

## U3A NETWORK VICTORIA NEWS SHEET FEBRUARY 2012

**U3A Network Victoria** is using a new format for our written communications to Member U3As this year – this monthly news sheet.

Important information, announcements and dates will be the main focus of our news sheet. We will endeavour to keep it to a single page, but this may not always be possible.

And the news sheet will come out monthly, emailed to all those U3As and office bearers who received copies of the quarterly hardcopy newsletter. For any U3As with email problems, hardcopies will be posted. We encourage all U3As to forward the Network news sheet to all of their own members on their electronic distribution lists.

Reasons for our change from quarterly hardcopy newsletters to monthly electronic news sheets include :

- More timely information available to all U3As, office bearers and many general members
- Reduced workload, so our Network volunteers can put their efforts into other services for member U3As
- Reduced costs to help avoid capitation fee increases

Network encourages all Member U3As to continue to exchange their own newsletters with other U3As in their areas and with the Network Office.

**Program Growth Support Grants** – the State Government tells Network that grant funds applied for in October will be transferred into Network's bank account late January/early February. Network will immediately begin transferring funds to those applying U3As whose bank account details are known to us. A hardcopy confirmation of the transfer will be sent to each U3A. Those U3As whose applications were reduced will receive separate notification.

**Network AGM** – Network's annual general meeting will be held Wednesday, 21 March starting at 10:30, and followed by a general Council meeting and lunch. Papers will be sent out to delegates to the Council in mid-February.

**Volunteers/Office Bearers** – the Network Executive has big plans for 2012, but to carry these out, we need to fill some vacancies among office bearers and other positions. Participation with Network offers a mentally stimulating and achievement-oriented environment. We are looking for :

- Executive Committee Assistant Secretary
- Executive Committee Assistant Treasurer
- Executive Committee member
- Website Steering Committee members
- Education Committee members
- Marketing & Publicity members

Anyone interested in working with Network can contact the Network Office for Executive Committee nomination forms or for information about other roles. Or – talk to one of our current office bearers.

**Brand Campaign** – as requested by our Council delegates and attendees at the Presidents Briefing, Network is organising a brand campaign in 2012 to help define the "U3A brand" and provide a toolkit to Member U3As to use in publicising our movement to the public, our peers, and our own members. The Marketing and Publicity committee will drive this campaign.

**Regional Development Program** – Network's brand campaign and our planned education program will be delivered to Member U3As via our regional groupings. Plans are currently under way to use regional meetings later this year to offer a series of presentations.

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U3A Network Victoria is an incorporated association whose members are some 98 U3As in Victoria with over 25,500 individual members.

All of these U3As are autonomous associations in their own right, and because of mutual interests have joined the network voluntarily.

U3A Network Victoria Council meets 4 times a year where delegates from individual U3As can hear news about what has been happening around the state and have a say on what they would like to see happen.

Having "University" in the title is sometimes seen as a difficulty or a distraction, but it is difficult to see a way of overcoming this and still remain a part of the worldwide movement. It probably does put some people off initially, but once they become involved they soon learn that it is not something to be feared.

### Calendar 2012

- **Wed Mar 21st 10.30am**  
**U3A Network Victoria Council Meeting**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Multicultural Hub** Level 1, Blue Room  
 506 Elizabeth Street Melbourne

DATE	REGIONAL MEETING	HOST U3A
14-Feb	North Metro	Darebin
17-Feb	Outer Eastern	Yarra Ranges (Lilydale)
27-Feb	West Metro	Western Region (Footscray)
8-Mar	South Gippsland	Phillip Island
28-Mar	Goulburn North East	Benalla

- **ACFE Grants**

Application forms for ACFE Grants will be mailed out on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Feb and due back to the office before the 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2012.

- **AGM**

The first Council meeting for the year is the Annual General Meeting. Decisions will be made here that could have implications for all U3As in Victoria so you should try to ensure that you are represented at this meeting. We are also seeking people to assist in Network activities, for example we need people for the Marketing and Publicity Committee.

- **REGIONS**

U3A Network is supporting the development of regions as a way of helping individual U3As to learn about what other U3As are doing, and maybe being able to expand their own offerings. Regions are not part of a hierarchical governance system, nor is Network a governing body. Each U3A is an autonomous organisation and Network, Council, and Regions exist to help individual U3As in meeting their own objectives. We need to consider just what we want regions to do and how they fit into our network.

- **AWARD WINNING PRESIDENT!**

Elsie Mutton, U3A Network President, has been awarded the United Nations. National Volunteer Award 2011: Long term Commitment to Community Service.

- **AAN**

The **Active Ageing Network** offers information about healthy activity, and they offer grants to encourage this, have a look at [www.activeageingnetwork.org.au](http://www.activeageingnetwork.org.au)

- **SENIORS ONLINE**

This site has lots of government information and is also worth checking [www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au](http://www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au)

- **ASPIRIN**

Researchers involved in the ASPREE study are providing U3A groups the opportunity to hear a presentation that will tell of the risks and benefits of taking aspirin daily. This 1 hour presentation is a free event and interested U3A groups can contact Vanessa Bilog on (03) 9903-0058 for further details.