

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2016/2017**

The past year has seen the emphasis of our operation largely focussed on the renovation and extension of 26 Sinclair Ave, the temporary off-site accommodation of our classes and, right at the end of the year, the re-settlement at Sinclair Ave again. During the twelve months we ensured we put extra effort into the course area - both maintenance and provision of new programs to compensate for the upheaval.

The re-occupation of Sinclair Ave occurred much later than we had expected, however most importantly we were able to hold Summer School in the new facilities. This gave us an opportunity to test both the new additions and the refreshed facilities. We soon established that even with the return of classes we had previously been unable to accommodate on this site there was opportunity to further expand our programs. At the same time, we found that the increased area and different configuration required new ways of operating. Although we had put a great deal of thought into this area we are still in the process of fine-tuning the most appropriate way of functioning in some aspects of our day-to-day operation.

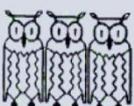
It is clear that the brighter, lighter and more comfortable environment is appreciated and makes class operations easier and more pleasant.

We are most appreciative of Boroondara Council's generosity and support of our U3A. We have benefitted greatly from Council's recognition of our role in the community and the support we have had from our Ward Councillor, Coral Ross and the Director of Community Services Carolyn Maclean. We also had very valuable assistance and consistent support from Council officers, Warwick Tempany and Lina Tallarida, over the two years of the project. We thank them all for their effective, timely actions and courteous advice.

During the off-campus period, tutors showed great resilience and creativity as they continued their classes in many and varied situations. We were particularly fortunate to be given five day a week access to the Eric Raven Reserve at no cost. We thank the Glen Iris Cricket Club and the Camberwell Lacrosse Club, who shared their facilities with us, for making us so welcome.

***The 2017/18 Management Committee***

*Front L-R: Peter Hardham (Vice President), Norm Fary, Linda Baynham, Meg Adams (President), Ruth Muir  
Back L-R: David Brown, Irving Miller, David Bennett, Bruce Lancashire (Secretary), Stefanie Sowerby, Frank Egan (Treasurer).*



Moving out of and returning to the site required much organisation and physical effort to ensure equipment ended up in the right locations and was temporarily installed and useable. Working bees were well attended and achieved much in record time. Thank you to those who participated.

Over the duration of the project some roles in the organisation were much more demanding than is usually the case. These people had to “dig deep”-particularly into their personal time.

They willingly devoted much skill and expertise to ensure that we kept program delivery and administration as effective as possible in circumstances that were often quite testing and chaotic. We are fortunate to have such dedicated and talented people to call on.

We have daily tasks which must be undertaken in new ways. We need to ensure we keep the rooms tidy, accessible to other classes and secure. The security of the buildings at the end of the day is now more complex and a daily issue in an organisation that relies on volunteers. In future members will be required to take responsibility for As we settle into the refurbished accommodation we have daily tasks which must be undertaken in new ways. We need to ensure we keep the rooms tidy, accessible to other classes and secure. The security of the buildings at the end of the day is now more complex and a daily issue in an organisation that relies on volunteers. In future members will be required to take responsibility for furniture placement, equipment storage, cleanliness of spaces and the drawing of blinds and locking of doors. The role of the Class Facilitator (Class Secretary) is now crucial in these areas and will in future receive increased emphasis as we organise greater class participation to assist our tutors.

Some time ago we signalled the introduction of a new computer administration system, UMAS. Due to the demands the building project made on our volunteers we postponed the introduction of the system until we were re-established and had proper office accommodation. The system allows members to access their enrolment records and to enrol themselves in classes of their choice from home. The benefit of this is the immediate confirmation of entry to a class and status in relation to wait listing. Members who do not have a computer at home or do not feel confident to undertake this process will have access to an “assisted enrolment” process arranged through Reception (further details later in this Newsletter). This will require making an appointment for

assistance from a volunteer team of members willing to assist.

The Course Co-ordinator, Program Planning Committee and the Excursion Committee have put much time and effort over the recent period to support programs and explore new topics. Their roles are integral to the success of this U3A. Anyone with suggestions or wanting to assist with this important area should speak to me or leave their name with Reception.

We have also maintained the Readman Series during this time. Our speakers have all been of considerable interest and appreciated by their audiences. We expect to add to this program during 2017 and encourage members to attend these sessions.

We introduced a statement of expectations this year setting out the factors involved in membership of our U3A. Our organisation has grown and it is more difficult for the Management Committee to have regular personal contact with people. It was decided to have this document distributed to all members to facilitate greater understanding of Hawthorn U3A's values and expectation of members. It was included in the first Newsletter for 2017 and is given to all new members in their initial set of information.

Communication with members is an area which offers challenge. Not all members have computers so we continue to provide hard copy newsletters alongside electronic forms of communication such as *Gateway*. We know that sometimes only 60% of members who receive electronic forms of communication open the emails and read the contents. From comments we receive we also know that about the same percentage of people read the newsletter. This is very disappointing as much time, effort and cost goes in to the provision of these forms of communication. In the next year we will explore some options for improving communication and attempt to make people more aware of program offerings.

Finally, I would like to thank the Management Committee and all those members who hold positions in the administration and teaching aspects of U3A Hawthorn, all of whom work to enhance the organisation. We depend on these people (around 1/15<sup>th</sup> of our membership) who give so willingly and generously share their expertise to the benefit of others and to keep up our standard of service and program diversity.

We look forward to exploring and exploiting all the aspects of our new learning environment and continuing the development of quality programs.

On Sunday 14 May we celebrated our Orchestra of U3A Hawthorn's twentieth year of performing. The Orchestra gave a wonderful performance which featured some most appropriately chosen pieces of music to fit this special occasion.

The guest soloist was widely recognised pianist, Benjamin Martin, whose late parents Christopher and Annette had close associations with the Orchestra, Christopher as conductor and Annette as cellist. Benjamin's interpretation of the Beethoven Piano Concerto No5, *The Emperor* received enthusiastic applause from the audience.

Orchestra member Barry McKimm's compositions *Three Dances for the Third Age* were premiered. These were specially written for the birthday performance and were accompanied by Sandy Jeffs verses read by Beverly Menzies. The concert concluded with a piece written by "local boy" Percy Grainger.

Since the concert many members have complimented the Orchestra on their performance and the choice of soloist and programme items

We wish the Orchestra another a very happy and productive twenty years of music making

**Meg Adams**  
**President**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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The Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 25 May. The guest speaker was Dr Gregory Moore from the Burnley College of the Institute of Land Food Resources, talking about "The significance of trees in Victoria".

At the AGM Life Membership was awarded to two members in recognition of their service to U3A Hawthorn over many years:

**Robin Siedle** has tutored Philosophy for 13 years, offering year-long courses and Summer School presentations. He has inspired a tradition of philosophy which it is hoped will continue into the future.

**Joan Harding** has been a member of the Curriculum Planning Committee and in recent years is the co-ordinator of the Excursion Planning Committee which organises 10 excursions each year for members.



### FEES FOR 2018

The annual membership fee for U3A Hawthorn for 2018 (as announced at the AGM in May) will be an individual membership of \$50 per annum.

***Members are reminded that membership fees must be paid before enrolments in courses can be processed.***



### PARKING

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We are aware that Council Parking Officers are now visiting the area around U3A including our carpark and Sinclair Ave. If you wish to avoid penalties please observe the signs.

Members needing to park for extended periods (bike groups and excursions etc) should remember that there is plenty of parking on the east side of Burke Road near the tennis club. U3A can then be accessed by a short walk along the shared pathway under Burke Road.

A reminder, too, that the car spaces along the fence are marked for those with disability stickers, visiting speakers and volunteers who have to stay for periods longer than the normal class requirements. Members are asked not to park in these spaces.

### COPY DEADLINE

**Copy deadline for the next newsletter is Wednesday, 2 August. Please forward copy to the office.**

## SUMMER SCHOOL 2018



Planning is currently underway for the 2018 Summer School – 3 January to 25 January.

If you are able to suggest suitable speakers or have something to present yourself, please contact Anne McQueen Thompson on:

[annemcqt@gmail.com](mailto:annemcqt@gmail.com) or 0400 870 079

## HAVING YOUR SAY



From time to time members want to give us ideas on how to improve our service or express concerns about some aspect of the organisation. The appropriate way to do this is to speak to a member of the Management Committee or to put your message in writing. Please do not make these observations to Reception volunteers; they do not set the guidelines or policy. The best way to make your views known is to get the proforma from Reception and complete it and put it in the box at Reception. It will then be passed to the correct person who will make contact with you.

## ONLINE MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM



Our new membership system is now available, providing members with online access to their membership details and the ability to enrol directly in classes, lectures, excursions and other activities. For those who do not have a computer, or want guidance in how to use the system, check at Reception when you are next on campus to see if there is someone (other than the Receptionist) who can assist you. Otherwise, included in this newsletter is a blue form which you can fill out with any changes to personal details such as change of phone number or address. In addition, you can also use this form to request enrolment in a class, withdrawal from a class or the printing of a new membership badge. You can post the blue form to the office or drop it in to Reception when you are next at Sinclair Avenue. Extra copies of the blue form are available at Reception.

Later in the year, as we begin to undertake enrolments for 2018, we will be arranging for a team of volunteers to be on hand to assist members by entering enrolments into the

membership system for them. More details will be provided in the next newsletter.

In the short term, you can come to Reception for Assisted Enrolment in the courses and activities offered in this newsletter on the following days and times:

Wednesday 31 May, 11am – 1pm

Monday 5 June, 10am – 12noon

Wednesday 7 June, 11am – 1pm

Thursday 8 June, 1pm – 2pm

## INAUGURAL BOOK EXCHANGE

We are introducing a book exchange. The first book exchange will be held on Wednesday 21 June at Sinclair Avenue. Watch for further information in *Gateway* and on flyers in the classrooms. This is an opportunity for you to bring along books for exchange and to find exciting books offered by other people.

## WOOL SQUARES – DONATIONS WELCOME

If anyone has squares either 'knitted' or 'crocheted' at home and would like to pass them on to the Knitting Group at U3A to be put together to make a rug, the Group would be glad to complete the rug and then donate it to a charity.

Squares can be left at the office and will be collected from there.

## MUSIC NOTES



The first part of the year has included a great deal of preparation and anticipation for the Orchestra's Celebratory Concert on 14 May, combined with planning ahead for the mid-year concert in August, the final one in November, and for the Choir, their mid-year concert on 25 June.

Whatever the occasion there is always a great deal of interest and excitement involved in the plans, an extraordinary amount of detail to attend to, and of course a great deal of emotion expended – with everyone doing their best to provide a successful outcome. This can be measured by the satisfaction felt by the performers and the pleasure experienced by the audience. The one big challenge at the centre of all this is the successful distribution of the publicity and the response from you, our potential audiences. There is always the hope that the message gets out to "our public" and that it and urges you to come along, support us, and enjoy what we have prepared for you. And a reminder – that the audience is just as important as the performance!



After many months of planning, preparation and anticipation, the much-awaited concert celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> birthday has now been held, very successfully, in the Hawthorn Arts Centre, and well attended despite the clash with Mothers' Day, which had caused a bit of anxiety in the lead-up. Since then, messages of appreciation and congratulations have poured in, from audience and players alike, and we all feel very happy at the impact made by this very special performance for such a special occasion. Our heartfelt thanks go out to our conductor Jules Cseszkó and the players who had worked so hard and gave their all.

The program had been carefully planned to create an atmosphere of celebration as well as providing a comfortable setting for the featured item, the magnificent Emperor Concerto of Beethoven. We were so delighted that Benjamin Martin was willing and able to perform this for us, as it provided a crucial link with his father the late Christopher, who had been so important in the development of our orchestra. Although there are many who have contributed to our proud history of 20 years, the ten years in which Christopher gave so much of himself and his talents were truly the making of us, and his memory is still very much alive. Performing in that historic Hall will always have a special meaning to those of us who had the pleasure and privilege of working with Chris during his time with us, and to have the participation of his son Ben for that important occasion was a great joy, for him as well as the players and audience members.

Orchestra concerts for the rest of the year:

**Saturday, 5 August 2.30 pm:** Orchestra concert with Willem van der Vis at the James Tatoulis Auditorium MLC, Barkers Rd, Hawthorn. Featuring Haydn's mighty Symphony no. 104, "The London", with 19<sup>th</sup> century music to follow.

**Saturday 18 November 2.30 pm:** Orchestra concert with Jules Cseszkó at St John's Anglican Church, Burke Rd Camberwell.

The Recorder Group, led by Jeanette MacArthur, regrets the recent loss of two of their long-standing members, but hopes that this will be balanced out by the inclusion of two new members earlier in the year. They are currently preparing for a visit to a Caulfield nursing home with a mixed program in rehearsal, and enjoying the challenge of working on another Bach Fugue, having so much enjoyed a similar project last year!

**Ruth Muir**  
**Music Manager**



## CHOIR NOTES

By the time you read this, the Choir will be in the final stages of preparation for its mid-year concert. We were sorry to see some choir members retire at the end of last year, but we have also welcomed a few enthusiastic new recruits. Under the knowledgeable and patient leadership of our Musical Director, Megan Austin, and with the talented Judith Chipman on the piano, we have been putting together a varied program. This will include a journey to other countries, and a selection of some modern classics which the audience is certain to know and enjoy. A small ensemble from the choir will also present an item.

The Choir would love to have you join us at 2.00 pm on Sunday 25 June at Flockart Hall in the MLC Music Centre, Barkers Rd Kew. Parking is available on site. The cost is \$8.00, payable at the door. Children are admitted free. We hope to see you there.

**Bev Rangott**  
**Choir Manager**



**Desperately seeking  
basses and tenors  
(as opposed to  
Susan!)**

The Choir of U3A Hawthorn offers you a wonderful opportunity to express yourself and to  
experience the joy of music, singing and performing in a relaxed, enjoyable and friendly environment.

No prior musical experience is required.

We have plenty of sopranos and altos, but we need a lot more basses and tenors.

To enquire, please call David Bennett on  
[0408 240 843](tel:0408240843).



The Taichi classes were honoured to attend a workshop with Master Zhao YouBin and Master Zhao Liang from Xi'an, China on 20 April in the Parkview Room.

Zhao YouBin is a highly regarded master of traditional Yang style Tai Chi Chuan. His father Zhao Bin was the great nephew of Yang ChenFu, who formalised the Traditional Yang Style Tai Chi 85 Form. He is the President of the Xi'an Yongnian Yang style Taiji Quan Association. Master Zhao is also the head of the Yang Style Tai Chi Association in Hong Kong, Shenzhen, South Korea, Thailand and Sydney; with many affiliates around the world.

Charles Leong, our U3A Hawthorn Taichi tutor, the 273rd disciple of Master Zhou YouBin, organised the visit of the masters to the class where they spoke about Taichi, demonstrated the forms and led a master class. During the class, students had the opportunity to get up close and personal with the masters.

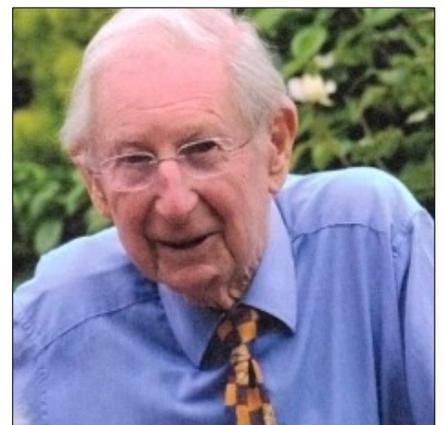


**OBITUARY**

**Vale Peter Stuart Isaacson AM, DFC, AFC, DFC**

We at the U3A Hawthorn join with the many throughout Australia in mourning the death of the well-known and respected Australian publisher and much decorated WWII pilot, Peter Isaacson.

In 1996 we were in need of a tutor for another Current Affairs group. Pamela Rogers, a tutor and member of our Committee of Management, offered to ask Peter who was a close friend, her husband having served with him in Bomber Command. He agreed to "give it a go" for a year, at the end of which he said he would continue for another year but in fact that stretched into 16 years and he concluded his service with us by becoming our President for a year In 2011.



Literally hundreds of our members benefitted from Peter's weekly classes, enjoying the informed, fair-mindedness and humour with which he led their discussion of the issues of the day, Because of his wide interests and friendships he was able to obtain many visiting speakers, some of whom were specialists in the field. On some special occasions the class was open for all members to attend

We consider ourselves fortunate to have shared in these later years of a life so well lived.

*Jean Giese*



## WINTER/SPRING EXCURSIONS

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For bookings please go to the website  
[www.u3ahawthorn.org.au](http://www.u3ahawthorn.org.au)  
and use the online membership system to enrol and pay (if required).  
If you are unable to use the online system, please visit Reception to complete  
your enrolment using the Blue form.

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

### **BOOKING POLICY**

**All tour fees payable at the time of placing reservation.**  
Payments may be made by credit card or cheque at the office, or by paying online.  
Bookings close two weeks prior to the event.

### **CANCELLATION POLICY**

Cancellations 14 days or less prior to the scheduled departure time will mean no refund will be paid.

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### **Tuesday, 27 June (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE) TOUR OF THE ROYAL MELBOURNE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

**Cost:** Free  
**Time:** Meet at 10.20 am (tour leaves at 10.30 am sharp)  
**Departure:** Corner of Swanston and LaTrobe St, Melbourne  
**Inclusions:** Tour  
**Limit:** 20 participants

We have all watched with interest the great expansion of this institution over the last few decades. Now we are fortunate to be given a great opportunity to go 'behind the scenes' to take a closer look at the developments, led by Paul Noonan, Media and Communications Advisor and son of Jan Noonan (U3A Hawthorn member). This exclusive tour will not be repeated.

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### **Tuesday, 18 July WINTER WARMER LUNCH JINDA THAI RESTAURANT**

**Cost:** On personal consumption  
**Time:** 12.30 pm  
**Location:** 1 – 7 Ferguson St. Abbotsford  
**Melway ref:** 2G H1  
**Limit:** 20 diners  
**Note:** CASH ONLY

For lovers of Thai classic food, this restaurant is recognised as one of the best and is hugely popular. Check TripAdvisor for great reviews! Forget the cold weather, jump on the 109 tram and enjoy great food and great company.

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**Saturday, 26 August**  
**MALVERN THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS TWO ONE ACT PLAYS BY NOEL COWARD**  
***BRIEF ENCOUNTER AND WE WERE DANCING***

**Cost:** \$20 per person (group discount)

**Time:** 1.45 pm for 2.00 pm start

**Location:** 29 Burke Rd, East Malvern (old church building)

**Limit:** 20 tickets

**Tickets:** Collect from U3A office two weeks prior to production (proof of purchase required)  
Something special for Noel Coward fans! Relax and enjoy a really great afternoon. We have reserved 20 tickets for this production so be quick to book to avoid disappointment.

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**Wednesday, 13 September**  
**TOUR OF JUSTIN ART HOUSE MUSEUM**

**Cost:** \$25 including refreshments

**Time:** 10.30 am at the gallery

**Location:** 2 Lumley Crt, Prahran – a short walk along Williams Rd from High St, Prahran

**Melway ref:** 58 F8

**Limit:** 25 participants

Keen art collectors, Charles and Leah Justin, wish to share their enthusiasm for art with you and to guide you through their purpose built gallery/house. An exhibition of selected works collected by Canberra couple, Peter Jones and Susan Russell is also showing and demonstrates their journey as collectors of art of the last twenty years. At the conclusion of the tour you will be invited to have refreshments with Charles and Leah in their home.

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**DATE TO BE ADVISED**  
**MELBOURNE TRAM MUSEUM (HAWTHORN)**

**Cost:** Gold coin donation

**Time:** 11.00 am

**Location:** 8 Wallen Road, Hawthorn (tram stop 29 on route 70 and 75)

**Limit:** Minimum 20 participants to operate (ask a friend)

Since 1885 Melbourne has been one of the world's great tramway cities. Visit the most authentic tramway in Australia namely the heritage listed Hawthorn Tram Depot, home of 21 fully restored trams. See the 1906 toast-rack tram and take a walk down memory lane at this highly regarded museum.



**HAWTHORN**  
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS** **JUNE – NOVEMBER 2017**

<b>Monday 12 June</b>	<i>Queen's Birthday Public Holiday – no classes</i>
<b>Thursday, 15 June</b>	Readman Series Lecture: The Hon David Habersberger QC - <i>Judicial Issues in the Victorian Supreme Court</i> , 3.00 pm
<b>Tuesday, 27 June</b>	Tour of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology 10.20 am (Changed date)
<b>Wednesday, 21 June</b>	Inaugural Book Exchange
<b>Sunday, 25 June</b>	Choir Concert, Flockart Hall, MLC 2pm
<b>1 July – 16 July</b>	<i>State School holidays - some classes may not operate</i>
<b>Tuesday, 18 July</b>	Winter warmer lunch, Jinda Thai restaurant, 1 – 7 Ferguson St. Abbotsford, 12.30 pm
<b>Saturday, 5 August</b>	Orchestral Concert with Willem van der Vis at MLC Barkers Road, Hawthorn, 2.30 pm
<b>Saturday, 26 August</b>	Malvern Theatre Company, Noel Coward plays, 29 Burke Rd, East Malvern, 2.00 pm
<b>Wednesday, 13 September</b>	Tour of Justin Art House Museum, 2 Lumley Court, Prahran 10.30 am
<b>23 September – 8 October</b>	<i>State School holidays - some classes may not operate</i>
<b>Friday, 6 October</b>	<i>AFL Grand Final Public Holiday – no classes</i>
<b>Tuesday, 7 November</b>	Cup Day Public Holiday – no classes
<b>Saturday, 18 November</b>	Orchestral concert with Gyula Cseszkó at St John's Anglican Church, Burke Rd, Camberwell, 2.30 pm
<b>Friday, 1 December</b>	Last day of classes