



Stay Connected

As the coronavirus restrictions have been gradually easing, many older people are now looking to re-connect with friends, family and interests.

Over coming months, it is anticipated that local community activities and facilities, including U3A classes, libraries etc will gradually reopen for face-to-face activity, but importantly, in accordance within the guidance set down by the Chief Health Officer.

This is without a doubt in challenging time, but challenges can also bring innovation and opportunity. One great example is the reimagined Seniors Festival. As it was not possible to plan for large public events in October due to coronavirus, the 38th Festival has been reimagined.

The festival has an exciting new format. Video-based performances and entertainment come to directly to festival goers at home, through Seniors Online at <https://www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/festivalsandawards>

The list of talent is both inspiring and diverse. Names like Deborah Cheetham and Tania Kernaghan, and acts including puppetry and dance are just a few examples. New performances are being added each week until 31 October. Each video contains an interview with the artist and a live performance, recorded on mobile phones at home. A Festival production team puts it all together.

And because many seniors love radio, community radio stations, including Golden Days 95.7 are producing radio plays, serials, poetry and prose as well as concerts with music of the 40s, 50s and 60s. These will be available for streaming or as podcasts via Seniors Online in July. Check it out weekly on Seniors Online!

Gerard Mansour
Commissioner for Senior Victorians

U3A Frankston Anniversary

U3A Frankston will be celebrating 35 years in October. We were one of the first U3A's to be established. We will be producing small cards for purchase, containing the words of a song and poem created by two of our members. A third member is intending to illustrate it. Anyone who would like to write a short piece about their feelings of U3A over their journey may also be included.

CELEBRATING
35
years



Be Connected
Every Australian online.

Network Partners

Our partnership with Be Connected continues even though with the restrictions at the moment we can't run face-to-face tuition.

We applied for and received a \$5000 grant from Be Connected in May. The grant under the Digital Devices program, was to purchase and loan out 5 laptops to people over 50, who were "digitally" isolated and who were keen to improve their computer and online skills.

We arranged for the new laptops to be set up with software and a pre-paid dongle, so the laptops were ready to use. A big thank you to the U3A Frankston members who helped with the Grant Application, the purchase of the laptops and set up the software – all at short notice.

Below is a recent comment from one Be Connect student with a loaned laptop ...

Hi Dennis

I'm finding Be Connected an excellent program, very easy to follow and a great help in filling in the gaps in my knowledge. It's very useful also to be gaining experience with a laptop, as I think about options for additional technology here at home. If I get stuck with anything, or need some help, I'll give you a call.

With good wishes

Linden

If you would like more information about the Be Connected training program please email Dennis Mason dennismason6@gamil.com

It's a great online training course covering everything from "How to use a PC" to "Online Shopping". It's free and you can work through the topics at home at your own pace. (We need to train another 100 people by December to meet the conditions of the \$10,000 grant we received last October).

Can you spot a scam?

Australians aged 55 and over lost over \$50 million to online scammers in 2019*. It serves as a reminder that the internet is a wonderful place to explore and connect with others, but it pays to be savvy.

*Source: Scamwatch, 2020. <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/about-scamwatch/scam-statistics>

Join our 1-hour webinar to learn

- Common scams including the latest Tax and Medicare scams
- Tips on how to spot them
- What to do and what not to do
- Where to go for help

Dates:

- 13 July 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
- 11 August 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
- 29 September 10:00 am – 11:00 am
- 12 November 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Register now

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/7301070976074873101>

From our Members

Its isolation, it's just begun
 No more shopping or morning tea fun,
 What was I meant to do?
 I knew I had to see it through
 I sat down and began to see
 That this time could be just for me
 I wasn't allowed to drive a car
 Or board a train to travel afar
 I knew I could be without a rush
 So out came pencils paper and brush
 Sketchbook handy I painted and drew
 Yes, I'd found a way to see it through
 So drawings, paintings and ideas a new
 That's what I've done to see it through
 AND I DID...

Wendy Kandell



One thing which continues to happen is families grow. Beryl Sealey has become a great grandmother again. Last year we had our eighth great grandchild who the parents called Henry; we call him "Henry our Eighth." Now our granddaughter Melissa gave birth to a girl named Tracey Beveridge. We call her Blair. We now have four daughters who are all grandmothers, 13 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. I think that is 26 descendants, all healthy and growing well. With eight spouses that makes about 36.

Robert Sealey

Vale - Jeannie Burns Wannan



Jeannie Wannan's funeral was held on the 6th February 2020 at the Holy Trinity Church in Hastings. It was a wonderful service with Annette, Jeannie's daughter, remembering Jeannie's love of her Scottish heritage. They had organized a piper in full dress to pipe us into the church with "Will ye no come back again." He played again mid service with a medley of well-known Scottish songs. Jennie would have loved it! Jeannie's contribution to U3A Frankston was praised and well-earned for her more than 20 years as Secretary.

For the first couple of years U3A was housed in a red brick house at Monash University with only 50 members, her "office" was a broom cupboard! The move to three portables at Tafe provided her with a decent office and the members, now 300 with even his/her toilets. Jennie knew every Tutor, every member's name, the classes they attended and a little bit of each person's family. She was meticulous in keeping records of all classes and of Frankston U3A history. The move, after approximately 10 years at Tafe, to the Stella Maris Centre of JPC was magnificently organized by her, with color coded dots on every piece of furniture and equipment. Stella Maris Centre was her new kingdom and she loved it until the advent of computers. Like so many of us, she found them confusing and very stressful.

Jeannie retired in 2012 and welcomed the honour of a Life Membership. She had been back to the AGMs on several occasions.

By Patricia Blackman & Margaret Mace

Recommended Reading

Andrea's reading recommendations: (all Australian writers)



The Lightkeepers Wife by Karen Viggers

A lovely contemporary soft story about a family and a history of guilty secrets. Set in Hobart, Antarctica and Bruny Island you will enjoy this gently moving story. The characters are so real and the issues they face are so typical of so many families who hide the realities of their own stories.

The Wife and the Widow by Christian White

A terrific tale of deception and sacrifice in the middle of a great crime story. This is gripping and you have to keep reading. Need to concentrate as it twists and turns. I could not put it down and after all these years of reading thrillers, the end completely stumped me. Brilliant.

The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams

For those of you who enjoyed Simon Winchester's magnificent story the Surgeon of Crowthorne, which is the story of the men who compiled and composed the Oxford English Dictionary, you will love this. It is the story (mostly factual) of the women who contributed to the Dictionary and the issues and problems they faced looking for recognition in the 1880s and beyond. Pip Williams writes beautifully, using current and past language to illustrate the tale. "In 1901 the word bondmaid was discovered missing from the Oxford English Dictionary. This is the story of the girl who stole it". I loved it.



Friendly Faces



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