

# U3A BRIGHT DISTRICT

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

good company lifelong learning staying active



WINTER 2021

## New Website and U-Mas for Bright U3A

[u3abright.org.au](http://u3abright.org.au)

A subcommittee consisting of Convenor Coordinator Marianne Dredge, Treasurer Robyn Cirulis assisted by Linda Hayes (retiring treasurer) and Website Administrator/Newsletter Helen Brecknell, have spent the last few months implementing a new system to maintain membership records and finances of U3A Bright as well as Course Administration.

To do this a complete new website needed to be activated and set up that will be the 'front' for the new membership/course admin system.

As you can see below the website has a new look but will still have most of the features from the current - soon to be retired - website but will also give access to all members to log in and enrol in courses or see current news or even new short courses as they become available.

The subcommittee will also be available to assist any members who may need help in navigating the new system and full training will be given to all convenors so they may also help their course attendees where necessary.



### Courses & Activities

We offer a range of courses and activities, of varying lengths, that are held in venues throughout our area.

Prospective tutors for new classes are always welcome, too.  
[Learn more about our classes, or find out how to enrol](#)



### Memberships

Join or renew your membership

Memberships are great value, and enable you to enrol in as many courses as you like. We offer memberships for singles or couples, as well as options allowing members to take courses at other U3As.  
[Learn more about our memberships, or find out how to join](#)

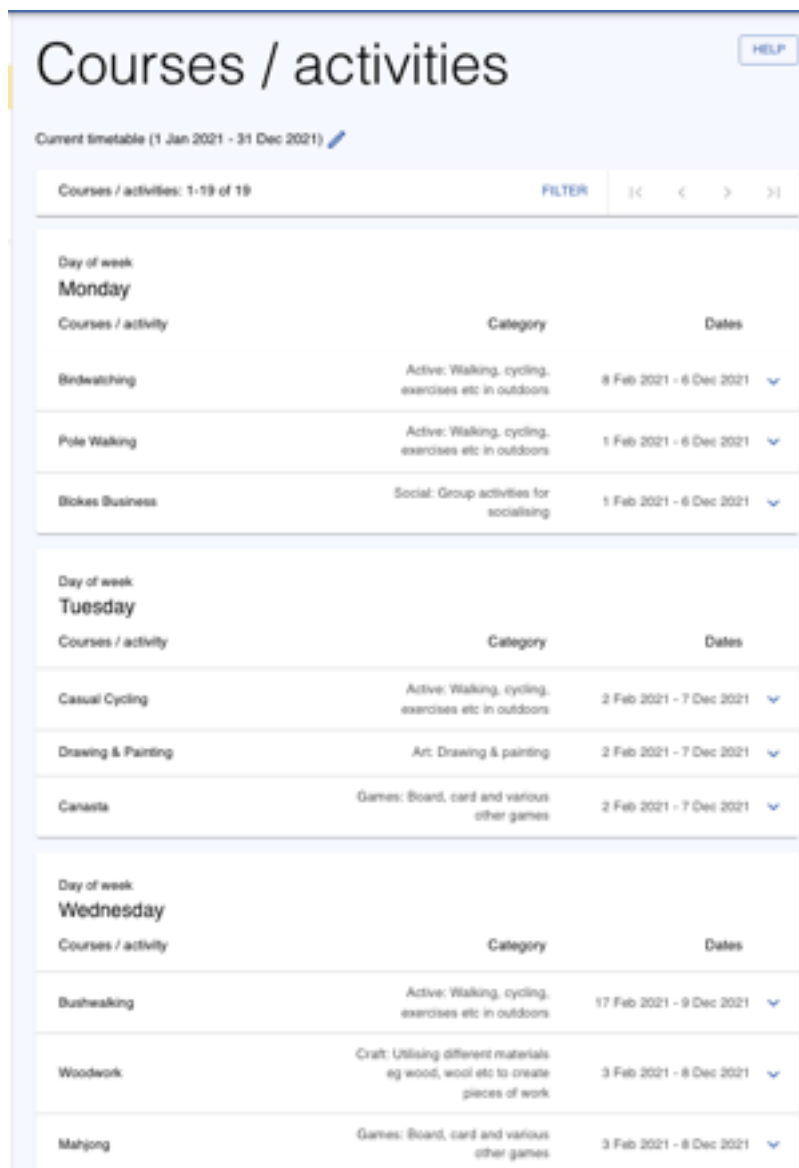
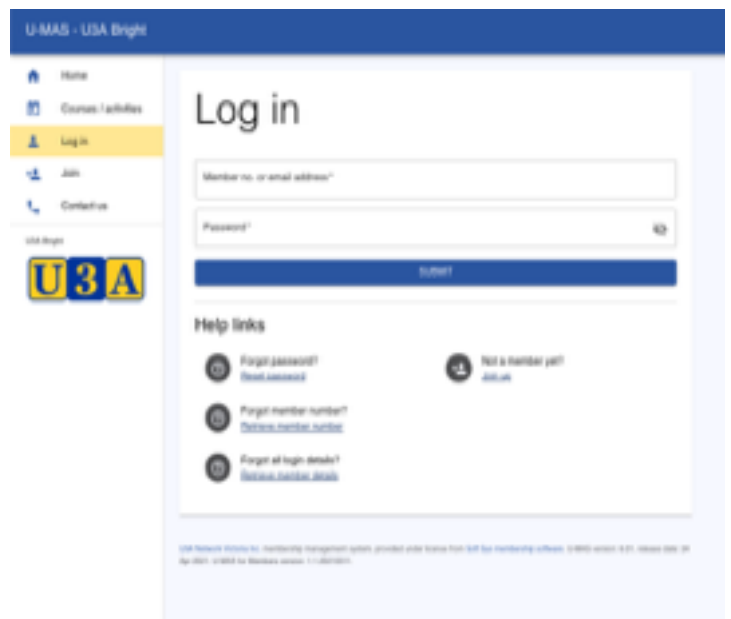
## Coffee Morning

Friday 30th July at 10am at the Bowls Club, Churchill Ave

## You may be wondering..... What is U-Mas?

U-MAS is the acronym for the U3A Membership Administration System that the majority of U3A organisations now use to manage their memberships and classes. It is a web based system that integrates seamlessly with our new U3A website.

There are two components, the database that stores and manages information about members and courses, and the member interface where members manage their personal membership information as well as their course bookings.



UMAS is managed by local administrators, with support from the state network, in our case U3A Victoria, so that it is both customised and sustainable.

Once launched, U-MAS will be the only way you can join U3A Bright, pay your membership fees and enrol in courses.

The launch date for U-MAS is coming up so look out for emails advising you of your membership number and how to log in.

# staying active

***Do you struggle with the digital world?***

***Are you constantly depending on others to help with getting online?***

***Would you like to learn more in your own time?***

## Be Connected

Be Connected is an Australia wide initiative empowering all Australians to thrive in a digital world.

There is online learning resources as well as a Network of community partners - the Be Connected Network - who offer support so you can develop your digital skills and confidence.

Find a local place for friendly help and advice, or join the Network to help others.

Here you can select the subjects you wish to know about.

### **Essentials**

#### ***The absolute basics***

New to computers? This is the perfect place to start. Learn the essentials of using a computer, laptop, tablet and smartphone, and find out about the internet, web browsers, web addresses and search engines.

- [What is a computer?](#)
- [What is a laptop?](#)
- [What is a tablet?](#)
- [What is a smartphone?](#)
- [What is the internet?](#)

#### ***Getting to know your device***

This topic will teach you the basic functions of a keyboard, mouse and computer, including how to change settings and manage your files.

- [Using a keyboard](#)
- [Using a mouse](#)
- [Using a touchscreen](#)
- [Using a computer](#)

This is just the start! So much more!

Log in to: <https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au>

If you are comfortable with digital technology or maybe you are not RMIT would like to know. They are conducting a survey to gauge the uptake amongst our more senior citizens.

If you would like participate click on the link below. It may take only 5-10 mins of your time and will be greatly appreciated

[https://rmit.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0wiyMlvbiBVvrU1](https://rmit.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0wiyMlvbiBVvrU1)

Did you know your household could be eligible for  
**\$250**  
off your power bill?

The Victorian State Government's Power Saving Bonus is a one-off payment to help eligible Victorians experiencing energy bill stress.

Available until 31st January 2022.

The \$250 Power Saving Bonus for Pensioner Concession recipients and some Health Care Card holders (including JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, Austudy and Abstudy recipients) is now available. Before submitting an application for the bonus, please read the eligibility requirements.

#### Eligibility Requirements

- You must be a Victorian residential energy consumer (i.e. have a residential electricity account).
- You must be receiving payments under one of the following concession programs:
  - Centrelink Pensioner Concession
  - JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, Austudy or Abstudy
  - Department of Veterans Affairs Pensioner Concession
  - Or hold a Department of Veterans Affairs Gold Card
  - Pension Concession Card holders who are not receiving payments, and Health Care Cards holders who are not receiving Youth Allowance, JobSeeker, Austudy or Abstudy payments, are not eligible.

Log on to: <https://compare.energy.vic.gov.au/>  
then click the link to start your application

Submit a Power Saving Bonus application

## President's Report

Winter has arrived and so has the snow. With the snow many visitors have also arrived particularly during the fortnight of the school holidays. Bright is really alive.

Many COVID restrictions have been lifted over the past few weeks and we have been able to open up most of our activities. The wearing of masks indoors has been the only "huge" burden placed upon our groups.

I can report to all our members that the committee of management has met regularly and under its wing we have two main projects underway as I write this report.

Marianne, Helen, Robyn, and Linda have been working many hours setting up the new U3A membership recording program and loading all the member and course details. Helen gave a presentation to the committee during our June meeting showing the new website and U-Mas system. The new program looks tremendous and it should make our member administration much easier. It has a very high level of security, yet at the same time it will make it easier for our convenors to use while giving members the opportunity to enroll in new courses and update their own details.

A sub committee of Michael, Kevin and myself took on the task to rewrite our constitution to bring it up to date with modern thinking and practice. We have not decided whether to call a special meeting to debate and accept the new version or whether to let it ride until our next AGM. The committee of management will make that decision. Whenever that occurs the members will have the final say of either accepting the recommended version or sending the sub committee back to the drawing board.

My quote for this newsletter is directed towards our Cycling Group. It comes from the Scottish comedian Billy Connolly with the date 1976 attached.

"Marriage is a wonderful invention, but, then again, so is a bicycle repair kit."

Please stay warm and healthy for the remainder of the year , but particularly during the rest of this winter.

Roy Ward  
President

# Just for Fun.....

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for the church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

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Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

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The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water'. The sermon tonight:'Searching for Jesus'.

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Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

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Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

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Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

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For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

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Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

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Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

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A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow..

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At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

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Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

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Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

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The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

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Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

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The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

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This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

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The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

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Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM . Please use the back door.

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The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM .. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

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Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

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And this one just about sums them all up:

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday:'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'