

FROM THE EDITOR

We come to the end of another very eventful year in the life of Darebin U3A. It has been a time of great change and challenges for the hard working Committee. They have set up a number of working parties, most recently putting out a plea for more members to stand for the new committee following a number of retirements.

In particular, Audrey Grace who has acted as President since 2008, is finally taking a well earned retirement from that role. As an active committee member since that time, I have been witness to a remarkable period of growth and vitality under her leadership.

As she steps down from that role, I would like to pay tribute to Audrey for her extraordinary energy, vision and commitment to Darebin U3A. As well as promoting U3A in Darebin and the wider community, she has worked tirelessly in many other areas behind the scenes. Her contribution is beyond measure.

Now we have many newer members on the committee, with fresh ideas and skills, tasks are being shared around. We hope more people will offer to join them.

As newsletter editor I would be very glad of more help in producing the *Flyer*, particularly if you have experience and technical skills in publishing. The present format could really do with a revamp. I am very grateful to Liz Findlay and Kate Patrick for their expert help in copy typing, editing and formatting but their available time is limited. If you would like to join our team, please leave a message for me at the office or perhaps we might meet at the AGM.

I look forward to receiving more of your writings in the New Year

Jill Craig

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**Don't miss the
AGM**

**Tuesday 3 December 2013
1 pm at Fairfield RSL**

- Elect and welcome new Committee
- Guest Speaker: Michelle Marinelli, City of Darebin, Ageing Communities Unit
- U3A Darebin Singing for Pleasure
 - Line Dancing performance
 - Afternoon tea and door prize

Agenda: p. 7

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Visit the office* at ...

Fairfield Railway Station
26 Railway Place, Fairfield 3078

Or go to our website at ...

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~darebinu3a/home.html>

Office Hours:

During school terms and in the first week of December and the last week in January, whenever possible, there will be someone in the office at the following times:

Monday - Friday 10.15 am – 12.15 pm

**Before visiting the office, please phone to check that somebody is in attendance.*

2013 Committee Members

PresidentAudrey Grace
Vice-PresidentBeryl Evans
Secretary Frances Hennessy
Treasurer.....Gary Nixon
Assistant SecretaryDianne Beaumont
Minute Secretary..... Robyn Hartley
Property Office.....Jean Garita
Newsletter Editor.....Jill Craig
Tutor Co-ordinatorAnnette Davis
Publicity..... Carmel Lee
Course DevelopmentAlison Daams

Other Positions

Office Volunteers Co-ordinator
..... Philippa Wetherell
U3A Network Delegate..... David Elder
U3A Northern Region Delegates
.....Audrey Grace & Robyn Hartley
Membership/Class Records... Russell Lennox
Newsletter team..... Jill Craig, Liz Findlay,
& Kate Patrick

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is the last time that I write to you in the Flyer, as I now step down from the position of Honorary President of U3A Darebin.

Many developments have occurred during my time. The way we conduct the enrolment process, the spreading of classes to new venues throughout Darebin, the increase in the number and diversity of these classes and the improvement in our booth presentation at events to promote this great organisation and keep it alive. The wonderful day when we all celebrated the first 20 years of U3A in Darebin. The regular Members Morning Teas giving us all the opportunity to meet, share ideas and together discuss issues. All these have been achieved as the result of the work of volunteers – members offering their time and expertise. On behalf of the members of U3A Darebin, and myself, wholeheartedly, I thank you all.

One of the greatest changes, which affects you all, is in the annual member re-enrolment process which is outlined in the Committee report that follows. Our process still follows the standard U3A policy: members are placed in classes in the order in which their class application is received. At Darebin U3A, the process has been streamlined – current members now have two weeks to send in their membership renewal forms before the end of November. Over recent years we have developed and fine-tuned the procedure for processing the membership and class applications. We have benefitted enormously from the expertise of Russell Lennox in setting up a system on our computer .

When I became your President, I had only been with U3A Darebin a short time, and I had been on the Committee for only 6 months. I had a lot to learn about the philosophy underpinning this great international organisation and the processes needed to keep U3A Darebin running smoothly. I took a hands-on approach, meeting you, the

members and tutors, working with you and listening, updating processes, becoming your spokesperson. It has been a great privilege to represent you, and along the way I have become more confident as a person.

I thank you all most sincerely, dear friends, for your support, which has made the experience so enjoyable.

Audrey Grace

FROM THE COMMITTEE

Annual General Meeting and Celebration

The AGM will be held at Fairfield RSL on Tuesday 3 December from 1 pm – see page 7 for full details and Agenda. Don't miss this last social event of the year! It is always a great time to socialise and celebrate our achievements. Our guest speaker will be Michelle Marinelli, from the City of Darebin, who has been a great supporter of Darebin U3A. Please arrive by 12.45 to register and to receive your door prize ticket.

2014 Membership Fees

In accordance with the new constitution, the Committee has determined that membership fees for 2014 will be set at \$40 for individual full membership and \$60 (\$30 each) for joint membership. The associate membership fee remains at \$20.

2014 Membership Renewal Supplement

This Supplement contains two new forms for current financial members. The individual 2014 Renewal of Membership form contains the application for classes for 2014. We also ask you to consider the separate Volunteering Application form which lists some of the ways in which you can contribute to our organisation.

Please read the instructions carefully regarding the procedure for Renewal of Membership. Note that even when hand-delivered at the office, your application form and the **exact fee must already be in a sealed**

envelope with your name and membership number on the back. No change can be given.

On receipt, your enrolment envelope will be date-stamped and numbered, so the enrolment order rule is adhered to. Be careful to fully complete your form, including your signature. If it has to be set aside or returned to you for completion, the later processing date will apply.

Holiday Office Hours

During the first week of December and the last week of January, whenever possible there will be someone in the office at the normal office hours as follows:

Monday to Friday 10.15 am-12.15 pm

Before visiting the office, please phone to check that somebody is in attendance.

Many thanks to all the Office Volunteers and to the Coordinator, Philippa Wetherell, for their invaluable help throughout the year.

Wanted: Coordinator of office volunteers

For the past three years I have held this role and found it a very interesting one. I think it is time to hand it on to another member.

What does it involve? Firstly, the recruitment of members willing to spend two hours in the Fairfield office on 2 mornings each month; then putting together a roster according to the availability of members with their preferences for different days. This can involve many 'phone calls, which can be made from the office whenever possible. New volunteers need to be inducted into office procedure.

If a present volunteer was able to take on this role for 2014 it would be ideal. Please offer before the AGM. I am very willing to help you initially in December and during the last week of January.

Philippa Wetherell

COURSE INFORMATION

2014 Course Information

First term commences on Monday 3 February and breaks for Easter Holidays on Friday 4 April. Please note that computer classes all run for a full semester and do not take term breaks. Most weekly classes will re-commence in the first week of February, but there are exceptions, so please check the timetable carefully.

The accompanying **Membership Renewal Supplement** contains the timetable for first term 2014 as well as Course Descriptions for all classes. Some important changes to note are contained in the following bulletins:

Ancient Civilisations of the Mediterranean:

The tutor, Dr. Jone Gaillard, will continue this course with a focus on Ancient Greece.

Ballroom Dancing – Beginners and Intermediate:

Due to the retirement of Ethel Fredericks, both classes will now be given by Barbara Johnson on Wednesday afternoon in the small dance hall at the Croxton Uniting Church, corner of Shaftesbury Parade and St. Georges Road, Thornbury. Details: Wednesday, Beginners, from 1 – 2 pm and Intermediate, from 2 -3 pm. Please note: Classes will not be held in February, due to the heat. Classes will commence on Wednesday 5 March.

Book Discussion 3 – ‘Popular Penguins’ is moving to a new time slot of 11.15 am to 12.15 pm on the 3rd Friday at Bent Street.

Cinema Studies: Long-time tutor, Paul Michell, will again present a selection of masterpiece films in a new light, including three films featuring the iconic American actor, James Cagney. Details will be posted in December on the website at www.u3acinema.weebly.com Sessions will be held most months on third Wednesday from 9.45 – 12.45 at Fairfield Station. Paul will be away for two months in the year, but will provide final details of screening dates and films at the first session on Wednesday, 19 February.

Computers for All: This class runs for a 16 week Semester, commencing on Saturday 2

March and ending 22 June. Please note that there will be no school term break, but no class on Easter Saturday, 19 April. *Details:* 10 am – 12 noon Saturday at Merrilands. There is an extra fee of \$40 per semester to cover the use of computer room.

Current Affairs: Please note that the tutor, Noel Butterfield, will not run this class in the school holidays next year. It will restart in the first week of each term. *Details:* Fortnightly classes Thursday morning, 10.30 – 12 at Fairfield Station, commencing Thursday, 6 February.

French Language and Culture: The tutor, Michelle Manly, has provided the following new class description: *The focus of this class is modern French language, conversation and pronunciation. The class also discusses aspects of contemporary French culture.* *Details:* Fortnightly classes alternating with Current Affairs on Thursday mornings, 10 – 11.30 at Fairfield Station, commencing 13 February.

Fun with English as a Second Language:

Please note that this class will commence on Wednesday 12 February, 1 – 4 pm at Merrilands.

History of European Culture: The tutor, Yana Ostapenko, will be returning from Ukraine in late November. She plans to meet up with our group for a Xmas break-up celebration on Monday 25 November from 10.30 – 12 noon at Fairfield Station classroom. Yana hopes that she will be able to continue with this class next year in the same time slot on Monday morning.

Italian - Intermediate: Please note that this class is no longer for beginners. The course assumes that participants have completed at least some basic studies in written and spoken Italian. The tutor, Adriana Ficarazzi, has provided a new course description – see Supplement. *Details:* Weekly classes, Mondays 2.30 – 4 pm, East Preston Senior Citizens Centre, starting Monday, 10 February.

NEW COURSES FOR 2014

We are delighted to announce four exciting new courses.

Armchair Theatre

Leader: Philippa Wetherell

Would you enjoy bringing a play to life? Getting inside an interesting character? Discovering vocal talents you didn't know you possessed? And doing all this with a group of enthusiastic U3A members?

This Play Reading group, a new venture for our U3A, will be led by Philippa Wetherell. As a former teacher of speech and drama for many years, Philippa has directed a number of productions and also has stage experience with New Theatre here in Melbourne.

Details: Weekly on Wednesdays, from 1.30 to 3.00 pm at Fairfield Community Room next to Library in Station Street. *Start:* 12 February.

Express Yourself

Tutor: Noel Butterfield

Of course you can write! As a Teacher of English for 38 years, I can pass on the skills and resources you need to express yourself clearly and well, in an inspiring and supportive group setting. We will look at the nuts and bolts of the writing process, ie. Spelling and grammar, but the main aim is to give budding writers the necessary confidence to make full use of their own innate creative writing powers.

Details: Fortnightly on Thursday afternoon from 1.30 to 3.0 pm at Fairfield Community Room, in Station Street next to Library on the same day as the Current Affairs class. *Starts:* 6 February.

De-stress, Relax, Recharge ...

Leader: Satya Grierson

Tune into the strengths of your own body/mind connection with Yoga Nidra (deep relaxation), Antar Mouna mindfulness and simple Breath, Awareness and Meditation Practices. We are all interconnected circles. When one person in a family group develops calm strength and wisdom, everyone benefits. In this way,

positive evolution of humankind occurs and we leave a wonderful subtle and graceful legacy to future generations. Satya is a senior yoga teacher (SYA, ATMA) with more than 30 years' experience teaching Hatha Yoga, Relaxation and Meditation, concurrent with Private Practice as a Counsellor/Therapist.

Details: Monday afternoons from 1 – 2 pm.
Start: 10 February 2014, at East Preston Senior Citizens Centre, Donald St, East Preston.

Czech Language and Culture

Tutor: Rita Keller

Are you looking for a challenge? Why not learn a new language? How would the Czech language appeal to you?

This language is spoken by the people in the Czech Republic with its beautiful capital city Prague, the City of a Hundred Turrets.

In this introductory course you can learn to greet and introduce yourself, write personal details, talk about yourself, express likes and dislikes, write a postcard, engage in simple conversations and learn about Czech culture. The tutor, Rita Keller, is a language teacher and Czech is her native tongue.

Details: Friday mornings, 9.30 – 11.0 at Northcote Senior Citizens Centre, Bent Street.
Starts: Friday 14 February.

DAY TRIPPERS GROUP

This is a flexible group which has an outing once or twice a month. Our excursions have included National Trust properties, museums, gardens, the Block Arcade, Shrine and the State Library. We'd love your suggestions as to future visits: would you be interested in a monthly/ bimonthly lunch or perhaps a shopping excursion? We are not a class as such, as we are not enrolled as a group – you come on the excursion which interests you, but we are typically U3A – FRIENDLY! Come and join us and try us out.

Convenor: Mary de Bortoli

Day Tripper Luncheon

All are welcome to our end-of-year luncheon.

Date: Thursday 12 December

Venue: Beachcomber Cafe

18 Jacka Boulevard, St. Kilda

Cost: \$25 for choice of 2 courses, including glass of wine or choose from the menu.

Meet: Federation Square at 11.30 am

Booking: We need to book early, so please phone Mary on 9481 0992 before Friday 15 November.

The following outings are planned for early next year:

Johnston Collection

A house museum of fine and decorative arts in an historic Melbourne townhouse. **Date:** the morning of Wednesday 19 March 2014.

Bookings and payment MUST be received by 19 November so we can confirm and pay for the visit. **Cost** will be \$21, payable with the booking and non-refundable. Places are limited to 22. **Booking:** Please phone Mary ASAP on 9481 0992 to book and arrange payment.

Jewish Museum

Guided tour of the galleries (including the History of Jews in Australia; Belief and Ritual; Israeli Coin Collection), followed by a guided tour of the Synagogue. **Date:** Sunday 9 February; **Cost:** \$8; **Meet:** 10.15 am at Federation Square; **Booking:** Ring Mary on 9481 0992 by 24 January.

Art Deco Fashions

National Gallery of Victoria, St Kilda Road. Be enthralled! **Date:** Wednesday 26 February; **Cost:** \$12 (concession \$10); **Meet:** 10.15 am in the foyer of the NGV, St Kilda Road; **Booking:** Ring Mary, 9481 0992, by 22 February.

FROM THE CLASSROOM

Enjoying Opera

Once a month a small group of members sit absolutely mesmerised by the story and beautiful sound of an opera in the Bent St. meeting room. We listen to famous operatic

stars' wonderful voices and absolutely forget the world outside. We held an open day in October and the visitors shared our enjoyment watching "Madame Butterfly" and listening to the glorious voice of a young and sexy Placido Domingo. I appreciate the notes that Claudia Sanzin prepares for us each time and I am so glad that she intends to continue this very enjoyable class again next year.

Audrey Grace

Singing for Pleasure

Indeed, this class is a pleasure. Today, the first day in November, we sang nearly 20 songs, sometimes repeating to make improvements. It is a wonderful relaxing and joyful way to end the week. I have always wanted to sing and over the years have joined choirs, and struggled. I was told that I didn't have much of a voice. In this class, just singing, and with gentle guidance, I have found such an improvement in my tone, pitch and timing. I am now managing harmonies. I get such pleasure from hearing some of the nice notes I make. Yes – by singing you learn to sing, and that is such a joyful thing to do.

A huge, huge thank you to the tutors for their skill and encouragement. I so look forward to Fridays.

Audrey Grace

OUT AND ABOUT

'Day Trippers' Outing in October

Music for the People – 'The Girls from Oz'

This concert was held on 15 October at St. Michael's Church, a beautiful old building on the corner of Collins and Russell Street. The very talented Jane O'Toole and company sang and acted out the stories of Dame Nellie Melba, Gladys Moncrieff, Joan Sutherland and June Bronhill – the extraordinary 'Girls from Oz'. The songs brought back many memories and when invited by Jane we joined in enthusiastically. A very enjoyable Day Tripper outing!

Rhonda McMahon

U3A DAREBIN INC.

Reg.No. A.0028861A

You are invited to attend our

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CELEBRATION

at FAIRFIELD & ALPHINGTON RSL, 9 Railway Place, Fairfield,
on Tuesday 3 December 2013 at 1 pm

12.45 pm Please register at entry table and receive your door prize ticket.

1.00 pm Welcome from the President.

1.05 pm U3A Darebin Choir

1.15 pm Annual General Meeting:

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of the minutes of previous AGM, 4 December 2012.
3. President's Report.
4. Financial Report and Auditor's Report for 2013.
5. Other Reports – Report on Special General Meeting held on 30 September 2013 to vote on the new Constitution.
6. Thank-you to retiring members of the Committee of Management.
7. Returning Officer: Election of Committee of Management for 2014.
8. Introducing U3A Darebin Committee for 2014.
9. Other Business – notice having been received in writing by the Secretary at least 14 days before this General Meeting.

2.00 pm Guest Speaker: Michelle Marinelli, Coordinator Ageing
Communities Unit, City of Darebin

AFTERNOON TEA and time to socialise, followed by:

Entertainment: U3A Line Dancers.

Door Prize. Members must be present to receive their prize.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2014 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

As most members will now be aware, a number of office bearers on the current Committee of Management are retiring from their positions at the end of this year.

Audrey Grace, the President, will be stepping aside after many years of dedicated service. She has done an enormous amount of work behind the scenes as well as being the ambassador for U3A Darebin. Frances Hennessy is retiring as Secretary, having worked very diligently for some years. Gary Nixon, the Treasurer for the past couple of years, is unable to continue in this role. We thank him for giving his time and expertise in maintaining our financial records. Also, Philippa Wetherell, our very efficient Office Volunteers Coordinator for the past three years, is retiring from this position. In addition, a couple of committee members have left.

As a result, there are a number of vacancies which must be filled if the organisation is to continue to prosper.

The positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer as office bearers are required under our Rules as an incorporated body. In addition, ordinary Committee members currently take on a range of other responsibilities such as Course Development Officer, Tutor Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Minute Secretary and Property Officer.

We urge you to consider putting yourself forward for one of these positions, particularly the roles of Treasurer, President and Secretary, or other roles where you have a particular interest or skill. If you are interested, please feel free to talk with one of our Committee members listed on Page 2.

If you would like to nominate yourself, or a fellow member, for election to the Committee, please fill in the Nomination form on the opposite page and return to the Secretary no later than Tuesday 26 November. Please note that only full financial members are eligible to participate in the elections (see Rules 13 and 48 of the new Rules). If you wish to make more than one nomination, extra forms will be available from the office.

Treasurer Urgently Needed!!

If you have experience and skills in this area, please consider offering to stand for this position on the Committee. If you are interested, have a chat with one of our Committee members. Full role description is available from the office.

Help Wanted

We plan to hand out our brochures again at the 'Carols in All Nations' event on Saturday 14 December. This Darebin Community event is held at All Nations Park alongside the Northcote Plaza. There are many picnickers and we usually hand out the brochures between 5 and 6 pm before the concert starts. We hope that our Singing for Pleasure group will be performing.

If you would like to help with the brochures please leave a message at the office.

Autumn Newsletter

The next newsletter will be produced in March 2014 and will contain the latest news, coming events, Day Tripper plans and course information for second term.

We welcome photos, poems and other items from members, especially reports from the classroom, 'Out and About' and stories of their personal experience.

Please send contributions to the Editor, Jill Craig at Darebin U3A by 21 February. Items of 250 words or less preferred.

U3A DAREBIN INC
Reg. No. A0028861A

NOMINATION FORM

NOMINATION FORM FOR COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT – 2014

for elections to be held at the Annual General Meeting at
Fairfield RSL, 9 Railway Place, Fairfield, Tuesday 3 December 2013, at 1pm

You are invited to stand, or nominate a fellow member, for election to the Committee of Management for one of the following positions (please tick).

Nominations are only open to full financial members of U3A Darebin Inc.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President | <input type="checkbox"/> Tutor Co-Ordinator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President | <input type="checkbox"/> Course Development Officer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer | <input type="checkbox"/> Property Officer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Editor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Volunteers Coordinator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minute Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinary Committee Member |

I, (name)member no.....

hereby nominate (*Name*).....member no.....

for the position of.....(Signed)

I accept the above nomination (print name).....

(Signed).....member no.....

Please return this form to

The Secretary
U3A Darebin Inc
PO Box 44
FAIRFIELD VIC 3078

by **Tuesday 26 November 2013.**

Our Privacy Policy

U3A Darebin is a community based provider of classes for older people and is run by volunteers. We collect names and addresses to enable us to mail out newsletters and other information about classes, and we list phone numbers to contact you directly if required. This mailing and phone list is not made available to anyone outside the organization.

We also ask you for personal details to provide statistical data to government funding agencies. This is a requirement for receiving government grants. The information is used for future planning.

This information is compiled into statistical reports that do not identify individuals. If you choose to withhold these personal details there will be gaps in the data that will reduce the accuracy of the statistics, and this will not help our cause.

We do not disclose any of this information to any other parties, and would never do so without your consent.

If you have any concerns or queries or would like to know more about how we handle your private details feel free to phone our office on 96 102 102 so that we can explain our procedures in greater detail.

If undeliverable return to:



DAREBIN INC.

Reg No. A0028861A

PO Box 44, FAIRFIELD VIC 3078

Newsletter

Number 71, November 2013

"Railway Station"

26 Railway Place

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U3A Darebin Inc. is supported by:
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