

U3A Wagga Wagga Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at WWVVMC (Motor Club) on Friday, 12 March 2021 at 10.30 am

MINUTES

1.	<p>Chairperson's Welcome</p> <p>The Chairperson opened the meeting at 10.30 am with a welcome to all, including a special welcome to Greg Brown of Leeton U3A, the Murrumbidgee Murray Regional Representative of U3A Network NSW.</p> <p>Judith Foley gave the Acknowledgement of Country.</p>
2.	<p>Attendance and Apologies</p> <p>Those present were requested to enter their name on the list provided for record purposes, namely:</p> <p>Muriel Henseleit, Ian Sinclair, Roslyn Page, Drew Porter, Ailsa Stephenson, Elizabeth Moss, Judith Foley, Greg Brown, Marg Garraway, Nancye Piercy, Daphne Carswell, Philippa Croker, Colleen O'Rourke, Helen Brennan, Ann Buik, Ray Mullins, Helen Mullins, Gordon Hall, Penny Bull, Shirley Sinclair</p> <p>Apologies:</p> <p>David Brennan, Margaret Sutherland, Geoff Bell, Ray Goodlass, Michael Dowd, Anne Brown</p>
3.	<p>Confirmation of Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the last AGM were uploaded to the U3A website (About Us, Committee).</p> <p><i>RESOLVED</i> That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 14 February 2020 be accepted:</p> <p><i>Moved: Nancye Piercy Seconded: Judith Foley Carried</i></p>
4.	<p>Report by the Chairperson on the activities of the Association since the last AGM</p> <p>The Chairperson, Daphne Carswell, presented her report. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.</p> <p><i>RESOLVED</i> That the Chairperson's report be accepted</p> <p><i>Moved: Daphne Carswell Seconded: Ann Buik Carried</i></p>
5.	<p>Report by the Treasurer on the finances of the Association for the last financial (calendar) year</p> <p>The report was made available at the meeting.</p> <p>The Treasurer, Roslyn Page, presented the report. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.</p> <p><i>RESOLVED</i> That the Treasurer's report be accepted</p> <p><i>Moved: Roslyn Page Seconded: Drew Porter Carried</i></p>
6.	<p>Election of Office Bearers</p> <p>Conduct of the meeting for the election of office-bearers was handed to Greg Brown who declared all positions vacant.</p> <p>6.1 President</p>

	<p>The Chairperson advised that one nomination had been received for the position, namely Daphne Carswell, and that she had consented to the nomination. The Chairperson called for other nominations. There being none, Daphne Carswell was declared elected.</p> <p>6.2 Vice-President Operations The Chairperson advised that one nomination had been received for the position, namely Shirley Sinclair, and that she had consented to the nomination. The Chairperson called for other nominations. There being none, Shirley Sinclair was declared elected.</p> <p>6.3 Treasurer The Chairperson advised that one nomination had been received for the position, namely Roslyn Page, and that she had consented to the nomination. The Chairperson called for other nominations. There being none, Roslyn Page was declared elected.</p> <p>6.4 Secretary The Chairperson advised that one nomination had been received for the position, namely Ailsa Stephenson, and that she had consented to the nomination. The Chairperson called for other nominations. There being none, Ailsa Stephenson was declared elected.</p> <p>6.5 Public Officer The Chairperson advised that one nomination had been received for the position, namely Ailsa Stephenson, and that she had consented to the nomination. The Chairperson called for other nominations. There being none, Ailsa Stephenson was declared elected.</p> <p>6.6 Nominations for the Committee have been received from the following, each of whom have consented to the nomination: Geoff Bell, Ann Buik, Penny Bull, Judith Foley, Gordon Hall, Colleen O'Rourke, Nancye Piercy The Chairperson called for further nominations. There being none, the seven people listed above were declared elected.</p> <p>The Chairperson declared all positions duly elected. Conduct of the meeting was handed to the incoming Chairperson, Daphne Carswell.</p>
7.	<p>Address by the Incoming President Daphne Carswell welcomed the new members of the U3A Wagga Wagga Inc. Committee. She encouraged members to attend the U3A Network NSW Conference to be held this year in Wagga Wagga at the RSL Club on 12 and 13 April. The conference is an excellent opportunity to mix with other members of NSW U3As and swap ideas. She stated that U3A Wagga had requested that we be given the opportunity to showcase Wagga people and local attractions. We have invited Aunty Isabel Reid to deliver a Welcome to Country at the Monday evening dinner and at the commencement of the conference on the Tuesday morning. We have invited the prominent speaker David Gilbey to deliver the keynote address at the conference dinner, and Gordon Murray to talk on DNA on the Tuesday afternoon. The Network executive noted this course, which has been given by Gordon on several occasions to U3A Wagga members, could be of interest to delegates and asked us to invite Gordon to present a short talk on the subject.</p>

	<p>Daphne asked for assistance during conference registration, and stated that whatever amount of time members could give would be much appreciated. The registration times are Monday afternoon, 12.00 pm to 5.00 pm and Tuesday morning, 8.00 am to 9.00 am.</p> <p>Following the disruption to our course activities in 2020 caused by Covid-19 restrictions, U3A Wagga looks forward to hopefully being able to return to pre-Covid conditions this year.</p>
8.	<p>Address by Greg Brown, Murrumbidgee Murray U3A Regional Representative of U3A Network NSW</p> <p>Greg congratulated U3A Wagga for encouraging learning and co-operation in the community. He said that it is a credit to our capabilities that we can take on the organisation of the Network's conference, especially as we are only a young group.</p> <p>Greg spoke of the other U3A groups in the region and how they have been coping with the Covid restrictions, particularly his group at Leeton and at Deniliquin which would have held its 20-year anniversary celebrations in 2020 but had to postpone them. The restrictions also impacted on Network committee meetings which were held via Zoom but one meeting required him to make a long and complicated journey to Sydney and return to Leeton.</p> <p>He advised that he will continue as the Regional Representative for the 2021-2022 year. He said that three years were enough for him, and that he was looking for another person who may be prepared to take over the role for the following year.</p> <p>Greg said he was impressed with the conference planning committee and was looking forward to a well-organised event in April. He explained that, after returning home from the first planning meeting, he had a series of fainting fits which led to a visit to the Leeton Hospital, then Griffith and finally undergoing a heart pacemaker operation in Sydney. He expressed his appreciation of the excellent medical professionals and facilities that we have in the Riverina area which enabled him to be promptly treated. Daphne noted the planning committee members were concerned that the meeting had been the cause of his health problems!</p> <p>Daphne thanked Greg for attending our AGM and for his praise of our organisation.</p>
9.	<p>Other Business</p> <p>Ray Mullins asked the Chairperson for an account of the situation relating to our accommodation at the WWVVMC rooms following the recent sale of the property. The Chairperson advised that Ben Creighton and Dominic Kennedy of Wagga Wagga City Council would be attending the next committee meeting on 19 March to answer a range of questions about the proposed new building and our requirements. She stated that there are many rumours circulating in the community which should be ignored.</p> <p>Ray Mullins moved a motion of thanks to the 2020 Committee and to the presenters of courses for the past year.</p>
10.	<p>Closure</p> <p>Chairperson Daphne thanked Greg Brown and members for their attendance at the AGM. The meeting closed at 11.12 am.</p>

Signed as a true record

.....
Chairperson

Chairperson's Report and Treasurer's Report follows

U3A WAGGA WAGGA INCORPORATED

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2020

Ladies and Gentlemen and Greg Brown Murrumbidgee/Murray Group

I welcome you to U3A Wagga's 2021 AGM and offer my report on what has been a very challenging year with many of our members impacted by the devastating Bush Fires and the World Covid 19 Pandemic.

In February 2020 we commenced our 1st term with enthusiasm and a diverse selection of courses and activities, thanks to both our course developers and organisers together with our generous presenters.

During the first weeks of our term we became aware of rumours that a World pandemic was looming. On advice from both Australian and NSW Governments, U3A NSW Network on 10 March 2020 sent a special bulletin to U3A committees, advising of the potential risks involved for U3A members during the World COVID 19 Pandemic. On advice and discussions with local Government Health Departments a special committee meeting of U3A Wagga was convened and the decision was made to close U3A Wagga courses/activities for an unlimited time from COB the following day. As you all recall a lockdown ensued and during this time "keeping in touch" emails were sent out to members each week. During May a survey was sent to members offering online courses. The result of the survey was negative and the decision was to stay closed completely, until such time the COVID 19 situation allowed us to develop a safety plan that would enable us to reopen U3A Wagga.

The resilience and creativity of our committee allowed us to develop a safety plan and with a great response from our Presenters we saw U3A reopen on 3 August for term three. Courses/activities were greatly reduced in accordance with the strict Covid 19 rules. Walks of all grades and distance became very popular during this time. Unfortunately, for a period of time one of our most popular activities Mah Jong needed to close. Many courses/activities were able to adapt to the new restrictions. Terms three and four continued successfully with the safety plan and reduced numbers until the end of November. During this time we continued to conduct our activities/courses at the Senior Community Centre rooms, North Wagga Hall, Australian Rules Club, Watermark and the Wagga Wagga Vintage and Veteran Car Club. We thank the management of these venues for their assistance during the changed circumstances.

Mid-year U3A Wagga was approached by the U3A NSW Network to be the hosts of the 2021 Annual Conference in the event that the Covid restrictions would be eased sufficiently for it to be held. The Network was impressed with the success of U3A Wagga considering we had only been operating for what the Network considered a short period of time!! Our committee accepted as we felt that holding the State Conference would assist in promoting both U3A Wagga and Tourism Wagga. We also thought it would be an opportunity for the many delegates from the Murrumbidgee Murray Region to attend a Network Conference closer to home. The Conference Sub Committee, consisting of five Wagga members and Greg Brown, the regional representative for Murrumbidgee Murray, has been working together to hold the Conference over two days in April 2021. The Wagga RSL Club was chosen as the venue due to the club having the appropriate number of meeting/conference rooms and a motel adjacent for visitors and adequate dining opportunities. Assistance has been provided by *The Senior* paper printing promotional articles for the conference. Tourism Wagga is assisting by supplying promotional bags for the delegates attending. The theme for U3A Wagga Conference is "Rekindle the Spirit". The keynote speaker for the Conference is well known Wagga resident David Gilbey. Gordon Murray, one of our members and a presenter of several different courses, will be presenting at the Conference Workshops. We look forward to a successful U3A Network Annual Conference in April 2021.

During 2020 we were successful in applying for and receiving grants from the Hotels Association “Hotel have Hearts” Wagga Wagga City Council and Charles Sturt University. This has allowed us to purchase table tennis tables and equipment, have replacement Mah Jong tables which were made locally, music stands for the Ukulele group and technical equipment on a needs basis. We will continue to apply for appropriate grants and find sponsorship for U3A Wagga.

I acknowledge the hard work of the committee, “shadow” committee members, office staff, cleaners and members who assist in the setting up and putting away of equipment in the classroom they attend; the presenters/leaders for their willingness to conduct course/activities especially during this difficult year; and our members for their assistance by adhering to our safety plan and their acceptance of “missing out” on some of their favourite courses/activities. A big thank you to al. In working together it allows us to make U3A Wagga the successful organisation it continues to be.

We hope that the Covid 19 restrictions continue to ease throughout 2021. This will allow U3A Wagga to increase our class sizes which will benefit all our members.

In conclusion a special thanks to the committee for their assistance and loyalty during what has been a difficult and challenging year.

Daph Carswell