

THE SMART AGE PAGE

Mudgee District U3A Inc in Wiradjuri Country

Monthly Update June 2021



Dear Mudgee District U3A Members

It seems only yesterday that I was welcoming you to Term 2 and now T2 is racing to an end. Time certainly flies.

I am very pleased that, unlike last year, we have had few disruptions to our program, but, as the Victorian situation demonstrates, there is no room for complacency. I ask everyone attending classes to please observe COVID protocols regarding checking in, sanitising, distancing and cleaning.

Early in the term the room at Adams St became available again to U3A. During our absence, hundreds of spiders had moved in and had made themselves very comfortable. I'd like to thank the members of the Committee who held a working bee in order to clean up the venue so that classes could resume there.

The official announcement of the sale of the former TAFE site to Mid-Western Regional Council took place on May 20, with local member, Dugald Saunders in town for the occasion (see page 2). Committee members Margaret Brennan and Barbara Vickary represented U3A at the event and took the opportunity to stress to Dugald how important it was for us to have suitable and affordable venues for our courses. Unfortunately, the refurbishment of the site is taking longer than anticipated, so it does not look like we will be starting Term 3 in our new premises, but we are hoping to hold our AGM there on Saturday 28th August.

August may seem a long way off, but as already observed, time passes very quickly. At the AGM some members of the current committee will be standing down, so we are looking for people who would like to be involved in the running of Mudgee District U3A and to have a say in its future direction. Nominations are now open. Please contact a current committee member if you are interested in being on Committee.

President – Heather Rushton, prepared to stand for re-election
Vice President – Margaret Brennan, standing down
Secretary – Marianne Matthews, standing down
Treasurer – currently vacant
Program Coordinator – Janet Duffy, prepared to stand for Treasurer
Publicity – Debrah McGarrigle, prepared to stand for re-election
Committee members – Nancy Chapman, Kaisa Giles, Cheryl Russel, Susanne Scholes and Barbara Vickary, all prepared to stand for re-election

At the AGM it will be proposed that the annual Membership fee be raised to \$30. The fee has remained static for many years, but there will be costs involved in setting up our rooms in the new premises as well as on-going rent.

In the last few weeks, we have been saddened by the loss of a number of our members including Robyn Chapman, Valda Meyer and our Treasurer, Ray Parle. Ray made an enormous contribution to Mudgee District U3A as long serving and proficient Treasurer, skilled presenter, technical consultant, willing participant and all round 'good bloke'. He will be greatly missed.

Heather





Mudgee community groups to benefit from disused TAFE site

May 20, 2021

A number of community groups in the Mudgee region will have a new home, after Member for the Dubbo electorate Dugald Saunders officially announced the sale of the former TAFE complex in Court Street to Mid-Western Regional Council.

Mr Saunders joined with representatives from the council and community groups to visit the site, having negotiated the sale with a community use clause in place.

“I had lots of discussions with a number of groups and individuals in Mudgee who raised concerns about the declining nature of the main building. It was unused and subject to vandalism, and there was a real desire to see the site used again by groups within the community,” Mr Saunders said.

“I’ve been very supportive of that idea, and worked with the Mid Western Regional Council and the Minister for Skills to find the best way forward. I’m delighted Council came on board to purchase the site, and what we have now is a great outcome.”

The University of the Third Age, Mudgee Performing Arts Society and Mudgee Concert Band were among the groups to put forward submissions. U3A president Heather Rushton said the initiative would allow the group to hold all its classes in one location, and even expand its offering.

“I think it’s a wonderful initiative on behalf of the council and Dugald Saunders to get this going – absolutely brilliant,” she said.

“We are just so thrilled at the prospect of having a home, a space of our own to hold new and better classes.”

Mid-Western Regional Council deputy mayor Sam Paine said the facility will be an asset for the community.

“This facility is going to bring together several active community groups and provide them with meeting rooms, rehearsal areas and storage space, which they’ve been struggling to find until now,” he said.

“The building will be a hub for the cultural and educational activities that enrich our region, and will allow these not-for-profit groups to flourish, knowing that they have a secure home.”

