



UNIVERSITY of the THIRD AGE

MORELAND



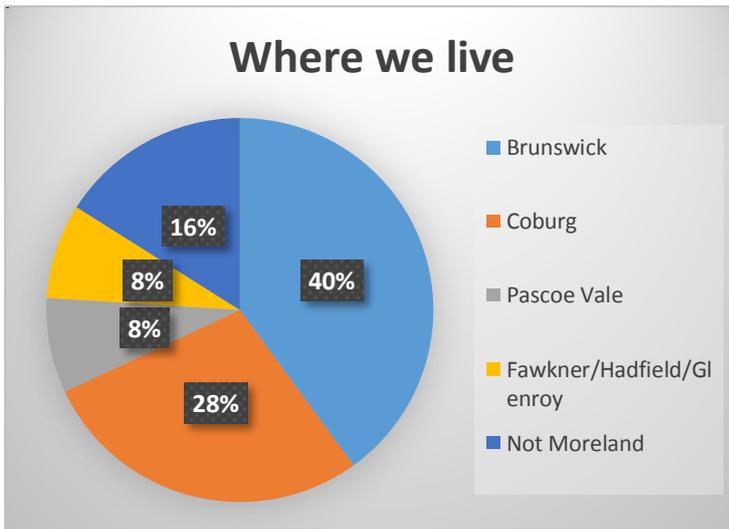
4th Annual Report for 2018

20 March 2019

President’s Activities Report

This is an Annual Report so I will follow the tradition of commenting on growth, listing the highlights of the year, downplaying the challenges, looking to the future, and thanking those responsible. However, we are a not-for-profit, volunteer organisation that belongs to all of you, our members and depends on all of you so I will try to give a full overview and will not downplay the challenges.

U3A Moreland: Who are we?



In 2018, 4 out of every 5 of our members are women.

39 members were born overseas in a wonderful variety of countries: Canada, Cyprus, England, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom and Vietnam.

As the graph shows almost 7 in every 10 of us live in Brunswick or

Coburg. Of the remaining 3, half live across the northern section of Moreland in Fawkner, Hadfield or Glenroy. Twenty-four members come from outside Moreland.



Half (99) of our members are between 61–70; 58 are between 71–80. There are almost as many members in their 80s (9) as there are in their 50s (10). Our age profile is skewed towards the younger age group because our group has been going for less than 4 years. In another 10 years there should be a more even spread across age ranges.

Membership Growth

Year	Member No. Dec	Growth over year	% Increase
2015	90	-	-
2016	130	40	44
2017	174	44	34
2018	195	21	12

As this iteration of U3A Moreland was only established in April 2015, our membership growth in the two and a half years to the end of 2016 was very rapid. In 2018 it dropped back to 12%.

Thanks to our volunteers, we deliver an amazing program of 30 activities at minimal cost to the seniors of Moreland. We want to reach as many seniors as possible. However, growing membership has to be balanced against the challenges it brings, the difficulty of booking venues and increased costs due to using more venues (see Challenges below).

Unless we can resolve these issues the current growth is probably as much as we can handle.

So what does the Committee do with its time?

Committee work falls into three broad categories:

1. responding to changing circumstances and emerging opportunities;
2. new initiatives; and
3. on-going work that underpins the delivery of all our programs.

Responding to changing circumstances and emerging opportunities

Funding

During 2015-2017 we were able to access grant money from the State Government (ACFE and PGSF grants) through U3A Network Victoria. It was used to buy equipment such as computers, hearing assistance equipment and Nordic poles. Those grants were no longer available in 2018 so we had to find other sources. We tried three sources:

ACFE 1 "Funding"

ACFE 1 "funding" was very different from previous ACFE grants. Under ACFE 1 money was "granted" for delivery of agreed products, a kind of fee for service model in which the hours put in by volunteers were not recompensed despite the professional standards required.

Under an ACFE (Adult Community and Further Education) funding agreement, in May we organized, in conjunction with U3A Network Education Committee, a state-wide workshop – "Healthy U3A Groups" – as in achieving healthy interactions and relationships in groups. It was a successful and educational day with 54 people attending from 25 U3As.

We gained from the content and we developed connection with other U3As in our area and across the state. Those of you who attended or helped on the day know there was pride in what Moreland, a small U3A, had achieved.

The Committee and in particular Gwen Rosengren, who did a huge amount of work developing the program, managing enrolments, arranging speakers, and liaising with U3A Network, put many, many hours of work into the project. However, by the time costs were taken out, the \$3000 “grant” was whittled down to a few hundred dollars, which was not a reasonable financial reward for the number of volunteer hours expended.

After that experience the Committee decided it shall not be seeking ACFE “grants” again unless there is a change in the nature of the “grants”.

Nelson Alexander Community Grants

Nelson Alexander has a community foundation which awards community grants that are virtually unconditional to incorporated community bodies that make reasonable requests. We successfully applied for \$500 to purchase 4 sets of Nordic walking poles.

Our experience with Nelson Alexander was very positive. It led to Gerri McDonald, the committee member responsible for funding, researching the grant conditions of the community foundations of other real estate agencies operating in Moreland. Unfortunately the search did not turn up any other grant possibilities.

If you can suggest other possibilities worth researching, please let us know.

Good Things Foundation: Be Connected and Try One Thing

Good Things Foundation (a British not-for-profit organization that aims to help people become comfortable in using computers and smart phones) was contracted by the Federal Government for a two-year period to help senior folk improve their digital skills.

We applied and received a total of \$3,500 through two grants. John Lopatecki co-ordinated both of these Good Things projects.

The first grant was to run a “Be Connected” program, giving people one-to-one computer instruction and assistance over many weeks. 38 people signed up for the “Be Connected” program which was held in the Computer Room at Brunswick Library.

The second grant was to run a one-day workshop to encourage people to try one new thing on line. It was held at Siteworks and 27 people attended an informative and very enjoyable day.

These start up grants were more flexible than most grants and as such were very useful. For example, it was permissible to buy a phone for use in instruction which could be used by the organisation at other times.

The Good Things funding was a real benefit. It is available again in 2019 however, as several of our volunteer instructors will not be available, it is unlikely we will be able to access it.

Submissions to Council

During the year the Committee made two written submissions and had one meeting with Council officers specifically on matters relating to our use of Council venues.

Siteworks consultation

As of 2018 Siteworks has become a significant venue for U3A Moreland activities and the location of our very small, but functional, office.

The strengths of Siteworks are that it is a friendly, flexible venue at reasonable rates with good public transport access and most importantly, it has times and spaces available. The downside of Siteworks is that it is located close to the southern boundary of Moreland and therefore is a 'foreign' territory to those who live north of Bell Street.

Siteworks belongs to Moreland City and is scheduled for redevelopment in the next few years. A community consultation was held midyear at which three potential plans were on display. Each of the plans included allocations for continuing community use which was encouraging, however all such areas were provisionally labelled "Brunswick Neighbourhood House" which was discouraging.

The architects and council officer at the consultation said not to take the "Brunswick Neighbourhood House" label as final. However no-one could explain how we get heard in the process, so we submitted a consultation form on behalf of U3A and several members submitted individual responses. This is an ongoing problem as when we first formed in 2015 we sought to lodge an expression of interest in the redevelopment of Siteworks. We were told we could not be involved because expressions of interest had closed in 2014!

Pick a Project

Pick a Project was a State funded initiative under which individuals or local organisations could form partnerships with other organisations, including local Councils, to undertake projects up to \$200,000 that would be completed within the year. The timeline for submissions was very short.

Several members of the Committee had talked in the past about the great potential of the grounds of Coburg Seniors Citizens Club (CSCC). On "Come and Try" days in Seniors Week many of us have enjoyed afternoon tea under the trees and, this year, the fun of Croquet with Donna, and Finska or Clop with Richard, on the freshly mown grass. So we tried a long shot - we put in a submission to the Director of Social Development and the Director of Infrastructure asking Moreland to partner with U3A Moreland to develop the land around CSCC as an outdoor exercise area for seniors, including seating and a barbeque area.

Because of the time constraints, if nothing else, we did not really expect success, but it was pleasing some weeks later receiving a phone call from Arden Joseph, Director of Community Development, who said that while our submission had not been successful, it had been noted. He explained that the Infrastructure Forward Plan includes a project to maintain the grass on the football oval which involves installing water tanks undergrounds in the surrounds of CSCC. It might therefore be possible for us to get involved in the landscaping of the area at that time.

Nothing was received in writing but if the Committee is at full strength in 2019 this would be worth following up.

Venues Consultation

Finding venues that are available, accessible and reasonably priced is an ongoing issue and has been for the last two years. That is why it is very pleasing that the Council has decided to undertake a review with the aim of increasing the transparency and equity of policies relating to the use of Council facilities. We have been contacted by a Council Officer to set up a meeting to hear our views on the issues under consideration.

For the past two years we have benefited from free use of CSCC for six hours a week, but even so payment to Council for venues is our largest expense, absorbing half of all membership fees.

New Initiatives

Forward Planning Program

An initiative of the Program Team, at the beginning of Term 1, was a three session program to give the Committee and any members who wished to attend, the opportunity to reflect on how things were going and what we wanted to achieve in the future.

The sessions were well attended with 3 or 4 members joining with the Committee at each session. Decisions included:

- commencement of a newsletter
- reactivation of the U3A Moreland Facebook page
- renting of a very small office
- developing an electronic filing system for Committee records.

Subsequently there have been three interesting and attractive editions of the Newsletter this year, edited by Deb Pace with Christine Filiamundi and Gwen Rosengren, and the Facebook page is being used, so you know those decision were implemented.

The Office

The office is a very small room at Siteworks, 33 Saxon St, Brunswick. It has not worked out quite as we had envisaged: staffed on a regular basis by volunteers answering the phone and undertaking regular administrative tasks, but that may yet come.

However, the office is a real improvement. Our files and equipment are all in one place. Several times a week there are meetings or volunteers undertaking tasks. Committee members no longer have to eat off their knees as their dining room and kitchen tables are once more their own!

Electronic Record Keeping

John Lopatecki has done a great job this year in getting us organized. While we still have two drawers of paper files, most filing is done on line. It is great to sit at home, get on to our storage drive and find the information we are looking for quickly. While there will always be

some need for print-outs, electronic filing is cutting down both on trees being pulped and the time it takes to manage records as material can be filed as it is completed.

Networking

As a young, growing U3A, the Committee is aware that there is much to be gained through networking: information, exchange of ideas, development of contacts, all of which can feed into our planning and programs. To that end we have given a member specific responsibility for networking. Gwen Rosengren is our very active networker.

During 2018 we benefited from involvement in these activities:

- Cota (Council of the Ageing) and the launch of their 'Agenda for Ageing in Victoria' to address a wide range of issues of concern to older people
- A SSIP Forum (Strengthening Seniors' Inclusion and Participation in local communities) run by DHHS (Department of Health & Human Services) to report on various government funded programs to strengthen seniors participation in their communities
- Meetings a couple of times a year, with other U3A's in our Northern Metropolitan Region, to exchange ideas
- The Course Coordinators' Conference in Shepparton for ideas on running our groups
- Ensuring a delegate at U3A Network Victoria quarterly meetings
- The VAAP (Victorian Active Ageing Partnership) Conference on promoting active ageing
- An ongoing association with ECCV (Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria) and through it the Moreland Seniors Hub Working Group, formerly known as "Seniors for Seniors"

Enrolment Day

A dedicated **Enrolment and Memberships Day** was held for the first time on Wednesday 12 December. It was a great success with an estimated 60 people enrolled through the period, with numerous membership renewals. There was a queue for most of the first hour, but sufficient laptops available to ensure only a brief wait.

By 16 December, **108 Members** were enrolled in a total of **278 Programs** for 2019, in only 5 days. Two popular programs are full – Dru Yoga and Urban Exploring.

The success of enrolment day gave the Program Team good information for booking venues and making changes if necessary. It also means we will be starting 2019 with money in the bank. A side benefit was the social atmosphere on the day.

The Challenges for 2019

The challenges for the coming year are:

- funding;

- the balance between membership growth, program availability and the cost of venues;
- providing activities across Moreland.

Funding

Federal and State government sources of funding received in the past four years have either closed or we cannot meet the new requirements of the grants.

Other than membership fees, our only other sources of funds to cover our running cost will be the \$2,000 membership grant from Moreland City Council.

If we have an opportunity to start up additional activities that require equipment, we may be able to apply to Nelson Alexander Foundation again, but we cannot apply to them for operational costs.

Balancing Membership Growth, Program Availability and the Cost of Venues

Membership growth is one way to increase revenue and we know how good U3A is at stimulating us socially, physically and mentally so we want to involve many more seniors from across Moreland. However membership growth does present some difficulties.

Already we are at a stage where some of our programs are full so if we attract new members we need to open up new programs, or duplicate existing programs so those members can get fully involved. However if the new courses require venues there are several linked issues.

For cost reasons we generally use Council venues and Moreland's Council venues are already very heavily booked. Times that are available are often late in the day at times not suited to older people using public transport, particularly in winter.

Community rates for Council venues are around \$15 per hour so effectively one membership fee is the equivalent of only 3 hours venue hire. One solution is to increase our membership charge but this may exclude those on the lowest incomes who are already excluded from many activities because of cost. Our membership is 80% female and it is now recognised that many women of our generations, even if they had full working lives, have significantly less income in their retirement years.

All U3As in Victoria, even long-established ones that offer 100 or more course, have membership fees of \$60 or less to ensure access for virtually all seniors.

If the Council's venues review gives us a significant increase in rent-free hours it will help overcome the problem.

Providing Activities across Moreland

The pie chart "Where We Live" shows clearly that our membership is heavily concentrated south of Bell St. This is not what we are aiming for. We did try an afternoon tea at Glenroy Senior Citizens Club mid-year but were disappointed at the turnout. Many from south of Bell St thought it was too far to travel.

We do have a few ideas but whether we are able to try them will depend on our financial position in the coming year.

And a big thanks to:

Moreland City Council

This year MCC doubled the membership grant available to Moreland based community groups with more than the 60 members from \$1000 to \$2000. This is a great grant as it covers the everyday expenses of running a group such as catering, postage, printing and telephone costs.

As mentioned above, we also receive 6 hours of free use of CSCC, which amounts to an annual saving of over \$3,000. We could not function as we do without that assistance.

Nelson Alexander Foundation

As discussed above, the Foundation gave us \$500 to purchase Nordic walking poles. We now have 8 sets of poles of various lengths, which means people of all heights can try this excellent free fitness activity before purchasing poles their own.

Bunnings Brunswick

In the second half of the year a gardening group was established with the aim of reactivating the community garden at Siteworks, no small task as the garden had been unattended for some years. Pamela Ashcroft, the leader of the group approached Bunnings Brunswick for assistance. Bunnings came through with donations of goods such as worm farm mats, tools, seedlings, mulch and also with expertise. Their Community Education Officer attended on several occasions giving advice to reactivate the worm farm and on other relevant matters.

Our Members

We thank you all for being members. Without you U3A would not exist. On any day you join in a U3A activity, talk to someone you don't know, enjoy the company of other members and accept people's different ways, you are contributing to our organization and the community. Acceptance, joy and laughter, in the company of others revitalizes us. That is what members give to one another

Our Volunteers

Volunteer! Volunteer! Volunteer!

The same old chestnut at every AGM. But here is something it is easy to overlook: at least 25% of members already volunteer!

That 25% is made up of the facilitators who lead programs, those who help in Membership, Enrolments and our Website; in the Programs and Venues, Social, Publicity and Funding Teams; the folk who staff information tables or deliver postcards to libraries; those who help set up events or do the cleaning up at functions; the person who mowed the lawns for "Come and Try". All the people who see something that needs to be done and do it.

Two volunteers most of you will recognize even if you don't know their names are Rita Thorpe, Membership and Badges; and Simon Ransome, Enrolments. You will have seen them since the beginning missing out on social events because they are sitting at computers helping members to join or enroll. Both have been doing these tasks at least weekly, and at peak times, daily from our beginning 4 years ago. In 2018 they have assistance from Fran Mackieson and Cris Gouletsas, but their consistence and reliability over four years is outstanding.

I can't name all, but you know who you are. Thank you, your efforts are appreciated.

And special thanks to two people who are stepping down

A healthy organization is one in which there is change but it is still sad to see folk go from roles they have done so well even when they are staying on as members.

Melinda Venticich is known to most members. She has been on the Committee since the beginning. She was our first Secretary and along with Jan Angus was our original programs and venues organizer, roles she continues to hold.

I am sure that all on the original and subsequent committees would agree that Melinda will be irreplaceable. She is very competent but she is more than that, she brings the best out in people and helps people to rediscover their own confidence, a huge asset in finding new Facilitators.

She has also done an amazing job over the four years finding venues at reasonable cost when there were none to be had.

Melinda will continue to lead the Programs Team, but she will be sorely missed from the Committee. Thank you Melinda

June Fraser has been catering co-ordinator for three years. As you all know she has turned out wonderful spreads at minimal cost due to forward planning, and cooking much of the food herself. June's shoes will be hard to fill but it is good that from now on she will be able to join in on social occasions. Thank you June.

Financial Reports 31 December 2018

Income and Expenditure Statement for Period 1st. January 2018 to 31st. December 2018

INCOME	2018 \$	2017 \$
Membership Subscriptions	8,745	6,627
Donations	-	38
Day Out Receipts	423	-
U3A Network Distr. PGSF	-	1,855
U3A Network ACFE		3,000
Moreland City Council Grant	2,000	1,000
Good Things Foundation – Be-connected Grant	2,000	-
Good Things Foundation – Try 1 Thing Grant	1,500	-
Nelson Alexander Community Grant	500	-
TOTAL INCOME	15,168	12,520
EXPENDITURE		
Paypal Fees	117	
Venue Hire	4227	2096
Social / Activities	418	189
Lanyards/Badges & Pouches	663	482
U3A Capitation Levy	278	230
U3A Hosting & Domain Name (2 Yr)	-	154
U3A Network Conference	-	200
UMAS Subs	-	144
Postage & PO Box	357	223
Phone/Internet	466	150
Printing	383	350
Software MYOB (discontinued 2018)	333	355
Office Requisites & Stationery	304	29
Booking Fees/Lodgement		56
Catering	1654	-
General Requisites	212	-
Membership Expenses	222	-
Programs & Activities	356	-
Workshops & Training	841	
Equipment Purchases	1692	
Depreciation on Equipment (as per schedule)	---	922
Assets Eligible for deduction		327
Total Expenditure	12,523	5,907
Net Surplus	2,645	6,613

U3A Moreland Balance Sheet

For Period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018

Current Assets	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Cash at Bendigo Bank as per Statement	17,810	15,076
Less Reversals	181	-
Petty Cash	-	100
Total	17,629	15,176
Non Current Assets		
Moreland City Council Venue Hire Bond	250	250
Computer Laptop 1	111	178
Hearing Loop	442	707
Sony Projector	190	304
Nordic Walking Poles	234	374
Computer Laptop 2	328	524
Huawei Smart Phone	337	--
HP Desktop Computer	608	--
Nordic Poles 4x sets	406	--
Total	2,906	2,337
Total Assets	20,535	17,513
Liabilities	---	---
Adjusted Retained Earnings	18,984	10,898
Current Year Earnings	2,645	6,613
Total Equity	21,629	17,511
Difference due to rounding		2

Depreciation Schedule

Asset	Purchase Date	Opening WDV \$	Depreciation DMV %	Depreciation \$	Closing WDV \$
Laptop 1	15/8/2105	178	37.5 Note 1	67	111
Hearing Loop	1/12/2016	707	37.5 Note 1	265	442
Sony Projector	25/82016	304	37.5 Note 1	114	190
Nordic Walking Poles	6/9/2017	374	37.5 Note 1	140	234
Laptop 2	3/10/2017	524	37.5 Note 1	196	328
Huawei Mobile Phone	24/7/2018	415	18.75 Note 2	78	337
HP Desktop Computer	26/9/2018	748	18.75 Note 2	140	608
Nordic poles x 4	16/10/2018	500	18.75 Note 2	94	406

Note 1: This percentage is used pursuant to pages 22 & 23 of the ATO Guide to Depreciating Assets, which states that the Diminishing Value Method (DVM) at the rate of 37.5% can be used when asset is held for the full year.

Note 2 The DVM used pursuant to ATO Guide page 23 which states that low value assets (costing under \$1000 purchased during the accounting year be Depreciated at 18.75%, which recognizes that they have not been held for the full year.

Inventory as at 31 December 2018

DATE	ASSET	\$
13/8/2015	Computer – Laptop 1	111
15/10/2015	U3A Banner	299
21/4/2016	2 Mahjong Racks	47
21/4/2016	2 Mahjong Tables	60
21/4/2016	2 Mahjong Sets	85
25/8/2016	Sony Projector	190
25/8/2016	Projector Screen	84
25/8/2016	Speaker & Microphone	129
1/12/2016	Hearing Loop	442
6/9/2017	Nordic Walking Poles	234
3/10/2017	Computer – Laptop 2	328
24/7/2018	Mobile Phone – Huawei 2i 64GB Smart/P	337
26/9/2018	Desktop Computer – HP 24-F0035A 24”	608
26/9/2018	Mouse for Desktop & Laptops	19
16/10/2018	Nordic Walking Poles 4 sets	406

Front Cover: The Brain Tree

Our Logo is a sturdy tree. The gnarled trunk represents the wisdom of age and experience. The multi-coloured leaves of the brain-shaped canopy suggests the stimulating and bright ideas that come with being involved with U3A.

The tree is set above three words that sum up U3A Moreland: Live, Learn, Enjoy.

It was designed by Aurielle Lee, one of the 2015 Founding Committee members