

No. 9

November 2020

President's Message

This year is fast drawing to an end with only another two weeks of classes to go. It certainly has been a "different" year to anything we could have expected—drought, fire and then THE VIRUS—but, despite restrictions, we have managed very well with classes in T3 and T4 making adjustments where necessary and being innovative with online or ZOOM courses and outdoor activities.

As this is the last Bulletin for the year I take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to Conveners in bringing courses for members still to enjoy, to members for supporting the Conveners, and to the many behind-the-scene U3A workers in the Office, IT/CST team, garden, maintenance and certainly the Committee.

As we put 2020 behind us we look forward to returning in 2021 with the opportunity to enjoy the many benefits of U3A through mental and physical activities, but more importantly, the social events and friendship we have all missed so much.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish you all a very happy, safe and relaxed Christmas and New Year break.



Lorraine Beukers ■

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held at the U3A Centre on Friday 13 November 2020 with 23 members in attendance. President Lorraine Beukers presented the annual report with particular emphasis on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our activities and thanked members for their patience and resilience during this difficult period. Treasurer Jane Stevenson then spoke to the audited Financial Report, noting that despite a drastic loss of income during the year the overall financial position remained sound thanks largely to the understanding and consideration shown by St Agnes Parish to whom she expressed gratitude.

David Johnson then assumed the chair to conduct the election of the committee for 2020/2021. All positions were declared vacant and David read the nominations. As the number of nominations was equal to the positions available there was no requirement for a ballot and the following members were declared elected:

President	Lorraine Beukers
Vice President	Tony Dawson
Secretary	Sue Moll
Treasurer	Avril Stewart
Ordinary Members	Simon Abell, Mike Bowden, Gail Mendoza, Karen Roberts, Michael Rogers, Ann Stewart

David Johnson was confirmed as Honorary Auditor and Sue Moll as Public Officer.

Membership Renewals

Renewals for 2021 are now open and may be made online at any time – simply log on to the website, click on **Members** then on **Renew** and follow the instructions. Renewals can also be made at the office until 11 December. The annual fee is \$40 and payments can be made by cash, cheque or electronic funds transfer (EFT). Early payment would be appreciated and if paying by EFT please ensure that you put your allocated **reference number** in the recipient's reference box.

Banking Details: Account Name: PMHU3A Inc. BSB: 932 – 000 Account No: 500072357

2021 Courses

Course Coordinator Karen Roberts is currently gathering information from course conveners, including those who suspended classes during the pandemic, on their intentions for next year. It is hoped that all existing courses will be continued and others resumed. New courses are always welcome and any member who would like to offer one is asked to contact [Karen](#) (mob: 0422 409 624) to discuss their proposal.

New Committee Members

Three new committee members were elected at the AGM – Avril Stewart, Ann Stewart and Simon Abell. Here are short profiles on each.

Avril, our new Treasurer, was born and raised in Adelaide. She holds a BA in Accounting and worked for around 30 years as a Chartered Accountant in accounting firms, large and small, in various parts of Australia, predominantly Queensland. She also lived in Hong Kong for five years when it was still under British Rule. Before moving to Port Macquarie Avril was living in Adelaide with her sisters Ann and Robyn. She strongly believes that learning should be a lifetime pursuit and, for both interest and enjoyment, is currently enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts course in Politics and International Studies. She was also enjoying the philosophy classes at U3A before they were suspended but hopes they will resume soon.

Ann, Avril's sister, moved to Port Macquarie two years ago. She too was born and raised in South Australia but lived and worked in Western Australia, New South Wales, Queensland and Hong Kong. She spent 23 years with a large Australian-owned oil and gas company, working mostly in Corporate Legal on Government Affairs and international acquisitions but also in Stakeholder Engagement — Aboriginal Affairs, land access and cultural heritage. Ann has a Bachelor of Business degree from the University of South Australia and is currently undertaking a Bachelor of Indigenous Affairs at the University of New England. She is member of our Convener Support Team and volunteers with CWA Tea Rooms and Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service.



First meeting of the new committee

Simon is a qualified accountant and worked in banking for 32 years before moving to Port Macquarie in 2002 from Warren, NSW where he was the bank's commercial lending manager. He then spent 8 years with Home Care Services NSW providing personal care and domestic assistance, retiring in 2012. He joined U3A the same year and currently leads *Cycling – Flat & Easy* as well as riding with the *Cycle the Hastings* group. He's enjoyed *Card Making*, *Guess Who's Coming To Dinner*, and several of Virginia Oakley's history classes.

Now living at Yippin Creek near Wauchope, Simon is also involved in Lions, Men's Shed, and the Tennis Club. With 4 children—professionals living in Port Macquarie, Melbourne and Barraba, NSW—Simon helps care for his 11 grandchildren and leads a very busy life.

If undeliverable, return to:

Port Macquarie Hastings U3A Inc.
PO Box 1210
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

**PRINT
POST**

PP100008294

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**