

U3A GEELONG BULLETIN - 20TH FEBRUARY 2024

- SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

This meeting took place last Wednesday, the 14th of February, in the Chapel. As expected, it was very fiery and contentious almost to the point of being ugly. I thank the large number of members who attended to hear both sides and leave in a better position to approach the AGM with a clear view of what is needed. The AGM will be held on TUESDAY the 26th of MARCH, in the Cobbin Farm Chapel commencing at 10.00am. It is being held on the Tuesday so that the same classes as last Wednesday will not need to be cancelled. Official details will go out to you and of course you are invited to come and register your views and your votes for the new Committee of Management.

The vote for the Special Resolution was as follows: 116 agreed, 45 disagreed and 13 abstained. As this was a Special Resolution it required 75% of the vote to be agreed and we came in at 72%. Therefore the Resolution was not carried.

I was very pleased to see members taking advantage of the Proxy votes as well as turning up in person. See you all at the AGM.

- The recent upheaval within the Committee of Management saw the breakaway group attempt to take control of the bank accounts. Due to this, all accounts were frozen. I am pleased to tell you that we are back in the black again folks with Sharon Swander and myself being restored as the signatories for the bank. Tutors are now being paid expenses and our outstanding accounts in and around Geelong are being attended to. Our Treasurer, Sharon Swander, worked very hard to ensure that the situation was resolved with the Bendigo Bank. We will be working with the Bendigo Bank to investigate how this situation could have occurred.

- Snakes – yes the snakes are about at Cobbin Farm – seen on the paths as well as on the verandah area yesterday trying to get in through the kitchen door. Please take care and I would advise that both the front door and the kitchen door are kept closed in the near future.
- My last note to you included the fact that U3A Geelong was one of three U3As in Australia to be selected by the Federal Government to work with COTA Australia on a fact finding mission to provide feedback and information to the Federal Government. We were selected because of our higher profile in the community as well as with the local government. Thank you to those people who attended and provided excellent information and comments to Sophie Petrov and Maria Katsabanis. We will continue to work with COTA as well as U3A Network Australia.
- Happy Hour (and a half) – well this far exceeded my expectations in terms of the numbers who turned up and who really enjoyed themselves. It provided a wonderful opportunity for all sorts of members, especially new members, to come along and touch base, meet new people and get a better understanding of what U3A is all about. In answer to your requests – no I simply can't do one every week but will certainly do at least one a term!! A huge thank you to those who helped with the preparation.
- Tutors will know that we are working with NBN to improve the wifi access to students in classes. Today saw further work on this project. This will also take the pressure off the wifi in the Office.

Nanette Tunnicliffe
President, Course Manager