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WAVERLEY NEWS

APRIL 2025

SUPPORTED BY



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President's Annual Report presented to the Annual General Meeting 26th March 2025

**2024 - a year of Renewal and
Preparation!**

Renewal

I have been on boards for 20 years. When I stepped down from my last board in November, I said the greatest gift a board member can give a board is knowing when to go.

A number of our long standing and valued Committee members have given us that gift this year. Robert Taylor, Kevin Delaney and June Valentine either retired during the year or will at this AGM. Others, Geoff Fitzpatrick and Rahif Kattan have stepped down because of health reasons.

On behalf of the members, I acknowledge and thank all these Committee members who have given decades of support to the organisation – and deserve a rest!

This has provided the opportunity to rethink the Committee and how it works. We understand the three roles of the Committee – to manage U3A Waverley Inc on behalf of you, the members; to ensure we comply with relevant legislation and regulations; and to manage the operations of the organisation. Importantly, we understand in today's environment we must be professional in all we do.

We have agreed that all Committee members have specific responsibilities, like Course Coordinator, Tutor Liaison and Development, News Editor and so on but that we also pool our experience and knowledge to work as a team.

Committee members are being encouraged to recruit their own volunteer teams as support, but also to provide those members with insight of the workings of the

Committee and perhaps inspire them to volunteer for the Committee in the future. Many of the members who have nominated for Committee positions and seeking election this year have worked alongside the Committee over the past year – others are new recruits. I thank all of you for putting up your hands and being prepared to give back to the organisation from which we all receive so much.



Preparation

Before I provide a summary of some of the work the Committee has been doing in preparation for the years ahead I'll outline work that has been underway in 2024.

Health and Safety

We have had a strong focus on health and safety. Our Health and Safety advisor, Lynette Crowe, recommended new first aid kits which we have in place now. Lynette also arranged basic first aid training for all the Office volunteers.

Following the preparation by a consultant of a wide ranging Emergency Evacuation Plan for Monash Council, Lynette has been developing a cut down version suitable for our particular situation. More work has to be done but I anticipate we will have at least one evacuation drill later in year.

Replacement for UMAS

U3A Network has advised support for the current membership management system,

known as UMAS, will not be guaranteed beyond June 2027. Network has been developing a new system, known as Member Wizard for use by U3A organisations in Victoria. Member Wizard is already in use by U3As in Queensland and has been implemented by U3A Kyneton. Andrew Croft has been working hard on identifying U3A Waverley's requirements for this new data base so that we can consider implementing Member Wizard – if not later this year then in 2026. It is a significant exercise, with ensuring accurate data for migration to the new data base and capability to manage end of year enrolments for the following year as only two critical issues. This will continue to be a top priority in 2025.

Members Survey

You will recall last year we ran a Members Survey, I think for the first time in U3A Waverley. This was designed to inform the Committee about what members liked about the organisation and what they wanted to see in the future. We had about 230 responses, which is very good for a first survey.

Not surprisingly, 73% of respondents confirmed they joined U3A Waverley to learn something new, 55% also wanted to develop knowledge of a favourite subject, and 58% wanted to meet new people and make new friends.

Members indicated strong support for more social activities linked to events like Christmas in July (68%) or to events with cultural dances or food (67%). So, the Committee is looking at how we can develop a social program around those ideas.

We also had a vast range of suggestions for new classes: Mandarin and Spanish were

popular, as well as a wider range of dance classes, and more short courses, history and photography attracted support as well as one off suggestions like Chinese calligraphy, flower arrangement, and broad awareness of other cultures. So, there is rich information for the Committee to work with in developing future classes.

In thinking about the future, the Committee also has to be mindful of the changing demographics and how this might impact membership. Currently, 65% of our members are aged over 70. We need to find ways to attract younger, semi retired people to join us.

This might mean more classes on weekends or in the evening, or during the summer break to appeal to people who might still be working part time.

Tutors Workshop

You may recall we organised the first Tutors Workshop last year which was a great success. The 24 tutors who attended were asked to discuss how classes and facilities could be improved in the future. No surprises here:

- More facilities or larger rooms to accommodate larger classes or different classes

Apart from seminar rooms at the Hub, U3A Waverley has classes in Notting Hill Hall and in Power Neighbourhood House. We will be exploring an opportunity to use spaces at the refurbished facilities at Aveo Fountain Court later in 2025.

Other recommendations raised by the Tutors included:

- Expanding social activities: morning or afternoon teas; open day for potential new members; arrange activities outside the Hub or Notting Hill Hall
- Considering guest speaker events
- Improving class organisation to avoid overlaps if possible; managing waitlists more effectively
- More resources for tutors: improving presentation and information in Tutors Guide, information on AV equipment and how to use it effectively, WhatsApp group for tutors, guidance on tutor responsibilities
- Programs to encourage development or recruitment of tutors.

All the ideas from the Member Survey and Tutors Workshop have been considered recently as part of a strategic planning workshop attended by Committee members. Priorities have been agreed but the Committee needs to do more work on how these

will be achieved. I expect we will have a three year plan we can share with members later in 2025.



2024 Highlights

I'll finish with a few highlights from the 2024 year:

- At the end of October we had 692 members; were running 72 classes, and 25 members across 40 shifts in 4 weeks were Office volunteers. Too often unnoticed and unsung.
- I said I would do my best to visit every class this year. I did manage to get to most but not all.



- Herve Rochecouste, lead tutor and mentor of the classical guitar course, was recognised by U3A Network as a Tutor of the Year in October. U3A Waverley is the only U3A organisation in Australia that offers classical guitar classes.



- Kevin Delaney was presented with A Caroline Chisholm Volunteer Award by Dr Carina Garland MP.

- We hosted successful and well attended sessions on Downsizing Made Simple

- Introduced an easy way to lodge absences from class, via the website. Details are in the May newsletter on the website

- Over the year we have refreshed and updated the website. It's a useful source of information – don't forget to look there for answers to your questions.



- Following a near collision as a member exited the driveway Monash Council agreed to erect a 'No Standing' sign to ensure vehicles are not parked close to the driveway exit.



- Lastly, the end of year function in Jordanville Hall – 170 people attended and we enjoyed a selection of the music, songs, dances and exercise classes taught at U3A Waverley.

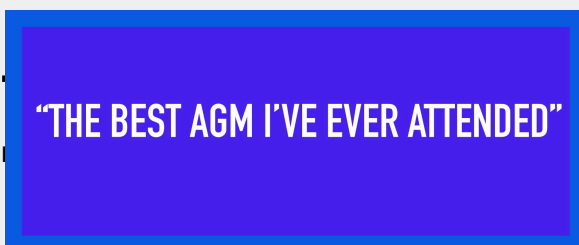
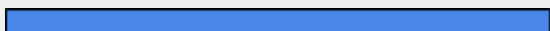
My thanks to everyone who has supported, helped, encouraged and provided honest feedback throughout the year.



Jane Evans

President

26 March 2025



General Meeting and 40 th Anniversary combined celebration on 26 March. Judging by the ‘buzz’ in the room members were enjoying the opportunity to listen to the two guest speakers, read about the extraordinary volunteers who had stepped down from the Committee in the past year and have time to socialise and chat.

U3A Monash – which became U3A Waverley later – held its first classes in April 1985. So this AGM was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge that significant event. In those early days Jack McDonnell then Director of the Centre for Continuing Education at Monash University was a member of the group who initiated the new organisation and provided a small space at the Centre as well as administrative support. This anniversary was a wonderful opportunity to reestablish contact with Monash University which led to the invitation to Vice Chancellor **Allie Clemans** to be our main guest speaker.



Professor Clemans spoke of her early contact with the U3A movement through Adult Education research in the 1990s and remembered being impressed by the concept of lifelong learning delivered by volunteer tutors. At the time adult education was underfunded and unrepresentative. The concept that learning never gets old is a strong motivation to create and share

knowledge which can change individuals and the community. These ideas resonated strongly with everyone in the room.



Life Member **Cliff Picton**, Monash Vice Chancellor **Allie Clemans** and **Jane Evans**, U3A Waverley President. Cliff Picton was awarded a Life Membership last year in recognition of his essential role in bringing the U3A movement to Australia.



Matt Fregon MP for Ashwood, also spoke at the AGM. Mr Fregon has a strong association with education as members of his close family have been or are teachers. He recalled the occasion when, as a student, a teacher spent additional time with him “when he didn’t have to” and the impact that had. Mr Fregon reminded the audience that when we don’t learn we get smaller

echoing Albert Einstein’s comment “*once you stop learning you start dying.*”



In this anniversary year I took the opportunity to recognise two outstanding members: **Geoff Fitzpatrick** and **Kevin Delaney**. Both Geoff and Kevin were long term members of the Committee, contributing 23 years between them in various roles including Geoff as Secretary and Kevin as Tutor Liaison Officer.

New Vision for U3A Waverley

For some weeks now the Committee has been working on a strategic plan for the future of U3A Waverley. Information gained from the Members Survey and Tutors workshop has been drawn on as well as the anticipated changes in demographics in the Monash area.

We have talked about the need to present U3A Waverley more effectively in the area, given the significant number of organisations who support and provide activities for older people.

We also wanted to ensure we emphasised the different nature of U3A and what it has to offer – the opportunity to learn something new, to expand knowledge of a favourite

subject and participate in a lively social and engaging community. So, we developed a new Vision to encapsulate all of that:

U3A Waverley is a vibrant, energetic and diverse community of lifelong learning and social engagement.



The opportunity was taken at the AGM to introduce these ideas in an impactful way – so the banner above was designed and had its first showing at the AGM. Feedback to date has been positive.

The Committee is looking forward to sharing the full strategic plan with members in the near future.



Friendly Reminder! - Punctual Class Times

We're lucky to have such wonderful tutors and fantastic classes here at Waverley U3A! To keep everything running smoothly and harmoniously, there are a few simple guidelines we all follow — and we're proud to say that things flow beautifully 99% of the time.

One of the most helpful habits is tutors keeping their classes running right on time. This allows the next class to settle in and start without delay. Think of us as a very well-oiled version of Flinders Street Station... only much friendlier!

Just a gentle reminder:

All class time-slots need to include both set-up and pack-up time, with a helping hand from class members.

And of course, kindness and courtesy between tutors and fellow class members is always essential.

Thanks for helping make Waverley U3A such a welcoming and well-run community!



Tutor Recognition Awards

The awards were first presented in 2022. They are made annually to recognise tutors who contribute significantly to their U3As.

Nominations now open! Recognise a tutor who contributes significantly to your U3A, particularly in the following areas:

Innovation in the development and presentation of courses; particularly new courses.

Excellence in course conduct and presentation.

Highly positive feedback from course attendees, and

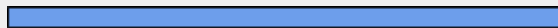
Mentoring other tutors.

All nominations must be received by Network by 30 May 2025

All nominations must be endorsed by our U3A Committee, and there is a maximum of one nomination per U3A,

per year. Detailed information on the criteria and application process can be found here:

<https://u3avictoria.org.au/tutor-recognition-awards/>



Stay connected with what's happening across U3As in Victoria by subscribing to the latest U3A Network Victoria e-newsletter! It's a great way to keep up-to-date with news, resources, and opportunities for members. You'll find all sorts of useful information—like where to access **free sheet music** or try out a **free chatbot available to all Victorian U3A members**. Don't miss out—join their mailing list today!

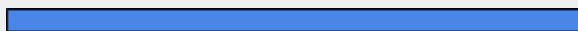
<https://us3.campaign-archive.com/?u=3cff2c97535bdf273894eedaf&id=ce94cb287c>



Due to scheduled all-day works to replace a damaged electrical pillar at Batesford Reserve, there will be no power to Batesford Hub and Jordanville Community Centre on the Wednesday the 07th May 2025. It is expected that power will be restored only around 3.00 pm.

Please share this information with your group members.

**Thank you for your understanding.
Monash Halls**



Support U3A Waverley Every Time You Shop at Ritchies IGA!

Did you know that a percentage of your everyday grocery spend at Ritchies IGA can go directly to support U3A

Waverley—at no extra cost to you? By simply registering for the Ritchies IGA Community Benefits Program and nominating U3A Waverley as your chosen organisation, you'll help us continue to offer great programs and services for all our members.

It only takes three easy steps to register, and every shop adds up to meaningful support for our community. It's a simple way to give back while you shop!

1. Download the Ritchies App or go to <https://loyalty.ritchies.com.au/#/register> and click the "Register" button. Complete the registration with your email address or mobile number.
2. Follow the registration process.
3. Login to your newly created account to select our U3A Waverley from the Community page. (Note: If our U3A Waverley is not listed, please contact the store and they will arrange to add it on to the list.)

U3A Waverley has received \$2,433.28 from Ritchies since this program inception.





Discover a range of exciting new indoor and outdoor classes now available at our U3A! With such a diverse selection, there's sure to be something that sparks your interest. Enrol today and enjoy being part of the vibrant U3A Waverley community!

Bowling for Beginners

Course type

Short Course: Term 1, Term 2, Term 4

Six weeks in term 2, 2025, starting

The Mount Waverley Bowling Club is offering its facilities and coaching for those interested in wishing to learn how to play lawn bowls. The club provides all the equipment with guidance and coaching. The club is located at 6 Alvie Rd, Mount Waverley, with the bowling starting at 10:00 am to 11:30 am, followed by a social get-together in the clubhouse with tea or coffee and biscuits provided. Bowls is for everyone, young or old, providing gentle exercise and a fun experience. Have a go and see if you like it, be a little adventurous! All you need is some flat-soled runners

Timetable

6 weeks in Term 2 and Term 4

Day: Friday, 10.00 AM - 11:30 AM

Dates: Term2, 2nd May 2025 – 6th June 2025,

Term 4, 10th October – 14th November 2025

Next date: 2nd May 2025

Course Co-ordinator

Jodie Bruerton 0481304 232

CROQUET LESSONS

Monash Croquet Club is offering Waverley U3A members the opportunity to learn the basics of croquet in a friendly environment, over four sessions.

Croquet is an enjoyable game suitable for anyone who wants to stay physically and mentally active.

COST \$20 one-off green fee payment at the first session.

contact: monashcroquet@gmail.com for queries

Address 21A Electra Avenue, ASHWOOD

Scheduling

Note: Random dates as specified

Day: Wednesday, 1:15 PM - 2:45 PM

Dates: 7 May 2025 - 28 May 2025

Next date: 7 May 2025

Tutor: **Jenny Bortoli**

Digital Art Workshop

This program runs in Term 2. The sessions involve Digital art using the Procreate programme – this is suitable for iPad or Android tablet/laptop. The course will also cover creating digital art using IPencil plus Artificial Intelligence (AI) based resources and applications.

Students must supply their iPad / Tablet and be prepared to follow the tutor's instructions on how to use their tools to achieve the required results.

Course type

Short Course: Term 2

Day: Tuesday, 12:00 PM - 1:45 PM

Dates: 22 Apr 2025 - 1 Jul 2025

Start date: 22 Apr 2025

Tutor: **Chris Nallararatnam**

Rummikub

Rummikub combines elements of the card game rummy and mahjong. This course is for experienced players and for those who would like to learn in a friendly atmosphere.

Course Type:

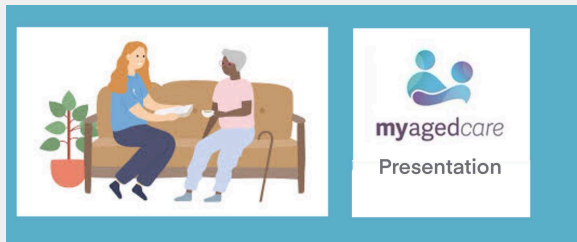
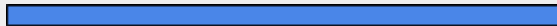
Long Course: Year-long course (Feb - Nov)

Scheduling: 2&4: Second and Fourth weeks

Day: Thursday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Dates: 24 Apr 2025 - 20 Nov 2025

Next date: 24 Apr 2025



My Agecare Presentation

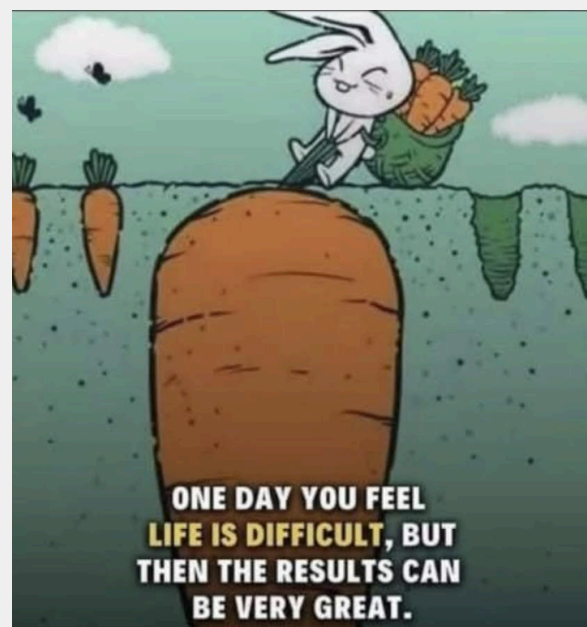
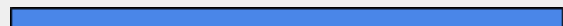
More than fifty U3A members attended an informative presentation by Latrobe Community Health Service on the recent changes to My Aged Care and home care packages in March 2025. Attendees found the session clear, easy to understand, and highly insightful.

Portia from Latrobe Community Health Service is expected to return later in the year to provide U3A Waverley with an update on the progress and implementation of these changes.

U3A Waverley plans to organise more presentations on topics of community interest that will benefit our members. If you have a suggestion for a topic that would appeal to a wider audience, please contact our Course Coordinator, Gillian Meldrum.

Email:

course.coordinator@u3awaverley.org.au



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.

Cut-off date for May Newsletter: Friday, 25th April

Email: newslettereditor@u3awaverley.org.au



WINE IS NOT THE ANSWER
it just makes you
forget the Question!



WAVERLEY GALLERY



JOHN PRICE

WAVERLEY GALLERY



LINDA

THE WINNER!



The winner of AGM raffle
SUSAN TAYLOR

