



# PELICAN NEWSLETTER



Spring Edition

September 2024

View of Hastings pier

## Exciting Announcement! on Page 2



*Please don't forget to read the President's Report on page 2 and 3, as it contains very important information about the future of Hastings U3A. There are many other interesting articles to read about some of our groups and what has been happening .*

## U3A OPEN DAY

will be held on 18th October at Hastings Hall. Please mark the date in your diary! See page 3 and back page for more information.

### What's inside this issue!

- President's Report
- Course Coordinator's report
- Health & Safety
- Group Reports
- Featured Groups
- Important Message for Tutors and Members
- Committee contact numbers.



Find us on Facebook!

**Exciting  
News**



Hastings Hall, above, and Bittern Memorial Hall both of which will be our HU3A locations.

*Dear Members,*

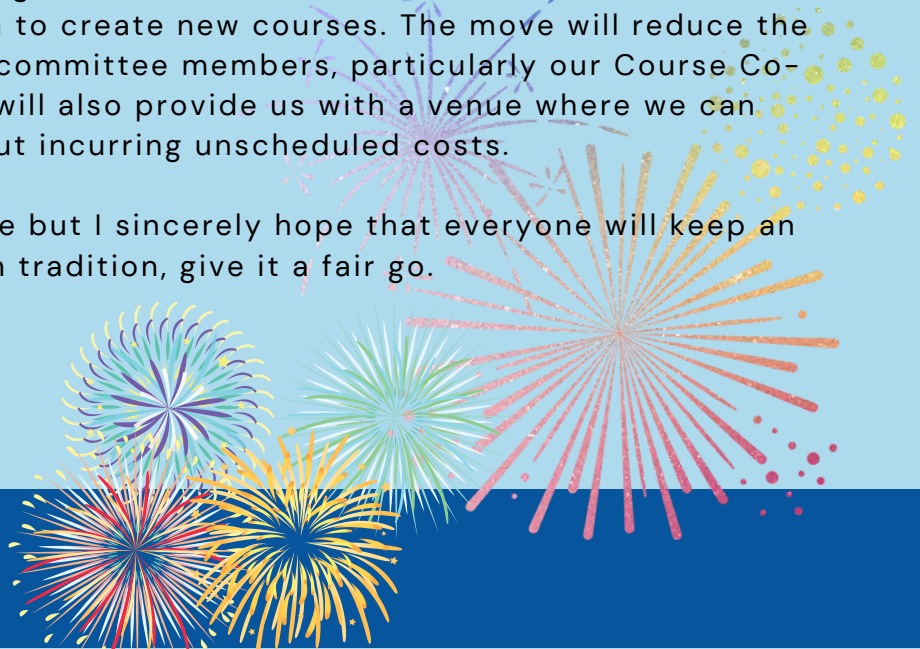
You will all have received an email from myself concerning another change of venue. This time the move was initiated by the committee.

We were told in November 2023 that Hastings Hall would need to undergo a significant repair to its roof. We had previously moved from the Senior Learning Hub to Hastings Hall due to mould and damp issues and now a roof leak was going to force us out. As a committee we voiced our frustrations to Mornington Peninsula Shire (MPS) and pushed for a permanent venue. The new venue took 6 months to find and almost 4 months to finalise. Bittern Memorial Centre (BMC) is ideal for our wide range of activities. The multi purpose room lends itself to being subdivided into two or three smaller classroom size areas. MPS is going to lease BMC to us along with the Office and Classroom in Hastings Hall, and with a promise to repair the roof. All of our existing courses and events can be run out of this combination with little or no change to the timetable. How good is that?

After three unsettled years we will finally have somewhere to call home. Retaining our Hastings Hall office and classroom is important to us. A high street presence will be advantageous during our annual enrolment and afterwards to attract the steady procession of potential new members enquiring about our services/activities. We will have greater control of our class timetables, our financial outgoings and freedom to create new courses. The move will reduce the stress and workload on several committee members, particularly our Course Coordinator Jill McLachlan, and it will also provide us with a venue where we can hold large, one off events without incurring unscheduled costs.

This move may not suit everyone but I sincerely hope that everyone will keep an open mind and, in the Australian tradition, give it a fair go.

*...Continued on page 3.*



There is little doubt that Hastings U3A is developing a different image. We are moving with the times in our enrollment methods with many of this year's membership enrolling online from the comfort of their own home. Many also took advantage of the facility to pay online via a Bank transfer. This definitely is not for everyone but for those with the skills and knowledge it is the way forward and if you would like to learn how to safely manage such processes contact us and we will develop a suitable course. We are now turning our attention to Health and Safety - don't all groan.

Committee member Sue Barron has some experience of H&S (but would welcome input from other experienced members) and is developing H&S procedures for our organisation. We already have a procedure for the cycling group and she will develop procedures for others like pickleball, walking, table tennis and other courses. You will not be treated like juveniles but there are risks that need to be mitigated or completely avoided and she will help you identify them and avoid the pitfalls.

The imagery you see in the Newsletter and on multiple posters adorning portable panels in Hastings Hall are the creation of Jan Eyles and Julie Wright both of whom have taught themselves to use a piece of software known as Canva. Canva is a graphic design tool but the designer must provide imagination and inspiration and I am sure that you will agree both Jan and Julie have created artwork that projects Hastings U3A magnificently.

Mike Wright 



## ***U3A Open Day***

**October 18th at Hastings Hall.**



Come along to our open day and meet some of our tutors and members. There will be visual displays of work from art and craft groups and music and tea, coffee and refreshments. Information about courses will be available from members with special recognition badges to help with any enquires.

***Come and join the fun!***





## Course Co-ordinator's Report



What a hectic few weeks we have had! And a few more hectic weeks lie ahead as most of our classes move to new premises.

You now all know that your U3A Committee, and particularly our President Mike, has been working with Mornington Peninsula Shire for many months to find a permanent home for Hastings U3A.

The beautiful Seniors Hub that we moved into in mid-2021 (and out of in mid-2022 due to mould and water problems) cannot be repaired and is now likely to be demolished.

Mornington Peninsula Shire has advised that they have no funding allocated to build alternative seniors' premises in the foreseeable future, so we have been effectively "homeless".

While the future of the Senior's Hub was being investigated by the Shire, Hastings U3A has been "billeted out" across a variety of different venues around Hastings (Hastings Hall, Wallaroo, Hastings Hub, Uniting Church Hall etc). As we have grown over the last 2 ½ years, and the space needs of these venues have grown at the same time, these venues are finding they can no longer accommodate us and several are having to greatly increase their rental charges to us. So we cannot stay where we are as there is just not the space available and we cannot afford higher rental costs if we wish to maintain our membership fees at their currently low level.

*However, a big thank you to the venues we have been using, particularly Wallaroo, for looking after us for 2 ½ years, for putting up with all our requests and changes and for being so lovely and welcoming despite all the extra work we have caused them.*

So, now the Shire has offered us a contract to use the office and classroom at Hastings Hall and the Multipurpose area at Bittern Memorial Hall from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm on weekdays.

This greatly increases the teaching space and times that comes under our control, so we have a lot more flexibility in starting new courses, changing class times and/or venues and running special events. And room to grow!

I know this will cause inconvenience to some of our members and tutors and we are happy to work with you on the things that are under our control to make this move as seamless as possible for you all.

*We did do some research on where all our members reside, to see how many might be negatively impacted, and found that almost 40% of our members live south of Hastings anyway (areas such as Bittern, Crib Point, Somers and Shoreham). A further 36% live in Hastings and only 15% live north of Hastings, and it is these latter groups that will have further to travel if they take classes run at Bittern Memorial Hall.*

And as if this move weren't enough for all of us, a tree fell on the roof of Hastings Hall (where our office is located and we run many of our classes) a couple of weeks ago during the bad storms on the Peninsula. This rendered the building unsafe and on virtually no notice we had to close our Office and try to find alternative places to run all the classes scheduled there for the last two weeks of Term 3 and notify all the tutors and students affected!

So here's to a more settled future for Hastings U3A. Your Committee will move all the equipment needed for classes at Bittern Hall over the term break, and Hastings Hall has now been declared safe for use, so we should be all set up to go at the beginning of Term 4



The now defunct Seniors Learning Hub



Hastings Hall after fallen tree



## Introducing our Welfare Officer Wendy Melling



To all members of U3A Hastings. I would like to introduce myself, Wendy Melling, as your new Welfare Officer and as such I am at your service to help with any difficulties that you are having with your health or any other problems you may be encountering. Please let me know if you or someone you know is having a problem so I can give them a call and offer assistance. I am aware that for some this might feel intrusive but everything is kept confidential. I am just trying to keep a link open even if all you need is someone to chat to or listen to you. My phone number is 0431 377 929

*Wendy Melling*





## A special birthday celebration

Jill Inglis from the French Intermediate class celebrated her 90th birthday with a lunch at the Harborside Cafe in Hastings, which was organised by our wonderful Tutor, Marie-Therese White.

There were thirteen fellow French students in attendance and we all had a very happy afternoon.

*Bon Anniversaire*

*Jill!*



Hastings



Please volunteer to sit in this chair!

We need an Events Officer for our Committee. You would work with our Publicity and Promotions Committee member to help organise Events such as Open Days, Enrolment and AGM meetings Full assistance given

contact Julie at [info@u3ahastings.org.au](mailto:info@u3ahastings.org.au) for more information.







*Sue Barron*  
*Health & Safety Officer*



### 1. Accurate location is vital for quick support in any emergency.

I cannot recommend this free, safe, app more highly. All tutors who take groups out along various routes such as cycling & walking have been recommended to put it on the front page of their phones. It may be a good idea for others to do the same. It is then a quicker way to contact emergency services and your location can be easily given. If you know about What 3 Words, then the exact square metre you are located on is also visible. Even if you are not aware of What3Words the police, ambulance & fire services are.



### 2. Plus, why not also add the Australian Red Cross First Aid App.

First Aid help is at hand with the IFRC First Aid app. A comprehensive guide to first aid and CPR, for the most up-to-date information anytime, anywhere.

Scan to download the IFRC First Aid app

to download the IFRC First Aid app



### 3. H&S TIP OF THE MONTH

- If someone falls and gets badly injured in a class: **PLEASE DO NOT MOVE THEM UNTIL PROFESSIONAL HELP ARRIVES.** [Assuming they are conscious and breathing, of course.] No drinks should be given either.
- If you wouldn't know what to do but would like to learn more, contact me.

**Sue Barron**

**Health & Safety Committee Member 0424 434 401**







## WALKING GROUP



At U3A Hastings we are lucky to have an enthusiastic and friendly band of walkers in our group. We walk at various locations on the Peninsula, sometimes at the beach and other times in the bush. We generally walk for about 5 or 6 kms and walks vary in difficulty from easy to moderate generally. We then reward ourselves with a cuppa at a cafe close by. So if you are after some fresh air and exercise with a happy and like minded group of people come join us!

Cheers, Wendy



## Learn to play Mahjong With Sandra Oluich

Mahjong is a tile-based game that was developed in the 19th Century in China. The game is played with a set of 144 tiles based on Chinese characters and symbols. This course will teach you the basics of Western Mahjong.

A great opportunity for those who would like to learn to play the game of Mahjong! Sandra Oluich will be opening up her Mahjong group at the start of Term 4 to beginners who would like to learn to play the game. The group meets weekly on Tuesday afternoons from 1.00 to 3.30 pm. The first group for Term 4 will be on Tuesday 8th October. If you would like to learn how to play, enrol online for 24GAM04 - Learn to Play Mahjong. Only a small number of new places will be available.



## Quaffer's



### LARGE TURNOUT FOR QUAFFERS IN AUGUST

Our August meet was at the home of one of our members with almost a full compliment of those enrolled attending. We were somewhat overwhelmed by the amount of wine and food supplied as we celebrated birthdays for Russell, August and Francesca. Lively conversation ensued as we blind tasted many bottles of wine and offered our opinions on what we were drinking. None of the bottles disappointed, however the bottle of Old Fat Unicorn caused some laughter as the labelling suggested a slightly different name. The now mandatory quiz was won yet again by Russell who was able to correctly answer 5 questions. The final question was: Where would you be if you were cycling the Riesling Trail? All our wine experts decided the answer was Germany but completely forgot that the Clare Valley SA is a Riesling production area. Now that Spring has arrived our next meet up will be at a winery on the Mornington Peninsula for light lunch and wine tasting - details nearer the date in October. If you would like to join the Quaffers Group please enrol online or visit the U3A office.

*Julie Wright*

**To all Groups!**

For inclusion in the next Newsletter please send me your articles by email. jreyles11@gmail.com

**PICKLEBALL** German for Beginners  
**BOOK CLUB** Dancing for fun and Fitness  
**CARD MAKING** Coffee Mornings  
**Table Tennis** Acrylic Art Group  
**FRENCH FOR BEGINNERS** Philosophy GROUP  
**Watercolour Group**  
**Theatregoers**  
**GOURMET DINING** Ageless Grace  
**Italian**

Current Affairs Group

## Cycling Group



The cycling group has been running for about 5 years and is open to all capabilities although we do expect new members to have basic skills and balance. These days ebikes are opening up the opportunity for elderly riders to reconnect or stay with the activity.

*Phil Eyles with his new e-bike*



Don't think you are too fit to convert to an ebike Phil Eyles (one of most regular cyclists) just joined the ranks of Nuclear Powered e bikes and he is loving it. Our group consists of manual and ebike riders and we mostly cycle on shared pathways around Hastings, Balnarring and Tyabb. Every so often we venture out a little further taking our bikes by car to places like Point Nepean and Dromana and by ferry to Phillip Island. There is always one common feature where ever we cycle to-it must have a cafe - because who doesn't like a coffee and cake during a ride. Most of our rides last between 1-1.5 hrs (except the away days). Some of our members are eager and push on and while the rest of us are more tortoise than hare. Either way we all love exercise, coffee and conversation. So come on Hastings U3A get yourself a bike and get out & about. You can't beat it.

We meet every week including school holidays on :-Thursday's meeting at the Pelican Cafe at 09.00  
Sunday's meeting at Bittern Station at 09.30  
look forward to seeing you.

*Mike Wright*

## PETANQUE IS RETURNING...



Now that the weather is improving, pétanque is returning! If you would like to join this fun group, or simply require more information, contact Sue on 0424434401. New participants should also register, either online, with Sue or through the office [assuming it is open again!]

**THE NEXT SESSION IS 10AM, 12 TH OCTOBER AT SOMERS, GARDEN SQUARE. ALL EQUIPMENT CAN BE PROVIDED.**



## Cabin & Caravan GROUP

Join us as we travel to the beautiful Limestone Coast in South Australia. We will be staying at Sea Vu Caravan Park, Robe on 17th November for 7 nights. The Park overlooks Guichen Bay and has direct access to coastal walking/cycle trails. A 5 mins walk along a lane way will bring you to Robe town centre for shopping and restaurants.

All members of the cabin and caravan group have received details of how to book. If you would like to join us and enjoy dining out, Happy Hour, BBQ's, visits to wineries and other local attractions please enrol in our group.

*Julie Wright*

**HASTINGS**  
**U3A**  
Cabin and Caravan  
Group  
**Robe South Australia**

Join us for our visit to Robe SA  
Arrive 17th November 2024  
Duration: 7 nights (less if you prefer)  
Venue: Sea Vu Caravan Park  
1 Squires Drive, Robe 5276  
The park overlooks Guichen Bay,  
with a short stroll to town centre.  
10% discount available to  
Hastings U3A members  
To book your cabin or caravan site  
phone: 08 8768 2273  
DO NOT book online!  
Quote Hastings U3A booking for  
Julie Wright Site 29  
to obtain discount.  
Let me know when you have booked  
plus the duration of your stay  
Email: [julieoakcottage@aol.com](mailto:julieoakcottage@aol.com)  
we will be organising BBQ's, walks,  
meals out, and other excursions



Body



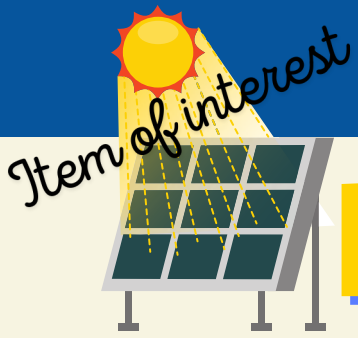
*I can't wait to see  
the new  
Movie "Caravan  
Park"  
The trailers are  
amazing!*



www.CaravanGiftsUK.com



**The kids won't move  
back home if they  
can't find it!**



# Solar Panels

*In my opinion  
are they worth the  
outlay?*



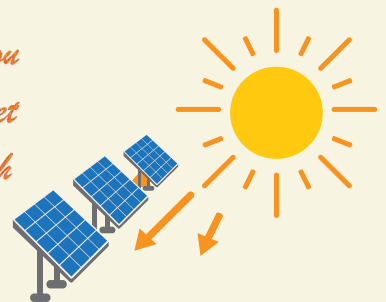
Modern Solar panel advertising is often economical with the truth as Winston Churchill would have put it. Government subsidies make it look like investing in rooftop solar panels is a no brainer when in fact it is anything but. Yes, years ago rooftop panels made good economic sense but not anymore. That is because the rate paid for each kilowatt hour ( kWhr) used to guarantee a good return on your investment. But not now the rate does not make for a good investment. The electricity generators pay a pittance for the kWhr they purchase from you and charge an exorbitant amount for the kWhr they sell you. It's a rip off. Soon there will be times of the day when they will not pay and in fact you might have to pay them for taking it. Ridiculous.

Nowadays the emphasis is on a system that includes a battery. They want you to generate your own electricity, store it for later that day and then use it, while they collect daily charges for the infrastructure you are not using. A reasonably sized battery will set you back a tremendous amount of money. Even if you could save every kWhr your panels generate over a year it is unlikely that you would be able to recover your investment. This is because your peak generation is in the summer months and your peak consumption will be in the winter months. In the winter the solar panels will not generate anywhere near enough power to get you through the colder days so you will still be buying electricity from the grid at an exorbitant rate. The summer you will generate significantly more electricity but electricity suppliers have an oversupply at this time of the year and so reduce how much they will pay for it or even ask you to pay them to accept it. If you are happy to generate electricity for others to buy cheap and sell on at a considerable profit. Carry on. But my advice is to think again. The principle of rooftop solar was originally about saving the planet or reversing climate change. Now it is about providing the electricity company's CEO with a mega bonus \$\$\$.

Money for nothing for him.

*Mike Wright*

*What do others think? do you  
have a different opinion? Let  
us know and we will publish  
it in the next Newsletter.*



Yesterday my husband  
thought he saw a  
cockroach in the kitchen.  
He sprayed everything  
down and cleaned  
thoroughly. Today I'm  
putting the cockroach in  
the bathroom



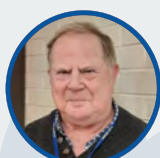
*MY NEIGHBOR TOLD ME HE WAS GETTING SOLAR PANELS. WELL, HE'S GOT MY RESPECT. WHAT A POWER MOVE.  
WHAT DO YOU CALL A TV SHOW DISCUSSING RENEWABLE ENERGY? A SOLAR PANEL.  
WE NEED TO START INVESTING MORE IN SOLAR ENERGY...BUT IT'S NOT JUST GOING TO HAPPEN OVERNIGHT.  
WHEN THERE'S A HUGE SOLAR ENERGY SPILL... IT'S JUST CALLED A NICE DAY.  
WHY DID THE TREE INSTALL SOLAR PANELS?IT WANTED TO BE A POWER PLANT.*



## U3A Committee Members contact details



**President**  
Mike Wright  
0481 414 227



**Vice President**  
Graeme Mackenzie  
0407 590 830



**Treasurer**  
Ian Barron  
0478624 658



**Secretary**  
Eric Kotoukis  
0435 220 104



**Course Co-Ordinator**  
Jill McLachlan  
0400 912 112



**Membership**  
Marilyn Ransome



**Health & Safety**  
Sue Barron  
0424 434 401



**Publicity/ Promotions**  
Julie Wright  
0449 900 264



**Colleen Kitchen**  
Office manager  
0431 030 910



**Newsletter**  
Jan Eyles  
0403 180 589



**Grants**  
Eric Lindner  
0403 582 555



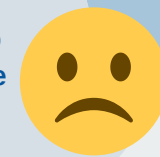
**Welfare Officer**  
Wendy Melling  
0431 377 929



**Minutes Secretary**  
May Watson  
0438 472 342



**Events Set-Up**  
David Florance  
0412 556 764



**Events Coordinator**  
Vacant



# Hastings

# U3A

# OPEN DAY

Join us for a fun filled morning at our  
U3A Open Day.

Meet our dedicated tutors,  
see demonstrations and exhibits.  
Find out more about our courses &  
activities.



**FREE MORNING TEA  
DEMONSTRATIONS  
EXHIBITS**

**SIGN UP FOR: FREE TRIAL  
MEMBERSHIP DURING  
OCTOBER & NOVEMBER**

**DATE: FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER**

**TIME: 10AM - 12 NOON**

**LOCATION: HASTINGS HALL**

**3 HIGH STREET HASTINGS  
(NEXT TO LIBRARY)**

**U3AHASTINGS.ORG.AU**

## U3A Seniors Festival Open Day