



News Bulletin – July extra 2021

Face Masks inside

Everyone is reminded that a fitted face mask must still be worn inside the Senior Citizens Centre and, if unwell, please stay away. We are all hoping that this restriction will be lifted very soon.

Community Forum



The annual community forum has again been organised by the **Upper Kiewa Valley Community Association**.

- **When:** Tuesday 13th July
- **Time:** 7:30 pm
- **Where:** Auditorium at the Mt Beauty Information Centre - Bogong HP Road

A number of guests will be speaking including:

- Dr. Helen Haines, MHR Indi
- John Forsyth, Mayor Alpine Shire
- Charlie Bird, CEO Alpine Shire
- Nick Shaw, CEO Alpine Health
- Nick Wright, Community Recovery Committee

Come and listen to our speakers, ask relevant questions then enjoy a 'social cuppa'.

Film Night – Wednesday 14th July



The fifth screening of the year will be held on **Wednesday 14th July starting at 7:00 pm at the Senior Citizens Centre, Tawonga Crescent, Mount Beauty**. The movie is called '**Greyhound**' starring Tom Hanks.

Based upon the novel "The Good Shepherd" by C S Forester, this is the thrilling story of an allied convoy crossing the North Atlantic in 1942 as it faces

relentless attack by a German submarine wolf pack. The leader of the convoy's destroyer screen is a US Navy commander making his first Atlantic crossing. The story focuses on his command responsibility as he fights the cold, the relentless night, the brutal sea, and his deep fatigue as he chases down the attacking submarines in the deadly game of cat and mouse. The exciting story, a thrilling ride-along with the beleaguered captain, so deeply portrays the elements of battle command that for a long period of time the book was used as a text at the US Naval Academy.

View the **Trailer**. Click [\[HERE\]](#).

Please support this U3A initiative and bring a friend. They can be a guest.

Remember Film Nights are always on the *second Wednesday of the month* and start at 7:00 pm at the Senior Citizens Centre.

Thank you to *Sandra Eldridge* who convenes the Film Night, orders the films and arranges for supper at the interval.

Annual General Meeting - Friday 6th August

The **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Friday 6th August 2021 starting at 10:30 am** followed by our guest speaker, Mount Beauty and Falls Creek police officer, **Leading Senior Constable Peter Johns**, who will be talking about home security.

The meeting includes a president's and treasurer's report, the election of office bearers, the setting of membership fees and other business.

Two motions have been passed by the committee which will be put to the members to vote on.

1. * *"That the couple membership category be removed and all members join as individuals" – carried.*
2. *"All convenors for 2022 will have their membership fee waived" – carried.*

Nominations are welcomed for **executive positions**: president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, and **ordinary committee** positions. **Portfolio positions** that need to be filled include course co-ordinator, newsletter editor, U-MAS administrator (including membership management), website administrator, and guest speaker co-ordinator. **NOTE**: portfolio positions can come from ordinary committee members or other volunteers. Please consider nominating for 2021/22. **Contact the secretary for a nomination form.**

A concern — at last year's AGM there were no nominations for secretary, vice president, course co-ordinator, membership secretary or guest speaker co-

ordinator. This year, to fill the gap, current committee members have been 'putting in the big ones' to cover some of these roles. **It will not happen in 2022.** If the major positions cannot be filled then Alpine U3A will be forced to close down.

*U-MAS is a single-member system and a 'couple-membership' discount is not available. *(The couple-membership discount was only relevant to Alpine U3A years ago when we printed and mailed paper newsletters. We only sent one copy to each household, so couples received a discount due to the savings in postage costs.*

Future Guest Speakers

- [Peter Johns](#) *Leading Senior Constable* – Mount Beauty & Falls Creek Police Stations — Friday 6th August (also the Annual General Meeting)
 - September - to be advised
 - [Dr. Helen Haines MP](#) — Friday 1st October
 - November - to be advised
 - December - Christmas Luncheon
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Welcome to new member

- Craig Lynch – German

Our total membership is 173. We have 16 new members for 2021.

Grant Funds

As mentioned in the last News Bulletin (26th June '21), we have obtained some funds to be used by members to enrol in courses. These can be **ONLINE** courses (see below) or courses with a local provider like the **Mount Beauty Neighbourhood Centre** that a member can actually attend.

The Neighbourhood Centre has recently published its Term 3 Booklet which has been delivered to mailboxes. If you did not receive one, drop into the Centre and pick one up. **There may be a course of interest that you may wish to enrol in, and which will be paid for by Alpine U3A.** Let the Alpine U3A secretary know of your interest.

Online Courses ... for free

As mentioned above, we have received a grant to provide funds for members to enrol in ONLINE courses offered by **Victorian U3A's** that charge a fee.

U3A's are currently offering online courses and activities. **Click [\[HERE\]](#)** to view the courses on offer at present (there are eight). If there is one that interests you, please contact the Alpine U3A secretary for approval. Once approved the cost of the course will be paid to you. You can then go online, enrol in the course, pay the fee and you are good to go.

Note — You will need to have downloaded the **Zoom** video-conferencing application onto your computer, smartphone or tablet to participate. Once you have enrolled, you will be sent a link to join the class at the specified time.

There is an organisation called **[U3A Online](#)** which charges an **annual fee of \$30.00** and offers **Independent Study Courses** i.e. no tutor, usually. You work at your own pace.

They offer a wide variety of course subjects which can be studied at any level of interest. Their aim is to provide something for everyone, so courses may vary in length and depth.

The courses are informal, there are no exams or assignments and no certificates issued. Each course is offered as Independent Study. Of course, an internet connection is required but ZOOM video conferencing is not used.

There are courses in:

- World Affairs & History
- Nature
- Writing & Creativity
- Lifestyle
- Science
- Short courses

The **courses are accessible throughout the year** and can be studied either independently at a time to suit you or with the guidance of a volunteer course leader when the leader is available. **Click [\[HERE\]](#)** to explore the **U3A Online** website and all the courses on offer.

Note — When you view the course list, if you click the **course name** you see a summary of the course. If you click **signup**, that is where you pay the annual \$30.00 fee.

Again, if you wish to enrol in a course, let the secretary know.

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Research Project with RMIT University

U3A Network Victoria is collaborating with RMIT University in a research project on Older Adults and their use of Information and Communications Technology. The aim of the survey is to understand the lived experiences, practices, and perceptions of risk around Information Technology use, and how people use today's Information and Communications Technology to engage in the digital economy.

This research is particularly important to U3As as they continue to develop courses and information sessions for their members. The results of the research will also have implications for the development of government policies, programs, and tools that help seniors use and engage with Information and Communications Technology in ways that benefit them.

More than 400 U3A members have completed the survey, and we are looking for another 600 to participate by 31st August.

The survey can be completed online by clicking [this link to be taken directly to the survey](#).

Be Connected



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

Do you know an older Australian who has a thirst for knowledge, but is being held back because they don't know how to use a computer or the internet? Or would you like to upgrade your own IT skills?

Seniors can gain the confidence and skills needed to use new technology through the Australian Government's new Be Connected initiative.

There are terrific learning resources available, not only for beginners, but also for more experienced digital users. Click [\[HERE\]](#) to view what is available and

start learning.

News from other U3A's

- [U3A Myrtleford & District](#) - June Newsletter
 - [U3A Indigo](#) - April Newsletter
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Alpine U3A Facebook Page

Join our Alpine U3A Facebook Group to keep up to date with the latest news.
[Logon to your Facebook Page](#), search for [Alpine U3A](#) and *join the public group*.

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