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Editor: Daphne Sands



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Nanette Tunncliffe



President's Report May 2023

The two weeks we've had for our break has not brought to light anything momentous to report and like you I have taken the opportunity to have a break, slow down, enjoy special times with family and friends. Therefore, I thought I would take this opportunity to do something a little different.

I haven't yet been invited to write up something about me – Nanette Tunncliffe – as distinct from Madam President as some members like to call me. I will be the President until the next big committee dance at the AGM 2024, so this is me.

I was born into a working class family in Brunswick and was the first member of the family to graduate from university. I had always wanted to be a teacher since I could clomp around home wearing my mother's too big high heels. For some strange reason I saw the wearing of the high heels (stilettos) as my authority to marshal dolls, teddies and other stuffed toys into a classroom. The innocence of childhood!

I did go on to graduate as a secondary teacher and spent twenty years teaching English, Literature, History (any kind), Media Studies, Drama, Maths and Typing

(not computer keyboard skills). I even spent a term teaching sex education to 27 Year 8 boys!

The last five years was spent working in Welfare with many of the troubled youth at the school. I pioneered a bullying program as it was obvious that this would become an even bigger problem with the prevalence of social media and drugs. This was a fine way for me to end my working days.

What do I enjoy doing? Food, wine, football, gardening, dogs, friends and family all see me well occupied. Travelling was a high priority for my husband and I in days gone by. I have a granddaughter living in London and I am eagerly looking forward to visiting her, her partner and their rescue greyhound Flynn later this year. Krystal is a professional piano accompanist at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. Tiffani, my second granddaughter lives in Melbourne and is a seriously devoted secondary teacher in the field of sciences.

As a person I have strengths and weaknesses like all of us. I have been told by many that I am 'a strong woman'. U3A members have certainly expressed this to me on many occasions. I learned the importance of this the first time I stepped into a classroom. Years later my strength was required when my husband was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer and told he only had 30 days. I nursed him through those days and he died on the 31st day.

I am a reliable and worker – I do not expect anything of anyone that I would not do myself. I am honest, sometimes to a fault, but I simply cannot abide deceit of any kind. What you see is what you get. I am a good friend to those who are important to me and who care about me.

Weaknesses – there will be many, I'm sure. I can be impetuous, I am forthright, I can be impatient, I say 'yes' far too often and am slowly learning how to say 'no'.

During the past year of my Presidency I have often been asked "Why do you do it?" At times, I wonder the same thing myself. But, I absolutely love working with the tutors and the members; bringing inspiration, pleasure or opportunity to people is what I'm all about.

BIG HIGH TEA

I am pleased to invite you to very special event. As distinct from the Big Morning Tea, I will be offering a Big High Tea for members. This will be a fund-raiser for the Cancer Council Victoria.

WHERE: The Chapel, Cobbin Farm, Grovedale.

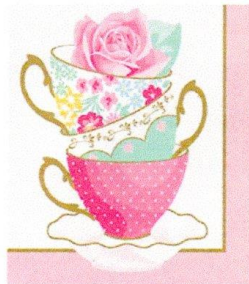
WHEN: Monday the 29th of May.

TIME: 2.00pm

COST: \$20.00, payable to the Office.

This will be a traditional high tea with all the appropriate trimmings. A welcome glass of champagne or a soft drink will be served. Please advise the Office of any dietary requirements.

You will need to enrol online or through the Office. Enrolments will close on Thursday the 25th of May.



Nanette Tunncliffe

President.

INTRODUCING MEMBERS OF U3A GEELONG

CARLOS LOPEZ,

**U3A TUTOR AND NEW MEMBER OF U3A
GEELONG'S COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT**

**Spanish Intermediate to Advanced Continuing,
Wednesday 2.00 – 4.00 pm**



I am Carlos a Mauricio Lopez and I am a retired Civil Engineer. I arrived in Australia in November, 1985 under the Australian Refugee Program, together with my wife and two very young kids after fleeing from the violence and war in our country, El Salvador.

After learning my new language, I got my first job at the former Broadmeadows City Council, working as a Building Inspector. I stayed there for 2 years before obtaining a Builder's licence and starting and operating my own business as a builder.

My professional aim was to work within my field of knowledge and in 1990 I got a position as Technical Officer at the Melton City Council. After promotions I succeeded in my aim and became a Construction Engineer. I retired in 2018 after 30 years of employment in Australia.

During all that time I was involved in community work as a volunteer with some community organisations such as UNITED (formerly CELAS), Footscray Migrant Resources Centre and I served as the President of the Central American Welfare and Information Centre for 7 continuous years, so I have a vast experience in community work.

At the very same time, I was pursuing my love for the arts and the stage in general. I had the opportunity to produce and direct small plays, including the production and direction of a one night show, "Passion Latina - A Culture in Concert". at the Hamer Hall Arts Centre in Melbourne.

I am not a trained musician but I am a music lover and I learned early in my youth to play an instrument by ear. This, together with my enthusiasm and organisational skills, made me able to organise and play in various musical groups, including my own Latin American Band FUEGO here in Australia.

After retiring and moving to Geelong I've been involved in the creation of the community group GLAM (Geelong Latin American Movement), of which I am President.

In one of the GLAM meetings last year, I was approached by a member who asked me if I would like to become a tutor for the Spanish Language at U3A. Without hesitation I accepted the invitation and became a member and tutor of this valuable institution. Once again I am very pleased to give what I can back to the Australian community that kindly embraced me and my family in its society.

A BRIEF, THREE-PART HISTORY OF U3A – PART 1



A team of scientists at the Stanford University School of Medicine discovered, by analysing blood proteins in various aged people, that there are three distinct “ages” in a person’s life: 34, 60 and 78 years. However, this came as no great revelation to Professor Pierre Vellas from the Faculty of Social Sciences at Toulouse University in France, the founder of U3A.

Prof. Pierre Vellas, the founder of the first U3A, Toulouse

PART ONE

Noting that these three “ages” correspond roughly to *young adulthood, late middle age and old age*, Prof. Vellas recognised the wealth of opportunities such as the availability of highly qualified teaching personnel, a variety of subject choices, opportunity for students and faculty to conduct research based on the professional, cultural or historical experiences of the elderly, or people in their “third age”...rather than simply occupying “God’s Waiting Room”.

And in 1973, U3A became a reality, teaching in many fields of interest to older students (55+), such as computer skills, languages, entrepreneurship, hereditary law, religion, politics, etc, along with (in some groups) vocational training and formal continuous education.

However, UNESCO was already onto it. UNESCO’s commitment to post-war Germany, outlined during its 5th General Conference in Florence in June 1950, led to the creation of the UNESCO Institute for Education (UIE). The UIE’s first international seminar, ‘Adult Education as a Means of Developing and Strengthening Social and Political Responsibility’, already signalled its core task: **adult education**.

In its Fifth International Conference on Adult Education held in Hamburg in 1997 was the UIE’s turning point in the global recognition of and its commitment to adult learning and non-formal education.

In the 1990s the concept was broadened in France to the idea of the University of All Ages (UTA - Université Tous Âges) or University of Free Time (UTL - Université du Temps Libre). The UFUTA changed its name to *Union Française des Universités de Tous Ages*

(retaining the acronym). Some French university departments have adopted the title of *Université du Temps Libre*.^[1]

AIUTA (*Association Internationale des Universités du Troisième Âge*) is the global international organization and network of Universities of the Third Age, including such institutions from most continental European countries, Central and East Europe, China, Russia, Latin America, etc., including Mauritius and other destinations. The president of AIUTA is Prof. François Vellas from the University of Toulouse, son of Pierre Vellas, the founder of the first U3A.^[1]

This was the academic model used primarily throughout continental Europe.



Prof. François Vellas from the University of Toulouse, son of Prof. Pierre Vellas, founder of the first U3A

By the early 1980s, the concept reached the United Kingdom, where its nature was radically changed to be more a self-help organization under the influence of its founders, Peter Lazlett, Michael Young and Eric Midwinter.^[1]



Peter Lazlett, co-founder of U3A in the UK

As of January 2020, U3A in the UK accounted for almost 450,000 members and more than 1000 groups.

In 2009 the Virtual University of the Third Age was launched, offering the same friendship, learning and support online to those interested, but unable to attend U3A Groups in person. This was visionary, Zoom or Skype learning prior to Covid.

The **main aim of the U3A** is to allow the retired community to come together and learn new things and that is something that is important.

One thing that everyone needs to understand about the University of the Third Age is that it is not a real university. There are no exams or semesters that you need to worry about and you are free to learn whatever you like.

Since its inception, U3As are now established throughout Central, Southern and Eastern Europe, Russia, Canada, the United States (where it is known, aptly, as Institute for Life Long Learning, or Lifelong Learning Institutes), Australia, New Zealand, along with Belarus, Iceland, Spain, Malta, South Africa and many other countries.

Part Two looks at the establishment of U3A in Australia, while Part Three will study the history of U3A on Geelong.

[1]. wikipedia.org

TO BE CONTINUED

THE WALL HANGING AT COBBIN FARM



This eye-catching and very beautiful wall hanging was made in a co-operative effort by members of the then Crochet and Yarn Bombing class in 2018. The tutor of the class at that time was Jillian Hancock. The class gave the wall hanging to U3A for display at Cobbin Farm. They also made a yarn bombing pushbike which they donated to Grovedale Neighbourhood House for display there.

Many of us would have had the pleasure of seeing the wall hanging on display in the dining room and then in the office until it had to be taken down while City of Greater Geelong was having Cobbin Farm repainted. Some of us may have also seen the pushbike?

Because of health reasons, sadly, Jillian is no longer tutor of the class. However, I now convene the class and we have extended our works to include other crafts. The class is now a "self help" group. We bring along whatever each individual is working on and we help each other out as our individual skills allow.

Jan Richmond, facilitator, Craft on Thursday, 1:30 pm-3:15 pm at Cobbin Farm Library

Lost and found at U3A

These are some of the lost and found items that are now in the Cobbin Farm foyer open cupboard:

Plastic drinking bottles x 2 – one grey and one black

Nokia charger ? phone

Sunglasses found in chapel – possible after Mandolin class

Hearing aid x 1 found near front door

Reusable hessian bag

And On a Lighter Note...

It doesn't need to be War and Peace, just a couple hundred words of trivia that some or all of us may find wry or mildly amusing.

– *Cheers, Jon Hagger*