

Newsletter

June 2011



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President's Message



President: Jennv John

Christmas in July

Following on from the success of our Welcome Morning Tea, all members and tutors are invited to join us for a Christmas themed brunch on Monday, July 25th at the Mark St. Community Hall in Fitzroy North from 11am. More details will be on our website closer to the date, but put it in your diary now.

Despite having a new President, Secretary and Treasurer and some committee vacancies, Yarra City U3A has got off to a good start in 2011. The Program Committee, led by Deirdre Crowe, has done an amazing job of sorting out members' preferences and classes and most classes have run as scheduled. There have been some unavoidable problems with some of the computer classes. The computer room at Belgium Ave Community Centre had to be closed twice this year because of flood damage. We were able to find an alternative venue for some of the lessons, but computer classes will resume at Belgium Ave in second semester.

It was great to have so many members at our Welcome Morning Tea At the Collingwood Library Meeting Room and to see a display of our newly upgraded website by our web designer, Sue McKernan. While we will still have printed copies of information available through local libraries and mail outs, we hope to save trees and postage as more members keep up to date through the website.

This is our first Newsletter for 2011 as we still have no Newsletter Editor, Publicity Officer or Office Manager this year. It would be wonderful if some members might be willing to test themselves in these positions before the next AGM. Please think about it and give us your time. We all learn as we go in these jobs.

We also need more office staff. At present the Office in Hosie street is only open from 10 - 12 on Tuesdays and Fridays. If we have more volunteers we hope to extend these hours when we move to Stanton Street.

By the time you read this I will be in Italy on an Art Tour, but our U3A will be in the capable hands of Wendy Hall and the Committee.

Thank you to all who have helped us start the year well. I hope to see you all at our Christmas in July function on July 25th.

Jenny John

From The Program Coordinator

Tutors, venues and class lists, all foreign terms to me in February but have become part of my lexicon as I've grappled with this volunteer position as Program Coordinator. Luckily a subcommittee and Wendy Hall (previous Program Coordinator) have offered support and vast knowledge.

Our enrolment numbers continue to increase and at the moment we have in excess of 160 members. The following courses are fully subscribed - Talking Films, Mosaics, Classics of American Literature and Workshopping Your Manuscript.

For all those disappointed writers we will have a 5 week Creative Writing Course beginning 26th July with Helen Heritage (a published author) as tutor. Be quick to lodge your preferences for this and many of the other offerings in the program for Semester Two.

In Semester One we have had a total of 31 course leaders. There wouldn't Yarra City U3A if it wasn't for the generosity of these people who have a passion for their subject.

Are you a music buff? Would you be willing to share a variety of music and facilitate a music appreciation group, the focus on listening as the main objective? This could be a new course for 2012. We just need you or someone you know to volunteer.

Look out for your Semester Two course summary and choose classes for the winter ahead. There is nothing quite like engaging the mind with pleasant company to cheerfully pass the time.

Deirdre Crowe

Progress Report on our New Office in Stanton Street

The Committee of management met with Stuart Grant, the Team Leader of Recreation at the City of Yarra for an onsite meeting to discuss the refurbishment of the Stanton St. property. He was most helpful in answering our queries and explaining some details of the plans. It is hoped that the building will be ready for us to move in soon after the proposed completion date at the end of July 2011.

Margaret Donald and Wendy Hall are heading a subcommittee to oversee this project.

Yarra City Celebration of Volunteers

At the Yarra City celebration of Volunteers Event held at the Fitzroy Town Hall on the 12 May, Wendy Hall in her capacity of Vice President YarraCity U3A, accepted from the Mayor Cr Allison Clarke, the Certificate of Appreciation for work done by YarraCity U3A. Certificates were also presented to Margaret Donald, former President, Jo O'Brien former Treasurer, Wendy Hall former Program Organiser and Tona Buschmann former Office Administrator.

Class Communications

As discussed at our Welcome Morning Tea, it is a good idea for ongoing groups to set up a telephone tree or a buddy system so that messages can be passed on to tutors and group members in a simple and timely manner. If you decide not to continue with a class you may leave a message at the office or contact us by letter or email. We welcome feedback from our members about our courses. You may like to write a review, for our newsletter or the website, of an interesting talk or event that you have attended. All ideas for new courses are welcome and will be considered. The focus is on learning for the love of it and this includes an emphasis on the values of making things and improving skills of all kinds. We aim to use the knowledge and abilities of our members. If you have a particular skill, please share it with us.