



HEALESVILLE
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Welcome to U3A Healesville's November newsletter

From the President

This is our first Newsletter since the AGM and it seems we are not so far from the end of the year. And there is a great deal going on as you will see from the 'Dates for your Diary' below.

Welcome to our new Committee! Two new members were elected to the Committee at the AGM: Phillip Hipwell and Michael Vassallo. Both are heavily involved in our U3A and both have a great deal to contribute. We also said farewell and thanked departing Committee members Wendy Veitch and Ethne Pfeiffer for their contributions to the Committee. The new committee is **John Pascoe** (President), **Barbara Woods** (Vice President and Enrolments Officer), **Bill Woods** (Treasurer), **Carol Taylor** (Secretary), **George Doig** and **Lucia Messina** (Course Coordinators), **Rebecca Doig**, Phillip Hipwell, **Jane Judd** and **Michael Vassallo**.

An initiative over the next few weeks is the introduction of a U3AHealesville Facebook page. This will allow us to promote our activities more widely, provide an opportunity for members to keep more up to date with what is happening and also help develop links with other community organisations. Sharon Bourke and Michael Vassallo will be our moderators and I am grateful for their willingness and enthusiasm in this undertaking.

I remind you that **Tuesday 7 November** is **Melbourne Cup Day Holiday** and so there will be no classes that day unless otherwise organised by the Course Leader. Also note that our final '**Friday at 5**' on **December 8** is an opportunity to thank Course Leaders for their leadership over the year as well as acknowledge departing Committee members and those Course Leaders who have served for significant period of time. As usual, bring your own nibbles, drinks and chairs. On this occasion a sausage sizzle and salads will be provided. Given the occasion we look forward to a large turnout in the Courthouse grounds.

Your committee looks forward to working on your behalf over the next twelve months and welcomes any suggestions you might have to make.

Dates for your diary

- **Tuesday 7 November:** Melbourne Cup Holiday when there will be no formal classes.
- **Sunday 19 November and Sunday 26 November:** The Musical Musketeers - U3A Healesville's Theatre group production for this year. This will be held at the Memo from 2 pm – 4 pm. Tickets sell out fast so you're encouraged to buy tickets soon! Tickets may be purchased on-line or at the Memo front of house.
- **Wednesday 29 November:** U3AHealesville Community Choir will be performing at Aurrum commencing 11am. This event is becoming a feature event for the Choir who have now also performed at Holmewood and are looking forward to further opportunities to sing.
- **Saturday 2 December:** In the lead up to 'Friday at 5' and Registration Day, there will be a working bee at the Court House on between 9 – 11 am. Coffee, tea and cold

drinks will be available. It will be a general 'tidy up'. If you are able to help please contact the President by email on ipascoe175@bigpond.com

- **Friday 8 December:** Last day of classes for 2023.
- **Friday 8 December:** 'Friday at 5' between 5 pm – 7 pm will mark the end of term and celebrate a successful year for U3AHealesville. All are welcome. Sausages, breads and salads will be provided: people are invited to bring a dessert to share. This is an opportunity meet with friends and to thank course leaders for their involvement during the year.
- **Wednesday 13 December:** U3AHealesville's Registration Day for 2024 will be held from 10 am to 2 pm, in person at the courthouse. Registrations will also be available online from 10 am on the Wednesday.
- **Thursday 11 January: Healesville Connect** will hold a twilight picnic in Queens Park between 5-8 pm. It will be BYO food but there will be free ice creams, fruit, and games for children. The aim of the picnic is to generate promotion of local groups such as the SES, CFA as well as Healesville Connect itself.

In the news

U3AHealesville currently has 313 members which is quite an achievement for a smallish community. At the same time last year, we were about 260 members so this is a significant increase. We have been informed by Network that our percentage growth is one of the highest in the State!

We have also been successful in gaining several grants offered by the Yarra Ranges Council: the U3A Support Grant to support the administration costs of the organisation and the Courthouse; a Small Grant to support running the Theatre Performance Group concerts; and a Community Grant for Keeping Seniors Active and Engaged to help pay for our Pickleball equipment.

A reminder that the hot water system is still to be replaced. Please do not try to use it. This has been independently checked by an electrician and we have been told it cannot be fixed. John Pascoe has asked the Shire to urgently put it on their schedule as it shorts the electrical system when turned on.

As mentioned by the President, U3AHealesville is setting up its own Facebook page to increase our local profile and to link more easily to local organisations also on Facebook: watch this space!

2024 Course updates

The Course Handbook for 2024 is currently being put together, including recent updates to course descriptions. If you are running a course and have made changes to your course for next year, please inform Course Coordinators George Doig or Lucia Messina (Lucy), and Barb Woods (Handbook) as soon as possible. We need to finalise content by 10 November.

Did you know?

The first U3AHealesville was set up sometime in the 1990's. Our spies tell us that the late John Francis and Nan Francis established the organisation back then. Sadly, it folded shortly afterwards. U3AHealesville as we now know it was established in 2006. Nan Francis, who I am told was a superb violinist and played with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, continued as an active member running a Singing Course for many years. In that time

U3AHealesville has had five Presidents all of whom are currently residing in Healesville and still belong to the U3A. Do you know who they are? Answer in the next Newsletter.