



AUSTRALIA

U3AAA BULLETIN 15

NOVEMBER 2015

U3A NETWORK QLD INC .

What has Network Qld been doing?

Fraser Coast Regional Meeting

I can report that in July, our U3As on the Fraser Coast staged a most successful Regional Meeting hosted by U3A Howard, our newest and quite possibly the smallest, U3A in our State. Representatives from Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Maryborough and Gympie attended and Network were so pleased to meet all these enthusiastic U3A members – well done President Val Mullins and your committee.



Local Government Association of Queensland

Since then we have been actively engaging with the Local Government Association of Queensland and we have nominated Janet Behan, U3A Roma, to

be our liaison representative of Network. We are looking forward to a closer relationship with LGAQ and hoping this will assist in the development of U3As in more western rural Queensland.

Meeting with the Queensland Minister for Seniors

As part of lifting the profile and awareness of the U3A movement, we have had a meeting at Parliament House in Brisbane with the Hon Coralee O'Rourke, Minister for Seniors, her Policy Adviser and the Director the Office for Seniors. We came away with some encouragement and an invitation to meet again early in 2016. We are intending to keep up the pressure to ensure U3A is recognised as a primary stakeholder in seniors' lifelong learning and independence of body and spirit.

East meets West

Another happy and most informative meeting in Brisbane was with Don McDonald, President of U3A WA Inc. Unfortunately, it is not often enough that members of the Alliance Australia have an opportunity to sit and discuss ideas and challenges over a cup of coffee. Thank you to Don for making the contact with me - is anyone else visiting Brisbane in the near future? These informal chats are so enlightening and help to bridge the distances between us.

Inaugural Presidents' Council "Road Show" on Gold Coast

Last, but by no means least, the Network Qld Committee has decided to have more informal meetings with our newly formed Presidents' Council. Our first Region Presidents Council was held on the Gold Coast with the President and Vice President attending from North Gold Coast, Broadbeach, Twin Towns, Tamborine Mountain and Beaudesert and I cannot speak highly enough of the goodwill and interchange of ideas put forward in just 2 hours. The smaller group coming together made it possible for everyone to be heard. There were six members of Network as part of our meeting and we came away from the morning knowing the U3A movement is in wonderfully safe hands. If we ever doubted that Face To Face meetings were worthwhile, our doubts have truly gone away.

Julie Porteous

President, U3A Network Qld Inc.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Contact with Interstate U3A Networks

We can learn a lot from interstate U3A Networks, even if they are much larger than ours.

Our Network president Don intends to contact all of the state U3A Networks in the coming months, and recently met in Brisbane with Julie Porteous, President of U3A Network Queensland (photo); this network covers 32 U3As with a total of 21,000 active members. Julie is also currently President of both U3A Alliance Australia and Queensland's largest U3A group, U3A Redlands in the southern metropolitan area of Brisbane, with 1,700 members. Perhaps an example of the adage that if you want a job done, give it to a busy person!



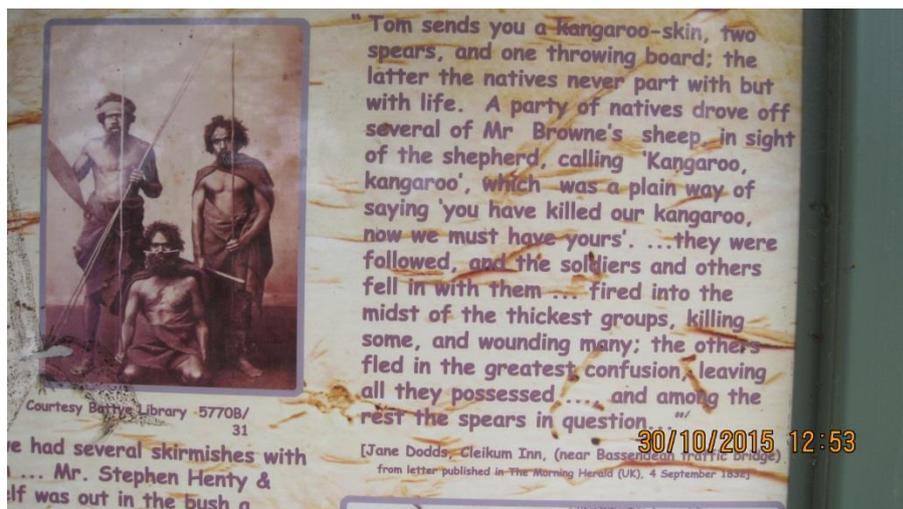
U3AAA Chair Julie Porteous with WA Network President, Don McDonald. Both agree that meetings between widespread groups can be very beneficial.

Below: A U3A group made a recent visit to Success Hill, Bassendean, Perth, WA. A very pleasant spot that was once an important meeting place for local Aboriginal groups.

Pat Collings,
Robyn Talbot and
Judith Wailes
from U3A
(UWA) Perth at
Success Hill on
the Swan River.



One of the story boards at Success Hill showing an extract from an early letter from the Swan River Colony



U3A Network Queensland has recently presented a proposal to their Minister for Seniors requesting a grant of \$75,000 to fund a U3A awareness campaign, help establish four new regional U3As, governance training for committee members, skills development for tutors, and events in Seniors Week. The Minister's response is awaited.

Don hopes to meet representatives from at least one other interstate U3A Network in the coming weeks.

U3A Network WA Committee

The members our Committee are:

- Don McDonald, President [member of U3A(UWA) Central]
- Peter Flanigan, Vice Chairman [U3A(UWA) North Coast]
- Helen Baker, Secretary [U3A(UWA) North Coast]
- Jean Duff, Treasurer [member of U3A Online and U3A(UWA) North Coast]
- Christine McDonald [Naturaliste U3A]
- Rory O'Brien [U3A Mandurah]

The Committee is taking steps towards updating the Network Strategic Plan. The first edition was finalised in June 2014. The Plan is built around the four objects of the Network, namely Promotion, Communication, Support and Connections.

Other specific actions are being considered include:

- A visit to an out-of-town U3A group by some Committee members.
- Assisting member U3As in addressing their insurance and copyright responsibilities.
- Organising a "state conference" for 2016.

Proposal for a “State Conference”:

We are in the early stages of considering a “state conference” to be held in 2016. This would enable U3A members to “tell and learn” about what is going on in U3A, and some of the opportunities and challenges facing U3A groups.

30th Anniversary of U3A in WA

On Sunday 13th March next year, U3A(UWA) will be conducting a celebration - in the University of WA Sunken Garden - of the foundation of U3A in Western Australia in 1985. U3A(UWA) was of course the founding member group in WA, and still accounts for approximately two-thirds of the individual U3A membership in WA. The name “U3A(UWA)” acknowledges the major role of the University of WA in the early stages of formation, and UWA still provides significant support including – to name just one example – office accommodation.

FROM THE EDITOR

Once more, many thanks to all contributors. Best wishes to everyone for a great end to 2015, a happy Christmas and a merry New Year.

Deadline for next issue: March 25 2016

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PS. This is my 15th Bulletin. I have enjoyed putting them together but I would be quite happy to hand it over at this stage if there is anyone who would like to take it on. I can be contacted on

u3apeteraa@bigpond.com

Peter Flanigan



U3A South Australia held its AGM in October and we are thrilled to have some new people step forward and offer their services. Erica Majba has retired after two extremely busy years at the helm. Our new president, Bernice McSwain, is a newcomer to U3A but has shown such ability in her short time as the chair of our grants sub-committee that we have great confidence that her presidency will be equally successful.

Bernie has also replaced Erica as Tea Tree Gully's delegate. Tea Tree Gully is our largest member organization with its 960 members exceeding even Adelaide U3A. Gawler U3A's Peter Adams has returned to take on the position of treasurer, and Brent Morrell from Riverland has stepped up to vice-president leaving the secretary the only old hand on the 2015-16 management committee. A big personal thank you to Pauline McCreery from Adelaide who volunteered to act as minute secretary as well as webmaster.

Janet Hemsley from Adelaide Hills was another welcome addition on the grants sub-committee. One doesn't need to be a delegate to serve on a sub-committee and I remind all SA members that there are still two vacancies on the finance sub-committee. Kerrie Smith, who was overseas at the time, will be the new Campbelltown delegate taking over from the hard-working Susan Dawe.

Riverland U3A has been our great success of 2015. It is yet to turn one but at our quarterly meeting they reported they have reached 140 members, several volunteers trained for literacy tutoring courtesy of a Communities SA programme, members staged an art exhibition, hosted Mt Gambier U3A's annual field trip, and their new creative writing group is visiting Murraylands U3A writers (now published authors) to pick up some tips. Not a bad record for a U3A which is just planning its first birthday in December. The reach of their networking with other U3As across the State is an excellent example of the cooperation which was encouraged during Erica's presidency.

Many of our country U3As face the challenge of spreading their services across several small towns. Undaunted, Riverland is making plans to spread the word even further down the Murray to Waikerie. That is the sort of vigour which comes from new faces and new ideas.

Riverland's art exhibition at the Chaffey Theatre was part of the COTA SA Every Generation Festival, now in its 48th year. Publicity Officer, Diana March's article in the local newspaper said the 17 U3A Riverland art students' display of new-found talents in the Rich Tapestry of Life exhibition proves there is no glass ceiling when it comes to learning something new, irrespective of age.

"More than 60 pieces of art illustrate the many different mediums used: watercolours, acrylics, oils and drawings done with pen and colour pencils.

“Art tutor, Daina Braddock said the art classes began in February, so the exhibited work has been completed in only the past eight months. Many of the exhibitors have never been involved in any art activities before. ‘The works are as varied in their content as the people who created them. Diversity, individuality and experimentation are the threads which bring together this exhibition that celebrates some of the rich tapestry of life.’

“Two of the art group’s oldest members, Sarah Summersett of Berri, aged 85 and Brian Dalzell of Loxton, aged 84 attest to the adage that staying active: mentally, physically and socially, is essential to healthy aging.”

A great debut for a new group and congratulations to Diana March for making the most of



this publicity opportunity. Country newspapers are usually willing to print newsworthy stories supported by good photography.

Above:

Anne Harper in front of her still-life paintings

Left:

Sarah Summersett and Brian Dalzell with works created by Sarah

Travelling further down the river to Murray Bridge you find the Murraylands U3A now in their tenth year.

Members of their walking group (*right*) are certainly up for a challenge judging by the photos of them on a hike through scenic but stony country to Mannum Falls.

Completing our coverage of the Murray is South Coast U3A which covers not only Victor Harbor but other towns in the district including Goolwa right on the Murray mouth.

Colin Macdonald (ex-ABC Classic FM) runs South Coast's monthly opera and ballet group. This semester they are screening two operas (with English

subtitles) and three ballets. Most sessions last for about 3 hours, including an interval. Colin (*above*) introduces another opera to the group in the Signal Point Theatrette in Goolwa.

Having a horse in the race, a half dozen of us glammed up for the recent COTA Positive Ageing Awards gala cocktail party at the Intercontinental Hotel. Kapunda U3A was one of the nominees for Regional Club of the Year but ended up runner-up to Loxton Senior Citizens. Damn, another group on the Murray River. There must be something in the water. Yes, there is (and we know which States put it there) but it must be a strengthening agent.

Kapunda U3A has shown great initiative by starting the ball rolling to establish a U3A in the heart of the Barossa Valley, one of my long-held ambitions. We have also had enquiries from several other areas, metro and country, which gives us great hope for the future.



*Claire Eglinton
Secretary
U3A South Australia*

TASMANIA

The Tasmanian state group last met F2F on Wednesday 9th September in Campbell Town, our mid-state meeting point. These meetings are always very friendly and helpful where each representative from their individual U3A group shares what has been happening for them and comments on any issues. Business follows and agenda and minutes are taken and later circulated to all groups, those able to attend and to any who were apologies.

Joining the U3AAA was suggested but at this stage the TAS U3A state group is not ready to do so as whilst very interested in information sharing, actual benefits beyond this were not clear to all member groups. One delegate raised the issue of eligibility, as our group is representative of all U3As in our state but has no formal structure or joining fees would we be eligible?

Other matters discussed were those of gathering political interest and support, publicity options and ideas, members' visit to Norfolk Island U3A and ways forward in 2016.



Patricia Corby

The Victorian Network's Thirtieth

Anniversary **30 Years and Still Growing** conference held in September reinforced our view that an interesting programme and convenient location will gain member support and justify the considerable effort involved. The conference was opened by the newly appointed Victorian Governor and U3A Patron, the Honourable Linda Dessau AM who also took advantage of the opportunity to recognise the state's founding U3As responsible for adapting and initiating the British model of U3A within Australia (see picture below).



The Conference content presented issues relevant to the future progress and conduct of U3As, featuring aspects of intergenerational interaction, seniors demographic structure changes, technological trends and the challenges and opportunities they all represent to the future progress of U3A. This 2015 Conference proved to be one of our more valuable and worthwhile functions, receiving subsequent positive comments from many of those who managed to attend.

Victoria's **Seniors Week 2015** in October proved to be a very busy period for the Network and its members. Federation Square Melbourne once again provided an ideal venue to launch this year's Seniors' celebrations and the showcasing opportunities for all that is positive about U3A. Demonstrations of exercise, Tai Chi, music, dance and craft demonstrations plus various additional displays provided the passing public a taste of U3A's spirit and range of activities. During the ensuing week a Network art exhibition was conducted in the impressive Victorian State Parliament House's Queens Hall. Approximately 150 pieces of U3A members' art was on display for three days, and whilst by nature public access was selective, many positive comments on the high standard of the display and upon individual pieces arousing particular interest. The exhibition was a success in drawing the attention of Ministers, politicians and support staff as they made their way through the Hall. During the following week a band of Network's U3A ambassadors were kept busy at a stand located in the Melbourne Town Hall Hub fielding a steady stream of public enquiries relating to U3A, its range of activities, benefits and locations of nearby or convenient U3As (see photo below).



Network has published an anthology entitled **A Story to Tell** featuring entries from last year's Network Writing Competition involving members from over thirty U3As. The publication has been circulated to those U3As involved.

The Network team has also consolidated an updated version of our Resource Handbook reference material for incoming office bearers. The Handbook content covers governance, organisational and marketing management, tutor resources in addition to a set of guidelines and resources to support those seeking to establish new U3As.

A further two-year funding programme has been negotiated between The Victorian Department of Seniors and the Victorian Network, details of which are soon to be announced. This represents a further affirmation of our positive relationship with the State Government and its acknowledgment of our ability to assist in delivering relevant elements of policy to the sector.

U3A Network has engaged a Research Officer to survey, compile and analyse the range of circumstances and motivational incentives that currently attract members to our U3As. This project is designed to provide guidance in the targeting of ongoing promotional efforts and assisting our U3As to understand how to remain relevant within a changing social environment.

Our last Council meeting in September included a presentation by our Public Liability and Professional Indemnity provider the VMIA (Victorian Managed Insurance Authority). Periodic updates on these topics seek to ensure that our U3As office bearers remain familiar with both the nature and implication of coverage as it applies to their organisations.

A Regions Committee, composed of representatives from our emerging Regional structure has been initiated to provide a basis for improved coordination, communication, resource consolidation and financial support benefits to their member U3As.

Those initial U3As chosen to trial Network's recommended member management programme (SMMS) report positive experiences to date with the integrated system significantly reducing the workload involved in the administration, membership enrolment and class coordination processes. A further twelve U3As are currently preparing have installed the SMMS in preparation for managing their 2016 year enrolments.

All of the effort involved in the past months which have resulted in the series of successful public events serves to remind us that many of our regular volunteers are carrying out roles at multiple levels of the U3A structure and seem to be the perennials to whom we resort to for assistance. We extend our thanks to all these stalwarts who enable us to deliver such value to our membership.



Victoria's Queens Hall Art Exhibition

Network President Elsie Mutton (left) and volunteers ready themselves for the public viewing on the first day of the exhibition.

Lindsay Glen, U3A Network Victoria Inc. October 2015

Live Learn Enjoy



U3A NETWORK NSW INC

2016 U3A NSW State Conference

Eastlakes U3A invites interstate U3A members to the Network Conference to be held at the Belmont 16ft Sailing Club, Belmont NSW, 27th – 29th April 2016. The theme of the Conference is “*Staying Connected*”.

A stellar line-up of keynote speakers includes –

- **The Hon Susan Ryan**, Age Discrimination and Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission
- **Professor Trevor Waring**, Clinical Psychologist, Chancellor and Conjoint Professor of Psychology, University of Newcastle
- **Gerry Collins**, retired broadcaster of swimming at Commonwealth and Olympic Games, rugby union commentator at three World Cups, and a presenter on ABC Radio Grandstand.

There are also 8 workshops to choose from. For information on the workshops and their leaders, go to www.eastlakes.u3anet.org.au

The program also includes a Welcome Reception, Conference Dinner, the Network AGM and Members Forum, 25th Anniversary celebrations, and post-conference tours.

For further information about the program, accommodation options, and registration, email conference@eastlakes.u3anet.org.au Registration can be made online at www.eastlakes.u3anet.org.au or by downloading the registration form.

Accommodation assistance is available from Lake Macquarie Visitor Information Centre Ph 1800 802 044 or email tourism@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

We look forward to welcoming interstate U3A members to beautiful Lake Macquarie.

NSW Ageing Alliance

In accordance with Objective (6) of the Network constitution, “*to establish and maintain links with educational and seniors organisations*”, the Network has been admitted to membership of the NSW Ageing Alliance, an initiative of COTA NSW. The NSW Ageing Alliance is comprised of 26 organisations established to promote the needs, rights and interests of all people in NSW aged 50 years and over, and develops policy submissions in a wide range of issues affecting older citizens.

Expansion of U3A in New South Wales

The 2015-17 Three Year Plan adopted by the Network Committee has set a target of establishing 10-12 new U3As over the three year period. So far this year, Southlakes and Wagga Wagga U3As have been established, and Broken Hill, Glen Innes and Lithgow are potential U3As early in 2016.

‘**Murray Muster**’ – the Network is co-operating with the Victorian U3A Network to promote its regional conference in Albury-Wodonga on 14-15 April 2016, to which NSW U3As in the South-West/Monaro Region will be invited.

Ainslie Lamb
President
U3A Network NSW Inc.

U3A ONLINE

President’s Report

U3A Online has continued to develop and increase its offerings during 2015. Thanks to several volunteer tutors who have offered new courses and to David Mitchell, who prepares the courses for uploading on to the website, we now have 51 courses available and a few more in the pipeline.

At the September meeting it was resolved to complete the task of reviewing and updating our Governance document and this has now been done and will be on the website for members to read if they wish to.

Our Face Book page is being kept up to date by Jean Duff and other committee members and the viewings and “likes” are increasing quite rapidly and helping to spread awareness of U3A Online far and wide. You can find us on Face Book by searching for U3A Online.

The next Face to Face meeting of the Committee of Management (CoM) is in the planning stage for February next year and will probably be held in Melbourne. These meetings provide a valuable way of meeting other Committee members in real space and time and being able to work together to further the aims of U3A Online.

There will be some change to the Committee of Management next year with two members (Patricia Corby and Sharon Butler) not standing for re-election and two new members – Ross Bell from NSW and Annie Webster from New Zealand. It is always good to have new people participating and bringing new ideas and new approaches and I look forward to working with the Committee in the coming year. And we are very pleased that our New Zealand CoM member will give us the opportunity to strengthen our relationship with all our New Zealand members.

I want, as usual, to thank all the CoM members, and especially Di Delchau and Bev Tapper, who work so hard and give so freely of their time to make U3A Online the vibrant organisation that it is.

Jean Walker, President