

E-Bulletin – April 2021

- Welcome by New President:** This is my first E-Bulletin as the newly elected President of the NSW U3A. Hopefully, in the months ahead, you will notice a change in style and approach by the Network Committee and a more respectful approach in their relationship with our local U3As.
- New Committee:** This year was the first year since the Network was founded 30 years ago that the Association had an election for the position of Vice-President.

If have not heard the results of the election, they are outlined below:

President	Bob Birrer (Kempsey Macleay)	Vice-President [South Coast]	Denis Simond
Secretary	Helen Matthews [Hawkesbury]	Treasurer [Hawkesbury]	Denise Challis

The nine (9) Regional Representatives are:

Central Coast/Hunter	Jean Lewis	Monaro-South Coast	James Nichterlein
Central & Far West	Lindsay Cox	Murrumbidgee/Murray	Des Brown
Far North Coast	Joy Smith	New England/ North West	No rep elected as yet
Metropolitan Sydney	Jim Mutton	South Coast	Denis Simond
North Mid Coast	No rep elected as yet		

There are also photos and the names of the Network Committee on the Website under the heading of **The Committee**. As soon as she is able, the Secretary will send out their contact details so you will be able to access their services as required.

Through the good offices of Ainslie Lamb and *Newslink*, Ainslie will give wide coverage to the results of the election and the details of the new Committee members in her May edition of *Newslink*.

- Highlight of Election:** For the first time in the history of our Association, there was an election for the position of Vice-President. When the votes were counted, one candidate had less votes than the other two, who had an equal number of voters. The Returning Officer, Shirley Sinclair, who did a marvelous job of conducting the election, brought the two remaining candidates together to give them 3 choices on how to break the tied vote. The Constitution outlines the three methods as a run off ballot, a toss of a coin or drawn by lot (para 5.3.7). The candidates choose the second option and Denis Simond ended up as Vice President. Congratulations to Denis Simond on his election and our grateful thanks to the other candidates who

offered themselves for election out of a willingness to serve the Network and its members.

- 4. First Meeting of the new Committee:** The new Committee met on the day after the election and the Conference. While not everyone was not able to join us, there was a quorum for the meeting. You may have heard the expression *“putting your house in order”*. The first meeting was more a case of putting elements of our Association in order by removing any elements that were perceived as holding the Association back. In the hour we had to meet, we moved twenty-nine (23) motions.

They were:

A. Public Officer: *Motion - “That the appointment of Helen Matthews as Public Officer on constitutional grounds at the committee meeting of 19th March, 2021 be confirmed and the Department of Fair Trading be so advised and be also informed that Mr. James ceased to hold the position of Public Officer on his resignation from the committee and remains ineligible to hold PO position following the recent AGM”. Any contact from Mr. James should be reported to President.*

B. ACNC: *Motion - “That the treasurer ascertain current ACNC registration status and if possible, bring up to date”.*

C. Official Address: *Motion - “That the Network agree to pay \$50 pa to U3A Nepean Blue Mountains Inc for use as official network address and storage of official records”.*

D. Vacancies: *Motion - “That all casual vacancies be advertised on the official website and by individual U3A member associations”.*

E. Signatories for Banking: *Motion – “That ALL current signatories be removed and the following be endorsed as signatories for all banking accounts held by NSW NETWORK U3A Inc*

President – Robert Birrer;

Vice President – Denis Simond

Secretary – Helen Matthews

Treasurer – Denise Challis”

F. Receipt Book: *Motion - “That the treasurer be authorized to purchase a receipt book showing the Network’s name”.*

- G. **Cheque Book:** *Motion - "That the Treasurer authorize issue of a cheque book".*
- H. **Signatories for documents:** *Motion - "That the Public Officer Helen Matthews and President Robert Birrer be confirmed as the signatories for documents for U3A Network NSW Inc".*
- I. **Termination all sub committees, assistant and advisory positions:** *Motion - "That all currently existing sub-committees, assistant, advisory or special advisory positions or any other titles existing outside elected committee positions be terminated immediately"*
- J. **Notification of Identified Incumbents:** *Motion - "That Geoffrey James, Carmen Champion and any other identified incumbents be so advised".*
- K. **Web Administration:** *Motion - "That the resignation of Web Master Phil Warren be accepted".* Phil has agreed to stay on until June 30 if required until a replacement is found. The Network Committee moved a vote of thanks to Phil for his work on behalf of the Network.
- L. **Temporary Web Administration:** *Motion "That Phil Warren be appointed temporary Web Administrator".*
- M. **Assets Registry:** *Motion - "That the Treasurer commence an Assets Register a copy of which will be held with other official documents at the Network's official address".*
- N. **Distribution of compliance documentation:** *Motion - "That committee members be provided with copies of Compliance Documentation and acknowledge receipt of same".* **Legislation** includes the Act and the Regulation; the NSW U3A **registered constitution**; **Statute Law changes**; Department of Fair Trading Advisories; and Justice Connect Information.
- . Standing Orders are not included as yet because legitimate copies are yet to be found.
- O. **Locating Official Documents:** *Motion - That the Secretary endeavour to locate authorised copies of standing orders, duties and responsibilities of Regional Representatives, position descriptions for network committee positions".*
- P. **Distribution of laptops:** *Motion - "That action be taken to initiate new google account and email addresses for all positions on network committee".*



- Q. **Insurance Issues:** *Motion - "That the Treasurer take immediate action to reconcile insurance invoices with actual memberships and determine if any refunds payable to the network".*
- R. **Copyright and Licenses:** *Motion - "That Treasurer reconcile recently paid invoices for licenses with actual numbers and proposed rebates".*
- S. **No Individual Copyright:** *Motion - That the network commence development of advisory and informational publications and notices on governance to which no individual copyright will be attached".*
- T. **Web Servers:** *Motion - "That competitive quotes be obtained for the current platform".*
- U. **Constitution:** *Motion - "That the network authorize purchase of its own copy of the current registered constitution".*
- V. **Rewrite of Network Constitution:** *Motion - "That notice be placed on web site and members advised major rewrite of currently registered constitution is required as it was not updated after major legislative changes in 2016, there are some contradictions and conflicts with regulations".*

Conclusion: I hope you enjoyed reading the E-Bulletin by me as the new President. We have hit the ground running. There are more things to share with you than a four-page newsletter can carry to you. I will out another E-Bulletin in early and late May so that I do not overwhelm you with too much information at one time. I will try to keep the information coming out in 4-page newsletters – one at a time.

While I have not been given official notification that my email address will be u3answ.pres@gmail.com. This was the last incumbent's email address. If there is a change to my expected email address, I will let you know as soon as possible.

My phone number during my term of office will be: 0493 081 412.

Best Regards, Bob Birrer