

March-April 2021



MOORLEIGH MESSENGER

University of the Third Age

Inc: A0019386L

Address: Barry Neve Wing, Moorleigh Village, 92 Bignell Rd, East Bentleigh 3165

Phone: 9570 3929

Hours: 9.30am -3.30pm

Email Address: u3amoor@yahoo.com.au

Website: www.u3amoorleigh.com.au



Presidential Ponders.

Members are once more in the corridors, going to classes & catching up with old friends. It's lovely to see you all here again. It was a huge job getting us open and I thank and acknowledge the efforts of the front office volunteers. All were wonderful, but extra thanks to Angela Skelton and Heather Howells who went the extra, extra mile.

Ideas & plans for U3A Moorleigh in 2021 include:

- * A new web site and address.
- * Cards & board games will start after Easter (check website).
- * A series of aged-care lectures will run over May and June.

An exciting & new venture is the opening of **U3A Moorleigh Computer Hub**.

This is the brainchild and long-held ambition of Cynthia Paciocco, our current Secretary. We aim to have **THE HUB** up-and-running by mid-April. So, what will be different?

In addition to our many and varied classes, **THE HUB** will enable you to:-

1. Access the Internet on each computer, which will also have a webcam and headset.
2. Book a period on the computer for your private use (much like you can do at the library but for periods of 2 hours). A bookable timetable will be available at the office.
3. Set up your own email address, carry out personal business including Facebook, Instagram and Zoom, thus keeping in touch with friends and relatives. Plus playing games & accessing websites .
4. Join any Zoom classes using U3A Moorleigh computers, and later in 2021 accessing podcasts designed specifically for U3A members.
5. Print your own documents - a small printing fee will apply to cover consumables.

You also will have access to some computer-savvy people to help set you up and guide you if you have any technical problems (however, they may not be available 24/7).

At this stage **THE HUB** will only be open 9.30am - 3.30pm, but may expand as the need arises. This will be a wonderful support and resource to our members.

Well done, Cynthia, Michael, John and Ian.

Ciao , Erika Fleming

Important Dates.

1st April Good Friday
5th April Easter Monday
26th April Anzac Day holiday

Office closed
Office closed
Office closed

STAY CONNECTED @



Thank You so Much

2020 was a year of great change and a challenge for all Australians. During the months of lockdown, we had to find new ways to keep busy, re-assess our lifestyles and find out what was important in our lives. Several of our loyal & long serving tutors have realised that there IS a life outside U3A; family responsibilities may have changed, new opportunities & interests found or they had time to please themselves & take things easy.

For the tutors who prepared class work, passed on their knowledge & experiences to class members & turned up in all weathers a simple "Thank You" is inadequate yet encompasses how we feel. We wish you well in your new lives & perhaps we might see some of you back on the other side of the desk! Those who are taking a well earned break are:-



Susan Ballinger (10 years)
Helen Miller (16 years)
Helen Curtis (10 years)
Leonie Horvath (20+years)
Nina Bell (5 years)
Jenny Raper (20+years)
June Thorne (4 years)
Dorothy Hadwen (15+years)
Barbara and Peter Lowe (2 years)
Frances Brook (20+years)
Myra Mendelson (5+years)

Welcome

Glen Eira has appointed Ros Porter as the Community Development Officer for Moorleigh Community Village and from the beginning of 2021 Ros has been full time, on-site in her office in the Barry Neve Wing. Ros has previous experience working as a program manager in a Bayside Neighbourhood House, as the General Manager for a Theatre Production Company and as the Cultural Development Co-ordinator for the local authority of Fremantle in Western Australia. She is delighted to be working at Moorleigh Village and is looking forward to meeting people and developing her goal of working with tenants to gain a greater sense of community and to encourage everyone to work together and support each other. Ros will also be making sure the emergency management of the site is improved and that everyone understands the procedures in place since it is important to ensure everyone is safe.

The Business Page.

As of 15th March Glen Eira council has unlocked all outer doors making it easier to enter the building if you park round the back.

It is very important that your visit to U3A is recorded with your name & contact details. If you are attending a class you will sign in there. If you are only visiting the office you must sign in there. We MUST be able to trace all visitors in the event of a further Covid flare-up.

QR scanning is a central method of recording visits. If you have a smart phone please scan your details too as this will assist us to boost class numbers.

At the end of class the monitor will supervise the sanitisation of equipment & any furniture that has been used. Please help with this duty & keep our community safe.

If you use any of the public areas you MUST sanitize what you touch. This is a Glen Eira council requirement & the council have provided the necessary equipment in a brown bucket near the front office.

When sitting at your desk you do not have to wear your mask unless you want to. If you are moving around & unable to maintain the social distance (1.5M) wear your mask.

Photocopies.

At the start of last year the committee decided that all classes would pay for their copies when they collected them. We are aware that this decision was not popular however it reduces paperwork & time in the front & back offices and is a fair system. Many classes decided to collect a few dollars from each class member at the start of the term then use this 'kitty' to pay for their documents. Charges remain reasonable (5c single side & 10c double side) & this helps to cover U3A's cost of paper & toner.

Promotion

You are probably aware that U3A Moorleigh has lost tutors, members & volunteers since the start of the pandemic. We have had a marvellous response from members but we need to boost numbers & keep our membership cost down. You can help by spreading the word. We have some new fliers so why not drop off a few in your local area while out walking the dog?

Bring a friend along to a class; they can be a visitor at no cost or obligation. If you have a special interest or skill & would like to run a short (or long!) course let us know; perhaps with a friend to support you?



Donations.

At present we are **NOT** accepting donations of books or goods & not selling books. This will change when restrictions lift HOWEVER please consider what you are giving. The committee have spent many hours de-cluttering & dropping off electrical goods for recycling, op-shop donations, utilising personal bins & removing literally a truck load of old & unwanted goods, which was an expensive exercise. If you don't want it perhaps we don't want it either!!!

Web Page up date.

Have you seen our web site recently? It has changed. Thanks to the skills of Michael Bonacci & Malcolm Hannan-Smith and U3A Network, you can see a new, bright and very different web site. Check out the current classes & download a membership form for your friends to fill in! There will be a further upgrades & a different look to the photographs as we make further changes. For now go to www.u3amoorleigh.org.au

Covid Vaccination



You will find a Covid vaccination fact sheet on the government health web site linked to the Covid safe app' health.gov.au. After health workers, aged care residents & immigration workers, those of us between 70 & 80+ years will be eligible in phase 1B of the roll out while younger people will (50-69 years) follow in phase 2A (who said growing old has no advantages?)

Vaccination is free & voluntary for everyone registered with medicare so get ready to roll up your sleeve & lets get back to enjoying life & good health.

Community Voice

Are you a resident of the city of Glen Eira? Would you like to provide feed back on key issues & have some input into decision making in your local area? The council are looking for participants from various backgrounds, ages & values to respond to online surveys.

www.haveyoursaygleneira.com.au



Good News



Yes, your beloved board games are coming back, hopefully **after** Easter. This preliminary information still needs to be finalised but you can look forward to Bridge, Rummy tiles, Canasta, 500's Cards, Mah Jong & also scrabble. Look out for an email announcement & keep an eye on the web site or ask at the office.

Board game have been delayed due to the restrictions & the need for players to be in close proximity & we still need to re-enforce a Covid safe practice.

Always have a mask with you.

#Always sanitise your hands before handling cards or tiles & at the end of a session.

#Bring a drink as no refreshment is available in the kitchen at present.

After use, tiles & boards must be disinfected (anti-bacterial wipes supplied)

Used cards must be bagged & dated & these will be "in quarantine" for three weeks before being used again. We have enough packs to make this a viable practice.

After clearing away your equipment, wipe over your table & chair (done in all classes).

All cleaning equipment is supplied & please help one another.



**Trusted
Tradie'**



When we needed help to shift our BIG pile of rubbish Anthony was the one chap who gave a reasonable quote, turned up on time, did the heavy lifting and then gave a discount all with a cheerful demeanor! When no-one would come & take down the high curtains & clean the cobwebs, Anthony came & did this for us even though his job is rubbish removal! If you or someone you know is down sizing we highly recommend Anthony & if you mention that you are a U3A Moorleigh member he will give you a 10% discount.

Contact anthony@easyskiphire.com.au or phone 0416 050 780

PS installation of new blinds has been delayed as we await a council work order. We hope new blinds will be installed in the mid-term break when workers can access the un-occupied rooms,

Community Shed

During the lock down last year, the community shed was completed. & the Bentmoor Men's shed now occupies that space on most days. They have been a great help during our clean-up & are still working on built-in cupboards under the shelf in room 39 (the craft room.)

The downside to this is that the car park is busier than ever. Committee members have written to the local councillors (Tucker Ward) to make them aware of the problem & if you want to add some weight Moorleigh Village may get an assessment & possible solution.

Inspiration

Two seriously ill men occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up for one hour a day so his bed was placed next to the only window in the room.

The men talked for hours on end and became close friends.

Every afternoon, when the man nearest the window was allowed to sit up, he would pass the time describing what he could see and the man in the other bed lived for that hour when he could visualise what was going on, and feel a part of the outside world.

He learned that the window overlooked a lovely park with a lake; ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their boats; young lovers strolled arm in arm in the sunshine. One afternoon the man near the window described a passing parade and although the other man couldn't hear the band, he could visualise the colour, excitement and joy that his friend portrayed.

The sick man nearest the window finally died and after an appropriate time the other man asked if he could be moved next to the window. This was done and when he slowly managed to wriggle up onto his elbow and see out of the window he saw it faced a blank wall.

The man asked a nurse what could have possibly compelled his friend to describe such wonderful scenes. The nurse responded that the deceased man had been blind and possibly wanted to encourage his room-mate but also re-live his memories of happy times.

If you want to feel rich, just count your blessings and share your joy.

This story (edited) was submitted by Pauline Clark.

