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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Several of the projects the Committee has been focussing on for the last few months are starting to deliver results and provide the information to help us shape U3A Waverley over the years to come.

Tutors Workshop

We all acknowledge that without our extraordinary Tutors, who put so much of their time and energy into making U3A

Waverley is successful, the organisation simply would not exist.

So, it has been essential for the Committee to obtain feedback from tutors, with their particular perspective, to add to that from our members.

With this in mind, a very successful workshop was conducted with tutors representing a full spectrum of class activities – from yoga to bridge, ballroom dancing to Broadway musicals and classical guitar to creative writing. Many of the tutors mentioned this was the first time they had had an opportunity to meet their colleagues from other classes. The workshop approach generated a lot of energy, lively conversations and many great ideas for the Committee to consider.

Participants were asked to discuss what was working well for them as tutors but also, importantly, what could be done to provide better support or improve the classroom experience.

All these ideas will now be collated and analysed as an important input to the strategic workshop planned for the Committee.

Members Survey

You will all have received the recent Members Survey, either by email or as a hard copy from the Office. I would like to thank all of you who had the interest and took the time to complete and return the survey – it has provided the Committee with valuable information.

The average return rate for surveys of this type is around 30%. I'm very pleased the first U3A Waverley survey hit that target – a good result for the Committee's first survey of this kind. You will find an overview of some of the results shared elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Both the outcomes of the survey and feedback from the Tutors workshop will be valuable information for the Committee when we come together to discuss ideas for the future development of classes, activities, social events and communication across the U3A Waverley community.

Website Revamp

Some of you may have seen already that the U3A Waverley website has a new look. This is a work in progress and will evolve over time. Further changes will be introduced as new ideas are developed – if you have any to suggest look for the email address for input in the 'From the Editor' section.

New Editor for the Newsletter

As you will know, the long-term editor of the Newsletter, Lorraine Erenstrom has stepped down from this role. This is the first Newsletter produced by our new Editor, Chris Nallaratnam - so you will see some changes as his style and approach develop. I know Chris loves to have feedback – so if you have any good ideas for Newsletter content, Chris will be very happy to hear from you!



At the Tutors Workshop

Jane Evans

President

Your Voice Matters: Shaping the Future of U3A Waverley



U3A Waverley Survey Reveals Strong Member Satisfaction

U3A Waverley recently conducted a member survey to gather feedback on the organisation's current offerings and to identify areas for improvement. The survey, which received a high response rate of 213 out of 606 members, revealed strong overall satisfaction with the U3A's programs and services.

Participants were asked about their initial reasons for joining U3A Waverley, the most valuable aspects of their current classes, and potential course topics of interest. The survey results indicated that members are drawn to U3A Waverley for its diverse range of courses, social opportunities, and affordable learning experiences.

Key findings from the survey include:

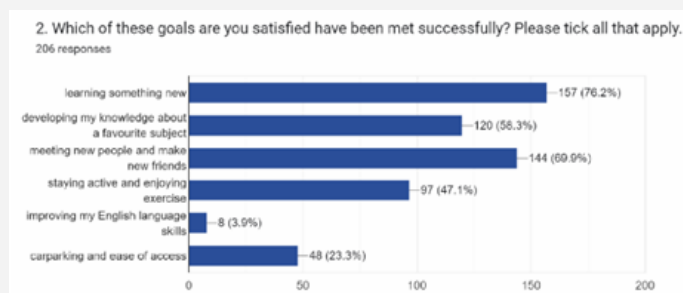
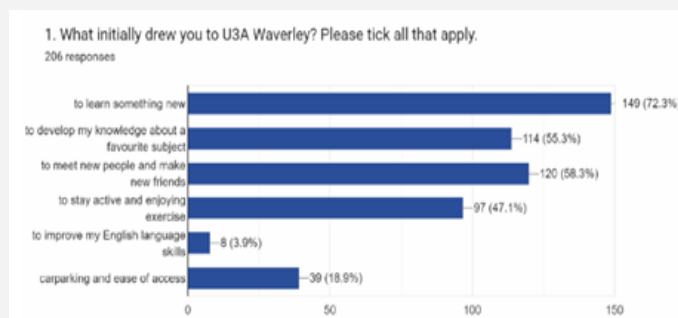
- **High satisfaction with current course offerings:** Members expressed appreciation for the

quality and variety of classes available.

- **Interest in new course topics:** Several members suggested potential course topics, such as digital photography, sustainable living, and foreign languages.
- **Positive feedback on social aspects:** Many participants highlighted the importance of social interactions and community building within U3A Waverley.

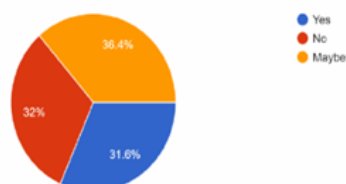
The survey results will be analysed in detail and shared with members on the U3A Waverley website soon. The committee will use this information to inform future programming decisions and ensure that the organisation continues to meet the evolving needs and interests of its members.

Some of the key findings from the survey:



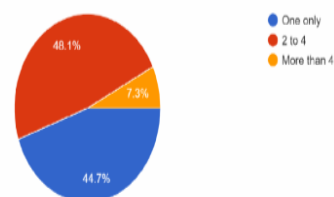
6. Would you be interested in more culturally based activities (e.g. Christmas in July, Cultural Food and Dance) at U3A Waverley?

206 responses



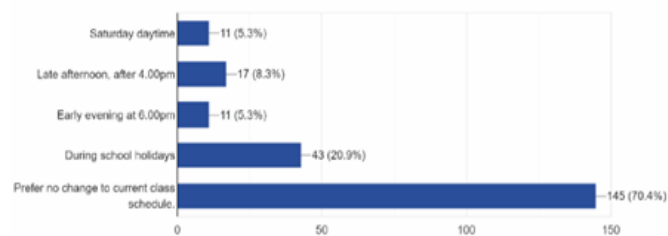
4. How many classes do you attend now?

206 responses



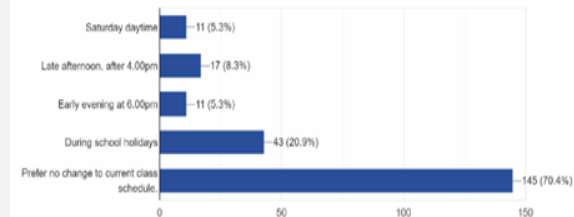
9. Classes are currently held during school term times and during the day. Would you be interested in classes offered at other times? Tick all that apply.

206 responses



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206 responses



U3A Waverley's First Major Classical Guitar Concert!



The Classical Guitar team held their inaugural major concert on Wednesday, September 17th. The event aimed to inspire students of all levels to practice more diligently and perform at a higher standard. A seven-member committee of tutors and co-tutors meticulously planned and organised the concert over several weeks to guarantee its success.

Our concert featured 17 performers from various levels, showcasing solos, duets, and even a quartet. The musical repertoire spanned a wide range, from Beethoven to the Beatles and the renowned classical guitarist Francisco Tárrega. We celebrated music from Spain, Portugal, Brazil, France, the USA, Austria, Taiwan, England, and

Mexico. Our primary goal—to encourage students to elevate their playing beyond the classroom—was undoubtedly accomplished. The dedication and countless hours of practice by the 17 performers culminated in a triumphant performance.



As this was our inaugural concert, we decided to limit attendance to the Classical Guitar team, including the guitar group at U3A Wheelers Hill. Our program consists of four levels spread across seven classes—four in Waverley and three in Wheelers Hill. Both campuses utilize the same teaching methods and materials developed and refined at Waverley U3A over the past 13 years. Approximately 25 guests attended, primarily Waverley U3A guitar members, a few from U3A Wheelers Hill, and three enthusiastic spouses. Building on this experience, we may consider extending invitations to a broader audience and exploring a larger venue than Room 3.



In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to all who contributed and attended. Your support has significantly elevated our performance standard. The live experience has been invaluable, and we have all grown from it. There are currently around 300 U3As nationwide, encompassing approximately 100,000 members, and Waverley U3A stands out as the only one offering Classical Guitar classes. Well done to everyone! Thank you.

**Hervé Rochecouste,
lead Classical Guitar Tutor.**



Behind the Scenes



MEET OUR TUTORS!

Discover the inspiring stories behind our dedicated tutors at Waverley U3A. Each month, we'll introduce you to a member of our teaching team, learning about their unique journey, expertise, and passion for sharing knowledge.

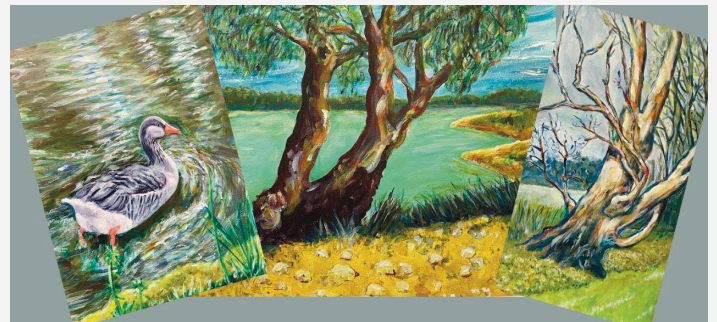
Our first featured tutor is **Norm Robinson**, our talented art instructor. Join us as we delve into Norm's artistic background and discover the inspiration behind his teaching style.



Q: What inspired you to start teaching art to seniors at U3A?

A: After drawing for two years with Peter Curnow and enjoying the course it rejuvenated some of my skills that I had lost over time.

I was a Graphic Artist in a Design Studio. I then moved on to being a Press Artist and later as Head Artist of the **Herald and Weekly Times** when the Herald was a Broadsheet-sized newspaper. After different types of jobs some of my drawing skills began slowly disappearing, that's when U3a popped up.



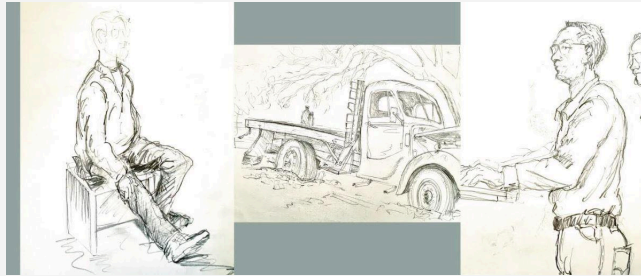
Q: Can you tell us about a particularly memorable project you've done with your students?

A: Since taking over from Peter Curnow this year as Tutor of the drawing class I have found that using YouTube has been very beneficial for both students and myself. Not being a trained teacher, I find YouTube has become a useful aid in explaining class differences with pencils, how to shade items, drawing different objects, colour and perspective helped with Tutoring. I find it very important for students to check out all the other's work and styles.

Q: How do you balance your role as a teacher with your artistic practice?

A: I also Tutor a class on Thursdays of Acrylic Painters but find that I am not as

involved in the teaching of art. I suggest and remind and hope some of the students are inspired to do create something that might be a little different from what they usually do. I have learnt a lot about painting and feel the need to improve. I would like to instigate in my class a better knowledge of colour mixing, perspective and how to make a painting that little bit better through the use of YouTube or any other steaming medium.



Q: What do you think are the unique benefits of learning art later in life?

A: Time is what most seniors have lots of and if you find something that want to do, then do it. Since I started back at drawing and then painting, I have found that I have been using the library more and even looking at art at galleries and exhibitions, more than I used to. It all opens up the world to us.

Q: Is there a specific memory or experience in your art-related career that has had a lasting impact on you?

A: My career and artistic growth have been significantly influenced by the conversations I've had with my peers. Their insights into life, philosophy, and art have helped me find direction and purpose in my work.

Q: Finally, share some insights into your personal and professional journey.

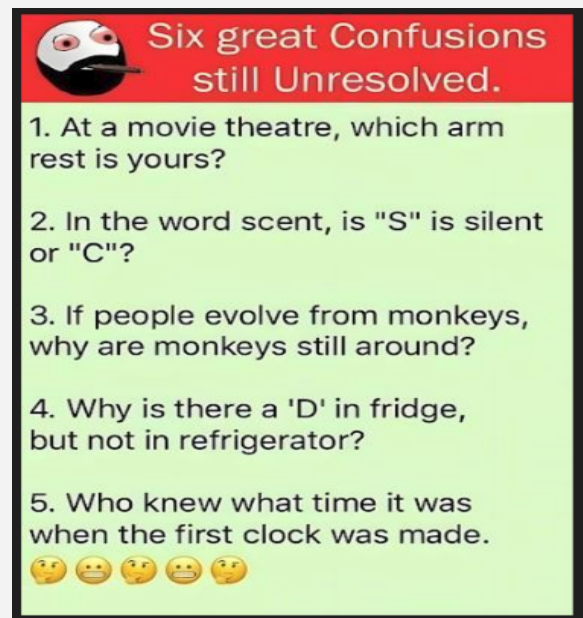
A: Born in Geelong in 1952, I pursued a Diploma in Graphic Design at the Gordon Institute of Technology (now Deakin University). A dedicated community member,

I've been involved with the Carnegie Lions Club for over 35 years.

My passions outside of work include camping, trout fishing, gardening, and home renovations. Married to Gail for 45 years, we share a love for creativity, as Gail also teaches Creative Writing at U3A Waverley.

With a career spanning decades, I've worked as a graphic artist for major publications like the Herald and Weekly Times, both as a staff member and as a freelancer. My expertise extends to advertising, newspaper design, magazine layout, and audio-visual design. During my time at the Herald and Weekly Times, I held the position of Head Artist for two years.

I have provided graphic design work for many clients and to name a few: Sunday Age, Dissent Magazine, ExxonMobil, Science Spectra Magazine, and The Melbourne Weekly.





PROFILE

Lorraine Erenstrom

Lorraine Erenstrom was editor of the Waverley U3A newsletter for 15 years.

"I enjoyed interacting with all the terrific people I met through being the editor and I was happy to keep up my computer skills in my retirement," Lorraine said. "The whole thing was photocopied in the early days and we counted out the numbers into the class files each month, at the same time only allowing one per person. When the database became more technical the newsletter was then emailed to all those with email addresses.

"I have enjoyed many different classes but have always been a member of the *Creative Writing Class*, where I filled in as a tutor for 2 years and put together two books of our short stories in 2012 and 2022 and had them printed. I worked in the office for 14 years."

Lorraine was born in Wellington, New Zealand, and moved to Australia with her family in 1989.

"I moved to Melbourne when my husband was transferred here. I love Australia and have been here 35 years, but I guess I will always be a Kiwi at heart," she said. She has three children and six grandchildren. "My daughter lived in the UK for about 25 years, so I visited her every two years. This always included travel to other countries in Europe and Scandinavia normally with a short stop-off at Hong Kong, Bangkok or Japan on the way. She has now settled in NZ with her family, so travelling back and forwards is

much simpler. My two sons are happily settled in Melbourne with their families".

Lorraine mostly worked part-time in office positions, fitting in around her family as her husband was often away on business. For the last 13 years of full-time employment, she used to put together the Legacy magazine.

"As soon as I retired I joined Waverley U3A and have loved everything about it ever since," she said.

Anne Cornish



PROFILE

Ian Jackson

Ian Jackson has been the Science and Technology tutor for the past six years. The course was started by Jack McDonald, one of the people who introduced U3A into Australia and carried on by Robert Taylor.

When I asked Ian how he became the tutor he said "Because I didn't step back fast enough. "The title of Exploring Science and Technology could cover just about everything. David today has been talking about aerial photography. Next year I'm going to talk about building the Sydney Harbour Bridge, and June Valentine is going to talk about perfumes. "We have visitors at times. A neurological surgeon operated on my back; I asked if he would come along and talk to us so he did. After my cancer treatment, I was given colony-stimulating factors, which were developed by a guy from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute Donald Metcalf. He came out

and talked to us. If you don't ask, nothing happens."

Ian was an electronic engineer at Varian Techtron (a manufacturer of scientific instruments for the mining and medical industries) before retirement.

"I started as a design engineer. With electronic design, they develop a prototype. They would put all the drawings and things into manufacturing and I had to check them.

"Then I moved into product assurance where we had to get our products certified for sale in Europe, Canada and America. I ended up with the policeman to ensure all the paperwork was done. I was rather good at that, better than I was at design engineering so that suited me just fine."

Ian retired early because of cancer and then travelled overseas nearly every year after that.

"The cancer went away and I was still travelling, [with the most recent being] Scandinavia in 2019. I was going to do more in Australia but then of course Covid came," he said.

His other interests are armchair travel, walking, the cinema, and musical theatre. "I saw Brigadoon on Sunday and it was brilliant. I used to mainly do the sets and help with the show. I was in the chorus a couple of times in Oklahoma and Rose Marie."

Anne Cornish



What I would give to have a day,
All to myself, to rest or play.
With no squabbling kids, to chastise,
Or a cranky husband with frowning eyes.
Maybe I'll pack them off to the show,
Or anywhere else they'd like to go.
With no meals to cook, or socks to find,
I'd sit back with a cuppa, and just unwind.
In the peace and quiet of the day
Some classical music, I might play.
And in a bubble-bath recline,
While sipping on a glass of wine.
After dressing up, I'd then go out
Myself, a new hairdo to shout.
Enjoying the massage in the hair salon.
Discussing new films being shown
A look through the op-shop might be fun
For a really good bargain might be won.
Then to see a movie on my own
While licking an ice-cream in a cone
If only these luxuries could be mine
But we can't afford it with children nine.
And a husband who is always tired
From working three jobs, to feed the hoard.

I have no time to stop and relax

With washing galore and floors to wax.

There are meals to cook, and lunches to make,

Mending of clothes, and a cake to bake.

But one can dream, of solitude,

And the benefits it would include.

A chance to discover the real you,

Aside from the mother, and good wife too.



A Warm Welcome!

I'm honoured to take over the role of editor for the U3A Waverley Newsletter, previously held by the dedicated Lorraine Erenstrom for an impressive 15 years. Lorraine had decided on a well-deserved retirement after managing the newsletter since 2009. Her commitment to keeping us informed has been fantastic, and we owe her a big thank you! Inspired by Lorraine's suggestion, I'm looking forward to updating our content and making it more accessible. It won't be easy, but I'm thrilled to take on the challenge.

Member Input Matters

The U3A Waverley committee is dedicated to providing a positive learning experience for all members. We recently conducted a member survey to gather feedback on our current

offerings and identify areas for improvement. Thank you to the 207 members (out of 680) who actively participated! The survey results revealed strong overall satisfaction with our programs and services.

We are currently analysing the data and will be preparing a report that summarises the findings, including some raw data and proposed actions for implementation within the next year. Once we have additional insights from a strategic planning session, we can provide more detailed information on our webpage content. A summary of some outcomes is listed in this issue.

Website Revamp in Progress

We're making exciting changes to our website, focusing on user-friendliness and additional information. This is a significant undertaking, and we're taking a measured approach to minimise disruption.

Some may feel our website needs a more modern look and could benefit from additional features offered by other U3As. If you have ideas on how we can optimise our website, to better serve our members, please don't hesitate to email me at:
newslettereditor@u3awaverley.org.au

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars! Our end-of-year celebration is happening on Friday, December 13th at the Jordanville Community Centre. We invite classes to participate by showcasing a dance performance, musical piece, dramatic presentation, crafts, paintings or other similar activities. Please contact your tutors to organise a contribution. We're looking forward to a fun-filled event!

Important Date:

Remember: This term ends on November 29th Friday, 2024.

End-of-Year Celebrations: Share Your Moments!

As we approach the end of 2024, many of us will be gathering to celebrate the class-based year's achievements. Whether you're hosting a lunch, a snack party, or a performance, we encourage you to share your festive moments with us!

Please send us a brief news item and photos of your event. We'll be featuring them in our November newsletter, so everyone can enjoy the spirit of the season together.

IMPORTANT: Please submit all Newsletter contributions to our new dedicated email address at least one week before the end of the month to guarantee timely publication.

Email:
newslettereditor@u3awaverley.org.au

I hope this newsletter keeps you informed and engaged!

Thank you



Editor: Chris Nallaratnam

