

VOL. 1 | FEBRUARY 2021

**STAY CONNECTED**

**CENTRAL OFFICE NEWSLETTER**



## News from the President

Welcome to 2021 a new year for U3A, aren't we glad 2020 is over and we move into the New Year with trepidation but certainly wanting U3A to finally get some courses and events happening even if it is with smaller numbers in our many venues.

Hope most of you received the Course Book mostly by electronic copy or some in the original hard copy format at \$10p.a. which is added to your membership fees. Behind the scenes all our committees worried intensely about venues, numbers, COVID-19 safety plans, QR codes and often cleaning products, it has been a learning curve for all of us.

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## MEMBERS FEATURED

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## Committee Members

Regarding committees, please we need new volunteers to come forward and join a committee. Offer your skills and expertise and let's move U3A into a new phase of development. Our leaders work so hard to make U3A something we all enjoy, meeting old and new people but most of all learn something new every week. If you would like to join your U3A committee please contact your regional President. I am also pleased more of our members are using the MyU3A the online booking system and the U3A website.

It has been a learning curve for all of us and certainly moving more of us into the electronic age we now live in.

With the passing of Dianne Ekert, who did a terrific job as VP Public Relations we do need someone to help in that specialised area.

Co-ordinating our newsletter "*Staying Connected*", making contact with various community radio stations, and identifying new areas where U3A can become more visible, but mostly coming up with new ideas of how to promote U3A to the wider community.

Please email me on [president.sydneyu3a@gmail.com](mailto:president.sydneyu3a@gmail.com) if you think you can help.

There is an old expression - *new blood, new ideas* and this is so true.

Even though some members have lapsed because their class or venue is currently not available, but I think once we move forward and we all get our vaccinations we might be able to breathe a little easier. The good news is for the month of January we had 96 new members which is terrific.

U3A is a very important part of our lives enjoying our events, educational programs, wonderful lectures on a wide variety of topics but most of all meeting up with like minded people who enjoy learning in a safe and friendly environment.

I look forward to meeting some of our members at a few of the regional and Sydney AGM's. We need you as a member to grow U3A into a positive and productive future.

Kind Regards

~ Judy Harris

President Sydney U3A Inc

## Sydney U3A : NOTICE OF THE 33RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 33rd Annual General Meeting of members of Sydney U3A incorporated will be held:

**Date:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021

**Time:** 11am (tea and coffee available from 10.30am *if permissible* - as we do not know if there will be tea and coffee facilities until nearer the date.)

**Place:** The Mitchell Theatre, Sydney Mechanic's School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney

### Election of Office Bearers

Financial members of Sydney U3A are eligible for nomination and election. Nominations are now called for the positions of : President, Vice President (Education), Vice President (Public Relations), Treasurer, Secretary and Administration Manager. Nominations close 7 days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting on the form available on the U3A website - [www.sydneyu3a.org](http://www.sydneyu3a.org)

Nominations for all positions are to be received by the Secretary, by 9am, Wednesday, March 17 2021, email address : [secretary.sydneyu3a@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.sydneyu3a@gmail.com)

The following members are eligible for re-election and can be nominated for their current office or another office: President, Vice President Education, Treasurer, Secretary and Administration Manager.

# Education Update

By Anne Richardson, VP  
Education

Welcome back to the wonderful Semester 1 2021 courses U3A offers to all our members. Some aspects of our wonderful U3A life are closer to being normal again despite the restrictions on numbers who can attend our venues.

Now that you have either received a printed copy of the U3A Course book (CB) or chosen to access the CB via our U3A home page you can book face to face or Zoom sessions according to the information supplied for each course.

Whether you book online via the U3A home page or through a booking secretary, updated confirmation of the courses will be available as you make your booking.

Owing to the fact that the CB was drafted in October 2020, any amendments to sessions are being updated both on the master CB online as well as on the individual regions' web pages or in their newsletters. Therefore, it is critical to confirm that the sessions in which you are interested are as published.

Changes may have been forced upon us by the COVID situation.

Since the development of the CB requires enormous input from so many volunteers, I would personally like to thank all the people who are involved.

Firstly, the Venue Co-ordinators across all 7 regions for they approach the speakers and organise the venues- some 500 or more in total. Then the Regional Course Co-ordinators collate the information for each region and send drafts to the editor. After several sessions of proof reading and amendments, a final draft goes to the printer and then the designer.

More checking and amending happens before the final proof is sent to the printer. The entire process takes several months.



The creative team is about to start the process for the Semester 2 CB. U3A volunteers never rest and we do appreciate the support and patience of U3A members during these unprecedented times.

Please enjoy the wide range of sessions offered in the current CB.

**The capacity to learn is a  
*gift*, the ability to learn is a  
*skill*, the willingness to  
learn is a *choice*.**

## The 'Too Hard' Basket

By Beatrice Karnick,  
Upper North

It's a long climb  
To the attic of my mind  
Where I pull out that basket  
And dust off the contents.

Once again I shuffle the papers,  
Searching for the easy ones.  
Various titles jump out at me,  
Self discipline, let go of ego,  
Living in the present,  
forgiveness.

Many have been tackled  
At one time or another,  
Only to be returned  
To the 'too hard' basket.

Now my future is present  
And my time is growing short,  
So I must spend more of that  
short time  
On that damn basket.



## Mary Healy-North Eastern Region



As 2021 gets underway, Eastern Region's Course Co-ordinator, Mary Healy-North, is busier than ever.

During 2021, Mary kept the Eastern region's wheels turning over by co-ordinating the Zoom meetings that proved quite popular and carefully developed the foundations for this semester. Mary emailed me on how much she has enjoyed working with her teammates Warwick and Sandy to make sure that Eastern Region continues to be a place where lifelong learning happens, and people also get lots of opportunity to socialise.

Eastern suburbs faced extraordinary challenges as they laid their New Year plans. As the Course Book's time grew closer, many of the regular venues said they were not able to commit themselves to the open style meeting, so many Sydney U3A members had grown to enjoy In Eastern.

Like lots of members I think, I always looked through the timetable for the engaging sessions Eastern Region come up with.

Mary simply moved forward and working with fellow members, Warwick and Sandy, they created 2021 Semester 1 courses. It shows just how much can be achieved even when circumstances are difficult. East has chosen to have a mix of face-to-face and Zoom meetings, and once again have an outstanding program.

I was pleased to provide some training for East on how to work with Zoom and I was so impressed with how Mary was able to organise her online classes very simply and with little fuss.

Well done, Mary!

~ Ross Bell, Endeavour Region



## Congratulations are in Order

By Brenda Fuller, Northern Beaches

Avalon member, *Sue Martin*, has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Australian Day Honours for her service to the community of Pittwater. Sue has been a leading member and office holder in numerous community and environmental organisations in Avalon and the Northern Beaches for the past 30 years.

She was highly commended by Pittwater Council as the Environmental Volunteer of the Year 2006 for her outstanding contributions to preserving the environment of Pittwater and was named the joint Pittwater Council Volunteer of the Year 2009.

Sue's voluntary work and community leadership continues today in a number of organisations.

Sue and her husband Grahame have been U3A members since 2016 and regularly attend the French Intermediate Course at Mona Vale as well as many talks and other activities.



Sue has also presented a talk on Digital Legacy.

Please join me in offering Sue our congratulations on this honour.

### MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT METHODS

On-line : [www.sydneyu3a.org](http://www.sydneyu3a.org) (credit/debit card/PayPal)

Cheque : Payable to Sydney U3A Inc, mailed to Suite 10.2, 31 Market Street, Sydney 2000

Bank Transfer : Sydney U3A - St. George Bank – BSB 112 879 Account Number - 424522654

Credit Card : (NOT AMEX or Diners) Telephone the office (02) 9267 9056

SHARING GROWING SOCIALISING PASSION

SYDNEY U3A

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