

Summer Days with U3A

Learning About Your Technology Day Report

The Summer Days with U3A Program was seen as an ideal opportunity to respond to the needs expressed by members in their Media and Online Usage Questionnaire returns. In December, the Technology Advisory Group drafted a full day program and approached local Computer, Camera and Media Stores re exhibiting equipment on the day.

Also in December, the Technology Advisory Group emailed all members seeking volunteers to assist with the delivery of the program. Nine members responded with offers of assistance.

The volunteers met with the Technology Advisory Group to plan for the day on Tuesday 19th January.

Retailers who had expressed interest in exhibiting during the day, when approached in January, found themselves preoccupied with filling back to school orders etc. and elected not to participate.

The Learning About Your Technology Day was held at St Mary's Kangaroo Flat on Friday 22nd January 2016. Registration commenced at 9:00. Lunch orders and money email addresses were collected. Around 60 participants attended over the course of the day. Some were able to stay for only a few sessions. Many attended all sessions.

Marion Richardson, Tricia King and Marg Sheridan kept tea and coffee flowing all day and filled thirty-two lunch orders.

The accompanying document: *Learning About Your Technology Day 2016 Program.pdf* details the sessions offered on the day. In the first session, the volunteer assistants introduced themselves to the audience and interacted with the participants during the breaks and in the discussion sessions for the rest of the day.

Interest levels were high during all sessions and during the breaks. The discussion sessions were most profitable. Members shared experiences and aired problems. Some problems were solved on the day. Much information about member needs was gathered. This will be used to plan the *Learning About Your Technology* sessions to be offered at U3A Bendigo over the course of the year. Participants continually expressed their satisfaction regarding the possibility of solving their digital technology problems at the Learning About Your Technology sessions.

Various documents associated with the day are placed on U3A Bendigo Learning About Your Technology Web Page

<http://u3abendigo.com/layt>

Attendees were told that *Learning About Your Technology* sessions would be advertised in The BUZZ and on the Website. Details would be posted as soon as the Committee of Management decides how much time and space can be allocated for the delivery of the program.

The volunteer assistants met briefly at the end of the day to discuss how to proceed. They agreed to meet on Tuesday 9th February, 4:00 to 6:00 pm at St Mary's to plan how to deliver a program that satisfies member needs.

In addition to the nine members who responded to the December email request for help, other members offered to assist on Enrolment Day and during the Technology Day. U3A Bendigo now has sizeable group of volunteers who are willing to assist members develop their digital skills via the *Learning About Your Technology* sessions.

It is hoped that at the next Committee of Management meeting, the Committee will allocate some time and space to accommodate *Learning About Your Technology* sessions.

File ref: Shared TAG Dropbox/layt/Learning About Your Technology Day Report.docx