

November 2023

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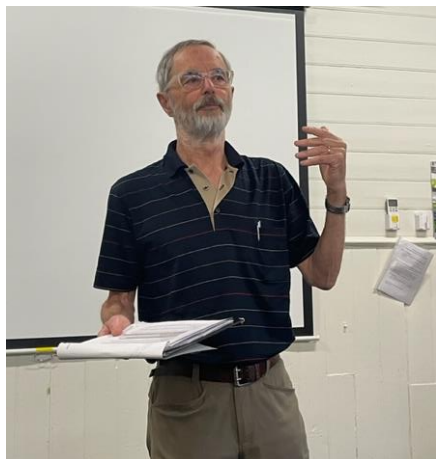
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(Closed public holidays & school holidays)

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Peter Moore

President's report

I'm pleased to be nominated as President for a second year ... it seems like it's taken the first year to work out what needs to be done! It's been an exciting 2023 and I'm looking forward to 2024. Our membership is increasing, and we are offering new courses. Our aim is a more interesting, community focused and friendly U3A Yarra City.

At the AGM our members confirmed a new Committee of Management, and we welcomed new member Maria Hudson into the vital role of Program Coordinator. Continuing on the committee are Viv Blanksby, Sue Kurt, Frank Moore and Barry Giddings, with support from Mary Walker (Office Coordinator) and Lyn Watson (Forums). We have two sub-committees for Programming and Promotions, and a Newsletter committee of Tina Hocking, Lyn Morgan and Susannah Dax. Please talk to any committee member about questions or concerns; we are your representatives, and we appreciate your feedback. Retiring from the committee are David Lee and Margaret Gibson; I do sincerely thank them both for their long and dedicated contributions. Also, congratulations to the three life members appointed this year – Wendy Hall, Loraine Chessells and Bruce Townsend.

October was a very busy Seniors Month. U3A Yarra City partnered with City of Yarra in running a Heritage Bike Ride (the route developed by Jonno Morris). Our Photography class exhibited a selection of their work at Richmond and Carlton libraries and at the U3A Seniors Month Forum in the Collingwood Town Hall. The inspiring keynote speaker for this event was Gerard Mansour. Subsequent discussion resulted in considerable feedback to the Yarra Council's Healthy Ageing strategy (see [Seniors Month](#) on page 5).

The Refugee Welcome Group held a fundraising trivia night with excellent financial outcomes to support a new refugee family to settle in our area. This event also created some terrific vibes in our U3A community. Enrolments for 2024 courses open on 27 November. I hope that you find courses that you want.

Cont.

Cont.

We have a newly revised U3A policy on dealing with COVID on our website. <https://u3ayarracity.org.au/policies/> Please read this and roll up your sleeves.

Finally, I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and hope to meet many of you in 2024. I'm looking forward to another great year at U3A Yarra City. Thanks to all members for their ongoing support.

Peter Moore

Forums and programs

U3A activities occur each weekday at venues across the City of Yarra and beyond. With over 40 courses and activities, it is a rich program delivered by volunteer tutors who give their time, expertise and enthusiasm to provide opportunities for learning and social and community engagement. Without their generosity we would have no program.

With over 40 courses and activities, it is a rich program delivered by volunteer tutors...

This year there have been a number of positive highlights in development and delivery of our program:

- The new membership database UMAS, along with our website has meant greater flexibility in publishing and scheduling classes and making changes.
- Our highly successful Forums, organised so ably by Lyn Watson, have returned to the Collingwood Library Community Room. They are also advertised and promoted through Yarra Libraries. We are also grateful to Rodney Spark and Linda Bennett for their Voice Referendum forums.
- One-off events emerging from ongoing classes including the very successful trip to Mornington Regional Gallery to view the Archibald Exhibition, the On Yer Bike group cycling tour of Canberra and environs and of course, the events for Seniors Month.
- We have added three new courses: Philosophy, Pickleball and a second Table Tennis group with thanks to the tutors/facilitators.

Unlike many U3As, our program is delivered at multiple locations across Yarra City, mainly in libraries, but also Neighbourhood Houses, with whom we have valuable partnerships. I want to acknowledge their support and in particular the Venues team at City of Yarra.

Finally, the preparation of a program and booking the venues is a team effort, Thanks to Jan Tinetti for assisting with the program, Sue Kurt who assisted with UMAS, and the indefatigable Frank Moore for his tutor liaison.

After six years, I am retiring from the Committee and I am delighted that the coordination of the program is being taken on by Maria Hudson with the assistance of Jan Tinetti, while Lyn Watson will continue to manage the Forums program. We will continue to offer a program that provides a wide range of opportunities for learning and healthy and convivial activities for our members.

David Lee

OYB 10-year celebration

Thank you Ross Armstrong for not only leading us on Friday rides...

In October we celebrated 10 years of the On Yer Bike (OYB) group. Thank you Ross Armstrong for not only leading us on Friday rides but twice a year we have enjoyed cycling rail trails in many places around Victoria. Since the advent of this group, several off-shoot bike groups, cooking classes, plus many, many friendships have added to the betterment of all our lives. And for this we are truly thankful.

Joy Vandosoke



10 year celebration



The tutor - Ross Armstrong

Philosophy

...lively sessions ranging across thoughts such as JS Mill's liberalism, John Rawls' veil of ignorance, Karl Marx's class struggle...

U3A Yarra City Philosophy class this year has been having lively sessions ranging across thoughts such as JS Mill's liberalism, John Rawls' veil of ignorance, Karl Marx's class struggle, new leftism of Michel Foucault and Iris Marion Young, Freya Mathews' essence in nature, Peter Singer's animal rights, Betty Friedan's feminine mystique, rights of women and more.

Reading and watching guides are offered but working on them before class is not essential.

Classes consist of presentations and audio-visuais with lots of group discussion followed by an option of a café visit.

Don Just



Merry Christmas

The newsletter team wishes you and your family good health and happiness over the Christmas break and the New Year. And we also thank you for the fabulous contributions we have received in 2023. Keep writing into 2024, we like to keep our newsletter topical and publish contributions from all.

Tina Hocking, Lyn Morgan and Susannah Dax

Pickleball

There are plenty of vacancies and I invite prospective members to 'come and try'. You won't be sorry.

Pickleball Victoria originally approached the U3A Network to see if there was interest in a U3A supporting the introduction of this game. I was interested in getting into another sport, so I investigated this as a possible U3A Yarra City course. I then applied for and received a City of Yarra Small Project Grant which covered the cost of the bats and balls.

The Clifton Hill Tennis Club already holds Pickleball sessions on a Friday night and Sunday morning. We now have an arrangement where we use their pickleball court and nets for a reasonable fee and supply our own playing equipment.

We initially had 20 members enrolled and 16 turned up on the first day to find out what this fast-growing sport was about. Over the following weeks, some dropped out and others joined once they heard how much fun the regular players were having.

When we started in August, we did not know the rules, or how to play or score. With valuable guidance and instruction from Anthony from the tennis/pickleball club, our skills have improved, and we now know what we are doing and think we are pretty good players. Whether that is true or not doesn't matter as we have a core group of 8-10 members who thoroughly enjoy the game and have a lot of laughs.

The game is fast moving, but not as physically demanding as say tennis or squash. It is played on a small court (four pickleball courts fit on a tennis court), with a bat and ball designed to hit hard without the ball travelling too far.

We play Pickleball on Thursday between 9.30 and 11.00 am and the course will be continuing next year. There are plenty of vacancies and I invite prospective members to 'come and try'. You won't be sorry.

Barry Giddings



Seniors Month

...discussions were held in groups on these eight attributes, and the points and comments gathered to form a report.

On October 24 U3A presented another successful forum in the Collingwood Town Hall. The 'Ageing Well in Yarra Group' partnered with the City of Yarra's Aged and Disability Services to hold the event for 'Seniors Month'. The purpose of this forum was to bring together U3A and community groups across the City of Yarra to have input into Yarra Council's Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2024.

The keynote speaker was Gerard Mansour, former Commissioner for Senior Victorians. During his time in office, Gerard consulted with seniors all over Victoria and wrote a significant report on his findings titled 'Ageing well in a Changing World'. It identifies eight Attributes of Ageing well and Gerard spoke eloquently on these topics.

Following the presentation, Susannah Dax, facilitated discussions with the 60 attendees on the eight attributes, and the points and comments were gathered to form a report.

This year the Healthy Ageing Group expanded its ambitions to include two other major events coordinated by U3A, the Photography Exhibition and Heritage Bike Ride around Yarra. At the Forum there were exhibitions from U3A 'Art for All', 'Mosaics' and 'Bonsai' groups which added extra value to the day.

Special thanks go to Councillor Amanda Stone, Chair of the Active Ageing Advisory Committee, who participated in the discussions and to Lauren Brooker City of Yarra Coordinator Active and Healthy Ageing for her collaboration in putting the event together.

Using the knowledge gathered on the day, a report has been sent to Yarra Council for input into the 2024-2030 Strategy.

We encourage you to have your input via the [Your Say Yarra](https://yoursayyarra.com.au) page <https://yoursayyarra.com.au/agewell> on the Yarra City Council website.

Helen Nankervis



Gerard Mansour



Susannah facilitating

Israeli Folk Dancing on Show

The Djerring Centre was at full capacity on 19 October when 14 dancers from the U3A Israeli Folk Dancing course put on a lively display accompanied by beautiful music. Audience members were invited to join in and it was very enjoyable.

The Israeli Folk Dancing class runs on a Monday morning and is open to all. A partner is not required. Group members are lovely and welcoming and many have never done Israeli Folk Dancing before.

Dancing is a rewarding activity. It keeps you physically and mentally fit and brings joy to your heart.

Fay Thomev



Heritage bike ride

On a glorious October day, 22 riders met at Princes Park, to experience the Yarra City Heritage Bike Ride. Due to the large number of riders, we divided into two groups.

The ride took us past many fascinating parts of our city, including the former Carlton and Collingwood football stadiums, remnants of the Inner Circle Railway Line, cable car infrastructure, a militia drill hall from the 1860s, places of significance to our first nations people and much more. We enjoyed a much-appreciated break at Abbotsford Convent and then continued past more heritage sites to Cremorne.

Jonno Morris



Photography group

Yarra City Photography group held an opening of their 'Our Yarra' exhibition at Richmond Library on October 11, 2023.

The exhibition photographs illustrated the diversity of the city we live in and was opened by Councillor Amanda Stone.

The evening was well attended by U3A members, Yarra City Council officers, and family and friends of the photographers.

It was a successful and enjoyable evening; a good time was had by all.

Helena Rosman



Lunch around the world

The most important aspect has been breaking bread with complete strangers, making friends, laughing and sharing stories.

The original Lunch Around the World, had the following course description: 'A monthly lunch on the second Tuesday in the City of Yarra boundaries, to sample the available cuisine and, accessible by public transport. Typical cost about \$15.'

I could not resist enrolling. Plus, it would allow me to test the unknown waters of U3A. My first memory of this course/experience was heading to Docklands for a Middle Eastern meal when Leigh was the coordinator. I liked the idea of sharing a multitude of cuisines, meeting like-minded people, and gaining further knowledge of the City of Yarra.

I was newly retired, lived in North Fitzroy, and was ready to expand my horizons. I had already discovered that the definition of Yarra boundaries was fluid. However, the grid of Robert Hoddle plans has been the backbone of the groups feasting over the years. The other backbone has been the coordinators and their enthusiasm, determination, and great communication skills. Coordinators have been Leigh, Alice, me, and currently, Jan Lawson.

I've loved the diversity of the food. The most important aspect has been breaking bread with complete strangers, making friends, laughing and sharing stories.

The telephone has featured in a few dramas, ie being told as I was about to board the number 11 Brunswick Street tram that the venue was closed due to a burglary. We nominated a group member to direct people further down the street – this worked a treat that day.



Among the challenges over the years has been finding venues that cater for 25 people for Tuesday lunch within budget. It's now more like \$25 and perhaps \$35 for Christmas. The variety of venues and cuisines sampled was amazing. Italian in Southgate, Greek in Brunswick St, Vietnamese on Victoria St, Lebanese on Bridge Rd, Vegetarian in Carlton, Young and Jackson for Christmas, the Naked for Satan rooftop, and the wonderful discovery of The Angliss Bistro at 550 Little Lonsdale St.

I'm hoping as I reel off a few lunches, wonderful memories will be invoked. In my about 14 years of membership, I've discovered that U3A Yarra City has a brilliant range of courses and tutors and I have travelled far and wide intellectually and geographically through my membership and I thank you all for that.

Hilary Newman

Addressing the global refugee crisis

One family at a time

By now a fair few of you would have heard about the Yarra Refugee Welcome Group through U3A Yarra City communications. Or maybe you were at our very successful Quiz Night and Silent Auction fundraiser in late October.

If, however, you haven't heard of us, I should explain. We formed recently in response to a new government scheme called the Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot (or CRISP). Through the CRISP scheme the government is encouraging community members to form groups to sponsor and assist a refugee family registered with United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to settle in Australia, in the locality of the sponsoring group.

We find them temporary and then more permanent housing, fit out their home with all the things a household needs, connect them to Centrelink, Medicare, English language classes, schools and other services they may need, and help the adults to get jobs or sign up for education or training. We familiarise the family with transport, shops, medical services, recreation centres and the like, and support them in making connections with other community members, including, if they choose, members of their own ethnic community. In short, we help them to start to build a life here.

We're also 'an official activity of U3A Yarra City'. The idea to start this group emerged from a U3A course I was teaching and some of its members. We believed that U3A and its community of members might be able to help us in a range of ways – and that's already proven to be true!

There are about 36 million refugees in the world today, and that number can make us feel overwhelmed. Unfortunately, though, our state of overwhelm doesn't help anyone, but kindness and practical aid to refugees does. And while the world may seem crazy, we should remember that the great majority of the world's 200 or so countries aren't generating refugees. They're mainly fleeing from about a dozen.

We invite you to keep supporting us with your donations, and you can do this by clicking on the link below. We, the members of Yarra Refugee Welcome Group hope, with your help, to make a big difference to the lives of one refugee family. But I'm sure that, in the process, that family will make a big difference to us as well.

shoutforgood.com/fundraisers/YarraRefugeeWelcome

Rob Salter, Convenor, Yarra Refugee Welcome Group

Welcome Group's fundraiser

The Yarra Refugee Welcome Group's Trivia Quiz and Silent Auction fundraising event far exceeded expectations, raising over \$18,000. This money will support a refugee family to settle in or near the City of Yarra in the new year.

U3A Yarra City and its members contributed enormously to the success of the event. We can all be very proud of this fantastic outcome.

Rob Salter and Peter Moore



Richmond Town Hall

The Referendum and beyond

Your vote and what next?

**...40% of the
voting population,
7.1 million
people, voted
Yes.**

The Referendum booths closed in eastern Australia, and it only took 90 minutes for the news service to declare that the Nation had delivered an emphatic No. Within another hour it became an overwhelming No - voters from every State had rejected First Nations' request for a Voice.

The next day big bold headlines reminded us that 'settler' Australia said No. First Nations leaders and activists went into a week of mourning, seeing the result as yet another rejection of self-determination. This time it wasn't a colonial Government - it was the Australian people.

In the preceding months, as the No campaign gathered momentum, a nation-wide movement of non-Indigenous Australians seeking justice for First Nations people also began. First Nations people are only 3% of the population. Yet 40% of the voting population, 7.1 million people, voted Yes.

The upcoming U3A Yarra City Forum at the Collingwood Library 'The Referendum and Beyond - your vote and what next?' will provide an opportunity for Yes voters to reflect on the Referendum results, process reactions, reclaim a thirst for a fair go for First Nations people and explore how to contribute to a future for Voice, Treaties, Truth.

Forum dates: Tuesday Dec 5, 2 pm, **Repeat** Wednesday Dec 6, 10.30am

Facilitators: Rodney Spark, Linda Bennett

Registration: please email name and preferred Forum to program.u3ayarracity@gmail.com

Rodney Spark

Café poems

The Voiceless

In the Tin Pot

a writer sits in one window
and a reader in the other,
both on display to the street.

Or is the street on display to them?

It's subdued in here,
in the heart
of the electorate
of Melbourne
with our seventy-nine per cent yes vote,
the highest in the country.....

But the nos have it.

No voice for the three per cent.

Rachel Flynn

Cambridge Street Park

William Eicholtz Sculptor

Collingwood has the least public open space of any City of Yarra suburb. Over recent years, Yarra Council has been addressing this issue by building 'pocket' parks in Peel and Oxford Streets and by extending the Cambridge Street reserve to create Collingwood's largest park. A further pocket park is currently being built in Otter Street.

Collingwood's new park

The Cambridge Street Park opened on 10 November following extensive community consultation. A priority arising from the community feedback was the request for sculpture to be included in the park's design.

Urban Landscape Design engaged leading Melbourne based sculptor William Eicholtz to produce the sculptures.

The concept – an urban backyard

William said his concept for the sculpture's centres on the creation of an urban backyard in a highly dense urban environment with the focal point being a Hills Hoist clothesline.

'This concept was transposed into several elements, including two large flying jumper sculptures. These stainless steel and fibreglass structures are supported on the slanted poles- reminiscent of Hills Hoist arms. They appear to catch the breeze, and billow up, like washing on the clothesline on a sunny day, and cast lovely shadows across the paths and gardens. They are bright and joyful reminders of simple homespun joys.'

Given the strong themes of domesticity and handcrafts, William has titled his work 'Close Knit', as it applies to the purpose of this public space as well as the works scattered throughout.



Sculpture integral to the park's design

William hopes the creative details of this park reveal themselves to the locals as they discover the winding threads that crawl up stairways, and balls of wool that hide in gardens and playgrounds.

'Unfortunately, often public sculpture is an afterthought or a reluctant obligation, but this project exemplifies the potential for art and design to create a uniquely unified environment'.

At the opening William thanked the City of Yarra for their visionary arts policy that makes the most of 'difficult to find' arts dollars and putting complete faith in an artist's vision. He also thanked the State Government Victoria Local Parks Program for putting resources into public spaces which make a real difference for generations to come.

Christine Gibbs

Profile - Tona Buschmann

I am membership number 8 in U3A Yarra City.

How did you come to U3A?

It was the year before I retired and I thought I needed to think about what I was going to do with myself. I saw in 'The Leader' newspaper that U3A was starting in Yarra and I responded.

I started helping with morning teas and working in the office for about five years helping with the memberships. I enjoyed it as it was close to home and everyone I met was on the same page and it all seemed a good fit.

Tell us about yourself?

I was an Italian tobacco grower's daughter, born in Goondiwindi near the Southern Queensland border. I went to boarding school in Ipswich because it took me away from the tobacco harvests.

In those days girls were persuaded to enter teaching, nursing or secretarial professions, mine was nursing. I then spent 50 years doing just that. General nursing, midwifery and infant welfare to start with. However, over the years I managed to do a fair bit of study as well as working in different fields like Ophthalmics, ENT, Infection Control, Operating Theatres and management. Opportunity took me to remote Australia as well as to the UK and other countries.

I really loved my work so I did not meet George and get married until I was 40. We both loved supporting our local hospital auxiliary shops, by making jewellery, knitted goods and various crafts. I still love to travel although my wings are somewhat clipped now. Nothing makes me happier than to explore the Murray River, the towns of Gippsland or the Coastal regions. I have been in two bushwalking clubs, and always loved hiking and camping because the Bush is in my bones.

What U3A activities do you do?

I attend and participate in the Forums, as I like to learn and hear other people's opinions. I do not confess to know everything, so I love a variety of people and topics and ongoing learning without homework and exams! I also enjoy the Movie Group, the Walking Group and the Historic Walks, and I love to read.

What stumps you?

These days technology stumps me and paperwork is confusing. I battle with bureaucracy which is time consuming, and don't they know that I am trying now to lead a peaceful life! Younger people I find very understanding, but I am often pushed to the brink. I was a beginner at U3A and have progressed, but now find I am faced with UMAS!

What do you like about U3A?

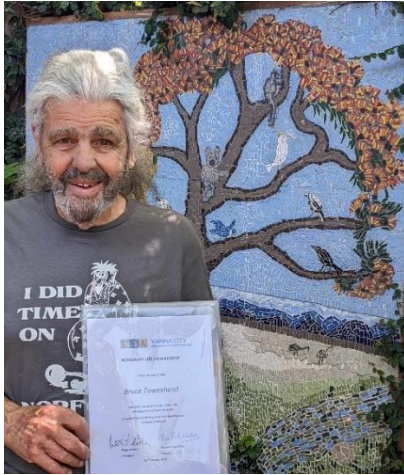
It's the only organisation I have ever known that doesn't seem to have major conflicts. I have seen people make friends that stick - it has everything that we could ask for. My husband George has also been active in U3A and taught bowls in the early days and had an interest in the jewellery and craft groups.

What words of encouragement can you offer?

I would like to say that U3A has a good future. It needs to encourage volunteers and show people that it is not too difficult for anyone.



Photo gallery



Bruce Townshend - life member



Loraine Chessells & Wendy Hall - life members



Heritage bike ride



Photography exhibition



Rob Slater and Cr Amanda Stone



Nick Sharman (Quizmaster) and Barbara Selvay (organiser)

Diary dates

2023/2024

27 Nov: Enrolments open for 2024
 12 Dec: End of year Quiz and lunch
 15 Dec: Office closes for 2023
 20 Dec: End of Term 4
 22 Jan: Office reopens for 2024

Semester dates 2024

Term 1: 29 Jan – 28 Mar
 Term 2: 15 Apr – 28 Jun
 Term 3: 15 Jul – 20 Sep
 Term 4: 7 Oct – 20 Dec



Committee 2024

President: Peter J Moore
Vice President: Viv Blanksby
Secretary: Viv Blanksby
Treasurer: Sue Kurt
Program Coordinator: Marie Hudson
 Health and Safety Officer: Barry Giddings
 Convener, Publicity and Communications: Peter Moore
 Membership Officer: Barry Giddings
 Members: Jan Tinetti

Ex Officio positions

Office Manager: Mary Walker
Newsletter: Tina Hocking, Lyn Morgan, Susannah Dax

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Facebook: Send photos and articles to our email address u3ayarracity@gmail.com with Facebook in the Subject line or go directly via [Facebook](#).



Web: www.u3ayarracity.org.au

On Yer Bike: <https://onyerbike-u3a.org.au>

News & Events Bulletin: Latest news communication via email

Newsletter: Published March, June and November.
 Email u3ayarracity@gmail.com with Newsletter in the Subject line, or post to: Newsletter Coordinator, U3A Yarra City, 17 Stanton Street, Abbotsford 3067.

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