



Welcome to Our Spring 2026 Newsletter



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Read on to Find Out About;

- Welcome from the New President
- Outgoing Presidents Last Message
- Member Wizard Help Session
- New Courses and Update
- Excursions

Incoming President's Report



IT IS WITH great pleasure, as incoming president of Sunbury U3A, that I write my first President's report for our newsletter.

Firstly, we must acknowledge and thank Leigh Martin for her wonderful commitment, contribution and work as President for the last three years, and as secretary prior to her presidency. She has brought much energy, compassion

and knowledge to the role and has earned the deep respect of our members. It has been a pleasure to work closely with Leigh for the last seven years. Leigh will continue as a general member of the new Committee, supporting the Executive to build a united team of volunteers who will lead Sunbury U3A.

Our Thanks to our outgoing Committee Member, Jo Pace, for her deep commitment and contribution to our organisation over the last twelve months. Jo will continue as Courses Co-ordinator, supporting our tutors and leaders to present their courses and to increase the number and variety of courses on offer. She is also a key member of the Member Wizard Implementation team.

Congratulations to the following members of the new Committee on their election: Sharon Lee, Vice-president: Irene Duckworth, Treasurer: Jill Dyson, Secretary, along with our general Committee members: Eamonn Turley, Sue Lobb, Rilla Grant, Catherine Brown, Terri Richards, Anita Blade, Leigh Martin.

I look forward to an exciting year ahead, as this Committee team works together to ensure that Sunbury U3A flourishes as a Seniors' organization, to build on the achievements gained in the last year and to offer a wide variety of quality opportunities for our members so they can continue to have fun and participate in life-long learning and fellowship.

In closing, I wish also to acknowledge the hard work of all our volunteers, tutors and leaders and their assistants, who work behind the scenes. I thank them for their commitment to Sunbury U3A and look forward to working with them in the coming months.

Term 4 will be an exciting one with our Oaks Day Celebration and our Christmas Function, along with new courses and events and excursions. So Full Steam ahead!!

Bernadette Young
President

Outgoing President's Last Message

AS I END my time as U3A President after 3 years I do so with great confidence and great excitement. My confidence comes from knowing who will be continuing in the Leadership Team. Bernadette will make an excellent President. As I have always said, she is the brains behind it all, I just do what she tells me! Please remember though that Bernie is only committing for one year to enable an ease of transition for the next President.

And my excitement comes from knowing that Sunbury U3A will continue to provide lots of exciting activities for everyone to enjoy.

Please indulge me as I become a little reflective of my term and all that we achieved. And as I list these things, they are achievements that come from working with a great team (The risk of writing a list is that important things can be forgotten. So if I have left anything off this list that is why. But I think **you** all know what a great organisation we are!)

- Increased membership from 230 in December 2023 to 337 in August 2026.
- The Thursday Club
- Implementation of solid Policies and Procedures
- Risk assessment strategies to ensure safe travels
- Updated Website (thanks Peter Coates)
- Transition to Member Wizard (thanks to all the hard work of the implementation team)

As Bernie said, I am not leaving the committee, I am continuing to help with the Thursday Club, organise visits to the theatre and any other way I can continue to assist Sunbury U3A to continue to grow and expand.

My very best wishes to the ongoing team and to all of you, the members and my friends.

Leigh Martin
No longer President!

We acknowledge the support of the following organisations:

Hume City Council, Sunbury Art Society, Sunbury Social Club, Club Sunbury, Dulap Wilim, Sunbury Neighbourhood House, St Mary's Church and Sunbury Seniors Hub

Member Wizard Help Session



FOR ANY MEMBERS who need further assistance, a third Member Wizard Help session will be held on Thursday afternoon. Please bring your laptop or phone to set up, you must be able to access your emails on the device.

Members who do not have an email address will also be assisted. Please attend during the following time slot based on your surname:

1:00 to 2pm - surname beginning A - H

2:00 to 3pm - surname beginning I - P

3:00 to 4pm – surname beginning Q - Z

*Sunbury Seniors Hub, 8 O'Shanassy Street,
Thursday 17th September*



New Courses

OUR SINCERE THANKS to our generous team of leaders who put in the time and effort to provide so many wonderful classes for you. If you are interested in starting a new class, we would love to hear from you. Please email courses@u3asunbury.org.au

Here are our new classes starting in Term 4 – **Online enrolments will open at 9:00am on Sunday 13th September.**



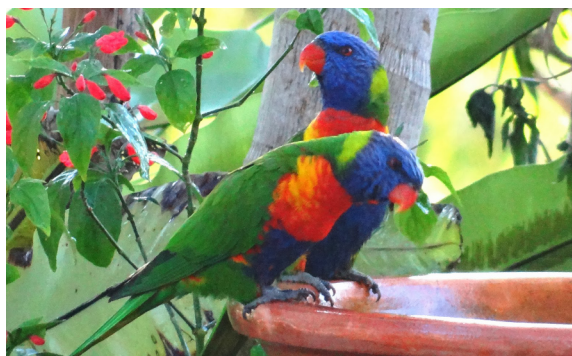
History of the World...

OR TO GIVE this course its full name '**History of the World in Eighty World Heritage Sites Part A (IEWHSA)**'. World Heritage Site status is awarded to a specific site by UNESCO in recognition of its importance to the history and culture of both the area in which it is located and its national and international significance. This course will attempt to describe the general history of humankind by examining selected World Heritage Sites and identifying their contribution to world and human history. We will select 40 sites for Term 4 (part A) and a further 40 sites in part B which will be delivered next year. Part A will cover the period from approximately 1 million years ago to about 1000 CE (Common Era) and consist of the origins of humankind, the first human settlements, towns and cities and ancient cultural mysteries. Many of the sites are well known and the course will appeal to those interested in travel as well as history.

*St. Mary's Activity Room,
Tuesdays 10am – 12 pm.
Course Leader: Adrian Lees*

**Online enrolments will open at
9:00am on Sunday 13th September**

Gardens For Wildlife



GARDENS FOR WILDLIFE is a 4 week course on how to attract and support our native wildlife in your garden and is based on material from the Hume City Council program. We'll explore the

beautiful trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses and groundcovers that grow naturally on our western volcanic plain and how they provide food and habitat for our Sunbury native birds and wildlife. We'll learn about our wonderful local native birds, bees, butterflies, lizards, frogs and mammals and how you can support them in your garden. Just by adding a few indigenous plants, you could help our native wildlife and add to our rich biodiversity in Sunbury.

Seniors Hub Main Room.

Thursdays 1 - 3pm, 22nd Oct, 29th Oct, 5th Nov and 12th Nov.

Course Leader: Jo Pace

Course Update



DANCE FOR FUN is changing to a new time and venue. From Term 4, Dance for Fun will be held on Tuesdays,

*St. Mary's Activity Room,
9 O'Shanassy Street.
1:30 to 2:45.*

*Leaders: Marlene
Campbell and Jane
Bezzina.*

Matter and Energy

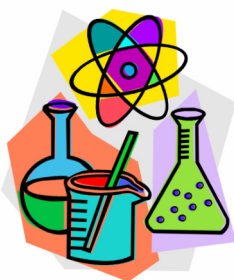
The chemistry that runs our world

OVER EIGHT WEEKS this course takes you through the kind of chemistry you actually see in real life — not the fancy lab-coat nonsense where people pretend they know what they're doing. We'll start with a recap, just to make sure nobody's still traumatized by the periodic table, then wander through food, metals, carbon - the overachiever of the periodic table, magnetism, batteries, oil, uranium, rocket fuel and finally how things get analyzed. It's all the stuff you've wondered about while standing in "How does this not explode?" Well, sometimes it does — and that's half the fun. If you've ever wondered why the world works the way it does, this course will tell you. Or at least it will try. The universe is complicated. Bring a notebook.

Dulap Wilim Main Room

Mondays 1 - 3pm

Course Leader: Ray Richards



Botanical in Graphite



THIS SIX WEEK course will look at the technique of drawing with graphite pencils. We will explore the use of graphite pencils to draw and create Botanical art pieces. A list of the materials required will be emailed to participants prior to course commencement. No previous experience needed, only a passion to learn.

Seniors Hub Back Room.

Wednesday Oct 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, Nov 4th and 11th.

10am – 12pm,

Course Leader: Sue Lobb



Excursions and Events

Duneira Estate



WE HAVE BOOKED a guided house and garden tour of this beautiful estate in Macedon to coincide with the middle of the bluebell season. It's a beautiful walk down the long driveway with a mass of bluebells on either side. The dogwoods should also be in full bloom as well and the rhododendrons are just stunning! The estate is a 'must-see' in Macedon on Trip Advisor.

Lunch will be in the Stables Tea rooms with lots of hot drinks in a beautiful rustic setting.

October Friday 23rd

Upcoming excursions for the last half of the year 2026 will be posted up on U3A website as soon as we finalize a few details.

If you have an event or outing that you think others in U3A will enjoy give one of the committee members a call.

A Fun Day Out In St Kilda



A WALK DOWN memory lane to visit St Kilda pier, a wander along the beach, take a photo at Luna Park, and sample the cakes in Acland Street. Via Train and tram.

Date to be confirmed.

Hamer Hall Christmas Melodies



JOIN IN THE Christmas spirit with a vibrant big band, choir and special guest artists; all coming together to create an unforgettable festive experience.

December Monday 7th

Steam Train to Castlemaine

WE ARE TRAINING from Sunbury to Castlemaine to pick up the Steam Train to Maldon. We have booked our own carriage on a VGR steam train, a trip of 45 minutes each way from Castlemaine to Maldon for 25 people. Lunching in Maldon and exploring the surrounding area before heading home by steam train to Castlemaine and the V/line train back to Sunbury.

Stop Press: This event is full.

September Friday 11th

More outings & events will be coming to a U3A near you!!! Thursday Club events and additional excursions will be emailed when confirmed.