

U3A NETWORK VICTORIA BULLETIN

November 2018

This Bulletin is distributed by U3A Network Victoria, the peak body of the U3A movement in Victoria, for information and use by Member U3As

Upcoming Events

- 13-14 November – regional forum – Colac Otway and Grampians regions
- 21 November – Network Members Council
- 14 December – Network Office closes
- 14 January, 2019 – Network Office opens
- 20 March – Network Victoria Annual General Meeting
- 20 March – Network Members Council

This is the last *eBulletin* for 2018. Our February-November newsletter for U3A administrators and workers will return in a new format in 2019.

Also check the regional meetings schedule on the last page of this bulletin.

From the President

Congratulations to all our U3As who participated in Seniors Festival activities in October. Network Committee has heard about and visited many of these open days, market stalls, and municipal presentations – all very worthy representations of our services to senior Victorians. Many new members and friendships are gained through the Seniors Festival.

I was delighted to accept during Seniors Week – on behalf of all in the Victorian U3A movement – the 2018 Age-Friendly Organisation Award, announced at a Government House ceremony honouring the Victorian Senior of the Year and other senior award winners. A handsome trophy represents the award made by the State Government; it will be on display at the November Members Council meeting. I would also like to congratulate Marnie Sloane, nominated by U3A Seymour and District and recipient of the COTA Healthy and Active Living Award category. As well as her U3A work, her citation recognised her volunteering work for the Cancer Council of Victoria and as a deliverer of Meals on Wheels for many years.

I know many other U3As and members of U3As were nominated for the Seniors Awards, and I look forward to learning next year of other of our successes.

Information about the final work this year on the Network strategic plan, our rules review, our marketing campaign

and our other activities appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

As this is our last issue for 2018, I would like to make an early wish for all to enjoy a happy and restful holiday season. I look forward to working with you all again from February, 2019.

Susan Webster, President

U3AAA – the National Alliance

In mid-October, a second 2018 meeting of the U3A Australian Alliance, generally known as the National Alliance, was held at U3A Mandurah, in Western Australia. Victoria was represented by Network Victoria Vice President Glen Wall. The major discussion topics of the meeting included progress in securing national copyright protection for the three-cell logo, sharing of resources, and opportunities for development of common systems.

The National Alliance has issued in October a brochure publicising the movement from a national perspective. The brochure can be accessed through this [link](#).

30th Anniversary Celebration

2018 has been the 30th anniversary of U3A Network Victoria. The U3A movement in Victoria is older, being the home of the first four U3As founded in Australia; but Network Victoria came into being in 1988. This has been a subdued celebration year, but a birthday cake will mark the occasion at the November Members Council.

When is your AGM?

It would be helpful to our Development and Support team if each U3A would advise the month in which its AGM is held.

Please send the information to:

projectofficer.sue.cullen@u3avictoria.com.au

Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan 2018-22 will be released at the November Members Council Meeting. Copies will be available on the Network website within the Members Portal.

When you need support at your U3A please contact Anne Grigg Development and Support Officer
dso@u3avictoria.com.au 0408 638 151

U-MAS User Group Meets

The second U-MAS User Group meeting of 2018 was held in October. The meeting focussed on procedures for roll-over to end the current year and for start-up of the new education year in 2019. The meeting also heard a summary of Network’s technology strategy and an update on the Website Template project.

ACFE 2 Update

Thank you to the Member U3As who took the time to put forward an application to take part in the ACFE 2 activities/projects.

Nineteen U3As put forward an expression of interest in being involved.

The ACFE 2 Working Group met to look at and discuss the applications. Sixteen member U3As were successful.

The next stage is for U3A Network and Member U3As who were successful to commence the work and as the results come in they will be shared by all.

A reminder if any U3A would like to have a copy of any of the projects completed under ACFE 1, you can contact the Network Office and they will be sent to you.

The final evaluation and reports are available on the [Network website](#).

Elsie Mutton OAM

Vice President Network Victoria and ACFE 2 coordinator.

CentreLink Volunteers at U3A

Centrelink clients, who are not yet at retirement age, are able to undertake volunteer work as part of their mutual obligation requirements when receiving Centrelink benefits. Any U3A can register with their local Centrelink office as a volunteer organisation and can then be assigned a suitable Centrelink client for a designated number of volunteer hours per week. Some U3As use this to source experienced office volunteers.

U3As who want to use this opportunity might like to talk with other U3As who already do so – Network Office can put an enquiring U3A in touch with others who already use the scheme.

Eventbrite bookings for Network events

Earlier in 2018, Network implemented an online ticketing system, Eventbrite, as the method to book into our events and meetings. Please note that a printed ticket is not required for any of our events. We apologise for any confusion or inconvenience.

Profile Survey

A survey of five U3As has identified the characteristics representative of more than 700 U3A members. Some findings are summarised below. A copy of the report prepared by Victor Szwed is on the Network website—Members area (password required) follow [this link](#).

Gender	Women (75%) outnumber men (25%)
Country of birth	The proportion of Australian born members (62%) is less than the Victorian population (65%).
Language spoken at home	15% of respondents speak a language other than English at home.
Education	48% have a degree or higher compared to 24% of the adult Australian population.
Income	43% receive a full or part pension. 29% have incomes below \$30,000 per annum.
Living arrangements	31% of respondents live alone. 17 % are regular caregivers. 4% live in a retirement village or age care facility.
Participation	Most attend an average of two days a week. More than 41% volunteer at U3As.

Growth

The U3A movement is one of the fastest growing and largest seniors’ organisations in Victoria. Our Government funders measure our performance, in part, based on our growth. We grew by 7% last year and 16% over the last three years. U3As with scope for growth will be invited shortly to join a project to grow participation, taking account of local circumstances, and with support from Network projects on marketing, training and development support.

Management information about the U3A movement

A project is about to commence to replace the database which is maintained at Network with information on Member U3As. The project will explore how to collect output data at a summary level from U3As to support funding bids on behalf of our movement; capture a descriptive profile of each U3A that can be shared; and record contacts and emerging issues identified by U3As.

Del Stitz, Network Planning Convenor

U3A Regional Meeting, Tentative Workshop and Seminar Schedule for 2019

With two regional meetings still to be held this year some of these dates are tentative, made using estimates based on this year's dates so that we have a basic idea for planning at all U3As.

Gippsland Region - we need a Regional Rep urgently. Please contact Anne Grigg if you can help! dso@u3avictoria.com.au or 0408 638 151

U3A Region	Dates	Host(s) U3A
South West Victoria	March 22, Sept 20	TBA and Colac
Grampians	May 13, October 28	At Ararat but TBA
Loddon Mallee	March 21 Regional Workshop Sept 9/10	TBA and Bendigo
North East Victoria	Regional Workshop March 12/13, Sept 17	Benalla and TBA
Gippsland	Feb 22 ?Workshop March 4/5?	Bairnsdale and/or Sale
South Gippsland	Workshop March 4/5 October 16	Sale? And TBA
Western Metro	May 6 October 14 ?Workshop Sept 9/10?	TBA
Northern Metro	Workshop March 12/13 October 30	Benalla and Wallan
Outer Eastern	March 15, June 21, Sept 18, Dec 7	<u>TBA</u>
Eastern Metro	April 8 Workshop July 1, Sept 23	TBA
Outer South East and Mornington Peninsula	May 3, Sept 13	Casey and TBA
South Metro	April 12, Sept 6 (workshop)	Moorleigh and TBA

Members Portal

The secure area for Member U3As, the Members Portal, was launched at the beginning of October. We have received feedback from a number of people about it being useful and easy to access. However, there have been a number of people who have tried to access it without being aware of the password. Information about the password was sent to all Member U3A Presidents and Secretaries on Wednesday, 26 September. If your U3A is having any difficulty accessing the Portal, then please contact Tracey Swadling at Network Office adminmanager@u3avictoria.com.au or (03) 9670 3659.

Seniors Festival 2018

The U3A Marquee was abuzz and the day was a great success. Our volunteers worked at the marquee and at the information table at the Town Hall hub to not only promote their own U3A, but also raise the profile of the U3A movement. Specific activities were also promoted in and around the marquee: On Yer Bike (Yarra City), Philosophy (Seymour), Mah Jong (Melbourne City) and Nordic Walking (Moreland), which added to the atmosphere.

Eight U3As performed in the Deakin Edge concert: Nunawading, Banyule, Hawthorn, Whittlesea, Yarra City, Box Hill, Melbourne Chinese and Kingston (2 groups) and, of the 8 acts on Riverside Terrace, 5 were by U3A Nunawading with one each by Manningham, Melbourne City and Dandenong. Banyule, Manningham and Nunawading also had their own marquees. See the U3A Network [Facebook page](#) for all the action.

Not everything was perfect, and a report has been prepared for the Committee looking at what the problems were and how we can do better next year. If you want to read it contact me and I will send it to you.

However, overall Celebration Day was a great day and the Hub, was a success.

Although I do not even know all your names, my sincere thanks to every one of the 300 plus members who made it happen.

Pauline O'Brien

committeemember.pauline.obrien@u3avictoria.com.au