

RECEPTION FOR UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE HOBART
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, BALL ROOM, MONDAY 24 JULY 2023

[VICE-REGAL SALUTE]

Good evening everyone. It is my great pleasure to warmly welcome you all here to this reception for our University of the Third Age Hobart (U3A), which has had a terrific response.

I pay my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea and waters.

The University of the Third Age, or U3A, is a unique concept that originated in France in the 1970s and which quickly spread around the world. U3A recognises that learning is lifelong, and that age should not be a barrier to acquiring new skills or knowledge or enjoying the process of discovery.¹

I understand that there are now 15 U3As in Tasmania with the first founded in 1990 and the most recent, U3A Central Coast, formed in 2017. On our Latrobe Council visit earlier this year, we visited a U3A camera class in Port Sorell, so U3A is well spread throughout our State.

Hobart's U3A provides a platform where '*seasoned individuals*' who are full of valuable life experience can come together to share knowledge, experience and interests.

May I acknowledge the breadth and variety of your program across your 10-week terms: French, Spanish, Italian and German languages; astronomy; Beauty and Biology of birds; AUKUS and our sovereignty; Dutch history in their "Golden Age"; calligraphy; and La Canne self-defence, to name a few. I can see that the choices are abundant and cater to a wide range of interests.

¹ Limone, P., Monacis, L., Ceglie, F., Sinatra, M., & de Palo, V. (2018). Enhancing e-learning in old age. Australian Journal of Adult Learning, 58(1), 88-109.

One course did grab my attention, “My mobile phone: What else can it do?”² I hope you can enrol my husband, Don, in just the basic course on “answering when I call you,” which should be sufficient!!

But U3A is not just about classes and learning. Friendships are formed and the joy of learning is greater when shared with colleagues and friends. U3A engages in stimulating discussions, the exchange of ideas, and builds relationships and connections.

U3A Hobart and all the other Tasmanian U3As are valued resources for our community.

I appreciate your website remark which states that U3A Hobart is ‘powered entirely by renewable energy – the enthusiasm of our volunteers’.

May I acknowledge that the continued operation and success of U3A Hobart would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of everyone who donates their time to U3A.³ May I thank you all for everything that you do to support our U3A Hobart.

In particular, may I acknowledge and thank Leone Scrivener OAM. Leone, I understand that you joined U3A in 1991, and you have volunteered in many roles including coordinator, and tutor. You were awarded an OAM for service to seniors’ education and to the community. Significantly, you have held the position of Academic Coordinator for 22 years! You may have decided to retire from this role,⁴ but your remarkable contribution to U3A and to our community will endure! My congratulations on your dedicated volunteer career, and on your retirement from U3A Hobart. Your impact has clearly been a large one. May I invite us all to join in a round of applause for Leone.

In conclusion, I am sure you will continue to enjoy your many programs. I thank all your volunteers for making this possible. I look forward to chatting with you all tonight.

Thank you. David ...

² <https://u3ahobart.org.au/members/massTemplate.php?action=listEvents>

³ <https://www.u3ahobart.org.au/about-u3a/#volunt>

⁴ Correspondence from Mr David Waters dated 8 April 2023