

Secretary's Report for AGM 2023

This is the start of my 3rd year as Secretary, a role I continue to enjoy and happy to meet everyone who comes to the office to say hello.

The year started well with memberships being renewed and happy to see many new members joining the U3A. Please continue to let your friends and family know about our organisation. As of 3rd April 2023, our membership stands at 1024 members.

Building Renovations – School of Arts

After much delay we were given a date for the renovations, but it was such short notice that we had to scramble to prepare everything for the builders to come in. The office had to be packed, the library dismantled, pictures taken down etc. The committee and volunteers managed to get everything done and we also took the opportunity to cull old records and get rid of anything that was not used or required. The committee continued to have their monthly meetings via zoom and all office work was done offsite.

Renovations took longer than expected but we were given the all clear 1st week of November and again the committee and volunteers had to put in the time to get everything ready for the reopening of the building on November 7th. Some things still had to be done but overall, the building was ready for classes to recommence, and everyone was happy to be back.

Tutors /Volunteers Lunch

After missing this event for the last two years the lunch was held in October 2022. The event was well attended by tutors, volunteers, committee members and their partners. It was a lively affair held at the Star Buffet in the Penrith RSL and everyone had a good time. The lunch will be organised this year as well.

U3A NSW Network

We were invited to join the U3A NSW network and after careful consideration the committee decided that it would be a good idea to be part of this network. Even though we are a separate entity we will have the advantage of being associated with a larger network and this means a savings in our insurance policies and other membership fees that we pay. We will be attending the Network conference later this month.

Seniors Concert

We were given the opportunity to apply for 20 tickets which were given to volunteers and tutors who asked for them. It was an enjoyable day, and all 20 tickets were used.

Newsletter

The articles get better every month and this a fantastic way of letting members know what is happening in the organisation. Thank you to all those who contributed their stories, poems etc. and special thanks to Rosemary and Stewart MacPherson, editors of our newsletter. Also, a big thank you to Richard Abbott who took over the editorship of the newsletter while Rosemary and Stewart were away.

Thank you

I will take this opportunity to thank the committee and office volunteers who give so much of their time to assist in the office and help with the admin work. We are always looking for new volunteers so if you are interested, please contact me or Ruth Todd, Office Manager. A special thankyou to Judy McCabe who has been the font of all knowledge in the running of the U3A and who gave so freely of her time. Judy has stepped down from the Committee but will continue as an Office Volunteer.

We have just finished term one without any disruptions and hopefully this will continue for the remainder of the year.

Thank you.

Hyacinth (Micky) Marks
13/4/2023