

Bathurst U3A Matters

Each week during term, 500 members of Bathurst University of the Third Age participate in forty classes covering in a wide range of topics including physical activities such as yoga, tai chi and table tennis, more cerebral pursuits such as writing, foreign languages and chess, and a range of craft and art classes along with musical studies and more. For an annual cost of just thirty dollars members can participate in as many classes as they can fit in, and the only qualification is to be aged over fifty!

Singing for Pleasure

One of the Monday U3A programs is the Singing for Pleasure group, led by Marie O'Donnell. Fifteen singers get together at the Bathurst Baptist Church under Marie's expert tutelage to harmonise their way through two hours of folk songs, songs from the great musicals, sacred songs, Irish, Scottish and even Japanese songs.

Marie is a very experienced musician and chorister, having been in choirs including the Panorama Chorus for many years before starting the Singing for Pleasure group five years ago. Marie chooses a lot of the songs for the group, however suggestions from members are also included in the schedule. Singing for Pleasure is also fortunate to have local pianist Margaret Longhurst provide expert accompaniment.

Singing for Pleasure has performed in various locations in Bathurst including the Bathurst Seymour Centre, and as part of the Bathurst Sings festival, sharing their musical gifts and enjoyment with the community.

Some members have been part of Singing for Pleasure since its inception. Some are blessed with great singing voices, however this is not a prerequisite at all and everyone is welcome. The name of the group suggests that having fun is what it's about and that is very much the case. Members enjoy their weekly catch-ups and the social aspects of membership are truly valued.

Social Scrabble

In Term One this year, U3A introduced Social Scrabble. Each Thursday in the Bathurst Library Meeting Room, Anne Ford leads a group of ten men and women enjoying a friendly, sometimes competitive afternoon enjoying the classic word game. Scrabble has been played around the world for several decades now and remains a popular way to not only enjoy spending time but also offers the opportunity to increase word power, or vocabulary.

Words used in Scrabble include everyday words and what are referred to by some as "scrabble words." Anne explained that if a word is included in the Scrabble Dictionary, it's acceptable. The group has access to the Scrabble Dictionary to check not only the authenticity of a word but also its spelling.

The group has found that three players is the best number for a game. With just two players, it can be too easy to predict the next development, while with four players the games take too long. Having three players also enables everyone to play two games each afternoon.

After more than three terms, the group remains disagreement-free, and games are all played in a relaxed and friendly spirit. The aim is to have fun. The social aspect common to all U3A classes is very much in evidence as members catch up each week for a friendly chat.

Christmas Party

Invitations are being sent to all Bathurst U3A Members for our annual Christmas Party to be held at Panthers on 30 November. Members meet at 12 noon for a 12.30 commencement and the cost is just \$35 for a delicious lunch and chance catch up with other members. RSVP is 16 November please and members can either book online or by completing the form at the bottom of the invitation and returning it the Bathurst Neighbourhood Centre at 96 Russell Street. Anyone who has not received an invitation by the end of October, either online or though the post, should contact the Secretary Sue Lasky on 6331 6968.

Planning Ahead

The Bathurst U3A Committee is considering a number of new courses for 2018, either the return of courses previously run, or brand new ideas. Proposals on the table at this point include First Aid and Health for Seniors, Mi-Chi Healing and Art, Armchair Travel, French, Lawn Bowls, Computer Skills, Photography, Shakespeare and Literature.

For more information about Bathurst U3A, or to suggest further new courses for next year, visit *bathurstu3a.com* or contact the Secretary, Sue Lasky on 6331 6968.