

Mudgee District U3A Inc.

P.O. Box 469, Mudgee, 2850

www.mudgeedistrictu3a.org.au

September 2020

Dear Mudgee District U3A Members

Observing COVID regulations, the Annual General Meeting was held on the 29th August and the following people were elected (or appointed) to the committee.

President	Heather Rushton	0428 721 244
Vice President	Margaret Brennan	0427 773 238
Secretary	Heather Rushton (acting)	
Treasurer	Ray Parle	0439 735 424
Program Coordinator	Janet Duffy/Margaret Brennan	0419 989 322
Publicity Officer	Debrah McGarrigle	0402 037 181
Committee Member	Susanne Scholes	6373 1394
Committee Member	Nancy Chapman	0490 058 362
Committee Member	Kaisa Giles	0438 004 018
Committee Member	Barbara Vickary	0404 921 639

As you can see, there has been almost a complete change of personnel. One constant is Ray who remains as Treasurer while Margaret continues as Vice President as well as sharing the Program Coordinator role. Thank you to our new members, Debrah, Susanne, Kaisa and Barbara for taking up positions on Committee. A special thank you goes to Nancy who volunteered to serve yet another term and to Janet who offered to fill a casual vacancy.

Please note that we are still without a Secretary, so if there is someone out there who would like to volunteer...

I'd also like to thank the retiring Committee for all their efforts. There is no denying that 2020 has been a difficult year and the Committee, so ably led by Judith Darling, has worked hard to deal with continually changing circumstances. As well as dealing with all issues related to COVID, this has included the sad loss of two Committee members, Geoff Dear and Paula Brunton and the resignation of the very capable Chris Smith as Program Coordinator. Chris wants you to know that her premature departure was not because she was overwhelmed by the job, but due to family commitments. Extracts from Judith's President's Report are on Page 2 of this newsletter.

One of the matters dealt with by the previous Committee was the updating of the Constitution. A sub-committee was formed to review the 2009 Constitution and to recommend amendments. In April the draft Constitution was presented to the Committee and the membership was advised. A Special General Meeting was held in June to vote on the proposed amendments. The amended Constitution was put to the membership at the AGM where it was accepted. The document has now been sent to the Office of Fair Trading for official approval and once that is received, a copy of the new Constitution will be available to members.

Looking towards 2021, planning has commenced. At this stage we have no idea what the year will look like but we want to be ready if/when restrictions are lifted. If you wish to continue to present your current class OR if you wish to introduce a new class next year please fill in the **'2021 Presenters' Course Form'** on Page 4 and return to **Janet Duffy** (0419 989 322) or **Margaret Brennan** (0427 773 238), or post the form to **PO Box 469, Mudgee 2850**.

Kind regards

Heather Rushton



Mudgee District U3A

President: Heather Rushton Tel: 0428 721 244

Secretary: Heather Rushton (Acting)

Treasurer: Ray Parle Tel: 0439 735 424

ABN: 65 762 490 750



A friend recently sent me this saying, "The toleration of uncertainty is the greatest to bear". I have to say that the past twelve months have been challenging ones for our volunteer Committee. A period with the emphasis on challenges, a period of sadness, but one where the team has shown great resilience and given, once again, generous support to the running of Mudgee District U3A.

We were saddened by the death of Geoff Dear in February and Paula Brunton in July.

Heather Rushton agreed to join the Committee in March and continued to act as our TAFE Project Officer.

In July our Program Coordinator, Chris Smith reluctantly resigned because of the need for urgent family support. Margaret Brennan stepped into the role of Acting Program Coordinator.

We were again saddened by the deaths of Presenter Janet Millard, Honorary Life Members Dorothy and Colin Munns, and Members Margaret Smyth and Judith Paxton.

Membership has slowly declined over the last few years with our current membership now at 217, however we continued to seek opportunities for community partnerships.

- Chris Smith and I met with Michelle Maunder Library Services Officer, Mid-Western Regional Council Library, to discuss a possible working relationship between the Library and Mudgee U3A. The outcome was an informal partnership between Mudgee U3A and Mid-Western Regional Council Library allowing Mudgee U3A to have access to the training room facilities free of charge to run sessions and in return the Library would have access to the speakers Mudgee U3A has approached and run parallel sessions for the Community providing the guest speaker is in agreement.
- In March Heather Rushton and I attended the meeting with Simon Jones from the Mid-Western Regional Council regarding an update of the purchase/use of the TAFE site. At this stage no decision has been made regarding the offer made by Council.
- TV, DVD Player and CD player were installed in the Baptist Church Activity Room for U3A use for the following classes - Balance 'n' Bones, 2 Yoga Classes, Zumba and Line Dancing. The resources remain the property of Mudgee District U3A.

What are the benefits of being a member of U3A? Some of the key benefits that members identify are making new friends, adjusting to retirement, better physical and mental health, mental stimulation, being able to attend on my own, avoiding isolation and loneliness, a sense of purpose, feeling part of a caring community and a new future with new opportunities and challenges. It's never too late to learn something new, make friends and have fun.

I sincerely thank you for the support you give as Members, as volunteer Committee Members and as volunteer Presenters you are all helping make our U3A a vibrant and valued asset in our community.

Over the last 3 years I have had the pleasure of working with some very special and talented people. All that has been achieved has been the sum total of the skills and support of those teams, the Mudgee District U3A Committees, and their contributions have been valued. I thank you for giving me the honour of being President for the last three years.

Judith Darling President, 2019/2020

Vale Colin and Dorothy Munns

Sadly, long time members of U3A Colin and Dorothy Munns passed away within a fortnight of each other in August. Both made outstanding contributions to Mudgee District U3A.

Colin was introduced to Mudgee U3A in 1998 when he was asked to offer a History course. That was the first of many courses Colin presented, most notably his Jazz class which he continued to hold, despite declining health, right up until December last year. Colin was also instrumental in starting the Gourmet Club (with Dorothy) and organising tours to Norfolk Island (2006) and to Tasmania (2010) for U3A members.

Colin took an active role in the administration of U3A, serving a term as President and also as the elected representative to the NSW Network Committee of U3A.

As well as supporting Colin's U3A projects, Dorothy offered many courses for Mudgee U3A including play reading, book groups, public speaking and information about her field of expertise, audiometry.

Both Colin and Dorothy were lively characters and they will be missed.

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES & DELEGATIONS 2020-2021

Assets Register	Ray Parle
Events Coordinator Assistant Events Coordinator	Debrah McGarrigle Barbara Vickary
Membership Enquiries	tba
Minutes Secretary Assistant Minutes Secretary	Susanne Scholes Heather Rushton
Program Coordinator Assistant Program Coordinator	Janet Duffy Margaret Brennan
Publications: (i) Annual Program (ii) Newsletters (iii) Presenters' Booklet	Janet Duffy, Publisher Margaret Brennan, Assistant Publisher Heather Rushton, Publisher Margaret Brennan, Assistant Publisher Janet Duffy, Publisher Margaret Brennan, Assistant Publisher
Publicity Officer Assistant Publicity Officer	Debrah McGarrigle Heather Rushton
Secretary Assistant Secretary	Heather Rushton (Acting) tba
Sub Committees: (i) Website (ii) Risk Assessment (iii) TAFE Project	Heather Rushton, Convenor David Price, Manager Scott Etherington, Assistant Manager Heather Rushton, Convenor Susanne Scholes Heather Rushton
Treasurer & Public Officer Assistant Treasurer	Ray Parle Barbara Vickary
Welfare Officer – Members & Adams Street Meeting Room	Nancy Chapman

Presenters please note

- From October 19 the Baptist Hall will not be available due to the HSC exams. It will be out of use for approximately a month. Alternate venues are being investigated by Janet and Margaret.
- Do your COVID cleaning supplies need replenishing? If so, please contact Margaret 0427 773 238

Scrabble

Are you a Scrabble player?
Barbara Vickary would like to start a Scrabble group to meet at
21 Winbourne St, Mudgee
Tuesdays 10.00- 11.30

Limited to 3 people only

Contact Barbara 0404 921 639

Bus trip to Bathurst Gallery

Thelma Beechey is organising an excursion to Bathurst Art Gallery to see various exhibitions including last year's Archibald entries.
The bus trip is planned for the **28th September**.
For further details or to express an interest,

contact Thelma
6372 3432

MUDGEE DISTRICT U3A 2021 PRESENTERS' COURSE FORM

Contact: Program Co-ordinators

Janet Duffy ph:0419 989 322 Email: janetduffy787@gmail.com

Margaret Brennan ph: 0427 773 238 Email: margaretbrennan1044@gmail.com

NAME:

PHONE:

EMAIL

COURSE NAME:

Preferred DAY of delivery: *Option 1* *Option 2* *Option 3*

Weekly Fortnightly 1st & 3rd weeks of month Fortnightly 2nd & 4th weeks of month

All 4 Terms **OR** Term 1 Term 2 Term 3 Term 4

Other:

Time Required for Class: 1 Hour 1.5 Hours 2 Hours Other

Preferred Start and Finish Time:

Preferred Term Dates: *Using NSW School Term Dates (Please tick one)*

TERM 1

TERM 2

TERM 3

TERM 4

Feb 1 – April 1 (9 weeks) April 19 – June 25 (10 weeks) July 12 – Sept 17 (11 weeks) Oct 5 – Dec 17 (11 weeks)

Feb 8 – March 26 (7 weeks) April 26 – June 18 (8 weeks) July 19 – Sept 10 (9 weeks) Oct 11 – Dec 10 (9 weeks)

Short course (e.g. weekend) dates:

Preferred Location: Adams St Club Mudgee Opal Mudgee Pioneer House

Other Venue

Private Home (Address)

Brief Course Description: _____