

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Report to members

It is pleasing to report to this 2019 Annual General Meeting of members of Whittlesea U3A that we have again completed a successful year and worked our way through some challenges. We have increased our membership, range of classes and activities and continued to provide members with a friendly environment to make new friends and expand their skills in a learning community.

We have continued to identify organisations and other U3A groups that Whittlesea U3A can partner with to source resources, as well as class and activity leaders to refresh existing classes and activities and to provide a wider range of activities particularly in the area of well-being and cultural awareness.

The approach that Whittlesea U3A has developed over the past three years is now included in the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)–Seniors Online-toolbox- Creating Age Friendly-Places, as the U3A-Partnership-Toolkit. I would like to acknowledge the support provided by U3A Network Victoria, DHHS Seniors Inclusion and Participation Branch, City of Whittlesea Positive Ageing Team, RMIT University, Melbourne City Football Club, Brotherhood of St Laurence and the Whittlesea Community Futures Partnership partners for their support in the development and application of our Collaborative approach to enable seniors to participate in more activities.

Through the collaborative approach we have committed to, Whittlesea U3A has been able to assist neighbouring U3As. U3A Darebin (Walking Football), U3A Banyule (Line Dancing and Walking football) and U3A Moreland (Walking Football). Develop new programs and share those classes and activities. We have also supported U3A Croydon and U3A Knox add Walking Football to their calendar of activities.

Our membership numbers have increased and our member profile is changing. It is interesting to note that:

- Membership has increased to 818 August 2019 (717 August 2018).
- Age range 50 to 90 plus.
- Members were born in 46 different countries with 50.6% born in Australia. The diagram in this report show the wide diversity of nationality of our membership which provides an excellent opportunity to share cultural experiences and has enabled Whittlesea U3A to widen its cultural programs and truly say we are proud to be an inclusive multicultural organisation.
- Provide 113 classes and activities, mostly on a weekly basis.
- Tutor / Leaders of classes and activities is 86.
- Commencing new classes and activities in the newer suburbs of Doreen, Mernda and expanding the number of activities in the Township of Whittlesea.

- Whittlesea U3A is a Network partner of the Australian Government Be Connected Digital Literacy Program and has been provided with funding to support members gain confidence in using technology safely.
- At our current growth rate and member retention rate we forecast membership to conservatively be 1,000 members in 2022.

Peter Lalor Campus

The Peter Lalor Campus is fully operational, and the office now has coverage five days a week. Check our web site for the times the office is open each day.

There are challenges with car parking, toilet facilities and access which we are working through with the Department of Education and Training, Council and collaborating with the Lalor and District Men's Shed. The process has been challenging but short-term temporary solutions are being implemented. Portable Toilets are being delivered this month.

A memorandum of understanding between Whittlesea U3A and Lalor and District Men's Shed has been signed whereby our two organisations have agreed to work together on a longer-term accommodation solution.

I would like to acknowledge the developing, positive working relationship between the committees of Whittlesea U3A and Lalor and Districts Men's Shed which is evidenced by the joint open day scheduled for 31st August to show case the activities of the two organisations to the community.

Operating Costs

You will note in the Income for Operations and the Operational Expenditure diagrams in this report and presented by the Treasurer in the Finance Report that our Income was \$99,053 and the operating expenses were \$95,069. Membership fees covers 35% of costs of operating. The support received as grant funding and project funding has enabled our membership fees to remain at the current level.

Funding Support

I included in my 2018 report to members, the grant funds provided by organisations to assist Whittlesea U3A fund the setup of an administration office and classrooms. These funds have all been received and additional grant funds in the order of \$40,000 is committed to be received by end of October this year. I would like to acknowledge the support of Strengthening Our Communities – Commonwealth Government Department Infrastructure (\$9,200), City of Whittlesea, U3A Network Vic Project funding, U3A Network Vic – ACFE Community Inclusiveness Project and Multicultural Seniors Support – Vic Gov.

Thank you to Tutors

Through our dedicated group of Volunteer Tutors, Whittlesea U3A continues to provide a friendly environment for them to share with members their knowledge, skills and expertise.

An ongoing challenge for Whittlesea U3A is the continual need to identify new Volunteer Tutors who can deliver classes and activities relative to the interests of our membership.

We have over 86 Volunteer Tutors, Leaders, office support and helpers, all of whom do a fantastic job in keeping the various activities going. These volunteers contribute collectively more than 15,000 hours per year.

We are committed to provide Whittlesea U3A classes in the northern area of the City of Whittlesea including the township of Whittlesea, Mernda and Doreen, which is in line with the Whittlesea U3A objective of providing activities for seniors across the whole City of Whittlesea.

Committee of Management

I would like to note my thank you to the 2018/19 Committee of Management, support volunteers and Tutor / Leaders for their dedicated commitment to the good operations of Whittlesea U3A during the past 12 months in particular meeting the challenges of growth and change.

The outgoing committee of management has approved the formation of a number of working groups who will have the responsibility for the important functions of: Communications, Membership Support and Partnerships. Each of these working groups will report to a member of the 2019/20 committee. This change in operating structure is viewed as an important step in the process of implementing a Leadership Succession Plan for Whittlesea U3A.

Support from Members of Parliament

On behalf of the members, I would like to acknowledge the support Whittlesea U3A has received from our State Members of Parliament: Bronwyn Halfpenny MP and Craig Ondarchie MP. I would also like to acknowledge the support Whittlesea U3A has received from our Federal Members of Parliament: Andrew Giles MP and Rob Mitchell MP and the Councillors of the City of Whittlesea.

Conclusion

In conclusion, as the 2018/19 President of Whittlesea U3A I believe the 2018/19 Whittlesea U3A committee has met its objectives for 2018/19 and continued to provide opportunities for Seniors in the City of Whittlesea to learn, teach, share, socialise, communicate and to give mutual support to each other in a friendly, fun environment regardless of ethnicity, religion, political persuasion, ability or disability.

Thank you, the members for your support.



Glen Wall

President-Whittlesea U3A Inc.