



President's AGM Report 2023

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 at the 2022 AGM, we engaged a consultant, on a fee for service basis, to support the committee in this important work.

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 the committee through this important process over the last 12 months. We look forward to continuing to 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 Courses 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 to simply contact the Course Leader to check that there is an 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