

MINUTES OF THE 14th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MANNING VALLEY U3A INC.

DATE: 28 April, 2014

VENUE: Uniting Church, Albert Street, Taree

TIME: 11.00am

CHAIR: Ern Hollebone

PRESENT: There were 47 members present and one visitor, Rev. Narelle Penman.

The Chairman, Ern Hollebone, welcomed those present to the Annual General Meeting, then called for any apologies.

APOLOGIES:

Jill Robinson, Paul Robinson, Lois Bedggood, Barbara Delandre, Ludvig Pollak, Yvonne Foley.

MINUTES OF THE 13TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 29 APRIL, 2013:

It was moved by Lucy Bokulic and seconded by Brian Groth, that the Minutes of the previous Annual General meeting be accepted – confirmed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The President's Report was read by Ern Hollebone. It was moved by Ern Hollebone and seconded by Margaret Ward the President's Report be accepted – confirmed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Secretary's report was read by Ross Connell. It was moved by Ross Connell and seconded by Lorne Henry that the Secretary's Report be accepted – confirmed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Report was read by Braham Lieberman. It was moved by Braham Lieberman and seconded by Chris Evans that the Treasurer's Report be accepted – confirmed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 2014/2015:

At this stage of the meeting, Ern Hollebone vacated the Chair and asked Rev. Narelle Penman to conduct the elections. Rev. Penman noted that as there was only one nomination for each of President, Secretary and Treasurer and seven nominations for Committee Members, there was no need for elections to be held. She duly declared all those nominated elected. This was received by thunderous acclamation.

Those elected were:

Position:	Name:
President	Ern Hollebone
Secretary	Lloyd Seaton
Treasurer	Barbara Fieldhouse
Committee	Ross Connell
Committee	Kerry Formann
Committee	Joan Guthrie
Committee	Ann Haydon
Committee	Joseph Neufeld
Committee	Paul Robinson
Committee	Peter Savage

Ern Hollebone then resumed the position of president.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Ern Hollebone thanked Helen Heathwood, Lucy Bokulic and Braham Lieberman, all of whom were retiring from the committee, for their contribution. He then presented each with a Certificate of Thanks and a small token of appreciation.

The meeting closed at 11.30am.

Manning Valley U3A.
Annual General Meeting, Monday 28th April 2014
President's Report

Once again I am happy to be able to report a healthy state of affairs for Manning Valley U3A.

I looked back on my own personal archives recently and read that (in 2004) we rejoiced in an enrolment of 208 at the end of term 1, which I said indicated a healthy response to the need for a University of the Third Age in the Manning Valley. How different from the current 370 + who have enrolled this year. In numbers, we are continuing to grow and obviously meeting our community's expectation of us.

Enrolment figures are merely an obvious sign of our strength. The real indicators of the value of U3A to our area tell us much more. Our curriculum is extensive, ranging from language and history courses to more physical (and relaxing?) pursuits like folk dancing and line dancing. Within this spectrum of studies fall a host of others, too numerous to list in detail but adding up to more than forty each term. How different from our earlier offering of a mere half dozen, presented entirely by outsiders recruited from the community. Which brings me to that point – active participation of our members in course organization and presentation. We have really achieved the hopes of the founding fathers of the U3A movement worldwide,

Those who learn shall teach & those who teach shall learn & there shall be no distinction between the two.

In addition, more and more members are coming forward with offers of help in administrative matters. And this, of course leads to my special thanks to those close to me, the Management Committee. The Manning Valley U3A doesn't run itself, you know. As President, I have been more than ably assisted by Secretary, Ross Connell – a tower of strength who has helped maintain our U3A ship on a steady course. More than "helped" – he has been instrumental in that maintenance. Every organisation needs a Publicity Officer like Anne Haydon. Her publicity has been influential and obvious. She capped her positive year with a magnificent flourish. Who among us will ever forget that splash in *Focus*. A wonderful display of our Ukulele group and her personal affection for U3A generally. And who do you think is responsible for the rooming and refreshments we enjoy every time we meet? Peter Savage is our Commissariat, working quietly and unobtrusively to see to our comfort. No one needs an introduction to Pam Hollebone and the work she performs so willingly to produce our Curriculum and to bring it before our eyes via the Newsletter. I wonder how many appreciate the time and effort these tasks take. Paul Robinson and Lucy Bokulic have offered a huge hand as general committee meetings. Varying opinions keep meetings active and positive. Lucy will not be continuing with Committee membership this coming year. We wish her well. Two other important members who will not be continuing their membership are Helen Heathwood and Braham Liebermann. What a stalwart member Helen has been over the last few years. She has been our Welfare Officer for the past four years, keeping her ear to the ground (and the telephone) for news of members in some sort of distress as well as those celebrating some achievement or other. So many of you have received U3A cards penned by Helen on behalf of the membership. Finally Braham Liebermann, our Treasurer and financial consultant – and my friend and confidant, ever willing with an ear to listen and a discrete word of advice. I treasure that friendship and trust that it will continue during the next years. Braham has maintained our finances and ensured that we do have a balanced budget. Thanks, mate. More than I could ever do.

Back to the courses. As usual, Pam has overseen a great balance of courses. I hesitate to dwell on any one of them but I must give special mention to Brian Groth's innovation "Everyone Has a Story". It has been a wonderful experience to see so many of our members, most of whom have not previously stood up to speak to a U3A group willingly sharing their story with us. What a wealth of experience has been revealed to eager listeners. Brian has organised two sessions of this course and we all hope for a repeat later this year or early next year. Thanks mightily, Brian.

The past year has seen a major step forward in the growth of U3A in the Manning Valley. I look forward to further development in the coming year. I salute the presenters, who are the backbone of our organisation; I salute the Committee who have made it all possible to happen; and I salute you, the members, for your support and willing participation.

Ern Hollebone (President) 28th April 2014.

Manning Valley U3A

Secretary's Report for presentation at the Annual General Meeting 28 April 2014

Firstly, I would like to reiterate the words of our President, Ern Hollebone, in thanking my fellow committee members for making my job over the past year so pleasurable. Their friendship and support has certainly made carrying out the duties of the secretary so much easier. Being on the committee has made me more aware of the 'behind the scenes' work that goes into making the Manning Valley U3A operate so smoothly.

Joining the U3A some five years ago as a newcomer to the area was the best move I made. U3A not only provides a learning environment but also provides a social network. And this is one of its major strengths. I believe that the morning tea breaks and the accompanying chats are one of the most enjoyable aspects of the U3A.

Recently a member approached me at line dancing. She said that while visiting a health professional who knew she was a member of the U3A, she was asked if we had any publicity material. She had other clients, new to the area, who were looking for ways of making new friends, and the professional thought that U3A could be the solution. I was more than happy to drop off a bundle of our brochures to her office.

To all those who volunteered as tutors, a very big thank you. Without your help the U3A just would not function. And thank you to all those who help out with the morning teas, cleaning up, stacking the chairs, and helping at enrolment days. Ern is often heard to say that U3A is more than just an educational group; it is a 'family' of like-minded people. And it is you, the members of U3A, who make it so. Thank you.

Ross Connell
Secretary 28 April 2014

MANNING VALLEY U3A (INCORPORATED)

TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY 28th APRIL 2014

I am pleased to be able to present to Members the financial statements of the Association for the year ended 31st December 2013.

But firstly, I wish to acknowledge the assistance given to me by Mr Keith Bedggood in preparing these and also for his professional role as our Honorary Auditor and trust, for the good of our U3A that he is able to continue in this role for years into the future.

This time last year, I took over the role of Treasurer, but shortly afterwards I suffered some setbacks in the state of my health, this causing me to step down at this meeting, but not before I publicly acknowledge the support of the Committee (and many Members) through some fairly difficult times....it is wonderful to be able to say that it is a great privileged to be part of this extended family, known as U3A.

I can say that our Auditor has done his professional job and that we can adopt the Statements at this Meeting and submit these to the Minister for Fair Trading, as is required under the Associations' Incorporation Act.

The Income during this year rose by 11% over the previous financial year to reach \$56,617.45; membership fees are recorded as the major source of the increase reaching a total of \$9,398 or 17% of the gross income.

Expenditure has risen by approximately \$6,000 over last year, mainly due to rental increases, increased costs of running courses and we have re-equipped with new lanyards, computer equipment and stationery and the like.

Our financial position is sound, finishing off 2013 with \$6,740.93 credit balance in the working account, in addition, awaiting the "rainy day"; there is \$15,000 in Interest Bearing Deposits.

Our Association has no debts.

I move that:

1. The Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements be accepted;
2. The Honorary Auditor be formally thanked for his guidance and work in carrying out the Audit;
3. That the Public Officer lodge the Declarations as required under the Associations Incorporation Act.

B.I. Lieberman

Treasurer

28/4/2014.

