



U3A NETWORK NSW Inc. E-BULLETIN

Information for Member U3A Committees and Interstate U3A Members

March 2021

Welcome from the President

Fires, pandemic and floods. The world is testing our mettle. Endurance is our default and we will continue to revitalise our associations.

U3A is a movement that keeps giving. We, the members give this gift to ourselves, our friends and community. It is proven to be an effective way to maintain intellectual, mental and physical health with the important social interaction essential in health and wellbeing.

I take this opportunity to thank the committee for their support, commitment and contribution to the Network in this term of difficult times. Since our last AGM in 2019 Ian Robertson, Robert Birrer, Richard Coggan, Geoffrey James, Roger Curran, John Sharkey, Denise Challis, James Nichterlein, Helen Matthews, Fiona Abbey, Allison Aspden, Margaret Stratton, Greg Brown, Denis Simond, Joy Smith and Frank Beukers have overseen the business of the Network. We appreciate all their efforts and wish them all the best for the future, whatever it may be.

The decision by the committee to embark on upgrading the Web Hosting service offered to Member U3As has been the major achievement of this team in 2020.

I recognize, in particular, Phil Warren, the Web Administrator, who recommended this action to the Management Committee who agreed to the upgrade of the Web Hosting capacity of the Network. This was a massive task which he undertook so all U3As would benefit from the improvements. He was also instrumental in setting up the process by which SGMs and the election for the AGM could be held electronically.

And not forgetting the electronic Annual Census developed by Geoffrey James, the Network Treasurer, and configured by Phil. A huge undertaking maintaining valuable information for our essential records.

The NSW Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing, recognises and celebrates people and companies who are challenging ageism by presenting the MACA Media Award. [Newcastle U3A](#) are finalists for this award with their 30th Birthday documentary '*Older but Bolder*'. This documentary can be viewed on the Newcastle U3A's website.

'**Rekindle The Spirit**' is the theme for our conference at Wagga Wagga in April and I invite you to join us and add your enthusiasm. The conference will give us an opportunity to renew friendships, revitalise our energy and refocus on important U3A matters. Registration closes on Monday 5 April.

Laurene Mulcahy

President

The vision of the Network is to promote the U3A movement, provide services to our members and represent them through partnership and collaboration.



U3A Network Conference 2021

Learning, fellowship and sharing are all activities we value and experience in U3A. The members of Wagga Wagga U3A proudly offer you an opportunity to **Rekindle The Spirit** at the conference where everyone can meaningfully contribute to re-energising our future.

The Network is celebrating 30 years of service to all member U3As and we want to recognise the contribution of past committees with toasts and cake. I invite you to join the party.

Check out the [Visit Wagga Wagga](#) website and click the [See + Do](#) page for some great photos and places to visit.

The Network holds its **Annual General Meeting** during the Conference and you may click to view the [Notice of Meeting](#) and to download the Business Papers.

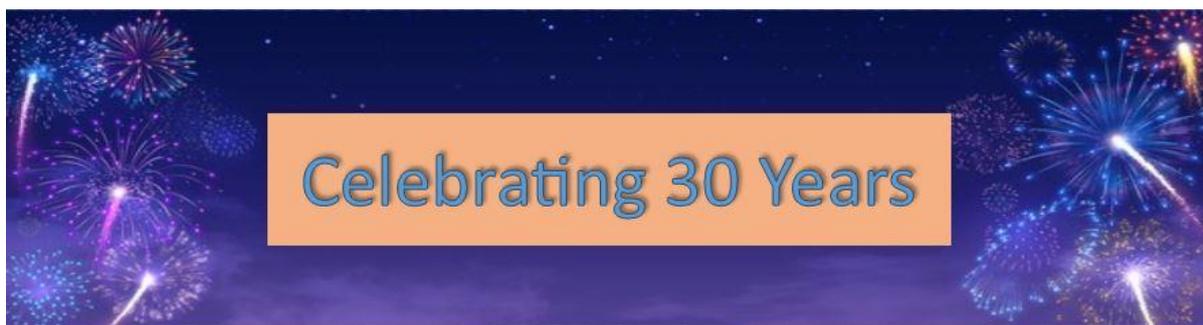
Options for attendance at the conference are detailed below:

- Dinner (Monday evening) \$50

- Full registration \$125
- Full Day (Tuesday) \$75

Click the button below to make your **on-line booking** to attend the conference.

[Access TryBooking On-Line booking](#)



This year we celebrate 30 years since the U3A Network NSW was established. In 1989 the idea of interested groups forming a statewide organisation to share experiences and ideas began to develop.

To quote Dr. Ron Browne AM, a former president and author of *A Brief History of the U3A Network NSW Inc. 1991 - 2016*, 'There was general agreement to the formation of a State Council of U3A, and as each U3A had been established independently with differing ideas of management and organisation, it was hoped that this would facilitate co-operation between member U3As. Other issues raised included how information could be shared, funding the organisation, and future State conferences.' A Steering committee was set up and worked towards realizing this goal.

The first Annual General Meeting of the Council was held on 25th February 1992 at Penrith, at which Freda Whitlam (Chifley Penrith U3A) was elected President and Kathleen Anderson (Chifley Penrith U3A) Secretary.

Since that momentous day the number of U3As in NSW has increased and the Network has developed, introducing Regions with representatives on the committee, producing *Newslink* a quarterly newsletters and establishing the Resource Library. The network established services such as Public Liability Insurance and Licences required for U3As to comply with copyright laws. A web hosting service was introduced and has developed into what is offered and subscribed to by Member U3As today.

I finish with another quote from Ron's history -

“The Network continues to flourish and grow, and carry on the vision of its founders, while embracing new technologies and promoting the valuable contribution that the U3A Movement makes towards lifelong learning and healthy ageing through mental and physical activity and social interaction in Australian society”.

Management Committee Meeting Matters

The Network Management Committee held a Zoom meeting on 19 March.

This is a review of the meeting - it excludes administrative matters.

At each meeting, the committee receives and considers reports from: -

- The Executive, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer (acting)
- Regional Representatives, and,
- Sub-committees and Working Parties - Newslink Editor and Web Administrator.

Pertinent issues discussions/decisions made: - .

- Resignation of Geoffrey James as Treasurer. Payment of accounts being handled by the President and the other signatories.
- Financial reports for 2019 and 2020 are being prepared by Richard Coggan, previous treasurer, for presentation at AGM by Vice President or Secretary.
- Appointment of Helen Matthews as Public Officer.
- **STOP PRESS** Conference registration refund for U3As who have not before attended a Network conference.
- Nomination of Returning Officer and Assistant process clarified.
- Electronic voting for Vice President 2021-2022 in progress.
- Membership Fee for 2022 proposal for AGM.
- Recognition of the exceptional contribution made by Phil Warren, Web Administrator, and Geoffrey James, Treasurer, with the development of the electronic Annual Census.

ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Aon, our insurance brokers renewed the Public Liability insurance. A new Certificate of Currency is available for downloading and printing. To print the certificate, please log onto the **Network's website**, select **U3A Governance**, then **Insurance for U3A Associations** where you can select **Certificate of Currency** for printing.

We have one group Public Liability policy to cover all U3As who have taken up the policy and

have paid the premium to the Network. Only one Certificate of Currency is issued, and not individual certificates. The Network requires payment from U3As in order to meet the cost of the Public Liability Insurance and the various Copyright and One Music licences and the Network then pays the individual providers.

AGM can be a time for change of U3A committee members. When change occurs, please remember to update your information on the Network's website. Select [U3A Governance](#) then [Member U3A Association Update Details](#). This site is password protected. The password can be obtained by emailing a request for this information to your Regional Representative.

Please feel free to share this E-Bulletin with other members of your Committee, and invite them to [subscribe here](#) so they can receive our communications directly, themselves. We welcome feedback about anything contained in this E-Bulletin - you can contact us by clicking [here](#).

U3A is about sharing knowledge and great ideas. If you have something newsy and shows the diversity of our U3As, please contact our Publications Editor, Ainslie Lamb, at ainslie2518@gmail.com

If you no longer wish to receive E-Bulletins you may [unsubscribe here](#), but we will be sorry to see you go!

Until the next E-Bulletin,
Enjoy your retirement with U3A,

Laurene Mulcahy
President
U3A Network NSW Inc.

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