

A Wonderful Celebration

It was great to see more than 70 members join us for a celebration of our Sunbury U3A President, **Mary Wicks**, at the Footy Club on June 20th. Mary was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 2019 for her service to the Sunbury community. Following some kind words of introduction from member Alan, Mary talked to us about her long involvement in supporting her home town of Sunbury and its community, and were further enlightened to her efforts by member Colin who thanked Mary on conclusion.



Mary Kloss, Mary Wicks & Joe Kloss



Mary cuts the In Celebration cake!

In addition during the gathering, Mary presented **Joe Kloss**, long-time member of our U3A, with a gift to honour his retirement from leadership of the German Conversation group. Joe has many friends in the club, and we will miss not only his participation in the German group but also his regular jokes at the Speakers sessions! As Mary said, behind every good man is a good woman, giving Mary Kloss a beautiful posy of flowers in acknowledgment also.

We all enjoyed the delicious cake & finger food provided with morning tea.

Congratulations and many thanks to both Mary and Joe for their generous work on behalf of U3A Sunbury.

Contact Us

President – Mary Wicks, 9744-1518

Secretary – Jo Pace, 0467-780-164

Vice President – Jill Dyson, 0413-004-546

Or via email – info@u3asunbury.org.au

Our New Website

Our new Sunbury U3A website went live on the 1st of July! It has a smart new look and loads of interesting information! The website is regularly updated and contains details of courses, current outings, guest speakers and anything else that may be of interest to members. The website is maintained by Jo Pace. Find our website at u3asunbury.org.au.

Membership and Administration

Since the start of 2019 we have increased our membership by approximately 30, the club currently numbering 155 members, including 114 women and 41 men. We are becoming better known around Sunbury!

There's a lot of work in keeping memberships and activities up to date, and along with the new website we have launched our new U3A Membership Administration System (UMAS) in July. UMAS is provided to us by the U3A Network Victoria free of charge. It will enable us to manage events and course enrolments more

effectively, and will also enable members to keep their own details up to date on-line.

Members of the public will be able to apply on-line via the website to join our U3A, and group leaders will be able to keep in touch with their groups or send out information emails to their members. It has a good security system built in so that all our members' data is kept private. As we grow we will need this system to keep track of what's going on and keep in touch with our members.

Annual Membership Subscriptions

At the Special General Meeting of Members of the Association on June 20 2019 the following resolutions were passed unanimously:

- That all current financial memberships be extended to 31 December 2019
- That the annual membership subscription will fall due at the end of December each year
- That the fee for any new member joining up to end of December 2019 be \$20

These changes were necessary to align collection of our annual membership fee with our enrolment year (Jan-Dec), and to assist us in implementing the new Membership Administration System.

Hence all currently financial members will remain financial until the end of December 2019, when the new annual membership fee will be payable.

New members joining between July and December will be charged the half-year membership fee of \$20.

Below: members of the Committee at work



Group Happenings in T2-3 2019

Art for Fun – this group that started in term 2 has been experimenting with a range of media from coloured pencils and pastels to pen, ink and water colours, having a go at Still Life, Landscapes and Portraits, and also at decorating beautiful little rocks and more.

It's a cosy and fun group meeting on Monday at 1pm at Building 27. More members are welcome! Please enquire if you're interested.

Australian History – The group is about halfway through the course covering Australian History from pre-history to Federation. Continuing in Term 3 are the following units:

Unit 6: Change and Development 1851 to 1900

Unit 7: Military History including the Frontier Wars

Unit 8: The Emergence of Australian Attitudes

Unit 9: From Colonies to Nationhood

A local history component is included with some Units. Meeting 1st & 3rd Monday mornings, the group has lots of interesting & informative discussions.

Ballroom & New Vogue Dancing – the Rainbow dancers meet every Thursday of term from 1-3pm. We are sorry to hear that one of our oldest members, Rita, has had a tough time this year, and wish her a happier time in Term 3. This group would love to have some more men involved!! Mind you, there are some pretty snazzy dancers already in the group and everyone has a good time. Anyone who dances or would like to learn to dance are welcome. We try to balance learning the basic and easy dances with more advanced ones too.

Bikes to Bakeries - reconnecting with the joy of pedalling!! A small group of enthusiasts has started pedalling together twice a month on a Tuesday morning from 11a.m. from the footy club. Starting with local easy rides on the cycling paths and quiet streets of Sunbury, the plan is to venture further afield, with the possibility of catching the train with our bikes to ride other bike paths that can be accessed from the Sunbury Metro train service. After each ride we have the option of enjoying coffee, conversation and cake!! More details can be found on the website.

Book to DVD - this long-term group read three books in term 2 - The Time Travellers Wife, Emma, and On Chesel Beach - and compared them with films based on the same books.

Next term's books/films will be: Nine Folds Make a Paper Swan, The Children's Act, and (possibly) Atonement for later in the term.

The group meets on arrangement at the Footy Club, usually on a Thursday afternoon every 4-6 weeks.

Bridge – Bridge is a card game that is played at different levels; some play for high stakes – we play for fun! The group meets Monday 1.00 to 4.00 pm in the Sunbury Football Social Club, Boardroom. New players are welcome. **Lessons are available.** . Enjoy a quiet but stimulating afternoon playing this interesting card game. Make new friends, pit your wits in friendly competition and enjoy some fun.

The difficult part of Bridge is the 'bidding', this happens during the opening moves where partners indicate to each other what cards they are holding. Once the 'bidding' is complete the game is similar to Euchre, 500 or Whist. Looking forward to meeting you!

Canasta – The canasta group will continue to meet at the Sunbury Football Social Club, Boardroom over the school holidays and in term 3. New learners are very welcome – come and join the fun, we're happy to have new people and can teach you how to play if you've not tried it before. Tuesdays, 1.30-4.30pm.

Cryptic Crosswords – this group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday mornings at the footy club at 10am. All welcome to give it a go! Help is given and we are gradually learning how these cryptic clues work!

Current Affairs & Philosophy – while these are two separate groups, both have been listening to and discussing the issues & ethics of Animal Rights, Reality TV, the Election, the economics of an Ageing Population, Freedom of Press (ABC raids), Non vaccination vs Vaccination, the Internet and our Brains, Voluntary Euthanasia, the charges relating to flight MH17 (comments from Julie Bishop, foreign affairs minister at the time), and Israel Folau's crowdfunding. Interesting!

Don't forget anyone is welcome to join these groups, running on the 1st to 4th Fridays from 10.00am – 11.30am at the Footy club. Discussion is hearty and everyone gets a chance to have their say!



Dining Out at Café Greco Watergardens

Dining Out – During term 2 we've enjoyed 3 good meals with the Dining Out group – dinner at Riddell's Creek Hotel in April, lunch at Café Greco in Watergardens in May, and dinner at Flag of India Sunbury in June. Over 20 people also celebrated the end of term 2 at Galli Estate recently.

Once again, even though it will fall in the school holiday break, we are planning a lunch at Schatzi's restaurant in Woodend (BYO) on Friday 12 July, 12:45-1:00pm. Check the website for details.

Elements of Writing Short Stories – This short 10-session course ended on 28 June. We thank volunteer leader / member **Peter** for offering to facilitate this group. Are there any more budding writers out there interested in some form of writing group – autobiography or family history perhaps?

French Conversation – while some of the group are away (in France of course!), conversation continues to be enjoyable, and we always learn something new.

This year some of the group have also decided to extend their grammatical understanding and have joined the French Intermediate group.

French Beginners & Intermediate – our keen beginners working through "15 Minute French" can now introduce themselves, talk about their family, order some food in a café or restaurant, and count to 20! In the French Intermediate class, we've worked more on pronouns & past tenses, and will move onto the future in the future!



French groups having a holiday lunch

During the holidays we take a break from classes, but all the French groups enjoy a lunch together at The Nook.

German Conversation – The group went out to a celebratory retirement lunch at Gisborne Peak Winery with leader Joe recently. Joe will be greatly missed in term 2, but **Renate** and **Leonore** have stepped up to coordinate this group – thanks!

U3A Sunbury Inc

Mid Year Update 2019



The group meets up at Building 27 every Tuesday from 2pm, new members are Willkommen!!



Joe and the German Group 2019

Guest Speakers – Throughout term 2 we've had some marvellous speakers including our own members - Alan on the history of Brass Bands and their music, Barry on Genealogy and of course Mary on her long involvement in the Sunbury Community.

We also enjoyed very interesting guests including Christine Morgan-Prosser on the Sunbury Winter Night Shelter Project, and Julie McKay from Enable Social Enterprise on that organisation's wonderful work in recycling e-waste and providing work-learning opportunities for disadvantaged job seekers.

Julie took away her van full of our electronic and IT equipment ready for recycling!



Julie's van loaded to the rafters with our e-waste

The last speaker for the term was Bush Poet, Kathy Vallance, who entertained us with fabulous poetry renditions, both amusing and serious.

Thanks to everyone who helped and especially to the group who have organised these terrific speakers: **Lesley, Renate, Marlene, Louise & Maureen.**

Please come along and join us. You can just turn up. We welcome new members and previews of the coming talks are sent to all members.

Scrabble – keen scrabble players meet Monday mornings up at the Jackson Hill site, often playing several games in the session. The group hopes to move to the new Sunbury Global Learning Centre once it becomes available!

Sharing Shakespeare – In term 2 we started Richard III, which necessitated a pre-reading historical briefing by leader Kris. It's a tale of political skulduggery (does that sound familiar?). We are listening to an audio performance of the play, and stop frequently to discuss our understanding (or not!) of what has happened.

Square Dancing – This new group continues to be popular, with up to 20 people attending the sessions on Wednesday mornings. It will continue in term 3, from 10am-12noon at the Senior Citizens Centre in O'Shanassy St. Gold coin donation.



Having fun at Square Dancing!

Theatre Group – a new group started in term 2, commencing with an outing to see Barnum the Circus Musical at the Comedy Theatre in May. The group is planning to see **Come from Away** in October.

Come from Away is a musical that tells the true story of what transpired when 38 planes were diverted to Gander, in the province of Newfoundland & Labrador, Canada, the week following the World Trade Centre attacks in September 2009. It has won numerous awards. The outing is to the matinee performance at the Comedy Theatre, tickets cost \$75 concession (normally \$125). Times are to be confirmed. Contact Marlene on events@u3asunbury.org.au & see our website for more details.

Wednesday Walkers – another long-standing group, the walkers meet near the entrance to the Clarke Oval & stroll the paths of Sunbury.

It's good to see another new member has joined the group this term. If you're wanting to get moving, this is a great way to start!

Potential New Courses in Term 3

If you have a hobby or interest you'd like to share, **we would love to hear from you!** We can help you become a group leader to facilitate a new group.

Everyday Science – watch for our short course on science in the home, possibly starting in August.

T'ai Chi for Arthritis – more details to come soon.

Craft Group – one of our members is interested, any takers?

Please contact our Course Coordinator Jill Dyson on 0413 004 546 or send an email to courses@u3asunbury.org.au

Where Have We Been ?

Outings are held once a month, normally on the 4th Thursday of the month, but in April it clashed with Anzac day so only two outings took place in term 2.

In May 45 people had a wonderful day, travelling by coach to the William Ricketts Sanctuary in the Dandenongs, followed by lunch at the Sky High Restaurant on the mount.



Morning tea before going into the sanctuary

Outings are arranged by a group of 4-5 members, and we particularly thank **Muriel** for all the work she put into organising this outing!

In June the self-drive outing to the Airways Museum at Essendon Airport was fascinating, including a 1950's film of the latest in Australian flying progress – 4 days from Sydney to London! Thanks **Lesley** for organising.



Outing to Airways Museum in Essendon

Check our website for the latest photo gallery, courses & details of upcoming events: www.u3asunbury.org.au

Term Dates

Term 3 resumes on Monday 15 July & ends on Friday 20 September.

On a Less Serious Note

