

President's Report for 2023 AGM

Despite the problems with the building refurbishment, I think that 2022 was easier to manage than 2021. In my report at last year's AGM I referred to problems with the ATO, GST, the ACNC, Optus, Microsoft, changing Public Officer, changing banks, and trying to sort out the accounts. Compared to that, my second year as President has been a breeze.

Our committee has been working together well, handling both the day-to-day routine and firefighting as required. Christine Bolton took on the Treasurer's job despite having limited experience with Microsoft Excel, and I thank her for that, because she put herself under a lot of stress. In her own words is "was doing her head in" trying to get the figures to balance. But she stuck at it right through 2022, and only called it quits recently. We appointed a new treasurer in January 2023, Jenny Fan. This will be news to most of you, but Jenny resigned a few weeks ago because she found she couldn't commit the time required to do the job, having picked up some work as an extra in a TV series, and some casual accounting work.

When I had advertised for a Treasurer back in December 2022, I'd had an amazing number of responses, 14. So I was able to call those previous applicants and select a suitable candidate on the same day that Jenny resigned. Christine Martin accepted the challenge. She described herself as a bookkeeper (not an accountant) and didn't use the word "amortise" once during our initial chat. That suited me fine. She came in to get more details then got to work immediately, counting up cash and taking it to be banked. A promising start.

I've upset a couple of people recently, but I'm not about to apologise. If you complain that our membership fees are too high, or you haven't got time to do our paperwork, don't expect a sympathetic ear from me. Also, if you haven't volunteered, don't complain.

The Building Refurbishment

Quite a lot was done. The toilets were completely gutted and rebuilt, the roof was fixed and repainted, new was guttering fitted, and the rear steps were rebuilt. The computer room, rooms 1, 2, the office, the kitchen, and the outside walls were all painted, and several windows were repaired. But nothing was done in the hall. So with the committee's consent Harry May organised for the hall to be painted during the Christmas holiday. Isn't it nice? He also organised the installation of the new hot/cold water tap in the kitchen. Thank you, Harry.

And a big thank you too to those who helped to clear the decks before the refurb and put it all back afterwards. It was a big job.

So all is well except for the hall door. We have three problems with it:

- (1) It opens into the hall, so it creates a hazard,
- (2) It is too hard to open.
- (3) You can't see through it, so two people can end up pushing against each other.

I have asked the council to make it open outwards only, which will solve both problems. At the moment the hydraulics or pneumatics in the door mechanism have to slow down the door so it doesn't slam shut. That means whichever way you push the door it resists the motion. If it opened outward only, then the resistance in that direction could be adjusted to zero, leaving you with only the weight of the door to handle. I am told that my request has been passed on to the project manager.

What lies ahead?

We have re-joined U3A Network NSW. This means that we can contribute to the wider U3A family, and get access to resources. Two of us will be attending the U3A Network conference in Deniliquin next week. They plan to lobby the NSW government to get state funding for U3A. There is also a new national body in Canberra called U3AAA, lobbying federally.

We are aiming to install credit card facilities in our office, and hopefully automate some of the membership renewal process.

I'll close by saying that I'm happy to stand as President for another year.

David Davis

President

4/4/23