PILOT PROJECT UPDATE
ONLINE BOOKINGS

Take-up was better than anticipated. Feedback from members who used the system indicates that the software was relatively easy to navigate and the on-line system was preferred to booking courses by phone and/or email.

Leaders who used the system to register members who enrolled by emailed/phone indicated that the system’s features made their tasks easier particularly when they did not have to complete a course attendance form as the system automatically generated the form and filled in the names.

A total of 209 bookings were made for the courses in the pilot project during the first four days when the system went live.

56 members booked on line between June 13 and June 17. Those 56 members booked into 130 courses/events. The system automatically generated confirmation emails back to the member.

Leaders of the courses in the online pilot booked another 79. Those 79 either booked by phone or email direct to the leader.

As with any pilot there are aspects to improve, but initial feedback is positive and the process fairly smooth.

All regions have been asked to provide at least one additional course for the project for Semester 1, 2020

OUR COLOUR BAND VALUES
KINGFISHER = SHARING - We share our knowledge
GREEN = GROWING – Together we grow our minds
YELLOW = SOCIALISING – We interact and connect with others
RED = PASSION – Our passion is for education

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NON-FINANCIAL MEMBERS ATTENDING COURSES

The majority of members attending courses are valued financial members of Sydney U3A. These members continue to do the “right thing.” They are acutely aware and supportive of the aims and objectives of our great organisation.

Sometimes however individuals who are not members of Sydney U3A attend classes as do others who have let their membership lapse – in a couple of recent instances their memberships had been lapsed for several years.

This is unacceptable. Non/Unfinancial members cannot attend courses and take the place of a financial member.

The problem is exacerbated when attendees at courses are “rolled over” from one semester to the next. Because all attendees are known to each other they sometimes don’t bother wearing nametags/membership cards.

We remind of the need to ensure that members attending courses are financial members of Sydney U3A. Non-members can only attend two classes without becoming a member. Non-financial or non-members must not have access to member details including email addresses.

We ask all leaders/class secretaries to assist by reminding attendees at courses, talks and events that membership cards should be worn and that attendance at classes is only available to financial members of Sydney U3A. Leaders/class secretaries must record membership numbers on the course attendance sheets. Membership cards contain a membership renewal date.

Sydney U3A income is generated primarily from membership. It is essentially the only income available to pay rents, venue hire, insurances, licenses, office administration expenses, postage etc. Every dollar of income is important to us.

Another reason for wearing membership cards is that the reverse side has been designed so that members are able to fill in contact details for their next of kin and/or a contact in an emergency situation.

ACTIVITIES

All members attending “activity” courses - walking, table tennis, yoga, exercise, tai chi, dance etc. – must complete a Risk Management Form prior to partaking in the activity.

Risk Management forms can be downloaded from the Sydney U3A website – www.sydneyu3a.org – click on the “About Us” tab to access the form.

MOVED HOUSE, NEW EMAIL ADDRESS OR NEW PHONE NUMBER?

If you move house, change email address or phone number advise central office directly.

Unless you let us know we are unable to communicate with you, send your course book or membership reminder notice.

mail@sydneyu3a.org
9267 9056

ALWAYS ADVISE CHANGES TO YOUR CONTACT DETAILS TO CENTRAL OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
BIODEGRADABLE WRAPPING ON THE COURSE BOOK

SYDNEY U3A is mindful of our obligation to the environment. Be assured that the plastic mailing wrapper used as a mailing envelope for the course book is treated with an organic additive that allows the wrapper to biodegrade.

Members can further assist in helping our endeavour to protect our environment by disposing of the wrap in a responsible manner - don’t let any plastic item, biodegradable or non-degradable end up in landfill – many supermarkets have plastic recycling drop off bins.

SKID ROW RADIO INTERVIEW

Dianne Ekert, VP Education, was recently interviewed on Skid Row Radio. Skid Row is a community radio station on the FM waveband based in Marrickville, broadcasting to the Inner West suburbs of Sydney.

Broadcast areas include the former municipalities of Leichhardt and Marrickville, and the existing City of Sydney. Its broadcast signal can be received across much of Sydney, and its audience extends to many communities in Greater Western Sydney and, through online streaming, across the world.

The series that Dianne participated in comprised 13 weekly programs for older Australians – a guide to ageing well. The radio station was given a $25,000 grant to produce a multimedia healthy ageing project. Susan Ryan, Michael Kirby, Karen Curtis, Hugh McKay, Bettina Arndt, John Bell, Graham Bond, Jean Kittson, Anton Enus were some of the contributors.

The radio station advised that the interview with Dianne went very well. It was a great opportunity to promote Sydney U3A.

COURSE BOOK

The course book is expensive to produce. We are continually seeking to reduce the cost while still producing a quality publication – we have significantly saved on postage costs by using a new mailing house, we are enforcing the word line limit per entry to reduce the number of pages, offering members the option of electing to receive an electronic copy rather than a hard copy and are asking members who reside together if they wish to both receive a copy or if one copy per household will suffice.

Already 206 members elected to receive the last course book as an electronic copy rather than a hard copy.

CENTRAL OFFICE VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Central Office requires volunteers for Mondays and Fridays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Duties include data processing and reception. Contact Lynda Cronshaw, Admin Manager

9982 2701
officemgr.sydneyu3a@gmail.com

THANK YOU CAROLYN

A big thank you to Carolyn Franklin (former Admin Manager) who generously agreed to fill in for Lynda Cronshaw (current Admin Manager) while Lynda was on holidays visiting family in the UK during the month of August.
Camnet Pty Ltd has generously donated a mini iPad 64 GB WiFi to Sydney U3A Inc. It is grey in colour, brand new, still in its box and retails for around $599.

Sydney U3A will sell the iPad to any Sydney U3A member who is prepared to pay over $400 for the iPad. The highest bidder at 5:00 pm on September 30 will be the successful and lucky member.

Email your bid to: sydu3a.treasurer@gmail.com

INTERESTING STATS

Overall 89.6% of our membership now has an email address. Percentage by region is:

- City & Inner West: 90.1%
- Eastern: 91.3%
- Endeavour: 83.9%
- Greater Western: 88.5%
- Harbourside North: 89.4%
- Northern Beaches: 93.1%
- Upper North: 88.0%
- Unassigned: 89.6%

NEW TREASURER

IVONA KADLEC has volunteered to take up the role of treasurer. Ivona replaces Marilyn Noonan who completed her 3-year term in March this year.

Sydney U3A is fortunate to have Ivona in the treasury role as Ivona has vast accounting/financial experience in significant organisations including working in finance at Qantas for over 20 years.

Marilyn will provide support to Ivona as she settles in to the role.

The email address for our treasurer is: sydu3a.treasurer@gmail.com

TREASURY CHANGEOVER

Ivona (left) and Marilyn (right) at Central Office