

Upcoming Events

- 21 June—Council Meeting
 - 4-5 September—Network Conference
- Also check Regional Meetings calendar in this newsletter

From the President

Welcome to this edition of eBulletin.

We are still awaiting to hear from the Department of Health and Human Services as to our likely funding for the coming financial year. Until this is known we are not able to consider any applications for region or individual U3A grants that may come from Program Growth Support Funds. The Work Plan to address the Department of Education and Training grant conditions is still being worked through with the aim of maximising the best value from the monies for the benefit of U3As. I appreciate the feedback I have received as a result of visiting U3As and through mail. Further discussions are planned with the Government Departments over the coming weeks.



The forthcoming Council meeting on 21 June will allow an update to be provided on the above and various projects that are coming to fruition. We will also be making a presentation on the VMIA insurance.

Until then, Live ... Learn ... Enjoy.

John Parker
President

Premises & Facilities Handbook

Drafting of the final output from the Accommodation Project is close to completion.

The draft Handbook will be issued to a few U3As for assessment of its practicality before approval and issue by Network.

The assistance of many U3As through providing information for the Accommodation Project is acknowledged and appreciated.

Hans Eisen

Website Template Project

Member U3As are now working with the Website Template project team to prepare their data and create their own new website, using the template commissioned by Network. The new volunteer support team, headed by Kevin Whelan of U3A Whittlesea is working first with U3As Murrindindi East and Sale to plan their implementations. Other U3As will be scheduled in due course.

The Website Template project is concentrating initially on those U3As still reliant on community portals, but any U3As with an interest in upgrading or re-designing their site can find out more by contacting the Network Office.

Benefits for a U3A owning and maintaining its own website via the template include

- Strengthened communication and marketing presence which can lead to increased membership and public visibility
- Less time on website design and creation, so more time for class and activity management
- Minimal cost for those U3As with lesser reserve funds
- Skills transfer among Member U3As - the essence of the U3A movement .

There is no cost to use the template. Smaller U3As can choose to be hosted through the Network's own facility at no cost, or can engage their own hosting service.

Contact the Network Office for more information.

Annual Membership and Contact Data now due at Network Office

All U3As were asked to update their membership statistics by end May. Network Office staff are now working through returns to the Network Member Database to chase up a straggler or two. Update of membership numbers is important to help Network and every U3A understand our growth patterns.

Where no updates are found on the system, Network Office will be in touch to offer assistance in inputting the data. A [user guide](#) is available on the Network website for any U3As with new personnel this year who might want to understand better how to use the system.

VMIA Insurance Presentation at June Council

The start of the new financial year is also the renewal date for Member U3As' annual insurance policies provided by VMIA, the State Government's agency for insuring community groups.

Policies will be sent to incorporated U3As directly by VMIA via email only. (Policies will not be sent by post). Those U3As who are not incorporated are covered by their membership of U3A Network. Some U3As choose to be auspiced by a local government body, but through one channel or another, all U3As have coverage.

VMIA policies cover against such risks as public liability, directors' liability, volunteers' accident while volunteering, and some other matters. VMIA policies do not cover general member accident risk.

U3A Network will present an overview of the VMIA coverage at the June Council meeting. The Regions Network Group is also preparing to channel information to Member U3As through regional meetings.

U3As who want to learn more about VMIA and its coverage in advance of the Council meeting can go to the agency's website www.VMIA.com

Regional Reps Participate in Presidents Briefing

Invitations to the May Presidents Briefing were sent to representatives of the twelve Network regions, and four were able to participate. The invitations signified the increasing importance of regional meetings and of the Regions Network Group.

The next Regions Network Group meeting will be held after June Council meeting. Agenda items are being prepared now through DSO Harry Dobson and Regions Network Group convenor Nancy Miller.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - June 15



Elder abuse is mistreatment of an older person that is committed by someone with whom the older person has a relationship of trust such as a partner, family member, friend or carer. The most common forms of elder abuse are financial, psychological/emotional or neglect. Women are the most common targets.

<https://elderabuseawarenessday.org.au/>

Treasurers Corner

Capitation Fees 2017 - all treasurers are advised to liaise with their local committee representatives who regularly update the online Network member database, to ensure you have your current correct number of primary (financial members) membership displayed. Network will use those numbers around mid June 2017 to start issuing invoices for our annual 017 capitation fees set at \$2.00 per member.

PGSF Grant 2016/17 tax year - 74 member applications (69% compared with 58% in 2016) were received.

After looking at the applications, adjustments were made where necessary and the money transferred into the relevant bank accounts.

PGSF Grant 2017/18 tax year (including 2017/18 regional grants) - Network president will issue more information once new State Government negotiations are completed in the coming months.

ACFE 2017/18 Grants - please liaise with your secretary/president who attended the last Council meeting in Melbourne, to find out more about the latest State Government changes to the structure and distribution process. Negotiations have now been completed. It is a major procedural change to what we have done in the past. Network president will be issuing more details shortly.

Copyright fees 2017 - Network has recently paid, on behalf of all our state U3As, a fee equal to 29 cents per member, for the free use of photocopied materials in their classes. We should remind and assist our local class tutors/leaders/volunteers to familiarise themselves with the current copyright laws. You may contact our office if you need further clarifications. Here's more information from the Copyright agency website. <https://www.copyright.com.au/licences-permission/educational-licences/>

Budgets - I would again caution treasurers against building in Government grant funding into their annual budgets as a "secure" feature, unless you have clear indications or are aware of contracted detailed agreements which have been signed. The decision to include in your budget rests with your committee. My recommendation is to prepare several budget versions and allow your committee to be fully informed to make any budget decisions. Some members have complained to us in the past on their budget shortfall due to reduced grant funding from Network. We stress that putting any grant funding into your budget, is always your committee decision.

Tom Wong

Treasurer - U3A Network Victoria

U3A Regional Meetings & Workshops Schedule June-December 2017

U3A Region	Dates	Host(s) U3A	Time & Location	Contact for meeting
Northern Metro	Thursday 1 June	Banyule	9.45am-2.30pm, U3A Hall, rear 14 Ivanhoe Pde. Ivanhoe	Helen McKinnon, President Mary Wilson, Secretary Anne Heafield, Regional Rep
Outer Eastern	Friday 9 June	Upper Yarra	10am Fire Station, 37 Yarra St Yarra Junction	Anne O'Shaughnessy, Pres Raewyn King, Secretary Julian Higgs, Regional Rep
Loddon Mallee Digital Workshop	Thursday 22 June	Bendigo	10.00am, St Mary's 193High St Kangaroo Flat	Jill McArthur, President Nancy Miller, Regional Rep
South Metro	Friday 23 June	Port Phillip	1pm-3.30pm Mary Keogh 224 Danks St. Albert Park	Renate Mattiske, President David Hone, Regional Rep
Eastern Metro	Monday 3 July	Nunawading	10am, Silver Grove Nunawading	Valerie Bourke, Box Hill Geoff Steventon, Reg.Rep
Western Metro	Friday 25 August	Melton	? pm, Building 3A, 20-40 Rees Rd Melton South	John Bermingham, President Jane Sultana, Secretary Fran Horton, W Metro Rep
North East Victoria	TBA Possibly Tues 12 or Wed 13 Sept	Kilmore	TBA	Paul Brinsden, President Jan Maude, Regional Rep
South West Victoria	Friday 15 Sept	Colac	10.30am, Seniors Centre, Hesse St. Colac	Michael Allison, President Di Cray, Regional Rep
Grampians	Monday 18 Sept	Hepburn Shire	10.30am, Melbourne Polytechnic., Grano St., Ararat	Robyn Lawrence, President Lynne Hall-Cavanagh, R.Rep
Outer Eastern Metro	Thursday 21Sept	Sherbrooke	10am. Seniors Community Centre, Mahony St. Upwey	Gloria Wales, President Julian Higgs, Regional Rep
Loddon Mallee	Thursday 21 Sept	TBA	10.00am, St Mary's 193High St Kangaroo Flat	Nancy Miller Regional Rep
Eastern Metro	Monday 25 Sept	Nunawading	10am, Silver Grove Nuna- wading	Valerie Bourke, Box Hill Geoff Steventon, Reg.Rep
South Gippsland Workshop on Course Design and Delivery	TBA in Oct	Prom Coast	Manna Gum Restaurant Broadbeach Resort Inverloch	Dave Berry, President Steve Munro, Regional Rep
Outer Eastern	Friday 8 Dec	Healesville	Time TBA, Cnr GreenSt &River St. Healesville	Julian Higgs, President /Rep Don McDonald, Secretary

Harry Dobson, June 2017