

PETER LALOR CAMPUS OFFICE AND CLASS-ROOMS ARE NOW OPENED!

Many classes are starting up at Peter Lalor. If you have a class at the Peter Lalor Campus, be advised that toilets (until sometime in May) are only available through the Men's Shed. Parking is still only available on the street.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – if you are sending money by mail – whether it is a cheque or money order please send it to P.O. Box 1157 Lalor.
This is the only way we will receive any mailed payment.

NEW CLASSES AVAILABLE:

FAMILY HISTORY will be starting on Wednesday 21st April. This 2 hour class will be held at Peter Lalor Campus and the leader is Peter Cleary. Please notify the office if you are interested in joining this class.

INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY

This will be starting on Monday May 3rd. The class will be held monthly at Peter Lalor Campus from 10.00 to 12.00 and the leader is Peter Cleary. Please notify the office if you are interested in joining this class.

Course Code: **211MON27**
Description: Computer, Android, Social Media Support
Frequency: Wkly at Peter Lalor College starting 3rd May
Tutor / Leader: Shoukry Sidrak
Requirements: Bring your own Laptop, Android Phone or Tablet

Course Code: 215FRI10
Description: Computer Very Basic - Total Beginners
Frequency: Wkly at Thomastown Library Starting 7th May
Tutor / Leader: Afrodit Toso



Whittlesea U3A News Sheet May Edition 2021

TERM 2 Commences on 19th April –25th June 2021

Message from President....

Whittlesea U3A has successfully commenced Term 2 with most classes offered either “face to face”, online (ZOOM) or a mix of both in classroom and online as well as some outdoors.



I would like to acknowledge the work that Afrodit Toso (Program Coordinator), Peter Rodaughan (Venue Coordinator), Peter Cleary (Zoom IT Coordinator) and Natalie Lim (Communications) have completed in the background to set up our classes and activities program for term 2. This work has been completed as “social distancing” restrictions have limited numbers permitted in venues.

At the last Whittlesea U3A Committee Meeting Natalie Lim was added to the Committee and has agreed to be responsible for Communications coordination. I thank Natalie for accepting the position and producing the first weekly “WOTZON”.

“WOTZON” was emailed to members on the 18th April providing details of changes in classes. “WOTZON” will be emailed each week to advise of time any changes to classes and activities for the following week. It will also promote activities of general interest schedule for the week. The redevelopment of the Peter Lalor College site project has progressed to the completion of two overlay occupancy concepts. Both concepts include long term dedicated “fit for use” facilities for both Whittlesea U3A and Men's Shed on the site. The project is on schedule.

All indicators are showing Australia has entered the “Post COVID’ era: Most of the country has had no or very small incidences of new COVID cases, a vaccination program has commenced (all be it with some issues), restrictions on meeting “face to face” are being relaxed and state borders are open I would be pleased to hear from you any thoughts you have regarding new classes and activities.



WHITTLESEA U3A ASSIST RESIDENTS AT ESTIA HEALTH SOUTH MORANG MASTER TECHNOLOGY TO ENJOY INTERESTS

Whittlesea U3A has been actively working with Radmila Taneska and Kingsley Doigie Estia Health South Morang Client Services Team to design and deliver a weekly activity that extends residents' knowledge of technology. The Whittlesea U3A leaders of the program, Janice Boswell and Peter Cleary are supported by Jan Marshall and Faye Gray. They have connected with the participants and have identified their interests working patiently one on one to assist them to use technology and enable them to enjoy their individual interests, share those interests and share their stories.

The program has been running for 10 weeks and has 6 regular participants with 3 others dropping in to see if the activity was interesting to them.

Janice and Peter have commented that on the first morning *"The residents attending the activity came in with some apprehension – "Why are we here?" and looked for direction as to where to sit. Now they confidently enter the room choose their own seat with a smile on their face."*

Examples of the positive benefits participants have experienced include:

Jenny was quite serious when she first joined the activity but now comes in each week with a smile ready to play either Solitaire or Word Search

Keith does not usually get up before 11am but on the activity day he is up and ready to join in at 10am and is the 1st one looking for his morning tea.

Janice and Peter have commented that they usually have to tell the participants when to start packing up as they certainly aren't in a hurry to finish.

The technology used and issues identified include:

Most are using iPad but are also being given the opportunity to try Samsung (android) devices.

Those with their own devices - have the following challenges which Janice and Peter, with the support of Kingsley Doigie, are working through;

- Not much storage remaining as their device tends to be full of old data and photos.
- A number have "hand me down" devices from family and the participant has lost the password.

The "Apps" that are proving to be the favourites are:

- Spotify especially for David who is looking at buying his own device.
- Word Search – favourite with most
- Mah-jong – for one who DOESN'T play games but thinks it will be a favourite for others once they start looking at it.

Some have special requests on what they really want to do including:

- Facetime or video calls to family and friends, especially interstate.
- Access emails on their own devices. The activity includes practise in sending and receiving emails.
- A participant has been shown how to move files (family history) on their computer to a USB so it can be shared with his son.

Janice and Peter commented that they were now looking for games that do not need to use the internet and do not have too many ads. Ads are a distraction and interfere with the enjoyment of the participant.

The program has successfully engaged the participants and will be ongoing.

Whittlesea U3A thanks Estia Health South Morang for supporting this program as it has been a rewarding experience for the activity leaders and the resident participants.

