

## *A New Era in Registration*

– *soon*

Many years ago, Leo Minol, now a Life Member of the Launceston School for Seniors, performed the Herculean task of setting up the first computerised registration system for the school. The system was in-house spreadsheet based with many formulas attached and was maintained by others, including the great Barry Lumley, to the present day. Unfortunately, this program is no longer supported by Windows and cannot be loaded onto Windows 10. Being spreadsheet based, it also can't allow for on-line registration, which several members are keen to see happen.

The LSS committee contacted three Launceston-based IT 'experts' to develop a new system that would allow us to maintain the records that the current system gave us and allow for on-line registration. They came, they saw, they left.

Research showed that U3A Victoria had an on-line system which gave us many (or all) of the things we required but of course, in a vastly different format. LSS acquired the U3A system and committee members have spent the last couple of months trying to make sense of it. The arrival of a procedure manual brought a surge of knowledge, and a visit from the program's creator in November added to that knowledge.

However, the system is far from ready for on-line use, as payment options and some housework within the system remain outstanding. We are confident the system will be ready for use for Term 1 Registration Day but not for on-line registrations.

Therefore, Term 1 registrations will still take place at the school but with a slightly different registration form. This form will make it easier for the data entry volunteers to complete their entries in the new system.

On-line payments are more complicated and we have been advised that to set up a provider such as PayPal (the preferred option) can take several months. Many alternatives do not allow for immediate transfer and make it difficult to reconcile membership against payment.

The committee deems it prudent to wait until Term 2 to start using on-line registrations

***In the meantime, click on the Link to our Online Memberships in the 'Membership' Box on our Home Page for a 'sneak preview of the new System. You won't be able to enrol for Classes, but feel free to play with it!***

### **Can you help?**

As data entry on Registration Day will be more involved than normal, due to extra data needing to be updated in the new system,

LSS asks that anyone with similar computer experience, who may wish to volunteer their services on Registration Day, contact Vicki at the office. Just pop in or email: Office Manager.

We are looking forward to being part of the IT revolution in 2020!