

## Newsletter

February 2021

Welcome to another year of learning and fun!

The Annual General Meeting on 28 January via Zoom attracted 24 participants with 15 apologies. The following were elected to form the Committee of Management for 2021:

President:	Erica Pike	<a href="mailto:president.u3awangaratta@gmail.com">president.u3awangaratta@gmail.com</a>
Vice President:	Sandra Bishop	
Vice President:	Elaine Brown-Graham*	
Treasurer:	Peter Leonard	
Secretary:	Anne Bittner	<a href="mailto:u3awangaratta@gmail.com">u3awangaratta@gmail.com</a>
Committee Members:	Jennifer Price*	
	Ian Wilson*	
	Kathleen Woodward	

\*new this year

Your new committee met at the library last week where the focus was on arrangements for the celebratory morning tea to be held on 25 February at the Oxley Hall for all 2020 financial members and tutors. The event celebrates the resilience of U3A members during the disruption caused by the pandemic. Regretfully, new members in 2021 are not included. Don't forget to text or ring 0412 944 664 by 17 February if you want to join us. Numbers are limited.

### Venues:

The Committee knows that members want to return to face-to-face learning as soon as possible. There is no possibility of accessing our room at the Turf Club until Racing Victoria allow spectators back on the track under COVID-19-safe conditions. Even then it is unlikely that our room can/will be made COVID-19-safe. So, your committee is searching for other venues with COVID-19-safe plans that include cleaning.

If tutors want to hold face to face classes in another venue, they must have the approval of the Committee. For instance, the Committee approved Cryptic Crosswords meeting at the Town and Country Tavern last week at no cost to U3A. Some COVID-19-safe venues incur a cost i.e. the library charges \$10 per hour for a room. The committee is prepared to fund approved COVID-19-safe venues for face-to-face sessions on application from the tutor.

### Courses

About 70 members have enrolled and all the courses are going ahead by zoom, email, and post, thanks to our enthusiastic tutors. Navigating the online enrolment system made necessary by fluctuating COVID-19 restrictions was not easy so thanks to all of you for making the effort.

### More than Travellers' Tales on Zoom

Thursday 18 February at 1.15 pm

London to Kathmandu 1975: Wander with us if you will....

Thursday 18 March at 1.15 pm

Trans Mongolian adventure: China, Mongolia, and Russia by train.

Please let Erica [u3awangaratta@gmail.com](mailto:u3awangaratta@gmail.com) know if you want to join us and you will be sent the link.

**The Garden Plot** will meet at the Plough Inn, Tarrawingee, on Thursday 11 March at 12 noon over lunch to plan topics and field trips for the coming semester. If you have a gardening query or know an interesting garden/nursery/habitat worth visiting, do go along and join in. Perhaps even take a friend.

### **Possibilities.....**

**Hot Topics:** Members are keen to continue sharing their views on the news of the day face-to-face with the cartoons that accompany it. All we need is someone who is prepared to manage the discussion. No expert knowledge required. Then we will find a suitable venue and this popular course can reconvene.

**Walking Football** is a modified version of Football (Soccer) that is generally conducted indoors at a walking pace for men and women aged over 50 or those that may have mobility issues. Generally, around 1 hour of activity with breaks (as determined by the players) and can be played indoors or outdoors, plus there is no previous soccer skills or experience required. If you are interested in having a go, please contact Rhiannon Froude, 5721 0249, 0408 536925, or [rhiannon.froude@thecentre.vic.edu.au](mailto:rhiannon.froude@thecentre.vic.edu.au)

### **Support for devices....**

Got problems with your apps? Particularly My Health, MyGov, My Aged care, etc? Take them to Pangerang Community House at 2 pm on a Thursday and you will find help. To confirm call 57213813.

Need support for your hardware or software, the Wangaratta Digital Hub may be able to help. Please phone (0447 093 888) or email [admin@wangarattadigitalhub.com.au](mailto:admin@wangarattadigitalhub.com.au) to make an appointment for tech support.

### **Council Plan and Community Vision – shape your Community**

The Rural City of Wangaratta would like your input on how to shape our community. The following link will take you to a survey where you can express your opinion.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/shapeyourcommunity>

### **Must see.....**

*Shearing the rams* by Tom Roberts at the Wangaratta Art Gallery. What a coup for a small regional art gallery to be given the honour of hosting such an iconic painting! Lots of information is available in print and video about the artist and his subject.

An exhibition of tree photographs with accompany scripts by David Rainbow at the Bainze Gallery, in the **Library**. David communicates with trees and animals and has offered to share his philosophy with U3A members face to face next semester.

And at the **Information Centre**, an exhibition of brilliant bird and animal photographs by local wildlife photographer Chris Tzaros. Great for the grandchildren.

Anne Bittner  
Secretary  
U3A Wangaratta Inc