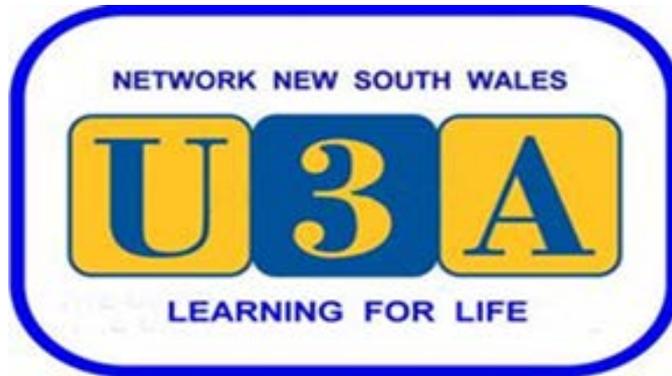


U3A NETWORK NSW INC.



ANNUAL REPORT

2020

and

Notice of Special General Meeting

Convened for

30 November 2020

(Electronically)

NSW Dept. of Fair Trading

U3A Network NSW Inc. Y1904621

Australia Post:

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U3A Network NSW Inc.
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President, Laurene Mulcahy

Since our 2019 AGM it has been a time of huge change.

President Ian Robertson resigned in June 2019 and I was elected by the committee to fill the casual vacancy. I had been elected as Vice President and my goal for my term was to create a strong connection with all and between our Member U3As within the Regions and throughout NSW. With the support of the Regional Representatives, Forums were held in each Region except North West New England. The last two, Far North Coast and Mid North Coast were held in February 2020 and then a series of events affected us all.

In September 2019, the most devastating bush fire season on record commenced its path of destruction affecting many towns with in which U3As operate. That series of events continued well into the New Year.

Then COVID-19 turned our world further upside down. It was regrettable but Network had to cancel the much anticipated conference at Shellharbour. The team at the helm of this event worked tirelessly and we were extremely disappointed by the COVID-19 effect and the need to cancel.

The NSW Government has issued many health alerts. Our Network website augmented those advices, and has on a continuing basis, particularising those advices to U3As.

Member U3As met those challenges in a variety of ways, engaging with their members, ensuring their welfare, and adopting a variety of novel, initially at the start, means of conducting courses, particularly the Zoom platform, etc. We all learnt new skills out of adversity. Underlining this approach was keeping connected with members and ensuring their welfare.

As restrictions were eased most returned to offering classes within the strict guidelines mandated by the government. This continues but gives rise to many concerns for our Member U3As.

Your Network Management Committee views the effect of the pandemic with concern for your U3A members. Reports of the impact already felt on membership income to date and concern with the degree of membership numbers in 2021, combined with associations' fixed costs have lead us to the decision to recommend to members that Network does not levy membership fees in 2021. To give effect to this recommendation a **Notice of Special General Meeting** is attached to this report.

This decision by Network Management Committee provides the opportunity for member U3As to renew and revitalise their association's during 2021.

We are faced with renewing, rebuilding and reinventing the U3A organisation and spirit within our communities and producing programs that align with the current social conditions ensuring the safety and health of our members.

In the next few months leading up to the April conference in Wagga, the Network Management Committee will commence the task of addressing a Five-year Strategic Plan. Views of members will be sought at the Conference in a workshop session.

One of many key issues in that Strategy is to address how U3A can best realign and be welcoming to the 55+ years of age recently retired. We are faced with an aging demographic which effects our continuing vibrancy and the ability to attract volunteers to direction, management, and services to our U3A community.

I have provided separately an overview of Network's activities since our 2019 Tamworth AGM.

Lastly, I encourage you to regularly visit the Network's website. It is a valuable resource to all individual members, Member U3As and their Committee Members and other lookers. Over the period it has been refreshed and populated with truly relevant U3A material.

I look forward to seeing you all in Wagga Wagga, April 2021. Wagga Wagga has a very enthusiastic committee planning a remarkably interesting programme.

NETWORK OVERVIEW

AGM 2019 – October 2020

Summary of the major activities of the Network

- ✓ **Network Website** Our Website Administrator, Phil Warren, has worked extensively:
 - To freshen the appearance and populate with many topics of interest and concern to U3As. To illustrate:
 - introduced a link on Network's website front page providing regularly updated [COVID information](#) relevant to U3A.
 - added to the Resource information content about [Remote Learning](#) and [Cyber Security](#).
 - Introduce a system to provide for password protected voting for electronic ballots for Network meetings
 - To implement an online annual collection of census data for membership, insurance, and copyright.
 - To identify, and then in conjunction with a consultant to update the web hosting services provided to member U3As. The cost of the consultant has been a cost to Network only. The [server update](#) addresses issues experienced over several years and is the first major update since inception of the service.
- ✓ **To address a void in guidance to Network U3A committees.** Significant effort has been devoted by our former Governance Officer and the Network Management Committee to producing a series of guides. This issue had not been previously addressed and certainly not to the same extent as it has been in 2019-20. Some have been critical of the form and extent of the information received. It is important for Network to provide this guidance:
 - A framework and an environment in which U3As can operate to minimize legal liability in an ever changing litigious environment.
 - To enable U3As to operate in a manner to protect and continue to foster, what is universally important to us all the corporate name **U3A**. Any damage to that name affects us all. It is the center piece of Good Governance.
 - All the published guides may be accessed at [Good Governance Resources](#).
- ✓ **Logo** After extensive tracing to its origins by Carmen Champion, formerly practising at the NSW Bar, with an extensive practice in Copyright and Trademark Litigation the ultimate right to the logo reside with the Third Age Trust UK and all U3As are required to apply to them for the use of the logo, including the Network. Click for [downloadable resource](#). The Logo itself is in the course of transition to new brand guide lines. We are to be advised when these will be applicable to us.
- ✓ **Standing Orders.** These were introduced to Network in 2014. They are currently being reviewed to reflect currency particularly for the 2018 Constitution and subsequent amendments.

- ✓ **Network Management Committee.** Changes over the period.
 - Ian Robertson resigned, as President, and Laurene Mulcahy moved to that position with John Sharkey stepping up as Vice President
 - Robert Birrer resigned as Secretary / Public Officer, October 2019 and Geoffrey James was elected.
 - Richard Coggan resigned June 2020, he had intended to stand down at the AGM, which was postponed, that position remains to be filled.
 - Regional Representatives Margaret Stratton, Allison Aspden and Robin Hodgins resigned.
 - In accord with the Constitution casual vacancies were filled by the Network Management Committee, Greg Brown, Robin Hodgins, Denis Simond, Lindsay Cox (recently resigned).
 - A candidate was unable to be found for Mid North Coast and again in accordance with the Constitution Laurene Mulcahy, as a member of the Network Management Committee filled the position.
- ✓ **Regional Representative Selection Process.** Network has developed a process to provide the means of a Regional wide selection from the individual members of U3As. The need to revitalise Network Management Committee with a wider range of skills with a greater connection of the needs of U3As is a focus, as it always will be. The guide to this process will be posted on the Network Website shortly.
- ✓ **Network** has needs similar to all U3As attracting volunteers. The needs for qualifications and expertise outside the skill base of any committee is a challenge. The engagement of qualified, skilled volunteers as delegates to committees to provide guidance to committee decisions is integral to a robust committee providing leadership. Network has been enhanced by a range of skills volunteers have provided. It is timely and most appropriate to acknowledge the contributions of Ainslie Lamb, Phil Warren, Lyn Stewart, Carmen Champion and Greg Trotter over the period. *Thank you all!*
- ✓ **E-Bulletins** are a continuing means of providing information to Network committees and others. Member U3As are encouraged to both widely circulate a copy to their members or encourage subscription. Regional Representatives take the opportunity to publish a summary of the appropriate decisions of Network after each Network Management Committee meeting. As an additional step to provide accurate and pertinent details of the outcomes of these meetings it is now proposed to provide a Committee E-Bulletins as well.

Finance Annual Report - 2020

I attach the Financial Statements, comprising the Income and Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2019.

The Financial Statements were prepared by our former Treasurer, Richard Coggan, who resigned in June 2020. Richard had served in that role for 2 years. His service to Network and the Management Committee is respected and acknowledged.

The Income and Expenditure statements reveal a loss for the year of \$7,833 (2018, loss \$15,691) Income of \$67,344 (2018, \$44,991) exceeded that of the 2018 by approximately \$13,000. This increase was largely attributable to Conference income.

Expenditure for the year was \$75,167 (2018, \$60,681) an increase of \$14,500 approximately. Again, the increased expenses result from Conference costs. The 2019 Tamworth Conference was a net contributor to Network funds.

At the November 2019 Management Committee meeting the costs of conducting Network's activities was further addressed and remains an issue for regular review. The November / February meeting moved to adopt a strategy of conducting meetings by Zoom platform instead of face to face meetings at a central location as further means of reducing costs decision was made pre the COVID-19 onset.

The Financial Statement attached will be submitted for members' consideration and approval at the forecast AGM in April 2021, together with the 2020 statements.

Geoffrey James FCA

Secretary/Public Officer and acting Treasurer

12 November 2020

U3A Network NSW Inc		
Income & Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 December 2019		
	2018	2019
Income	\$	\$
A.G.M. Levy	890	860
A.P.R.A. Licence	4,590	5,100
Bank Interest	627	1,002
C.A.L. Licence	7,388	8,712
Conference 2019		14,376
Insurance (8 months act 2018)	7,535	11,432
Membership Fees	8,934	9,047
Screenrights Licence	3,920	5,172
Regional Forums		2,278
Regional Training	751	656
DVD, etc Sales	3,555	2,148
Sponsorships	4,000	3,500
Website Income	2,800	3,050
Total Income	\$44,991	\$67,334
Expenses		
A.P.R.A. Licence	4,354	4,845
Assist new U3A's		0
C.A.L. Licence	7,913	8,767
<u>Conference - Assist Members</u>	1,891	3,697
Committee Accom. & Meals	2,916	4,208
Committee Registrations	2,013	1,750
Committee Travel	1,907	2,558
Network AGM & Conf	2,662	12,751
Committee Meeting Accommodation	7,765	7,061
Catering & Venue Hire	5,500	5,008
Sundries	132	0
Travel	4,834	3,037
Committee Floats	400	600
General Expenses	120	238
Insurance PL (8 months 2018)	2,900	4,015
Insurance Admin	704	865
Postage, Print, Stationery	877	1,020

Regional Representative Travel, Meals & Accommodation	3,448	2,493
Regional Forums		2,121
Regional Training	654	509
DVD, etc. Stock	1,140	605
Screenrights	3,736	4,274
Software	2,038	142
Website Hosting Related Costs	2,569	2,903
U3AAA	210	100
Purchase 4 laptops		1,599
Total Expenses	\$60,681	\$75,167
Loss for the year	-\$15,691	-\$7,833

Balance Sheet			
As at 31 December 2019			
	\$		\$
Current Assets			
Prepayments -Refer Note 1			2,461
Cash at Bank			
Cheque Account	68,447		
Debit Card	286		
Term Deposit	41,111		109,844
Total Assets			\$112,306
Less Liabilities			
Prepaid Income- Refer Note 2			48,473
Accounts Payable			
Total Liabilities			\$48,473
Net Assets			\$63,833
Members Funds			
Balance 1 January 2019			\$71,666
Loss for Year			-7,833
Closing Members Funds			\$63,833
Notes to and forming part of the accounts			
Note 1 Prepaid conference expenses			\$ 2,461
Note 2 Fees and Licences received in advance			\$ 48,473

The Financial Statements comprising the Income and Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet were adopted and approved by a Management Committee of U3A Network NSW Inc. on 3 April 2020

Geoffrey James FCA
Secretary/ Public Officer and Acting Treasurer
12 November 2020

Newslink Annual Report - 2020

Editor, Newslink, 2019 - Ainslie Lamb,

Newslink is the quarterly (more or less) newsletter of the U3A Network NSW. The focus of *Newslink*, as it's masthead proclaims, is to report on and to the wider community that our members comprise. It provides an opportunity to learn from each other's' experience and ideas for courses, classes and events.

The principal items in the newsletter are news items of Regional U3A activities. Every U3A is different in the way it develops and delivers its programs. Each issue of *Newslink* includes items from U3As large, medium and small in membership, whose activities vary according to their local resources and their own ingenuity. Their reports range through visiting lecturers, classes and special interest groups, excursions, music, and celebrations. Photographs illustrating these activities are welcomed, and here are some excellent examples from 2019:



Left – Kiama U3A celebrated its 20th anniversary with a Mad Hatters Party.

Right -Australasian Darter, photo by Valerie Tabet of the Hawkesbury U3A Bird Watchers/ Photographers Group



Maggie the Story Dog visited Northern Rivers (Lismore) U3A



The Parkes U3A knitting" Chicken Challenge"



Newcastle U3A sailing class "learning the ropes"

In addition to U3A news items. *Newslink* included the U3A Annual Conference report, book reviews, and updates on current research into ageing and cognition, as well as invitations to U3A members to participate in University research projects, and creative writing competitions.

Many of these items are included in the NSW Network contribution to the national U3A Alliance Australia Bulletin, also a quarterly publication.

A big *Thankyou* to U3A secretaries, publicity officers, and newsletter editors and others who submitted contributions to *Newslink* for each issue, enabling us all to be part of the wider U3A community.

Also, in Seniors Festival Week 2019, I was invited to contribute as a speaker at a Forum on -"Loving Life in Later Life" organised by the Psychogeriatric Nurses Association Australia - PGNA (Inc). at the Club Burwood RSL. My presentation focussed on the benefits of lifelong learning and friendship that U3A brings, and was illustrated with a powerpoint featuring photos of U3A activities - it generated several enquiries afterwards from audience members. I would like to thank members of the Greater West and Inner West Regions of Sydney U3A who came along in support with brochures and also spruiked U3A.

Web Administrator Report - 2020

Phil Warren

The U3A NSW website has been maintained and innovated with the website as is appropriate for a State body. Content has been updated and rebuilt to reflect issues such as the increased emphasis on Governance. I have leaned down the **Find a Local U3A** page with the obsolete Google map being removed and the NSW regional map has been tidied up and featured; I have removed the related text based content (one or two entries were always out of date) in favour of the links to the individual U3As where the information should logically be accurate. After taking on the role in July 2019 and I found the early period of my tenure very frustrating as I spent much of my first few months trying to work out aspects of the overall website-system that needed some perspective of what had been done in the recent past.

With the pandemic the Home page has a visual link to information bulletins on COVID-19 and to a new **Remote Learning** page. Other new pages:

Cyber Security

Managing the Threats

Improving your Security

Coronavirus Bulletins (as noted above)

Server Upgrade 2020

New Book - U3A - Active Aging

About Governance

Copyright for U3A Groups

I've gone beyond the basic role of Web Admin by:

- developing the on-line voting process for committee plebiscites,
- acting as the Returning Officer,
- improving the management of member contact details, and
- configuring an on-line method for each Member U3A to submit their annual membership data and requirements (insurance, copyright, website etc.).

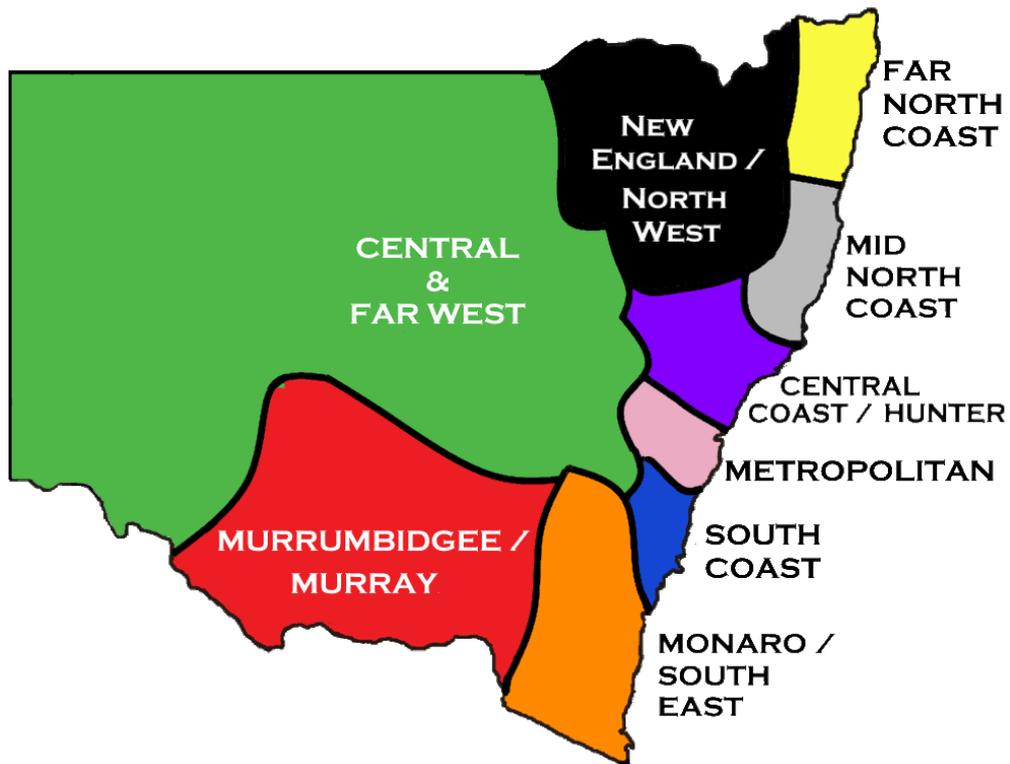
For all of my duties I have used my own technology, computer, printer and phone and, of course, Internet service.

Web Server Project

Much has been documented about this project. I will report briefly on the role I have taken in making this change happen. I think we called it **Project Liaison** as I was liaising with Contractor and dealing with the Member U3As. As of 11 November 2020 the "change to live" aspect of the project is complete, 35 sites, it has proceeded reasonably smoothly with some sites (the basic) transitioning readily while the more complex sites have more customisation that have led to issues and my assisting with the solution(s) or seeking advice/support from the Contractor. Our Contractor Jackie Stallard has demonstrated appropriate skills and a commitment to our goals and the process of achieving them.

The decision to adopt the **Multisite** option is proving to be a very effective way of enhancing the security and reliability of the Network's web-hosting while making the adoption of a website 'friendlier' environment for all of our Member U3As.

REGIONAL REPORTS



Regional Representative Annual Report - 2020

Central Coast/Hunter

Regional Representative: Fiona Abbey

Membership numbers tabled above are extremely fluid at this point in the U3A year. The impact of COVID on individual club numbers won't be qualifiable until 2021 enrolments are recorded. Many U3As have suspended their membership dues, with 2020 fees carrying over into 2021, or a discount is being offered to offset the shutdown of activities. This in turn may impact on the financial status of individual U3As.

U3As in the Region	Members
Central Coast	690
Cessnock	90
Eastlakes	850
Lake Macquarie	750
Maitland	400
Newcastle	700
Myall	260
Port Stephens	300
SAM	60
Singleton	99
Southlakes	300
Tuggerah	100
Total	4599

Closure during the COVID lock down was universal amongst this region's U3A groups. Newsletters, emails and phone calls were used to maintain group contact, and to welfare check more vulnerable individual members, while technological skills were dramatically increased as members became familiar with Zoom meetings and classes.

Central Coast: Has been offering COVID safe classes since August, including a number of Zoom groups.

Cessnock: Has been offering COVID safe classes and activities.

Eastlakes: decided to cancel all face to face activities for the remainder of 2020, and offer its members Zoom classes and regular newsletters instead.

Lake Macquarie: has continued the COVID shutdown for the remainder of 2020, keeping in touch with members via newsletters.

Maitland: decided to continue the suspension of classes until the end of 2020. It will host a limited number Christmas get together and has maintained contact with members through regular newsletters.

Myall: has been offering COVID safe classes to its members with regular updates via newsletters.

Newcastle: after closure during terms 2 and 3, reopened for term 4 under COVID safe conditions. Newcastle has also offered members Zoom classes and regular newsletter updates.

Port Stephens: has reopened for term 4 under COVID safe conditions.

SAM: because of a smaller membership, SAM has been able to offer COVID safe classes since term 3.

Singleton: has offered a limited number of activities to members.

Southlakes: embraced U3A online during the shutdown and offered members access to this new learning medium while face to face classes are suspended.

Tuggerah: is open for business in term 4 and offering a number of COVID safe classes to members.

All Central Coast and Hunter U3A committees are to be congratulated on their prompt and professional response to the enormous and unfamiliar challenges COVID created. Each of these U3As has made difficult decisions on behalf of their members, based on NSW Health guidelines and the circumstances of their respective U3As. I know that each and every U3A member would want to acknowledge this hard work and dedication and offer a sincere vote of thanks to those who have kept their U3A safe during this year of upheaval.

Regional Representative Annual Report - 2020

Central and Far West

Regional Representative: Vacant

U3As in the Region	Members
Bathurst	496
Cowra	21
Dubbo	396
Forbes	198
Mudgee District	222
Oberon	206
Orange	195
Parkes	85
Total	1819

It has been an unusual year for all Branches. Most branches managed to complete eight weeks of teaching in Term 1. Then the restrictions of coronavirus were introduced. And life re courses in Term 2 & Term 3 effectively stopped. Some Central West branches have found a way to restart classes in Term 4. That is good to know. It makes for a sustained and positive start to Term 1 in 2021.

Term 1 2020 – Most Central West Branches were operating. Then suddenly & swiftly coronavirus restrictions brought a sudden end to the Term.

Term 2 2020 – Branches were Closed.

Term 3 2020 – Majority of Branches hadn't restarted classes. Some Branches continued using zoom and email to stay learning.

Term 4 2020 – These branches have managed to restart a lot of their classes. Oberon, Bathurst, Forbes, Dubbo, Mudgee, Orange, and Oberon. Most have introduced COVID 19 safety measures.

Cowra, Parkes are similar smaller groups who experience minimal activities.

Forbes has had more activities but restricted

Restrictions are easing and next year should see a resumption of activities.

Bathurst At the beginning of Term 4, Bathurst tentatively restarted classes. Some issues we experienced were previous venues had not re-opened. Hence, we had to find alternate venues for these classes. Currently we look forward to a positive and enthusiastic start to the start of 2021. Several new classes will be offered. (viz. A walking group, a Yoga class, an Economics class, a Fibre, Fleece & Yarn Group).

Orange Like other Central West Branches, Orange closed in Term 2 & Term 3. They restarted classes in Term 4, with reduced numbers. They have held a successful day talking to facilitators (current & new) and are planning for classes in 2021.

Oberon I spoke to the President, Jenn Capel. Some classes (10 subjects) restarted in Term 4. These included: Bridge, Balance 'n Bones, Pilates (limited to 10), Biking Riding

groups, Current Affairs, Felt, Fibre, Fleece & Yarn (limited to 10), Coffee Group and their Book Club.

With this number of classes resuming in 2020, this bodes well for Term 1 in 2021. They are hopeful all venues will be available next year.

Mudgee The new Mudgee President, Heather Rushton, told me that a range of U3A classes have restarted in town. Some former venues (especially those located in Nursing homes and Retirement Villages, have not reopened. The Branch has planned an Enrolment day for mid-January 2021. The Branch is working towards getting a permanent home in the old TAFE building. This would be a real coup if it happens.

Dubbo The President – Nola Younghusband was awarded an Order of Australia in the June Honours list. She has made an outstanding contribution to the Dubbo branch. Some of the larger classes will resume in first Term next year. Other classes have resumed in 4th Term 2020, at the Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo. They are on the lookout for new instructors and new subjects to offer members.

Report supplied by: Lindsay Cox

Regional Representative Annual Report - 2020

Far North Coast

Regional Representative: Roger Curran

U3As in the Region	Members
Ballina/Byron	600
Brunswick Valley	100
Clarence River	600
Grafton	250
Northern Rivers	700
Tweed Coast	500
Total	2750

Ballina/Byron U3A has put a lot of work into planning and documenting for COVID compliance and has reaped some benefit as restrictions in regional NSW have been lifted.

An important achievement for 2020 has been securing certainty of tenure in their clubrooms at sportsgrounds near the centre of Ballina.

Brunswick Valley U3A has experienced difficulties with venues – different rules have been applied and the club's main unifying activity, a weekly plenary with a guest speaker, has not resumed since March.

New outdoor based activity groups have grown rapidly and provide a good base for general club resurgence next year.

Clarence River U3A has remained organised and committed to planning and systems to provide COVID safe activities and has enjoyed considerable success.

The club will hold its postponed AGM at the beginning of December and I am really looking forward to this. It will be my first official in person engagement with my clubs since March.

Grafton U3A are happy and believe they are surviving as well as can be expected. They had a good sign up rate of members at mid-year and maintain person-to-person contacts around their town.

The club has booked a venue for a Christmas Party for sixty members and everyone is excited at the prospect of getting together.

Northern Rivers U3A at Lismore was hard hit because of its reliance on the Lismore Workers Club for its main venue and as a venue for many activity groups. Outdoor activities have proven popular and there has been increasing use of Zoom.

The club is 'rolling over' all memberships into 2021. An AGM is planned for early in the year.

Tweed Coast U3A, like Northern Rivers, Tweed Coast has relied heavily on a single venue for many activities. In their case it has been Cudgen Leagues Club. All club activities were suspended at the conclusion of their AGM in mid-March. In May the Cudgen Leagues Club, itself, was gutted by fire.

The club executive has been pleased by the number of members who have taken to Zoom to maintain their involvement. Venues for activities will remain an issue for the club 'post-Covid' because their home at Cudgen Leagues will not be rebuilt until at least late-2021.

Regional Representative Annual Report - 2020

Metropolitan Sydney

Regional Representative: Helen Matthews

U3As in the Region	Members
Hawkesbury	380
Liverpool (School for Seniors)	200
Macarthur	193
Nepean/Blue Mountains	1500
Sydney	4974
Total	7247

U3A Hawkesbury, by various means, is running almost all classes. They are using Zoom, post, email, YouTube, self-made videos and car park meetings. They reopened their office for one day per week using venue owned by a private party. Twice monthly newsletters have proven popular.

Liverpool School for Seniors is up and running but in reduced numbers. A magazine is produced every term giving news of the classes being held plus stories and poetry. The next one will include the activities and enrolment process for 2021.

Macarthur U3A is conducting 1 Zoom class and 1 on YouTube during the COVID situation. They remain an active group.

U3A Nepean/Blue Mountains premises have closed due to COVID which has resulted in no classes being held. Prior to COVID they offered a full program of a large variety of courses.

Sydney U3A produces a A4 book of many courses the delivery of which was overshadowed by COVID but they have embraced Zoom to deliver a large variety of classes to their members. Skype and Facebook are also used to stay in contact. They have also resumed face-to-face classes where possible. Newsletters are issued regularly and a promotional video was produced promoting Sydney U3A and what it offers. It can be viewed on their website along with the 'Stay Connected' newsletter.

Concerns of some U3As are the cost of the OneMusic Licence. Network is once again liaising with OneMusic to negotiate a more favourable fee for U3As.

Regional Representative Annual Report - 2020

Mid North Coast

Regional Representative: Vacant

U3As in the Region	Members
Coffs Harbour	490
Dorrigo Plateau	61
Forster Tuncurry	202
Gloucester District	160
Kempsey Macleay Valley	342
Manning Valley	324
Nambucca Valley	364
Port Macquarie Hastings	740
Total	2701

The Regional Forum was hosted by Port Macquarie Hastings on 22 February 2020. The first attempt in November 2019 was cancelled due to the fires raging in the area. The Forum was well attended by all U3As within the Region. COVID restrictions have resulted in Zoom forums which have helped maintain connection and support giving members an opportunity to share their concerns about programs, members connecting and preparing for the future. COVID-19 has impacted all U3As who followed the State Health advice social distancing and hygiene.

Coffs Harbour U3A has resumed limited classes and is planning for 2021.

Dorrigo Plateau U3A is located in the ranges west of Coffs Harbour. Though it is a small U3A it has managed to continue its language courses – Spanish and German face to face and has introduced garden sessions on cutting and pruning. Due to COVID-19 local venues are limiting numbers and this creates its challenge. Also some tutors are reluctant to re-engage.

Forster Tuncurry U3A held regular Puppet Shows for the local pre-school and aged care homes pre COVID. This gave much pleasure to all ages. Since COVID restrictions were introduced this has ceased. The other activities curtailed are Square Dancing and the social program. However, classes resumed in July and will continue to December with a Christmas party planned to finish the year with a flourish.

Gloucester District U3A is not holding classes and stays in contact with members with newsletters.

Kempsey Macleay Valley U3A has produced a book “Macleay Walking Trails” created by the Macleay Meanderers and featuring their walking tracks in the scenic beach and hinterland of the Macleay River area. It had been a huge success requiring 2 print runs of 1000 each. Their local council was supportive with grants and promotion. The council presents the book to new citizens at Citizenship Ceremonies. The book is sold at the local Tourist Information Centre. Congratulations to all involved. Classes

resumed in October. A life membership was awarded to John Cruickshank, valuable member since the inception of the U3A. The Gardening Group is growing out of control with increased membership requiring COVID Marshalls overseeing social distancing and hygiene.

Manning Valley U3A held their AGM in October with a new committee taking the reins and overseeing the resumption of classes. Members have received regular newsletters.

Nambucca Valley U3A has maintained contact with members via email and newsletters. Since restrictions have eased some classes are being held and suitable venues have been sourced.

Port Macquarie Hastings U3A has held an Acrylic Art and Textile Fibre exhibition titled 'U2 can create with U3A' in October 2020 with great success. With their own venue and a COVID Safety Plan in place, classes have resumed.

Kempsey Macleay Valley U3A has produced a book 'Macleay Walking Trails' area by their walking group Macleay Meanderers, featuring walks throughout the Macleay Valley. The local council gave them a grant and promoted the book giving it to all new residents at Citizenship Ceremonies. It is for sale at the local Information Centre. A huge success with 2 print runs of 1000 each.

All U3As are seeking ways of reinventing their operations in this COVID time. Most have resumed holding courses but with the necessary health restrictions mandated by NSW Department of Health being observed.

The main concerns for all U3As are finances related to membership renewals, suitable available affordable venues, willing tutors/leaders to present in this socially restricted time.

Report prepared by: Laurene Mulcahy

Regional Representative Annual Report - 2020

Monaro/South East

Regional Representative: James Nichterlein

U3As in the Region	Members
ACT	5600
Batemans Bay	350
Bermagui & District	400
Goulburn Mulwaree	300
Sapphire Coast	550
Snowy Mountains	100
Total	7400

Snowy Mountains had a challenging year with both bushfires in the beginning of the year and COVID-19 in turn making it difficult for people to come in from outlying areas to Cooma. Snowy Mountains is a small U3A and so the discovery that they would have to change from meeting in a shopfront located in one of town's busiest malls to a new location was challenging. Luck was on their side when they found a new location, still within the same mall, but one floor up from their old location. Snowy Mountains' problems are those of remote U3A's: finding tutors to maintain the breadth of courses that attract new members together with maintaining enough members to remain financially viable.

U3A ACT is now conducting a small number of face to face classes with a number of other classes using Zoom. The general forums which are held deal with subjects of general and topical interest and since the beginning of the pandemic have been held on Zoom have been more often than not booked out within a day of their being announced by the E-Bulletin.

Goulburn Mulwaree have beaten the lockdowns in a different manner by increasing their outdoor activities with local town and bush walks ensuring for instance that there are activities which all members no matter how limited in their fitness can take part.

Batemans Bay like most South Coast U3A's have dealt with two severe blows over the year, first with the bushfires and then COVID-19 only now to be immersed in a third struggle to preserve their access to the Community Centre their main meeting place. Their LGA has decided to put this important facility out to tender with the proviso that a commercial return is expected. The U3A along with the Regional Representative have been working to ensure that all materials put before the LGA present the strongest case for the continuation of the U3A's continued access to the Community centre on terms that are affordable.

Not surprisingly both other far South Coast U3A's are watching all of this very carefully. It does seem that one of the consequences of COVID-19 will be LGA's seeking as many ways as possible to recoup revenue lost during this stage of the pandemic.

Bermagui after the fires used the COVID-19 times to move as many classes as possible onto Zoom and then to organise small general meetings out of doors. They have used both these meetings and Zoom to ensure that they have kept contact with most of their members.

Sapphire Coast likewise had to deal first of all with the fires and then with COVID-19 creating a problem for a U3A that rents its own premises of ensuring sufficient cash flow to meet their operating costs.

The region faces problems not confronting other U3A's. Our largest U3A, ACT has over five and half thousand members whilst Snowy Mountains has just on one hundred. Furthermore, ACT exists within a different jurisdiction to the other members.

All of our region's U3A's will be facing 2021 with the twin problems of restarting after two major disruptions. The first problem will be the creation and scheduling of a sufficient range of classes to attract returning members. The second, consequent upon the first, will be creating sufficient revenue to meet their operating costs.

Regional Representative Annual Report - 2020

Murrumbidgee/Murray

Regional Representative: Greg Brown

U3As in the Region	Members
Wagga Wagga	400
Deniliquin	90
Griffith	90
Cootamundra	70
Hilltops (Young)	30
Leeton	40
Total	720

The membership numbers shown above are approximate. "Covid" has interrupted past activities and venue availability. Membership dues are not being collected while in recess so firm numbers will not be known until activities re-start next year.

Deniliquin, Cootamundra and Hilltops have all decided to stay in recess until the new year. They are holding regular committee meetings and keeping in touch with members either personally or with newsletters. Websites are being kept current.

Griffith returned to activities in term 3 reduced to 2 days per week and average attendance of 10 per session.

Leeton now has the use of a larger meeting room at Yanco Ag Institute so the program re-started at the beginning of term 3. Balance 'n Bones has continued. The Secretary is learning to establish a website under the guidance of the Network Webmaster.

Wagga Wagga halted activities at the start of the first "Covid" lockdown. A weekly email kept members in touch and most activities resumed in Term 3. Some changes have been made to accommodate social distancing and venue requirements. Wagga has an excellent Website that is kept up to date and current. Wagga has embraced the chance to host the 2021 annual conference with gusto. A management sub-committee meets regularly, the venue has been booked, a theme "Rekindle the Spirit" has been selected, costings confirmed and a local keynote speaker selected.

2020 has been a time of change and challenge, Murrumbidgee/Murray U3As' have adapted to their individual circumstances and "Got on with the Job". All are looking forward to the Network Annual Conference in Wagga Wagga next April.

Regional Representative Annual Report - 2020

North West/New England

Regional Representative: John Sharkey

U3As in the Region	Members
Armidale	550
Bingara	50
Inverell	160
Moree	20
Namoi	20
Tamworth Regional	350
Total	1150

Armidale: All Committee and Members were pleased with the end result in 2019 and were looking forward to an even greater 2020. This did not eventuate due to COVID. The group has seen a decline in approximately 100 members due to the pandemic. The group are now conducting around half of courses in Semester 1, part 2 and are currently investigating larger venue in which to conduct courses in 2021. The AGM was conducted at the beginning of the year, with changes in Committee notified to the Network.

Bingara: President Linda McDouall wrote in January this year “we have some very interesting and fun events for the start of the year”. All who attended U3A activities in 2019 were thanked and Linda went on to report we are proud to say that we now have 50 members which is very good for a U3A group in a small town”.

Inverell: Like all U3A's, COVID had an impact this year after a successful 2019. Some exercise type classes resumed this year when restrictions were eased. They are hopeful of and are looking forward to resuming all activities next January. The AGM was held in September with no change in Committee positions,

Moree: Similar to all other U3A's, the group has experienced a downturn after a reasonable 2019. The AGM was conducted in March. Again, similar to other small groups in small towns, gaining new members is a major concern.

Namoi: This group meet every Tuesday and Thursday in the old Court House Boggabri. The day commences with trivia, currently each are researching Australian Gold Medallists, writing life histories is planned. After a light lunch, the group play scrabble. A small but successful Ukulele group are active. This U3A is a prime example of how a small community can be socially active, enabling learning for pleasure, and having active minds for a healthy retirement.

Tamworth: After hosting the 2019 U3A Network NSW Conference, Tamworth experienced a greater interest by ‘retired’ persons in Courses / Activities being offered. The year finished on a high note, and at the beginning of 2020 Term 1, 47 new members were gained. Sadly, all Courses and Activities were suspended 6 weeks into the term due to COVID19. The 2020 AGM has been deferred until COVID restrictions are lifted.

Regional Representative Annual Report - 2020

South Coast

Regional Representative: Denis Simond

U3As in the Region	Members
Central Illawarra	80
Kiama	206
Milton Ulladulla	385
Northern Illawarra	220
Shellharbour City	325
Shoalhaven	350
Southern Highlands	1160
Wollongong	294
Total	3020

Central Illawarra U3A have gone into recess and when their venue allows they will resume. Staying in touch with monthly emails and phone calls. They are planning an end of year Picnic if regulations allow. The Committee is looking at options on resuming classes in 2021.

Kiama U3A celebrated their 20th anniversary in September with a High Tea and a walk down memory lane with members. They resumed classes in Term 4 offering several via Zoom and continue to reopen what courses are possible adhering to COVID restrictions. They are mindful of their duty of care responsibilities.

Milton/Ulladulla U3A are not holding classes but plan to resume under COVID restrictions. Currently 6-8 classes are being held remotely using email.

U3A Northern Illawarra U3A once again debated the local High School during Seniors Week in February and the Lord Mayor adjudicated. The topic was Its Great to be Alive in the Digital Age. U3A won the affirmative case. Congratulations. It has been a shaky start to resumption of classes however small groups and special classes resumed in Term 3. These continue in Term 4. The Book Club meets on line and fortnightly newsletters are sent by email. The recent AGM was well attended by 46 members.

Shellharbour City U3A has overcome the COVID situation with newsletters and regular updates on their Facebook page. Zoom has not been used but some classes are held in private venues when possible. This has maintained friendships and social contact. The local sports centre continues to offer their venue for the Table Tennis class.

U3A Shoalhaven has been very successful offering 16 Zoom classes in Term 2 and increasing this number to 23 in Term 3. Term 4 has 19 Zoom classes. Introductory classes in bowls, Tai chi and croquet are offered to U3A members by local sporting organizations. Members who attend can then choose to join that club if they so wish. Outdoor activities are popular with excursions to a variety of gardens located in the area. They include a therapy garden, a native garden and the international bird airport. They will be holding their AGM on 19 November. Planning is underway for the 2021 program.

U3A Southern Highlands reopened classes in Term 4 introducing COVID restrictions with 10 face to face classes. The return to face to face classes augments a very successful program of classes conducted by Zoom throughout 2020. A 'Keeping Connected' newsletter containing newsy items, member's contributions, puzzles and mini educational items is being emailed regularly. They have conducted coaching for course leaders and members on the use of Zoom and these have proven most successful. Email is used to distribute material for the Art class with great success.

U3A Wollongong uses the Salvation Army Conference Centre and this has allowed them to resume 1 day weekly in Term 3 and increase that to 2 days in Term 4. Day trips have not resumed and there will be no Christmas function.

U3A NETWORK NSW INC.



NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

30 November 2020 at 5 pm

DOCUMENT PACKAGE

DOCUMENT 1 - NOTICES PURSUANT TO CLAUSES 4.2.4 & 8.1 OF THE CONSTITUTION

DOCUMENT 2 - NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING- ELECTRONIC: CLAUSES 4.2., 4.2.3 & 4.2.4 OF THE CONSTITUTION

DOCUMENT 3 - EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM – FOR THE ELECTRONIC BALLOT TO BE CONDUCTED FROM 5 PM MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER TO 5 PM ON THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2020

DOCUMENT 4 - PROCEDURES FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTRONIC BALLOT

U3A NETWORK NSW INC.**DOCUMENT 1 - NOTICES PURSUANT TO CLAUSES 4.2.4 & 8.1 OF THE CONSTITUTION**

To: U3A Network NSW Presidents, Secretaries and Committees

Subject: The convening of a Special General Meeting – Electronically- to be held 30 November 2020 at 5 pm [Clause 4.2.3 requires 14 days prior notice; an ordinary resolution is proposed]

(Voting will be conducted over a 3-day period 30 November- 3 December 2020)

Resolution of the Management Committee on 28 October and 10 November 2020 seeks approval of the members of the U3A Network NSW Inc. (Network) **not to charge** membership fees for the 2021 year.

At its 28 October 2020 Meeting the Committee discussed the damaging effect COVID-19 has caused the operations of U3A members during 2020 and the rebuilding of membership numbers and the restoration that will challenge U3As in 2021.

To assist that process of revitalisation and regeneration Network Committee has determined to waive 2021 membership fees, subject to the approval of the members and the AGM membership levy.

It should be appreciated that charges levied by external authorities providing services to Network for the benefit of members, e.g. insurance and copyright are outside the control of Network,

Network constitution provides as follows: -

6.2 Fees and subscriptions

6.2.1. Member U3As shall pay an annual membership fee set by the Network in General meeting. The annual membership fee for an Associate Member may be set at a different amount to that of a Full Member.

6.2.2. Fees shall be due and payable on the 1st day of January each year, or on the date of approval of membership.

Normally the 2021 Fees would have been set at the 2020 AGM.

The attached notice of Special General Meeting, Explanatory Memorandum, and the Procedure for the conduct of the meeting- electronically provides greater detail

Geoffrey James
Secretary/Public Officer
13 November 2020

U3A NETWORK NSW INC.

DOCUMENT 2 - NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING- ELECTRONIC: CLAUSES 4.2., 4.2.3 & 4.2.4 OF THE CONSTITUTION

Pursuant to Clauses 4.2.1, 4.2.3 and 4.2.4 of the Constitution of U3A Network NSW Inc. (Network) a Special General Meeting is convened on 30 November, to be conducted electronically and for an electronic vote to be concluded by 3 December 2020.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider and if thought fit pass the following motion, as an ordinary resolution pursuant to the Constitution.

RESOLUTION

That for the purpose of clause 6.2 of the Constitution of U3A Network NSW Inc. that the annual membership fee for 2021 be waived

By authority of a resolution of the Management Committee

Geoffrey James
Secretary/ Public Officer
13 November 2020

U3A NETWORK NSW INC.

**DOCUMENT 3 - EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM – FOR THE ELECTRONIC BALLOT TO BE CONDUCTED FROM 5 PM
MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER TO 5 PM ON THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2020**

ABOUT THE MOTION

If the proposed motion, detailed in the attached Notice of Meeting (Document 2) receives the approval of the Special General Meeting Network will not charge, member U3As, membership fees for the 2021 year.

The Constitution currently provides for membership fees to be fixed in general meeting, paragraph 6.2.(This provision is set out in detail in the covering memorandum)

The Network Committee's intention was that relief of the financial burden facing many U3As as activities were limited in 2020 will assist in rebuilding and refocusing on full restoration of services to members in 2021.

A minimum of seven days prior to the SGM voting delegates may put items for discussion to the meeting which will be answered by the President on the day of the meeting, 30 November. The President will then be available for any further discussion on the day of the meeting.

At the conclusion of that discussion period voting opens and will be conducted over three days with votes recorded under the control of the Returning Officer.

The Constitution separately provides for the conduct of the Election electronically and that function is the control of the Returning Officer, again as provided by the Constitution.

Network's Office bearers and Committee are specifically excluded from acting as a Returning Officer.

Constitutional requirements for quorums and voting are maintained. Discussion period is preserved as included in the Procedures, Document 4.

Geoffrey James
Secretary/Public Officer
13 November 2020

U3A NETWORK NSW INC.**DOCUMENT 4 - PROCEDURES FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTRONIC BALLOT**

1. The Special General Meeting will take place 30 November 2020. Please notify the Secretary of your proposed attendance/non-attendance [i.e. intention to vote], at the meeting by 2 pm on Monday 30 November 2020, by using the Voting Delegate registration process in Steps 4 and 5 below.
2. The Special General Meeting will be chaired by the President of the Network.
3. a. A Pre-Special General Meeting discussion will be entertained by members emailing the Secretary at u3answ.sec@gmail.com during the 10 days prior to the meeting, 20 to 30 November 2020. Issues raised will be addressed by the President Emailing out to all parties a summary of the issues together with the President's response.

b. Further the President will be available between 10 am and 2 pm 30 November 2020, at u3answ.pres@gmail.com to interact with the Member's Voting Delegate (please supply Phone Number for contacting during that time) to discuss the proposed change in the event that the process in **3.a above** has not resolved their enquiry or concern.
4. Please appoint a Voting Delegate with authority to participate at the Special General Meeting and to cast your Association's vote on the proposed motion.
5. Each Member U3A Association must notify the Returning Officer of the identity of your Voting Delegate plus an Email address that will provide the means for the appointed Voting Delegate to be notified to allow your association's vote on the proposed motion to occur within the designated time period. Voting Delegates are requested to register their representative role by visiting the Network's Electronic Ballot page <https://nsw.u3anet.org.au/electronic-ballot/> where a button labelled **Voting Delegate Register** will take the nominee to a registration form.
6. Please ensure that the Voting Delegate's VOTE on the proposed motion reaches the Returning Officer by no later than 5 pm on Thursday 3 December 2020. Voting will be conducted between **5 pm on Monday 30 November 2020 and 5 pm on Thursday 3 December 2020** using the on-line Electronic Ballot process that may be accessed using the link in 5 above where a button labelled Electronic Ballot Form will allow the Voting Delegate to access the form to vote on the Resolution
7. Phillip Warren u3answ.website@gmail.com has been appointed the Returning Officer for the purpose of the vote.

8. Please note timeline below (also displayed on the Website).

Friday, 13 November 2020	Notice of SGM
Friday, 13 November 2020	Voting Delegate Register opens
Friday, 20 November to Monday, 30 November 2020	Pre- Special General Meeting discussion entertained about issues raised by members emailing the Secretary at u3answ.sec@gmail.com Issues raised will be addressed by the President emailing out to all parties a summary of the issues raised together with the President's response.
Monday, 30 November 2020	10am to 2pm Network President available for further consultation Email: u3answ.pres@gmail.com
Monday, 30 November 2020	2pm Voting Delegate Register closes
Monday, 30 November 2020	4pm Password forwarded to Voting Delegates
Monday, 30 November 2020	5pm Electronic Ballot opens
Thursday, 3 December 2020	5pm Electronic Ballot closes
Friday, 4 December 2020	10am Returning Officer declares the vote.

Geoffrey James
Secretary/Public Officer
13 November 2020