

PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS BULLETIN

Hello Everyone,

We are down to the wire now with only two days remaining. Like most years, 2023 has gone by very quickly and I guess it won't be all that long before you are all returning for your 2024 classes.

Enrolment Day was terrific, best ever according to members which is most gratifying to those of us who did the planning and of course to all the workers on the day.

U3A Choir – will be back for 2024, this will please lot of members. Colleen Morris will take over and fortunately she has been able to secure a pianist for us. This class is now on the timetable – same day, commencing on the 14th of February, starting at 1.45pm until 3.15pm. You can enrol now online or through the Office. Thank you so much Colleen.

Tutors – you have a number of things to do before the end of the year.

1. Please ensure that your roll for this year is up to date either through the tutor portal on the website or the paper rolls handed to the office.
2. Please check your 2024 class lists – those of you who require contact before accepting into the class should probably work to get in touch with the members and then place them on the class roll via the “Accept” button.
3. Classes at venues other than Cobbin Farm need to remind their students that they should be enrolling now. Small classes at other venues may find yourselves moved to Cobbin Farm – as happened with one class earlier this year. Paying for venues is an expensive item for us.
4. Anyone who has U3A Geelong electrical equipment should have that returned to the office at Cobbin Farm by Friday the 8th.

2024 Timetable – is pretty much set as far as the information I have. The website is the best source of information.

THANKS – There are a lot of people to thank as always:

- **Graeme Allen** – a great supporter of U3A Geelong in so many ways since first joining in 2000 – member, tutor, President and Newsletter Editor. Graeme is retiring from tutoring and intends to attend U3A as a member. Thank you Graeme.
- **Jeanette John** – originally accepted into the Choir by Margaret Hughes in 2014. She assumed the position of Choir Mistress in 2022. Jeanette set the bar high for her 50+ choir members who derived enormous pleasure

and satisfaction working with her. The Christmas Concert was a great success. Jeanette was ably assisted by Heather Wickes, her accompanist, who was such a delight to have on board. Both Jeanette and Heather are taking retirement and we wish them well and thank them for their work.

- **Lynda Turner** – popped in as a tutor for 2023 running the Clogging class and **John Beaney** – who came to us from the Mornington Peninsula via Zoom – are both leaving us this year. We thank them for bringing an extra dimension to our curriculum.
- **Office Volunteers** – our office volunteers are of course the first port of call for many members and tutors. They are expected to know *'everything'* and of course that just isn't possible; no-one at U3A knows everything. Most of you know only too well the pressure they work under as we simply do not have enough volunteers for the office. I would like to think that always shown consideration and respect. Thank you to all of you who give freely of your time and who have worked hard to improve the administrative processes this year.
- **The Kitchen Crew** - these are the people who support all of the social functions and tutors' lunch meetings. I thank this wonderful team for their support and involvement. We are hoping to extend the number of social functions in 2024.
- **Colleen Workman, Secretary; Sharon Swander, Treasurer, Chris Cumming, Social Secretary; Carol Hobbs, Communications Manager.** These four members of the Committee of Management have worked so hard, along with myself, to provide the best possible program for UA members. We are constantly striving to deliver new opportunities for classes throughout Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula. It's called team work folks and it really does work!

I need to make a few comments about the recent email sent to all members, either by internet or snail mail, about the current state of the Committee of Management and the Special General Meeting of all members which will take place early next year. It is essential that members understand that decisions and actions taken by the five members of the committee (named above) were not taken lightly. It is time for the membership to understand that the Committee has been dysfunctional since the first meeting after the AGM in May 2023 and that we are no longer able to operate for the good of U3A Geelong and its members.

We now give the members the opportunity to attend the meeting; question and speak on the motions that will be put forward. In line with the procedures in the Constitution, members will be given the correct notification and all

details within those time parameters. I sincerely hope that members will attend in person to hear, speak and vote.

U3A Geelong classes will open in 2024 on the 29th of January. We have full authority to operate as normal. This will be a busy week for the Office so I ask that you show patience and consideration.

Despite this sad end to the year, I would like to pass on to you two of the comments I have received from members in the last couple of days:

“Thank you for all that you do. I cannot tell you how much U3A Geelong has brought to me personally.”

“We are so very lucky to have such a vibrant U3A to attend.”

Merry Christmas everyone, enjoy your break and your time spend with family and friends. See you in 2024.

Kind Regards,
Nanette Tunnicliffe
President/Course Manager