



HEALESVILLE
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Welcome to U3A Healesville's June newsletter

From the President

Being Strategic: 2023 has been a busy and productive year in lots of ways. One of the decisions made by your Committee late last year was to put together a Strategic Plan to guide the next three years. Growing membership numbers, increased number and range of courses and more social opportunities, not to mention renewing the lease to the Courthouse, have meant that we need to plan well ahead to ensure that we cater for the needs of members.

Many hours of discussion and debate have gone into the resulting strategic plan which is nearing implementation stage. I am grateful for the many hours of work done to this point by all of our committee members. They are a wonderful group of people to work with. The first thing to do was to clarify our vision for the future – “to be a community where seniors feel they belong and can be themselves”. Implementation of this vision is built around six pillars or focus points: Enabling Life Long Learning, Actively Promoting the Interests of Seniors, Promoting Community Engagement and Connection, Enabling Diversity and Access, Committing to be a Trusted Voice for Seniors, and Aligning our Organisation for Growth and Change. We have also clarified and explicitly stated the values which will guide our course. These are stated on the website under “About Us”.

There is still a lot to do and for this we need the support of our members. If you would like to contribute in any way to the implementation of this plan, please contact a member of the committee.

John Pascoe

Dates for your diary

Afternoon tea

All are welcome at the Afternoon Tea, to be held at the Senior Citizens Hall on Thursday 1 June from 2-3:30 pm. Members are asked to bring a plate of food (savoury/sweet) to share. The, no-doubt entertaining, guest speaker will be Val James, who will talk about the Laughter Group she has been running in U3A Healesville for several years.

Term dates

Term 2 ends on Friday 23 June. Term 3 commences on Monday 10 July.

In the news

Mid-year dance

The mid-year dance held at Yarra Glen Hall on Friday 5 May was a great success with more than 80 people attending. Tony Rebeiro and the Bureau entertained the gathering with their

energetic playing of Rock 'n Roll classics from the 1950s and 1960s while Mal Day organised members into group dance routines during the breaks. The event was very well received and lots of fun for all. A similar event is planned for next year: same time of year, same place and the same band. 3 May 2024 is a tentative date to pencil into your diaries now.



Presentation by Damian Kristof

Between 50-60 people attended the excellent and entertaining presentation by Damian Kristof on ageing well. It was good to know that his message was very much in tune with the activities and values of U3A Healesville.

Anzac Day march

About 35 U3A members attended the Anzac Day march after which a U3A wreath was placed at the shrine. We thank these members for their support.

New/replacement fence

The commencement of works replacing the boundary fence around the Court House is scheduled for Wednesday 24 May. The current one has become quite rotted in parts. The new one is being funded by the Yarra Ranges Council. While it may be a bit disruptive, it will be good once it is done. We thank the Yarra Ranges Council for taking this initiative.

Marysville Hit the Road group from Wendy Veitch

Wendy Veitch has just returned from the *Hit the Road* trip to Marysville. From her report: The weather blessed us with two days of blue skies. My highlight was the trip to Lake Mountain resort. After driving through superb views, we were lucky to have David Buchanan with us as he took us on a tour of the inner workings of the resort: snow being made in preparation for opening of the ski season; a huge shed with an enormous tractor used to

shift snow; and a visit to the first aid room. It was good having a small group as we became acquainted with the new folks. Lots of fun, card games and laughter.

Course update

New courses

Two new courses commenced at the start of Term 2: 'Stage Stories' and 'Night at the Theatre'. Both are going well. So far 'Stage Stories' has included attending an outstanding production of Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman' at the Memo. Other stage-related activities include learning about different aspects of theatre and film, an insight into the history of theatre as well as a play reading. Course Leader, Phil Stephenson, gave us an insight into the career of David Tennant demonstrating through different snippets of film the breadth of his talent.

'Night at the Theatre' is a nostalgic visit to favourite vintage movies which includes popcorn, a mystery seat prize, cartoons as well as the main event.

Exploring Life's Meanings - will now not run in 2023. We will, however, look at offering it in 2024.

Potential new courses

A recommencement of the *Shakespeare on Zoom* course is anticipated in the next few weeks. Being run using Zoom it can be attended from the comfort of your own home.

Pickleball, which is a mix of badminton/tennis/racket sports is currently being investigated.

More dates for your diary

The Warburton film festival runs from Friday night 16 June through to Sunday 18 June and includes eight films from countries as diverse as Bosnia, Ireland and France. For more information go to yarraranges.vic.gov.au

And remember

- Please remember to wear your name tags at classes.
- Please let your course leader know if you are not able to attend a class.
- Please remember to treat other members with respect. We are all individuals, coming from different backgrounds and life experiences. In common, we have our membership and enjoyment of U3A.