



NEWSLINK

May 2023

President's Message.

I am pleased to report that our recent State Conference at Deniliquin was a resounding success with plenty of ideas and fellowship shared with U3A colleagues and guests, who really appreciated the planning and hosting of the event by U3A Deniliquin. They certainly made our short stay in "Deni" worthwhile and very pleasant.

Thank you to all who contributed to the program and a special thanks to our visitors from U3A Network Victoria, Glen Wall, Chair U3AAA and Kevin Whelan, NFP Technology Volunteer of the Year 2022. We also welcomed Jessica Cotter from NBN, who outlined how NBN may be engaged with U3As throughout Australia, when U3A Australia Ltd is incorporated. Thanks to NBN and Jessica for her valuable contribution to our conference.

Lorraine McKenzie issued an invitation to the 2024 Conference at Eastlakes (Belmont, Lake Macquarie), which will be held on 8 & 9 April, 2024, in the week before the NSW School Holidays. Please put this in your diaries. I am sure it will be a very successful and enjoyable U3A NSW State Conference.

As U3A Members are now aware, the Network AGM will be held by ZOOM on June 8. The Notice of the AGM has been sent to Member U3As and Voting Delegates should notify the Secretary of their intention to attend, so that he can send an invitation to the Zoom meeting to them. Observers are also welcome and should also notify the Secretary, whose email is secretary.u3answ@gmail.com. Nominations for Executive and Regional Representatives roles had to be with the Returning Officer, by Wednesday 3 May. No election of the Executive is required as no positions were contested. Thanks Lorraine McKenzie, President of Eastlakes U3A, for acting as the Returning Officer again this year.

From the conference, the Network offers for your interest:

1. Kevin Whelan's presentation "**How can Technology be used and managed by all U3As in the future?**" may be [downloaded from this link](#).

2. Phil Warren's presentation about the **Network's Annual Census and the U3A Member fee**, that is used for the Network's operational costs (overheads), examined the current formula and proposed a method that he believes is fairer for all of our Member U3As from the very small to the very large. His presentation may be [downloaded from this link](#).

3. The Conference Report, written by the Deniliquin U3A Conference Committee is now available on U3A Network NSW website. Under "News & Events", click on "State Conference 2023".

Denis Simond
President,
U3A Network NSW Inc.
Ph. 0407 776 778

Cross Regional Meetings.

In the second week of March 2023 the NSW Network held three two-hour Cross Regional Meetings (CRMs) over three days, by Zoom. Participant U3As across the State were divided into three clusters that coincided with the number of members in their U3A.

Discussions ranged from advocating to your local State members prior to the State election, to recovery processes for U3As post-COVID. A PowerPoint presentation on *Promoting and Advocating for your U3A* was shown and offered for use to all members. The PowerPoint and a Trifold Leaflet are available for downloading, adapting and use by any U3A Member if they wish. Now that the State Election has been held, it is time to ensure that your State MP is aware of your needs and the support given to Victorian U3As. Ask them to become "Friends of U3A" so that they can speak in Parliament on behalf of U3As in NSW.

Another series of CRMs is planned for July with technological developments for U3As as the topic. Those responsible for U3As' Data Management and Course

Enrolments/Administration will learn of developments in other States and in NSW. From this information it is hoped that NSW U3As will be able to select systems suited to their needs and budgets, which will facilitate their management of these critical aspects of U3A operations. As for previous CRMs, clusters by numbers of members will ensure commonality of experiences. Invitations to these Zoom sessions will be issued in July. Please have your technology volunteers attend.

Port Stephens U3A

Alan Young, President PSU3A says:

We are delighted to announce that in the 2023 Australia Day honours list, our Port Stephens U3A founding member (1995) Paul Whittemore has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia. It is Paul's contribution to the Port Stephens community in his third age at U3A for which he is recognised. In addition to spending fifteen years on the Port Stephens U3A committee to APRIL 2023 including as president (2004-2005), vice president (2006-2013), social secretary (2014-2018) and the organiser of many wonderful excursions, Paul will be most appreciated by many as the presenter of his highly popular astronomy classes which ran for over 25 years.

Unfortunately hearing loss has meant an end to his presenting days but his passion for knowledge remains high. Paul is co-leader of our poetry group and a mainstay at social events, enthusiastically greeting newcomers.

Maitland U3A

Alan Pring says:

The Maitland 2022 Christmas party held at Telarah Bowling Club was a great success, with good food and a party spirit prevailing. Entertainment was supplied by U3A Maitland's belly dance group and their ukulele group.



Irena Watson, belly dance course leader, flanked by four of her talented dancers. Photo: by Donna Reilly
(My apologies that we were unable to locate a suitable photo of Susan, the strip-tease Santa performing at the Maitland event. Readers will just have to use their imagination.)

Jean Lewis

Regional Representative

Central Coast/Hunter Region NSW

Lake Macquarie U3A

Rosalie Menzies, President LMU3A says:

At Lake Macquarie U3A we have been enjoying a series of talks called '1+2'.

One of our members, Sue Shute, interviews 2 local guests who have had interesting life experiences. We have heard such fascinating stories: a U3A member who was a ballerina living in Spain for 10 years in the 70s; a forensic scientist who worked on some of Australia's famous murder cases; a member who was born in India and then lived in Iraq, UK, Indonesia before coming to our area; and a scientist, who spent years visiting Pakistan and Thailand and helping with soil salinity.

Recently over 60 people came to hear the stories of a lady who had lived with a Kenyan tribe and raised money to build them a school, and the story of a drug addict and bokie, who recently was awarded an OAM for his chaplaincy work in prisons.

The talks are illustrated by a PowerPoint presentation in the background and the audience has the opportunity to ask questions at the end.

Note: Please let your Regional Representative have any articles that can be included in future editions of NEWSLINK. Your RR will ensure they are included.