

U3A Geelong Bulletin

31st January, 2025

Database/website issues:

Thank you all for your understanding of the situation that has existed since last November. The website is back in operation now and the timetable is as up-to-date as I can get it.

The database – well the only way I can describe it is that we are limping along with the old one and information can change from time to time. I believe that I have the latest information about enrolments – thanks to Sharon Swander, our Treasurer, who has worked with me tirelessly throughout January.

I have tried to email, throughout January, everyone who has been affected and I thank you for your co-operation. Should you find that you are not on the class lists that you thought you were, please contact the Office or myself and I will get back to you.

I am pleased to confirm that our Tech Café guy, Grant Wilson, has been working with Sharon throughout the holidays in preparation for all training of the new database to take place in the coming time.

Membership renewals:

It has been difficult for some of you to process on-line payments for your membership renewal. These can be done now through the various payment options on the website. Committee has discussed this issue at length and we would like all payments to be made by the end of February. If your membership is not financial by that stage then reluctantly we will need to move you to the waitlist for courses you have enrolled in. If you are experiencing financial difficulties then please contact the Office and our Treasurer will contact you.

Membership Badges:

Members who renewed their membership through the Office will have been issued their membership badge for 2025. Members who enrolled online will need to collect them from the Office. Once again I ask you to fill these in and wear them to class. You will note that the back of your badge contains your emergency contact details which is very helpful for our tutors to have access to. Wearing badges may seem like a trivial thing, however, for all members of classes it is the very best way for others in the class to get to know you, as well as the tutor of course.

2025 classes:

We are indeed fortunate to have some new and interesting classes being offered this year. The demand for some of these classes has been excellent. And of course, we have all of our

old favorites back – giving you a great choice. In communication with tutors throughout January, I must thank tutors for either increasing the limit in their class or indeed for offering a second class. This is called team work folks and as a completely voluntary organisation, this is what makes it tick.

There are still vacancies in some classes and I will bring to your attention a new class on Monday afternoons – Sit to Get Fit. The Thursday class is full to the brim with eager participants however if you are interested in a bit of gentle exercise then enrol for the Monday class – 1-2pm at Cobbin Farm Chapel.

Lectures:

We currently have two lectures scheduled for Term 1: Emergency Planning Workshop 17th March and Walter Withers: Australian Landscape Painting 25th March. Details are available on the website and flyers will go up at Cobbin Farm soon.

Course Guide Feb 2025:

The last Course Guide revealed some irregularities in information. Added to that is the fact that some tutors have requested minor changes. These are all on the website but please pick up a new edition of the Course Guide from the Office at Cobbin Farm.

Cobbin Farm parking:

We have some large numbers at Cobbin Farm at various times throughout the week – especially Fridays. Please be mindful that if you park in Grove Road you do not impact on the residents who require access to their properties.

Help wanted:

This is the bit where I appeal for your help. Firstly, we need more volunteers for the Office – especially on Tuesdays. Without enough volunteers in the Office, at any time, then the Office will be closed for the day. Computer skills would be an advantage.

Secondly, I've had a good clean out at home and some of you might have done the same. If you had an overlocker that you no longer required it would be a great help for our sewing class. They are so very expensive to buy and I'm sure there will some lurking at the back of wardrobes etc. Please let the Office know if you can help.

LET'S GET TOGETHER AND HAVE FUN!

I am conscious that we have a large number of new members – welcome to you all. The Committee would welcome everyone to a Happy Hour on MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY at Cobbin Farm at 3.30pm. A gold coin collection would be much appreciated.

Come along, meet new people, chat with the Committee and the tutors. No bookings necessary.