available on the website (www.u3ahawthorn.org.au) and is updated throughout the year.

What qualifications are needed to take part?

No entry qualifications are required for membership and enrolment in most courses. There are no examinations, and no certificates or diplomas are awarded. Some classes, such as languages), may specify a level of competence for entry.



How can I join and enrol in courses?

To enrol in a course you must be a financial member. The annual subscription for 2018 is \$50 per person. There are no subject fees, however class members usually cover the cost of photocopying and other class materials. Some courses may require the purchase of text books or materials.

Joining as a member and enrolling in courses and activities can be completed online or at Reception. Enrolments are accepted in order of receipt, subject to vacancies in the class. Some classes have waiting lists. If a member withdraws from a class, the position can be offered to another person.

What are the classes like?

Classes may range from large groups of 80 to 90 people in some current affairs classes to small groups of six or eight people meeting together to follow a common interest. The format of the classes will vary depending on the subject and the tutor. Members are expected to contribute to the class discussion and may be required to do preparation or research.

Most groups meet in classrooms at the Sinclair Avenue campus, however some courses are held in other venues in Boroondara, and some in members' homes.