

President's Report U3A Myrtleford and District Inc.

AGM 17 October 2019

Dear members

It is with great pride that I present my second report as the President of U3A Myrtleford and District Inc.

We are very proud of our achievements and for maintaining our membership. We have 129 full members and 8 associate members. For this I thank you, all of the members. I would also like to urge people to join in because remember in being active mentally, physically and socially is what keeps us going.

Over 2019, our U3A has offered 35 different courses/activities and social events. Some of these courses have been ongoing throughout the year, whilst others were short courses and others again were "one off" events.

New courses offered this year include bridge, tai chi, chair yoga, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, embroidery, card making, weaving, Alexander Technique and the Healthy and Wise program.

Courses that have continued from last year include Shakespeare, exploring Mount Buffalo, belly dancing, gardening, cooking, local history, lifeball, cryptic crosswords, Italian and German languages, Finska, smart phones and indoor games. In addition, we have also enjoyed social events such as Christmas in July, monthly pasta nights, monthly coffee afternoons with a speaker, a tour of the Old Beechworth Gaol and a special dinner at Club Savoy where Club Savoy donated \$500 to our U3A. A gardening bus trip is planned for November as is bee keeping and making Christmas wreaths. We have a special guest artist from Germany conducting a workshop this Saturday – Art on Glass.

To present a program like we have, involves a lot of people, and all of these people are volunteers. I would like to thank all the tutors who helped to make 2019 such a successful year for us. Myrtleford P-12 College has been very generous by allowing us to use their cooking and woodwork facilities and Alpine Shire Council for the use of the Myrtleford Senior Citizens Centre. Myrtleford RSL and the Myrtleford Lawn Tennis Club have made available their rooms for some of our activities. We thank you all.

Special thanks also goes to the office of Jaclyn Symes, MLC for Northern Victoria, for printing our monthly newsletter. We really appreciate this support and assistance.

To thank all of the people who have made this year such a success, our U3A will invite them to a dinner, which we will cater for.

We are already planning to run new and existing courses for next year. Look out for our calendar of courses which we hope to have ready before the year ends. I am sure many of you will be happy to hear that the U3A website, that is provided to us free of charge from U3A Network in Melbourne, is being revised and should be a lot easier for you to enrol in and clearer to read. The committee is looking forward to this too.

This year we have started a new project; writing the history of the Italian migration to Myrtleford and district.

This will be in the form of a book which will be launched at La Fiera next May and we hope it will be a success for the community of Myrtleford and for our U3A. A team of interviewers, writers, editors and a book designer are hard at work to get this project done. Special thanks goes to all the participating families for sharing their stories.

I would like to thank Judy Brewer and the late Tim Fischer for their support and to extend my personal sympathy and that of the committee and membership of the U3A to the family on the passing of Tim.

In conclusion, I am very proud of my committee. I thank them for their hard work and dedication in developing our U3A. During the year, Jamie Kronborg started a new career and so had to resign as Vice President and committee member and similarly Denise Kennedy also resigned from the committee during the year for personal reasons. We thank both Jamie and Denise for their enthusiasm and work in helping to establish the U3A. They were both founding members of this committee.

I would also like to thank all the members; without you nothing would happen. We do hope this organisation will continue for years to come and to provide to all of our members courses, activities and social events that you enjoy.

Nino Mautone

(President, U3A Myrtleford and District Inc.)