

Newsletter #4 May 2020

Welcome to a less restricted social life!

It's great to catch up with friends and family physically while observing appropriate social distancing. And the weather has been lovely with crisp sunny mornings and beautiful autumn colouring. Now for the latest news.....

From the Committee

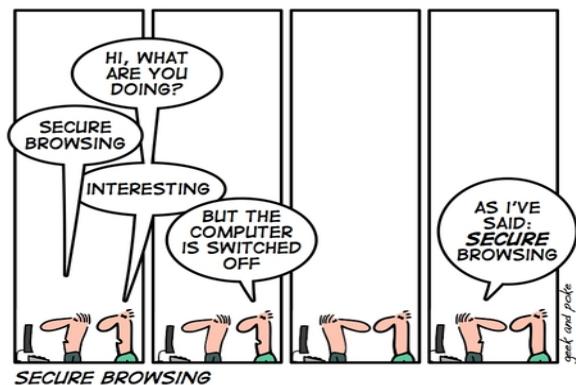
Yes, we had a Committee of Management meeting via Zoom on 6 May. Five of us managed to be present all the time, one was on relay via her mobile, one could be heard but not seen, and three were apologies. Points of interest:

- The defibrillator has been bought and delivered and is in the safekeeping of the Treasurer.
- Courses will be conducted remotely until September holidays when the policy will be reviewed in the light of regulations about social distancing in place at that time.
- Erica attended a training session for Course Coordinators when the Zoom training schedule was outlined. The Course Coordinator is the link between tutors and Zoom mentors. She has also been appointed Zoom Coordinator for our U3A.
- Anne attended a training session on different aspects of managing the website on WordPress with 27 web masters and 3 trainers from U3A.
- The Chronicle has been provided with a media release with the title "Seniors are learning online too!"
- The race course gates have been locked so there is no access to the U3A room.

About privacy and security online

Some of us don't worry about identity theft or security online and some of us are almost paranoid. Pre-Covid, members' email addresses were only available to the Secretary, the President, and the Treasurer. In Zoom time, email addresses are being shared. PLEASE do not abuse the privilege. Do not use these email addresses for any purpose apart from U3A business.

May I also suggest that, as we are now working in the cloud and have no idea where our data is stored or who has access to it, your anti-virus software is kept up to date and scans are carried out as frequently as possible. Back-ups should perhaps be done more frequently as well. (Yes, I admit to being towards the paranoid end of the security spectrum!)



Looking forward by the Course Coordinator:

Some of the new classes to be offered online in second semester may include:

How does it work?

- Did you know that a very important astronomical event occurred not too far from here in 1969 (not the Moon landing)?
- Do you know how a combustion engine works?
- How does a metal knee get hotter or colder than the surrounding leg?

If you have always wondered how something works in psychology, physics, chemistry, biology, or any other area of science or technology, this is the class for you.

Device Users Group

An occasional class presented by a number of people with specific areas of "expertise". Sessions include:

- How to join a video meeting via Zoom
- How to budget using a spreadsheet
- Master class on the share market
- Social Seniors program offered by U3A and Libraries Victoria about social media.
- Basic PowerPoint

Art appreciation through a free jigsaw application

Have you tried doing a jigsaw puzzle on a computer? Do you want to find out more about one of the well-known paintings in the puzzles? The idea is to have fun, learn a new skill and enjoy a chat about your research.

From nomad to citizen and Eden to exile

This course is based on an interpretation of the archaeological record for the stories in the Old Testament by rogue academic David Rohl. Those stories we learnt in Sunday school could well be history. At the same time, we trace the development of civilisation in West Asia from nomadic tribes with their seasonal wanderings to cities with laws, bureaucracies, economies, and taxes. It's a very broad canvas from which the highlights are selected. Where was Eden? How did the walls of Jericho fall down? Did Moses visit Petra when he led the children of Israel out of Egypt? Did the plagues foretold by Joseph really happen?

Trying out Zoom

U3A members are currently attending classes in Literature, Reading James Joyce, French, and Italian on Zoom. Others are using Zoom to catch up with family, helping our grandchildren with their schoolwork, attending virtual birthday parties, book clubs and happy hours. Even solving a cryptic crossword together, beating Peter's emailed helping hand, and we felt very pleased with ourselves!

I would like to offer everyone the opportunity to try out Zoom with a short chat to other members on a Monday. It will give you the chance to check out your camera and microphone and catch up with some other people. Please email me if you want to try a Zoom chat and tell me if Mondays do not suit you and we can arrange an alternative day.

Erica

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Anne Bittner, Secretary, U3A Wangaratta

PS Ladies bike available for free.. 10 years old and never used. Contact me for more information..

