



## Whittlesea U3A News Sheet

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News Editor [kathylizio@bigpond.com](mailto:kathylizio@bigpond.com)

TERM 1 Commences on 14th April -26th June 2020

### IMPACT OF COVID-19 VIRUS ON WHITTLESEA U3A MEMBERS

It is understood that the need to physical distance and self-isolate will be with us for some time. The virus is particularly contagious and if its spread is not slowed it will put unimaginable stress on our health system. At this time there is no know ‘fix to the problem’ In the meantime, to governments in Australia have implemented measures to try and minimise the percentage of the populations that are sick at the same time. The measures, such as self-isolating, social distancing, restricting travel, and closing of meeting venues and cafes are having an impact on our way of life. Our members and seniors in the community generally are feeling the effects in a number of different ways. U3As in the U3A Network in Victoria have in suspended classes and activities which means face to face contact has ceased for the time being. The issue now is how can members stay connected during this time. The concern of course is if seniors are isolating themselves which we are required to do it has the potential to increase the risk of social isolation and loneliness. Our organisation is recognised as a “safety net” for many people to prevent isolation and loneliness. The Department of Health and Human Services Seniors, Ageing and Carers Health and Wellbeing section is supporting U3A to offer classes online using a technology platform called zoom. The Tutors of Creative Writing, E Publishing, Tell Your Story, Laptop Windows, African Violet Propagation classes are now continuing as online access from home classes. from home.

Over the next two weeks Tutors who lead the iPad, Computer Classes, some Exercise Classes, Photography, Family History will be contacting their class members to invite them to participate in their classes by accessing from home. We fully understand that not all members have the skills to use devices to access the internet to participate in classes from home. To provide those members with the opportunity to maintain contact with fellow class members we are implementing “wellbeing connector” teams to maintain contact with members by phone.

In consultation with Tutors we are providing Tutors with the support to maintain contact by phone through a “phone buddy” during the time you would normally attend classes

Please email [coordinator@whittleseau3a.org.au](mailto:coordinator@whittleseau3a.org.au) or call the office 94641339 to arrange a “Phone Buddy”

### COMMUNICATION

Please keep in contact with your Whittlesea U3A Class members by phone, social media and email to have a friendly chat share your interests and knowledge. To assist you maintain contact, each Sunday a short weekly E-chat, newsy bulletin will be issued to keep in contact and inform you about local resources that will be emailed to you. An SMS will also be sent to your phone with any information messages that may be of importance. Please check your email on a Monday. Remember emails come every day posted mail is only delivered three time a week. A challenge, of course, is the 20% of Members who are not currently e-connected. The telephone buddy system is being developed to keep in touch with those members who are not e-connected.

### LATEST COVID-19 Information

We urge all members to use the government websites for the latest information about the virus and for explanations of the latest directives: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>



## ART FOR FUN PUBLIC ART PROJECT

When asked if we would be interested in participating in a Public Art Project called

Collectively Caring for the Environment, the answer of course was... Yes! Sandy Caldwell, the Cultural Collection

Coordinator City of Whittlesea, outlined what this would involve. Each member of the group would make a pledge as to how he/she could help the environment and then make a painting to illustrate this pledge. The City of Whittlesea would supply some equipment towards this venture.

The paintings would be collected by Sandy, digitally copied, enlarged and/or reduced and transferred to metal signs which would be erected around the area in which the artists lived. Some would be transferred on to the pavement where walkers would see them. The original painting would later be returned to the artist.

The City of Whittlesea is planning an exhibition of all of the paintings which will be held at the council 22<sup>nd</sup> April to 21<sup>st</sup> May. We are all looking forward to this project as caring for the environment is essential for everyone to consider in this time of climate change.

Beryl Clarke Tutor – Tutor Art for Fun.

## HELEN CAMPBELL – PHOTO ENHANCEMENT CLASSES:

Written by Ron Gorely.

After over fifteen years teaching this subject, Helen has decided to retire from her three classes held each week. I and some of the other students participated for the entire period, not because we were slow learners, but because Helen always came up with new and interesting ideas. Remarkably, she was self-taught and obviously did an enormous amount of research and photo copying to maintain our enthusiasm. On behalf of all her former pupils, I would like to offer our sincere thanks for the many happy hours of friendship and learning she gave us. I guess this is what being a member of the U3A is all about.



## THE 'TRAM' AT LINKS COMMUNITY GARDEN (LALOR)

The 'Tram' at Links Community Garden (Lalor) has arrived at 405 Station St, Lalor VIC 3075, <https://www.facebook.com/linkscommunitygarden/>

It was a warm Summers day. The atmosphere was joyous. Adults talked to each other and children played amongst the flowers. The event started with community members and residents delighted as the President of Whittlesea U3A, Mr. Glen Wall and Founder of Links Community Garden (Lalor), Mr.

Matthew Odgers and his family greeted them. Joining were WU3A Treasurer, Mr. Peter Rodaughan, Whittlesea Councilor Ms. Mary Lalios and Lalor Librarians. Participants at the event were pleased to see these inspirational persons supporting the event. Leading representatives of many community organisations were also present, as were long-standing volunteers. All

involved, discussed the opportunities and benefits the 'Tram' would deliver to the community. L.C.G members contributed to making the day a success. Many assisting with catering and attending to children's needs.

"This group establishes a **community garden**/park in Lalor for the purpose of fostering community **connections** through the use of this space," says Mr. Odgers. The addition of the 'Tram,' has made the space even more welcoming



## IMPORTANT NOTES

This link is to a great info video put out by New Zealand's Prime Minister

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABqSew84\\_EI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABqSew84_EI)

### MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

As treasurer of Whittlesea U3A, I will continue the use of cheques for the purposes of refunding members. Payment via cheque will continue, until further notice.

The option of transferring monies electronically, is also available. If choosing this option, Whittlesea U3A, will require the following from member requesting refund:

Account Name

BSB number

Account number

Please be advised that your account details will be securely managed, as per Whittlesea U3A privacy policy.

Your BSB and Account numbers, will only allow Whittlesea U3A access to deposit money into your chosen account. This information does **not** allow Whittlesea U3A to withdraw money.

#### Advantages of Electronic Funds Transfer [EFT] are: -

Transaction time is faster. The money is in your account within hours, [minutes if the banking network has no delays], money can also be transferred on weekends and public holidays.

You don't have to queue in a bank to deposit a cheque.

You don't have to wait 2 – 3 working days for the cheque to clear.

If further information is required, please do not hesitate to contact me :

#### **Whittlesea U3A Inc.**

PO Box 1157

Lalor, Vic. 3075

Phone: 0438 050 824

Email:- [treasurer@whittleseau3a.org.au](mailto:treasurer@whittleseau3a.org.au)

## PARTICIPATE IN THE SOCIAL SENIORS PROGRAM



While you are home you can participate in the Social Seniors program which will provide you with an opportunity to extend your digital skills, broaden your social networks, share your stories creatively, and connect with people on social media.

Social Seniors is a series delivered over six weeks to introduce you to a range of simple tools that you can use to produce short films on your mobile device and share stories with people with similar interests.

As well as sharing 'digital stories' and discovering social opportunities, this program will help you address any concerns you may have around online privacy, safety and security.

**You do not need to have extensive online experience – just a willingness to learn!**

If you are interested contact [president@whittleseau3a.org.au](mailto:president@whittleseau3a.org.au) or [kathylizio@bigpond.com](mailto:kathylizio@bigpond.com)

### The Whittlesea U3A Writers Group Wednesday 18th March 2020

