



President's AGM Report 2022

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

Whilst each year brings its rewards and challenges, the pandemic has clearly provided some unique challenges over the last two years or so. This has been even more so since the state borders opened. Whilst this has resulted in many changes to our operations and COVID requirements - (and I have no doubt, further changes in the future) - foremost in our decision making is the health and wellbeing of our members.

Membership

It is pleasing to report that our membership has seen a significant increase during 2021. We started the year with 331 paid members and saw a 23% increase to 407 by year's end.

- As expected, the 2022 enrolment period has started with fewer members, due to the opening of our borders and the spike in COVID cases. We are however confident that we can continue to increase our membership as and when the COVID situation improves.

Courses

The beginning of 2021 saw us schedule a full complement of regular courses and we were able to offer this schedule for the whole of the year, thanks in part to diligently adhering to our COVID safety plan

- We offered **98** courses over the three terms with over **30** separate courses per term
- Approximately 90% of our members enrolled in at least one course each term
- Members enrolled in 2.5 courses per term on average.

Whilst we have had some courses presently postponed due to COVID, as with membership numbers, we look forward to reinstating our full complement of courses as soon as it is safe to do so.

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:

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

- Year long courses of 3 terms or with or without no scheduled breaks as well as courses of one term's duration only.

This process also enables members to enrol in courses throughout the year, rather than only during a short "enrolment" window prior to each term.

"One -Off Sessions"

During term 2 last year we decided to reintroduce the 'one-off session' so as to increase our capacity to meet the needs of our membership.

- Our Program Group organised sessions on a variety of topics that proved very popular. Session numbers ranged from mid 30s to just over 100 members.

Information Technology

The committee has also focused on refining aspects of our use of technology to support our communication and record keeping.

- *Web Page*
 - We have recently launched a new U3A Port Sorell Web Page and we will continue to work towards developing the site as both an effective tool for members and our major portal to the wider community.
- *Database*
 - We have updated our member enrolment form and have developed a new Database. We have future plans to incorporate our course information into the database.

The committee has engaged a professional IT consultant (on a fee for service basis) to support our ongoing IT plans and implementations. We look forward to working with this consultant to further refine our record keeping, course enrolment and membership processes and our communication with our membership and the wider community.

Banksia Centre Redevelopment

We reported at our last AGM that the Banksia Centre redevelopment was to start mid 2021. Whilst this clearly didn't happen, there is a real possibility that works could commence in the next few months. We are working with the Latrobe Council to keep any disruption to our activities to a minimum.

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 to support the course leaders, the enrolment process, the changes to course terms and the one-off events.

The Communication Group Volunteers - who kept our membership informed and entertained on a monthly basis through our 'In Focus' newsletter.

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 tutors 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.

Also, I would like to acknowledge and thank those non committee members who make a substantial contribution to the Program and IT Groups

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 2022.

Thank you

Jim Rudling