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From the President

Welcome back! Whether yours was an eventful one or simply a quiet 2 weeks' break, I hope you have returned to Term 2 safe and well. As for me, I spent the Easter break feeling sorry for myself after a fall from walking my daughter's retired greyhound, who, for whatever reason, decided to sprint off. Thankfully, no broken bones to boast about, and hopefully, the face won't end up with a scar or I may have to don a permanent mask!

We are now into Week 2 of Term 2. All classes have resumed, except for Spanish, which is scheduled to recommence in Term 3. We now have 26 active classes, with 90% of our members enrolled in at least one; we have 256 enrolments in our dance and exercise classes! With total membership of 260 members, it is great to see a large majority of our members up and about and staying active.

In our last newsletter, we reached out to members for expressions of interest for 4 potential new activities. We have since started a new practice group for classical guitar players, all levels. Thank you to all the tutors involved. Please keep the feedback coming in so we can add more activities of interest.

QRcodes around the Monash facilities

You would have noticed QRcodes displayed at all the Monash Halls facilities by now. If you have the app downloaded on to your smart phone, you can check in to all the Monash facilities using the QRcodes. But as not every one of our members would be able to do so, we will continue to require you to sign in when you attend classes, please.

For some of our larger groups, some members have volunteered to assist the tutors with the sign-in process and marking the attendance sheets. Interesting enough, from this, we have uncovered some participants are not enrolled but have been attending classes for all of Term 1 and a couple not only unenrolled but have not even renewed their memberships! With larger facilities, our tutors are taking in more participants and with their tight schedules, it is difficult for our tutors to keep check. For your own safety and protecting our liability position, please make sure you are properly enrolled. Where possible, we will do our best to make sure your needs are accommodated but where we can't, we simply cannot afford to ignore the rules that will ultimately put others at risk.

Closing off new enrolments

You may have noticed some of our classes have now been closed off to new enrolments. This is in response to tutor requests; we are already into Term 2 and courses normally have teaching program where a constant intake of new participants is likely to disrupt the schedule for others. Where you feel you have previous knowledge and experience that may be able to fit into the program, then let us know and we will approach the tutors on your behalf. Tutors may want to have a chat with you before they admit you into the class. Of course, some of our classes that are not syllabus based will continue to stay open for intake throughout the year.

As always, come and see the office volunteers or send in an email where you have any questions. We will do our best to assist. U3Awheelershill@gmail.com

Tutor Feature

We are missing this segment in this issue; Vicki Teese, our tutor is taking some time off to attend to some personal business and will return to share more news on our tutors as soon as able.

What's Ahead?

The management committee is still keen to put together an End of Year event; the Sports Hall at Southern Community Centre is booked for 3rd December. What remains is to get this into action. We need your ideas and your assistance to turn this into an event to be remembered.

By the time we feature our next newsletter, the committee will be getting ready for the 6th Annual General Meeting. Where you are interested to help steer U3A, please consider where you can assist.

We want to hear from you.

Many of you are doing great things that may benefit or be of interest to others but unless you send in your photos and your news, we can't share them with the rest of the group. So please, keep those photos and news coming in!

U3A is as good as your efforts to make it better and a community you are proud to be associated with! Until next time, stay safe always!

ANN FINDLAY, President

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Enjoying the Larger Halls

At the start of Term 1, we were fortunate to secure larger halls for some of our groups; members and tutors alike are loving the new space! Here are some action photos from these 3 affected groups in the new halls; the photos don't do much justice but don't they look grand all the same?

Annie Yang's Yoga group now at the large hall at Mulgrave Community Centre



Cassiely Chuah's Experienced Line Dancing group at the Sports Hall at Southern Community Centre



Eddie Chew's Tai Chi class at the large hall at Mulgrave



TERM 1 – Class Break up Activities

Cassiely Chuah's Experienced Line Dancing

The cold, windy and wet start of Autumn didn't stop our line dancing group having a social gathering to mark the end of Term 1. Everyone brought a plate to share and ended up with so much food! Looking forward to the next one!



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Free 8-day travel for Victorian Seniors and Carers (21-28 March)

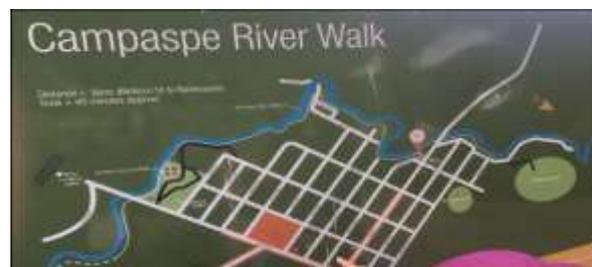
On Friday, 26th, last day of term, some of our U3A members took a trip to Kyneton, travelling on the free Victorian Public transport week initiative - to taste the famous Monsier Pierre pies.

Thanks to Gerald Seah, who got the group together to enjoy the camaradie and experience.

Aside from the pies, other highlights included a walk along Piper Street to indulge in cakes and coffee, as well as the speciality wares from the local souvenir, arts and craft shops and the 2.5 kilometer Campaspe River walk on this beautiful autumn day.

Great initiative! But travelling all the way to Kyneton just for a pie!? Well, why not?

The downside of the trip was, Gerald ended up with having to wear a moon boot as the result of an ankle sprain sustained during the trip.



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Guitar Induction/Mini Concert – 13th April 2021

During the Term 1 break, our guitar groups, together with the U3A Waverley groups got together for a 2-hour Introduction Session and performance organised by our tutors, Chin Lim and Chong Ooi attended by nearly all 50 of our classical guitar enthusiasts.

Besides a most informative induction session on classical guitar playing presented by our Honorary member and head of our guitar groups, Herve Rochecouste, the group was mesmerised by the wonderful rendition of several pieces including The Moon Represents My Heart, Maria Elena and Milonga, alongside Richard Tan, a tutor from the Waverley group.

The performance was followed by a Vietnamese lunch in Springvale

Well, that's about it for now, folks!

Leaving you with a couple of thought provoking quotes from Maureen Lancaster, Committee Member, also, our Newsletter Editor.

Until next time!

