



BANYULE
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

PO Box 454 Rosanna 3084
Office: 14 Ivanhoe Parade Ivanhoe 3079
Email: info@u3abanyule.org.au
Website: www.u3abanyule.org.au

Reg. No. A13622D

Tel: 9499 2080

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE AGM – 15 AUGUST 2019 – 14 OCTOBER 2020.

THE YEAR THAT WAS!

Like everything else in the world at this time, U3A Banyule has been soundly effected by COVID 19.

I never expected in my wildest dreams that my first year as President of our wonderful organisation would contain the following information.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership stood at a total of 701 members at the last AGM.

- We currently have a total of 717 members:
- 652 full members
- 44 Associate members
- 16 Honorary members
- 4 Life members and 1 Guest member

Normally, our membership slowly increases over the year but this has not been possible this year as classes had only resumed for 6 weeks before we were shut down.

SEMESTER 1, 2019

Our course program proceeded according to plan. There were all our usual on-going courses, short courses, individual sessions, excursions and events.

Seniors Month was well endorsed by U3A. Our choir sang at Federation Square and we had a U3A Banyule marquee organised by Diana McCormack. Knitted items were displayed, Mahjong was played and Gladys Coombs from Pencil and Paint sketched.

We opened up 5 of our classes to the general community including our October Public Lecture. All classes attracted members from the public, particularly Jane Davies history class.

Our Annual Forum was held at the Heidelberg Golf Club in November to allow additional numbers to attend.

In actual fact we had 6 fewer participants than the year before as members did not want to travel despite our offer of assistance.

The Forum, however, “Social media – Real Solutions for Real People” was a great success and the venue and afternoon tea were well appreciated by those who attended.

A wonderful thank you morning tea for all our volunteers was held in December.

Our nonagenarians were invited and 12 attended. A further 7 were unable to come. This was a wonderful celebration of life-long learning and the value of U3A to all of us over 50.

SEMESTER 2, 2020

Written in my president’s report for the committee in December 2019 were these words :

“A wonderful 2020 is in front of us and enormous thanks to Janice Kelly and the Course Coordination team for a marvellous and varied program. It makes exciting reading”.

This was indeed true and we started out with a very successful Burn’s Supper, a traditional Scottish event. 80 members attended and were entertained by our own singers, dancers and poets.

Our “kitchen staff” of 3 members served all the home-made meals and drinks with great aplomb.

A welcome to new members morning tea and lunch was an enormous success on 29 January with a record number of 65 members attending and 26 tutors joining the group for lunch.

We just managed our International Women’s Day Luncheon on 2 March, organised by Diana McCormack. Liz Johnson spoke on “Assisted Reproduction Rights and the Empowerment of Women”.

The luncheon was a wonderful social occasion and funds were raised by the sale of knitted items and the raffle of a rug. A huge amount of thanks goes to Diana for her organisation and effort into presenting this day. The Creative Knitting Group also needs thanking for their wonderfully created knitted items.

Donations

From funds raised by the Annual Forum, the Burn’s Supper and International Women’s Day we have been able to donate

\$2,000 to Banksia Palliative care and

\$900 to beyond Blue.

2020 Classes

These commenced in February and then 6 weeks later on 16 March we had to close as the corona virus advanced. As you all know, we have not been the same since.

NEWSLETTERS – a result of COVID 19

Our first edition of **“Socially Distanced—but still connected”** went out on March 29. This was the first of 12 weekly newsletters. Huge thanks go to Margaret Miller for organising, editing, printing and the organisation of delivering of these newsletters.

Following Margaret’s retirement from this job, Liz Waud took over in July and we are now sending out fortnightly newsletters similarly named **“Still Connected”**. We will continue the production of these fortnightly until we are able to meet again face to face. Thanks you so much Liz for making this possible.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the production of these newsletters and a particular thank you to Jan Ramp for her tireless work in gathering all the articles and getting them to Liz in time for the next edition.

Thanks also to Linda Clark for helping Jan and myself in the hand delivery of these to our members who do not have email.

A very special thank you to Gilda May for her kind donation towards the cost of printing and postage.

ZOOM

New ways of delivering classes had to be devised and a huge amount of effort has been put in by Michael Maguire and Janice Kelly to provide classes on Zoom. I cannot thank them enough

Zoom has now been developed to new levels and 13 ongoing classes are operating in this way.

There have been 21 single sessions to this date and 10 more to follow before our year finishes.

A special thanks to those tutors who are taking their classes on Zoom. It has been a new time-consuming, learning skill. Congratulations on your efforts.

La Trobe courses for our members are continuing online and we have 12 members undertaking various units.

Many thanks to Sue Beshara for coordinating this most important part of our U3A

TUTORS

Tutors are the backbone of our U3A and I believe we have an amazing set of tutors who are professional, loyal and willing to learn themselves. I would like to thank each and everyone of them.

Four of our tutors were nominated and received Jaga Jaga Community Volunteer Awards this year:

Jane Davies

Len Kelly

Valerie McPhee

Carolyn Wood

Noel Griffith, our Music Appreciation tutor received an OAM for both his service to U3A and to the community.

All these tutors have given exceptional service in a variety of ways to our U3A. I know you will join me in congratulating them.

ILCH (Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub)

Our new accommodation should still be completed this year but this depends on whether work restrictions are eased. It is our hope that classes will commence there in February 2021.

Thanks goes to Janice Kelly for her wonderful work with Banyule City Council and ensuring that the facility will meet our needs.

THANKS

The Committee of Management

Every member of the Committee of Management has helped ensure that we have operated professionally and efficiently and that we work towards the future with insight and positivity.

I would especially like to name a few members:

Chris Morrison for all her help and wise advice as Vice President.

Milena Maranville for her amazing support as Secretary.

Brendan Quirke for his efforts in streamlining the role of Treasurer.

Janice Kelly for her incredible work as Course Coordinator and having to throw away the planned program for semester 1 and replace it with ZOOM in semester 2.

Margaret Fievez for organising all the venues and then renegotiating them with the advent of COVID.

Valerie McPhee with her incredible hard work in the office prior to COVID when she attended almost daily to assist with enrolments, enrol and pay events and enquiries.

Dianne Williamson for her work as myu3a Administrator and then as our network representative.

Michael Maguire for unbelievable hours spent in organising Zoom for tutors, members and members of the committee.

Jan Ramp for her amazing work as Volunteers Coordinator and with the production of the newsletters.

Every other member of the Committee of Management who has attended meetings and undertaking a wide range of tasks.

All Volunteers

This includes all the tutors, all the office volunteers (particularly Pat Gropel as the Office Assistants' Coordinator) and every other person who has helped to make U3A Banyule a wonderful place to be.

MEMBERS

Finally, an enormous thanks to all our members who have been with us throughout this very difficult year. Thanks to each and everyone of you who has read the newsletters, the emails, been able to join ZOOM classes and have contacted other members to demonstrate we are a caring, friendly and thoughtful organisation.

We look forward to your re-enrolment later this year.

