



U3A Yarra City Program Report 2024

Firstly, I would like to thank David Lee for his support that he gave me as he handed over this role to me. His support was tremendous as the role is quite daunting.

The Tuesday morning forums co-ordinated by Lyn Watson have been a wonderful success. These have enabled members to hear speakers from a wide field of knowledge. Sadly Lyn is stepping down from being the forum co-ordinator. Lyn has been a stalwart for leading and finding speakers for the forums. Lyn will be replaced by a team of four; Mink Schnapper, Susannah Dax, Gwyneth Anderton and Lynell McCluggage.

New courses:

Mark Close introduced us to Mixed Park Soccer. A group of hardy men and women have braved the field at Alfred Crescent Oval.

Mah Jong sessions for experienced players were organised by Pam Kershaw. Later a beginners' group was started. These have been enjoyed by those who attend. Due to the difficulty of moving the tables to the Collingwood Library the groups now use the Stanton Street office.

Susannah Dax organized a four-week program about Downsizing. This enabled members to visit four different villages and then have a follow up session from current members experiences with downsizing.

Mary Whelan led a group to the Ballarat Gallery for the Clarice Beckett Exhibition.

Ongoing courses this year included: Language classes including French, Spanish, German and Mandarin, Film appreciation, Literature groups, Writing, Sport activities, Games and Puzzles; Music, Dance, Computer Support, Creative Arts, Play reading, Mediation, Walks, Gallery visits and dining.

Yarra City has enabled us to use some of their library venues through a Memorandum of Understanding which has saved us nearly \$5000. This is going to change for 2025 as the Yarra City Venues will be charging us for the use of all venues. We met with Dylan Oosterweghel from Yarra Libraries, Team Leader Community Engagement and Outreach, to discuss how we could share our classes with Yarra library members. However following ongoing discussions, we felt that the suggested arrangements would not work for our membership.

Our courses success is based on the hard work by the tutors. These dedicated men and women give their time so that our members can have the opportunity to take on new skills and interests. Once again we look forward to their ongoing support to Yarra U3A.

Maria Hudson

Program Coordinator

October 2024