

President's Report for 2022 AGM

When I started this job last year, my tenure could have been very short because at the close of the AGM we had no secretary. Had that continued we would have had no U3A. Fortunately Micky Marks took on the role at the next committee meeting, and she's done a splendid job since.

I asked her to get the minutes issued within 7 days of each meeting, and she has. The previous practice was to issue the minutes just before the next meeting, which was wrong. Minutes are not just a record of the event. Minutes should also highlight any required action and nominate the person responsible, so need to be issued asap so attendees know what they have to do. I also think that they should be posted on our website for members to see, so I'll put that to the committee.

During the lockdown we held one meeting on Houseparty, and three meetings on Zoom, that all worked quite well. Murray Bailey was particularly happy at NOT having to drive down from Katoomba.

Public Officer. I mentioned earlier my attempts to fend off the ATO. During that episode we changed Public Officer without following normal protocol, for expediency. Normally such a change requires a General Meeting or a resignation. You are current looking at our new Public Officer, me. Is there anyone else here that would like the job, contact the Dept of Fair Trading etc? No? Then I'd like formal acceptance of the change from this meeting.

All those in favour raise your hands please.

All those against.

ACNC. I am now registered with the ACNC as a responsible person. As a result, a week ago I was able to lodge our report for 2020, which was very late. I also helped Micky and Chris register likewise, so any one of us get access, should the other two not be able to. I have the report for 2021 partly lodged, but it couldn't be completed until the accounts were accepted at this meeting.

Optus. I finally got Jim Tabiri's name off our Optus account. Phoning them didn't work. Telling them face-to-face that he was four presidents ago had no effect. Telling them that he'd had a stroke, and was no longer a member had no effect. So I told them to pretend he was dead (sorry Jim). Anyway, we now have a business account in U3A's name.

Changing banks. During lockdown we were working remotely. The first time I attempted to make an online payment from our Comm Bank account, I got stuck at the authorisation. We have a two-signature policy that applies to cheques and online payments. I anticipated that I could make a payment at home, and then leave it in the system waiting to be authorised by Micky, Harry, or Murray, from wherever they happened to be. But the Comm Bank system required "over the shoulder" authorisation, so both people need to be present at the same computer, which was NOT acceptable to us. So we opened accounts with Westpac. We did NOT ask for a cheque book. Cheques are harder to reconcile, and can remain unrepresented.

Online transactions inherently track where the money goes to or comes from. Most payments are now done without needing to go to the office.

Art Expo. There was no expo in 2021, because an insufficient number of members volunteered to run it. The committee had enough on its hands already.

Microsoft. I managed to get into our Microsoft account after some trans-Pacific discussions with Microsoft, and updated our credit card details to our Westpac card. We were paying for 19 licences. In March I discovered that each licence can be used on 5 devices. So I cut the number of licences down to 8, saving about \$600 a year.

Building Renovations. The toilets and rear steps are going to be updated to comply with accessibility regulations. Some painting and repairs will also be carried out. Council intends to commence this work late April/early May. Yet to be confirmed. The School of Arts will be closed during that time, possibly 8 weeks or more.

Our website. Is up and running again. Do any of you look at our website, other than for the Newsletter? Talking of the Newsletter, I'm still puzzled as to why some 200 members don't open our newsletter email. How many here do NOT open our emails?

That's the end of my report.

David Davis 10/4/2022