

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Since 1985, Australia's first University of the Third Age and a member of the Australian and global U3A Network.

In the spirit of reconciliation, U3A Melbourne City wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land upon which we teach and learn, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. We recognise the millennia of their practices of shared knowledge, traditions and culture with particular respect for the wisdom of their elders, as we continue this tradition of sharing our experiences and knowledge within our community. We acknowledge the past and present Wurundjeri elders and extend that respect to all aboriginal and Torres Strait islander peoples today.

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WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?

U3A Melbourne City is the preeminent community for lifelong learning and social and physical activities for seniors in inner Melbourne

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past year has seen us welcome an exceptional number of new members who have clearly heard the word – U3A Melbourne City is a great place to be. On 30th September we had 1572 members of whom 459 have joined this year. As a result, we are blessed with a total of 108 tutors, 28 of whom are new and adding to the breadth and diversity of what we offer our members. This year's courses totalled 161 compared to 123 last year. A truly fabulous achievement.

New courses this year have included beginners' classes in four languages including Arabic, Gaelic and Ancient Greek, and we have been able to reintroduce a choir – City Singers.

The demand for Let's Do groups continues to distinguish us from other U3As. Our walking and cycling groups are especially popular and require constant work by leaders to provide sufficient places to meet demand. We have a total of 24 Let's Do groups on offer including Pickleball, a new movies option on Sunday and Weekend Walks.

Replacing Forums, Vice-President Sharon Carter has introduced Events across 25 topics including walking, history, lunches and Marvellous Melbourne. These are generally one off and provide an opportunity for new members to get immediately involved.

In 2023 the Committee of Management adopted a strategic plan for the next three years, 2024 -2026, anchored around four objectives to:

1. drive membership in a financially sustainable manner.
2. build a strong brand identity.
3. recruit and retain skilled tutors, Let's Do leaders and administrators.
4. build community collaborations.

We are well on the way to achieving all of these objectives.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the exceptional work of the Committee of Management. All twelve members work hard collectively and with their respective group to enable us to provide quality services to members and to grow and develop.

Three long serving members, Marilyn Harris, Ann Johns and Kai Simpson, are stepping down this year. Each has provided exceptional service and will be missed, and we are most grateful for their many hours of volunteering.

Russell Huntington, President

OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

U3A Melbourne City was the very first U3A in Australia.

It is a self-funded, not-for-profit organisation, operating through the volunteer body of tutors and Let's Do convenors, communications, administrative and office workers, course and event coordinators, hospitality helpers and the Committee of Management.

Everyone involved in the organisation is a volunteer, and our sincere thanks and appreciation is expressed to the many volunteers, for without them there would be no U3AMC!

Over the past year 174 members (over 10% of the membership) have volunteered in a wide range of roles giving more than 22,000 volunteer hours to provide the wonderful offering that is U3A Melbourne City.

TUTORS

Sincere thanks and appreciation are expressed to all our 2024 tutors and Let's Do convenors, who make a generous and valuable contribution to the success of U3A Melbourne City.

In 2024 we offered 161 courses made up of 84 full year and semester courses and 77 short courses via face-to-face and online modes. This is an increase of around 60 courses since last year. There were 24 Let's Do activities. We hope to add to them in 2025 to cater for our increased membership.

Farewell and thanks to retiring tutors Gwen Nyman, Jo Bennett, Glen Harvey, Liz Mullin, Lynette Kalms, and Mara Miller. They have been fantastic contributors to our U3A over the many years, and we offer them our very best wishes!

(If your name has been omitted, we apologise sincerely. Please know that your contribution is very much valued and appreciated. This list is accurate at the date of printing.)

Judi Appleby	Circle Dancing - Beginning and Continuing	Lynne Broughton	Churches and Cathedrals of Medieval Germany
Julie Badger	Good Girls, Bad Girls, Women in History; Psychology basics: our brains, our behaviour	John Carr	Many short courses & lectures
Jill Baird	The State of the World	Sharon Carter	Live Like a Local in Paris; Marvellous Melbourne - 100 years of art history.
Elaine Batchelder	French Matters - Intermediate and Advanced	Mirna Cicioni	Italiano - parlare e scrivere - Corso medio
Claude Baxter	Indigenous Civilisation (and Its Betrayal)	Barbara Charge	Co-tutor Movies of Merit
Jo Bennett	French - Guided French Conversation Level 3 & 4	Carmen Cohen	Spanish Conversation Mastery
Ron Bennett	Beginners Guitar	Nancy Corbett	Poetry Appreciation
Diana Bianciardi	Italian Level 6 - Advanced	Christine Croyden	Writing for theatre and character development
Don Blasingame	Improv Comedy Acting Workshop	Chris Dargan	History of the World et al
Tony Brotherton	Wine Appreciation 1st Wednesday	Wendy Davenport	Let's Talk About Berlin
		Frances Devlin-Glass	Exploring Alexis Wright's 'Praiseworthy'

Angela Di Pasquale	French- "Aventures françaises: Conversation, articles, grammaire	Ian Marchment	Motivation to refocus your life
Mary Dooley	French beginners	Dorothy Maricic	Dance Fitness for Seniors
Maureen Fastenau	Family History: Research & Write Your Family Story	Susie May	Art History
David Feith	South Indian temples, religion, culture & history	Maureen McBride	Yoga - Classical Beginners and Continuing
Andrew Ferguson	German Level 3 & Beginners	Helen McCulloch	Talking about Secrets
Michael Finn	Bridge Supervised	Michael McKay	Movies of Merit
Jack Foks	German Level 6 - Advanced Conversation	Carole Miles	Scriptwriters-The Launching Pad.
Cenarth Fox	Write and Publish a Novel in 8 weeks	Mara Miller	Music for Pleasure
Maureen Garner	Spanish Conversation	Julie Mills	Mahjong Tuesday
Deirdre Gillespie	Learning Irish (Gaelic) Beginners & Level 2	Angela Moodie	Craft Group
Merilyn Harris	Audio Adventures	Michael Moore	Japanese Language & Culture
Glen Harvey	Comprehensive French Grammar	Liz Mullin	Monday Writers
Katrina Henshall	Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners	Tim Murray	The history of Archaeology in Australia
Dale Heslin	Arabic for Beginners	Peter Newbury	History of Espionage, Neighbourhood Strolls
Christina Hill	Great Works of Literature	Ann Ng	Mahjong - Chinese
John Hill	The new economy and our changing society	Janet Nicholds	Literati Lounge
Margaret Hoobin	Latin Poetry Reading Group	Gwen Nyman	Learn French through Culture
Russell Huntington	Backroads Australia	Andrea O'Donoghue	Wednesday Writers
Mike Jackson	Cryptic Crosswords	Penelope Osawa	Mahjong Friday
Brian Jensen	Ukelele Experience	Yolanda Pettinato	Yoga for Everyone!
Sandra Joicey	Shakespeare Revisited	Mark Poole	Beginners Ancient Greek
Anthony Jones	Topics Worth Discussing	Bronte Price	A Beginner's Guide to the LGBTIQ+ Community
Don Just	Novels Group (Face to Face and Zoom)	Maria Quiinto	Event leader
Hana Kadera	Bridge - Beginners and Consolidating	Darrell Reid	Philosopher's cave
Angela Kalim	Chinese Mahjong	Kate Rhodes	Italian Level 6 - Advanced
Lynette Kalms	What's news?	Michael Riera	Spanish Level 1
Irena Klajn	Philosophical Issues and Arguments	Nobuko Sayer	Japanese Language & Culture
Charles Klassen	Shakespeare's Powerplays	Mark Schier	Basic Rope Skills
Joan Kraut	Let's travel with our IT devices	Fran Sciarretta	Mahjong Wednesday
Bob Krstic	Wine Appreciation Group 3rd Wednesday	Kiera Stevens	Italian 2
Heather Lacey	US Elections 2024	Janet Strachan	A Short Survey of poetry written in English.
Nancy Lane	Conversations with Artists: A New Challenge	Marita Taliana	Italian Beginners
Debbie Law	Mahjong Wednesday	Carmel Taylor	Pittman Shorthand
Margaret Leversha	Scottish Country Dancing	Jim Tibballs	French Advanced Intermediate
Martin Lindsay	Fingerstyle Guitar for Beginners	Margot Tucker	Botanical Drawing Continuing
Ian Mackay	French Level 5 -Advanced Intermediate	John Vernon	City Singers:
Nene Macwhirter	Botanic Drawing for Beginners	John Waldie	Movies of Merit
Gloria Madrigales	Spanish Level 2 & 3	Jennifer Warburton	Botanic Art Continuing
Greg Mann	Wine Appreciation Group 3rd Wednesday	Marcus Wearne	German 4 Hören Lesen Sprechen & 5 Upper Intermediate
		Valerie Wills	Rummy Tiles
		Peter Yuill	Computer Programming for beginners
		Natasha Zajc-Dalcourt	Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction

LET'S DO LEADERS

Our Let's Do programme remains the vehicle through which we accommodate much of the social and physical interests of our members. Paul Wilkinson is the coordinator of the Let's Do programme ably assisted by a coordination team whose members are Russell Huntington, Kai Simpson, Margaret Wyatt and Ann Johns. The team supports the leaders of the following groups:

Cycling	Monday – Anne Irwin Tuesday – Paul Wilkinson, Neil Head Wednesday – Russell Huntington, David de Crespigny Thursday – Mei Regan, Richard Johns, Michael Sparks
Drawing	Margot Sharman
Excursions	Graham Ellis, Tania Winkels
Movies	Tuesday - Sharon Carter, Jan Norman Friday – Katherine Wilson Sunday – Margaret Styles, Naomi Crafti
Galleries / Museums	Sharon Carter, Margaret Wyatt, Kathy Dale, John Adams
National Theatre Live	Joanne Roberts
Opera on Screen	Nick Trehwella
Theatre	Jacci Moss, Liana Brasacchio
Walks	Tuesday – Margaret Wyatt, David Brook, Lesley Bright Friday – Julia Tompkins Long Walks – Silvia Grande Weekend walks – Liana Brasacchio
Weekend Excursions	Jill Carr, Liz Devine
Lawn Bowls	Reg Martin
Pickle Ball	Steve Georgiadis
Photography	Lan Wang
Pub Lunches	Kate McKenzie, Pauline Lomas, Di Baker, Margaret Wyatt

EVENTS TEAM

The team of Sharon Carter, Kathy Dale, Mei Regan, Maria Quinto and Lee White have organised a wide variety of 25 events this year including visits to Metro Tunnel HQ, the Aviation Museum, a walk in the Arid Garden at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Parliament House tour, Athenaeum Library tour and a curated talk on Garryowen at RHSV and much more. The walking Maps project has taken off led by Wendy Katz and Sharon Carter with help from Alison Dean.

COURSE COORDINATION TEAM

The Course Coordination team engage and liaise with new and existing tutors to plan, develop and schedule a diverse programme of courses.

The team started the year with: Russell Huntington (Chair); Nene Macwhirter (Tutor Mentor and Recruitment), Angelique D'Agostino (Year-Long Course Coordinator), Margi Breare (Short Course Coordinator), Jacci Moss (Venue Bookings), Diana Yu (General Support) and Neil Rickards (Quality Coordinator). Sadly, we said good-bye to Margi in April and Jacci in September and we thank them for their very many hours of hard work with the team. We have recently

welcomed Patricia Wang and Jennifer Wu to Venue Bookings. After 2 years, Neil is leaving his role as temporary Team Leader and Quality Coordinator and Angelique is taking up the long and short course coordination role.

The course feedback process continued this year but under the continuing policy where new courses and new tutors are surveyed plus a three-year rotating survey of continuing courses. This offers our members the opportunity to provide feedback which is helpful to tutors and gives our U3A the opportunity to refine and improve our course offerings.

Thanks goes to all the members and tutors who have participated with an average of a 60% response rate from members. This is much higher than any equivalent voluntary survey.

VENUES / ACCOMMODATION TEAM

Because U3A Melbourne City needs to source, and pay for, all venues for classes, the members of the Accommodation Working Group: Russell Huntington, Eng Chong Chua, Brenda Joyce, Deborah Claydon and Ann Johns are responsible for finding suitable (cost, location and amenity) venues and work cooperatively with the Course Coordination Group to match class requirements.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Led by Vice President, Sharon Carter, this group comprising Margaret Styles, Dorothy Maricic, Robin Blair, Marilyn Harris, Angelique D'Agostino and Michelle Spratt handled web maintenance and updates, Meta advertising and analysis, produced 19 electronic news bulletins including the SPOTLIGHT feature about a volunteer, design Canva images to brighten our newsletters and do research with new members.

ADMINISTRATION TEAM

The Administration Leadership Team cover all aspects related to planning, rostering, recruiting, training, database loading, PayPal administration, waitlist management, issuing of class reminders and Zoom links, sending membership card emails, reporting, data analysis and many other tasks. This work literally translates to thousands of hours of work, and the team is led by Kai Simpson along with Neil Rickards; Dawn Gibson; and Paul O'Brien.

In addition, assistance for a variety of other tasks, outside of office hours, is provided by: Katrina Henshall; David Nicholds; John Ogilvie; Wendy Davenport; Kerrie Spinks and Mei Riera. A very dedicated group work in the office, one day a fortnight throughout the year, and from home during the holidays: Paul O'Brien; Fran Sciarretta; Eng Chong Chua; Marianne Markovic; Shirley Arbuthnott; John Ogilvie; Wendy Davenport; Katrina Henshall; Beverly Jenkin (retired); Jane Reid; Neil Rickards; Li Phan; David Nicholds; Kerrie Spinks; Dawn Gibson and Kai Simpson.

Our sincere thanks to:

- Eng Chong Chua whose wonderful smile and happy personality will be greatly missed when he leaves us after 9 years of valuable assistance as an Office Volunteer; and

- David Nicholds who will be leaving the Office Volunteer team after 4 years. David has been a most valuable volunteer and has assisted with handling all the waitlisted enrolments and liaising with the tutors of these classes.

We will miss them!

HOSPITALITY TEAM

The team, led by Li Phan, has assisted with the several big events during the year, including: the new members' welcome lunch; the Autumn Lunch at William Angliss; The Tutors' meeting, the Volunteer's Lunch and the 2023 AGM. We are grateful to the team members of Loida Benns; Margi Breare; Jenny Sargeant and Maria Nesci.

IT TEAM

IT Support is a team of six. Led by Peter Lawson, it includes Peter Connell, Mike Dorahy, John Joosten, Joan Kraut and Colin Patterson, and is accountable for the purchase and maintenance of our computers and printers and the ongoing maintenance of our Microsoft 365 environment. MS365 includes online access to our organisational email, file storage and to the Microsoft Office suite of applications. Peter Lawson sits on the Committee of Management and advises on IT matters across our U3A.

THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The Committee of Management meets monthly to discuss policy and financial issues and review operations and manage the business of U3A Melbourne City Inc (association) and ensure that U3AMC complies with regulations.

Russell Huntington	President
Sharon Carter	Vice President
Kate McKenzie	Secretary
Pauline Lomas	Treasurer
Merilyn Harris	Committee Member
Ann Johns	Committee Member
Peter Lawson	Committee Member
Nene Macwhirter	Committee Member
Neil Rickards	Committee Member
Kai Simpson	Committee Member
Jane Tulloch	Committee Member
Paul Wilkinson	Committee Member

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

In October 2024 the Committee of Management awarded life membership to the following in consideration of their outstanding contribution to our U3A over ten years.

Dawn Gibson	Administration	Liz Mullin	Tutor
Don Just	Tutor	Ron Bennett	Tutor
Gwen Nyman	Tutor	Jan Norman	Tutor/Leader
Janet Strachan	Tutor	Ian Marchment	Tutor
Kai Simpson	Administration		

They join the existing life members:

Elaine Batchelder	Ann Hewett	Rom Jagielski
Ann Johns	George Boag	Julie Nankervis
Ian Mackay	Blair Cramer	Rhonda Favaloro
Maureen McBride	Judy Eldred	Fran Sciarretta
Helen McCulloch	Christina Hill	Jack Foks
Julie Mills	Juliette Zeelander	Tony Miles
Peter Newbury	Dorothy Davis	Margaret Rees
Paul O'Brien	Alma Kristensen	Pat Collins
Kiera Stevens	Betty Caldwell	Margaret Smith
Marcus Wearne	Hilary Adair	Max Worland
John Besley	Helena Ling	Angela Moodie
Marguerite Grynberg	Peter Salmon	Ray Matters
Will Semler	Jill Thompson	Darrell Reid
Margaret Ledley	John Waldie	

OUR SUPPORTERS

Sincere thanks and appreciation are expressed to all our 2024 patrons and donors who continue to make a generous and valuable contribution to the ongoing sustainability and success of U3A Melbourne City.

(If your name has been omitted, we apologise. Please know that your contribution is very much valued and appreciated. These lists are accurate at the date of printing. To all those who have contributed after this date, thank you for your generosity.)

Our thanks to:

Dianne Allen	Sheena Broughton	Pat Collins
Sonja Baric	Malcolm Brown	Ros Conroy
Elaine Batchelder	Efrossiney Cargakis	Deidre Copeland
Barbara Bell	Lyndsey Cattermole	Jean Dart
Neil Bergman	Anne Chamberlain	Marie Dermott
Joseph Bertolini	Celestine Chisholm	Mary Dooley
Robin Blair	Flavia Coassin	Corinne Duc
Lesley Brennan	Carolyn Cohn	Georgina Fitzpatrick

Terry Freeman
Diane Gabb
Maureen Garner
Anita Goulding
Gail Grant
Jane Hall
Kay Hannaford
Merilyn Harris
Lorraine Hatcher-Friel
Keith Headland
John Hill
Charles Houen
Kay Howden
Jane Hoyer
Michael Hoyer
Russell Huntington
Barbara Jacob
Leah Jenkinson
Helga Jennings
Ann Johns
Don Just
Angela Kee
Irena Klajn

Larisa Kozynina
Bob Krstic
Heather Lacey
Jennifer Lewis
Alan Loney
Karen Macdonald
Maureen McBride
Helen McCulloch
Keryn McGuinness
Helena Mestrovic
Tony Miles
Julie Mills
Traudl Moon
Michael Moore
Liz Mullin
Julie Nankervis
Peter Newbury
Fabienne Nichola
Paul O'Brien
Robyn Parrent
Bernard Peasley
Rhonda Pocknee
Mark Poole

Ruth Pritchard
Mei Regan
Margaret Ridland
Barry Robbins
Graeme Robinson
Anthony Rogers
Patricia Rowe
Judith Shaw
Rosalie Smith
Lindy Smith
Kiera Stevens
Denise Symonds
Anne Vaughan
Stamatia Venetis
Don Vogt
Hui-Chang Wang
Jennifer Warburton
Brigitte Weinberger
Colleen Wood
Sue Wood
Caroline Woodhouse
Margaret Yuill

TREASURER'S REPORT

U3A Melbourne City Inc. Balance Sheet as of 30 September 2024

	2023/24	2022/23
	\$	\$
Current Assets		
Bank	6,729	7,533
Investments	244,938	250,097
Receivables	13,071	6,851
Total Current Assets	264,738	264,481
Total Assets	264,738	264,481
Current Liabilities		
Payables & Accruals	8,904	10,447
Funding in Advance	1,004	1,265
Total Current Liabilities	9,908	11,712
Total Liabilities	9,908	11,712
Net Assets	254,831	252,769
Members Equity		
Surplus for the Year	2,062	(16,222)
Members Equity	252,769	268,992
Total Members Equity	254,831	252,769

Certification

The Treasurer, Pauline Lomas, and President, Russell Huntington, being members of the Committee of Management U3A Melbourne City Inc., certify that the Financial Statements give a True and Fair view of the financial performance and position of U3A Melbourne City Inc. during and at the end of the financial year of the Incorporated Association for the year ending 30 September 2024.

**U3A Melbourne City Inc
Income and Expenditure
Statement
for the year ended 30 September 2024**

	2023/24	2022/23
	\$	\$
Income		
Investment income	9,080	6,333
Membership Fees	114,360	96,500
Patrons/Supporters	3,100	3,000
Donations	5,626	4,623
Grants	1,223	1,375
Total Income	<u>133,389</u>	<u>111,831</u>
 Expenditure		
Office Rent	8,575	26,363
Classroom hire	87,137	71,219
Operating expenses	11,113	10,883
Member & volunteer expenses	11,027	11,313
IT & Zoom expenses	2,207	3,849
Equipment	8,230	120
Social activities	379	1,967
U3A Network Subscriptions	2,658	2,340
Total Expenditure	<u>131,327</u>	<u>128,053</u>
 Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>2,062</u>	<u>(16,222)</u>

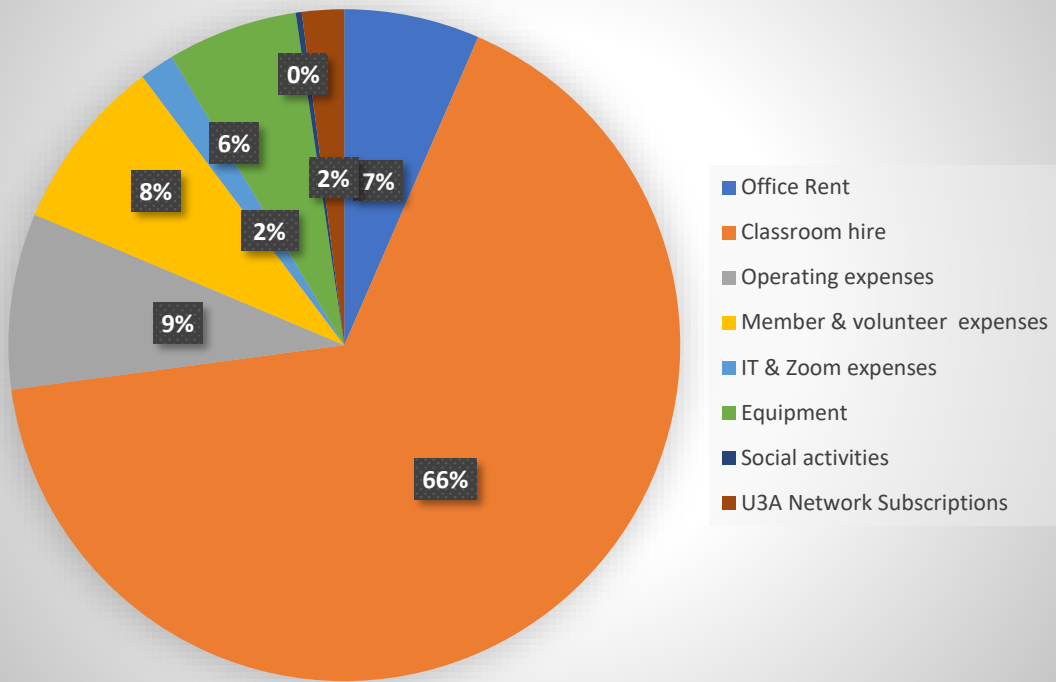
Notes to the Financial Statements

The result for 2023/24 financial year was a surplus of \$2,062 which is a more favourable position than anticipated as the budgeted deficit was \$6,300. Growth in revenue contributed to the positive result due to increased membership fees of 18% when compared to 2022/23, and an uplift of interest rates on investments to 5% per annum for most of the year. Membership numbers increased by 19% from 1,316 in 2022/23 to 1,572 in 2023/24.

Expenditure was contained during the year with a minimal increase of 3%, due in the main to an increase in classroom hire costs, the purchase of new IT equipment, and offset against a substantial reduction in office rent as a result of downsizing of the office and a decrease in operating expenses.

We look forward to another year of increased membership, varied and interesting courses and social activities, and a reduction in accumulated surpluses.

Expenditure 2023/24



Income 2023/24

