

We are located at the German Austrian Australian Club

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## February Newsletter 2022

Editor : Tony Keys | Publication Date : January 31st 2022

### U3A Albury-Wodonga Inc. 2021-2 Committee Members

Rod Farr (President, VicNet & Regional Liaison ) • Annie Stephenson (Acting Secretary) •  
Doug Reid (Treasurer) • Peter Massey (Systems Director & UMAS) • Diana Pape (Social Coordinator) • Tony Keys  
(Newsletter) • Anthony White (Vice-President ) • Ludger Pille (Program Coordinator) • Karen Matthews • Colin  
Frost

## Welcome to 2022

**Let's hope, that with a combination of good fortune and taking the necessary precautions, we will experience an enjoyable social program this year.**

## Term 1, 2022

**Begins January 28th**

**Ends April 8th**

**Next Committee Meeting**

**Friday 11th February**

**Check out the last pages for an exciting article!**

## Covid message

Please remember that face **masks** must be worn indoors, and physical distancing of 1.5 metres maintained.



N95 mask

Wearing **masks** is now more important than ever so that we can all enjoy our U3A classes. The most effective masks are the **N95** or **P2** standard. Next best are the **KN95** type. Surgical masks offer little protection, and cloth masks, while better for the environment, are almost useless.

The other vital act you can do is getting your **booster** shot. Studies have shown that they greatly enhance protection against symptomatic and severe infection by COVID, particularly for those, like myself, who received Astra Zeneca as their initial inoculation.

## Covid Monitors & Roll Markers

To ensure compliance with the Covid safety requirements, a **Covid Monitor** for each class will again be appointed for each class. Please be kind to our Covid Monitor; we should not be offended should we be approached to encourage Covid compliance. I am sure we have all made mistakes in this regard, and there is no need for embarrassment should we be approached and instructed in respect to any safety issues.

We also need **roll markers** in each class for a number of reasons including insurance requirements and monitoring possible wait list vacancies. (We are not enforcing the “3 absences without explanation rule” at present because of Covid, but it would be good if you could let us know that you will be away, either by emailing us or using the Absence function in *Member Login* on our website).

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## A Change in the Committee

**Kerrie Horner** has moved to Lakes Entrance. Kerrie became Secretary under demanding circumstances following the death of Di Fontana. She had to hit the ground running. The challenges continued with our adoption of the UMAS administration system and the move to the GAAC. For much of

last year she was doing her role while commuting between two homes.

The committee, on behalf of our membership, would like to thank Kerrie for her flexibility and diligence in fulfilling her role.

Kerrie is not leaving us entirely. She has joined Lakes Entrance U3A will be participating in our *Sustainability* and *Our World* courses by Zoom.

Kerrie leaves a gap in our executive team but fortunately one of our members, **Annie Stephenson**, has agreed to do the secretary role until positions are vacated at the AGM. Thank you Annie.

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### Vale Vince Black

Our U3A community is much the poorer with the recent passing of our much loved and admired tutor and friend Vince Black. After a courageous battle with cancer, Vince passed away on 11 December 2021. His funeral service at his home at Staghorn Flat was well attended by U3A members.

Vince lived a full and productive life. Not inspired while working for a bank after completing his Leaving Certificate, he was encouraged by his football coach to return to study at Wodonga High School. He completed his matriculation in 1966 and won a Victorian Education Department Studentship, enabling him to attend Melbourne University from 1967. This led to a Commerce Degree and a Diploma of Education. Armed with his new qualifications, Vince embarked on a

teaching career commencing at Echuca High School in 1972.

In his third year at Echuca he met a new fellow teacher, Rosemarie Hardley. After what he described as “a whirlwind romance”, they were married in January 1975. Vince and Rosemarie had already resigned from the Victorian Education Department and within a fortnight of their wedding they both took up two-year teaching contracts on **Christmas Island**.



Vince described it as “a two-year honeymoon”. Christmas Island exposed the young couple to unusual teaching challenges and to a unique (but fading) colonial lifestyle in a multicultural society that included Malaysian, Chinese and expatriate communities. The culture and location of Christmas Island provided them with many wonderful experiences, including opportunities to travel to Asia and Europe.

On returning to Australia, Vince held a

variety of positions with the ACT Schools Authority in Canberra. He studied for, and obtained, a diploma in horticulture during this time, and Vince and Rosemarie's daughters were both born in Canberra.

Vince, Rosemarie and their young family were lured back to the Indian Ocean in 1985 with Vince taking up a one-year secondment as Education Advisor to the Administrator of the **Cocos Islands**.

Returning with his family to his hometown of Wodonga in 1986, Vince taught at Wodonga West High School for 7 years before undertaking a career change. Joining a local accounting practice, Vince studied financial planning and lead the establishment of a new financial planning arm of the business. Vince lead this until his retirement in 2009. In retirement Vince tended his large garden, engaged with his family and growing brood of grandchildren, travelled widely, and threw himself into researching and delivering the popular U3A courses which we enjoyed so much.

A passionate advocate for social justice, Vince was always involved in political affairs. He was a teachers union advocate while teaching, and a political activist on behalf of the local populations while living in the islands of the Indian ocean. More recently he was a prominent supporter of *Voices for Indi* advocating on behalf of Cathy McGowan (who spoke at his funeral) and the current member for Indi, Helen Haines.

Vince's U3A courses were very popular. His history lectures covered such topics as World War I, The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich, and the History of Japan.

Family man, teacher, financial planner, social campaigner, traveller, and friend. We will sorely miss you.

Hugh McKenzie-McHarg

## A Member Profile: An Award Winner

**Hazel Cook** joined Murray River **WIRES** in 2005. The aim of WIRES, a NSW organisation, is to rescue native wildlife and release a healthy creature back into its natural habitat, to be able to live independently, forage for its own food, and hopefully establish a breeding partnership for the continuation of the species. This is particularly critical for endangered and threatened species.



Hazel has had the satisfaction and delight of releasing many successfully rehabilitated animals, birds and reptiles during her years with WIRES. This included the spectacular lift-off at release

of a raptor which had received primary feather implants and had been taught how to fly and forage by Hazel. No less satisfying was the relocation of a tiny possum into a nest box in a patch of bush.

Hazel has engaged the assistance of local Men's Shed volunteers, High School Wood Technology students and generous members of the public, to construct a range of boxes to suit a variety of bird and mammal species.



Hazel has been exceptionally active in WIRES. She is on call 24 hours a day. She has completed several training courses, which are required for effective care of 'critters' - her favourite word! She has also trained in specialist skills, notably the care of **raptors**. She travels great distances with raptor care, including the use of large raptor facilities at Beechworth Gaol and with a platypus to specialised care at Healesville Sanctuary. This is in addition to the large area of NSW that is covered by Murray River WIRES, where a return trip to collect an eagle may be 300km. Hazel has taken a special interest in neutralising the effect of lead in wedge-

tailed eagles, by frequent and regular injections to disperse the chemicals.

Rarely is there a week that Hazel does not have an animal, bird or reptile in care. These range from the largest eagle to the tiniest sugar glider and 4-day-old baby kookaburras. Orphaned marsupials such as wombats and koalas often reside in her house. She has specialist housing on her verandah and several aviaries in her yard. She raises live food for birds, and frequently uses her own means to provide the required food, formula and housing.

Hazel often features on local media: television, radio, newspapers and Facebook, where she articulates the essential role of WIRES. The raging bushfires of the summer of 2019-20 and the regional drought saw extreme pressure on WIRES resources and members. Hazel was constantly advising media, caring for injured 'critters' and publicising the needs of WIRES teams. Veterinary services are often required by WIRES members, such as access to X-ray and surgical facilities. Thanks to Hazel's commitment to WIRES and her rapport with veterinarians, the branch has a strong and supportive network of local vets, who provide their services pro bono.

Hazel has encouraged people to consider the needs of wildlife and join WIRES as an active member. There are courses that each recruit must complete, and it is frequently Hazel who organises these courses.

At times, there are discoveries of illegally kept fauna, which require legal intervention, to rescue and re-home or release such species (either protected native species, an unlicensed facility or prohibited international species). To effectively deal with such difficulties requires commitment, courage, and a professional relationship with

local law enforcement officers (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service).



The challenges presented by COVID-19 have affected the branch's operations. The protection and continued existence of Australia's native wildlife is under threat on many fronts: urban sprawl, freeways, inappropriate poison, water quality, waste and rubbish in riparian areas, loss of natural habitat, and so on. Hazel's commitment to general environmental health is part of her dedication to native fauna, which cannot survive in unsuitable environments.

As a result of all this work Hazel entered **2021 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards (Riverina)**. She was entered in the Aged Volunteer section - i.e. over 65 years. She won that section and went on to win the award overall (conducted by Zoom). Most of these awards are won by firefighters, St. Johns Ambulance etc. but a win for a wildlife carer was wonderful.

That meant that she would go to Sydney to be judged for the whole state. In her words:

*“I never won anything at the state awards but did enjoy the 3 course meal that we had and the box of chocolates that we all got. We were also allowed to take one visitor with us - all free of charge.”*

You might be happy to know that there were some volunteers from other U3As that had won their sections as well – i.e., over 65 years. Hazel expresses the hope that maybe some really good members from U3A could enter the Victorian Volunteer awards.

Tony Keys

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## **LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE**

### **Apologies to our English friends**

**Q What do you get if you cross the English cricket team with an OXO cube?**

A. A laughing stock.

**Q What is the height of optimism?**

A: English batsman putting on sunscreen.

**Q. What is the difference between an English batsman and a Formula 1 car?**

A. Nothing! If you blink you will miss them both.

**Q. What do English batsmen and drug addicts have in common?**

A. Both spend most of their time wondering where their next score will come from.

**Q. What does an English batsman who is playing in The Ashes have in common**

with Michael Jackson?

A.They both wore gloves for no apparent reason.

**Q. What is the difference between Cinderella and the Pommies?**

A. Cinderella knew when to leave the ball.

**Q. What's the difference between the Pommies and a funeral director?**

A. A funeral director isn't going to lose the ashes.

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### **The job interview with the Queen...**

Two blokes living in the Australian outback saw a couple of jobs advertised by the Queen of England.

She was looking for footmen, to walk beside her carriage.

They applied and were very happy to be flown to London for an interview with Her Majesty.

She says to them "Because my footmen must wear long white stockings, I must see your ankles to be sure they are not swollen or misshapen."

After they show her their ankles, the Queen says: "It is also important that you don't have knobby knees, so I need to see your knees too."

Once she has seen their knees, she says: "Now everything appears to be in shape, so I just need to see your testimonials."

Nine years later,.....when the pair are finally released from prison, one of the blokes says to the other:.....

**"I reckon, if we just had a bit more education we would have got that job"**

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\*

**Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for church volunteers with computers. These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:**

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

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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.

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

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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.

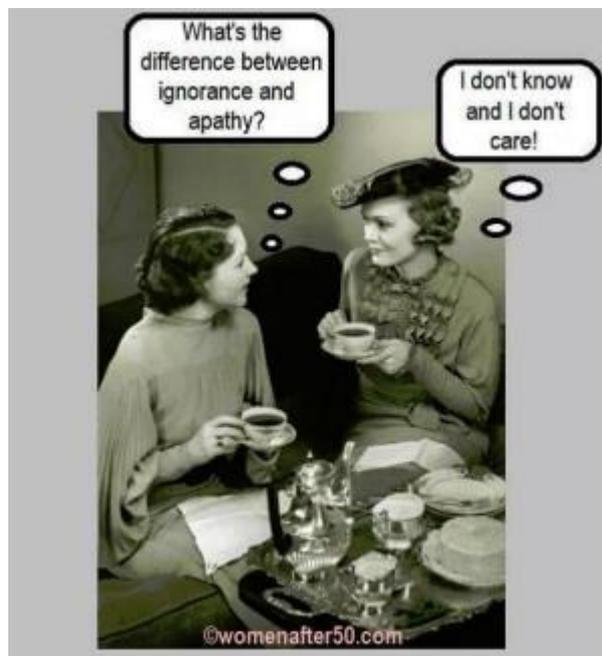
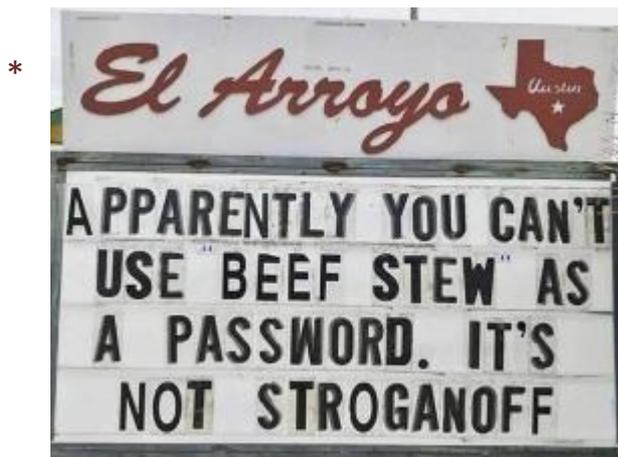
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Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church.

Please use large double door at the side entrance.

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



**Shops:** No Shoes, No Shirt, No Service

**People:** OK! No Problem

**Traffic Laws:** Wear a seatbelt in your car or get a ticket

**People:** OK! No Problem

**OSHA:** While working in certain places, you must wear safety goggles and safety gear.

**People:** OK! No Problem

**Airlines:** You must be seated and wear a seatbelt, with your tray table up when taking off!

**People:** OK! No Problem

**TSA:** Before getting on this plane, you need to remove your shoes, your belt, anything from you pockets and go through this x-ray machine.

**People:** OK! No Problem

**Grocery Stores:** Please wear a mask while you are shopping to help reduce the risk of infecting other with a potential deadly virus.

**People:** HOW DARE YOU TAKE AWAY MY PERSONAL LIBERTIES AND RIGHTS!!



If you are returning to **Face to Face** and have NOT yet presented your **Vaccination status** evidence, please show this to your Tutor, Covid Monitor or a Committee member on your first attendance so it can be recorded on the Master List.

If you are unwell, please get tested and isolate until you get a negative result. Do not attend class.

If you are concerned about returning to face to face or are not fully vaccinated at this time please continue to attend your classes by Zoom where possible.



**Please remember the continuing important role of our Covid Monitors whose job it is to support compliance with health protocols.**

**They will help you with procedures such as QR code signing in, vaccination registration and cleaning chairs.**



## **Enrolments 2022**

U3A AW is starting at the end of January. It is not too late to enrol in most courses using:

- ◆ **U-MAS For Members** on our website (THE PREFERRED METHOD FOLLOWED BY A SEPARATE DIRECT BANK DEPOSIT). See the November newsletter for instructions.

or

- ◆ **Face to face enrolment** at the German Austrian Australian Club in Wodonga on Monday to Wednesday from 12.00pm to 1.00pm during term.

As at the time of publication we have **260** financial members, a good start to the year.

## 2022 Term1 Time Table

### Monday

22002	Everyday Philosophy	Every Monday	10:00	12:00	GAAC Room 1 (HYBRID)
22003	Family History and the Internet	Every Monday	10:00	12:00	ZOOM (ZOOM)
22004	Economics & Politics	Every Monday	13:00	15:00	GAAC Room 1 (Face to Face)
22005	Its Never Too Late to Begin Again	First & third Monday of month	13:00	15:00	GAAC Room 2 (Face to Face)
22006	CAE Book Study	2nd Monday of month	13:00	15:00	GAAC Room 3 (Face to Face)
22007	Arts Appreciation	3rd Monday of month	15:15	16:30	GAAC Room 1 (Face to Face)

### Tuesday

22008	Sustainability	Every Tuesday	10:00	12:00	GAAC Room 1 (HYBRID)
22009	Highways and Byways of English	Every Tuesday	10:00	12:00	GAAC Room 3 (Face to Face)
22010	Music Appreciation	2nd & 4th Tuesday of month	14:00	16:00	VARIOUS (Face to Face)
22011	Garden Group 1	Every Tuesday	13:00	15:00	GAAC Room 3 (Face to Face)
22012	Random Thoughts and Ideas	Every Tuesday	13:30	15:30	GAAC Room 1 (Face to Face)
22013	Air Rifle Shooting	Every Tuesday	15:30	17:00	GAAC Room 3 (Face to Face)
22029	Creative Writing Course	Every Tuesday	14:00	16:00	VARIOUS (Face to Face)

### Wednesday

22014	Napoleon & Wellington	Every Wednesday	10:00	12:00	GAAC Room 1 (HYBRID)
22015	Mahjong for Beginners	Every Wednesday	10:00	12:00	GAAC Room 2 (Face to Face)
22016	Garden Group 2	Every Wednesday	10:00	12:00	GAAC Room 3 (Face to Face)
22017	Social Gardener	1st & 3rd Wednesday of month	10:00	12:00	VARIOUS (Face to Face)
22018	Our World Background Briefings 1	Every Wednesday	13:00	15:00	GAAC Room 1 (HYBRID)
22019	Breaking the Code: Hollywood	Every Wednesday	13:00	16:00	GAAC Room 3 (Face to Face)
22020	Mahjong	Every Wednesday	13:00	16:00	WTC (Face to Face)
22021	Cryptic Crosswords	Every Wednesday	13:30	15:00	TUC (Face to Face)

## Thursday

22001	Meditation	Every Thursday	9:30	11:00	GAAC Room 2 (Face to Face)
22022	Colour	Every Thursday	10:00	12:00	OTHER (Face to Face)
22023	Philosophical Discussions	Every Thursday	10:00	12:00	GAAC Room 3 (Face to Face)
22024	Walks through history	1st & 3rd Thursday of month	10:00	12:00	VARIOUS (Face to Face)
22025	Bird Watching in Albury Wodonga	Every Thursday	8:00	10:00	VARIOUS (Face to Face)
22026	Our World Background Briefings 2	Every Thursday	13:00	15:00	GAAC Room 1 (HYBRID)
22027	Chess	Every Thursday	13:00	15:00	GAAC Room 3 (Face to Face)
22028	Scrabble	Fortnightly every other Thurs	13:00	15:00	GAAC Room 2 (Face to Face)

## Friday

22030	Scottish Country Dance	First 3 Fridays of month	10:00	12:00	GAAC Room 1 (Course)
22032	Mahjong - Intermediate Beginners	Every Friday	10:00	12:00	GAAC Room 2 (Face to Face)
22033	Play Reading Group	1st and 3rd Friday of month	10:00	12:00	GAAC Room 3 (Face to Face)
22034	Card Games and Mahjong	Every Friday	13:00	15:00	GAAC Room 3 (Face to Face)
22036	Genealogy - Decipher DNA results	Every Friday	10:00	12:00	ZOOM (ZOOM)

### KEY:

**GAAC:** German Austrian Australian Club, 5 McFarlane Rd, Wodonga

**Rooms 1 & 2:** upstairs, accessible from front entrance

**Rooms 3:** downstairs, conveniently accessed from bottom of carpark

**WTC:** Wodonga Tennis Centre, Dalglish Street, Wodonga

**TUC:** Trinity Uniting Church, 1052 Mate Street, North Albury

**Hybrid:** The class will be conducted 'Face to Face' and streamed concurrently via 'Zoom'

### CONTACT:

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<https://www.u3aalburywodonga.org.au>

### TERM DATES 2022:

**Term 1:** 28th January to 8th April 2022; **Term 2:** 24th April to 24th June 2022

**Term 3:** 25th July to 16th September 2022; **Term 4:** 03 October to 2nd December 2022

### U3A INSURANCE & INDEMNITY POLICY

The U3A Albury Wodonga Inc. is insured under the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA) Community Service Organisations Insurance Programme 2020-2021 (CSO) for Public Liability, Professional and Medical Indemnity and

Personal Accident. Contractors other than those providing educational and training services, non U3A members and

other persons participating in U3A classes, events or functions are NOT covered under this Insurance Policy. Further

information regarding details of this policy can be accessed at the following website:

<https://www.vmia.vic.gov.au/insurance/policies-and-cover/community-service-organisations-program>

# History in hybrid form helps U3A continue on as enrolments open

Ellen Ebsary \_\_\_Border Morning Mail\_ 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022



JOIN: Volunteer lecturer Hugh McKenzie-McHarg will teach 'Napoleon and Wellington' in a packed U3A program co-ordinated by Ludger Pille. Enrolments will take place at the German Austrian Australian Club. Picture: MARK JESSER

After exploring American history last year for the University of the Third Age, volunteer lecturer Hugh McKenzie-McHarg is taking a deep dive into "an era that changed the face of Europe".

'Napoleon and Wellington' is one of 35 courses on offer this year through U3A Albury-Wodonga, which is taking enrolments on Friday.

Mr McKenzie-McHarg is looking forward to exploring the lives of the historical figures, Napoleon Bonaparte and Arthur Wellesley.

"I did about 32 lectures last year in American history, and figuring out a new theme for this year, I thought about the parallel lives of Wellington and Napoleon," he said.

"They were born in the same year and ultimately end up at war at the Battle of Waterloo, but in the meantime, there's a whole lot of interesting stuff that takes you to India and right through to the Napoleonic Wars.

"One was a very awkward youth who ultimately grew up to be the Prime Minister of Great Britain, and Napoleon, who also came from the remote backwaters, became the Emperor of France."

U3AAW program co-ordinator Ludger Pille said courses included genealogy, bird watching and the history of the English language.

"We've got roughly 35 different courses - there's a range in themes from sporting activities up to philosophy," he said.

"There's a broad spectrum."

This will be the third year courses run at the German Austrian Australian Club, with the club partnering in

improvements and offering free membership to those involved in U3A.

U3AAW committee president Rod Farr said 17 courses took place via Zoom in their first year at the club and five ran in a hybrid format last year.

"From our point of view, it was more disrupted last year due to COVID," he said.

"We were consistently operating through Zoom in 2020.

"Whereas last year, it was so variable - we had a few people who weren't vaccinated or were yet to get their second vaccination.

"But we're firing up again and excited to take enrolments."

Mr Farr hoped COVID-19 circulating in the community would not deter new members.

"The group has always been really good at sticking to the rules," he said.

"The view the committee has taken is 'Let's go face-to-face', and we've also got enough hybrid courses."

U3AAW, part of an international movement for retired and semi-retired learners, was formed in 1991 and has about 300 members.

The term one enrolment session will be held from 10am until midday on Friday, January 28 at the German Austrian Australian Club at 5 McFarland Road, Wodonga.

## While You've Been on Holidays...

A reverse cycle **air conditioner** has been installed in **Room 2** which should improve things considerably in a room that can't decide whether it is a fridge or an oven. This is thanks to a grant by **Albury Wodonga Connected Communities** (see last newsletter)

Plans to improve the lighting in **Room 3** are progressing, as are the raising of the TV screen in **Room 1** by about 20 cm. to make it easier to see the screen

The **outdoor dining/teaching area** on the north side will be ready for use and, with sufficient patronage, Lee's Luscious Lunches will be back on the menu.!

These improvements are in addition to the previously reported **new carpet** on the stairs, **air curtains** in place to keep those pesky flies and mosquitos at bay, and **plants** placed in the outdoor area as well as the western garden bed by the Gardening groups..