

Media Release

For immediate release
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U3A Campbelltown Computing Workshop Gives Retirees Skills to Make the Most of The Internet.

When Mr Lam volunteered to take over the teaching role of a Beginners Computing workshop at U3A Campbelltown, he didn't realise how popular the workshop would be with retirees in his local community.

Herman, as he is known to his friends, moved to Adelaide in 2011 from Hong Kong where he held senior roles in information technology in the finance sector and is now sharing his skills and knowledge with others at his local U3A.

"My aim is to make technology useful for retirees. I introduce people to internet applications that are simple to use and can be applied to everyday situations. It's very fulfilling seeing people learn and feel at ease with the technology", Herman said about the workshop.

Google maps, Skype video conferencing and Picasa face recognition applications have triggered particular interest as participants explore the internet and communicate with family and friends interstate and overseas.

Herman himself has also benefited from the workshops and said, "We often come across issues I haven't encountered myself and work as a group to find a solution. From time to time there is an amazing suggestion from an attendee. It really is a two-way learning process."

The Beginners Computing workshop is limited to six participants at a time to ensure personal attention and a high level of interactivity with students. About 15 people have completed Herman's workshop and the feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive.

U3A Campbelltown Secretary, Susan Dawe said, "We are very lucky to have Herman as a volunteer with U3A Campbelltown as he is a great teacher and gives confidence to many seniors to overcome their fear of computers and become confident in their use."

Herman now conducts Saturday morning workshops on Android tablets and Smartphones and is preparing his next workshop with tips on how to fully utilise the features of a smart TV. He is also enrolled in a Certificate IV in Assessment and Training at TAFE and his volunteer hours at U3A Campbelltown will be credited towards his training certificate.

Campbelltown is one of 19 U3As in South Australia, many of which offer computer classes. U3As are not-for-profit organisations providing courses which may last for an hour or a year. For a small annual fee members may enrol for as many courses as they wish, however, an additional fee may apply for some courses.

People wanting to know more about U3A or find their local organisation should go to the new-look website www.u3asouthaustralia.com.au or visit the U3A South Australia stand at the Retirement Lifestyle and Travel Expo at the Adelaide Showground from 29-31 May, 2015.

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