

Tamworth U3A

Annual General Meeting 2017

October 5th, 2017

President's Report

My research for this annual report commenced with a re-read of my earlier reports. They recreated numerous events and projects, and the role of many people – members and visitors. The following material is an update on the developing story of our U3A, a narrative in which you have had a role, and we thank you for that.

I believe we have a 'good image' in this city and beyond. Our program and activities are continuing to grow.

One example is that we have received \$615.13 dollars for this year from the Community Partnership Program of the Regional Bank. Thank you to our Members who have nominated U3A as a recipient. In addition, at our most recent Committee meeting, we agreed to identify organisations that we may nominate for the Program.

The AGM details also illustrate how we are moving forward. Our Constitution has been modernised and streamlined. Our Public Officer John Sharkey has done a splendid job in this 'updating process'. Thank you John.

Our contacts and relationship with the U3A Network are good. With thanks again to John. In this area, I represented our group at the Network Conference in Sydney June 28-30 in and have been advised that there will be discussions about a possible role for our U3A in organising a Network Conference in Tamworth. That would be for us a new and major challenge.

The financial report, to be presented by Meg Larkin, who has been our very efficient treasurer, will demonstrate the Management Committee's very careful decision-making regarding our financial situation. From rental of rooms at Treloars to mailing newsletter costs and updating and repairs associated with our computers to expenses linked to our travels and visits, our funds have been carefully managed.

Central however to our organisation is our program. Our courses and activities are the means by which we oldies go on learning and sometimes helping others to learn. Wendy Smith continues to be the key person in developing and giving leadership and we all are very appreciative of her ongoing contribution. Just look at the program for a single term and see the size and scope and quality of the program.

One of the features of this year has been that those members who provide leadership for the various activities have taken on some responsibilities that assist the organisation as a whole. Introducing new members to the rest of the group or gaining views from their group of people on general U3A issues can help the Management

Committee. We want to encourage the perception that we are all 'contributing members'. I believe that the wonderful reception to the Wednesday talks by our Mayor, the Tamworth Regional Council General Manager, the Council Waste Sustainability Officer, the talk on the NBN, to name a few, was a real injection of enthusiasm from the members. I know those giving the talks were impressed, especially the Council General Manager who brought 40 copies of the report but needed another 40 – such was the crowd and our interest and enthusiasm!

I have enjoyed chairing the monthly meetings of our Management Committee. A couple of hours on the 4th Monday at Treloars produces some good ideas and also many very good decisions. I would like to personally thank on your behalf those who have made up the Monday gang. Stephen Hawkins was welcomed to the Committee this year, John Fuller and Deborah Murray retired from their Committee positions during the year. I ask the following (if you are present) to please rise and allow us to thank you for your work for us.

I wish also to state that holding our monthly Committee meetings at Treloars, as a well as various programs, is a regular means of noting how our U3A has progressed over its first 10 Years.

Before we turn our sights to the future, I would like to announce that I will not be seeking for the coming year the Presidency or a seat at the Management Committee. I recall clearly that there were three ladies who were with me in the line as we entered this room for the first ever U3A meeting. Their comment was “So you'll be running this show soon” .. to which I replied as I recall “Not if I can avoid it” .. Rather than avoiding getting involved, I did get involved and have enjoyed it immensely.

I want to note about a colleague in that Monday gang, Jan Morris. She is going to have a more relaxed time not being on the Committee. We can recall that Jan has been present at every Wednesday talk with the sign, welcoming visitors and collecting of the dollars from the non-members. But Jan will be around and will be there making her usual contribution. For what you have done for us, we sincerely thank you Jan.

Now looking forward, we have 2018 ... it is an important year for me .. and the U3A. The U3A will be 10 years old on June 6th. We are going to celebrate that event on that day and throughout the year. Whether you joined to-day or in 2008, you should join the celebration. The celebration has a twin focus .. on the event on June 6th and the book. It is everybody's celebration .. the event and the book .. please be in it .. join the fun and recall all the good people and events from our past.

Thank you for making your contribution to our U3A especially in 2017 .. may your membership and enjoyment of U3A continue in 2018 and beyond. I expect we shall have a wonderful report on our memorable year of 2018.

I submit my report in 2017.

Barrie Brennan