

25 January 2021

Dear 2021 U3A Member

Living in the shadow of COVID-19 as we are, there are certain arrangements we have put in place to give us the best chance of having a successful year. We ask for your cooperation and patience, especially as we are all getting used to these new arrangements.

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Service Victoria QR Codes

In order to make as many class places available as we can, we've signed up for the Service Victoria QR code check-in system. This means we can have a density of one person per every two square metres. Without this system, we would be limited to one person per every four square metres, so you can quickly see how important this is. It is important that most members check in to U3A venues using this system. This system will facilitate contact tracing in the event that there is a COVID infection associated with a U3A class or meeting.



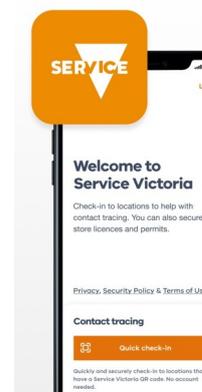
Each of our U3A public venues now has its own Service Victoria QR code. Class Leaders will have a copy of the QR code sheet for their venue with them. Private residences used for U3A classes will not have a QR code, but, as usual, must maintain a roll, either hard copy or in MyU3A.



We ask all members with smartphones to **pre-install the Service Victoria app** (available from both the Apple store and the Google Play store) **before attending your first class.**

How to sign in electronically

- Open the Service Victoria app
- Position the QR code inside the markers on the phone screen
- Follow the instructions to check in
- If your phone can't scan the QR code for some reason, you can enter the unique code shown below the QR code to check in.
- Note: Most recent smartphones will enable check-in by scanning the QR code with the phone's camera function, but the Service Victoria app will make check-in quicker.



For more details and privacy concerns, see <https://service.vic.gov.au/check-in/>

Checking in without a phone

If you don't have a smartphone or don't have it with you, Class Leaders or a nominated class member will tick those in attendance on the hard copy class attendance roll.

Sanitising arrangements

U3A Castlemaine will supply sanitising spray and cloths to be used to sanitise venues before and after classes. Class Leaders will be advised of these arrangements.

Members are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitiser solution. All members should practice good hygiene, especially during the COVID pandemic.

Ballots and enrolment confirmation

Random ballots to allocate 2021 U3A class places for the six oversubscribed classes have been conducted and class members enrolled for those classes have been advised by separate email. These classes were;

- Eight Australian Women Artists
- Fact & Fiction in Australian History
- Find Your Inner Dancer
- Garden Group
- The Singing Revolution
- The Troubled History of Ireland since 1800

We are currently looking to offer a second class for 'The Six Most Influential Women in World History', as this class was significantly oversubscribed. You will be advised of the outcome of this as soon as possible. Currently there is only the one listing of this class in MyU3A.

For all other classes your provisional enrolment is now the confirmed enrolment and you are on the class list.

Note that the 'Exploring the Post Pandemic Third Age' class has been cancelled.

Due to current COVID indoor seating density limits, the majority of classes currently allocated to the Manse will have to be relocated to larger rooms. We are in the final stages of this process and relevant class leaders will be informed once this is finalised. They can then notify the relevant class members.

Coffee morning update

There will NOT be a coffee morning meeting for February. We are hopeful that regular coffee mornings can be resumed shortly and will advise as developments occur.

Office hours update

The U3A Office will NOT be open during first term. The situation is being reviewed regularly by the Members Services team and the Committee. Class leaders can access the office using the normal arrangements. If any assistance is required, contact Office Coordinator Liz Sharplin at u3acm.office@gmail.com. Assistance cannot be provided in real time. Please give 24 hours notice.

Committee of Management