



Special Edition Newsletter:

March / April 2023

WELCOME

Welcome to all returning and new members for 2023. We are two months into the year, and hope that you are enjoying the courses in which you are enrolled, getting to know other members and finding your courses fulfilling. This is the first of our newsletters for the year, and the main focus of this edition is the A.G.M.

PRESIDENT'S A.G.M. REPORT 2023, 15TH MARCH

I would like to welcome you again to our Annual General Meeting and thank you for your ongoing commitment to our organisation.

Each year brings its rewards and challenges, and 2022 has been no exception:

- The pandemic has clearly provided some unique challenges over the last three years. Due to the significant increase in Tasmanian COVID cases in early 2022 (due to the Tasmanian borders opening) a number of Program Leaders and members decided not to participate at the beginning of Term 1.
- In early October, the long-awaited redevelopment of the Banksia Centre commenced. As you would be aware, this has created a number of challenges, both for our Council and regular users, including U3A. Notwithstanding, any inconvenience will be far outweighed by the magnificent facility that will hopefully be opened mid this year.

Membership

- As expected, the 2022 enrolment period started with fewer members, due to the opening of our borders and the spike in COVID cases.
- However, it is pleasing to report that our membership returned to normal levels as the year progressed.
- Our present membership is 340 and we would expect, based on previous years' experiences, an approximate 20% increase in this number as the year progresses.

Courses

As I have mentioned, at the beginning of Term 1 2022, we were unable to offer a full complement of regular courses. Term 2 and 3 course offerings saw over 30 separate courses each term as well as a number of one off 'Special Events'.

- Members enrolled in 2 courses per term on average.

New Initiatives

Your Committee has continued to improve the way we operate so that we can better provide recreational and collaborative learning opportunities for the benefit of our third age members, using the skills and abilities of the members.

During the last 12 months, we have instigated the following:

Refining and simplifying our processes

The major focus of the Committee over the last 12 months has been to develop an effective integrated system for our membership records.

As I announced in my report of the 2022 A.G.M., we engaged a consultant, on a fee-for-service basis, to support the Committee in this important work (Janelle Thompson).

We now have a platform that has been customised to meet the needs of our organisation, is accessible regardless of technical skill and enables us to automate and record a number of our core tasks.

At this stage the platform includes members' personal details, course information, member enrolments and membership payments. Other information can be added as our needs arise.

The Committee, as well as office and program group volunteers, have used this platform and associated processes over the last couple of months. The feedback has been very positive, and the Committee has adopted the platform as an integral part of the administration of U3APS.

I particularly wish to acknowledge the work of Janelle Thompson, our consultant, who has guided our Committee through this important process over the last 12 months. We look forward to continuing work with her as we evaluate and refine other processes moving forward.

Course Enrolment Process

Previously, our course delivery calendar followed a 3-term schedule. All course enrolments were valid for one term only. This meant that prior to each term, we produced a new timetable and asked all our members to enrol in the courses of their choosing for that term.

To better reflect the needs of the various courses on offer, and to make the enrolment process for members simpler, as well as easier to manage for our program group and office volunteers, we have a new enrolment process that allows members to enrol in the following:

- Year Long Course with, or without, scheduled breaks
- Short Courses
- Special Events

This process enables members to enrol in Year Long Courses at any stage throughout the year, rather than only during a short 'enrolment' window prior to each term. To enrol in a course during the year, members need simply contact the Course Leader to check that there is available space.

Thank you

Our thanks go to many people. Our U3A is solely dependent on the generous support of a large number of volunteers, who give generously of their time and expertise across many different facets of our organisation. This commitment by so many members is a defining strength.

Firstly, the *Course Leaders* – you are the backbone of our organisation. Our strength and vitality is a direct result of your dedication and commitment to share your knowledge and experience.

The *Program Group Volunteers* – who worked tirelessly throughout the year to support the course leaders, implement the enrolment process, develop the timetables, arrange venues and organise the Special Events.

The *Office Volunteers* – who commit to a morning a week to provide advice and assistance to members and tutors, take membership and renewal applications, and complete many other administrative tasks in a friendly and professional manner. They are our window to the public and are essential to providing ongoing support to our Program Leaders and members.

The *Committee* and the Committee's families – for allowing them to do what they do. If it's not obvious to you at this point, your Committee has done an outstanding job. Their dedication to U3A and all it stands for, and their commitment to work tirelessly and professionally is a hallmark. It is a pleasure to work with them.

We thank you one and all.

I look forward to working with the new committee as we face the rewards and challenges that lie ahead in 2023.

Thank you

Jim Rudling, President U3A Port Sorell

SUMMARY OF TREASURER'S A.G.M. REPORT 2023

- Our cash position at 31 December 2022 was \$47,138 compared to \$51,938 at 31 December 2021.
- Cash operating deficit for the year to 31st December 2022 was \$1,880 compared to a surplus of \$8,249 the previous year. If you refer to the financial report on the website, you will note the reason for the reduction of approximately \$10,000 in our operating cash result for the year is due to a number of factors, including Membership subscriptions were down by \$2,000, and venue contributions were down by \$3,400. We believe COVID continued to be a factor.

Venue hire was up by \$2,200, but this was a result of an internal disruption in the daily management of the Banksia Centre by the Latrobe Council. Part of the listed cost for 2022 included a late invoice received for the previous year. Communications and IT expense was up by \$1,600, due to the establishment of our new database, and a number of associated costs, including the use of an independent consultant. The Committee have agreed to continue the relationship with this consultant to oversee all of our requirements, and to ensure there is somebody outside of the organisation who is familiar with our system, and ongoing needs. I am sure everybody understands that modern technology provides tools which are essential in the running of any organisation. We are committed to ensure we have those tools, and all users will be trained in their use accordingly.

- Our prepay Piggy's cards, which provide an alternative to the \$2 into the Piggy contribution to venue costs, have been well received, and we encourage all our members to use this option. We are trying to move away from handling cash, given the lack of a bank branch locally, and the requirement for any cash received to be taken to Devonport. Our EFTPOS facility has proven very popular, and we remind everybody that this and electronic transfer are our preferred methods of payment.

Any questions, please contact the treasurer, Anne Turner

Phone number: 0404667494

Email address: treasurer@portsorellu3a.org.au

2023 COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THEIR ROLES

Jim Rudling – President

Ann Bloomfield – Communication Officer

Anne Turner – Treasurer and Public Officer

Lyn Williams – Program Group

Chrissy York – Office Manager

Lindsay Weatherburn – Office Administration

Tom Kingston – Program Group

Marg Leedham – Program Group

Leonie Moore – Secretary

Ralph Brinckman – Program Group

UPCOMING EVENTS ...

Your Committee has been aware for some time that we have had few full club events. To that end, there will be a Quiz afternoon at the Port Sorell Golf Club on Friday May 26th from 3.00 – 5.30. Check the website and FaceBook for further details.

Watch for full club events in the near future e.g., celebration get-togethers, picnic etc

WE NEED YOUR HELP

At the moment we are struggling to find volunteers who would be willing to help out in the office for a couple of hours each week or fortnight or on a casual / relief basis. Currently our hard-working office people are covering more than one session in the absence of some of our volunteers. Tasks you would perform are not onerous and you would be provided with support and training from the friendly office staff.

If you can help, please leave your details with one of our office personnel or phone:

Chrissy 0413 084 829

Anne 0404 667 494

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

We welcome and appreciate member articles – stories, special reports, profiles, experiences and of course accompanying photographs, which contribute to our newsletter. Members enjoy finding out what is happening in courses in which they are not involved. It is also a means to advertise a course. We will publish approximately 4 newsletters each year, and articles should be about 250 words in length or ½ an A4 page. The newsletter is usually 4 pages in length.

For the most part, the newsletter focuses on our organisation's members; celebrating our people and the activities or courses they undertake, as well as providing updated information. Occasionally the newsletter will have a different purpose, e.g., the first newsletter of the year will be centred on the Annual General Meeting.

We want to learn more about you and the courses you undertake. If you are happy to make a contribution, contact Ann Bloomfield via email: communications@portsorellu3a.org.au

FACEBOOK

It is fabulous to see our members using the FaceBook platform as a way to share what has been happening in our courses – photographs and descriptions. Thank you to those who have made a contribution.

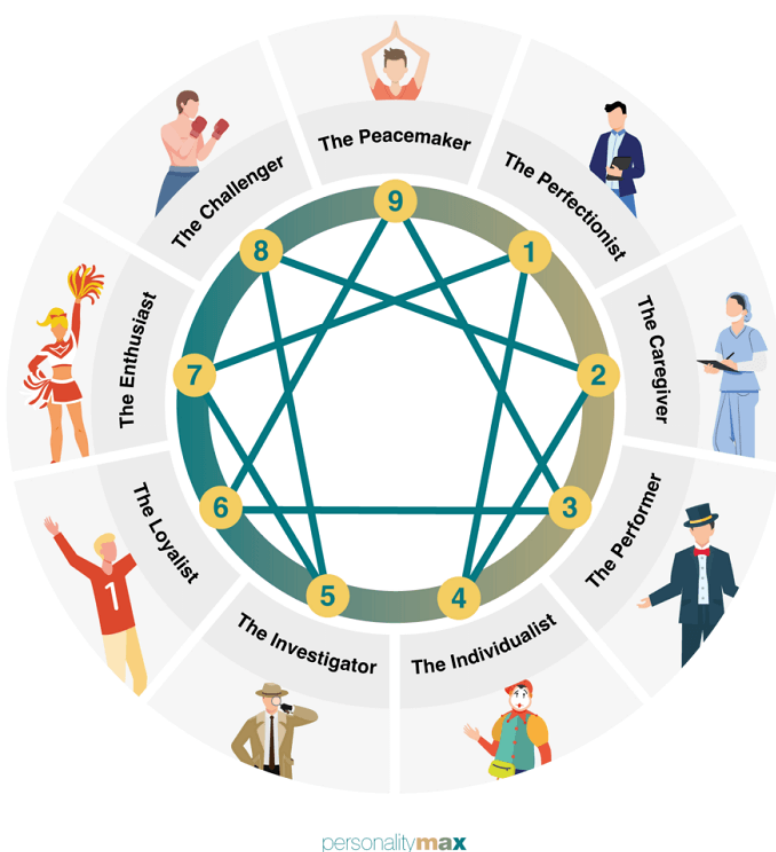
Just a friendly reminder, if you are wishing to post anything on FaceBook, please be aware that our organisation has specific guidelines in relation to what is acceptable. Please contact our Communication Officer for review and approval before posting.

SHOWCASING NEW COURSES

- **INTRODUCTION TO THE ENNEAGRAM**

Port Sorell U3A held its first ever class introducing the Enneagram. If you check online descriptions you will find a general definition of Enneagram goes something like this: The Enneagram of Personality, or simply the Enneagram (from the Greek words ἐννέα [ennéa, meaning " nine "] and γράμμα [grámma, meaning something " written " or " drawn "]) is a description of the human psyche. It is principally understood and taught by its proponents as a typology of nine interconnected personality types: in brief a personality profile. For those who are familiar with the Myers-Briggs, the Enneagram offers an alternative understanding of our personalities. The Enneagram class met four times. The first meeting was

used to outline the overall understanding of the three centres on the Enneagram and the next three weeks examined in some detail each of the 9 types with three outlined each week. Of course, as Enneagram is online these days, many participants pursued things online. The overall aim of the course was to discover the type that best fitted each member of the class. This was not that easy, but by the end of the four weeks most participants did find a type that best suited them. Tom Kingston, course convenor, thinks it is fair to say the class found the Enneagram interesting and generally worthwhile.



- **CARDS – EUCHRE**

Peter Sellars, course co-ordinator, says that Euchre is off to a great start to the year with numbers increasing each week. The course is held every Tuesday from 2.00 – 4.30 at the Banksia Centre and includes some afternoon tea. Peter would like to thank Margaret for her home-made slice and Anzac biscuits.

Most of the members played EUCHRE with dinosaurs, but after a few weeks, have picked up how to play the game and have become much more confident. Unlike Bridge or 500, where you play with more cards and more concentration is needed, EUCHRE can be a more social occasion with time to chat and enhance possible card friendships.

The EUCHRE card players come from far and near, travelling from places such as Latrobe, Beauty Point, East Devonport, Thirlstone, Hawley and Port Sorell, which shows “people will travel if they like Euchre”

Peter would like to encourage more members to join the group, and perhaps bring along a friend or two.

Please contact Peter Sellars on 0438 98 8861 if you are interested in joining the group.