

Monthly News – November 2025

President's Report

Welcome to our November 2025 Monthly Newsletter! As we approach the end of another enriching year, Glen Eira U3A is winding down for 2025. Apart from a few summer school classes, our calendar year officially wraps up at the end of November.

It's been a truly successful year for our vibrant, multicultural community. At the risk of repeating myself, these numbers give a thumbnail overview of an entirely-volunteer-run organisation that continues to fascinate me:

• Total active members:	1,230
• New members in 2025:	181
• Number of postcodes covered:	63
• Number of countries of birth:	72
• Number of volunteer tutors:	140
• Number of courses offered:	198
• Number of office volunteers:	38
• Number of committee members:	15



Glen Eira U3A holds a truly special place in our community.

Other topics covered in this issue include:

- An update from our Course Management Team who've been working tirelessly on the 2026 course catalogue.
- Important news about new parking arrangements — especially relevant as a few of our members have been booked recently!
- A brief report on our participation in the Glen Eira Council's Healthy Aging Expo

Our new committee is settling in well. You'll find brief profiles of several of the people helping steer our organisation forward.

As for me, I'm thoroughly enjoying my time as President — now in my third and final term. Very soon after retiring from a career in the IT industry, my wife Cheryl and I came along to a Glen Eira U3A open day ... and we were hooked almost immediately!

These days, I'm happily immersed in several classes: clay modelling, duplicate bridge, and watercolour painting. The beautiful artwork featured on the next page is by my watercolour tutor, John Van Loon. You can see the original — along with around 40 others of John's other stunning works — at his upcoming exhibition in Brighton later this month. Check out

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the flyer on the foyer noticeboard for details. John is just one of our many talented and generous volunteer tutors – they all deserve our appreciation and support.

Here's to the end of a fantastic year — and an exciting new one ahead!

Warm regards,
Mark Rubinstein
President, Glen Eira U3A



Course Management Team Update

The 2026 Course Catalogue will be published on our website on Monday 3 November. Printed copies will also be available at Reception for your perusal. There is a very wide selection of courses on offer to our members in 2026 and you will have plenty of time before enrolment in January to make your final choices of courses for next year.



It is possible that there may be some further additions to the Course Catalogue. These will appear in updated issues of the document on our website as well as advertised in future issues of the monthly newsletter. It would also pay to check the Course Catalogue again after 2 – 3 weeks for any late additions.

2026 Enrolments

Enrolments for 2026 open on Wednesday, 14 January at 9:00 am. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, many of our courses are extremely popular and tend to fill quickly.

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You can improve your chances of securing a place in your preferred courses by **enrolling online rather than relying on assisted enrolment**. To support members who are less confident using the online system, David Bloom has generously offered to run tutorial sessions as listed below. If you've previously relied on assisted enrolment, I encourage you to book yourself in to one of David's sessions — with always-helpful assistance from any of our friendly reception volunteers – it will make a big difference.

Code	Name	Day	Time	Dates
25COM23	2026 Online Enrolment	Tue	1:30 PM	11-Nov-25
25COM24	2026 Online Enrolment	Wed	1:30 PM	12-Nov-25

New Parking Arrangements

Following a decision by Woolworths Glen Huntly to introduce new parking arrangements, the four parking spaces at the eastern end of the front fence are no longer reserved for designated tutors and office volunteers.

These spaces are now available for use by all members. Members must display their Parking Permit, issued with enrolment, when parking in the unrestricted area directly in front of the U3A fence. What happens when there is no available parking space in front of the U3A fence?



- Option A: Park for up to two hours in any other car park bay.
- Option B: You may go to the Office to register for the use of a 3-Hour Parking Permit enabling you to park in any parking bay for up to three hours.

Permits are limited, so please return yours to the Office once you're finished. Thanks for helping us share the parking fairly.

Glen Eira U3A at the Healthy Ageing Expo – 31 October 2025

On Friday, 31 October 2025, Glen Eira U3A participated in the City of Port Phillip and Glen Eira Healthy Ageing Expo, held at the Caulfield Town Hall. The event brought together 26 exhibitors representing a wide range of programs and services aimed at supporting active, connected and fulfilling lives for older community members. Glen Eira U3A was represented by Marketing Team members Cheryl Gelfand and Simone Markus, who staffed our stall and engaged with attendees throughout the day. They promoted the diverse courses and activities offered by our organisation and shared the many benefits of U3A membership — including opportunities for lifelong learning, social connection, and community involvement.

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The Expo attracted around 300 visitors, and it was encouraging to note the strong level of interest in what we offer. Many attendees made enquiries about membership, while others expressed interest in becoming tutors — a very positive outcome. It was also interesting to learn that roughly half of those we spoke with were already familiar with U3A, prompting valuable conversations about our purpose and role in the community. Overall, the event was a great success and a fitting reward for the many hours of preparation invested by our Marketing Team. It provided an excellent platform to showcase Glen Eira U3A, strengthen community awareness and inspire new participation in our vibrant learning community.



Introducing our new committee

Robyn Freedman

I am a Kiwi from Christchurch and have lived in Melbourne since I was 19 years old. For many years I worked in banking and then moved to Aged Care where I was an activities coordinator and personal carer. I have two handsome sons, and an extended stepfamily too. My three grandsons aged 9, 5, and 3 years keep me very busy with their activities — swimming lessons, arts and crafts, playgrounds and continuous food! Joining U3A in retirement has been a bonus. I am in a cycling group, an art class, Israeli dancing, and Behind the News, where my husband Phillip is a tutor. Making precious new friends through U3A has been a wonderful experience and certainly a huge part of my life.

Preeti Khushu, Treasurer

I am a graduate in Economics and a Chartered Accountant with over 25 years of leadership experience in Financial Accounting Services across multiple countries and industries such as Technology, Financial Services, FMCG (fast-moving consumer goods), Construction, Aviation and Real estate. I retired from corporate life in 2022 as Head of Global Business Services APAC (Asia Pacific) with a multinational US company. Post-retirement, I am volunteering my time on the Boards of not-for-profit organisations and enjoying free time with my family. I am passionate about gender and racial equality and believe in equal opportunities for all. I joined Glen Eira U3A in 2023 and have benefited from joining several courses and making new friends. Currently I am enrolled in Clay Modelling and Yoga and enjoying both immensely.

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Simone Markus

For over 40 years I have been involved in a range of volunteer roles supporting my community and causes that matter to me. I spent 11 years as President and Co-President of the Raoul Wallenberg Unit of B'nai B'rith Victoria and have supported the Raoul Wallenberg Study Grant program for 20 years through fundraising and coordination. As the daughter of Holocaust survivors, I am committed to Holocaust education and remembrance, and have coordinated Raoul Wallenberg Day each January for the past 16 years.

I currently serve as Secretary of the Committee of Management for Courage to Care and was honoured to receive the City of Glen Eira Volunteer Recognition Award. Before retiring in 2020, I worked for nine years as a Medical Audio-Typist and Receptionist at the Epworth Hospital.

Since retiring, I have enjoyed taking part in Glen Eira U3A courses, including Spanish, Scrabble, Behind the News, Film Appreciation, and computer classes. Volunteering and lifelong learning continue to be rewarding parts of my life.

Shirley Moore

Hello everyone! I originally trained as a paediatrician in Shanghai and moved to Melbourne in 1991. After arriving, I completed my PhD at Monash University and spent over 20 years working as a medical research scientist, focusing on cardiovascular health. I now work part-time as a Practice Manager in a GP clinic, which allows me to stay connected to the medical community while still allowing time for other interests. Outside of work, I love reading, watching historical documentaries, knitting, playing bridge, and dancing. I have also recently become a very proud grandmother, which has brought so much joy and a lovely new chapter to my life. Although I have lived in Australia for many years, it is through U3A that I have felt a true sense of belonging. The warmth, friendship and spirit of shared learning here have made me feel deeply at home. I am delighted to join the committee and look forward to contributing, learning, and sharing time with all of you.

Bernadette Pierce

I came to Caulfield South in 1979 when it was just a small village with its own shopping centre which had everything from haberdashery to upmarket bakery. I joined U3A in 2013. We had just returned from Italy. What a disaster! We were staying in a small medieval village where no one spoke English. My husband returned one morning with his chosen bread under his arm and in quite an emotional state. He had been called a thief! Well, that was his interpretation of the incident. He had made the mistake of buying a loaf of bread at one bakery and then entered a second bakery. His exit was blocked by some burly gentlemen. He needed to pay for the bread or put the loaf down. He decided we would

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never return to Italy. We joined Charmain's Italian class. We have returned to Italy several times.

Cheryl Rubinstein

I like being part of Glen Eira U3A, whether helping out on the Committee, working with the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team or attending courses. I enjoy travelling overseas, spending time with my family and friends, playing games, reading, learning about history and discussing current affairs. Glen Eira U3A is a wonderful organisation where older people come together in a friendly and caring environment to continue learning, developing their artistic and creative skills and socialising. I get pleasure from meeting new people and making new friends from diverse backgrounds. Glen Eira U3A enables me to be part of a community that feels like my second home. I am pleased to be able to contribute to such a marvellous enterprise.

Del (Delwyn) Stitz

I have been a member of Glen Eira U3A since 2011. I currently teach scrabble and managing the aged care journey. I previously held positions with Glen Eira U3A during the COVID years 2020 to 2023, as well as having been vice-president of the Victorian U3A network for a short time. I have worked for government in health for many years including implementing the registration of medical practitioners from 2010. I am currently a volunteer with the Alfred and Caulfield Hospitals. I have a daughter who is a specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology who lives in the Blue Mountains. Her youngest daughter, named Kate, died tragically in early 2020. I have a strong commitment to the future of the U3A movement in Victoria.

Margaret Summers

Arriving as an 11 year old from Holland in 1954 I soon learnt English at school, reading Enid Blyton books and listening to radio serials. I met my husband, who lived around the corner, in Williamstown - we were aged 15 and 17, and have been married for 60 years. Unfortunately, he's now in care. I love U3A for keeping me active and using my brain, have done several courses; favourites include playing Canasta and 500 and organising a monthly Trivia group. I also organise the monthly Train Trips to various towns and cities. I look forward to the new year as a committee member alongside some really nice people and that includes the office volunteers.

Jeff Tait

I was born and brought up in North Balwyn and attended Balwyn High School and Monash University graduating with a Law Degree. I met my wife, Cynthia on a kibbutz in Israel in 1976 whilst I was volunteering there. Cynthia is from England (via India!) and had been living on the kibbutz for about 2 years. We are both retired and enjoying it immensely. We love

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going to our second home at Red Rocks, Phillip Island and caravanning. My other hobbies are fishing and boating. U3A is a wonderful organization for retirees and is an important factor in keeping us all active, both physically and mentally. I have been a member of Glen Eira U3A for five years approximately and am currently enrolled in Behind the News, Wine Appreciation and Canasta. I also attended From the Bible to Today in the first semester. I look forward to being on the Committee and to doing my little bit to continue the success of Glen Eira U3A.

NOTICE from the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team – Emergency evacuation fire drills

Two successful fire drills were held on Thursday 23 and Friday 24 October, as part of U3A's ongoing commitment to keeping everyone safe. Both sessions went smoothly, with members, tutors, and volunteers responding quickly and calmly.



What went well:

- **Swift evacuation:** Everyone exited safely within minutes.
- **Clear communication:** Fire Wardens gave clear directions that were followed promptly.
- **Great teamwork:** Volunteers and members worked together to ensure no one was left behind.

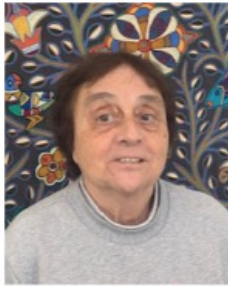
The positive attitude and cooperation of everyone involved showed just how well-prepared our community is. A few small “wrinkles” were noted and will help fine-tune future procedures — but overall, it was an excellent result. A big thank you to all members, tutors, and wardens for taking part and helping keep U3A a safe, welcoming and supportive place to learn and connect.

Health, Safety & Wellbeing Team

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Our office volunteers

Finally, sincere thanks to our dedicated team of office volunteers for their excellent work and inspiring community spirit.



Sue Levy



Doreen Freeman



David Bloom



Del Wood



Cynthia Benporath



Saul Dishon



Marianne Preissner



Rheyana Evans



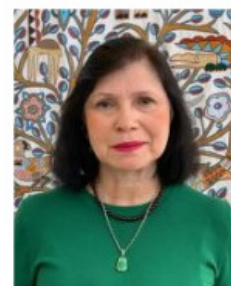
Sigal Witkin



Shelley Massell



Carole Meijs



Marina Marmer



Elizabeth Soderstrom



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Etia Golder



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Kerry Martin



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Patricia Martin



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