

U3A ONLINE NEWSLETTER



www.u3aonline.org.au

March 2017

A THOROUGHLY PRODUCTIVE F2F!

In February our Committee of Management gathered in Melbourne once again for its annual Face to Face meeting.

Matters were discussed and debated, resolutions reached and decisions made about the year ahead.

We came away re-energised, motivated, and extremely enthusiastic about the next twelve months.



Deep in discussion about important matters!
L to R – President Jean Walker, Di Delchau & Jean Duff.

GETTING STARTED...

Following the U3A Online AGM in November last year we have a slightly refashioned Committee of Management (CoM).

Jean Walker continues as intrepid President and is already working to expand our realms of influence and garner new members and participants for the numerous courses and activities we offer. More about that in due course.

Di Delchau steps down as Secretary but stays on as Administrator. Kerry Hamilton becomes Secretary while handing over responsibility for the Newsletter to Annie Webster (that's me!) I've also assumed the mantle of Vice President which I suspect is more titular than tactical.

Heather Jones continues as Course Developer, and takes over as Treasurer after Pauline Saunier resigned to pursue exciting lifestyle changes; Bev Tapper is Course Coordinator, responsible for overseeing the growing number of courses available; long term Committee Member and office holder Allan Thompson continues his sterling work updating the Find-a-U3A Directory and Jean Duff is our social butterfly – visit our Face Book page to see what I mean!

And we're happy to welcome three new faces – Fran Foley, who hails from rural Narrandera in NSW so knows all about the challenges of learning in remote locations, John Mitchell who's lived in New Zealand and currently Australia and brings a wealth of experience to the Committee, and Lynette Millican who joins as Advisor.



New CoM members Fran Foley & John Mitchell

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: JEAN WALKER writes.....

Your U3A Online Committee of Management met in Melbourne recently for its annual Face to Face meeting. It is always great to meet everyone in person and we always get a lot achieved over the two half days of meetings. We come from far and wide with Annie, our Vice-President, all the way from Auckland, to Jean Duff from WA, Di and Fran from Queensland,.

We were sad to farewell Pauline Saunier, our Treasurer of several years, but wish her well with a new relationship and more travelling and thank her sincerely for her valued contribution to U3A Online. And we are pleased that Heather Jones has accepted the position of Treasurer. We also received a resignation from CoM member, Ross Bell.

We continue to add new Courses to our offerings. We've just hit 59 Courses and with one or two more already in the pipeline, we will soon have over 60. Interesting recent additions have been History of Espionage (Parts 1 and 2); The Shakespearean Canon Mystery and English Poetry from Chaucer to Ted Hughes.

I have continued in my efforts to promote U3A Online whenever the opportunity presents itself. We made a decision to take out a paid advertisement in the October Tasmanian Seniors Week publication to test the potential value of paid advertising and also to pay for Jean Duff's expenses in attending a Seniors Expo in Perth, WA.

A major opportunity opened up quite recently when I contacted a group called **Pass It On** which Tom Holloway mentioned in the **U3A Signpost** newsletter:

*The **Pass It On Network**, launched in Paris in 2013 by Jan Hively (USA) and Moira Allan (Paris) today has representatives in more than 40 countries. The network scouts out positive aging advocates around the globe and "passes on" local initiatives taken by seniors for seniors to help themselves and their communities to adjust to the unprecedented demographic change the world is experiencing.*

I contacted Moira to tell her about U3A Online and suddenly found myself invited to participate in an international online summit called **Age Without Borders**. I completed a 40-minute interview with her and this will become part of the virtual conference which will be on air from 26 February to 4 March. I also contacted the **Pass It On** website and requested that U3A Online becomes a country liaison. I'm hoping this will be a real turning point for letting the rest of the world know about us.

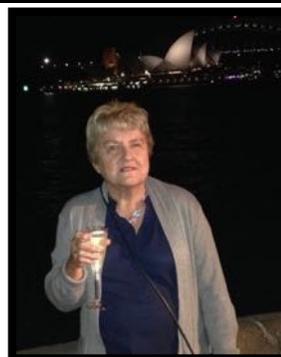
Click on the links below to go to the **Pass It On Network** and **Age Without Borders** website and FaceBook page.



<http://passitonnetwork.org/>

<http://agewithoutborders.net/>

<https://www.facebook.com/agewithoutborders/>



Jean Walker – toasts the year ahead!

FROM OUR COURSE COORDINATOR: BEV TAPPER

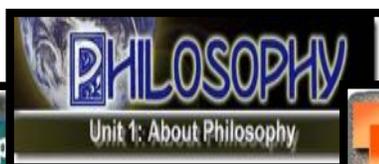
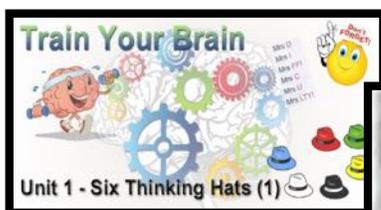
Already this year, we have twenty-eight “Courses With A Leader” available, with ten beginning in March. If you haven’t already maybe it’s time to take the plunge and enrol in at least one! What about **Train Your Brain** or **Autobiography and Journaling**?

By the way, **The History of English Poetry from Chaucer to Ted Hughes**, which opened for Independent Study in early January and has 10 people enrolled, will also be available ‘with Leader’ in March.

There are currently 59 Independent Courses on offer and with several still being developed we’re well on our way to hitting the magic number 60!

Two other new Independent Study Courses which opened in January are generating se very active participation in the Discussion Forums. It’s a great way to connect with your fellow students! At last count we had some 5 or 6 people registered in both **Genealogy Online** and **Storytelling with Pictures**. Perhaps it’s time for you to register!

Also you may have noticed we’ve changed our **Evaluation Form** to a **Feedback Form** with a less formal format. Please do consider filling it in once you’ve completed your Course, it really does help us in assessing how effective the process is.



NOW ANOTHER WAY FOR YOU TO HELP!

We’re always looking for current “learners” willing to take on the mantel of “Leader”. Could that be you?

One of the cornerstones of U3A is that we are all teachers *and* students – in other words Leaders in one Course will almost certainly be learners in another. We’re always keen to attract new blood, after all some of our current leaders have been in charge for several years and are ready to step back and take a well-earned rest!

It’s a challenging and stimulating task that goes to the very heart of U3A Online.

If you’ve recently participated in an Independent Course and feel sufficiently inspired to take the reins as Leader here’s your opportunity to give-back-a-little and help guide other members through the learning process. You will certainly get all the assistance you need from Course Coordinator, Bev Tapper.

Right now we’d love to find someone to take over from Alistair Pringle who currently leads two Courses, **Introduction to Western Philosophy** and **Left, Right or Centre: A very brief introduction to Political Ideologies**. Alistair has been a stalwart in our galaxy of Leaders and, as many of you will know from personal experience, a truly committed and stimulating mentor. But he’s ready to pass on the job to someone else. Maybe a former participant in one or both of the Courses? Get in touch with Bev Tapper to talk more about what’s involved. You’ll be warmly received!

HAVE YOUR SAY TOO...

I thoroughly enjoy being part of an on-line group sharing similar interests. It is especially good when participants keep contact after the course is finished.

I have found the three courses that I have undertaken to be very rewarding. The information has been presented beautifully.

Some comments from the website...

I missed people who did not respond for a couple of weeks, and when they returned with explanations about where they'd been or what had happened to them, it was like greeting old friends again!

As novice computer operator I have found access technically friendly. A huge plus...

We are always looking for your comments about anything you feel is relevant. Your own U3A Online experiences; news about your local U3A; your thoughts about the issues that affect us on a daily basis; personal histories or stories that you would like to share. Send in your manuscripts!!!

Please email me at anniewebster.u3a@gmail.com