



AUSTRALIA

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ALLIANCE MEETING

The U3A Australian Alliance met during the Queensland Conference held in Toowoomba during April.

Attending were: Elsie Mutton, Victoria (Chair): Di Delchau, Online. Rhonda Weston, Queensland. Claire Eglinton, South Australia. Allan Haggarty, NSW.

Matters discussed included:

- The existing MOU was modified to permit the participation of individual U3As from state or territorial areas not as yet possessing a representational body to act on behalf of U3As in their respective areas (currently Tasmania and the Northern Territory). This arrangement is to continue until such representative bodies are formed and become members of the Alliance. We are seeking to encourage the U3As in these areas to interact locally and to assemble a suitable form of representation.
- Delegates chose to proceed with the trialing of electronic meetings to address the impact of travel costs hampering our current meeting opportunities.
- Delegates from the ACT and NSW are arranging a meeting with the Federal Minister for Mental Health and Ageing the Hon. Mark Butler and the Shadow Minister for Seniors the Hon. Bronwyn Bishop MP, both of whom are familiar with the work of U3A. The objective is to further the recognition of the health benefits and community value of our positive ageing activities.
- The need for assembling and maintaining a relevant set of statistics was agreed upon; Victoria, being the only body currently reporting such data to Government is the only State with the collection structure in place. It is therefore understood that it will take some time for this degree of detail to be assembled by other Alliance members.

Our next actual (as opposed to virtual) meeting is scheduled to be held during the forthcoming U3A Victorian and Asia Pacific Alliance Conference to be held in Melbourne. Victorian U3As are looking forward to delivering an interesting and stimulating programme to those making the effort to join us and we do look forward to meeting both our international and local colleagues in October.

In the meanwhile we welcome all those individuals who continue to join and enjoy U3A, share in its programmes and perhaps pursue interests from which they may have been previously precluded by circumstances or which were simply unavailable.

Live Learn and Enjoy

L. Glen, Chair U3AAA



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QUEENSLAND

The Qld Network AGM is held each year at the State Conference. This year, my second as President, I welcome back Jim Hales – Vice President, Adrienne Brougham- Secretary, Alan Williams-Treasurer, Mary Courtney- Grey Matters Editor and Julie Porteous, who was appointed after the 2012 AGM and has now been duly elected. I welcome new committee members Carol Elgayar, Maryborough Treasurer to represent the Fraser Coast and Maria Licence Brisbane Treasurer. When you have a great team, anything is achievable.

A report on the High Country Encounter is elsewhere in this Bulletin and I can only repeat that it was a resounding success on all levels and a great credit to the Toowoomba Team.

Two key outcomes would be the interaction between groups that was generated by the conference and has continued via phone and email, and the very welcome addition to the Network Qld family of two more U3As.

Julie Porteous (U3A Redlands President and Network Committee member) was recently invited to join other Community Leaders from around the State, at the Queensland Premiers Summit – *The Queensland Plan – A 30 year vision for Queensland*. The Summit was attended by delegates from every sphere including community groups, sporting organisations, business, Indigenous, youth, multicultural and disability sectors.

Two of the six key questions, I believe, relate strongly to U3A and the community arena that we move in –

- how do we create and foster an education culture that teaches skills and values to meet global challenges and optimise regional strengths
- how do we empower and educate individuals, communities and institutions to embrace responsibility for an active and healthy lifestyle

The final outcomes from this Summit will be available late in 2013.

This event was an ideal opportunity for Julie to promote U3A to politicians both local and state and to keep U3A firmly on their community agenda.

Our Network 2013 Strategic Plan is being developed by Jim Hales and will be ready for publication shortly. Discussion is still in progress to commence new U3As in both Port Douglas and Goondiwindi.

I would like to personally thank Elsie Mutton, Claire Eglington, Allan Haggerty and Dianne Delchau for taking the time to attend the High Country Encounter – Autumn the 3rd Season Qld Conference. Not only did we enjoy your company we were able to have a face to face Alliance Meeting and to strengthen our interstate ties. I look forward to meeting up again at the Melbourne Asia Pacific Conference in October.

Rhonda Weston

2013 U3A QLD STATE CONFERENCE

HIGH COUNTRY ENCOUNTER

Compliments have poured in from around the country. High acclaim for all aspects of the Conference, commencing with the tour of Toowoomba, our home stays, the superb Gabbinbah Homestead Venue, the catering, the interesting Guest Speakers, the fine dining at the Gala Dinner, High Altitude Harmony dinner entertainment, *Mellow Fruitfulness* – our conference poem, the Q & A panel, our overflowing conference bags featuring local produce, Tai Chi & Croquet, Workshops on U3A legalities, and still plenty of time for meeting new friends, catching up with friends from past conferences and sharing ideas and resources. Country hospitality, generosity, team work, efficiency and friendliness were evident at every point.

The presentations by APRA (Australian Performing Rights Association) and CAL (Copyright Agency) highlighted the need for us all to be aware of the legal requirements for our organisations.

I quote from one report on the Conference

"I begin this account with a sincere compliment. This year's Qld State Conference was brilliantly conceived and just as brilliantly executed". U3A Atherton Tablelands.

The challenge when hosting an event such as this is to offer a program that meets the needs of the delegates. These delegates are from all walks of life, and 2nd age qualifications, some have many years of U3A experience while some only have a few months. Therefore their expectations and needs are different. Balancing up the program to offer value to all is the major challenge. If U3A is to have a secure future we need to be ever mindful of succession plans in our individual as well as state committees and therefore attract conference attendees from the general membership, not just management committees.



Alliance Representatives at the Queensland Conference: (L to R) Elsie Mutton, Claire Eglinton, Allan Haggerty, Di Delchau, Rhonda Weston.

Below: The assembled Delegates at the Conference



The assembled Delegates at the Conference

The 120 attendees, one from UK and representatives from SA, VIC, NSW as well as our Qld visitors, all benefited, in different ways. The Toowoomba Management Committee, the hosts and organisers deserve a huge vote of thanks for the hard work and commitment shown to provide this first class conference. With enthusiastic members such as these, I am not surprised that U3A is the fastest growing community group in the country.

Rhonda Weston
President

VICTORIAN NETWORK

The U3A Victorian Network recently held a Briefing Session for Presidents to communicate a series of issues of importance to all U3As. Attended by 49 presidents the gathering included a delegation of guests from Deniliquin U3A, NSW.

Matters covered and worth sharing:

Grants and Funding – An outline of funding options available to U3As, highlighting issues connected to the preparation of funding applications, compliance reporting and administrative obligations for funding and grant recipients.

Growth – Looking into the Future –Sought to draw attention to some of the issues which U3A will confront a deal with to ensure future growth. Features highlighted during discussions included:

- *Current image & perceptions:* An underlying negative image of U3A as a gathering of the “elderly” may become an obstacle to attracting future potential new membership. These negative ageist perceptions and our existing female membership predominance (75%approx.) maybe both cause and effect of an imbalance which could be addressed a revision of programme structures. The existing description of our organisation as the “University of the Third Age” may be perceived to be less than relevant to future members. “Lifelong Learning” elicited a far more positive response. Addressing aspects of current social and cultural bias particularly the Anglo bias of some existing course structures and content may expand our attraction to a wider community.
- *Generational Change:* Better education and different interests and aspirations will likely require a variation to existing activities and programmes to attract future potential members. Conducting activities outside the existing time framework e.g. evenings & weekends may also be more convenient and enticing to those employed part time and possibly those who have daytime family commitments. Short course duration has proved successful in attracting time restricted members. Younger incoming members were attracted or more comfortable with a more “professional” style of organisational management model.
- *Management:* There should be an emphasis upon appropriate committee succession planning to ensure a positive response to future growth management and the implications it has for each U3A.

Technology Review-

A Network technology team is conducting a review of current administration and communication technologies and those required to cope with projected future requirements of Victorian U3As. The analysis is seeking to identify, develop specifications and assess cost implications of a standard IT model capable of handling the management demands of a diverse range of U3As.

Constitutional Reforms: The new Victorian legislation - Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and its associated rules and regulations will require all Victorian incorporated Associations to review their constitutions and assess whether they conform to the new requirements. Options available to U3As include adoption of a set of Model Rules where appropriate or seek to redraft their constitutions for subsequent approval by the controlling authority.

Network’s regular Presidents Briefings are utilised to engage more directly at U3A Executive level on important matters relating to the management and future of our U3A movement. For those interested the full presentations may be accessed on our U3A Network Victoria website.

This year marks the Victorian Network’s 25th Anniversary of its founding and will be officially celebrated at our June Council Meeting. Some of those who have been a part of this notable achievement over the years will relate a brief history of our Networks progress towards the present. U3As who are also 25 years old or more will be acknowledged and invited to contribute to a 25 Year Time Capsule designed to serve as an enduring reminder of this milestone and our movements achievements in this state.

L. Glen
May 2013



U3A Online is offering \$6000 per year for Bursaries to mature Age students at Griffith University in appreciation of their support to U3A Online, especially in the founding years. This can be applied as decided by Griffith This year they are providing 6 bursaries of \$1000 each, distributed to three students in the Education school and 3 in the Nursing school.

There was a scholarship presentation day in May but these were not decided on so they will probably be presented next semester.

Bev attended a conference run by the National Seniors Productive Ageing group called "A Future Without 'Age' ". This was held in Sydney.

I have recently been involved in a roundtable discussion with ALA (Adult Learning Australia) and a small group of representatives of national, state and peak body groups who share an interest in collaboratively advancing the agenda of ensuring equitable access to "Lifelong and Lifewide" Learning for all. It was held in Melbourne so a day trip was in order. A report from the meeting will be available in the near future for sharing.

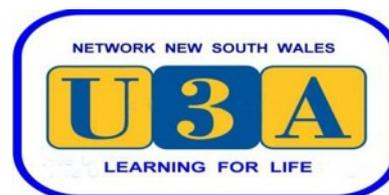
U3A Online has engaged an IT group (Catalyst) to review the U3A Online Website and recommend a program to ensure that it is well maintained and that any problems are kept to a minimum and solved as quickly as possible when they do occur. Web sites are wonderful when working well but very frustrating when they encounter problems and since the web site is the basis of U3A Online it is imperative that it performs well.

We have taken advantage of the donations programme of Connecting Up to obtain (at very little cost) the Office 2013 program for all Committee members who require it. This is a great programme which allows Not for Profit organisations to purchase Microsoft, Adobe and other brand software at very little cost per licence. They are now also able to offer some hardware items as well.

Connecting Up also runs free Webinars on various topics and members of the committee have "attended" some of these.

Di Delchau President

NEW SOUTH WALES



Since my last report my wife, Margaret, and I spent an enjoyable week on Norfolk island for 'Opera in Paradise.' One of the concerts featured duo pianists, Pamela Page and Max Olding, who are husband and wife and the parents of Dene Olding, the concertmaster of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Pamela and Max presented a concert on two pianos, with hardly a note of music between them. Their rapport and unflinching timing was a class act. They are pictured taking a bow at Norfolk Island's Ferny Lane Theatre. Incidentally Pamela is 79 and Max is 83, proof, if any was needed, that you are never too old.



Workshops on Promotion & Marketing and Educational Development involving the NSW Executive and relevant sub-committees were held in March. Both were worthwhile and there was positive feedback at the AGM & Members' Forum held in conjunction with our Annual Conference at Goulburn. Further workshops are planned for July. From feedback I've received many who attended the Annual Conference felt inspired, which is what it's all about. Network committee member Pat Spilsbury of Goulburn – Mulwaree U3A and her team were responsible for the organisation. The atmosphere provided by their period dress, which helped us feel part of Goulburn's 150th anniversary of being declared Australia's first inland city, added to the occasion.

Armidale U3A will host the 2014 Conference on 8 and 9 May. Already planning is well advanced. As well as another stimulating couple of days under the theme of 'Opening Doors, Opening Minds' Armidale's autumn colours will be spectacular at that time.

After 5 years as Network Secretary Ainslie Lamb moved sideways to the position of Vice President, so her wealth of experience remains. Jean de Hosson is our new Secretary and she has quickly settled into the role. Other new committee members are Shirley Cook from Armidale and Sandy Freeman from Eastlakes (east Lake Macquarie).

New U3As are being established at Singleton, in the Hunter Valley and Oberon, west of the Blue Mountains and there are some encouraging signs of U3As being formed in some other centres.

Allan Haggarty President

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

As the new Chair of our General Committee it has been an interesting year, with much still to learn and many issues to address, including the resignation of one of our members for personal reasons. Others too will leave the Committee later in the year as their terms of office expire. And as is possibly the experience of others, new Committee members don't exactly grow on trees. So we will need to put some effort into recruiting replacements.

But on other fronts, things have been going well. As I foreshadowed in the February Newsletter, we have brought together in a sub-committee all those involved in Communications and Promotion (ie those who produce our newsletter and e-bulletin; who manage our website; and those responsible for our public relations activities into the one team). This has given a new focus to their activities and new energy in a number of ways such that we have been more effective in our public relations efforts. This was particularly noticeable in our presence on Seniors' Day, at which our new and distinctive T-shirts and an enhanced display stand, as well as sufficient volunteers to pro-actively engage with attendees, proved very effective. We had a similar experience at the subsequent Retirement and Lifestyle show. It is remarkable how many people have still never heard of U3A, something we here in the ACT are trying to redress.

Members of the Communication and Promotions Team are also exploring ways in which they might be able, together with our Courses Sub-Committee, to attract more course leaders.

Other developments include encouraging members to enrol on line and to take their Newsletter on-line. We are also moving to appoint an Information Officer to systematically assess what documentation we have and to ensure that our documentation is consistently formatted, up to date, logically stored, and readily accessible when required. The objective here is to ensure that all our operational documentation is appropriately stored in one central system, is backed up, and is accessible to those with the authority to access it rather than on individual home computers. One of the issues for us is that, while much of the material we use to sustain our operations is stored on a central computer system, there is a need to ensure that those collections are complete and not just sitting on the home computers of those who generated them.



***Linda Tregonning (Vice-President) and
Sandy Forbes (Promotion)
At the Retirement and Lifestyle Expo,
Canberra May 2013.***

On another front, and in a potentially significant development, we have been invited to meet with the University of Canberra to explore the potential for collaboration. Of course it remains to be seen whether anything comes of this, but it is an interesting prospect as the nature of formal universities begins to change to accommodate students in ways other than through 'on campus' tuition.

Robyn Beetham President

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Coming up on July 3 is the annual U3A Perth Seminar held at the University of WA. The topic this year is **Australia: A Sense of Place in the 21st Century**. Speakers will include Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton, Educator and U3A stalwart, Jim Barnes and Carina Hoang, Author and Refugee.

Following the seminar there will be the AGM of the WA Network – our first since the formation meeting last year.



UNIQUE TO PERTH

Picasso "Violin and Grapes", one of a 134 modern masterpieces now on display at the WA Art Gallery.

The exhibition is one of a series to come to Perth from the New York Museum of Modern Art. Some of the artists have never been seen in Australia until now.

All of our member groups have been very busy with a vast range of activities. The Perth group, with the help of a Lotteries Commission grant have run a film making course. The equipment purchased now belongs to the group and will be used to produce short films featuring U3A activities. The Art Appreciation Group, with the help of the Art School at the Central Institute of Technology, is enjoying a course on modern art tied in with the ongoing New York MOMA Exhibitions at the WA Art Gallery.

				
Kath & Rosemary 'serious contemplation'	Rosemary's 'clay mandala'	Patrice 'I'll draw it first'	Pat's 'mandalas on canvas and clay'	Joan & Kath 'the colour I want'

Newly formed Margaret River U3A is off to a flying start with an offering of 15 courses in its first full semester. Congratulations. Nearby Naturaliste U3A also has an extensive offering.

The course on Mandala making (pictured above) is being run by Naturaliste U3A. Some of their other courses are Armchair Theatre, Australian Native Plants, Australian Social Issues Programs 1 & 2, Book Club, Creative Writing, Darwin's Legacy, Doing Something About Climate Change and Psychology.



Members of Rockingham U3A taking part in a mock trial at the Sir Francis Burt Law Education Centre in Perth.

Peter Flanigan, President, WA Network

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

In the last issue we were anticipating the Queensland State Conference and it exceeded my expectations. These events have to tread a fine line between catering for those wanting U3A-specific information and those who just want to be entertained. Toowoomba trod that line as if they spend their days training for sobriety tests. Congratulations to all involved.

Wayville was the venue for the inaugural Adelaide Retirement and Lifestyle Expo on May 3, 4 and 5. Our stand looked great and compared well with the professionals. Visitor numbers were low but the organisers are confident they will build over time as they have done interstate.



The U3A expo stand all ready for Wayville's Goyder Pavilion doors to open.

Listening to our volunteers pitching U3A to the public, was a good reminder of how diverse U3As are in size, regularity and what they have to offer. The smallest U3As showed their commitment by providing the bulk of

volunteers with Port Adelaide and Charles Sturt U3As particularly supportive. Promotional videos from Campbelltown and Mt Gambier U3As played on a continuous loop in the background.

This was an excellent opportunity to promote U3A and it showed us we have many bare areas on the State map

which would benefit from having a local U3A. Funding from Health SA through the Office for the Ageing enabled us

to participate in what is a costly exercise and we really need to use such events to spread the U3A message as long as funding will allow.

Again we have uncertainty about funding for the coming financial year. We had established an excellent relationship with the head of department who was very supportive but this year with a new Minister and budget constraints we

have not been overly confident. Even this plummeted when we discovered our champion had, himself, fallen victim to cost-cutting. You will have to wait with bated breath for the next Alliance SA meeting on Friday 19 July to learn how we fared.



Normie Rowe stopped for a photo with our volunteers but didn't put his autograph on a membership application

Starting new activities in country regions can be difficult if there are no locals with subject knowledge. The efforts by Campbelltown U3A to take mah-jong to Yorke Peninsula have paid off with Helen Tucker reporting: "mah-jong workshop was extremely successful and games are being practiced in three towns – just one week after the sessions."

Similarly some petanque enthusiasts are willing to arrange a training day in Adelaide. This is a game which doesn't require specialist grounds, and one set of boules can be shared between several players. (Boules are those metal bowls that everyone was getting for Father's Day a few years ago but never used.) Email thirdagesa@gmail.com if you are interested.

We are considering contracting someone to do publicity for U3A at a State level. It goes against the grain for an 'all-volunteer' organisation but if no one with the right skills is available, we may have no alternative. There are several specialist magazines and newspapers both hard copy and on-line which can be used for promotion but we need someone with the time and ability to write some good copy. This will need to be accompanied by suitable publicity photos so feel free to send in any gems you might have to start off our photo library. If you missed the article giving hints on what makes an effective publicity shot in the last Lower North newsletter, ask for a copy by emailing thirdagesa@gmail.com.

*Claire Eglinton
Secretary,*

Alliance of U3As in South Australia Inc.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to everyone, once again, for all the excellent contributions delivered on or ahead of time. Well done! This edition is, I think, the biggest we have had. There is so much going on around the country one can only marvel at it.

Just a note on contributions: It is easier for me if all written contributions are in Word and photographs are in the jpeg format and not too high in resolution. I have an email attachment limit (I have been told) of 10 Mb so if a single photo is 2.4 Mb you can see the problem.

*The deadline for the next issue is **October 20**. As I'm hoping to get to the Victorian Conference this might have to stretch out a little.*

A special thank you to Paul Thiessen for assistance with the final format.

Peter Flanigan

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