**Special 20TH Anniversary**

**www.u3aonline.org.au**

**Edition**

 **March 2019**

**G’day to all our U3A Online members!**

**This year U3A Online celebrates its 20th Anniversary**

**Our President, Jean Walker, gives you some background information here… in case you are too young to know about this, or in case you have just forgotten!**

U3A Online had its beginnings in Australia in 1998 when a group of U3A members in Canberra, during the Year of the Older person, instigated a project to set up an online service for isolated people who could not access a local face-to-face U3A.

This isolation grew to include those who were disabled, or confined to their homes as carers, or simply too far away from their nearest U3A.

From the beginning it was seen as a national project with the potential to involve international members. Because of its close proximity, New Zealand was always regarded as a partner.

The project was started by three prominent U3A members – Dorothy Braxton, Dr Rick Swindell from Griffith University, and Dr Jack McDonnell who was one of the founding fathers of U3A in Australia. Gradually, representatives from all other States and Territories also joined the group.

This was not an easy task as no funding was available at first and members were not as computer literate then as they are now. However, after a long process of consultation with, and submissions to, the Federal government, a grant of $120,000 was gratefully received.

With this grant, it was possible to set up a website and appoint a paid coordinator to work out of Canberra. Two U3A members volunteered to re-write courses they had delivered at their local U3A and these were to be the basis of a trial program.

Within a few weeks of opening in late February 1999, isolated people from across the country were expressing their desire to participate and within a month 150 had enrolled.

Although we are no longer funded by the federal government, and have to depend largely on membership fees, we have continued to provide learning for pleasure for seniors who cannot access a local U3A, or simply prefer to study at home.

We now have over 1000 members from many different countries and offer over 60 courses in a variety of subject areas.

Happy 20th Birthday to U3A Online!

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*“Without music, life would be a mistake”*

Fredrich Nietzsche

**Computer Swallowed Grandma**

The computer swallowed grandma,
Yes, honestly it's true.
She pressed "control" and "enter"
And disappeared from view.

It devoured her completely,
The thought just makes me squirm.
She must have caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin
and files of every kind:
I've even used the Internet,
but nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Jeeves
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found "online".

So, if inside your "Inbox",
My Grandma you should see,
Please "Copy", "Scan" and "Paste" her
And send her back to me!

*Author: unknown*

**COMPUTER UPDATE**

John Mitchell is our ever-alert Administrator, and has recently overseen a Security Update

for [www.u3aonline.org.au](http://www.u3aonline.org.au) It is John who ensures that our Website is working efficiently so that you can feel confident accessing our Courses!

Committee of Management in Melbourne, February 2019, for annual Face-to-Face Meeting

 **L-R (Back): Kerry Hamilton (Secretary); Kathy Slater (Committee Member from NZ); Jean Duff (Vice-President); Jean Walker (President); John Mitchell (Administrator);**

**L-R (Front): Colette Kinsella (Newsletter Editor); Bev Tapper (Course Co-ordinator and Course Developer)**

**Our Treasurer Heather Jones and Assistant Course Co-ordinator Lynette Millican were unable to attend this Face to Face meeting unfortunately.**

**Face to Face Meeting 2019**

Once a year the Committee of Management of U3A Online holds a face to face meeting – this year, as in the last three years, we met in Melbourne in February.

All our other meetings, including the AGM, are held online as our Committee members come from many parts of Australia and New Zealand – this year from WA, NSW, Queensland, Tasmania and Auckland.

There is no doubt that meeting face to face is useful in several ways. First, we get to know one another personally, rather than just seeing a photo and via emails. And we are also able to accomplish things that would be difficult and very time-consuming online.

Last year, besides the usual general business, we reviewed and updated our Governance document, and this year we looked at the “2020 Vision” document which was written by a sub-committee in 2012 to “consider, without restriction, all aspects of the U3A Online operation with a view to advancing the organisation”.

We had realised for some time that this needed updating, as much has changed in the years since then.

Consequently, we have decided to write a new Strategic Plan based on the vision in this earlier document. Once this is done, it will be available on the website.

However, the meeting was not all work and the Committee members who attended enjoyed dinner and fellowship on Monday evening and lunch on Tuesday before we all headed home.

***Jean Walker***

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A.A.A.D.D. – CLASSIC RETIREMENT SYNDROME

Recently I was diagnosed with A.A.A.D.D. – *Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder.*

This is how it manifests itself:

I decide to water my garden.

As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide that my car needs washing.

As I start towards the garage, I notice that there is mail on the porch table, which I brought up from the mailbox earlier.

I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car.

I lay my car keys down on the table, put the junk mail in the rubbish bin under the table, and notice that the bin is full.

So I decide to put the bills back on the table, and take out the rubbish first.

But then I think: if I’m going to be near the mailbox when I take out the garbage anyway, I may as well pay the bills first.

I take my cheque book off the table and see that there is only one cheque left. My extra cheques are in the desk in the study, so I go inside the house to the desk where I find the can of coke that I had been drinking.

I’m going to look for my cheques, but I need to push the coke aside so that I don’t accidentally knock it over. I notice that the coke is getting warm, so I decide that I should put it into the fridge to keep it cold.

As I head towards the kitchen with the coke, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye as they need to be watered.

I place the coke down on the work surface, and I discover the reading glasses I had been searching for all morning.

I decide I had better put the glasses back on my desk, but first I’m going to water the flowers.

I put the glasses back down on the work-top, fill a container with water and suddenly I spot the TV remote… someone had left it on the kitchen table.

I realise that tonight when we go to watch TV, I will be looking for the remote but I won’t remember that it is on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the lounge where it belongs, but first I’ll water the flowers.

I put some water in the flowers, but quite a lot of it spills onto the floor. So I set the remote back down on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill.

Then I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

**At the end of the day:**

* The car isn’t washed
* The bills aren’t paid
* There is a warm can of coke sitting on the work surface
* I can’t find the TV remote
* I can’t find my glasses
* I can’t remember what I did with the car keys

Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today I’m really baffled because I know that I have been busy all day long, and I’m really tired.

I realise this is a serious problem, and I’ll try to get some help for it, but first I’ll check my mail.

P.S. I’ve just remembered, I left the water running…

*Anon*

Our Course Co-ordinators and Developers - BEV TAPPER and HEATHER JONES – would like to challenge you to enrol in some course which might be a little bit outside of your usual interests – in other words, to stretch your mind and open up other avenues of study for you!

With this in mind, Bev will tempt you with a précis of one course in each edition of this Newsletter. Here is an interesting one for starters:

**Continents on the Move**

This is a most interesting course explaining the history of the movement of the earth’s landmass and the causes of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis.

It is a mixture of the natural and social sciences and the humanities, embracing many fields of study, one of these being Physical Geography. Physical Geography examines the patterns, processes, and the changing shapes of our planet Earth. It also studies the relationship between the physical and social environments in which we live today. This course is an introduction to the dynamic nature of the world in which we live.
The dynamic and restless nature of our planet is well illustrated through its display of energy and power through volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. The fact that our continents have moved across the surface of the earth and are still moving is a fascinating topic for study.

We are always looking for your comments about anything you feel is relevant: your own U3A Online experiences; news about your local U3A; your thoughts about the issues that affect us on a daily basis; personal histories or stories that you would like to share. Send in your manuscripts!!!

Contributions for our next Newsletter in June 2019 may be sent to:

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