

The year is off to a great start with 101 enrolments to date and a steady flow of enquiries for our new courses

The word of the moment seems to be NEW.

- 18 NEW members spread across most groups. You're sure to meet some of them!
- 2 NEW short courses. Astronomy for Beginners is full, and Photography for digital SLR cameras will go ahead.
- We are seeking NEW people prepared to learn about the U3A Committee and the roles that keep us going.

U3A's AGM on 14th March was well-attended, despite the forecasted hot weather, and saw some inevitable changes to the Committee.

Long term member, Neil Gamble retired as Vice President and Public Officer. We are pleased to share Neil's profile later in the newsletter. Colin Forbes retired as President but remains on the committee. We extend our sincerest thanks to them both for their contribution.

Two new committee members were welcomed into the fold - Ingrid Johansson who took over the role of President vacated by Colin Forbes, and Wanda Hopkins who resumes the role of Publicity Coordinator, a role she undertook as a volunteer during 2024. We also welcome Doug Steer who took on the role of Public Officer.

Two guest speakers highlighted the morning. Firstly, Mel Kerton CEO of Southern Volunteering SA, who described the services offered by her organisation and highlighted some of the difficulties community organisations were experiencing in maintaining a body of volunteers and outlined different approaches that help involve people with busy lives.

Local Strength and Balance Instructor Sue Wilson rounded off the morning by sharing her expertise in active aging. Sue got us all up and moving with simple stretches and balancing exercises that can be done anywhere, anytime and discussed the benefits of regular movement to maintain muscles and keep our balance as we age.

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USEFUL CONTACTS .

Ingrid Johansson (President) 0404 765 753
 Jasmine Hunt (Secretary) 0423 138 311
 Doriana Barone (Treasurer) 0401 717 756
 Wanda Hopkins (Publicity) 0451 541 239
 Marilyn Henn (committee) 0419 188 162
 Colin Forbes (committee) 0400 029 771

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OFFICE SUPPORT .

Strathalbyn Neighbourhood Centre
 6 Parker Ave, Strathalbyn
 10.00 am to 3.30 pm Monday to Friday

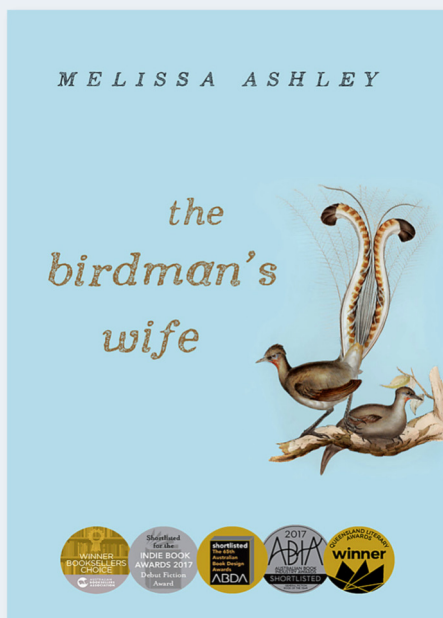
Website: <https://www.strathalbynu3a.com>



FAR LEFT: Incoming President, Ingrid Johansson, presents Mel Kerton with a small token of thanks for her presentation.

LEFT: Guest speaker, Sue Wilson, shares her expertise with the audience.





THE FIRST WEDNESDAY BOOK CLUB

Book Club meetings always spark lively and enjoyable discussion, and this month we shared our thoughts about “The Birdman’s Wife” by Australian author Melissa Ashley.

It’s the story of Elizabeth Gould who in the 1830’s produced hundreds of stunning hand coloured lithographs of birds collected by her famous husband, the ornithologist John Gould. Elizabeth is brought out of the shadows, recognising that her artistic talent and head for business was crucial to the family’s financial and career success.

We marvelled at the incredible energy, resilience and courage required to be a skilled artist in her own right, professionally partnering her husband and bearing 8 children, 6 of whom survived.

A highly recommended read for anyone interested in the golden age of exploration and the unsung women who are coming to light.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR OTHER COURSES

<https://strathalbynu3a.com>



PHILOSOPHY IN A CLIMATE OF CHANGE

Commencing on the 9th of May, U3A is pleased to reintroduce this group to our 2025 program.

Candy Scown and Peter Sutton have been presenting this popular discussion group together for close to three years. Join in the conversation as they ponder man’s inhumanity to man and the destruction of and alienation from the ecosystems that support life.

The group meets on alternate Friday mornings at Candy’s bushland property on Ashbourne Rd, Strathalbyn.

Enquiries: Candy Scown, 0403 661 188



MARKETING 101

It’s been an interesting year in marketing with quite a few new initiatives.

One in particular, and a go-to place for all things U3A is the website. Revamped over a couple of months during 2024 it has all the U3A news, course information and enrolment form, and information about volunteering.

You will no doubt have seen a lot of new U3A information around town, thanks to Ingrid and Jasmine, including the Vault, the Appleseed Café and the Stationmaster’s Gallery. However, it’s word of mouth that gets us noticed most. With your help U3A will continue to gain membership and attract new courses. Fresh ideas are also welcome, as are your photos and feedback.

PHOTOGRAPHY

There are still spaces available in this interesting new course.

Designed to enable you to get the best from your cameras the course will help you to take photos attune with your needs and expectations.

Even as an amateur photographer, you should be comfortable with your camera and know how it works; settings should be second nature.

The course will look at some of the basics such as aperture, shutter speed, ISO and focal length; and how these combine to give us a good exposure. You will also take a look at the various rules of composition, the key to getting a balanced photo.

A short field trip around Strathalbyn will allow you to revise the topics covered in the course and add some challenges to test your skills.

Also learn how to transfer your photos from your camera to your computer and take a look at processing software.



Enquiries to Jasmine Hunt on 0423 138 311.

MEMBER PROFILE, NEIL GAMBLE

Neil often reflects on the advice his father gave him in late 1959 as he scanned the job advertisements in our kitchen at Curramulka. "You could do this Neil, have a go at this", he said, and a few months later he was a trainee with the Department of Civil Aviation. Five years on Neil was ready to maintain communications and navigation equipment at airports around the country. A huge step from building a one valve radio.

Neil never imagined that early in his married life he would move to Fiji. He worked at Nadi Airport and wife, Barbara, taught in a local school. Work, and attending the Indian Methodist church helped them make friends among expats as well as many locals. Learning to eat curries, raw fish, drink kava, and touring around to make the most of their experience. We even held a Fijian Meke (dance performance), in our backyard complete with a lovo (firepit for cooking), and celebrated Diwali with Indian friends. What Neil describes as a 'truly magical two years'.

Back home, Neil and Barbara awaited the arrival of their daughter, then headed to Leigh Creek. Here they explored and gained a love for the picturesque Flinders Ranges. But they did not love the 160kms of dirt between Leigh Creek and Hawker which cost them many tyres. Returning to Adelaide, Neil was an instructor for three years, before moving to the maintenance crew at Gove airport. Then it was back to the tropics, which Neil promised Barbara that they would never do! A shift to Darwin, would complete their six years in the NT. Luckily for them, their four-wheel drive took them to great freshwater swimming and camping spots. They then returned to Adelaide for their children's secondary schooling, not sorry to escape the wet seasons.

Neil says that his early retirement allowed him more involvement in community activities, including, MOW, Male Choir, Probus, local and overseas travel, cycling with the "Old Cranks", photography, babysitting grandies, and of course U3A! He has been a member of U3A for seventeen of his twenty years in Strathalbyn, and has served on the committee for three. Both he and his wife Barbara, ran the Walking for Fun group for five years. Neil has recently retired from the committee.

Neil fully appreciates that his chosen life has given him many fantastic and unique experiences, and as he also puts it, "a lot of photographs to file". It instilled in him his love of travel and a desire to learn about other places and cultures. He also ponders whether his father ever connected his suggestion made all those years ago, with his many visits to Leigh Creek, Gove, and Darwin.



VIVE LA FRANCE



Members of the U3A French group taking a refreshment break.
L-R: Peter, Suzanne, Polly, Pat E, and Pat S.

Japanese FOR BUSY PEOPLE

Jasmine says that learning Japanese with U3A gave her the confidence to converse with the locals while holidaying in Japan.

This group meets twice a month (first and fourth Thursdays), 10:30 am - 12 noon. Enquiries to Pat Eglinton on 0418 956 725





Mandy Walker and Robyn Harvey, of Strathalbyn, were hard at work on their pieces as part of U3A's Social Art Group on Thursdays. Photos: Deirdre Graham

Strathalbyn U3A on the look for new faces

The University of the Third Age Strathalbyn is upping its social footprint and looking for new members.

The local U3A group is a community-based organisation that has provided affordable education and leisure activities for more than 25 years.

Spokesperson Jasmine Hunt said no academic prerequisites or entrance requirements are needed other than enthusiasm and an interest in life-long learning.

"Classes are offered in a relaxed, informal and inclusive environment, and members are encouraged to explore and enjoy the range of courses, social outings and various special events," she said.

"Membership is not restricted to residents of the Strathalbyn area, and people of any age are encouraged to join."

Program details are available at (<http://strathalbynu3a.com>), the Strath Neighbourhood Centre or by phoning the secretary on 0423 138 311.

The group is also on the look for people who might want to pass on their area of expertise to others.

"U3A thrives on the work of volunteers, providing classes to the community, and behind the scenes with a committee and other support roles such as website management, enrolment, community liaison, grant applications or lending a hand at social events," Ms Hunt said.

"People interested in being a part of the volunteer team are supported to find a role that suits their skill set, personal interests, and the amount of time they can commit.

"New members and fresh ideas are always welcome, helping to broaden the community focus well into the future."



Noreen Wendelborn, of Strathalbyn, enjoying the U3A's Social Art Group at the town's Scout Hall last Thursday.