

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2022



Happy New Year to All



Hopefully 2022 will be better than the past 2 years

President's column

Personally, I'm quietly optimistic for the year ahead: optimistic that the latest manifestation of the Covid epidemic will calm a little, and that the community, with triple vaccinations and regular boosters, will adapt to living with Covid. These, in turn, should lead to us experiencing something approaching what we used to regard as a "normal" U3A year, with face-to-face activities and enjoying one another's company and companionship. However, in many ways it will not be the "old normal". Thanks to the skills and much hard work of our two IT wizkids, Robyn Harlock and Bill Gardner, we now have an active Facebook page and fully interactive, restructured website, to better interact with one another and with the wider community. Already these are bearing fruit, with a number of new members on board. On top of that, we have what I think is an exciting programme of activities for the first semester, with a promise of even better things to come in semester 2. And of course, the new members joining through our recruitment programme offer us the potential for even more interesting and diverse tutorials, classes and general activities in the years ahead.



At this point, I would like to offer a special welcome to the new members who have joined us recently. I really do hope that you find what we have to offer this year interesting and stimulating, and our environment a welcoming one. If there's anything you need to know, or think we can help you with, or even think that you could offer to us, please feel free at any time to contact myself or any other Committee member.

Likewise, as also Editor of the Newsletter, please feel free to write in to me with comments, criticisms and especially with suggestions on how we could improve it. If everyone is willing, I'd be very happy to introduce a special "Letters to the Editor" section in future editions.

So, it remains to me to wish you all a very enjoyable and productive learning year ahead, and I hope finally to be able to meet you all in person as the year progresses.

Website Update – Important Action is Required of Everyone

Our U3A website has changed...the big change was to create areas accessible only to members. To make this work, members will be given a unique username and password to login and gain access.

The areas currently only accessible to members are

-An archive of past presentations

-Detailed course and activity times, locations and co-ordinator contact details

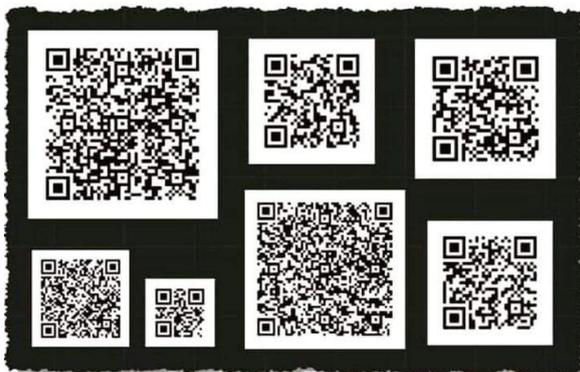
If you have not already done so, current members are asked to visit the website

<https://u3awarrnambool.org.au>

Click on the “Join Us” tab (right hand side of the top bar). Then click on the link “register here”.

A form appears which you then fill in with your details and which courses and activities are of interest to you in 2022 (*note you make up your own username and password*).

Just looking at my holiday snaps this year



You will then receive an email with a link to confirm your email address and activate your membership account. You will be automatically logged in and will not have to login again. When your membership is due for renewal in the New Year, access will cease until it is renewed (an option to pay online will be available to simplify the process).

If you need help to register and setup your account, please see any committee member.

What's on the next two months

First and most important, all members should register and enrol for Semester 1 activities online as indicated above whenever you have that capability. For those who do not, there will be an opportunity to register/join and enrol for activities manually at the Launch event. However, it is essential that you are enrolled for activities and make your contact details available for use by each activity convenor.

Programme Launch

Our formal Programme Launch will take place in the Hammond Centre on Monday 7 February, commencing at 14.00, and everyone is strongly encouraged to attend. After a traditional “welcome to country” and a short address by the Warrnambool City mayor, the president will give a short explanation of the U3A movement and introduce guest speakers, David Fallaw and Janet Macdonald. There will be a short video presentation of some of the highlights of our 2021 programme, and an introduction by the president of the semester 1 programme of 2022. Everyone is then invited to afternoon tea, at which time you'll also have the opportunity to

register (new members) or enrol manually for Semester 1 activities. [See the Launch Brochure at the end of this Newsletter.](#)



The Year Santa Hired a Consultant

The tutorial programme will kick off on 15 February with a zoom presentation by Peter Lazarus of Hume U3A on “The Sun”. The Philosophy classes with Keith Purdie will begin on 24 February and the first of the Social Interactions discussion sessions will be on 28 February.

Most of the small group activities will also kick off, with mahjong (8 and 22 February); cryptics (14 and 28 February); book club (17 February) and fine music appreciation (20 February).

March will see a continuation of all the small group activities according to their own rhythms. The second and third of the social interactions sessions will be on 7 and 28

March, and the philosophy classes will continue on 10 and 24 March. In addition, the tutorial programme will really get up steam. We’ll have the second and third of Peter Lazarus’s zoom astronomy presentations on 1 and 15; the zoom international affairs tutorials from Gerry Engwerda, on Tibet and Eastern Europe on 14 and 21 respectively; and our local face to face tutorials will begin with one by Bill Gardner on 22 March on “Impressions of Egypt”. Altogether a very full month.

Full details of times and locations for all these activities are in the [February and March Activity Calendars attached to this Newsletter and also on the website.](#)

Tutorial summaries

The Sun. The Sun has been around for about 4.6 billion years. How did the Sun form, and what keeps it going? Our Sun is very dangerous, but the Earth has protected us and set up conditions for life to form. But in the future, the Sun will destroy the Earth.

The Moon and Effect on Earth. Not long after the Earth formed, it was struck by a Mars sized object. The ejected material formed our Moon. The Moon has had enormous influence over the Earth, and we will explain some of these influences. This session will also explain lunar and solar eclipses. There will also be a fun quiz to test your knowledge of the moon, e.g., is there a man on the moon?

The Planets. A quick journey among the planets. The journey starts with how our solar system formed. Then we discuss the categories and characteristics of the planets, and end with some of the amazing discoveries that have been made.

Tutor Profiles

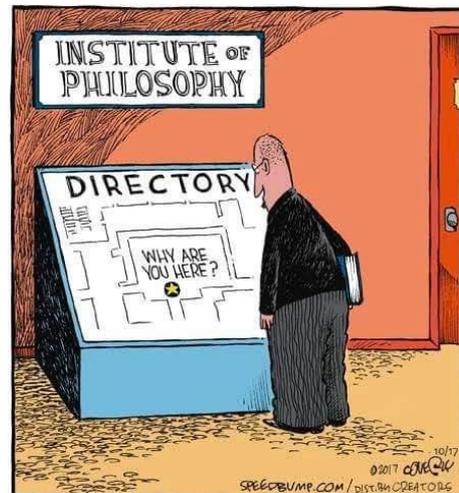
Gerry Engwerda. I am a retired High School teacher. In my 43 years in the classroom, I taught English, History and International Relations and as well worked part time for Latrobe University. I am now happily retired in Yackandandah where we, (my wife, Ellen and I), have lived for the past 40 years. We have four children and ten grandchildren who take up all the time not taken by U3A. I am an aviation enthusiast and a terribly average cook who likes nothing better than to be left alone with a nice glass of red and a good book.

Peter Lazarus. Peter belongs to Hume U3A in Melbourne where he is their webmaster and has a strong amateur interest in astronomy. He has kindly offered to talk to us about aspects of the space environment nearest to home.

Bill Gardner. Bill is interested in stones and took note of some quite remarkable stone masonry in Egypt, especially from the earliest periods, and theorised about Egyptian influence on Christ's ministry (he spent his childhood there).

Keith Purdie. Dr Keith Purdie is a retired Anglican priest and registered psychologist. He has worked as a parish priest, and in a variety of industrial settings as counsellor, trainer, and applied researcher.

Keith has a B.A (phil major), B.D. (Bachelor of Divinity); Grad Dip Psych; and PhD (in psychology, exploring the free will/determinism issue as it applies to psychology. Jointly supervised by a psychologist and a philosopher). Keith taught a philosophy class at U3A Emerald Victoria for 6 years



U3A Warrnambool online

As was indicated towards the end of last year, a lot of work has been put into substantially upgrading our website and also establishing a Facebook page for Warrnambool U3A. You are all urged to visit these important social media platforms, to “like” the Facebook page, and most importantly, to make use of them. The Facebook page will be used to provide information on upcoming activities, and most importantly to advertise our presence to a certain part of the Warrnambool and district community. The webpage will be where we increasingly conduct our business, from signing up new members, to enrolling for activities, to paying your annual subscriptions or for members to access our growing library of archived tutorial material.

We all owe an enormous vote of thanks to our IT gurus, Bill Gardner for the website (where he's now webmaster) and Robyn Harlock for the Facebook page. Robyn is also the author of the two video clips, to be shown at the Launch and on Facebook. A real whizz!

Member Profiles

Every month, we hope to have short profiles of different of our members, in particular new ones, to help us get to know one another better. This one is by Dr Keith Purdie, our new Philosophy tutor.

Keith Purdie

I am very new. I moved to Warrnambool from the Dandenong ranges a couple of months ago. Ours is an intergenerational household. I live with my wife (Rhonda) a retired teacher, my daughter (Catherine) and our grandson (Max) who is 10. Our move was primarily for family reasons, but we love this area having had many family holidays hereabouts in years past. We are slowly finding our feet in our new home and looking forward to becoming part of the community. So far, we have been struck by the open heartedness of the people we have met.

The introduction to philosophy course that I hope to tutor this coming semester presumes no prior knowledge of philosophy or level of education. It is for anyone interested in the big questions of life. It is not to be a series of talks but a combination of mini lectures the odd short video and plenty of discussion. I like to be interrupted. There is no such thing as a dumb question in philosophy. If you are considering enrolling and would like to know more, please feel free to email to me at: drkeithp@bigpond.com. I look forward to becoming part of the Warrnambool U3A community.



Contributions

I have not received any contributions this month from the budding authors in our midst. However, I can promise you something interesting to read in coming months.

Smile Corner

If my body was a car, I would be trading it in for a newer model. I've got bumps, dents, scratches & my headlights are out of focus. My gearbox is seizing up & it takes me hours to reach maximum speed. I overheat for no reason and every time I sneeze, cough or laugh either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires!



U3A Warrnambool Committee

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Other contacts

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For matters regarding our web presence: webmaster@u3awarrnambool.org.au
For matters relating to our zoom/hybrid tutorials: zoom@u3awarrnambool.org.au



U3A

LIVE TO LEARN AND LEARN TO LIVE

**RETIRED IN AND AROUND WARRNAMBOOL?
LOOKING FOR ACTIVITIES TO STIMULATE MIND AND BODY?
U3A WARRNAMBOOL IS THE PLACE FOR YOU.**

WE INVITE EVERYONE TO OUR 2022 LAUNCH
2pm 7th FEBRUARY 2022
HAMMOND FELLOWSHIP CENTRE
HENNA STREET WARRNAMBOOL
Afternoon tea provided

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO JOIN UP, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:-
www.u3awarrnambool.org.au

February 2022

Calendarpedia
Your source for calendars

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Programme launch. Hammond Centre 1400-1500	8 Mahjong, Hammond back, 10.00	9	10	11	12
13	14 Cryptics, Hammond back, 14.00	15 Lazarus, zoom The sun 10.30 Mahjong, Hammond back, 10.00	16	17 Book club, Hammond back, 14.00	18	19
20 Beethoven 1, Hankinson, 240 Lava, 14.00	21	22 Mahjong, Hammond back, 10.00	23	24 Philosophy 1, Purdie Hammond back room 14.30	25	26
27	28 Overview of WRAD Powell Hammond Hall 10.30 Cryptics, Hammond back, 14.00	1	2	3	4	5

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March 2022

Calendarpedia
Your source for calendars

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	1 Mahjong, Hammond back, 10.00 The moon, Lazarus, zoom, 10.30	2	3	4	5
6 Film, Hankinson, 240 Lava St, 14.00	7 OzChild Nicholas Hammond Hall 10.30	8 Mahjong, Hammond back, 10.00	9	10 Philosophy 2 Purdie Hammond back room 14.30	11	12
13	14 Engwerda, zoom Tibet 10.30 Cryptics, Hammond back, 14.00	15 Mahjong, Hammond back, 10.00 The Planets, Lazarus, zoom, 10.30	16	17 Book club, Hammond back, 14.00	18	19
20 Beethoven 2, Hankinson, 240 Lava, 14.00	21 Engwerda, zoom Eastern Europe 10.30	22 Mahjong, Hammond back, 10.00 Impressions of Egypt Gardner Hammond Hall 14.00	23	24 Philosophy 3 Purdie Hammond back room 14.30	25	26
27	28 Cryptics, Hammond back, 14.00 WRAD 2, Powell ACT/SMART Hammond Hall 10.30	29 Mahjong, Hammond back, 10.00	30	31	1	2

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