

Presidents Report

U3AHB/Williamstown 2020

Introductions

Welcome to our members and guests as we acknowledge the traditional owners past, present and emerging of the land on which we stand. I am delighted to announce we have a large number of members and have well satisfied the quorum requirement for the Special Meeting and AGM. We also have some Associate members who have joined us as observers but do not vote but their interest and participation is appreciated.

A special welcome to Guests.

Michelle Findlay	Hobsons Bay Coordinator Active Community Support
Martina Ryan	Victorian U3A Network Member Services Manager and a special thanks to her predecessor Ann Grigg
Peter Bainbridge	U3A Altona President
Graeme Reilly	Auditor

This year marks the 32nd year of the establishment of U3A Hobsons Bay/ Williamstown. Since our last AGM in December 2019 our aim to meet the needs of the retired and semi retired members of our community for social interaction and learning opportunities has proved to be very challenging due to Covid 19 restrictions. In addition 4 of our longest serving Committee members retired in light of the additional challenges of a Zoom led recovery and our long serving Secretary Ralph Humphries retired on the grounds of ill health.

I would like to thank the former Committee members Ken Gratton (President), Ralph Humphries (Secretary), Flo Light (Treasurer), Robert Ryan (Vice President and Regional Representative) and Lorraine Woodman (Grants) for all their support and hard work. A small group of 6 committee members have been acting since June 1, 2020. Sue Dawkins kindly accepted the Secretary role with immediate effect as required by the Constitution.

From March due to Covid restrictions we were able to continue some classes via Zoom and were able to connect a number of people with Zoom training however there were a significant number of members who were not able to connect because classes were cancelled or they chose not to participate online.

We hope we were successful in reaching out and keeping you informed through home delivered Newsletters and our online Newsflashes and that you still feel very much a valued member of U3A Hobsons Bay/ Williamstown.

Ann Banham our Communications Co-ordinator has worked very hard to make sure everyone was kept in the loop with a much improved Newsletter, our own Facebook page and more regular Newsflashes. We thank all the membership who were loyal and continue

to remain members and we hope we can welcome everyone back when we resume face to face classes next year.

Many other U3A's did not offer any classes during this period so we are proud of our achievements in providing some continuity and offering new activities during the year. Special thanks to our class Co-ordinator Phil Quinn for his hard work in this area. Phil will elaborate in his report.

2019 - 2020 Highlights

Grants

13 grant applications

This represents a significant increase in successful grants from U3A Network and Hobsons Bay Council totalling \$6880. The success in receiving grant income has ensured financial security for recurrent activities and has removed any need to increase subscriptions for 2021. Thanks to Sue Dawkins for her excellent work in this area. The grants are detailed in the Financial Report

Partnerships

This year has seen increased activity in establishing and working cooperatively with our community partners. The Committee has established key relationships with Hobsons Bay Council and Libraries that have resulted in the sharing of information, participation in Zoom training, seniors programs and future venue options. We look forward to supporting and promoting their activities to our members and working closely together.

The U3A Victorian Network have been instrumental in supporting our IT connectivity, training and support around much of the work we have achieved this year. They have been much appreciated as we adapted to our new roles and challenges.

A supportive relationship has continued with Bayside Secondary College around the ongoing use of the Cottage.

Online Learning

A shift to online learning through Zoom for some classes and all Committee functions. We have all had to learn new ways of doing things so we can continue to offer some activities and keep the organisation operating. Congratulations to all who have stepped out of their comfort zone to make this happen.

Policies

The Committee has developed and published a number of policies to meet the Club's obligations to provide competent and ethical services to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for our members. These are available on our website.

Planning

Two successful workshops were held this year with the outcome of a Three Year Action Plan.

UMAS

The introduction of our new online membership facility. Members can now join, edit their profile and contact details, and enrol in classes. This has been a major project led by Sue Dawkins our Secretary with Ann Banham and Phil Quinn in the working party. They have given countless hours and undergone training to make this happen. This is a major step

forward in the administration of our club which current and future members will benefit from.

External Reporting Obligations

The Secretary has completed all external reporting obligations.

Thank you

As Acting President I would like to thank the members of our current Committee who stepped up to make our progress this year possible. Acting Vice President Tony Mc Cosker, Secretary Sue Dawkins, Treasurer Sherril Milligan, Course Co-ordinator Phil Quinn and Ann Banham Communications Co-ordinator. They have been a great team who have worked tirelessly to support members and establish policies and procedures that will take us all forward. This has been achieved in a very short time frame and I thank them for their effort and commitment. This year has also been one of a collective effort from Club members and volunteers from the community so a special thank you to

Hobsons Bay Council

Michelle Findlay and her staff and colleagues.

U3A Victorian Network and staff especially

Ann Grigg

Kevin Whelan IT support

Peter Lazarus IT support

Members and community

Drew Milligan (Painting of the Cottage)

Victor Micic (Painting of the Cottage)

Graeme Reilly (Auditor)

Raine and Horne (donation for postage of Newsletter)

Melissa Horne MHR (printing of Newsletter)

Bayside Secondary College

Venues

The Royal Yacht Club

Cafe Platform 177

Retired Committee members

Ken Gratton

Flo Light

Ralph Humphries

Lorraine Woodman

Robert Ryan

I am excited by the possibilities for 2021. We have demonstrated the success of short one session activities and a combination of face to face classes and online sessions and am confident this will offer a richer experience and wider choice to our members next year. I hope to see you at one or more of them.

Joan Thompson
Acting President