

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It was so pleasing to see members – new and old, tutors and volunteers back last week. So many people expressed the feeling that 'it was time'. Welcome to you all.

All our venues are open with the exception of Vines Road – I will have further information about that later this week.

Last year was a good year for us and we took a lot of important steps as part of our review and up-grade. The report from the Member Questionnaire will be in the next Newsletter. This time, I need to speak with you about the AGM and the Committee of Management. At the mere mention of these two things I can visualize eyes glazing over and if I dared approach anyone personally I am made to feel like I have a contagious disease as people take a big step back, raise their hand and say “Oh no, I have been on committees before”.

So let's consider the facts before I launch into a 'soft sell'.

- According to our Constitution the Committee consists of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. As well, we have provision for six ordinary or general members.
- It is compulsory for us to have a Secretary.
- The secretary reports to CAV, organizes meetings, deals with documents and maintains records of the association. The secretary is also responsible for ensuring that the administrative functions of organizing meetings and minutes.
- The Committee of Management meets once a month.

Further details about the responsibilities and portfolios of committee members will follow in the next Newsletter and Bulletin.

Why it's important to have an active and engaged Committee of Management:

- To ensure that our U3A is functioning smoothly and efficiently for all members and tutors.
- To ensure that we work not just for today but for the future. Keep the wheels turning is not enough in how we should operate. So we need Committee members who bring new ideas, a fresh outlook and above all else energy to carry out the work that needs to be done.
- We need to avoid burnout. This commonly occurs on a committee when the bulk of the membership thinks it's okay to leave the work to the willing horses. It occurs when existing members of the committee feel compelled to stand for nomination again because no-one new has put up their hand. This is not great for them – they may want to take the opportunity to join classes or have time for themselves. It's also not good for U3A Geelong.
- What is expected of new members on the Committee of Management: Well, if you're like me I hardly said a word for six months, difficult to believe but there you go. I knew absolutely nothing about how a U3A runs so I listened and learned. All new members go through this stage. When you find your feet you make have a skill or interest which you can develop into a portfolio.

Now, the hard sell:

The most important point that needs to be made here is, and I repeat, we **MUST** have a secretary. Our current Secretary, Ros Gibson, stepped up to role at the death knock last year and offered one year of

service, she will not be returning to the Committee after the AGM.

So, we will need a secretary **or we close**.

I am pleased to advise anyone who may be interested that we have a general member of the Committee of Management, Carol Hobbs, who holds the Communications Manager portfolio. As a skilled writer, Carol's job includes writing submissions and grant applications, working on revising booklets and writing official letters in conjunction with myself.

The soft sell:

You all appreciate being able to participate in the classes and activities that U3A Geelong offers. Sometimes, it's important to put your hand up and say "I am willing to help".

AGM:

The AGM has been set for Wednesday the 5th of April, 2023 commencing at 9.30am.

Classes in the Chapel should not be affected but I will advise you if they are.

Details of nominations for membership of the Committee of Management and Life Membership will follow once finalized.

Nanette Tunncliffe
President